

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	Alderman Hillis, Councillor Watton
2.	Declarations of Interest	Councillors Callan, McCaw, MA McKillop Knight-McQuillan, C McShane
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 18th August 2020	
	Matters Arising	
	3.1 Annual Business Plans for 2020/21 Annual Business Plans for 2020/21 (Item 6)	Information
	3.2 Officers will provide a verbal update on the reinstatement of the Sport and Wellbeing Facilities (Item 5)	Information
	3.3 Confirmation of the Minutes	Confirmed
4.	Community Development Strategy	Approve the Final Community Development Strategy 2020- 2023.
5.	NI 21 Project Coordinator	Appoint a Project Co- Ordinator for Council's Northern Ireland Centenary Programme for the period

		October 2020 – March 2022.
6.	Play and Pitch Strategies	<i>Approve the draft Play Strategy and draft Pitch Strategy; and note the progress made to date with Outline Business Cases and Funding Strategy moving forward.</i>
7.	Limavady Accessible Play Park	<i>Approve the preferred option, Option 3 – New Accessible Play Park at Roe Mill (Comprehensive Specification), Changing Places and Parking is progressed to Stage 2, detailed design and full business case for a final investment decision to be taken by Council.</i>
8.	Annual Grant Funding Policy Review	<i>Agree the Grant Funding Policy for 2021-22 to include section 5.5 Breach of Contract.</i>

9.	Landfill Community Fund Review	Approve Option 1: No change to the current Policy.
	For Information (Items 10-11 inclusive)	
10.	Dfc Covid 19 Community Support Funding	Information
11.	Update on Village Renewal, Tranche 2	Information
12.	Correspondence	Nil
13.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	Nil
14.	Consultations	
	14.1 Ulster University, Relocation of School of Health Sciences, closing on 6 th December	Respond to the consultation
	'In Committee' (Items 15-18 inclusive)	
15.	DfC-DAERA Town Centre Recovery Fund	Information
16.	Magheracross Project	Council approve the advancement of the most economically advantageous tender, Charles Brand Ltd at a tender figure of £595,000; to recommend that Council make the investment decision for match funding this project at a total cost of £146,000.
17.	Leisure Management Options	Council continue the in-house transformation

		and change management process to allow consideration of the three options in 12 months' time; and to provide a quarterly management report to the Leisure Facilities Project Board.
18.	Any Other Relevant Business Notified In Accordance With Standing Order 12. (O)	
	18.1 CCTV (Councillor McCaw)	Information

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON
TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

- In the Chair:** Councillor Nicholl (C)
- Members Present:** Alderman Baird (C) and McCorkell (R)
Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Callan (R),
Holmes (C), MA McKillop, Knight-McQuillan (R),
McAuley (C), McCaw (C), C McShane (R) ,
Schenning (C), Wallace (C)
- Non Committee Member in Attendance** Alderman Finlay (R) and Robinson (R)
Councillors Chivers (R), McLaughlin (R) and Wilson (R)
- Officers Present:** R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing (R)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)
S Duggan Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
B Tohill, Sport and Wellbeing General Manager of Facilities (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Manager (R)
J Beggs, SIB (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (Item 18) (R)
- In Attendance:** J Winfield, ICT Operations Manager (C)
A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)
- Press (3 no) (R)
Public (1no.) (R)
- Key:** (C) Attended in the Chamber
(R) Attended Remotely

The Chair advised the Addendum had been withdrawn from the Agenda (Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Mulholland, seconded by Councillor McCaw, deferred from the 18th March 2020 Leisure and Development Committee regarding; '*Establish a Youth Shadow Council*' (abbreviated)).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Hillis and Councillor Watton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were recorded as follows:

Councillor Callan in Landfill Communities Fund Policy Review as a member of Ulster Wildlife Trust; Councillor Callan did not participate in meeting during consideration of the Item;

Councillor MA McKillop, in Magheracross Project, Councillor MA McKillop did not participate in the meeting during consideration of the Items;

Councillor McCaw in DfC DAERA Town Centre Recovery Fund, Councillor McCaw did not participate in the meeting during consideration of the Item;

Councillor C McShane, in UU Consultation Document, Relocation of School of Health Sciences, UU, Councillor C McShane did not participate in the meeting during consideration of the Item;

Councillor Knight-McQuillan in DfC DAERA Town Centre Recovery Fund, Councillor Knight-McQuillan did not participate in the meeting during consideration of the Item.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST 2020

Matters Arising

3.1 Annual Business Plans for 2020/21 Annual Business Plans for 2020/21 (Item 6)

Councillor C McShane sought clarification of Council's decision on 1 September 2020 in relation to the three business plans and the line on page 3 had been removed.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified that the Council decision was relevant to budget transfers based upon the removal of the sentence / two lines referred to in the annual business case.

3.2 Officers will provide a verbal update on the reinstatement of the Sport and Wellbeing Facilities (Item 5)

Councillor MA McKillop sought a brief update.

The Chair advised the Minutes had been presented for accuracy only, the Director would liaise with Councillor MA McKillop after the meeting.

3.2 Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 18 August 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present the final Community Development Strategy for 2020-2023 for approval.

The Strategy sets high level strategic outcomes for the next 3 years and an Action Plan that details projects that the Community Development service area will undertake to achieve.

Background

The 3-year Strategy has been developed internally by Council's Community Development Team by engaging with and listening to a range of stakeholders including the Community and Voluntary (C&V) sector, Elected Members, internal Council departments, and statutory partners to help understand the needs and emerging issues in our communities and to shape the direction of this area of work over the next 3 years.

Council approved the Draft Strategy in February 2020 and following a period of public consultation the final Strategy is now presented for approval. The final Community Development Strategy 2020-23 is attached at Annex A (circulated).

Consultation

Consultation took place in 2 phases:

Phase 1: September 2019 to January 2020 - An intensive range of engagement exercises were undertaken to inform development of a draft Strategy:

- Eight Public Engagement Workshops: Dungiven; Limavady; Coleraine; Ballymoney; Ballycastle; Glenariff; Portballintrae and Kilrea - 33 groups / 45 individuals attended.
- Community Engagement Platform meeting – 31 individuals attended.
- Workshop with Community Support Networks.
- Workshop with community project workers employed in sector – 15 individuals attended.

- Specific sector focus groups - Community groups operating Council community centres; Communities of Interest/ Identity (faith based etc); Frontline Advice organisations.
- Elected Member Workshop.
- Internal Council service area meetings – 20 service areas.
- External statutory stakeholder meetings.

