



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	Alderman Duddy, Councillors Callan and Schenning
2.	Declarations of Interest	Councillor MA McKillop
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 21 June 2022	Signed as a correct record
4.	Digital Transformation Flexible Fund	To recommend that Council commit revenue funding totalling £60,904 over the next three years for the delivery of the NI DTFF be led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through its existing arrangements operating the Full Fibre NI Consortium from November 2022, to enable pre-development work to commence.
5.	Alchemy Mentoring Support Services	To recommend to Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A one-year extension to the existing Multiple Supplier Framework Agreement for Mentors for the delivery of Alchemy LITE Mentoring Support Services from 30 September

		<p>2022 – 30 September 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permission to add additional mentors to the current framework from those already procured through the Growth programme.
6.	Small Settlements Restore and Reactivate Grant Programme	<p>To recommend to Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To award funding to the 6 successful applicants detailed in Table 2 (circulated) to the value of £261,664. 2. That the underspend from Project B budget be re-allocated to Project A: Continuation of Village Renewal Scheme on agreement with the relevant funder.
7.	Annual Landfill Communities Fund Policy Review	<p>To recommend that Council accept no change to the current Policy. The Landfill Communities Fund Policy is attached at Annex A (circulated).</p>
8.	Landfill Communities Fund 2 nd Call	<p>To recommend that Council award funding to projects 1-7 detailed in Table 2 totalling £104,195.</p>
9.	Annual Grant Funding Policy Review	<p>To recommend to Council that no changes are made to the Grants Funding Policy.</p>
10.	Millburn Community Centre	<p>To recommend that Council accept Option 2 - enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Millburn</p>

		Community Association with no additional subsidies; that a report is brought to Committee with options to support Community Associations with energy costs, so Council is treating everyone fairly across the Borough.
11.	Temporary Skateboard Facility	To recommend that Council approve the creation of a temporary designated space in Station Square, Portrush for skateboarding, based upon the site illustrated in this report and subject to: The provision of Public Liability Insurance for the site as a designated skateboard park. Signing of the MOU between the Working Group Parties. For a period of 12 months, subject to a 6-month review / break period if required by Council
12.	PCSP Annual Report	Information
13.	PEACE Plus Update	Information
14.	DfC Funding and Poverty Support	Information
15.	Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Information
16.	Small Settlement Programme Update	Information
17.	Atlantic Link Project Board Minutes	Information
18.	Air Show Project Board Minutes	Information
19.	Leisure Facility Project Board Minutes	Information
20.	Grants Governance Panel Minutes	Information

21.	Correspondence	<i>Noted</i>
22.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>Nil</i>
23.	Consultations	<i>Nil</i>
24.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor C McShane, seconded by Councillor Nicholl	<i>To recommend that Council support The Notice of Motion and rename the Ballycastle Tennis Courts to the 'Alex McFarland Tennis Courts.'</i>
	IN COMMITTEE (Items 25 – 29)	
25.	SWB Essential Maintenance	<i>To recommend that Council approve the expenditure of £194,458 for the projects listed in this report.</i>
26.	Dungiven Bowling	<i>To recommend that Council note progress to date with the development of a new synthetic bowling green at Dungiven Sports Centre; and approve a £466k investment to enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from the Tender Report.</i>
27.	Kerr Street EI Scheme	<i>To recommend that Council to approve the appointment of the preferred contractor for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour EI Scheme to progress to construction phase.</i>
28.	NW200 Partnership	<i>To recommend that a meeting is arranged to meet a delegation from Coleraine District Motor Club to understand the partnership proposal. At the meeting's discretion invitations may be</i>

		extended to other statutory organisations including Tourism NI and the Department for Economy, other relevant stakeholders and interested parties. The first meeting is to occur before the next Council Meeting in October. All Members of the Leisure and Development Committee are eligible to attend.
29.	Leisure and Development 2022/2023 Budget	To recommend that a decision is not made at the Leisure and Development Committee this evening.
30.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	
(i)	Alleviate the hardship for communities (Councillor Nicholl)	Information

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McCaw (C)

Members Present: Alderman Baird (C), Hillis (C), Knight McQuillan (R), A McQuillan (C), Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Dallat O'Driscoll (R), Holmes (C/R), McAuley (C), MA McKillop (R), C McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Storey (C), Watton (C)

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)
J Elliott, Town & Village Manager (R)
N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
SJ Goldring, PEACE Coordinator (R)
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (C)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

Non Committee Members in Attendance: Alderman S McKillop (R)

In Attendance: C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)
A Lennox, Mobile Operation Officer (C)

Press 2 (no) (R)
Public 1 (no) (R)

Key: (C) Attended in the Chamber
(R) Attended Remotely

SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Storey substituted for Alderman Duddy.
Councillor Dallat O'Driscoll substituted for Councillor Schenning.

The Chair advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded; and with the remote meetings protocol.

The Director of Leisure and Development undertook a roll call of committee members present.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Duddy, Councillor Callan and Councillor Schenning.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor MA McKillop declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 DfC Funding and Poverty Support, having declared an interest Councillor MA McKillop did not participate in the item.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2022

Summary minute, previously circulated.

The Chair advised the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 21 June 2022 were presented for noting and confirmed as a correct record.

4. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FLEXIBLE FUND

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Prosperity and Place.

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on progress to secure in excess of £7m of funding through the Complementary Fund, to establish a Northern Ireland wide Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) which will help to address the financial barriers facing small businesses and social enterprises wishing to digitally transform.

Background

As Members will be aware, supporting digital innovation is a key priority in the development of the spectrum of projects emerging through City and Growth Deals across Northern Ireland.

The Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) concept was initially developed in response to the low levels of innovation and digital transformation taking place across the region - particularly among the small business community. The DTFF aims to address the financial barrier that small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform, by establishing a capital grant fund that will support investment in the types of capital equipment considered critical to their strategic digital transformation ambitions (e.g., hardware, software, bespoke system development).

To date, £6m of funding for this project has been ring-fenced through the NI City & Growth Deal Complementary Fund. The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has committed a further £1.1m. Due to its ineligibility for the Complementary Fund, the Derry City & Strabane

Growth Deal is currently also in the process of securing an additional £450k to create a total capital grant fund of £7.5m.

Over the past six months, Councils have participated in a robust process to develop the outline business case required to release this government funding. The business case has been informed by detailed and continuous engagement with a range of stakeholders including more than 40 businesses and organisations such as Digital Catapult, Catalyst, Innovate UK, Intertrade Ireland and Invest NI. A review of best practice models - such as the Leeds City Region Digital Enterprise and the Scottish Digital Boost initiatives – has been used to supplement this work.

Following a robust business case process, the preferred option for the delivery and management of the DTFF project is as summarised below.

- **Business Eligibility:** micro and small businesses and social enterprises (up to 50 employees) across all sectors, with the exception of primary agriculture and fisheries. Eligible businesses must be able to demonstrate at least one year's trading history.
- **Grant funding levels:** will range from £5,000 - £20,000 with a grant subvention rate of 70% of total project costs.
- **Eligible expenditure:** will be limited to the purchase of capital equipment and/or resources for software or bespoke system development. It will be aligned to advanced digital technologies
- **Application Process:** Up to nine funding calls will be opened across the three-year delivery period of this Fund. Pre-application workshops will be held in local council areas in advance of calls, to help stimulate demand. Businesses will be required to submit a digital transformation plan to demonstrate the strategic fit and economic return of their proposed investment projects through a competitive application process. There is an imperative to progress the business case process at pace, to ensure alignment with the Councils' Digital Surge programme which is likely to lead to business plans that will require financial investment and which the DTFF is directly aligned to support. This current programme is due to end in March 2023, and it will be important to ensure that the DTFF is operational prior to the conclusion of Digital Surge.
- **Management of the Fund:** the project will be managed on a cross-council basis through governance structures created through the existing Full Fibre NI Consortium, led by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. Whilst the centralised management structure will deliver economies of scale for managing the overall fund, its operation will be managed via cross-council governance structures. Local Council Economic Development Teams will play a key supporting role to animate and promote the Fund, assess funding applications etc.

Outcomes

Based upon an average grant rate, it is estimated that approximately 600 businesses will be supported over the three-year delivery timeframe of the project, delivering significant investment in local businesses across Northern Ireland, with an expected return of investment of £1: £2.24, with anticipated

benefits expected to be principally focused upon increased employment levels and/or turnover levels for participating businesses.

Financial Implications

As with wider City and Growth Deal funding, both the Complementary Fund and DAERA funding are limited to capital expenditure creating the need for additional revenue funding to manage delivery of the Fund.

The estimated total revenue cost for the 11 council partners for the preferred delivery option is approximately £870k over the three-year period. Members should be aware that in identifying the preferred delivery mechanism a range of options were explored, including council led and procured delivery providers. The proposed council-led delivery model was identified to be the most cost effective, quickest to implement and benefited from a model of delivery where economies of scale could be achieved whilst retaining the ability to maintain localised engagement. The proportional cost allocation for each council has been informed by business population levels across Council areas. This is detailed within Annex A (circulated). The revenue cost contribution for Causeway Coast and Glens across the three-year period will be £60,904.

