

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**

**Table of Recommendations**

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary of key Recommendations</b>
<b>4</b>	Minutes of Meeting Held Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Items 1-19 Inclusive)	<b><i>Information</i></b>
<b>5</b>	Presentation - Tourism Marketing Activities For 2018/2019	<b><i>Withdrawn from the Agenda</i></b>
<b>6</b>	Order of Business	<b><i>Agreed</i></b>
<b>7</b>	Notice of Motion Proposed and Seconded by Councillor Quigley and Alderman Hickey, referred from 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 Council Meeting <i>Volunteer Drivers</i>	<b><i>Support</i></b>
<b>8</b>	Portrush Leisure Development	<b><i>Approve proposed objectives; proceed with outline business case appraisals for the 3 projects</i></b>
<b>9</b>	Rural Development Programme Co-Operation Projects	<b><i>Approve 2 projects, advancing to Stage 2; approve capital funding up to a maximum of 10% total budget costs</i></b>
<b>10</b>	Museum Service Options Appraisal	<b><i>Defer and arrange a workshop</i></b>
<b>11</b>	1718 Emigration Working Group	<b><i>Approve addition of organisations listed</i></b>

		<b><i>and Roe Valley Historical Society</i></b>
<b>12</b>	Ballycastle Sport and Leisure Facility Update	<b><i>Information</i></b>
<b>13</b>	Conservation Grazing Benone Dune Land	<b><i>Information</i></b>
<b>14</b>	Portrush Regeneration	<b><i>Information</i></b>
<b>15</b>	Atlantic Link Enterprise Campus (Presentation Provided By Officers)	<b><i>Information</i></b>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF  
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON  
TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

- In the Chair:** Councillor Duddy (Item 1)  
Councillor Baird (Items 2-15)
- Committee Members Present:** Alderman Hillis and Robinson.  
Councillors Chivers, Clarke, Deighan, Douglas,  
Holmes, McLean, McShane C, Mulholland,  
Stevenson and MA McKillop
- In Attendance:** Councillor P McShane  
Councillor Quigley (Item 7)
- Officers Present:** R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development  
P Beattie, Head of Prosperity and Place  
M Edgar, Cultural Services Manager  
J Gray, SIB Project Manager  
N Harkness, SIB Project Manager  
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing  
N McGurk, Strategic Projects Manager  
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation  
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture  
S Duggan, Committee & Member Services Officer
- In Attendance:** Press (1 no.)

**1 CHAIR OF MEETING**

Councillor Duddy advised he was leaving and in the absence of the Deputy Chair, invited nominations for Election of Chair.

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council Elect Councillor Baird, The Mayor, to Chair proceedings.

Councillor Baird assumed the Chair.

**2 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were recorded for Councillor McCandless.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

**4 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017 (ITEMS 1-19 INCLUSIVE)**

The Chair advised the Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Items 1-19 inclusive) were adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Council meeting.

**5 PRESENTATION - TOURISM MARKETING ACTIVITIES FOR 2018/2019**

The Director of Leisure and Development advised of the withdrawal of the Item from the Agenda.

**6 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council receive the Notice of Motion Item next, upon the Agenda of business for the evening.

**7 NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR QUIGLEY AND ALDERMAN HICKEY, REFERRED FROM 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017 COUNCIL MEETING**

Councillor Quigley proposed the Notice of Motion:

*Volunteer drivers*

*This Council notes the serious hardship arising out of changes in regulations relating to the use of volunteer drivers and the implications these changes have for schools, community groups and other voluntary organisations.*

*Council asks the Department for Infrastructure to suspend the introduction of these regulations immediately to allow the above-mentioned schools, groups and organisations to make appropriate preparations relating to qualifications and not least the finance to enable such training to take place.*

Councillor Quigley read a prepared statement:

*‘A recently revised guidance from Driver and Vehicle Agency states that anyone being paid to drive for an organisation are now required to have a full D1 licence and drivers qualification to be legally covered to drive a minibus.*

*The changes in these guidelines are having detrimental effects especially in our local schools.*

*I spoke to one head teacher recently and she told me that they had to cancel sports events and soccer matches. At present, they are using taxis to transport children for education purposes from one campus to another within the local schools Area learning partnership. There has been so much hard work establishing this partnership and most of our schools use their minibuses to travel between each campus.*

*Given the current climate of severe budget constraints and minimal funding for schools this is simply unsustainable. Staff are now required to take a difficult driving test and costs near £1,000 pounds to train someone up. So members, I would be grateful for your support and thank you and the Chair for accommodating me tonight’.*

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion.

