

Correspondence Report For Information	24 October 2017
Council Meeting	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Performance
Cost: (If applicable)	Nil

1	<p>AGE SECTOR PLATFORM/NORTHERN IRELAND PENSIONERS PARLIAMENT – LOCAL PARLIAMENTS (correspondence dated 27 September 2017)</p> <p>The NI Pensions Parliament was created by Age Sector Platform in 2011 with the aim to further strengthen the voice of older people in our community, particularly those most vulnerable and isolated from Society.</p> <p>A copy of the 2016 Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament Report can be found at https://www.agesectorplatform.org/ni-pensioners-parliament/parliament-reports.</p> <p>Age Sector Platform is writing to enquire if Council would be interested in meeting with them to establish how Council could partner with Age Sector Platform in meaningful engagement with older people in the area.</p>
2	<p>COLERAINE ROTARY CLUB – Christmas Memory Tree (correspondence received 6 October 2017)</p> <p>Correspondence has been received from Coleraine Rotary Club informing Council that they will be erecting a Christmas Memory Tree in the foyer of Sainsbury's Coleraine on 7th, 8th and 9th December 2017.</p> <p>Money donated will go to local charities: RNLI, Lapland and The Simon Community.</p> <p>All Elected Members are welcome to attend during the three days.</p>

3	BELFAST CITY COUNCIL – Bid for European Capital of Culture for 2023 (correspondence dated 10 October 2017)
	<p>Belfast City Council, in partnership with Derry City and Strabane Council are progressing a bid for the title of European Capital of Culture for 2023.</p> <p>The European Capital of Culture is a much coveted award and Belfast City Council believes that participating in, and securing the title for 2023 presents the Northern Ireland region with a wonderful opportunity to promote and showcase the cultural and creative aspects of our region as well as delivering many wider social and economic benefits to all citizens.</p> <p>Belfast City Council requests that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council join with them in recognising the significant benefits to be gained from participating in the European Capital of Culture Bid for 2023 and that they feel it would be hugely beneficial if they can demonstrate that the bid has the unanimous support of all 11 Councils in the region.</p>

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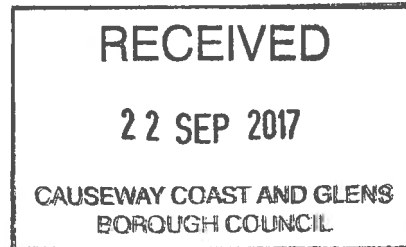
info@agesectorplatform.org
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speaking from experience

20 September 2017

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY



Dear Mr Jackson

Age Sector Platform / Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament – Local Parliaments

I am pleased to enclose the report of the 2016 Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament that I hope you will find interesting and informative.

The NI Pensioners Parliament was created by Age Sector Platform in 2011 with the aim to further strengthen the voice of older people in our community, particularly those most vulnerable and isolated from society.

In 2014, Members of the Pensioners Parliament (MPP's) voted to change the structure of the parliament in order to align it more closely with the eleven new council areas. In 2016, in addition to holding our main two day parliament in Belfast, a 'local' parliament was held in each council area. Brief information on these events is contained in the enclosed report.

The aim in creating the eleven constituencies for the Pensioners Parliament is to ensure that older people have a platform to engage with policy makers and service providers in their local council areas. The 2016 events were particularly successful in enabling us to engage with 'hard to reach' older people and through attending the local parliaments, enhancing their social inclusion and participation in their local communities.

Older people in the Causeway Coast and Glens area have expressed strong support for this initiative. We intend to repeat the programme of local parliaments in the Spring of 2018 and are keen for it to be part of an effective and mutually beneficial partnership with councils. We believe that the local parliaments can be an effective means through which councils can engage with older people and can be of significant value in terms of influencing and informing your evolving Community Planning strategies.

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I am writing to enquire if you would be interested in meeting with me to establish how your council could partner with Age Sector Platform in meaningful engagement with older people in your area.

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 90 312089 or by email at eamonn.donaghy@agesectorplatform.org

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

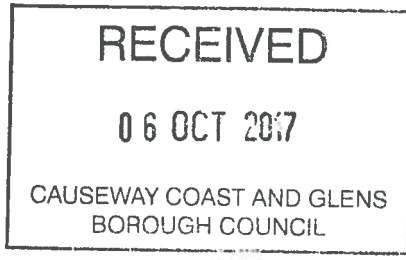


Eamonn Donaghy
Chief Executive
Enc



DSU 858

2 Aghermore Court
Portstewart BT557QN



Dear Mr. Jackson,

I am writing to you on behalf of Coleraine Rotary Club.

We are going to have a Christmas Memory Tree in the foyer of Sainsburys on the 7th, 8th and 9th December. Limavady and Ballycastle have done this for many years and we felt that it was an excellent idea.

Money donated will go to local charities: RNLI, Lapland and The Simon Community.

I would be very grateful if you could inform the other council members and you would all be most welcome to come and visit us during these three days.

I have already sent a form to The Mayor's office requesting her attendance on the Thursday morning.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or Rosemary Armstrong if you require any more information.

Email: joanbreen20@hotmail .com Mob: 07792522940

Rosemary Armstrong Mob: 07814141600

Regards,

Joan Breen

Joan Breen



10 October 2017

Dear Colleague

As you will be aware, Belfast City Council in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council are progressing a bid for the title of European Capital of Culture for 2023.

The European Capital of Culture is a much coveted award and we believe that participating in and securing the title for 2023 presents the Northern Ireland region with a wonderful opportunity to promote and showcase the cultural and creative aspects of our region as well as delivering many wider social and economic benefits to all our citizens.

What are the Benefits?

Previous experience shows that securing the European Capital of Culture title can act as a catalyst to supporting the social, economic and physical regeneration of the wider region.

A successful Northern Ireland based bid would help grow our economy by:

- generating a direct economic return
- raising the international profile of Northern Ireland Plc
- significantly boosting tourism
- supporting investment and job creation
- supporting skills development and enhancing entrepreneurship
- improving connectivity
- breathing new life into Northern Ireland's culture sector
- enhancing European linkages in context of Brexit

There are also benefits for our people living not just in both cities but across Northern Ireland. A successful bid would help connect people to opportunities; create positive changes in attitudes and perceptions; enhance civic engagement and participation; improve social inclusion and promote the richness and diversity of cultures across Europe.

Our aim is to develop a programme which will help us realise long lasting economic and social benefits for the wider NI region. We want to promote Northern Ireland as a vibrant place, positioned on the edge of the European Union but which displays a rich and diverse European cultural heritage. As a region, we are emerging away from our difficult past towards a shared place with an outward facing vision and hopeful ambitions for our future.

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Supporting the bid

We hope that your Council will join with us in recognising the significant benefits to be gained from participating in the European Capital of Culture Bid for 2023 and we feel that it would be hugely beneficial if we can demonstrate that the bid has the unanimous support of all 11 councils in the region.

The first key milestone in the process is the submission of Phase 1 of the bid to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport by 27 October 2017. We would therefore be grateful if your council would consider providing a statement of your support for Phase 1 of the European Capital of Culture bid before we make our formal submission in October 2017 or shortly thereafter if possible. Draft wording is attached for your consideration but please feel free to word your letter of support as you feel appropriate.

We would particularly wish to work in partnership with your council during Phase 2 of the bid to help in the development of the detailed programme of projects and events which will take place not only in the years leading up to 2023, but during the award year and beyond - ensuring that the positive impacts from the programme are felt across the region and into the future. There will also be opportunities to contribute financially to elements of the programme.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive, Belfast City Council

John Kelpie
Chief Executive, Derry City & Strabane District Council

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