Given the time pressures outlined above, Councils are asked to commit revenue funding at risk, whilst the final stages of the business case approval process continue simultaneously in Autumn of this year. This will ensure sufficient resources are in place to support the business case process as well as preparing for the delivery of the project including updating governance structures, development of detailed project plans and preparing funding processes to enable the project to mobilise quickly. Revenue funding will be required to support the project team to deliver the project, enabling vital pre-development work to be undertaken and ensuring the project can be mobilised in the January to March 2023 period, subject to a successful approval process.

The process for the business case requires Invest NI approval initially, prior to progressing through departmental approval mechanisms. In the development of the business case to date, ongoing engagement has taken place with government departments and Invest NI. Equally, the staged approval process will mean that, in advance of the November timeframe when revenue costs are expected to be incurred by Councils 'at risk', there is expected to be reasonable progress made in the business case approval journey.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to commit revenue funding totalling £60,904 over the next three years for the delivery of the NI DTFF be led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through its existing arrangements operating the Full Fibre NI Consortium from November 2022, to enable pre-development work to commence.

* **Councillor Holmes joined the meeting remotely at 7:09pm.**

In response to questions, the Head of Prosperity and Place confirmed how the funding was broken down over the 3 year period and explained that support for businesses that experienced internet connectivity problems was provided through the Digital Infrastructure Strategy. The Head of Prosperity and Place advised that an update could be provided at the next Leisure and Development Committee meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Alderman A McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council commit revenue funding totalling £60,904 over the next three years for the delivery of the NI DTFF be led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through its existing arrangements operating the Full Fibre NI Consortium from November 2022, to enable pre-development work to commence.

5. ALCHEMY MENTORING SUPPORT SERVICES

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Town and Village Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request a one-year extension to the existing Multiple Supplier Framework Agreement for Mentors for the Alchemy Mentoring Support Services from 30th September 2022 – 30th September 2023 and to request additional mentors to be added to framework.

Background

Alchemy has been operating throughout the Council area as a model to stimulate economic growth by providing business support to businesses in the Council area since 2013.

Alchemy aims to support start-ups, stimulate growth and increase the competitiveness of the NI economy by making local economic development support accessible, individual, meaningful and flexible for all local businesses.

In March 2018, Council procured third-party specialists, suitably qualified to provide one-to-one and group mentoring support through the LITE programme to directly meet individual participant needs including but not limited to the following areas:

- Strategic business growth & development.
- General business planning.
- Business operations, production and logistics.
- Customer experience management.
- Employment, HR and staff development.
- Environment and efficiency.
- Financial management & admin.
- Health and Safety & risk management.
- ICT & e-commerce.
- Innovation, product development and Intellectual property.

- Export and import trading.
- Marketing, sales, networking, social media & promotion.
- Tendering & procurement.
- Social enterprise development.
- Legal requirements.

The framework agreement has enabled a select list of mentors to be called upon as and when required.

The initial contract duration was to 30 September 2021 with contingency of a 3-year extension subject to funding. All mentoring contracts to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Progress / Plans

This Alchemy LITE mentoring programme has engaged with 350+ businesses in the last 3 years with 250+ businesses receiving one-to-one mentoring support, whilst others have attended workshops and/or been signposted to other stakeholder support available.

The Alchemy LITE programme delivery has operated in tandem with the Alchemy Growth Programme to date. The Growth programme is scheduled to complete in December 2022 when ERDF funding ends.

The business support needs for the Borough's indigenous business community will continue to be met by the Alchemy LITE programme through to 2023 and therefore the select list of mentors is required to remain in place.

The current contract states that all mentoring contracts would be reviewed on an annual basis. Therefore, given the information above, an extension for one year to the current business mentor framework is requested.

A request to add additional mentors to the framework is also required in order to enhance the knowledge and skills within the mentoring team which will be required to work with higher growth businesses when the ERDF programme ends. These additional mentors would be selected from those already procured through the Growth programme and have delivered successful outcomes to businesses in our area. This will ensure continuity of service for all businesses.

Prosperity & Place team will continue to investigate options for the future delivery of business support linking in with the Economic Development Strategy – 'Recovery & Renewal'

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council:

- A one-year extension to the existing Multiple Supplier Framework Agreement for Mentors for the delivery of Alchemy LITE Mentoring Support Services from 30 September 2022 – 30 September 2023.
- Permission to add additional mentors to the current framework from those already procured through the Growth programme.

In response to questions, the Town and Village Manager advised the Alchemy Mentoring Support Service had been provided throughout the Borough and further details could be provided directly to Alderman A McQuillan who had further enquired.

In response to further questions, the Town and Village Manager advised the Alchemy Mentoring Support Services was funded for this year; the Service was hoping to support businesses with energy costs and provided a brief summary of how Alchemy was a complimentary service to other services that provided economic assistance to businesses.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that an update on all programmes could be provided to the Leisure and Development Committee over the next couple of months for the benefit of new Elected Members.

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

AGREED – to recommend to Council

- A one-year extension to the existing Multiple Supplier Framework Agreement for Mentors for the delivery of Alchemy LITE Mentoring Support Services from 30 September 2022 – 30 September 2023.
- Permission to add additional mentors to the current framework from those already procured through the Growth programme.

6. SMALL SETTLEMENTS RESTORE AND REACTIVATE GRANT PROGRAMME

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Town and Village Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to recommend grant decisions and awards in respect of the Small Settlements Restore and Reactivate Grant Programme funded by Department for Communities (DfC) for the financial year 2022-2023.

Context

In January 2022 council approved the three-strand approach (Project A, Project B and Project C) for the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme, which was submitted to DAERA, DfC and DfI and subsequently approved.

The Programme is made up of combined funding from the Department for Communities [DfC], the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs [DAERA] and the Department for Infrastructure [DfI] (as outlined in the table circulated)

In April 2022 Council accepted the letter of Offer and put in place the necessary measures to implement the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. This included the implementation of Project B, the Restore & Reactivate Grant Programme.

The grant scheme seeks to support capital development and repurposing works on derelict or vacant commercial properties within the following 12 Settlements with population thresholds of between 1000 and 4999:

Armoy, Ballykelly, Bushmills, Castlerock, Cloughmills, Cushendall, Dungiven, Dunloy, Garvagh, Greysteel, Kilrea & Rasharkin

The grant call opened on Tuesday 24th May 2022 and closed for applications on Friday 30th June 2022 with an estimated budget of £475k.

Programme Criteria

- To encourage property owners to invest and deliver regeneration benefits in their area.
- To support property owners in bringing their derelict or vacant properties back into use.
- To provide increased provision and choice options in the settlements.
- To generate economic benefit through job creation and increased dwell time in the settlements

Funding Level

- Grants providing capital support up to a maximum of 75% of total costs with a maximum limit of £50,000.
- Match funding must be in the form of a 'cash' contribution.
- There is a minimum project cost of £6667 with no maximum limit to the cost of the project.

Pre-Application Support

The grant was widely advertised in the local press, DAERA website and on Council's website and social media channels. There were 3 online workshops offered to potential applicants during the funding call.

Guidance notes were made available to all interested businesses and included full details in respect of level of award, exclusions and assessment and scoring processes. Named contacts were also provided to potential applicants wishing to discuss their idea pre-application.

There was a good level of interest in the fund, totalling 58 telephone and email enquiries, by property owners/leaseholders wishing to discuss criteria,

requirements and eligibility. Full support was given to all potential applicants during the funding call.

Scoring

12 applications were received at closing, 3 were deemed ineligible, 1 being outside of the settlement development limits and the other 2 were owing to incomplete procurement as set out in the guidance notes.

The 9 eligible applications progressed to a scoring panel in August 2022. 6 Applications scored above the minimum 65% scoring threshold and are deemed successful. Table 1(circulated) details the awards granted to businesses.

3 Applications did not score above the 65% scoring threshold and are deemed unsuccessful

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council:

1. To award funding to the 6 successful applicants detailed in Table 2 (circulated) to the value of £261,664.
2. That the underspend from Project B budget be re-allocated to Project A: Continuation of Village Renewal Scheme on agreement with the relevant funder.

In response to questions from Elected Members, the Town and Village Manager advised it was not envisaged that new projects would be considered in Project A, due to the timescales involved; that funding was to be reallocated to Project A with the hope to offset increases in construction costs and the projects involved were well underway. Further information was provided regarding the assistance provided to applicants.

Alderman Baird stated that populations in small towns and villages often drop due to dereliction and wished to register her disappointment at the grant criteria being strictly applied.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend to Council

1. To award funding to the 6 successful applicants detailed in Table 2 (circulated) to the value of £261,664.
2. That the underspend from Project B budget be re-allocated to Project A: Continuation of Village Renewal Scheme on agreement with the relevant funder.

* **Councillor Dallat O’Driscoll joined the meeting remotely at 7:30pm.**

7. ANNUAL LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND POLICY REVIEW

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Funding Unit Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to review the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) Policy.