Committee voted unanimously in favour.

- \* **Councillor Douglas arrived at the meeting at 7.30 PM during consideration of the above matter.**
- \* **Councillor Quigley left the meeting.**

## **8 PORTRUSH LEISURE DEVELOPMENT**

Report circulated, detailing the background, proposed objectives for any related community leisure project in the town; facility need and options identified.

### **Priority Projects for Business Case Review**

In light of the stakeholder presentations, objective information analysis and Member’s comments, officers recommended the following options as the most likely to represent viable solutions for detailed business case analysis:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Site Options</b>	<b>Features/ Considerations</b>
1. Formal and informal outdoor recreation	Ramore Head Recreation Grounds	1 or 2 Bowling Greens 2 to 4 tennis courts Small play facility New pavilion Event space Associated parking

		Small urban sport area
2. Integrated Play Facility	The Bowl or Dunluce/Metropole	The main site for: Urban Sport MUGA Play
3. Training pitch/small sided games	Parker Avenue, Glenmanus, The Warren and/or Rugby Avenue	Increased/improved pitch space combined with synthetic training areas for formal bookings.

The business case process is the key tool to fully assess need, evaluate site opportunities/constraints, develop design options, estimate costs and anticipate the benefits. While a business case to consider pitch/training facility options is relatively straight forward and deliverable within a few months, The Recreation Grounds and Ramore Head are significantly more complex with the potential to require specialist investigations in relation to environmental, archaeological and other planning related matters. As a result, a completed business case for a project at The Recreation Grounds/Ramore Head is likely to be at least 6 months in development. In compliance with Council's S75 policy, any funding decisions will need to be exposed to a 12 week public consultation in advance of implementation.

**It is recommended** that Members approve:

1. The proposed objectives for the leisure and recreation projects for Portrush; and
2. That officers proceed to outline business case appraisals for the above 3 projects.

Councillor Clarke had received representations from interested parties, and whilst understanding the process, sought clarity on the number of bowling greens; more detail on the events space and associated parking including the footprint of the Recreation Grounds. Councillor Clarke considered the play Facilities at the Bowl was the wrong location due to the adjacent civic amenity site and preferring the Metropole site, and that the Bowl site was more accommodating of a 3G Training Pitch.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised of a conceptual and outline Business Case process, that would define the options from various stakeholder Groups going forward.

Alderman Hillis voiced concern at the lack of speed with the process and concurred with Councillor Clarke, the Bowlers required 2 bowling Greens and the play facilities beside an amenity space was not best placed and that Urban Sports should be cited at Metropole Park.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Holmes regarding how Council's Estate has been maintained, the Director of Leisure and Development outlined the operational partnership working with Environmental Services.

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland  
Seconded by Alderman Robinson and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve:

1. The proposed objectives for the leisure and recreation projects for Portrush; and
2. That officers proceed to outline business case appraisals for the above 3 projects.

Committee voted unanimously in favour.

## **9 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME CO-OPERATION PROJECTS**

Report circulated.

### **Context**

Staff from the Tourism and Recreation Service have been working with the Rural Development Programme (RDP) team to identify and develop Co-operation projects.

A priority theme of these Co-operation projects under the Programme is to enhance the tourism offering by encouraging increased expenditure and overnight stays in the Borough. Working with the RDP Local Action Group presents an opportunity to deliver on key objectives within the Council's Destination Management Plan. All costs associated with project preparation to date have been met by RDP funds up to a maximum of £5,000 per project.

The total potential cost that can be allocated to the two areas is £286,666. The Programme can provide 75% of each project's final costs with the remaining 25% of costs being contributed by Council. (Potentially 20% cash-in-kind per project, allocated to staff time, with a potential of 5% cash contribution from Council up to a maximum of 10%).

### **1. Coastal & Dune Protection/Management**

Project Cost £144,000.

RDP funding (75%) - £108,000.

Potential Council contribution (15% in kind) - £21,600 & (10% Capital Funding) - £14,400.