Phase 2: March – July 2020 Public Consultation period following Council approval of Draft Strategy.

Following Council approval of the Draft Strategy in February 2020, the document was launched for a period of public consultation. The document was made publicly available on the Council website and emailed to all community and voluntary groups registered with Council. Comments were invited by email and the opportunity was provided to speak with or arrange a meeting with the Community Development team. A meeting took place to present the Strategy to the support networks operating in the Borough in February 2020. A public workshop that was due to take place in April was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Proposals

The Strategy has been developed using an Outcomes Based Accountability approach in line with the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens, and underpinned by the values and standards for community development as contained in the Community Development National Occupational Standards (2015).

The proposed three Outcomes for the Strategy are:

Outcome 1: Our Communities will be skilled and confident.

Outcome 2: Our Communities will be connected.

Outcome 3: Our Communities will be fair and inclusive

Key Actions to achieve these outcomes can be found at page 27 of the final Strategy.

Some minor changes have been made to the Strategy document based on points raised at the Leisure & Development Committee meeting in February 2020. These changes are as follows:

- Page 21. Engagement with Internal Council Departments and Elected Members: The following point has been added to reflect Alderman S. McKillop's comments in relation to issues raised at the Elected Member Workshop in September 2019:

'Elected members felt that in some areas there is a disconnect between groups within the community; groups are sometimes competing with each other for funding or there is poor communication and a lack of trust, making it difficult for Council to effectively engage with the community. This Strategy should focus on providing support in these areas to foster good internal community relations and nurture connections, communication and

collaboration.' (This point is also repeated in the Summary of Key Engagement Findings on pg. 24)

- Page 27. Key Actions to achieve Outcomes: The following wording was added "The review (of running costs grant) will consider *encouraging collaboration between groups providing services in the same area.*" (This is repeated in the Action Plan, action 1.3 on pg. 34.)
- Page 31. Key Actions to achieve outcomes: The following wording was added 'We will also facilitate area or community wide forums/ working groups/ meetings where common issues are raised by more than one group or where there are several groups operating in an area with the potential for duplication/ competition for resources.' (This is repeated in the Action Plan, action 3.4 on pg. 41.)

A query was also raised at the Leisure & Development Committee meeting in February 2020 in relation to monitoring of the Advice Services contract; Members were advised that the issues raised will be considered as part of a review of the contract prior to 2021-2022 which Members will have the opportunity to feed into. There were no further comments received during the public consultation phase.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown more so than ever the important role of the community and voluntary sector in Causeway Coast and Glens. Organisations in the borough sprang into action immediately to provide a range of practical supports to the most isolated and vulnerable in our communities. The Community Development team supported community response groups through the pandemic and the experiences during this time showed the importance of social connections, local community knowledge, community led solutions and good communication and connections between voluntary and statutory partners, validating the relevance of the outcomes that have been identified in the strategy.

Some changes have been made to the method of delivery of the actions contained in the Action Plan in light of the current situation; eg. events and training are taking place online; support to community centres is centred around Covid-19 risk assessments and re-opening safely etc.

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of the Final Community Development Strategy 2020-2023.

Councillor Schenning commended staff for undertaking the consultation process, doing excellent work and keeping in constant contact, especially during the pandemic.

The Chair concurred with the excellent work undertaken and questioned whether enough consultation had been done. The Chair requested an update to be brought to committee to track progress.

The Head of Community and Culture advised a vast array of consultation had been undertaken, with a very high level of engagement, whilst allowing room for leverage, where required.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the Final Community Development Strategy 2020-2023.

5. NI 21 PROJECT COORDINATOR

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on Council's NI 2021 Centenary Working Group and to seek approval from Members for the appointment of a temporary Project Co-ordinator to maximise available opportunities and to ensure effective Programme Delivery.

Background

At the November 2018 Corporate Resource & Policy committee meeting, a Notice of Motion was carried and subsequently agreed at the Council meeting held in the same month, stating

'That this Council establish a working group, consisting of 6 members by d'Hondt, to explore a programme of events and activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Northern Ireland in 2021.'

The Terms of reference agreed by Council in July 2020 states that the purpose of the group is:

- To advise Council on a programme of events, initiatives and commemorative activity planned to mark the centenary in an appropriate manner.
- To represent the community and key stakeholders in order to develop a programme of events and initiatives related to the centenary, which will be inclusive and engage all sections of the community.
- To identify and recommend to the Council a budget to deliver the programme.
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from specific areas for the benefit of work of the group.
- To engage with others who are planning similar activity to mark the centenary across Northern Ireland.

Progress to date

The working group has had three meetings since its inception in June 2020 with the following actions being progressed:

1. Terms of Reference. Terms of reference for group agreed and adopted in July 2020 by Council.

2. Programme themes. Programme themes have been developed by the working group and agreed by Council in July 2020. These include:
 - Heritage and Culture,
 - Great Northern Ireland Minds and Innovation,
 - Sport & Wellbeing and Community Development,
 - Food, Drink and Entertainment.
3. Draft Outcomes. Draft outcomes are currently being considered by the working group to which the programme will be aligned. These proposed outcomes will focus on creating *positive* impacts for the Borough as a result of the NI21 programme, celebrating people, places and products through showcasing talent, recognising understanding the diverse cultures and identities which exist locally and increasing positive relations through building a shared understanding of our collective history. Agreed outcomes will be presented to council for consideration once finalised by the working group.
4. Brand Options. Options for a brand are currently under development.
5. Programme. A draft/proposed programme is in the process of being scoped/developed by the working group around the above themes. To date a broad range of activities are being considered and developed (subject to viability in terms of strategic fit, affordability, deliverability and other suitable criteria yet to be finalised by the working group and approved by Council). Draft/ outline project proposals to date include civic events, community based events, sporting, cultural, heritage, good relations, environmental, creative/arts, rural, business, food & drink projects, among others. It is anticipated projects/activities will fall under 3 broad categories:
 - Re-profiled activity with little or no additional cost.
 - Enhanced activity with additional budgetary requirements.
 - Signature bespoke events (2-3) requiring additional budget.
6. External expertise. The working group have agreed a terms of reference (Annex A, circulated) to facilitate the invitation of an Historical Advisor (pro bono) to advise and inform the Working Group in meeting its aims and objectives, including the provision of advice on the associated projects developed, and have identified a suitable candidate to undertake such a role. The group also agreed that this advisor should be supported by a panel of local historians with local knowledge and expertise, to be nominated by the 6 working group members.
7. Budget. To be finalised and presented to Council once the programme has been further developed and scrutinised by the working group, the potential for external funding has been exhausted

and re-profiling of existing programme budgets have been considered.

