

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2018**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
3	Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 11 September 2018	Confirmed
4	Festive Fund Grant Awards	Recommendation to be brought to full council meeting
5	Sperrin's Future Search	Workshop to be held
6	Improvements to West Bay Green	Approve
7	Macmillan Cancer Care 'Move More' Partnership	Approve
8	Town Centre Promotion	Information
9	Coleraine BID	Information
10	Grant Funding Policy Review	Information
11	Twinning Association Funding Update	Information
12	Christmas Switch On Ceremonies	Information
13	Correspondence	None
14	Matters for Reporting to Partnership Panel	None
15	Consultations	None
16	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor	Proposed, Seconded

	McCaw, seconded by Councillor A Mulholland: <i>"This Council notes the importance of Personal Independence Payments to sustaining and maintaining the lives of many across Northern Ireland; notes with concern the many issues associated with undergoing of assessments and the stress they can bring upon individuals; is concerned at the fall in figures of those receiving the benefit and the impact this is having on their lives; notes the link that exists between the drop in support provided and the "20m rule" for the highest rate of PIP mobility support as highlighted by "PIP - A Step Too Far" published by the MS Society; and will write to the Minister for Work and Pensions to urgently review the 20m rule and engage with key stakeholders to find a more appropriate alternative"</i>	<i>and Carried</i>
17	Coleraine Harbour	<i>Information</i>
18	Any Other Relevant Business Notified in Accordance with Standing Order 12 (o)	<i>None</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON
TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2018 AT 7:00 PM**

- In the Chair:** Councillor Holmes
- Members Present:** Alderman Robinson
Councillors Baird, Callan, Deighan, Douglas,
Duddy, McCandless, Knight-McQuillan, MA
McKillop, McShane C, Mulholland A, Mulholland K
and Nicholl
- Non Committee
Members Present:** Councillors Fielding and McCaw
- Officers Present:** R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development
P Beattie, Head of Prosperity & Place
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation
W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing
P O'Brian, Funding Unit Manager
J Elliott, Town & Village Manager
E McCaul, Committee & Member Services Officer
- In Attendance:** Press (2 no)

SUBSTITUTION

Councillor Fielding substituted for Councillor Clarke for the transaction of business at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Hillis and Councillor Clarke.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were recorded as follows:

- Councillor Douglas, Item 4 – Festive Fund Grants Awards.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chair advised the Minutes of the above meeting were adopted at the 25 September 2018 Council Meeting.

* Councillor Douglas left the meeting at 7:05 pm.

4. FESTIVE FUND GRANT AWARDS

The Leisure & Development Committee received a report to seek approval from Members on the grant awards to applicants for the annual Christmas Festive Fund.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council launched the Festive Fund initiative in 2016 to offer assistance to Community & Voluntary Organisations from the smaller towns, villages and hamlets in the Borough to help celebrate Christmas. The fund is specifically designed to mark the lighting of the Christmas tree and projects must have an outdoor element which help facilitate festive celebrations within the Borough.

With the assistance of the Funding Unit and by using Council's online funding Hub, invitations for the competitive process were issued. To be eligible to apply, organisations had to be from within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, have a population of over 100 residents or have been allocated a Christmas tree from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

19 applications were received. The Funding Unit carried out the Stage 1 eligibility checks on the morning of 24 September 2018. 17 applications passed Stage 1 eligibility and were passed to assessment for scoring. The grant assessment panel met on afternoon of the 25 September 2018 to score the applications. The applications were assessed against the criteria as advertised in the guidance notes. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be recommended for funding.