Background

In Feb 2016 Council agreed the Landfill Communities Fund Policy. The policy sets out a framework for the processing of Landfill Communities Fund applications. The overall aim of the process outlined in the policy is:

“To ensure a consistent and transparent process with proper and accountable procedures is in place”.

The Ulster Wildlife Trust are the Environmental Body that administer the fund. The LCF Policy is reviewed annually by Council. The expected value of the fund for 2023/24 is in the region of c£120k net of fees.

Landfill Communities Fund Policy

The purpose of the Landfill Communities Fund Policy is to outline the agreed approach to approval of the funding in relation to LCF applications.

Principles

The Landfill Communities Fund Policy is built on a set of agreed principles and an understanding that:

- Council approval of projects to the LCF is at the sole discretion of Council and will be dependent on the current available LCF funds.
- Activities funded must be fully consistent with the objects of the fund.
- Due regard will be given to equality considerations in accordance with Section 75 and any other statutory duty.
- Council must ensure proper, prudent and effective use of Public Money.
- Contracted administration services must be tendered in adherence to the Council's Procurement Process.
- Eligibility for funding is determined through ENTRUST's specified criteria.

Policy Changes / Amendments

A desktop review of the policy has been carried out by Council's Funding Unit and no changes are recommended.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Elected Members accept no change to the current Policy. The Landfill Communities Fund Policy is attached at Annex A (circulated).

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

AGREED – to recommend that Council accept no change to the current Policy. The Landfill Communities Fund Policy is attached at Annex A (circulated).

8. LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND 2ND CALL

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Funding Unit Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant decisions and awards to the Landfill Regulator (ENTRUST) for a second cohort of projects to be supported under the Landfill Communities Fund for the 2022-23 period.

Background

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is regulated by ENTRUST (Landfill Regulator) and managed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC). The Landfill Communities Fund is an innovative tax credit scheme that enables Landfill Operators to use some of their landfill tax to directly fund projects that improve the lives of communities living within a 10 mile radius of the landfill sites. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council operate the Craighuiller landfill site in Portrush and are able to claim a credit against their landfill tax liability, they then make this contribution to Ulster Wildlife, the registered Environmental Body who administers this fund on behalf of Council. Applications are assessed and scored by Ulster Wildlife and Funding Unit Officers and presented to Council for approval. Successful projects are submitted to ENTRUST (Landfill Regulator) whose role is to ensure that the LCF monies are spent by organisations on projects which comply with the objectives set out in The Landfill Tax Regulations 1996.

The fund opened in December 2021 for the 2022-23 grant period. At that time the budget available for the 2022-23 period was £169,628.19.

On 15th March 2022 the Leisure & Development Committee recommended 5 applications totalling £74,021.25.

The Leisure & Development Committee also recommended that Council open the fund for a second round of applications for the current year.

On 5th April 2022 full Council agreed the Leisure & Development Committee recommendations.

The Landfill Communities Fund opened for applications on 18th May 2022 and closed on 30 June 2022.

The available funds at this time are £117,272.34.

Strategic Context

To be eligible for a Landfill Communities Fund award, projects must be located within a 10 mile radius of a licensed landfill site in the Causeway Coast and

Glens Borough Council area. (Craigahulliar Landfill site, 45 Craigahulliar Road, Portrush BT56 8NN or Craigmore Landfill Site, Craigmore Road, Garvagh, Coleraine BT51 5HF)

Applications must be made under one of the following Objects set out in the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996:

- Object D: Public Parks and Amenity;
- Object DA: Conservation of Biodiversity; or
- Object E: Restoration of Religious Buildings or Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest.

In November 2021 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed the Landfill Communities Fund programme and criteria for 2022-23. (See Annexes A-C (circulated))

Assessment Overview

The fund opened for applications on 18th May 2022 and closed on 30 June 2022:

- Nine applications were received with requests to the fund totalling £126,776.
- All applications were eligible and proceeded to scoring and assessment.
- Two applications scored below the 65% threshold for funding
- 7 applications with requests totalling £104,195 scored above the 65% threshold for funding and are being recommended for funding.

Assessment & Scoring

2 x applications failed to meet the 65% threshold for funding:

Table 1 (circulated) referred to Unsuccessful Applications

7 x applications scored above the 65% threshold for funding. (Criteria detailed in Annex A-C (circulated)).

Table 2 (circulated) referred to Successful Applications

Recommendations

As per Council's Landfill Communities Fund Policy, approval of projects is at the sole discretion of Council and will be dependent on the current available funds.

The current available funds available from the Landfill Community Fund are £117,272.34.

It is recommended that Council award funding to projects 1-5 detailed in Table 2 totalling £104,195.

Alderman Hillis and Councillor Nicholl spoke in support of the Landfill Communities Fund.

In response to Councillor McAuley, the Funding Unit Manager clarified an administrative error, that the recommendation should have read Projects 1-7 as per Table 2 in the report and apologised for the error.

In response to further questions from Elected Members the Funding Unit Manager advised the Grants Governance Panel had recommended to Council that the Fund stay open due to funds accumulating throughout the year; as funds were accumulated, they can be allocated. The Funding Unit Manager advised that those who do not meet the criteria on their first application can reapply with the potential of being successful and provided an example of when this had occurred.

Proposed by Alderman Hillis
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl and

AGREED – to recommend that Council award funding to projects 1-7 detailed in Table 2 totalling £104,195.

9. ANNUAL GRANT FUNDING POLICY REVIEW

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Funding Unit Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members that Council's Grant Funding Policy has been reviewed for the incoming year with no recommendations to Council for changes. The policy is attached as Annex A (circulated).

Background

Council is committed to distributing available grants fairly, efficiently and effectively. The purpose of Council's Grant Funding Policy is to outline the agreed approach to Grant Funding in relation to resourcing external bodies to assist in the delivery of its strategic objectives and priorities.

Council annually review and approve the Grant Funding Policy for the distribution of grants. The policy was reviewed and agreed in October 2016, November 2017, October 2018, October 2019, September 2020 and October 2021.

Grant Funding Policy

The policy sets out a framework for the processing of grants. The overall aim of the funding process outlined in the policy is:

"To have a consistent, customer focused process with relevant assessment and evaluation procedures with appropriate appeal and monitoring systems in place".

Principles

- Grant funding awards are at the sole discretion of Council but will be dependent on the Council's available and agreed level of funding which is determined in the annual budget.
- Activities grant funded must be fully consistent with the strategic aims and priorities of the strategies to be addressed.
- Due regard will be given to equality considerations in accordance with Section 75 and any other statutory duty.
- All funding applications will be determined on their objective merits. No organisation is entitled to funding because it may have been granted funding in the past or for any other reason.
- Council must ensure proper, prudent and effective use of Public Money.
- Contracted services must be tendered in adherence to the Council's Procurement Process.
- Eligibility for funding is enabled through the grant programmes with specified criteria. This allows Council to focus on supporting organisations to achieve their best and to meet clearly identified needs, which must all be bound by Council's strategic priorities.

Grant Funding Policy Changes / Amendments

A desktop review of the policy has been carried out by Council's Funding Unit and no changes are recommended.

This policy will be reviewed in 12 months' time.

Recommendations

It is recommended that no changes are made to the Grants Funding Policy.

* **Councillor Holmes attended in the Chamber at 7:53pm.**

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that no changes are made to the Grants Funding Policy

10. MILLBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Community and Culture.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present a Strategic Outline Case in relation to the transfer of operational responsibility of Millburn Community Centre in Coleraine to Millburn Community Association, following a request from the Association.

Background

In December 2019 Council approved a Shared Management Agreement and Schedule of Maintenance Operations to formalise the legacy arrangements for community centres owned by Council that were operated by community organisations on Council's behalf. This Agreement was later updated in June 2021.

In December 2021, Council's Leisure & Development Committee considered a request from Millburn Community Association (MCA) to enter into discussions with Council with a view to taking on responsibility for operating Millburn Community Centre. Council agreed to proceed to develop a Strategic Outline Case to consider the feasibility of the request.

Millburn Community Centre is located at Linden Avenue in Coleraine and includes a large hall, committee room and kitchen. The centre has always been operated by Council with bookings taken centrally through Council with a caretaker on site to accommodate bookings and cleaning. A separate section of the Community Centre was leased in 2011 by Millburn Community Pre-school Playgroup Ltd.

Strategic Outline Case

In considering the need for the proposed new approach to operational arrangements for the Centre, Council agreed to use the 10 Step approach for successful asset transfer for sports facilities, adopted by Council in May 2021 and adapted where relevant for community centres. A Strategic Outline Case which considers all these aspects is attached at Annex A (circulated) with key matters summarised below.

Current Use

Millburn Community Centre is currently underused, exacerbated in part by the pandemic and also because a lot of the community activity in the area takes place from MCA's current premises. During 2021-22 there were 4 bookings a week for the community centre as well as several bookings from individual residents for birthday parties.

Millburn Community Association currently operates a youth club, older peoples group and various other activities at their current premises, which consist of office space and training/club activity room situated at 44 Maple Drive in a Housing Executive leased premises. The Association has outgrown the space that it has due to the number of clubs and activities it offers and is limited in the numbers that can attend activities.