Project Management

In order to co-ordinate, administer and project-manage the programme, which will have a broad range of activities over a 12 month period, the requirement for a dedicated project co-ordinator has been identified and agreed by the working group, subject to Council's approval.

The post will provide coordination, administration and project management support to the NI21 working group and associated task and finish groups during the following phases:

1. Preparation and planning for the Programme, including an overall delivery plan and associated costings/budget.
2. The delivery, resourcing, mobilisation and execution of the plan. *Individual projects within the programme will be delivered by identified project leads/team members.*
3. Post Programme evaluation.

The job description for the post is at Annex B (circulated). It is anticipated that this role would be offered as a redeployment opportunity in the first instance.

Next Steps

Reports will be provided to Council on an ongoing basis.

The following priorities will be progressed by the working group and presented to Council:

- Adoption of agreed outcomes for the programme.
- Branding.
- Draft programme which meets outcomes and viability criteria.
- Proposed budget.

Recommendation

Approval is sought from the Leisure and Development Committee to appoint a Project Co-Ordinator for Council's Northern Ireland Centenary Programme for the period October 2020 – March 2022.

Councillor Callan paid tribute, a lot of background work had been carried out to develop different aspects and projects, to investigate what would be practical. Councillor Callan advised this was a key event, that would be positive for the community and economy. Councillor Callan referred to events such as The Open and Armed Forces Day which had required a Project Officer, the nature and scope and legacy arising from that would be similar to take further and stated his support.

Proposed by Councillor Callan
Seconded by Councillor McAuley

– to recommend that Council appoint a Project Co-Ordinator for Council's Northern Ireland Centenary Programme for the period October 2020 – March 2022.

Councillor Bateson advised that as a Council, it should embrace all traditions, as a Republican he considered there was nothing to celebrate in partition. Councillor Bateson queried whether the role embraced Section 75, how much it was going to cost Council, where it would be funded from and would there be other projects Council could be prioritising and left to their detriment.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised a decision on budget allocation would form part of the rates estimates. He advised an appointment process would be subject to redeployment and a post not backfilled, at no cost, subject to an expression of interest and Section 75.

The Head of Community and Culture outlined the Themes that had been approved by Council, the 3 main outcomes, namely promoting the Borough as an attractive place to do business and showcasing the talent which exists therein, building a shared understanding of our collective History in a way which builds positive relations and reconciliation within and between communities, an opportunity to reflect on the Past and finally to build an awareness locally, nationally and internationally, supporting the expression of the diverse identities and culture that's exists within the Borough.

In regards to the query of potential detriment to other projects, the Head of Community and Culture advised of projects Celebrating the last 100 years in the Borough, service areas had been asked where progression could be made as a natural fit for next year eg: recreating sporting activities that happened years ago and a light touch celebration and to engage all sections of the community.

Councillor MA McKillop sought clarification of the post not being backfilled. The Director of Leisure and Development outlined a potential recruitment process and underpinned that no member of staff was underutilised. Alderman Baird commented on other parts of the organisation that were understaffed for example, Planning.

Councillor C McShane stated concern budget consideration at rates was a retrospective decision, she advised she could not support a report until she could see costings, and stated the report had not been screened promoting equality of opportunity and good relations.

Councillor Holmes stated the post was an opportunity to celebrate the success Northern Ireland has been in the last 100 years and has produced fantastic results.

Councillor C McShane requested a Recorded Vote.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.
9 Members voted For; 5 Members voted Against.
The Chair declared the motion carried.

For (9)	Alderman Baird, McCorkell.
	Councillors Anderson, Callan, Holmes, Knight-McQuillan, McAuley, McCaw, Wallace.
Against (5)	Councillors Bateson, C McShane, MA McKillop, Nicholl, Schenning.

6. PLAY AND PITCH STRATEGIES

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members approval for the draft Play Strategy and draft Pitch Strategy.

Background

In February and March 2019, Members received reports on the draft Play and draft Pitch Strategies respectively. These reports provided details of feedback received following Section 75 consultation and requested final approval from Members.

Both papers were deferred for approval subject to a Members Workshop. This approach provided the opportunity for consultation with each DEA councillor grouping, allowing for members' input and agreement of the proposals relevant to specific geographical areas of responsibility.

A Members Workshop was subsequently held in October 2019 to receive feedback with a key action being the completion of 'Rural Proofing' on both strategy documents.

Rural Needs Impact Assessments were completed and concluded that whilst the Play Strategy does pay due regard to rural needs, the Pitch Strategy (which was developed before the Play Strategy) in hindsight did not sufficiently identify rural needs and the influence they may have had in implementing the investment plans, particularly in relation to population based criteria.

To address this it is proposed that the Pitch Strategy adopts the agreed approach in the Play Strategy as follows:

“In recognition of local and rural needs, prior to initiating the development of a pitch project will undertake a further two stage process consisting of:

- 1. A review of actual need (as opposed to statistical need) in order to determine the level of demand for pitch development through community engagement and consultation processes; and*
- 2. The identification of potential land options that lend themselves to meeting pitch development should demand be confirmed. This will include consideration of Council owned land, other land in ownership of public bodies that could be transferred / accessed on a partnership basis (e.g. schools) etc.*

Each project will also be subject to business case, local consultation and individual investment decisions in accordance with the Council’s four stage capital management process. The business cases for pitch projects will also explicitly address rural needs in the strategic context, non-monetary assessment criteria and affordability analysis”.

Both strategies have since been updated following the Section 75 consultation, Rural Needs Impact Assessment and Members feedback and are retained in the Members Library. An overview of both strategies is provided below for ease of reference.

Draft Play Strategy

In 2017 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council commissioned PlayBoard NI to develop an overarching Play Investment Strategy for the Borough.

The key recommendations of the Strategy are summarised within the costed Action Plan within the Executive Summary section of the report.

It is important to note that while the Action Plan acts as a tool to prioritise projects for future investment in fixed play, it does not constitute budget approval. All proposed investments in play will be the subject of proportionate business cases and investment decision making in compliance with Council’s capital project procedures and delegated approvals.

The Action Plan recommends investment across 7 areas over a 5-year period as follows (table circulated).

In addition to this, PlayBoard NI undertook a condition audit of all 99 fixed play areas. As a key commitment of the Play Strategy this has resulted in individual reports which in many cases recommend maintenance and repair in addition to the projects listed above in the Action Plan. These repair and renewal recommendations have now been costed by Council’s Estates Team with an anticipated budget of £0.5m to protect and reinstate the initial play value of these sites.