No of applications received	19
No of applications ineligible for funding	2
No of unsuccessful applications (who did not achieve the 65% threshold)	0
No of successful applications	17

Ineligible Applicants	Reason
Glenariff Improvement	Indoor Christmas Dinner event for 60 senior citizens
Ballybogey Over 50's	Indoor Christmas Party for 35 Senior Citizens

It is recommended - that awards are made to the 17 successful applicants detailed in the table below:

Applicant	Event Date	Score %	Applied For	Awarded
1. Castlerock Community Association	14/12/2018	74%	£250.00	£250.00
2. Burnfoot Community Development Assoc	7/12/2018	72%	£350.00	£250.00
3. Dunloy Development Association	09/12/2018	66%	£250.00	£250.00
4. Largy Community Association	08/12/2018	70%	£250.00	£250.00
5. Heart of the Glens Festival	07/12/2018	70%	£250.00	£250.00
6. Glenullin & Agivey Conservation & Development Group	07/12/2018	86%	£250.00	£250.00
7. Gortnaghey Community Association	02/12/2018	70%	£580.00	£250.00
8. Greysteel Community Association	23/11/2018	66%	£250.00	£250.00
9. Derrykeighan & District Community Association	01/12/2018	66%	£250.00	£250.00
10. Errigal Hall Development Association	13/12/2018	76%	£240.00	£240.00
11. Cloughmills Action Team	08/12/2018	94%	£250.00	£250.00
12. Drumsurn Community Association	06/12/2017	76%	£250.00	£250.00
13. Dervock & District Community Association	12/12/2017	80%	£250.00	£250.00
14. Foreglen Community Association	05/12/2018	70%	£250.00	£250.00
15. Mosside Presbyterian Church	29/11/2017	66%	£250.00	£250.00
16. Magilligan Community Association	07/12/2018	66%	£250.00	£250.00
17. Feeny Community Association	01/12/2018	66%	£250.00	£250.00
Totals			£4,670.00	£4,240.00

Members discussed the criteria and it was pointed out that some events held by the ineligible applicants were outdoors. It was also pointed out that often events had to be moved indoors due to inclement weather.

Proposed by Councillor Deighan
Seconded by Councillor Baird

- *In the spirit of Christmas that the 2 applications deemed ineligible for funding be granted £250 and for the criteria to be reviewed as it appeared to mitigate against certain citizens of the Borough.*

The Director of Leisure and Development reminded Members that a Grant Funding Workshop would be held on 17 October 2018 and that the criteria could be reviewed at that point.

Concern was expressed that groups who did not apply for funding due to the criteria would be aggrieved if the 2 ineligible applications were approved.

The Director of Leisure and Development outlined that he would have concerns at changing the criteria at this stage. He suggested that Officers look at the 2 applications again and bring back a recommendation to the full Council Meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland K
Seconded by Councillor McShane C

- ***That Officers look again at the 2 ineligible applications and bring back a recommendation to the full Council Meeting.***

At this point Councillor Deighan withdrew his proposal, with the consent of the seconder Councillor Baird.

The Chair put the motion that *Officers look at the 2 ineligible applications again and bring back a recommendation to the full Council Meeting* to the Committee to vote, with 14 voting for, 0 against and 0 abstentions. The Chair declared the motion carried.

- * Councillor Douglas re-joined the meeting at 7:23 pm.

5. SPERRINS FUTURE SEARCH

The Leisure and Development received a report previously circulated, to provide Members with information on the Sperrin's Future Search process and seek approval for a contribution by Council for additional staffing requirements.

The Sperrin Mountains were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1968. They are the largest and least explored mountain range in Northern Ireland covering an area of 1181km² across four Council boundaries, which is broken down as follows:

- Derry City and Strabane District Council – 447km² (38%)
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – 301km² (25%)
- Mid Ulster District Council – 256km² (22%)
- Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council – 117km² (15%)

The recent reform of local government provided an opportunity for the new councils to lead discussions with stakeholders with a view to realising the potential of the Sperrins whilst protecting and enhancing the natural heritage of the region. To this end 'The Sperrins Future Search' Conference was initiated by the four councils which brought together a group of key stakeholders to make an action plan for the future of the Sperrin's AONB.

The conference took place over three days in September 2017 involving 60 participants from a wide range of stakeholder groups: community, land owners/farmers, government departments & statutory agencies, tourism, heritage & environment, outdoor recreation, business & industry, elected representatives and young people. The conference consisted of 5 sessions, Past, Present, Future, Common Ground and Action and the product was a number of 'common ground statements' and an action plan.

Full details of the Future Search process and outcomes of the conference were attached as an appendix to the report.