Proposed Use

If MCA were to take on operation of Millburn Community Centre, they propose to move their current activities to the centre and plan to expand these activities. Their planned programme of activities include: After Schools Clubs, Parents & Toddler Group, Youth Club, Crochet Class, Sewing Class, Monthly Disco, Senior Tea Dance and birthday party room hire. This will result in much increased footfall to the community centre.

The Association employs a Project Manager and has secured funding for the salary of an Activity Co-ordinator for 25 hours per week, initially for a 2-year period. Part of the remit for this staff member will be to engage with the community and ascertain how the association can better help individuals to participate more fully in community activities.

MCA has committed to accommodating bookings from existing user groups and any other external user groups and residents.

Consultation with Stakeholders

A consultation meeting and follow up telephone interviews were held with each of the existing user groups in Millburn Community Centre as well as with Millburn Community Pre-school Playgroup. Existing user groups were supportive of the proposed change in operational management of the centre if their existing booking arrangements were honoured. Existing users acknowledged that greater community use of the centre would be welcomed. A publicly advertised online survey was undertaken to hear the views of residents. 87 respondents completed the survey with an overwhelmingly positive response and feedback indicated that there would be increased community activities if there were a transfer of operational responsibility to a local group. 85% of respondents felt that the centre would be better used by the local community if a local group were operating it.

The main reasons for respondents not using the centre regularly at present are that there are no activities taking place that they would like to take part in (47%); they had forgotten it was there (22%) and they don't know how to book it (16%).

Respondents were asked what activities they would like to attend in the centre. A long list of suggestions was provided, many of which related to activities for children and young people, and these have been used by MCA to develop a proposed programme of activities.

Legal View

Council's legal services have advised that any arrangement for Millburn Community Centre should be similar to that in place for the five existing Shared Management Agreements with community groups operating Council community centres. A Shared Management Agreement is a form of licence and is not a commercial lease with a rent. However, it may still be deemed to be a transfer/disposal at less than best value under section 96 of the Local Government Act/ DFC Guidance and as such will require Ministerial Approval.

Financial Projections

A business mentor worked with MCA to put together financial projections, should they take on operation of the centre. The income and expenditure projections can be found in Appendix 1 (circulated) of the attached Strategic Outline Case.

The projections are based on conservative estimates of potential income from use of the community hall for a range of activities in addition to hire of the hall

for health and fitness classes. The proposed income streams consider feedback from the Council survey with the community, which achieved a high level of community engagement. Due to uncertainty around energy costs at present, the services of Council's Energy Manager were engaged in order to estimate future energy costs.

Projections estimate that there is a deficit of expenditure over income in the first 3 months (01 January to 31 March 2023) of £1,517 and deficits of £6,680 and £4,267 for the years to 31 March 2024 and 2025.

The deficits are due to projected high costs of electricity and gas which are estimated at £19,894 and £22,878 for 2023 and 2024. The main challenge is the risk/uncertainty around energy costs and the requirement to keep prices at an affordable level for users, particularly in consideration that the centre is based in a Neighbourhood Renewal area, and therefore supporting primarily residents living within one of the top 10% most deprived areas within Northern Ireland.

Based on the projected high energy and fuel costs, Millburn CA has written to Council expressing their concerns about their ability to be able to generate sufficient income to operate the centre within the current fuel crisis.

There are clearly evidenced advantages to Millburn Community Association taking on the operation of Millburn Community Centre. The level of activity in the centre will significantly increase with the local community benefitting from a range of activities that promote physical and mental well-being. The group have recently secured funding for an additional staff member for 2 years who will proactively work to develop new services and promote usage. In addition, there will be cost savings to Council, including an amount of approximately £10K per year in wages when the services of a caretaker are no longer required.

Council may wish to consider a subsidy towards energy and fuel costs in order to ensure that it is affordable for MCA to take on the operation of the centre and to allow the Association to get established with their planned activities. This could be for a fixed term covering the months of Jan-Mar in the 2022-23 financial year and for the following two financial years up to March 2025.

Council may wish to cover the electricity and gas bills in full for the period Jan-Mar in the 2022-23 financial year. In the first full year of operations ie 2023-24 this subsidy could be equivalent to the amount that Council would pay for electricity and gas, if operational management of the centre does not transfer to MCA, calculated at the current rates of use and based on the predicted increased unit costs. This could then reduce by 50% in the following year.

Calculations for this option to subsidise the energy and fuel costs are included in Section 6 of the attached Strategic Outline Case. It is important to note that the calculations are based on projected unit cost and the actual subsidy if applied would be based on actual unit costs. If the actual unit costs are not as high as projected, then the subsidy will reduce accordingly.

Options

The options for consideration are:

Option One:

Do Nothing and continue with existing operational arrangement ie Council operated.

Option Two:

Enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Millburn Community Association without any additional subvention in place.

Option Three:

Enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Millburn Community Association and put in place a subsidy towards energy and fuel costs. The subsidy proposed is as follows:

- Jan-Mar 2022-23 - cover the electricity and gas bills in full;
- Apr 2023 – Mar 2024 – subsidise electricity and gas bills by the amount that Council would pay for these, if operational management of the centre does not transfer to MCA, calculated at the current rates of use and based on the predicted increased unit costs.
- Apr 2024- Mar 2025 - subsidise electricity and gas bills by 50% of the amount that Council would pay for these, if operational management of the centre does not transfer to MCA, calculated at the current rates of use and based on the predicted increased unit costs.

An analysis of the costs, benefits and risks associated with each option is provided in detail in Section 6 on page 11 of the Strategic Outline Case. The costs to Council of each option are extracted below for comparison for the two full years of operation ending March 2024 and March 2025 (table circulated).

MCA will be encouraged to work with Councils Energy Manager to ensure that energy and fuel costs are kept as low as they can be. If approval is given to the subsidised approach to utility bills, officers will review arrangements with other community operated Council centres.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council that it enters into a Shared Management Agreement with Millburn Community Association for the operation of Millburn Community Centre, subject to approval from the Minister for Communities, and that a subsidy is provided towards the cost of energy and fuel as per Option 3.

In response to questions from Councillor McAuley, the Head of Community and Culture confirmed that Option 2 in the report was the same as the Shared Agreement other Community Associations have. She further advised that Council may wish to review the support offered given the current climate.

Councillor McAuley concurred that it was worth considering what support could be offered to all Community Associations.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Storey and

- To recommend that Council accept Option 2 - enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Millburn Community Association with no additional subsidies; that a report is brought to Committee with options to support Community Associations with energy costs, so Council are treating everyone fairly across the board

In response to questions from Elected Members, the Head of Community and Culture stated it was her understanding that Millburn Community Association would retain the NIHE premises currently being used; that the Community Centre would be additional premises. It was further advised that there was no evidence of displacement of community groups currently using Millburn Community Centre; that hire fees currently charged by Council were not sustainable and the new Activity Therapist employed by Millburn Community Association would enhance the use of Millburn Community Centre. The Head of Community and Culture provided detail regarding the Shared Management Agreements already in place and how the Millburn Community Association differs slightly. The Head of Community and Culture further advised of grants that could be applied for, to assist with running costs.

The Community Development Manager advised that Millburn Community Association generate an income from the social enterprises they operate, there would also be a small charge for the activities provided which add to the income received; adding to the financial viability of the Association. The Community Development Manager advised the Shared Management Agreement was for 10 years with the option of 5 years.

Councillor Watton considered Option Three was the most viable as Community Centres did not make Council money and Millburn underutilised. Councillor Watton proposed option Three.

The Chair put the motion to the vote.
14 Members voted for; 1 Member voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.
The Chair declared the motion carried.

AGREED – to recommend that Council accept Option 2 - enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Millburn Community Association with no additional subsidies; that a report is brought to Committee with options to support Community Associations with energy costs, so Council are treating everyone fairly across the board.

11. TEMPORARY SKATEBOARD FACILITY

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

The Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Council a proposal for a temporary designated space in Station Square, Portrush to create a safe, controlled and inviting environment for skateboarders, whilst maintaining public access to the surrounding businesses and established Rights of Way.

Background

The case for the provision of a permanent designated space for Urban Sports in Portrush has been championed by Causeway Association of Urban Sports (CAUS) for a period predating the formation of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

In this period the popularity of urban sports including skateboarding has grown significantly. Prior to the 2020 Olympic Games (held in 2021), the growth in skateboarding had emerged as an unlikely outcome from the covid lockdown, with its perfect match with quarantine restrictions, requiring simply a skateboard and a patch of flat ground, meaning that skateboarding can be practiced anywhere.

However, it is reported that millions watched as Sky Brown flew around the Olympic skatepark in Tokyo. Not only did the performance earn a bronze medal for the 13-year-old, but it also sparked a newfound interest in the sport, with more people purchasing skateboards and searching online for skateboarding lessons.

Sky Brown's success added to what had already been a great year for the popularity of urban sports.