Draft Pitch Strategy

In 2017 Council commissioned Otium Leisure Consultancy to undertake a Facility Audit and Pitch Strategy to include 8 different outdoor facility types:

Association football, Rugby, Gaelic games, Cricket, Tennis, Hockey, Outdoor bowls, Multi-use games areas/small sided games/kick about areas.

The key outputs for the Pitch Audit and Strategy were summarised and detailed with the report, circulated.

Part 1 – Audit of Existing Provision:

Part 2 – A Pitch Strategy:

Ongoing Work – Outline Business Cases

Prior to the development of both the Play and Pitch Strategies, Members prioritised 10 capital projects for progression to Stage 1 – Outline Business Case development. Included within this prioritised list was two 'Play' Projects (Limavady Accessible Play Park and Aghadowey Play Park) and three 'Pitch' Projects (Cloughmills, Burnfoot and Riada).

To progress these projects, Council's Sport & Wellbeing team has carried extensive community engagement and consultation. In parallel, Council's Capital Delivery Team has completed site feasibility, outline design and capital estimates to allow the Outline Business Cases to be brought forward for formal consideration.

It is important to note that while the Play Strategy and Pitch Strategy make the 'strategic case' for investment, all Outline Business Cases will utilise current population data and information available at the time of appraisal and future-proof for community needs and demands where possible. This requirement will be included as an addendum to both strategies when published.

Next Steps – Funding Strategy

It is important to note that the Play and Pitch Strategies do not commit Council to investment, instead the research and analysis will support the development of new Strategic Outline Cases for capital projects that may attract external funding opportunities.

The Sport & Wellbeing Service and Funding Unit will continue to target external funding opportunities which align with central government emerging priorities and funding requirements including:

- DAERA Rural Development Programme which is now closed for applications, but will have a similar programme next year;
- DAERA TRYPSY fund – year end funding for 'shovel ready' projects;
- Landfill Communities Funds which have previously given up to £30k for projects within a 10 mile radius of the landfill site, likely that this will reduce to £15k this year;
- DfC/Sport NI – Access & Inclusion Programme and potentially Sub-Regional Stadia Development funding.

It is recommended that Members:

Approve the draft Play Strategy and draft Pitch Strategy; and
Note the progress made to date with Outline Business Cases and
Funding Strategy moving forward.

Alderman Baird questioned the caveat surrounding Armoy and whether it applied to all Clubs; whether the Astroturf at Quay Road Ballycastle was being replaced, or otherwise, due to the shared campus facility.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised Armoy Rugby Club was no longer in existence and would need to be reviewed, dependent upon need. She advised Quay Road was prior to the initial investment decision on the shared campus, the Quay Road site still required funding until the shared campus would be open and available.

Councillor Bateson stated he was pleased with the report and the recommendation for the Larchfield playpark.

Councillor C McShane stated concern Gaelic games' need was not being met, she considered one way to fulfil this obligation was through the Capital Fund. Councillor C McShane also requested Ballycastle Football Pitch be given priority.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised a report on Quay Road would be presented to the next committee meeting. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing further advised that whatever the sport, opportunities may arise for funding and she invited Councillor C McShane to liaise with her directly.

Councillor Knight-McQuillan questioned the Larchfield site as it was her understanding it had been decommissioned and a new play park in place at the Health Centre. The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the Play Strategy had established a need.

Alderman McCorkell welcomed the draft Strategy and Alexander Road site.

Councillor MA McKillop sought reassurance Officers would engage with the Glens Football Team. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified she had an open channel with the football team and there were avenues that may be explored.

Councillor Anderson, referring to Section 75 sought information on when there had been an audit of sports and funding attributed to it within the Borough. The Director of Leisure and Development advised the information would be provided.

Councillor C McShane requested further information on how many pitches were owned and maintained by Council, how many were soccer and Gaelic games. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised she did not have the full detail, she was aware a significant proportion availed of soccer, less for GAA, Rugby and Hockey.

Proposed by Alderman McCorkell
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the draft Play Strategy and draft Pitch Strategy; and note the progress made to date with Outline Business Cases and Funding Strategy moving forward.

7. LIMAVADY ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to update Members on progress to date with the development of an Accessible Play Park in Limavady and request Stage 1 approval of the Outline Business Case and permission to proceed to Stage 2 of Council's four step capital approval process.

Background

In 2017 Council agreed to prioritise a list of 10 capital projects. The top ranking project was Limavady Accessible Play Park. In compliance with Stage 1 of Council's four step capital approval process the next stage for each project is the development of an Outline Business Case (OBC).

Concurrent with this capital planning process, Council commissioned Playboard NI to undertake a Play Audit and Play Strategy for the Borough. This work was completed in 2018 with the research and analysis informing the Needs & Demand Assessment for this project. The draft Play Investment Strategy has an associated action plan and indicative costings with a key recommendation being the development of an Accessible Play Park in Limavady at an indicative cost of £500k.

The OBC has been developed on the basis of an extensive consultation process resourced by the Council and undertaken by Playboard NI. The consultation process set out to establish, at a local level, if need and demand existed through extensive consultation with young people, parent/carers and the wider public. Consultation has also involved potential partner organisations, including local schools.

The appraisal process, carried out in line with the Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation (NIGEAE, 2009) sets out to confirm:

- That need and demand exists for an accessible play area in Limavady;
- The location, nature and scale of development; and
- The overall benefits and value for money from any investment proposed.

The OBC has been prepared by Strategic Investment Board and included as Annexe A (circulated).

The report detailed the following:

Need and Demand Assessment

- Accessibility Benchmark Standard and Council's criterion for Urban Areas;
- The identification of potential land options to meet the identified need and demand have also been consulted upon and will be considered further in the OBC under 'Option Identification';
- Displacement and additionality from any new play park developed has also been assessed with no displacement concerns identified and the potential for substantial additionality (wider benefits) to be realised; and
- In summary, there is a compelling case in terms of both facility need and demand for an accessible play park in Limavady.

Objectives

The following objectives are identified for the project over the first five years:

- To develop a fully accessible play park that achieves the highest standard of 'Play Value' as independently audited by Playboard NI (play value of 600-800) and meets or exceeds the standard set by Flowers Diversity Park (play value score of 675);
- To actively promote general usage of play park and achieve a target of 75,000 users per year and ensure that target groups, including children with special educational needs, utilise the facility on a regular basis;
- As a result of the above to record and improve participation and satisfaction levels through an annual user survey, therefore maximising the health and wellbeing benefits of play and physical activity within the local community; and
- To ensure that the capital project is well managed and delivered on time, to budget and high quality standards.