Five thematic groups were created to develop and deliver the action plans and each of these groups are Council led.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Environment & Heritage | - | Mid Ulster DC |
| 2. Infrastructure | - | Fermanagh & Omagh DC |
| 3. Brand & Tourism | - | Causeway Coast & Glens BC |
| 4. Community | - | Derry & Strabane DC |
| 5. Management Structures | - | Mid Ulster DC |

All groups have now met and agreed their short and long term action plans. One of the short term actions is to appoint a Project Co-ordinating Officer and 2.5 day administration support to oversee the project and carry out administration duties for the Thematic Working Groups and Management Board.

The estimated costs for the proposed posts in 2018/19 is £27,745.75 which is divided equally between the four Councils with each council contributing £6,937. The estimated costs for 2019/20 are £65,089.50 with each council contributing £16,273. A full breakdown of costs were set within Annex C of the report.

Recommendation - Members are asked to consider the following options for approval:

- a) Making a contribution of £6,937 for the 18/19 period towards the proposed staffing of Future Search.
- b) Making a contribution of £16,273 for the 19/20 period towards the proposed staffing of Future Search.

A review of the Future Search process and any further contributions will occur at 31 March 2020.

The Committee discussed the AONB and the following points were made:

- Any contribution should be proportionate to boundaries in the AONB designation (15% for CC&GBC);
- Input from Central Government into the project;
- Funding expectations after 2020;
- The AONB was not being exploited to its full potential in terms of walkways, rambling and cycle trails;
- Concern at this project had not been budgeted for.

Proposed by Councillor Duddy

Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED – that decision be deferred until after a Presentation Workshop was held to outline details beyond 2020.

The Chair put the proposal to the Committee to vote, 10 for and 4 against. The Chair declared the motion to defer for a workshop carried.

6. IMPROVEMENTS TO WEST BAY GREEN

The Leisure & Development Committee received a report, previously circulated to inform Members of the work to create a multi-purpose space for community and event use at West Bay Green. The report sought permission to progress the project through the Capital Programme Management System to Stage2 (Detailed Design and Tender)

Through the Portrush Regeneration Programme in partnership with Department for Communities (DfC), a funding opportunity has arisen to improve the amenity of West Bay Green in Portrush.

DfC has capital monies set aside specifically for the regeneration of Portrush. Whilst a number of major projects are progressing including the Environmental Improvement Scheme, the construction of a new train station and the provision of Urban Development Grants, a number of smaller projects are also being considered and progressed such as Revitalise and the enhancement of Dunluce Avenue Car Park.

A further proposal is the improvement of the amenity of West Bay Green, which is protected in the Northern Area Plan as a Major Area of Existing Open Space. This initiative does not intend to change the existing use of the site within that planning context.

Attached to the report was Annex A depicting an aerial image within West Bay Green of two 'sunken areas' of hard standing:

- Area 1 is 935 m²
- Area 2 is 214 m²

Both sunken areas of hard standing have been in place for over 40 years and whilst the usage is unknown, the presence of Area 1 has certainly inhibited the wider use of the site.

The removal of Area 1 has therefore been identified as offering greater potential to create a multipurpose open space which can be used for community activities, recreational use and has potential to create additional parking for temporary periods during major events.

In addition it would create a safer area of space as the current layout creates some health and safety concerns due to the fall in levels and the lack of boundary treatments.

The proposed works include:

- The removing of Area 1 - the hard standing, brick boundary walls and filling in the hole to create a larger level grassed area.
- The upgrade of the access paths at the entrance points off the main West Bay car park.
- The improvement of the bearing capacity and drainage where appropriate on the West Bay Green.

DfC is supportive of the proposed works to create a multi purposed area of open space for the public which has potential to create additional temporary parking during The Open and other major events.

DfC has indicated that the proposed works would be eligible for 100% grant funding (estimated at £117,000) subject to Economic Appraisal.

A letter of offer will be issued to Council when DfC has finalised its Economic Appraisal.

Due to the engineering works required to create a multi-purpose area of open space, planning permission is required. As such Council is in the early stages of preparing a planning application which will be subject to public consultation.

Whilst public consultation is part of the planning approval process, subject to Council agreement of this report, the proposal will also be shared with the public through the Portrush Consultation Forum and specific 148th Open engagement events.

