

Title of Report:	Coleraine Revitalise 2021-2023
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 October 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	The Council facilitates towns and villages in the Borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them.
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity & Place/ Regeneration Officer

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£278,897 (Fully funded by DfC with a minimum 10% contribution from grantees.
Included in Current Year Estimates	Not applicable
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	Existing staff

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the successful completion and outcome of the most recent Revitalise 2021-23 grant scheme in Coleraine which opened in December 2021 and closed 31 March 2023.

2.0 Background

Coleraine Revitalise 2021-23 was primarily a shop front improvement grant scheme open to business and property owners in Coleraine Town Centre in designated areas of the town, namely: Queen Street, Abbey Street, The Diamond, Church Street and the side streets leading from the Diamond and Church Street areas. This scheme was 100% funded by DfC and administered by Council. The maximum grant allowable for each property was £5,000 with a minimum 10% contribution being required towards the costs of their works by each grant recipient. Three calls for applications were issued from December 2021 to January 2023. With a surplus in the budget for the grant scheme, a decision was then taken to also fund several Council procured initiatives.

3.0 Outcome

60 Properties received grants for Revitalise works (total cost of £234,000). In addition, four Council procured initiatives were later included (total cost of £40,000) i.e.:

1. *Street Art – over 50 small and large (keynote) pieces;*
2. *Living Wall floral display;*
3. *Replacement of damaged hoardings; and*
4. *Half Moon hanging baskets.*

Property and business owners were surveyed in September 2023 to establish their views on the benefit of the Revitalise Scheme. Owners of 25 properties have so far responded and, without exception, they rated the benefits as follows:

- *They were motivated to make improvements to their properties as a result of the availability of grant funding;*
- *They were happy with the result of the works carried out;*
- *They felt that the works have had a positive impact on their trading, notwithstanding continuing issues with the current economic climate;*
- *The improvements to their properties have contributed toward re-let (where vacancies existed);*
- *They all felt that the overall streetscape of their area has been improved along with the appeal and attractiveness of the town;*
- *They felt that small grants of this nature is a very effective way of supporting businesses; and*
- *They felt that the street art project further enhanced the appeal of Coleraine, creating additional interest and bringing the town to life.*