Options Analysis

The key variables for consideration in the long list of options concern the site options and equipment specification. This analysis has been informed by work previously prepared for the development of the Diversity Play Park

at Flowerfield, Feasibility Report undertaken by the Capital Delivery Team and consultation on site preferences conducted by Playboard NI.

The Capital Delivery Team undertook a Feasibility Study (included as Appendix to OBC) to determine up to 8 potential sites for the project within the Limavady townland (circulated).

Following a comprehensive feasibility analysis, three potential sites were identified to have the size and scope for the development of an accessible play area: 1. Rear of Roe Valley Leisure Centre; 2. Roe Mill Playing Fields; and 3. Roe Valley Country Park.

The long list of options considers the proposed site options above and potential variations in terms of scale, content, location and timing of project delivery (table circulated within the report).

On the basis that Roe Mill Playing Fields was the only viable site option for development, initial site analysis was carried to utilise the existing pavilion and play park site (refer to Feasibility Study for site concept drawings).

The following options were progressed to full economic appraisal:

- **Option 1** – Do Nothing;
- **Option 2** – New Accessible Play Park (Standard Specification), Changing Places and Parking at Roe Mill Playing Fields; and
- **Option 3** – New Accessible Play Park (Comprehensive Specification), Changing Places and Parking at Roe Mill Playing Fields.

Economic Appraisal & Preferred Option

In line with NIGEAE guidance, the full economic appraisal assessed costs, benefits and risks.

The table below summarises the results of the monetary, non-monetary and risk analyses:

Option	Capital Cost £'k	Net Present Cost		Non-monetary Benefits		Project Risk		Overall Rank
		£'k	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	
Option 1 – Do Nothing	0	0	1	100	3	14	2	6
Option 2 – New Accessible Play Park at Roe Mill (Standard Specification), Changing Places/Parking	451	(519)	2	730	2	16	3	7
Option 3 – New Accessible Play Park at Roe Mill	542	(615)	3	890	1	13	1	5

Option	Capital Cost £'k	Net Present Cost		Non-monetary Benefits		Project Risk		Overall Rank
		£'k	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	
(Comprehensive Specification), Changing Places/Parking								

Based on the analysis and balance of advantage, it is recommended that Option 3 – New Accessible Play Park at Roe Mill (Comprehensive Specification), Changing Places and Parking is the Preferred Option. The basis for this recommendation is outlined below:

- Implementation of prioritised project based on strategic need identified in Play Strategy;
- Highest non-monetary benefits from inclusive and sustained participation in play for the local community of Limavady;
- Lowest risk option reflecting the risk of the projects development at Roe Mill Playing Fields and ability to address the needs and objectives; and
- Capital costs within 10% of budget planning provision of £500k with opportunities for external partnership funding to be confirmed.

Project Costs and Affordability

The table (circulated) summarised the total project costs:

The table (circulated) summarised how the proposed project can be funded and current status:

It is recommended that the preferred option, Option 3 – New Accessible Play Park at Roe Mill (Comprehensive Specification), Changing Places and Parking is progressed to Stage 2, detailed design and full business case for a final investment decision to be taken by Council.

For detail on the site plan layout and equipment schedule refer to Feasibility Study.

Subject to Council decision on the preferred option, the indicative delivery timeframe to progress the project to completion is summarised as follows:

- Completion of Stage 1: Outline Business Case for approval – September 2020;
- Consultation and Detailed Design – November 2020;
- Procurement of Contractor – January 2021;
- Completion of Stage 2: Full Business Case for investment decision – February 2021;

- Appoint Contractor – March 2021;
- Project construction completion (6 months) – August 2021.

It is noted that Officers are in the process of redefining the existing site boundary at Roe Mill Playing Fields to address ongoing and potential anti-social behaviour. In order to progress the project without delay, a boundary fencing will be constructed on undisputed Council owned land. It is therefore recommended that Council approve the installation security fencing (265m of 2.4m high Palisade) and access gates at a cost of £27,450 which will be procured and expended prior to final investment decision on this project.

To expedite project delivery and meet Council's capital approval process a governance structure proportionate with the investment will be established as per the OBC.

Alderman McCorkell stated he was delighted with the report, having experienced the difficulties with a preferred site.

Councillor Schenning agreed this had been the preferred site by the town team and would open up the River walk.

Councillor Bateson stated he was delighted to support the project.

Councillor Callan welcomed the timeline and funding.

The Chair welcomed the project and thanked Party colleagues for their work.

Proposed by Alderman McCorkell
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the preferred option, Option 3 – New Accessible Play Park at Roe Mill (Comprehensive Specification), Changing Places and Parking is progressed to Stage 2, detailed design and full business case for a final investment decision to be taken by Council.

8. ANNUAL GRANT FUNDING POLICY REVIEW

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Funding Manager.

The purpose of this report is to inform members that Council's Grant Funding Policy has been reviewed for the incoming year and make recommendations on any changes.

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 and October 2019.

The policy is attached at Annex A (circulated).

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

In October 2019 Council agreed to amend the policy to include specific instructions on clawback of grant-aid, Section 5 of the policy was amended to reflect the recommendation and this was signed off by the Chair of

Leisure & Development Committee. The change is detailed in section 5.5 under Breach of Contract:

Section 5.5 Breach of Contract / Letter of Offer

If the Grant Purpose ceases to be carried on at any time during the Grant Period in consequence of any act, omission or default on the part of Project Promoter, including any breach of, or non-compliance with the terms and conditions of grant-aid, the Project Promoter shall, on demand made by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council repay to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council all of or a proportion of the Grant aid.

The Project Promoter will be in breach of contract if:

- They provide any significantly misleading or inaccurate information, whether deliberate or accidental, during the application process, or during the period of the Grant Agreement
- Members of the organisation, volunteers or staff act at any time during the project dishonestly or negligently or in any way, directly or indirectly, to the detriment of the project or to the detriment of your reputation.
- The organisation receives duplicate funding from any other source for the same or any part of the project.
- The organisation does not take positive steps to ensure equal opportunities in its employment practices and the delivery of and access to its services.
- The organisation does something that makes the facilities less inviting to all sections of the community
- There is significant change of purpose, ownership or recipient, either during the project or within a reasonable period after its completion
- Any such breaches that cannot be rectified, will result in part or all of the grant being repaid to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

It is recommended that Members agree the Grant Funding Policy for 2021-22 to include section 5.5 Breach of Contract.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McCaw and

AGREED – to recommend that Council agree the Grant Funding Policy for 2021-22 to include section 5.5 Breach of Contract.