It is recommended - that Members consider the above and approve progression of this project to Stage 2 of the Capital Programme Management System (Detailed Design and Tender).

Proposed by Councillor Baird
Seconded by Councillor McCandless and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve progression of this project to Stage 2 of the Capital Programme Management System (Detailed Design and Tender).

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote, with 13 voting for, 0 against and 0 abstentions. The Chair declared the motion carried.

7. “MOVE MORE” MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT / PARTNERSHIP

The Leisure & Development Committee received a presentation and report previously circulated to request Members permission to submit a Partnership application to Macmillan Cancer Support for a Macmillan Move More Co-ordinator.

Since 2015 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council has continued a number of key partnerships first initiated in the legacy councils of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle. These partnerships with the Northern & Western Health & Social Care Trusts, Public Health Agency and Sport NI are designed to encourage and support residents

to participate in physical activity as a recognised means of improving the health and wellbeing of the individual in both physical and mental wellness.

Partnership agreements focus primarily on funding from Council's partners towards staff costs, training programmes and project delivery costs. In turn Council provides employee and facility resources to facilitate the delivery of a range of projects designed to meet the specific needs of the individuals and also monitor and provide statistical data for the partner organisation to help validate the benefits of the programmes.

The report set out facts about cancer and statistical data on those diagnosed, treated and dying from the disease. It was noted that over 40% of all cancers in the UK were linked to lifestyle factors, including tobacco, alcohol, diet, being overweight and inactivity.

In spite of the wide range of benefits associated with physical activity, 77% of people living with and beyond cancer are not active enough to realise these benefits. This is equivalent to 48,510 of the 63,000 people currently living with and beyond cancer in Northern Ireland.

At the end of 2014, around 4,501 people in Causeway Coast & Glens were living with cancer and it is estimated that this could rise to 7,500 by 2030. During the period 2010-2014, there were an average of 560 new cancer diagnosis in the council area for every 100,000 people per year.

As a cancer charity, Macmillan Cancer Support are committed to helping everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can. To that end the charity has established **Move More Northern Ireland** as a physical activity service for people living with cancer.

This service has been established on the back of a recent and growing body of evidence which shows that an active lifestyle can:

- Reduce the consequences of cancer treatment;
- Prevent the occurrence of co-morbidities;
- Decrease the likelihood of cancer progressing or returning; and,
- Reduce cancer-related mortality.

While developing proposals for Move More Northern Ireland, Macmillan consulted with district councils, health & social care trusts, and a range of other key stakeholders – the process led to the decision to establish 11 Move More projects, i.e. one in each council area of NI. In each of those projects, the relevant district council is involved as a key partner and Macmillan have provided funding for the council to recruit & deploy a

Move More Coordinator to lead on the development and delivery of the project (circa £120k over 3 years).

During the first 3 years of the proposed project, the associated outputs will be effectively monitored and evaluated to provide an in-depth insight into the impact achieved.

Additionally, an evaluation will be commissioned to provide a comprehensive analysis of project impact, to identify recommendations for continuous improvement, and to provide an evidence base that will support the long terms development and sustainability of the project. As the project lead, Council's Officers will seek to;

- a) Support the financial sustainability of the project after the initial 3 year period, and
- b) Ensure that the project is effectively monitored and evaluated over the first 3 years, and that regular reports are submitted to relevant key stakeholders with a view of securing their support to sustain the service, including:
 - Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council;
 - Sport Northern Ireland;
 - Western Health & Social Care Trust;
 - Northern Health & Social Care Trust;
 - Public Health Agency; and,
 - Local Commissioning Groups.

Recommendation - Council is asked to approve the submission of a Macmillan Partnership Application to enable Council to appoint a Move More Coordinator to support the implementation of the Macmillan Physical Activity Behaviour Change Care Pathway across the Borough of Causeway Coast & Glens.

Proposed by Councillor Duddy
Seconded by Councillor Mulholland K and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the submission of a Macmillan Partnership Application to enable Council to appoint a Move More Coordinator to support the implementation of the Macmillan Physical Activity Behaviour Change Care Pathway across the Borough of Causeway Coast & Glens.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote, which was carried unanimously.