Locally, Portrush has become the hub for urban sports in the Borough with Station Square being the focus. The upper tier of Station Square is informally established as the preferred site for urban sports and will routinely see hundreds of children and their families and adults participating in skateboarding. Currently, CAUS has in excess of 1000 Followers. Furthermore the 3 best skateboarders in Northern Ireland (national competition winners) are all based in Portrush.

Obviously, there is local economic benefit when such additional numbers congregate regularly in Portrush, but skateboarding is not just a sport, it is often considered to be an art form, a lifestyle, and a culture, not unlike surfing (the fit in Portrush is obvious).

Instead of skateboarding being a divisive and dangerous activity, the reality is that skateboard culture values individuality, creativity, and freedom. Skaters are known for their unrelenting dedication to progressing the sport holistically. The community is built on mutual respect; instead of 'one-upping' each other,

skaters often encourage their peers and embrace their differences i.e. cross community.

Events Proceeding this Report

Following communication from HSENI, Council was compelled to act to mitigate the risk at Station Square following the discovery of skateboarding furniture, specifically ramps, rails and jumps. As the removal of furniture became confrontational, Council decided to cease any further action.

In order to resolve the situation, three meetings followed:

- DEA Council Meeting on 30th Aug 2022.
- Skateboarding / Urban Sports 'Wider' Stakeholder Meeting on Mon 5th Sep 2022.
- Skateboarding / Urban Sports Working Group on Wed 7th Sep 2022.

DEA Councillors Meeting

Having discussed the situation, it was agreed that:

Station Square is not a safe, controlled and inviting environment for skateboarders to use, whilst pedestrians have unfettered access. It was also agreed that whilst the current arrangements are not safe and suitable, to exclude skateboarding completely is not desirable. Council therefore intends to work with the skateboarding community to establish a temporary option for urban sports, whilst the Recreation Grounds construction is nearing completion and the site at the Metropole Corner is being considered.

Consequently, the meeting on the 5 September was arranged.

Skateboarding / Urban Sports 'Wider' Stakeholder Meeting

20 persons (representatives from CAUS, parents, skateboarders and commercial organisations) attended this meeting on Monday 5 September at which it was agreed that 4 possible options exist:

- I. The 'As Is Position'. It was agreed that Station Square is not a safe, controlled and inviting environment for skateboarders to use, whilst pedestrians have unfettered access.
- II. Exclude Skateboarding. It was also agreed that whilst the current arrangements are not safe and suitable, to exclude skateboarding completely is not desirable.
- III. Council therefore intends to work with the skateboarding community to establish a temporary option for urban sports, whilst the Recreation Grounds construction is nearing completion and the site at the Metropole Corner is being considered.
- IV. Identify an alternative site.

Two outcomes were agreed:

- I. The development of Option 3 – A temporary designated space in Station Square to create a safe, controlled and inviting environment for skateboarders, whilst maintaining public access to the surrounding

- businesses and established Rights of Way (subject to Risk Assessment, Insurance and Council agreement).
- II. The creation of a Working Group to include the following nominated persons:
- Relevant Council Officers.
 - 2 x Parents: Represented by Ricky Martin and Danielle Murphy.
 - 2 x CAUS: Represented by Jonathan Farley and Jesse Gordon.
 - 2 x RAWEE (including GB Qualified Skateboarding Instructors based in Portrush): Represented by Stuart Cullen and Darren McGinley.
 - 2 x Skateboarders: Represented by Callum Green and Wesley McMullen.

Skateboarding / Urban Sports Working Group

The Working Group met in Portrush Town Hall on the 7 September to consider Option 3.

- Roles and responsibilities.
- Designated area.
- Method of separating skateboarders from non-skateboarders.
- Permitted infrastructure such as ramps / rails / jumps.
- The routine management of the site.
- Risk Assessment and Method Statements.
- Insurance.
- Stakeholder consultation.

The following proposal incorporates consideration of the above points:

The Proposal for a Temporary Designated Space in Station Square, Portrush for Skateboarding

Based upon a collaborative approach, the Working Group is seeking Council's agreement for a temporary designated space in Station Square, Portrush for skateboarding.

This arrangement is deemed temporary whilst construction is nearing completion at the Recreation Grounds and the business case for an urban sports facility is being developed by CAUS focused upon Metropole Corner. The site is as illustrated in the following image (circulated).

The site provides enough space for skateboarding whilst facilitating access to the adjacent properties in and around Station Square.

- 1.1 Ownership and liability. Ownership and liability will be retained by Council's Tourism and Recreation Service area, however, roles and responsibilities will be agreed through the use of a memorandum of understanding between the Working Group parties.
- 1.2 Risk Assessment and Method Statements. The site and proposed activity have been subject to a Risk Assessment and Method Statements. The controls / mitigation methods form the basis of the proposal.
- 1.3 Barriers. The red line in the above image (circulated) illustrates the line of pedestrian barriers, which will be modified to include a rubber skirt to prevent

- skateboards from leaving the designated area. The barriers will be fixed into the existing paver mortar, without damaging the granite stonework.
- 1.4 Signage. Signs will be fixed to the barriers to clearly indicate that this is a designated area for urban sports, however, users do so at their own risk. The Signage will direct pedestrians away from the area with ample pathways around the skateboarding area.
 - 1.5 Monitoring of the Site. RAWEE (qualified Skateboarding GB Instructors) will monitor / inspect the site regularly (no less than weekly) to ensure that only equipment (ramps, rails and jumps) which are deemed safe and fit-for-purpose remain in the site. Any equipment deemed to be outside of safe parameters will be removed by qualified Skateboarding GB Instructors. As a general rule, the Working Group agreed that no furniture greater than 1 meter in height will be permitted.
 - 1.6 Duration. A period of 12 months is sought by the Working Group, subject to a 6-month review / break period if necessary.
 - 1.7 Public Liability Insurance. Council's Insurance Broker has sought Public Liability Insurance for the site as a designated skateboard park. The RAMS has been submitted to support the request. The site has no claims history associated with skateboarding or other related activity.
 - 1.8 Consultation. Consultation has been conducted with the owner of the adjacent properties and through Mr RJ Martin, the tenants in those properties. In all cases, we have received full support and no objections for the proposal to create a temporary designated space for skateboarding in Station Square, Portrush.

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Working Group Parties

The following roles and responsibilities will be established in an MOU between the Working Group Members:

Council will:

- Retain ownership of the site, managed through the Tourism and Recreation Service Area.
- Undertake a Risk Assessment and Method Statement specific to the activity.
- Install suitable fencing (with rubber skirts to retain skateboards).
- Provide public liability insurance.

RAWEE will:

- Apply the necessary RAMS mitigation measures including the inspection of the site weekly (minimum) to ensure that only equipment (ramps, rails and jumps) which are deemed fit-for-purpose by RAWEE. Any equipment deemed to be outside of safe parameters will be removed by RAWEE staff.

CAUS will:

- Act as a conduit for information / communication between all stakeholders in the skateboarding / urban sport community.

The working group will:

- Work together to protect the reputation of the Council, CAUS and RAWEE (relevant to skateboarding / urban sports).
- Agree any press statements or other forms of public communication before publication / posting.
- Meet monthly to ensure that the terms of the MOU are being applied as agreed.
- Consider the use of the site by other users / events as a when required.

Recommendation

Council is requested to approve the creation of a temporary designated space in Station Square, Portrush for skateboarding, based upon the site illustrated in this report and subject to:

- The provision of Public Liability Insurance for the site as a designated skateboard park.
- Signing of the MOU between the Working Group Parties.

For a period of 12 months, subject to a 6-month review / break period if required by Council.

During discussion Elected Members spoke to support the work which has been done to reach this temporary solution and welcomed the setting up of a Working Group. Consideration was also given to how pedestrians and skateboarders would be accommodated at Station Square.

In response to questions, the Director of Leisure and Development clarified detail of the proposed temporary skateboard facility; advised of ongoing work in regard to the development of permanent skateboard facilities in Portrush and provided advice on the potential of using Station Square in the long term.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the creation of a temporary designated space in Station Square, Portrush for skateboarding, based upon the site illustrated in this report and subject to:

- The provision of Public Liability Insurance for the site as a designated skateboard park.
- Signing of the MOU between the Working Group Parties.

For a period of 12 months, subject to a 6-month review / break period if required by Council.

12. PCSP ANNUAL REPORT

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the PCSP Annual Report 2021-22 as set out in Annex A (circulated) for committee's information.

Background

Under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, a Joint Committee was established to oversee the work of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. It consists of representatives of the Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Policing Board. The committee provides strategic direction to PCSPs.

As per legislative requirement, all PCSPs must submit an Annual Report to the Joint Committee not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year i.e. by 1 July each year and submit the report to Council for information.

The report covers both the work of the Policing Committee and the wider PCSP and must contain specific information as to how the PCSP has carried out its functions on engagement and enhancing community safety.

This report contains general information on the exercise of functions, both in terms of policing and community safety.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the PCSP Annual Report 2021-22 is noted for information.

Councillor Watton expressed concern regarding the contents of the Annual report stating he has received complaints regarding anti social behaviour and questioned if the report reflects what is happening on the ground.