9. LANDFILL COMMUNITY FUND REVIEW

- * **Councillor Callan having declared an interest, did not participate in the Item.**

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Funding 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”.

In April 2016 Council agreed the Ulster Wildlife Trust as the Environmental Body to administer the fund. The LCF Policy is reviewed annually by Council.

Policy Review 2019

The purpose of the Landfill Communities Fund Policy is to outline the agreed approach to approval of the funding in relation to LCF applications. In determining the policy Council should be mindful of the likely remaining life of the Craigahullier landfill site. There is an annual reduction in tonnage going to the site. This will continue to impact on the amount of funds available through LCF which will reduce accordingly each year as the tonnage going to landfill is reduced.

The 2019-20 grant funding period saw a significant increase in the number of applications being made to the Landfill Communities Fund. This was the first year Council were unable to make awards to all projects scoring above 65%. In June 2020 Council agreed that as part of the annual review of the policy Members should take account of the increasing demand on this fund and give careful consideration to the criteria for the 2021/22 programme.

A desktop review of the policy has been carried out by Council’s Funding Unit and an option for members to amend the eligibility criteria is presented:

The policy currently states:

‘To be eligible the proposed project must be located within a 10 mile radius of a licensed landfill site within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. (Programme currently states that the project must be located within a ten mile radius of either Craigahullier Landfill Site, Portrush or Craigmore Landfill Site, Garvagh)’

Members should consider changing this to:

‘To be eligible the proposed project must be located within a 10 mile radius of the Craigahullier landfill site owned and operated by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council’.

It is recommended that Elected Members give consideration to the two options presented:

Option 1: No change to the current Policy.

Option 2: Amend the eligibility criteria to state that projects must be located within a 10 mile radius of Craigahullier Landfill Site, Portrush.

The expected value of the fund for 2021/22 is in the region of c£80k net of fees.

The Landfill Communities Fund Policy is attached at Annex A (circulated).

Councillor Holmes stated he preferred no change to the current Policy and proposed Option 1, he advised within a 10mile radius of Craighullier Landfill Site, 50% would be at sea; whilst Limavady and Bann DEA had the lowest grant income from Council.

The Funding Manager responded to questions and clarified the Craighullier landfill site was still open; that more applications had come from a 10mile radius outside the Cragmore Landfill site; there had been one marine application from Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust 'Sea Change' that had not scored high enough to be successful.

The Funding Manager further advised funding limits would be proposed and set at the forthcoming workshop.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Wallace and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve Option 1: No change to the current Policy.

10. DFC COVID 19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUNDING

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information about additional funding from Department for Communities (DfC) to support the voluntary and community sector as it continues to recover and help citizens to get through the COVID-19 crisis.

Background

The Department for Communities is making 3 additional funds available to Councils to help respond to the Covid 19 pandemic. The funds are as follows:

- i. Covid 19 Community Support Fund (2nd tranche)
- ii. Covid 19 Access to Food Fund; and
- iii. Covid 19 Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund.

Covid 19 Community Support Fund

The Department, through its COVID-19 Community Support Fund, initially allocated £80,700 to Council in April 2020. When this budget was

allocated, Council subsequently opened second and third strands of this grant programme with Good Relations and PCSP funding contributions.

An offer of an additional £126,226.54 has been received for a continuation of the Covid-19 Community Support Fund to continue to support the vital role that grassroots voluntary and community sector groups play in supporting individuals and communities as we begin to emerge from the pandemic. There is no requirement for Councils to match fund this provision.

Council are being asked by the Department to continue to allocate the funding in line with the three broad DfC criteria:

- Financial - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress.
- Food - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need.
- Connectivity - to those living alone or in rural and border areas that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.

COVID-19 Access to Food Fund

The Access to Food Fund (£750K total to 11 Councils; CCG award amount not yet known) will help to deliver a more strategic response that will shape any future emergency response and ongoing / future policy development, reflecting how we work in partnership to co-design and co-deliver support. In the context of support to citizens on the challenges of food poverty/food insecurity. The proposed support will:

- Recognise and maximise the local infrastructure – building capacity, capability and collaboration with stakeholders:
- Build on partnerships established, including the Voluntary and Community Sector:
- Broker strategic/programme links within and between actions to deliver outcomes for citizens.

COVID-19 Financial Inclusion Fund

The Financial Inclusion Fund (£700k total to 11 Councils; CCG award amount not yet known) has been enabled by an additional allocation from HM Treasury to target those adversely impacted by the economic fallout during the pandemic, to help build financial resilience and improve the overall financial wellbeing through access to money management, low cost/affordable borrowing, promoting savings and linking into holistic debt and income maximisation advice.

When the current economic and social protections are phased out, increased levels of debt are expected because of the cessation of payment holidays, reduced household incomes due to unemployment and reduced working hours. The aim of the Covid-19 Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund will be to target those most likely to be adversely impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic

The Department has advised that they wish to use a co-design approach to enable the design of local proposals to be delivered under the later 2 of these strands, the Covid 19 Food Partnership Fund and the Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund.

Next Steps

- The Covid 19 Community Support Fund will reopen for applications with this second DfC funding tranche during week commencing 7th September 2020 and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the budget is exhausted.
- An introductory meeting will be held early September between DfC officials and council officers to discuss approaches on how to co-design the local strategy for both the Financial Inclusion Fund and the Access to Food Fund.
- In advance of this a small focus group has been arranged to consider the issues in Causeway Coast and Glens. Initially the invitations to this focus group are being extended to food banks and frontline advice organisations in the Borough. Tackling Poverty is a key action within the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens and consideration will be given to other partners and how best in the context of Community Planning to involve all stakeholders that are addressing poverty in Causeway Coast and Glens.

The Chair requested that committee was kept updated regularly.

11. UPDATE ON VILLAGE RENEWAL, TRANCHE 2

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcome of submitted expressions of interest to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for extra funding towards further Village Renewal Projects.

Background

The Village Renewal Programme is a theme within the Rural Development Programme, provided by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, which allows for short term capital interventions in those towns and areas which are within the rural areas of the Borough. It is currently 75% funded by the Department and 25% funded by Council, as per agreement in 2015. Council is the sole applicant and is implementing this measure on behalf of 22 villages in the Borough.

The report to Committee submitted on 21 January 2020 refers, and sections are contained within Annex A (circulated).