8. TOWN CENTRE PROMOTION – BOROUGH GIFT CARD PROJECT

The Leisure & Development Committee considered an Information Report previously circulated to inform Council of the introduction of a bespoke gift card programme to encourage the Shop Local message throughout the Borough and promote towns to both the local population and visitors to the Borough.

A Gift Card Programme enables the creation of a place-centred gift card using existing Mastercard infrastructure. It is a new and simple way for local people to buy a gift for friends, family and colleagues. The recipients of the cards can choose to spend their cards at registered local businesses including restaurants, cafes, shops, salons, attractions and venues. As the Programme uses the existing Mastercard network, any business that accepts card payments and registers to be part of the Programme can participate. This makes it highly efficient to operate.

A town gift card is used in many large towns and cities across the UK, with Enniskillen BID recently introducing the Enniskillen Town Gift Card in November 2017, the first for Northern Ireland.

Town & Village Management would like to introduce a Borough wide gift card programme – the **‘Causeway Card’ / ‘Your Shop Local’ / ‘Love Your Town’ (TBC)**, which would be redeemable across the Borough, not just in one specific town, and is designed to help retain spend within the Borough.

This initiative would promote the ‘Shop Local’ ideology and encourage independent businesses and the town centres to thrive. It would be intended to offer local businesses and local market traders training in the benefits of digital payments through the Town & Village Retail Development Programme.

The report set out the benefits for Council, local businesses and customers.

The costs to Council for first year would be £22,078 to cover one off set up fee, annual licences, transaction costs and marketing.

A marketing plan will be developed to ensure that the right messages are promoted to the right audience through the relevant channels. Ongoing marketing, particularly during the first year of operation is important to raise its profile.

In the discussion that following, point made included:

- The initiative was to be welcomed;
- The gift card could depict local areas;
- Queried the cost to Council after first initial year of introduction;
- The card was £1 for £1 in value terms;
- Great idea to keep money within the Borough;

- Regular feedback should be given to the Committee on the initiative.

The Town and Village Manager **AGREED** to report back to the Committee on monetary impact on towns/traders and how Council would break even on costs over a 3 year period.

The Information Report was **NOTED**.

- * Councillor Mulholland K left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

9. COLERAINE BID

The Committee received an Information Report previously circulated to inform Members on the progress of the Coleraine BID project and to advise of the next steps.

Coleraine Town Team (CTT) will continue to progress with the Business Improvement District (BID) for Coleraine Town Centre itemised as part of the Town Centre Management function, within the Leisure and Development Directorate.

The campaign phase of the Coleraine BID closed at 5 pm on Thursday 13 September and the declaration of the Vote was announced by the Chief Executive on Friday 14 September at Coleraine Town Hall.

Ballot results released by the independent scrutineer, Electoral Reform Services, revealed that 81% of all those who voted were in favour of the BID progressing. For the BID to be successful, a second trigger 'majority by rateable value' was also required and this was achieved with 90% of those who voted.

The result shows that the Coleraine Town Centre business community has voted in favour of the introduction of the BID. It was anticipated that the BID will commence from October 2018 for a five year term and will be financed through a BID levy, the proceeds of which will be invested into the town centre and on additional projects that businesses have identified as set out in the Business Plan. Over the five years of the BID over £1.2m will be generated to spend in the BID area.

Following the successful YES vote, the BID project team will oversee the transition to a fully functional BID Company which will be set up as a Company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a board of directors.

There were 11 hereditaments within the BID area allocated to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council which are: 5 car parks, Coleraine Leisure Centre, bowling green, Tennis Courts/Rose Gardens, Park St Toilet Block, Market Yard and Coleraine Town Hall. As per previous reports, these properties are liable for the BID levy which, based on the 2% rate, will equate to £7294 p.a. As a levy payer Council will be required to become a Coleraine BID member. It is envisaged at this stage that the Town & Village Manager will continue to represent Council on the Coleraine BID project group during the first year of operation.