Council's approach to beach management has evolved in recent years to reflect the change in how the coastline is used and the demands placed upon it for potential project locations. The Coast and Countryside Team will build on the beach management remit and factor for the following in the chosen locations:

- A year round approach to management.
- Visitor safety.
- Recognition of the dynamic nature of our coast line.
- The need for education and environmental awareness raising Council's responsibility in the management of designated sites.

The following elements have been proposed and the design work is ongoing:

- Benone – free standing storage unit for specialised equipment to improve beach access, improved pedestrian access to the beach from the Watersports Centre along with visual screening and marram grass transplanting.
- Castlerock – 4 x 40m timber boardwalk to assist with access, along with wooden post and rope fencing, marram grass planting and groundworks.
- Runkerry – 350m timber boardwalk improving access through the deep dune system.
- Ballycastle – 100m timber boardwalk at the entrance to the beach through the dunes to include a viewing platform.
- All sites will have threshold signage at entrance to beaches.

## **2. International Appalachian Trail Development**

Project Cost £142,666.

RDP funding (75%) - £107,000.

Potential Council contribution (15% in kind) - £21,400 & (10% Capital Funding) - £14,267.

Under the RDP project known as the International Appalachian Trail Development, a study has been carried out to identify a number of opportunities to improve the trail infrastructure and quality of the visitor experience through capital investment.

The International Appalachian Trail follows the route of the Ulster Way as it passes through the Borough.

The main emphasis from a Council and trail management perspective is to enhance the existing visitor experience. This proposal will deliver:

1. A more marketable and attractive product.
2. Improved infrastructure and trail furniture.
3. Greater awareness of walking product throughout the Borough.

4. Increased opportunity to develop links to and from the trail to our settlements and trail hubs.
5. Increased opportunity for the promotion of physical and mental wellbeing.

Council Officers have seen an opportunity to make significant improvements to the Moyle Way and the North Sperrins Way walking trails. These two trails are included within the long distance International Appalachian Trail.

Interventions for the North Sperrins Way include the following:

- Creation of new off-road walking between Cam and Drumrammer Forest.
- A new link from Bellarena Station to Binevenagh.
- New section at Bishop's Road linking with Downhill and Castlerock.
- Trail upgrade at Benbradagh to Lenamore Forest.
- Trail upgrade from Donald's Hill to Temain Road with stiles, boardwalks, way-markers and drains.

Throughout the Moyle Way it is planned to improve signage, way marking and information boards and to upgrade the trail at Glenariff Forest and Trostan.

### **Next Steps**

With Elected Members' approval, Council officials will progress the above two projects with the Local Action Group. Council officials will lead on the procurement and delivery of these improvements to enhance the outdoor recreational experience. With the exception of an allowance of £1,000 per annum to maintain the storage structure at Benone, no additional running or maintenance costs have been allowed for within the detail of these projects. The investment offered is acting as an upgrade, and whilst day to day minor repairs are likely to be required on an ad hoc basis, it is difficult to define long term budgetary requirements for the maintaining the elements proposed.

Committee approval was sought to further progress a number of infrastructure projects that the Council have developed in Partnership with the Rural Development Programme Co-operation Projects. Approval will be sought for both permission to proceed to Stage 2 of the Capital Infrastructure Programme and to match fund each project up to a maximum of 10% monetary contribution.

### **Recommendation**

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to provide approval to allow the above two projects to be implemented by the

Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Team, advancing the projects to Stage 2 of the Capital Investment Process. Elected Members are also asked to approve Capital Funding up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget costs.

Councillor Stevenson praised improvements in the walking product for people in the area.

Councillor McKillop enquired as to the previous Landscape Partnership working and how it would tie in together. The Head of Tourism and Recreation stated the projects would complement the work undertaken by the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Alderman Hillis stated the projects were excellent and queried whether there were other schemes considered for example, the pathway from Bushmills to the Causeway. The Head of Tourism and Recreation stated he would be bringing a report to Council to future develop the Causeway Coast Way capturing the section mentioned.

Councillor C McShane commented on the very positive news and drew on the potential for Ballintoy to Ballycastle.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation agreed to look into the issue raised by Councillor Baird regarding signage at the River Bush which had been set aside.

Proposed by Councillor Stevenson  
Seconded by Councillor McKillop and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council provide approval to allow the above two projects to be implemented by the Tourism and Recreation Coast and Countryside Team, advancing the projects to Stage 2 of the Capital Investment Process. Elected Members are also asked to approve Capital Funding up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget costs.