13. PEACE PLUS UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

To provide the Leisure & Development Committee with an update regards progress of the Partnership, the indicative budget allocation in relation to the Local Co-Design Action Plan for CCGBC and Procurement for pre-Programme Consultancy Support.

Background

On Monday 11 July 2022, the EU Commission formally adopted the PEACE PLUS Programme. This now enables the Special European Programmes Body to move forward to open the Programme for calls during the Autumn months.

The EU regulations pertinent to this programme have been published in draft form by the European Commission. Provision has been made for an indicative budget of approximately €1bn, including proposals from the EU budget, the

Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government.

The PEACE PLUS Programme is a €1bn investment in the social, economic and environmental development of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. It comprises six themes, which encompass 21 individual investment areas. Theme 1 is 'Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities'. Under Theme 1.1 there are 'Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans' with a figure of €110m spread across the participating local councils in Northern Ireland and the County Councils along the border counties. Whilst approved and adopted by the EU Commission on 11 July 2022, further detailed guidance will then follow to councils from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The overall objective of the PEACE PLUS Programme will be to build Peace and Prosperity and ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible legacy. In CCGBC it is our desire that PEACE PLUS will build on the positives and successes from Peace IV and will use new opportunities to innovate where possible.

Based on the extensive engagement described, six key thematic areas have emerged. The Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans (€90million) (1.1) fall under "BUILDING PEACEFUL and THRIVING COMMUNITIES."

PEACE PLUS Partnership

In February 2022, the Council approved the nomination of 11 Elected Members to the Peace Plus Partnership under D'hondt, Nominations were submitted by the Party Leads and a PeacePlus workshop was held on Wednesday 23 March 2022. The Elected Members are as follows:

Alderman Fielding
Councillor Nicholl
Alderman Baird
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Schenning
Alderman Knight McQuillan
Councillor McKeown
Councillor Wallace
Councillor McMullan
Councillor MA McKillop
Additional Sinn Fein place to be filled

In March 2022 Council then approved to recruit 11 Social Partners for the Partnership with 2 seats to be protected for a Youth and Section 75 seat respectively this process has now completed. The Social Partners recruited were presented in the table circulated.

Three reserve candidates have also been selected.

The Statutory Partners who make representation to this Partnership include:
Education Authority
NIHE
PHA
WHSCT
PSNI

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council officers from relevant service areas will also provide guidance for the benefit of the partnership. The Partnership hosted its first meeting on Tuesday 21 June, chaired by Councillor Philip Anderson and welcomed by the Mayor Councillor Ivor Wallace. From September onwards meetings will be held monthly, and governance papers will be brought to the October meeting for approval, all minutes and agenda can be found on the Council's PEACE PLUS Portal, due to be operational imminently.

PEACE PLUS Co Design Action Plan

On 26 July 2022, the Chief Executive Officer of the Special European Programmes Body wrote to the Chief Executive of Causeway Coast and Glens to advise of the financial allocation for the PEACE PLUS Co-Design Action Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

The figure represents the maximum amount that can be allocated to our plan. The award will be subject to the amount of money requested by the PEACE PLUS Partnership and will be subject to a full assessment process before being presented to a Steering Committee for decision.

€6,777,244.00 (£5,699,540.40) at 100% of the costs for the Local Action Plan.

The Letter of Offer Issued for PEACE IV was £3.8 million

Conscious of the Co-Design way the Programme will be developed, we are acutely aware to identify and make use of relevant baseline information, so a Socio-Economic Analysis against the background of the PEACE PLUS Strategy and other relevant strategies has been commissioned to support need and identify gaps and or interventions.

It is hoped that the Community Consultation along DEA lines will commence in late September and continue throughout the Autumn, to engage with communities around priority projects that they believe could be delivered in a Co-Design manner under PEACE PLUS.

An indicative timeline:

- a. Mid-Autumn - Publication of guidance/call for applications by the SEUPB.
- b. Agree Co-Design Processes including project selection, framework for the development of each plan (Autumn 2022) (Consultation will take place in tandem).
- c. Submission of final Plan February 2023.
- d. Letter of Offer expected Summer 2023.

Next Steps

Officers will commence procurement for consultancy support, funded at 100% by SEUPB to assist in the research, development and submission of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Local Co-Designed Action Plan, thereby making the co-design process and submission of plan more efficient given the timeline for submission. Staff will continue to facilitate public/stakeholder consultation which will be ongoing.

14. DFC FUNDING AND POVERTY SUPPORT

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Elected Members on Social Supermarket Support Fund monies received from Department for Communities (DfC) and other measures that Council is currently providing, along with partners on the Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group, to alleviate the cost of living pressures.

Background

During the past 2 years Council received a series of Covid emergency response funds in relation to access to food, connectivity and support for people who were adversely affected financially by the pandemic.

Council facilitated the setting up of an Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (APSSG) in December 2020 which brings together voluntary organisations that are directly addressing poverty along with relevant statutory bodies. The APSSG has developed an action plan and delivered several initiatives including a 'Where to Turn' campaign to promote awareness of support services that are available for people who find themselves struggling financially.

The Department for Communities has directly operated a Social Supermarket (SSM) Pilot Programme since October 2017 and one of the 5 pilot social supermarkets is operated by Vineyard Compassion in Coleraine.

Following positive evaluation of the Social Supermarket Pilot Programme the Minister has approved an approach which will expand the concept to all council areas using a co-design process to develop tailored models that best meets the needs of local communities and builds on the existing structures and partnerships.

Social Supermarket Support Fund

Funding from the Department's 2022/23 Welfare Reform budget has been provided to Councils through a Social Supermarket Support Fund (SSMSF) to support the co-design of a social supermarket model in the council area to completion and implementation. The amount awarded to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is £33,354.50.

The aim of a social supermarket model is to offer a longer term and sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to help address the root causes of

poverty rather than short term crisis provision. This is achieved through the provision of a referral network of wraparound support which includes, but is not limited to, advice on debt, benefits, budgeting, healthy eating, housing, physical and mental health referral, along with education, training and volunteering opportunities to enhance employability skills.

The Social Supermarket Support Fund provides the opportunity to take the learning from the DfC (SSM) Pilot Programme and the Covid response and work with local Councils, the community and voluntary sector and wider stakeholders to move away from the emergency response to a more sustainable, long-term response to food poverty.

Council is working with partners in the Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group and other stakeholders to develop a model for building on the existing pilot and expanding the provision in Causeway Coast and Glens. Proposals resulting from the co-design work for the future social supermarket model within the council area will be reported to the Leisure & Development Committee and must then be submitted to the Department prior to moving to implementation. A list of members of the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group members is attached at Annex A (circulated).

Current and planned measures to alleviate cost of living pressures

The impact of the cost of living crisis continues to grow, and a recent study by the University of York suggests that more than 76% of households in Northern Ireland are expected to be in fuel poverty in January 2023. Council has put the following initiatives in place, working in partnership with the APSSG members, to help provide support to people who are experiencing financial difficulty:

Funding for Foodbanks

In April 2022 Council agreed to provide an amount of £61,946 remaining from DfC Covid 'Access to Food' funding to support the foodbanks to meet the increasing demand for their services. An amount in excess of £15,000 was provided to the established foodbanks in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Causeway and Roe Valley. Each of these foodbanks connect with voluntary organisations and churches in the surrounding area to provide outreach food support.

Fuel Support Scheme

In June 2022 Council agreed to allocate a final amount of £24,337 of DfC Covid response funding to rerun the Fuel Support Scheme to support people who were experiencing financial difficulty and unable to afford fuel or energy costs. The Scheme, which previously ran earlier in the year, will operate through a process of referral to the local advice centres by foodbanks and other support organisations or by self-referral at the advice centre. The advice centres will carry out an assessment of need and eligible households will be provided with immediate fuel relief in the form of electric or gas meter top ups or direct oil delivery. 230 households were supported through the scheme during the period that it operated from January to March 2022 and beneficiaries were also able to access wraparound advice, benefits checks, debt advice, budgeting support etc.

Energy Efficiency/ Affordable Warmth

Councils Energy Efficiency Officers have referred 170 households since the beginning of April to the Affordable Warmth Grant, where up to £7,500 is spent on upgrading heating systems, insulation and windows. Officers have referred 81 households since the beginning of April for Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NIISEP) grants for cavity wall insulation and loft insulation. Referrals are also made for NISEP grants for heating which can be either fully funded or 50% funded. A Boiler Replacement scheme is also available for those that don't qualify for the other grants, with £400-£1000 available towards the cost of a new boiler. Both the Affordable Warmth grant and NISEP heating grants have large waiting lists at the minute.

Energy Efficiency Officers carried out 72 home visits in July and August with a Thermal Imaging camera, giving advice on how to try and reduce bills. Draught proofing strips, chimney balloons and hot water cylinder jackets have also been provided to households where required. Officers will make available Keep Warm packs from October to February.