Next steps:

- Communication will be sent to all Coleraine BID levy payers outlining the result and the next steps.
- All BID levy payers will be invited to become a registered member of the Coleraine BID.
- The BID Project Team will oversee the transition to a fully functional BID company including the setup of the board of directors. This normally takes between 3-6months to set up [legislation dictates no more than 12months]. In line with UK BID best practice, two directors will be appointed to oversee the legislative requirements of the company set up, with a full board being in place within the 12month requirement. Board membership will be subject to best practice voting procedures.
- A Service Level Agreement will be set up between Coleraine BID and Council to conduct the billing and collection process of the BID Levy. [Work has already commenced with bills scheduled to be issued November 2018]
- Creation of the 1 year Action Plan based on the three themes within the Business Plan.

Town and Village Management is also investigating options for further BIDs within the Borough area.

The Information Report was **NOTED**.

- * Councillor Mulholland K re-joined the meeting at 8:40 pm.

10. GRANT FUNDING POLICY ANNUAL REVIEW

The Leisure & Development Committee received an Information Report previously circulated to inform Members that Council's Grand Funding Policy had been reviewed and no changes were being recommended for the incoming year.

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 and in November 2017.

A copy of the Policy was attached to the report sets out the framework for processing 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.

The full grant programme with criteria for application and assessment will be discussed at the Annual Review of Grant Programmes Workshop for Elected Members on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

The Information Report was **NOTED**.

11. TWINNING ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Leisure & Development Committee considered a report to update Members on the implementation of funding arrangements to the 4 legacy Twinning Associations for the 2018-19 period.

Following the establishment of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in 2015, Council agreed to transfer legacy twinning arrangements and contributions in 2016/17 and subsequently in 2017/18. Council also set up a Twinning Association Sub-Committee consisting of 5 Elected Members nominated by d'Hondt to progress a review of legacy twinning arrangements.

In April 2018 Council considered a report from the Twinning Sub-Committee and considered options for future arrangements. Council agreed Option 3, to continue to provide funding to the 4 legacy Twinning Associations with the funding to be administered through Council's Funding Unit on a project by project basis. The maximum grant to any one twinning Association within a financial year shall not exceed £5,000.

Corporate Services are administering the process for the 2018-19 period. Specific criteria and an application process have been put in place to administer the fund for this financial year. This is step one in the process of transitioning the fund into a full grant-award programme for the 2019-2020 period. It allows the legacy arrangements to be phased out and facilitates a period of adjustment for the applicants.

Council's Funding Unit has developed a full grant programme with criteria for application and assessment which will be discussed at the Annual Review of Grant Programmes Workshop for Elected Members to be held on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 7.00 pm in Cloonavin. The new Twinning Association Grant Programme will be presented to Council in November 2018 for approval along with all grant programmes for the incoming year.

The Information Report was **NOTED**.

12. COUNCIL LED CHRISTMAS SWITCH-ON CEREMONIES FOR 2018

The Leisure & Development received a report previously circulated to present proposals for the delivery of pre-Christmas activities by Council's Tourism and Recreation Events team.

In September 2017, an Elected Members' Workshop considered the Event Team remit in the delivery of the 'Christmas Switch-On' events. At

this workshop financial constraints and resources were considered in relation to the geographic extent of the Council area. An approach for 2017 and subsequent years was agreed and approval for this taken to the October 2017 Leisure and Development Committee meeting. The approach was to deliver nine 'Switch-On Events' in the towns and villages across the Borough and promote and administer the Christmas Festive Fund Grant for settlements not captured in the nine towns and villages.

The capacity for the Tourism and Recreation Event team to deliver on the 'Christmas Switch-On' events is constrained by the requirement to balance planning for the 2019 event season with the need to maintain appropriate Time in Lieu an Annual Leave balances of Events staff. For this reason Council Officers have sought quotations from a number of event management companies to assist the Events Team in the planning and delivery of the 'Switch On' events. A number of companies with event management expertise were approached but unfortunately no submissions were received by the deadline for return. The implication of this is that the Events Team will need to deliver the Christmas schedule without any external assistance.