Committee voted unanimously in favour.

## **10 MUSEUM SERVICE OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Report circulated.

Committee was presented with findings from the Museums Options Appraisal Report and to offer options and recommendations for Council's consideration and approval.

## **Background**

The Cultural Strategy 2016-21 identified a requirement to carry out an analysis of need and options appraisal for museums facility provision within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. The overall objective of this was to ensure Museum Services have sustainable museum facilities to deliver on the aims of the strategy including:-

- Enhancing our museum assets for local people and visitors.
- Investing in creative learning and skills development.
- Bringing together the many, and at times contentious, histories and identities of our area.
- Ensuring increased participation in and access to heritage by marginalized and excluded groups.
- Protect and enhance collections, provide access to collections for our communities and visitors and deliver programming and support community outreach and engagement.

An information brochure on CC&GBC Museums Service was circulated for information in Annex C of the report.

In response to the Terms of Reference, Blueprint Development Consultancy and Associates were appointed by Council in January 2017 to undertake the audit and options appraisal. This included looking at facilities, the current positions, challenges and opportunities and from this propose a series of options which will support a *sustainable* model for museums within the Borough. Following on from a Notice of Motion made in August 2016 regarding Ballymoney Museum, part of the audit also required consideration of the options for the development of a permanent Road Racing Museum in Ballymoney while retaining local community museum provision.

## **Methodology**

The methodology included a review of all existing documentation, desk research and site visits to all museum facilities. Given the extensive consultation which had taken place in developing the cultural strategy, the consultation focussed on members and staff and included councillor and staff workshops as well as individual interviews.

## **Issues, Challenges and Options**

The Audit identified a range of issues and challenges with respect to the current facilities. A detailed description of issues to be addressed and options considered were contained within the report and attached Annex A (circulated) for convenience. These were summarised within the report.

## **Recommendations of Options Appraisal**

Based upon the research, consultation and discussions, the report (Annex B, circulated) makes the following recommendations in terms of museums facility provision:

**1. Move out of Cloonavin Basement**

As an interim measure, the collections and items currently housed within the basement of Cloonavin are relocated on an interim basis to Flowerfield Arts Centre and stored there to protect the collections and artefacts, while facilitating Corporate use of the basement space which is required to accommodate Planning.

**2. Essential repairs at Ballycastle Museum**

To protect the fabric of the building, essential repair and maintenance work is carried out as soon as possible with a subsequent short term programme of works to repair lime mortar and render throughout. Discussion with Heritage Lottery Fund re the potential of a longer-term restoration project.

**3. Ensure a Greater Museums Presence at Coleraine Town Hall**

The Council considers block booking of the Town Hall at specified times (May /Mid-June, Mid July - August and December) prioritised to the Museum Service on an annual basis, subject to internal discussions and pre-planning.

**4. Continue to Enhance the Road Racing Offer at Ballymoney Museum**

The Museum Service continues to develop and evaluate an enhanced four-month temporary exhibition programme with greater integration with corporate programme working alongside the corporate NW200 Festival and the North West 200 Committee to maximise publicity and complementarity.

**5. Greater Marketing and Promotion of Services**

In keeping with the SIB report re Cultural Facilities that the Service continues to have discussion with colleagues to facilitate greater cooperation and sharing of resources re the marketing and promotion of facilities and cultural themes.

**6. Closure of Green Lane Museum**

Close Green Lane Museum and enter into discussions with Northern Ireland Environment Agency to withdraw from the lease. Follow Accreditation procedures for disposal of the collection.

## **7. Review of Town Halls & Civic Building**

Council consider carrying out a review of Town Hall and Civic Buildings as part of its broader estates review to maximise potential use of these spaces for a range of cultural services based activities.

### **Recommendation to Council**

To approve the Museums Options Appraisal Report and accept the recommendations contained within.

Alderman Robinson voiced his concern at the direction of travel reported within the last six to nine months. On several occasions Alderman Robinson had raised concern the outworking would see the closure of Green Lane Museum, and this being disputed, committee had now been presented with a recommendation to close Green Lane Museum, a valuable historic asset. Alderman Robinson, in his view, did not constitute Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre as a museum and was historically informed there was no room there for artefacts; furthermore Alderman Robinson was not aware of issues surrounding lone working. Alderman Robinson stated his Party did not support the closure of Green Lane Museum.

