

<b>1718 Emigration Working Group – Additional Representation</b>	<b>9th January 2018</b>
<b>To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
<b>Outcome</b>	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Head of Community & Culture Cultural Services Manager
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	None at this stage.

**The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to increase the membership of the 1718 Emigration Working Group originally agreed by Council in October 2017.**

### **Background**

Following a Notice of Motion to Council in August 2017 with regard to the three hundredth anniversary of the emigration of over 700 Presbyterians from the Bann Valley to Boston in 1718, Council approved the establishment of a 1718 Emigration Working Group. At its October meeting Council agreed the structure of the group, its Terms of Reference and the composition of the group including council representation.

### **Role of the Working Group**

The purpose of the group is to act as an advisory group, supporting the development of a proposed programme of activity that takes cognisance of the Notion of Motion and its amendments, in order to recognise the three hundred year anniversary of the emigration from the Bann Valley to America.

- To identify resource requirements to deliver an agreed programme of activity.
- To share best practice in terms of existing initiatives and approaches.
- To promote co-ordination and collaboration in terms of delivery of a range of activity, avoiding duplication of effort.

### **Membership**

Membership of the Working Group was established on the basis of key organisations and individuals who could contribute to the agreed priorities of the group and would bring relevant skills and expertise. It initially included the following:

- a. Six Elected Members nominated by d'Hondt.
- b. Representatives from Key Organisations:
  - Ulster Scots Agency.
  - University of Ulster.

- Ulster History Foundation.
- Garvagh Cultural Society.
- Garvagh Museum.
- Scotti Rooms, Cuil Rathain.
- The Honourable the Irish Society.

c. Other relevant stakeholders as per agreement of Council.

An initial meeting of the Working Group was held on Monday 11 December. Those present were given the opportunity to nominate additional members who would bring skills and expertise to the group and who had an interest in the work of the group. It was agreed, subject to Council approval, that the following additional individual/organisations be invited to participate:

- Aghadowey Rural Kinship Group (ARK).
- Dr Linde Lunney, Royal Irish Academy.
- Derek Torrens, Causeway Coast and Glens Family History Society.
- Dunboe Presbyterian Church.

### **Programme**

Preliminary discussions which took place at the meeting included scoping the range of activities currently being planned by the organisations present, collaboration on marketing the programme, potential twinning/sister city links and a permanent monument or landmark. When these have been further explored and developed, a report will be brought back to Council for information or approval as appropriate.

### **Recommendation**

The recommendation is that Members approve the addition of the organisations listed above onto the 1718 Emigration Working Group.