

Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
For discussion In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2026-31)	
Strategic Theme	Priority 3: Creating Conditions to Deliver Opportunities within the Borough
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure & Development

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	N/A
Legal Opinion Obtained	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
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1.0 **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

2.0 The following items are listed:

2.1 **Correspondence from Patrick O'Donovan, the Minister of Culture, Communications and Sport regarding the 2027 Annual Famine Commemoration (Dated 14 September 2026)**

2.2 The Annual Famine Commemoration rotates among each province of Ireland and is held on the third Sunday in May. It is usually preceded by a weeklong programme of locally organised events. In line with policy, the 2027 commemoration will be held in Ulster.

2.3 Expressions of interest are being sought from council's interested in hosting the 2027 Annual Famine Commemoration. One proposal from each interested council area should be submitted for assessment no later than Monday 16 November 2026.

2.4 **Correspondence from the Coordinator of the Budget Energy Supercup NI tournament (Dated 17th September 2026)**

2.5 An informal discussion is requested with members of the Leisure and Development Committee, relevant Directors and Officers on the success of the 2026 tournament along with the challenges envisaged for 2027.

2.6 **Correspondence from Richard Connor, Vice Chairman, Coleraine Harbour regarding an update on the work progressing around the proposed Trust Port model for Coleraine Harbour (Dated 06 October 2026)**

2.7 Seeking Council support for the proposed changes and its willingness to work with DfI and the Harbour Board on the preparation of these necessary new Harbour Orders. Vice-Chairman's email report as follows: vice.chair@coleraineharbour.com

2.8 **Correspondence from Catherine Uí Sheanáin, Chairperson, Baile an Chaistil CCÉ,**

Seeking logistical and operational support from Council for the delivery of the Fleadh Uladh (Ulster Fleadh) being held in Ballycastle from 18-25 July 2027

3.0 **Recommendation**

The Leisure & Development Committee are asked to consider the contents of the correspondence included and the requests contained within.



To: Chief Executive David Jackson

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin,
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

Cc: Nic Wright, Culture & Heritage Officer

14 September 2026

2027 Annual Famine Commemoration

Dear Chief Executive David Jackson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Famine Commemoration Committee in relation to the 2027 Annual Famine Commemoration.

By way of background, the Committee was established in 2008, following a Government decision to commemorate the Great Irish Famine with an annual famine memorial day. The Committee's key objective is to develop appropriate arrangements for this commemoration to ensure that the famine, its victims and its legacy are not forgotten.

The Annual Famine Commemoration rotates among each province of Ireland, and in line with a 2018 Government Decision it is held on the third Sunday of May (or the preceding Saturday if required).

The annual ceremony is hosted by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and is presided over by the President of Ireland or An Taoiseach on alternating years. In May 2026, Taoiseach Micheál Martin presided over the Commemoration, which was held in the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna, County Galway.

In line with the established policy the 2027 commemoration will be held in Ulster. We are currently in the process of identifying a host county. We would like to invite applications from all local councils in the province who may be interested in hosting the 2027 Annual Famine Commemoration.

The ceremony itself comprises of three main components. The first part typically involves a welcome address and a keynote address from the principals in attendance. The second is the cultural and creative response which has a strong community focus. If a location in Northern Ireland is selected, the event then culminates in a wreath laying ceremony. The event is open to the public and usually takes place at a site with significant historical links to the Famine.

The following video of the 2026 ceremony from Galway may be of interest in giving a sense of what is involved on the day: [Portumna, County Galway 2026 - National Famine Commemoration](#). The ceremonial element will be tailored if the event takes place in Northern Ireland as was the case in Newry, Co. Down in 2015.



The Annual Famine Commemoration is generally preceded by a weeklong programme of locally organised events (for example plays, lectures, creative workshops, walks, musical and choral recitals, readings etc.), all connected to the Famine or famine in the modern world. It is, therefore, essential that any proposal would have strong support within the local community. In this regard, it is intended that the local authority or local council would consult widely with local and community organisations, schools, historical societies or local famine commemoration committees, and other interested parties.