The Head of Community and Culture cited fallen visitor numbers from 2013 and provided background into the closure of DAERA's / NIEA's Education and Public Programme in 2010. Issues included Environmental controls and lone working and isolation as Wardens were no longer on the site, issues further included access to toilet facilities and that Museum Services had to find efficiencies. The Head of Community and Culture stated they did not have the resources to put in place additional staff, there were no longer festivals in the Park and that Council had fallen victim to NIEA efficiencies. The Cultural Services Manager advised an injection of funding was required to ensure the safety of staff and enhance the Programme.

Councillor Chivers, Councillor Douglas, Councillor Deighan and Councillor Clarke each spoke and did not support the recommendation to close the Museum. Councillor Holmes suggested options to include cutting back on opening hours and relocating.

Councillor Clarke queried the move out of Cloonavin basement and the impact this may have on the operation and reputation of Flowerfield. The Head of Community and Culture advised of Auditor guidance, the basement at Coleraine was not a suitable location, citing risk and accessibility issues and time pressures and advised on third party costs for storage. Two classrooms were underutilised in Flowerfield, activities could be relocated.

Councillor Mulholland sought clarification of the discussion with Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the potential of a longer-term restoration project. The Director of Leisure and Development advised he would respond to Councillor Mulholland directly regarding the matter.

The Director of Leisure and Development suggested that committee may consider deferring the item and convening a workshop.

Proposed by Councillor Chivers  
Seconded by Alderman Robinson and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council defer the matter and convene a workshop.

Committee voted unanimously in favour.

- \* **Councillor C McShane left the meeting at 8.15 PM and rejoined the meeting at 8.30 PM during consideration of the above matter.**
- \* **Alderman Robinson left the meeting at 8.31 PM.**

## **11 1718 EMIGRATION WORKING GROUP**

Report circulated.

The report sought approval from Council to increase the membership of the 1718 Emigration Working Group originally agreed by Council in October 2017.

The recommendation was that Members approve the addition of the organisations listed above (Aghadowey Rural Kinship Group (ARK), Dr Linde Lunney, Royal Irish Academy, Derek Torrens, Causeway Coast and Glens Family History Society, Dunboe Presbyterian Church) onto the 1718 Emigration Working Group.

Councillor Holmes voiced that Roe Valley Historical Society may also be included.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve the addition of the organisations listed above (Aghadowey Rural Kinship Group (ARK), Dr Linde Lunney, Royal Irish Academy, Derek Torrens, Causeway Coast and Glens Family History Society, Dunboe Presbyterian Church) onto the 1718 Emigration Working Group; and to include Roe Valley Historical Society.

The Chair put the proposal to the committee to vote. 8 Members voted For, 0 Members voted Against, 0 Members abstained, the Chair declared the proposal carried.

## **12 BALLYCASTLE SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITY UPDATE**

Information report circulated.

### **Background**

Officers have sought direction from, and updated Councillors on this project on a number of occasions since March 2016 as detailed below:

- March 2016: Department of Education presentation on the shared campus project.
- October 2016: Information paper to Leisure & Development Committee.
- November 2016: Information paper to Leisure & Development Committee, reviewing the business case prepared by the Moyle legacy Council.
- February 2017: Information paper to Leisure & Development Committee, updating on progress with Ballycastle and Coleraine leisure projects.
- April 2017: Councillor Workshop focusing on the Ballycastle and Coleraine leisure projects.
- June 2017: Information paper to the Leisure & Development Committee.
- June 2017: Councillor Workshop to review the draft OBC.
- June 2017: 3 copies of Draft OBC left for Councillor's review in the Council library.
- July 2017: Councillor Site Meeting with school principals and pupils.
- August 2017: Approval of an OBC for an estimated £2.3m investment into the new sports facilities (estimated value £6.5m) at the new shared school campus to realise community access to:

- 3 synthetic, flood lit sports pitches.
- 4 court sports hall.
- Associated changing and ancillary facilities.

### **Facility Needs Assessment**

In addition to the anticipated facility provision at the shared school campus it is recommended that Ballycastle has a need for community access to a range of other new or improved sports facilities including:

- Community swimming pool, wet play and health suite.
- Studio and meeting space of various sizes (and associated storage).
- Gym.