Advice Service

Council contributed an amount of £128,118 for 2023-24 for Generalist Advice Services in the Borough to provide free, independent and impartial advice on benefits, housing, employment, family matters, consumer issues. This contribution is matched by DfC and the service is contracted to Community Advice Causeway(CAC), and services are delivered in the Dungiven area by Glenshane Community Development (GCD). CAC have extended their services to cover the part of the contract that was delivered by LCDI in the Limavady area as their Advice Centre has ceased to operate. Further DfC specialist advice services are delivered by Community Advice Causeway in relation to Welfare Reform and Debt Advice. In the first quarter of 2022-23, 7,988 enquiries were dealt with for 2,733 clients. 64.7% of these enquiries related to benefits and an amount of £1,159,808 was generated as additional benefits income into the Borough.

Where to Turn campaign

'Where to Turn' is a Council campaign to raise awareness of the emergency support services that are available for people experiencing financial difficulty. Hard copy leaflets and a digital version are available and have been promoted through APSSG partners including Multi-Disciplinary Teams as well as on bus shelters and adshels. A further campaign is being planned for the autumn to link with schools and faith based organisations. Full details of support organisations including foodbanks, advice centres etc can be found at: www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/advice

Neighbourhood Renewal projects

Council continues to provide support to community groups in Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) areas in Coleraine and Limavady that have been dealing with poverty and addressing inequalities for many years. The cost of living rise has

resulted in increased costs for both service users and the community groups providing those services.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships & groups have put the following interventions and support measures in place in the last few months:

- Working closely with the Anti-Poverty Steering Group and its members.
- School uniform give-aways (six NR funded groups are involved in ongoing uniform schemes).
- Emergency food provision (six groups have provisions in place for emergency food – eg, food cupboards, dinner deliveries and luncheon clubs).
- Clothing banks (two groups have a clothing bank – separate from their uniform provisions).
- Mental health support (all groups have mental health links / programmes and two run specific counselling programmes).
- Emergency fuel provision (with other borough wide programmes) – referrals to St. Vincent de Paul or Salvation Army; provision of winter warmer packs; five groups were involved with fuel vouchers last year.
- Sustainable food programmes – slow cookers, ‘cooking on a budget’ classes; five groups ran these schemes, with more planned.

Warm Spaces at Council Arts Centres

Flowerfield and Roe Valley Arts Centres are offering a ‘Warm Space’ for everyone this wintertime. People are invited to come along and enjoy the designated Warm Spaces in both centres from September to December, where they’ll find books, newspapers, tea/coffee, board games and drawing materials for children in a warm and welcoming environment. Whether you want to quietly read a book, the papers or knit and natter, families and individuals, young and old, are all welcome to share our Warm Spaces this winter.

The Warm Spaces are comfortable rooms set aside every Wednesday and Thursday from 1-4pm, 7-9pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm to coincide with existing opening times of both arts centres, therefore maximising the use of the facilities to those who need support.

Social Inclusion/ Connections Grant

The Community Development team have reviewed the Social Inclusion Grant which provided small grants of £500 for inclusion projects. Mindful of the growing levels of loneliness and social isolation and the impact this has on physical and mental health, Council’s Community Development team lobbied and is now collaborating with the Northern Health & Social Care Trust through the Causeway Coast and Glens Loneliness Network to recognise the important role that community groups and voluntary organisations play in creating connecting opportunities and reaching out to people who are experiencing loneliness in our communities. One of the objectives of the grant will be to address the social isolation that can result from living in poverty. As a result of the collaboration, additional budget has been secured for the grant programme.

Discussions are ongoing with the Western Health & Social Care Trust and the GP Multi-Disciplinary Teams to extend this collaboration. Full details, when finalised, will be brought to Leisure & Development Committee with the annual Council Grants Programme.

Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group

At their last meeting on 19th August, the APSSG discussed a request from NILGA for feedback about what local government can do to help in alleviating cost of living pressures, and the key things that could be done to alleviate pressure on individuals and families at both NI Executive and UK Government levels as well as looking at good practice.

Members highlighted the very real impact of the cost of living pressures on the people they are supporting, such as older people looking to come out of retirement to return to work.

Members highlighted that this is not a temporary crisis and won't be resolved in the short term. While there are good examples of local emergency support services such as foodbanks, advice centres, community fridges, school uniform schemes, baby banks, hygiene banks and fuel stamp schemes provided by voluntary and charitable organisations, this is only a 'sticking plaster' that shouldn't be normalised, and what is needed is structural change and peoples incomes to increase and energy prices properly capped. People are accessing the services, they can budget effectively and are getting all the benefits they are entitled to, but they are still struggling. There are concerns that, as a much larger section of the population are impacted, the existing voluntary organisations will not be able to cater for the demand on their services. Some of the suggestions as to what Council could do are:

- Continue to support voluntary and community organisations to provide vital services to local communities. These organisations are experiencing a similar increase in the costs of providing their services.
- Continue to promote the services that are available through awareness campaigns and support the connection of services to ensure wraparound support. Connecting and collaborating are key to effective delivery of support.
- Open Council venues such as leisure centres and community centres as warm spaces which would also address the loneliness and isolation challenge that we are trying to tackle.
- Extension of allotment space for individuals, and support for community provided allotments, through mens' sheds and other community groups.
- Engage with Council staff to gauge staff concerns about the cost of living pressures, possibly through a staff survey.
- Use power to lobby both NI Executive and UK Government.

Next Steps

As part of this process, Community & Culture staff and representatives from the Anti-Poverty Steering Group, facilitated through Council, will be holding a Councillor's workshop on the 12 October at 6pm.

This workshop will both feed into the consultation by NILGA regarding the potential role Council could play and the key issues and actions for government to consider, in order to help alleviate the cost of living crisis and form the basis of an L&D report in November for Council's consideration.

The workshop will also provide an overview of the current issues/challenges local providers such as foodbanks, advice organisations and other support organisations are experiencing from the lived experience of service users/clients.

Alderman Baird spoke to welcome the report and welcomed the warm spaces initiative stating this should be considered and widened to other communities urgently.

15. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with a record of the agreed note from Council's Queen's Jubilee Working Group meetings held in February, March and May 2022 respectively (Annex A (circulated)).

A copy of the progress report as of May 2022 is attached at Annex B (circulated) while further information regarding the programme can be accessed on <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/see-do/celebrating-hm-the-queens-platinum-jubilee>

An evaluation of the programme in terms of deliverables will be provided to committee in due course.

16. SMALL SETTLEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is update Members on the progress of the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme.

Background

In January 2022 council approved the three-strand approach for the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme [CRSSRP] which was submitted to the funding body for approval. The Small Settlements Regeneration Programme is made up of combined funding from the Department for Communities [DfC], the Department of Agriculture, Environment

and Rural Affairs [DAERA] and the Department for Infrastructure [DfI] as follows (table circulated).

The programme requires a 10% match capital funding. Revenue fund may also be used for delivery costs and/or additional staff requirements.

The letter of offer was accepted in March 2022.

Programme Update

The CRSSRP was initiated in March 2022 with the following structure:

SRO [senior reporting officer] – Director Leisure & Development Services, Richard Baker

PS [project sponsor] – Town & Village Manager, Julienne Elliott

Programme Coordinator – Nigel McFadden

Programme Support officer – To be appointed

Project officer – Strategic Projects Officer – Mary Kerr .

A Steering Group has been established and meets on a monthly basis to review progress on all projects. This group is made up of the staff listed above and representatives from each of the funders, Capital Works Manager and Finance Officer.

Each project area has a working group which meets on a weekly basis and draws in officers from Sport & Wellbeing, Countryside Access Team, Capital Works Team.

Finance and the Risk Register are reviewed at the Steering Group meetings to ensure budgets are on track and that any risks are highlighted and any mitigations put in place.

Two key risks have been identified:

- Timescale for completion of the programme – currently March 2023. To mitigate regular steering group and working group meetings will flag any issues in relation to timescale and progress. Planning applications will be submitted in tandem with the procurement procedure where possible. If necessary, an approach will be made to the funders to consider granting an extension to the Programme.
- Inflationary costs within the construction industry. Capital works team will endeavour to gain realistic estimates in relation to each of the projects. Mitigation may result in the reduction in the number/scale of projects.

A full list of the projects and budget allocation and relevant funder is detailed in Annex A (circulated). This was revised in May 2022 following revision of Project B allocation in consultation with DfC.

Project A - Continuation of Village Renewal Schemes £1,444,000

10 schemes identified under the previous rural development programme village renewal plans as per table below (circulated).

Engagement has been conducted with the communities involved and with the planning department to ensure that projects proceed in a timely manner

Project B – Restore & Reactivate Grant Programme £475k

Pilot grant scheme to Restore and Reactivate derelict or vacant properties across the 12 settlements within Causeway Coast and Glens with an eligible population threshold between 1000 – 4999. Dungiven, Kilrea, Ballykelly, Cloughmills, Greysteel, Bushmills, Cushendall. Garvagh, Castlerock, Dunloy, Rasharkin, Armoy.

The grant call opened on Tuesday 24th May 2022 and closed for applications on Friday 30th June 2022 with an estimated budget of £475k.

This grant programme has now closed for applications and a report is presented separately to the September L&D committee for decision. successful applicants value of £261,664.