While there is no funding allocation for the event, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport will cover certain, specified costs such as:

- Stage erection, lighting and sound systems- in partnership with the Event Management Unit of the Office of Public Works
- Locally organised programme of events (up to €9,000)
- Printing of the official programme booklets for the commemoration ceremony (x1,000 copies)
- Wreaths to be laid during the ceremony
- A memorial plaque and tree to be unveiled during the ceremony (up to an agreed amount)
- A contribution towards light refreshments after the ceremony if required (up to an agreed amount)

Other costs will have to be met by the local authority or the local council and the submission of an expression of interest will be considered as confirmation and agreement in this matter.

Proposals will be assessed by the commemoration committee and it is anticipated that the selection process will involve consideration of the factors below and other relevant issues, including:

- Accessibility of the proposed site and suitability of the geographic location
- Logistical and public safety considerations
- Historical links between the proposed location and the Irish Famine
- Support and commitment from the local authority/local council and local community
- Organisational capacity of the local community
- The availability of a local team to work with Department Officials to deliver this event

Site visits by Departmental officials and key stakeholders may also be undertaken as required.

We would ask that the local councils submit only one proposal for each council area. We have enclosed a template for completion, which will assist you in making your submission. The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday, 16 November and proposals submitted after this deadline cannot be accepted.

For further information, please contact the Commemorations Unit at faminecommemoration@ccs.gov.ie and we can arrange a follow up call.

With best wishes,



Minister Patrick O'Donovan

2027 ANNUAL FAMINE COMMEMORATION

Form to be completed by council submitting expressions of interest to the National Famine Commemoration Committee

1. Briefly describe the proposed location for the Annual Famine Commemoration

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2. Briefly outline the historical links between the proposed site and the famine

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3. Briefly outline the suitability of the proposed site, with particular reference to accessibility for the public, logistical and public safety considerations

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4. Briefly describe the level of support and commitment to this project available from the local authority/local council, local community and any other relevant parties. Also, outline how awareness would be raised, and the event would be promoted in the local community

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5. Briefly outline the organisational capacity of the local community in supporting such an event, (i.e. what facilities and support might be made available for refreshments, stewarding, crowd control and traffic management, parking facilities, first aid, etc.)

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6. Please provide the contact details of the key point of contact for this event for example your Commemorations Co-ordinator, Heritage Officer or other representative

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Completed templates should be emailed to:

FamineCommemoration@ccs.gov.ie

Note Concerning Appendices:

Please attach any other relevant documents, which may include:

- Maps
- Drawings
- Photographs
- Letters of support from the local community and interested parties
- Archive material to support your application



The Budget Energy SuperCupNI

#morethanjustfootball



Sam Gamble

Tournament Coordinator

C/O 23-25 Queen Street,

Coleraine

BT52 1BG

Dear Pat,

I am writing to you in my position as coordinator of the Budget Energy SuperCupNI. The tournament, which was famously founded and established in the heart of Coleraine has just completed our 2026 event and once again world class teams from all four corners of the globe descended upon the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with the aim of competing for one of the most prestigious prizes in youth football.

On behalf of the Budget Energy SuperCupNI I would like to welcome an informal discussion with members of the Leisure and Development committee and relevant directors and officers about the success of the 2026 tournament and some of the challenges we envisage facing in 2027.

As a tournament we are aware of potential clashes with other notable events including the Foyle Cup and the Armoy Road Races in July 2027 and as a tournament we recognise the pivotal role that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council play in ensuring our tournament continues to be admired and viewed as one of the top youth football tournaments in Europe.

Global footballing superpowers including Manchester United, Rangers, Celtic, Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United and the likes of Right to Dream, Tigres UANL and Kamimura from Japan all brought incredibly talented teams to our shores and enjoyed their footballing experience, and the warm hospitality of the borough and the many sights and sounds that they experienced.

Over 60,000 spectators packed-out top-class football venues across the borough from Coleraine FC, Bushmills, Parker Avenue and the Rope Walk. Every single match was streamed live across the world to just under 100,000 viewers, further showcasing the state-of-the-art venues that exist within the borough.

An independent media monitoring report for the tournament revealed a total of 373 media articles promoting Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, with the advertising value equivalent projected at £1.3m.