Outcome

On 11 August Council received the following from the LEADER Implementation Manager.

"In April the Department received advice from the Commission that commitments can be made under the 2014-2020 RDPs up until 2023 and we can receive EU funding until 31 December 2023 or until EU funds are used up (whichever is earlier). You will be aware however, that LEADER funding will be drawn down by the end of the 2021/2022 financial year. In light of the Commission advice other schemes within the RDP will now consider how best to spend out their RDP budget allocations to the end of the programme period".

"This unfortunately means that we will now not be in a position to fund the EOIs received in January following my email of 3 December 2019. I apologise for the delay in providing an outcome on the additional funding opportunity. I would be grateful if you would inform both the Council and your LAG Board."

In summary

- Programmes within the wider Rural Development Programme had been forecast to underspend/not commit.
- The received advice from the Commission on programme extension meant that these programmes are now able to spend/commit.
- The opportunity to transfer from other programmes to the local RDP programme has not transpired and therefore, there will not be an opportunity to fund the submitted expressions of interest.

The affected areas are as follows:

- Armoy – est. cost 100k - MUGA
- Dernaflaw – est. cost 100k - MUGA
- Dervock – est. cost 100k - MUGA
- Mosside – est. cost 100k - MUGA
- Drumsurn - £232,545 - replacement of community centre. This project had been agreed much earlier for Tranche 1, however it was delayed because of NIEA request for a bat survey as part of the planning process.

Impact

At the time of submission, none of the applicant villages had applied to the Village Renewal Programme except for Drumsurn. The second Tranche allowed those villages that had not applied for the main programme to have the opportunity to try for funding. For these villages the outcome is that no funding is available at all.

For Drumsurn, the impact means that the proposed new portacabin cannot proceed, and equally, there is a loss of PEACE funding of £20,000 - which was allocated to fit-out of the proposed new portacabin. The existing portacabin is no longer fit for purpose, and this will leave the community group with limited accommodation.

Summary

Officers have asked DAERA officials to consider Drumsurn Community Centre in the first instance if funding becomes available – based upon its advanced state in terms of project development.

Staff have also asked the Department to further consider the remaining expressions of interest which are not as far advanced, but at this stage, still have the commitment of Council match funding.

Councillor Schenning expressed disappointment on behalf of Drumsurn village residents, she advised that the Portacabin was not fit-for-purpose and the community association had suffered financially.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised the Head of Prosperity and Place was leading on Drumsurn funding options and he would bring an update to the DEA Members.

Alderman Baird expressed disappointment for Armoy and Mosside communities, areas which suffer higher social deprivation.

Councillor McAuley supported Alderman Baird, stating he had been contacted by residents of the villages, making specific reference to Armoy following the additional loss of the Lime Park facility.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no Items of correspondence.

13. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

14. CONSULTATIONS

14.1 Ulster University, Relocation of School of Health Sciences, closing on 6th December.

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

- * **Councillor C McShane, having declared an interest, did not participate in the Item.**

Ulster University is consulting on proposals to relocate the School of Health Sciences from the Jordanstown campus to one (or more) of its three other campuses, alongside an equality impact assessment (EQIA) which will separately consider the impact of each of the possible locations. These consultations will form the basis for the conclusion of a five-year process to implement the relocation of the School of Health Sciences, once it leaves its current base on the Jordanstown campus.

Councillor Callan stated as a corporate body Council support services continuing to be located at Coleraine and support the growth of the campus, he advised it would be prudent to invite the new Vice Chancellor to present to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Callan
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

AGREED – to recommend that Council respond to the consultation.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised he would draft a response for consideration.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

- * **Press left the meeting at 9.01PM.**

The Chair declared a recess at 9.01PM.

- * **The meeting reconvened at 9.07PM.**

15. DFC-DAERA TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY FUND

- * **Councillors Knight-McQuillan and McCaw, having declared an interest, did not participate in the Item.**

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the development of a Covid Recovery Programme for town centres and rural businesses.

Background

On 19 June, Council was informed of the Department for Community's intention to provide funding for town centre recovery actions. The proposal was to fund the scheme in two tranches - Tranche 1 for immediate and urgent support and Tranche 2 for aspects of town actions that are more medium term or require a longer time to design and/or procure.

Tranche 1 – Immediate Spend

As guided by the lead, Department for Communities, Tranche 1 was aligned to immediate relief efforts and was to represent no more than fifty percent of funding from the package, if used for grant assistance purposes. This initially represented £340,000 from the Department. An additional £109,000 was allocated from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

After a quick turnaround of application form, guidance notes, and other material, the fund was launched on 3 August at 10:00am.

The applications were assessed on an ongoing basis by members of the Funding Unit and Prosperity and Place team, after extensive advertising and calling by all concerned.

The report circulated detailed a table on the Outcome.

A list of successful, unsuccessful, and withdrawn applications is included under Annex A (circulated).

Councillor McAuley considered some businesses had neither closed nor were impacted and had received funding to the detriment of others.

The Funding Manager outlined the DAERA and DfC standard eligibility criteria that had been applied.

Councillor C McShane sought additional information on how Tranche 2 would be administered, referring to Ballycastle, Councillor C McShane queried how transparent the consultation process was and what had been done to date to reach out to towns.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised the eligibility criteria was yet to be carried out and he would email information to Members.

16. MAGHERACROSS PROJECT

- * **Councillor MA McKillop, having declared an interest, did not participate in the Item.**

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation via Powerpoint.

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the appointment of a contractor for the Magheracross Coastal Walking Trailhead and Scenic Viewpoint. Elected Members are also asked to make the investment decision to match fund this project at a total cost of £146,000. Confirmation of £530,000 funding from RDP and Landfill Communities Fund has been received.

Background

The Magheracross scenic viewpoint and trailhead is located on A2 Dunluce Road between Portrush and Bushmills. The site offers excellent views of the Atlantic Ocean and overlooks Dunluce Castle to the east and Whiterocks, Portrush to the west. The site is characterised by large expanses of mown grass around a central rectilinear parking area which

incorporates planting beds with low basalt rubble walls. There are no dedicated paths to viewing areas however, there are two viewpoints in the North West and North East. There is little provision for disability access to the coastal views and it is very difficult for visitors in wheelchairs to access the views. There is no dedicated disability parking.

The location of this site offers the opportunity to further enhance the quality of the visitor experience for users of the Causeway Coastal Route. In addition, the site fits strategically with the Council's efforts to create a trailhead for the work being undertaken to develop the Causeway Coast Way (coastal walking trail).