A request for the underspend from Project B budget be re-allocated to Project A: Continuation of Village Renewal Scheme has been submitted to both council and the relevant funder for consideration.

Project C – active travel infrastructure £171K

There are two projects within Project C and both continue to be scoped and preparation work through the capital works team is proceeding. Capital works officers engage with the planning department in relation to the development of designs. Engagement with the Countryside team will ensure that these projects will be uniform in approach to the development of the core path network for the Borough.

1.1.1 C.1 Improvement of the core path network within Bushmills, Cushendall and Dungiven.

CRSSRP team liaising with Coast & Countryside Team to provide details of signage and work requirements at 3 locations: Bushmills, Cushendall & Dungiven. Locations to be plotted on maps and materials for signage to be agreed.

Site visit to Dungiven on 20/7/22. Dungiven Priory Loop path option to be followed up and feasibility tested. Several consultations are required with the Department of Infrastructure and landowners to move project forward.

1.1.2 C.2. All Ability Cycle Pilot Project Garvagh. Site visits and meeting with representatives from the Garvagh community resulted in the development of a design to link Jim Watt recreation centre with a walking and all ability cycle route. Overall Masterplan designed however, due to budget constraints, this project will address Stage 1 i.e., an all-ability cycle path linking to Forest and into town. Still in early stages of this project and further consultation is required

Planning application required.

17. ATLANTIC LINK PROJECT BOARD MINUTES

The Minutes of the Atlantic Link Project Board meeting held 1 July 2022 were previously circulated, for noting.

18. AIR SHOW PROJECT BOARD MINUTES

The Minutes of the Airshow Project Board meeting held 29 July 2022 were previously circulated, for noting.

19. LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT BOARD MINUTES

The Minutes of the Leisure Facility Project Board meeting held 9 May 2022 were previously circulated, for noting.

20. GRANTS GOVERNANCE PANEL MINUTES

The Minutes of the Grants Governance Panel meeting held 9 May 2022 were previously circulated, for noting.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

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

The following are listed:

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (Dated 19 August 2022)

Correspondence has been received from the NIFDA Regarding Council becoming associate members of the Association.
Correspondence attached.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the correspondence.

22. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to report to the Partnership Panel.

23. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations

**24. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR C MCSHANE,
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR NICHOLL**

'Propose that Council renames the Ballycastle Tennis Courts to the 'Alex McFarland Tennis Courts'.

Councillor C McShane spoke to present the motion providing details on Alex McFarland's work at Ballycastle Tennis Courts, reflecting on fond memories and stated how a vast number of the local community are in support of renaming the tennis courts after Alex McFarland.

Councillor Nicholl spoke to support the motion and seconded it.

Councillor MA McKillop spoke to support the motion acknowledging the work of Alex McFarland and highlighted how the tennis courts have received awards.

AGREED – to recommend that Council support The Notice of motion and rename the Ballycastle Tennis Courts to the 'Alex McFarland Tennis Courts'.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Storey and

AGREED – to recommend that Leisure and Development Committee move *'In Committee'*

The information contained in the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

* **Press and Public were disconnected from the meeting at 9:12pm**

25. SWB ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing

Purpose of Report

To update Members on priority works / maintenance / repair required at Sport & Wellbeing Facilities and seek approval for expenditure of more than £10k at a number of sites / facilities.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the expenditure of £194,458 for the projects listed in this report.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Anderson

– to recommend that Council approve the expenditure of £194,458 for the projects listed in this report.

In response to questions, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed which budget covered the cost of the planned maintenance work; how the new lighting was more energy efficient therefore making it more affordable and explained how the work had been allocated as maintenance rather than capital works.

Councillor McAuley requested a Recorded Vote.

The Chair put the motion to the vote.
15 Members voted For; 0 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained
The Chair declared the motion carried

Recorded Vote Table

For (15)	Alderman Baird, Hillis, Knight McQuillan, A McQuillan
	Councillors Anderson, Bateson, Dallat O’Driscoll, Holmes, McAuley, McCaw, MA McKillop, C McShane, Nicholl, Storey, Watton

26. DUNGIVEN BOWLING

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on progress to date with the development of a new synthetic bowling green at the Dungiven Sports Centre; and to request approval for a £466k investment that will enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from a recent procurement exercise. Members are requested to note that this decision is currently affordable within Council’s Capital Programme and takes into account the disposal of the old bowling green and net sale proceeds of £188k. This will constitute the Final Investment Decision and will allow the project to proceed to ‘Stage 3 – Construction’.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note progress to date with the development of a new synthetic bowling green at Dungiven Sports Centre; and approve a £466k investment to enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from the Tender Report.

Members are requested to note that this decision is currently affordable within Council's Capital Programme taking into account the disposal of the old bowling green and net sale proceeds of £188k. This will constitute the Final Investment Decision and allow the project to proceed to 'Stage 3 – Construction' which is due to commence in October 2022 and complete in March 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl
Seconded by Alderman A McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note progress to date with the development of a new synthetic bowling green at Dungiven Sports Centre; and approve a £466k investment to enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from the Tender Report.

27. KERR STREET EI SCHEME

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Prosperity and Place.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the appointment of the preferred contractor for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour Environmental Improvement Scheme.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the appointment of the preferred contractor for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour EI Scheme to progress to construction phase.

In response to questions the Head of Prosperity and Place advised regarding the material to be used and maintenance of same. The Head of Operations stated he will respond directly to Alderman Hillis regarding an update on the effectiveness of new machinery recently purchased.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that the work at Kerr Street is the final part of the regeneration of Portrush. In response to questions the Director of Leisure and Development advised that local DEA Elected Members will be provided with an update of the regeneration programme at the earliest opportunity.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Alderman A McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council to approve the appointment of the preferred contractor for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour EI Scheme to progress to construction phase.

28. NW200 PARTNERSHIP

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

The Purpose of the Report

The Purpose of this report is to present a partnership request from the Coleraine and District Motor Club, in which Council agrees to resource elements of the 2023 NW200, specifically the Course Build, the provision of Event Management support and provide dedicated office accommodation.

This is an interim arrangement for a proposed three-year period.

The Event Director has indicated that prior to the end of this term, a further request is likely, in which Council may agree to further responsibilities excluding the actual race element, which would remain entirely the responsibility of the Coleraine and District Motor Club.

Recommendation

Council is requested to consider the partnership request from the Coleraine and District Motor Club in which Council agrees to resource elements of the 2023 NW200, specifically the Course Build, the provision of Event Management support and provide dedicated office accommodation.

This is an interim arrangement for a requested three-year period.

If agreed by Council, the partnership proposal would be detailed in a service level agreement and subject to appropriate management reporting.

Note:

This recommendation excludes:

- Grant funding arrangements which will proceed separately in accordance with the Council's Grant Funding Policy and annually approved programs.
- Arrangements relating to Land and Property, which will be considered separately in accordance with Council's Land and Property Policy and decisions recommended by the Land and Property Sub-Committee.

During discussion, Elected Members stated support for the NW200 event but expressed concern regarding the extra cost and responsibility for Council. Consideration was given to the options available to best support the NW200. It was considered that given the questions raised during discussion further clarification was required on a wide range of issues.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that a balanced report had been provided to committee, and in response to Councillor C McShane stated there had been no external political influence and provided clarification on current arrangements for Council to support the NW200.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

AGREED – to recommend that a meeting is arranged to meet a delegation from Coleraine District Motor Club to understand the partnership proposal. At the meetings discretion invitations may be extended to other statutory organisations including Tourism NI and the Department for Economy, other relevant stakeholders and interested parties. The first meeting is to occur before the next Council Meeting in October. All Members of the Leisure and Development Committee are eligible to attend.

29. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT 2022/2023 BUDGET

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report to provide Members with a financial summary of the 2022/23 in-year position at Period 4, and in doing so provide options for cost savings and income generating opportunities.

Recommendation

Members are requested to consider the following recommendations:

1. The cost reduction proposals in Table 3 (circulated).
2. Officers bring a further report on the 3 options listed in Table 4 (circulated).

During discussion consideration was given to the proposed savings and reduction to services; taking a holistic approach to savings across all Council Directorates and the staffing structure.

- * **Councillor Holmes left the Chamber at 10:59pm remaining in attendance remotely.**

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl
Seconded by Councillor C McShane and

AGREED – to recommend that a decision is not made at the Leisure and Development Committee this evening.

30. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 12. (O)

- (i) **Alleviate the hardship for communities** (Councillor Nicholl)

‘What is the council doing to alleviate the hardship that our communities will face this winter due to the spiralling energy and inflation costs.’

Councillor Nicholl presented the item and proposed that Council coordinate an approach in the DEA areas.

- * **Councillor Anderson left the meeting at 11:40pm during consideration of the above item.**
- * **Alderman Hillis left the meeting at 11:46pm.**
- * **Councillor Watton left the meeting at 11:47pm.**

The Head of Community and Culture provided a comprehensive overview of the services provided by Council to support those experiencing hardship.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

AGREED – to recommend that Council move ‘*In Public*’.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 11:51pm

Chair