### **Progress with the Shared School Campus**

The technical department within the Department of Education (DE) have supported the following activities:

- Exemplar design to be further developed by an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) and a design and build contract via OJEU compliant procurement processes.
- Serviced a Project Board made up of all relevant education stakeholders.
- Initiated a Gateway Review Process.
- Completed a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) exercise to identify a short list of ICTs to develop the exemplar design to planning application stage and client-side support through the design and build stage.

Council Officers (supported by SIB) have continued to meet with the Project Steering Group to progress work on the Heads of Terms Agreement that will guide the legal agreements that will stipulate the rights of access for Council and community access to the facilities.

Officers (supported by SIB) have also worked with members of the DE senior management team and their advisors to progress the anticipated contract structures in a way that minimises the VAT liabilities associated with the project. This has resulted in a submission to HMRC with a proposed funding route, contract structure and VAT treatment. A final outcome to this work is still awaited.

Subsequent to the PQQ process, the Project Board hopes to issue a call to tender for an ICT in February 2018. As part of this process respondents will be required to identify the abortive costs in the event that they are commissioned to design the sports facilities to meet the Council's design requirements and subsequently the Council declines the opportunity to proceed with the project. At the point of appointment of the ICT there will therefore be a known maximum cost to Council's ongoing involvement in the project through the design process. At this point officers will bring a report to Members for a decision on a maximum design cost commitment to progressing with an involvement in the project. While this will not be a

full funding commitment to the capital costs of Council's involvement, it will represent a stronger and irreversible financial commitment to the design stage.

This report is expected to come to the L&D Committee in April or May 2018 (subject to the DE procurement process).

### **Progress with the Additional Facility Requirements**

Given the ongoing uncertainty over the Council's firm commitment to, and the Project Board's acceptance of, a partnership approach to the shared school project it is impossible to define the residual need for the second phase. As a result of this, any expenditure on the development of phase two (other than on site investigations) has the potential to be nugatory.

In light of the need to progress site assessments, officers have been working to identify the strengths, weaknesses and costs associated with the various site options. Transport NI (TNI) have provided advice on its likely access and egress requirements for the Quay Road site which are likely to require engineering works to the value of £700k/£1m. In light of the high cost associated with Quay Road, officers are working to identify alternative sites and assess their suitability and likely cost implications. Other sites under consideration include inter alia:

- Sheskburn House.
- Ramoan Road kick about area.
- Invest NI site on Leyland Road.

This work is ongoing and the findings will come to Members when it has been completed.

### **Project Boards**

DE will be the project promoter for the shared school campus and so will convene the Project Board for the project. It is anticipated that once / if Council makes a firm financial commitment to this project it will be invited to contribute to the Project Board as the Funding Decision Maker for some aspects of the project. Given the early stage of the project and the resultant absence of a firm Council commitment this has not yet been implemented.

It is not until the Council's and DE's level of commitment to the shared school campus is confirmed that officers will be in a position to scope the needs of the second phase. Therefore, in the absence of a defined scope for the project, it appears premature to convene a Project Board for phase two. In the interim period, officers will continue to gather the relevant information to present to Members in relation to a site selection for the proposed scheme.

### **Information for Noting:**

Members are encouraged to note the above information in relation to:

- The progress and timelines in relation to the shared school project.
- The ongoing work in relation to site assessments for phase two.
- The necessary delays in relation to the establishment of a Project Board for phase two.

Councillor C McShane commented on the perceived negative tone of the report; that three years later, there were issues to be found with the Quay Road site. The Director of Leisure and Development stated Council had made an indicative decision on the shared campus and subject to making an investment decision was a strategic priority of Council, the Director of Leisure and Development advised he did not interpret the report in the same light as Councillor C McShane.

The SIB Projects Manager outlined in detail the DfI requirements for a right turn at Quay Road and projected costs of £700,000 to £1M; the projected high cost had necessitated looking at other sites. The SIB Projects Manager provided detailed information for Councillor C McShane on the steps taken to date.

Councillor Holmes suggested looking at models in Wales and Dublin where a similar solution was found.

Proposed by Councillor C McShane  
Seconded by Councillor Mulholland

- to recommend that Council establish a Working Group for the Ballycastle Leisure Facility, Phase 2.