The following outlines the key components for the nine towns and villages:

- **Ballymoney – Thursday 15 November 2018**
Entertainment begins at 6pm with DJ introducing the event and the upcoming activities – to include local school choir performances, local singers, face painters/balloon artist and seasonal characters mingling with the crowd. Band usually begins at 7pm. Santa and Mayor arrive by 7.15pm followed by Mayor's speech prior to the switch on. After the countdown at approx. 7.30pm children queue to see Santa in his grotto and under 11's receive a selection box. Band provides further entertainment until 8.45pm when event ends.
- **Limavady – Saturday 17 November 2018**
Entertainment begins with DJ introducing the event and the upcoming activities – to include local school choir performance, local drama group singing and seasonal characters mingling with the crowd. 5pm Santa and Mayor arrive by dray cart prior to the switch on. This will be followed by children queuing to see Santa, under 11's receive a selection box. Band provides further entertainment until 6pm when event ends.
- **Coleraine – Friday 23 November 2018**
Entertainment begins at 6pm with DJ introducing the event and the upcoming activities – to include local school choir performance and seasonal characters mingling with the crowd. 6.35pm the parade

leaves Coleraine Leisure Centre and arrives at the Town Hall, with Santa and the Mayor arriving by dray at 6.50pm prior to the switch on at approx. 7pm. This is followed by children seeing Santa in his grotto, under 11's receive a selection box. Band provides further entertainment until 8.30pm when event ends.

- **Dungiven – Saturday 24 November 2018**
Entertainment begins at 4pm with DJ introducing the event and the upcoming activities – to include local school choir performance and possibly local harp school with seasonal characters mingling with the crowd. 4.55pm Santa and Mayor arrive by dray cart prior to the switch on at approx. 5pm. This is followed by children queueing to see Santa in his grotto, under 11's receive a selection box. DJ provides further entertainment until 6pm when event ends.
- **Portstewart – Saturday 24 November 2018**
The event commences at 4pm with a DJ to warm up the crowd followed by local school choir, the arrival of Santa and the Mayor at 4.45pm, Santa's interview, the Mayor's speech, countdown and finally switch on at 5pm followed by queue to see Santa in his grotto and under 11's receiving a selection box until around 5.45pm.
- **Ballycastle – Thursday 29 November 2018**
Entertainment begins at 6.30pm with DJ introducing the event and the upcoming activities – to include local school choir performance and seasonal characters mingling with the crowd. Simultaneously Community Carol Service & Readings inside the Parish Centre – muted music outside. 7.10pm Santa and Mayor arrive by horse drawn carriage with Mayor's speech and countdown. Thereafter at 7.15pm Switch-On followed by queue to see Santa in his grotto and under 11's receiving a selection box accompanied by further stage entertainment until event end at 8pm.
- **Portrush – Friday 30 November 2018**
This event commences at 6pm with the DJ warming up the crowd followed by local school choir and local theatre group, the arrival of Santa and the Mayor at 7.20pm. Then Santa's interview, the Mayor's speech, countdown and finally switch on at 7.30pm followed by queue to see Santa in his grotto and under 11's receive a selection box until around 8.30pm.
- **Kilrea – Saturday 1 December 2018**
The event commences at 4.00pm with a DJ to warm up the crowd followed by local school choirs, the arrival of Santa and the Mayor at 4.50pm, Santa's interview, the Mayor's speech, countdown and finally switch on at 5pm followed by queue to see Santa in his grotto and under 11's receive a selection box (queue closes at 6pm).

- **Garvagh - Monday 3 December 2018**

The event commences at 6.30pm with a DJ to warm up the crowd followed by local school choirs, the arrival of Santa and the Mayor at 7.15pm, Santa's interview, the Mayor's speech, countdown and finally switch on at 7.30pm followed by queue to see Santa in his grotto and under 11's receive a selection box.

An Elected Members workshop was scheduled for 10 October and at this the Christmas Switch-on events and Christmas Festive Fund Grant would be given consideration along with other operational aspects of the Council's event remit.

The Information Report was **NOTED**.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

14. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to Partnership Panel.

15. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations listed.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR McCaw, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR A MULHOLLAND

Councillor McCaw proposed:

"This Council notes the importance of Personal Independence Payments to sustaining and maintaining the lives of many across Northern Ireland; notes with concern the many issues associated with undergoing of assessments and the stress they can bring upon individuals; is concerned at the fall in figures of those receiving the benefit and the impact this is having on their lives; notes the link that exists between the drop in support provided and the "20m rule" for the highest rate of PIP mobility support as highlighted by "PIP - A Step Too Far" published by the MS Society; and will write to the Minister for Work and Pensions to urgently review the 20m rule and engage with key stakeholders to find a more appropriate alternative"

Speaking in support of the motion, he read a pre-prepared statement as follows:

“Thank you very much Chair and colleagues, it is a privilege to be presenting my first motion to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council this evening. An issue very close to my heart is the protection of vulnerable citizens and the promotion of their rights. The motion before you this evening has that issue at its very heart. It is part of a campaign by the MS Society campaign to against the 20 metre rule.

I am sure everyone is familiar to some degree with Multiple Sclerosis. It affects over 100,000 people in the UK and around 4,500 in Northern Ireland, but these figures increase when we include family members and friends. The reason I have chosen to bring this as my first motion to this council is because this condition affects people close to me, and indeed close to many people across our Borough.

Since Personal Independence Payments were introduced to replace DLA, we have seen the uphill struggle facing those with MS and other mobility related conditions get steeper and steeper, with many beginning to roll backwards. A key component of this has been the decrease in walking distance to qualify for the higher rate mobility component. Before, the distance required was no more than 50m, which is from a front door to a bus stop if you're lucky. 20m is little more than the length of this chamber.

Since the change:

- One in three people have had their support downgraded*
- The number of people getting higher rate mobility has dropped from 94% to 66%*
- 47% of people who have been reassessed have gone from high rate mobility to standard, 12% have moved from low rate to no mobility support and 20% have lost their PIP award altogether.*
- Nearly 60% have said that the change has had a direct effect on their physical health. These include friends and loved ones in Causeway Coast and Glens.*

The PIP “A Step Too Far” Report has horrified me and my party, who have introduced this motion on several other councils, where it has passed with strong support. The people affected by this issue are living with a condition they did not want, which is chronic and will not go away, and yet the Government has made changes that are making their lives worse and not better.

Chair, colleagues, all of us here tonight disagree on many issues, but I think that what unites us is our desire for the people of Causeway Coast and Glens to live the best lives possible, a desire to make sure they have

an excellent standard of living and that our most vulnerable fellow citizens are fully supported. It is clear to me, that the current setup of PIP is riddled with issues that are exacerbating problems and not helping them.”

In seconding the motion, Councillor A Mulholland stated that the PIP needed to be change and 20m rule scrapped. She said that since its introduction 5 years previously, more than 50% of people had been turned down for benefits and that advice services had been overwhelmed by people on PIP. She added that this added to peoples stress as half the claimants suffered with mental health problems.

In summing up, Councillor McCaw requested that a letter be forwarded to the relevant Minister requesting that steps be taken to support those with MS.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote, with 15 voting for, 0 against and 0 abstention. The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED** unanimously.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland K
Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED – that Committee conduct the remainder of the business ‘In Committee’.

* Press left the meeting at 9:05 pm.

17. COLERAINE HARBOUR

The Leisure & Development received a confidential report, previously circulated, to update Members on progress with the potential Coleraine Harbour Regeneration.

The report set out background information from June 2015 until the last update given in March 2018, which updated Members in terms of work commencing on commercial and legal review of the Harbour. The legal review and commercial review have now been completed and were attached to the report for Members information.

The Harbour Commissioners have been asked to consider the information that has been presented and to decide if they will move forward with regeneration of the Harbour in partnership with Council.

While Council has appropriate vires to proceed, Department for the Communities still retains primary powers for regeneration and will be consulted about joining any regeneration partnership with Council and the Harbour Commissioners.

Members to be updated on the decision of the Harbour Commissioners in relation to moving forward with a regeneration partnership and a draft Memorandum of Understanding will be brought forward for Members approval as may be appropriate.

- * Alderman Robinson and Councillor Fielding left the meeting at 9:20 pm.

The confidential information report was **NOTED**.

Councillors Deighan left the meeting at 9:40 pm.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC

Proposed by Councillor Callan

Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED – that the Committee conduct the remainder of the business 'In Public'.

- * Councillor McShane C left the meeting at 9:41 pm.

18. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9:42 pm.

Chair