The completed project will create a world class visitor experience at Magheracross viewpoint to enhance the current tourist experience on the Causeway Coastal Route and act as a trail head on the Causeway Coast Way. It will create a breath-taking view point where domestic and international visitors can stop off and enjoy the spectacular coastal views from the new purpose-built viewing platforms. It will attract tourists whilst preserving a natural asset in a rural community. It provides an accessible, unique, innovative, tourism offering whilst returning the site to a more naturalised state.

The Magheracross Scenic Experience and Trailhead Project will increase the attractiveness of the wider area by complementing current and proposed tourist offerings.

The report, circulated provided further detail on the Current Position, Project Proposal, Funding Opportunity and Net Cost to Council, Appointment of Contractor and Next Steps.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the advancement of the most economically advantageous tender, Charles Brand Ltd at a tender figure of £595,000. Elected Members are also asked to make the investment decision for match funding this project at a total cost of £146,000.

Councillor Callan observed the infrastructure along the Wild Atlantic Way was more developed, he advised the Cliffs of Moher charged for parking and access, there was huge scope to develop the Causeway Coastal Route.

Councillor McCaw concurred with Councillor Callan, he welcomed the biodiversity and development of the tourism product, however, he did not endorse parking charges.

Councillor C McShane stated it was good to see investment in tourism trails and infrastructure, Councillor C McShane referred to the Great Western Greenway and Ballycastle to Ballymoney project, she encouraged support for the development at Portaneevy.

The Chair referred to an all-Ireland economy to work in partnership for Tourism. The Chair urged Members to feed into the consultation for the new RDP Programme to access funding and its benefits.

Proposed by Councillor Callan
Seconded by Councillor McCaw and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve the advancement of the most economically advantageous tender, Charles Brand Ltd at a tender figure of £595,000; to recommend that Council make the investment decision for match funding this project at a total cost of £146,000.

17. LEISURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper was to update Members and seek approval for the recommendation and next steps in relation to the evaluation of Leisure Management Options for Council's major leisure facilities (Coleraine Leisure Centre, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, Roe Valley leisure Centre) and minor leisure facilities (Jim Watt Sports Centre, Dungiven Sports Centre and Sheskburn Recreation Centre).

The decision paper on the preferred leisure services management option was deferred by Members on 18th March. The paper brings this decision back to Committee and provides an update on progress made, despite the hugely detrimental impact of Covid-19 on the leisure industry. The original paper was retained in full with updated sections highlighted in bold italics for ease of reference.

The report circulated, detailed the Background, Shadow Bid Process and Comparator Report – Headline Findings.

The timescales, set-up costs and key issues for delivery of the management options were presented in a table within the report.

The report detailed the Impact of Covid-19 on the Leisure Industry and In-house Shadow Bid and provided detail on Update on Progress Progress made against the prioritised actions in the Mobilisation Plan was summarised in a table within the report.

It is recommended that Members note the three options under consideration and the costs, benefits and wider risks referenced in the Comparator Report as follows:

- Option A – Continue with In-House Transformation (accept the 'Shadow Bid'); or
- Option B – Deploy a Council Owned Company; or
- Option C – Outsource 6 Leisure Facilities.

A graphical summary of the management options to aid Members consideration of the above is included as Annexe E (circulated).

Members are reminded that both the In-house Shadow Bid and Comparator Report were finalised prior to Covid-19 and that the costs, benefits and risks appraisal for all three options is subject to comprehensive review in the new operating environment. Furthermore, as noted above the policy focus for leisure industry has currently shifted more towards health and wellbeing outcomes and social value from investment. The independent view of APSE regarding the short term feasibility of alternate options (Option B and C) noted at the end of Section 4.0 above would reinforce the original recommendation below.

It is recommended that Members approve Option A – Continue with In-House Transformation (accept the 'Shadow Bid') for consideration by full Council based on the following rationale:

- The annual savings in subvention and quality of service improvements which are broadly similar to the Outsource option;
- The lower cost of initial set up and interest costs associated with borrowing £1m for investment in the centres;
- Whilst there is a trade-off between risk (cost certainty) and control across the three options, on balance, maintaining direct control is preferable in the current situation;
- Maintaining direct control through the In-house Transformation will also have the greatest potential for wider transformation of other Council services, resolution of harmonised T&Cs for leisure staff and flexibility in responding to changes in financial priorities over the next ten years.

It is recommended that Members note that the approval of Option A – Continue with In-House Transformation subject to:

- A comprehensive review of the ten year financial projections following the implementation of the 'Sport & Wellbeing Recovery Plan' for the six sites currently ending 31st March 2021;
- Following the comprehensive review above, an independent performance review mechanism against critical success factors to be agreed for at least a two year period;
- In the event of non-achievement of these critical success factors after the two year period has lapsed, this performance review mechanism will allow for a review of the original decision and selection of either:

Option B – Deploy a Council Owned Company; or Option C – Outsource Leisure Centres depending upon the circumstances of non-achievement and state of the leisure industry at this time.

As noted in Section 5.0 above (within the report, circulated), this performance review mechanism has been developed further along with finalised Service Level Agreements for future consideration by the Leisure Facilities Project Board.

Councillor Holmes felt a decision should be made in September next year to allow staff to continue the in-house transformation and change management process, whilst providing support to recover; that it be looked at when the environment and its outlook is more certain.

Councillor McAuley advised of championing in-house for one year to allow management to make it work.

Councillor Schenning felt staff should continue the great work they are doing and to not make a concrete decision.

Councillor Anderson requested a bi-monthly update.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council continue the in-house transformation and change management process to allow consideration of the three options in 12 months' time; and to provide a quarterly management report to the Leisure Facilities Project Board.

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

In accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor McCaw submitted the following Item:

18.1 CCTV

'In light of an increase in anti-social behaviour across the Borough this summer, particularly in the coastal towns, what options are open to Council to reinstate town centre CCTV, at least on a temporary basis?'

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Council had made a decision to end CCTV in main towns, the rationale that PSNI was unable to commit funding and would require capital and revenue costs of £1M. The Director of Leisure and Development advised PCSP had established a mechanism to target anti-social behaviour via a number of programmes to include mobile cameras.

Councillor Schenning clarified recent PCSP anti-social behaviour initiatives, she further advised PSNI had issued fines in relation to cars being lowered and noise pollution. Councillor Schenning stated PCSP had an underspend and that mobile cameras could be utilised.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Schenning

Seconded by Councillor Anderson 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 10.26PM.

Chair