The Director of Leisure and Development outlined the rationale behind an anticipated move forward with a Working Group for the Ballycastle Leisure Facility in April/May 2018, subject to an initial Council investment decision.

Following the Director's comments, Councillor C McShane withdrew her proposal, with the agreement of her seconder.

\* **Alderman Robinson left the meeting at 8.36 PM.**

### **13 CONSERVATION GRAZING BENONE DUNE LAND**

Information report circulated.

Committee was informed about a conservation management agreement at Benone Strand.

Benone Strand and dune land is located within Magilligan Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Special Conservation Area (SAC). It was

designated because it is one of the largest and most interesting sand dune habitat in Northern Ireland, and has very diverse plant and invertebrate populations.

Due to encroaching sea buckthorn, which is an invasive species, and scrub, some areas of the dunes are in unfavourable conditions, that is to say the natural plants and invertebrates that make up this special dune system are declining as the sea buckthorn and scrub are increasing.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Coast and Countryside Team have developed a project to remove the sea buckthorn and scrub from a 0.6 hectare area at Benone dune land and create an additional grazing paddock and handling pen. The creation of the new paddock will allow the introduction of further winter conservation grazing, which will reduce the regrowth of the scrub and sea buckthorn and allow the natural dune flora and fauna to flourish, bringing that area of the designation back into favourable condition.

The overall cost of the scheme is approximately £20,000, which will be funded by NIEA through their Management of Sensitive Sites (MOSS) scheme, and will include:

- Sea buckthorn and scrub removal.
- Provision of stock proof fencing.
- Installation of agricultural gates and pedestrian kissing gates.
- Livestock handling pen.
- Water trough.

Councils' financial contribution will be to meet the cost of a 3 year burn licence (£880) which will allow the burning of the removed sea buckthorn and scrub on site and is not an eligible cost within the MOSS scheme funding. The burn licence will permit Council to carry out burning activity for three years at this site.

This is part of a larger scheme within Magilligan ASSI/SAC which will see similar works being carried out on adjacent land. This aims to bring a standard approach to the management of what is a very special dune land site. It is proposed that works will begin on site in January 2018.

The Chair, Councillor Baird, enquired whether RSPB had been consulted, the Director of Leisure and Development advised he would find out and respond to Councillor Baird.

## **14 PORTRUSH REGENERATION**

Presentation delivered by The Head of Prosperity and Place.

- Portrush Public Realm Scheme

The Head of Prosperity and Place provided a progress update, the £6,000,000 project commenced in November 2018 and completion is anticipated in March 2019. FP McCann is the main contractor, the project is currently on time and within budget. Construction progress will accelerate from January 2018, NIE Utility Works will be completed by February 18.

- Revitalise Portrush Scheme

The Department for Communities is considering awarding Council £500,000 to deliver an appropriate scheme. Works will be completed by March 2019. Works will co-ordinate with the sectional completion of the public realm scheme. Final contractual details with the Department have not been concluded. Council will manage the scheme.

- Urban Development Grants - Portrush

The scheme is managed by the Department for Communities. 13 projects have been taken forward to full economic appraisal. One has been withdrawn by the applicant. Projects range in size from £200,000 to £11.3 million and will not necessarily be completed by Summer 2019.

- Train Station Update

Planning Application has been submitted and Public consultation complete. Contractor appointment will take place in March/April 2018 with construction start of Spring 2018 and Construction to finish Spring 2019.

- Portrush Car Parking

Further car parking options are currently being considered. The scope for installing Variable Message Signage at key entrances to Portrush is being considered in liaison with the Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure Roads.

The Head of Prosperity and Place advised of the next Portrush Consultation Forum to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7PM, Portrush Town Hall.

## **MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'**

Proposed by Alderman Hillis

Seconded by Councillor Mulholland and

**AGREED** – that the Committee proceed to conduct the following business ‘In Committee’.

## **15 ATLANTIC LINK ENTERPRISE CAMPUS**

The Chair welcomed the Strategic Projects Manager to the meeting and invited him to present.

The Strategic Projects Manager provided a progress update and presented via PowerPoint.

In response to a comment from Councillor C McShane the Head of Prosperity and Place agreed to circulate the Marketing brochure information.

### **MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’**

Proposed by Alderman Hillis  
Seconded by Councillor Stevenson and

**AGREED** - that the Committee proceed to conduct the following business ‘In Public’.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.37 PM.

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Chair