Budget Energy SuperCupNI is the trading name of the Northern Ireland Youth Football Cup Limited. The company registration number is NI 34455 and VAT registration number is C73 1555 13



The Budget Energy SuperCupNI

#morethanjustfootball

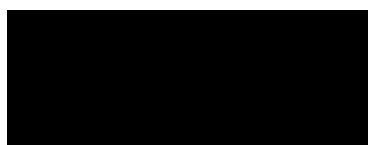


A further independent study into the economic impact of the event in the council area has also revealed a directed economic impact to the borough of £10.6m and the generous investment made through the Tourism Large Events Fund has enabled the event to provide a return of investment of £130.58 for every £1 invested by the council.

The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has been the home of the tournament since 1983, and the new Tournament Management Team have ambitious plans to ensure the tournament continues to be one of the premier tourism events in the borough and indeed nationwide.

Thank you once again for all your support and guidance before, during and after the tournament and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours in sport



Sam Gamble - Tournament coordinator 17/09/2026

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From: Richard Connor, Coleraine Harbour, Vice Chair
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 6:00:47 pm
To: David Jackson
Subject: Trust Ports

Subject: Coleraine Harbour – Trust Port Bill / Council Approval

Hi David,

I wanted to provide you with a brief update on the work progressing around the proposed Trust Port model for Coleraine Harbour and to seek your assistance in taking the matter through the appropriate Council committee.

The move towards Trust Port status has been identified as a priority for the Harbour. As part of this process, Council is required to respond to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) regarding the proposed changes under the Harbour Bill and under new Harbour Orders.

The intention is that Council would confirm its support for the proposed changes and its willingness to work with DfI and the Harbour Board on the preparation of these necessary new Harbour Orders.

This is an important opportunity to modernise the governance and operating framework for Coleraine Harbour, allowing it to become more economically and socially active for the benefit of Coleraine and the wider borough, while providing a stronger platform for future investment and regeneration.

Could I therefore seek your agreement to have the matter brought through the appropriate Council L&D Committee at the earliest opportunity, ideally next week, to provide the necessary authority to progress discussions with DfI and the Harbour Board?

I am happy to provide a short briefing note or any additional information required for the Committee papers.

Many thanks,

Richard Connor

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From: [REDACTED] > **Sent:** Friday, 09 October 2026 10:29:11 **To:** David Jackson <@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk> **Subject:** Fleadh Uladh 27/28

David a chara

I am writing on behalf of the organising committee for Fleadh Uladh (Ulster Fleadh) 2027, which we are delighted to be bringing to Ballycastle from 18 - 25 July. It is expected that Ballycastle will also host Fleadh Uladh in 2028.

This is a significant opportunity for the town and wider Causeway Coast and Glens area, attracting visitors, musicians and families from across Ireland, while providing an important boost to the local economy and showcasing Ballycastle's rich cultural and musical heritage.

Given the scale of the event, we would like to formally request the support of the Council in helping to ensure its successful delivery.

In particular, we would welcome Council assistance in the following areas:

- Event management and coordination, including support with planning and delivery.
- Emergency planning and public safety, including liaison with relevant statutory agencies.
- Traffic management, including road closures, parking arrangements and pedestrian access.
- Use of Council-owned land and facilities, where required to accommodate event activities including - for example, stages, crowd barriers and changing places facilities.
- Interagency coordination, to ensure a joined-up approach to the planning and management of the event.

We recognise that Council has previously provided significant logistical and operational support to major events hosted within the Council area, including the Red Bull Cliff Diving event in Ballycastle.

We believe a similar collaborative approach would be extremely beneficial in supporting the successful delivery of Fleadh Uladh 2027.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to discuss the level of support available and have the necessary arrangements considered and agreed as soon as practicable.

In the meantime, we have a meeting arranged with Patricia and Gareth to discuss the Fleadh and the possibility of applying for the large Events fund from Council, which we hope would complement the logistical support from Council. This has been scheduled for Friday 23 October.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Le meas,

Catherine

Chairperson

Baile an Chaistil CCÉ

(Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann)