

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 8 JANUARY 2019**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
3	Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 11 December 2018	Confirmed
4	Major Capital Grant Fund Programme	Approve
5	Minor Capital Grant Fund Programme	Information
6	Public Rights of Way	Information
7	Ballycastle Shared Campus - Funding	Verbal Update on funding award
8	Correspondence	None
9	Matters for Reporting to the Partnership Panel	None
10	Consultations	None
11	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor McGurk, Seconded by Councillor C McShane regarding 'On the Ball' campaign.	Carried
	IN COMMITTEE	
12	West Bay Project Tender Report	Approve

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON
TUESDAY 8 JANUARY 2019 AT 7:00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Holmes

Members Present: Alderman Hillis, Robinson
Councillors Baird, Callan, Clarke, Deighan,
Douglas, McCandless, Knight-McQuillan, MA
McKillop, S McKillop (substitution), C McShane, A
Mulholland, K Mulholland, and Nicholl

**Non Committee
Members Present:** Councillor McGurk
Councillor P McShane

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development
J Gray, Projects Director, SIB
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation
E McCaul, Committee & Member Services
Officer

Press (1 no)

SUBSTITUTION

Councillor S McKillop substituted for Councillor Duddy for the transaction of business at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2018

The Chair advised the Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday 11 December 2018 were adopted at 18 December 2018 Council meeting and were confirmed a correct record.

4. MAJOR CAPITAL GRANT FUND PROGRAMME

The Leisure and Development Committee received a report to consider and recommended grant decisions for the Major Capital Grant Programme for 2018-19.

In November 2017 Council agreed that both a Large Capital Grant Programme and a Minor Capital Grant programme would operate in 2018-19 with a combined budget of £750k. No Budget breakdown between the two programmes was agreed.

The Major Capital Grant Fund is available to local sports and community organisations who wish to request support towards the development of new, or the enhancement of existing facilities to meet unmet need. It seeks to support external infrastructure projects that are aligned to Council's aims and objectives and that require additional capital funding to achieve completion.

As with the process agreed for the 2017–18 round, the Major Capital Grant programme was launched with two stages:

Stage 1: Pre-application discussions and submission of an Expression of Interest (submission deadline was 14 March 2018).

Stage 2: Submission of Outline Business Case from successful Expressions of Interest (Deadline for submission was notified as 27 July 2018).

A positive decision on eligibility and invitation to submit a Business Case is not a guarantee of an award of a grant.

Maximum award values and percentage grants available are as follows:

Scale of Project	Max Award%	Max Award Value
£30,000 - £100,000	80%	£80,000
£100,001 - £200,000	60%	£120,000
£200,001 - over	50%	£500,000

The potential total grant request for all the eligible schemes is detailed in the table below:

Applicant	Amount requested
Corrymeela Community	£148,500
Coleraine FC	£200,000
Derry GAA	£189,700
Glens Youth Club	£435,000

Limavady Community Development Initiative	£120,000
St Canices GAC	£196,000
Total Amount Requested by Eligible Schemes	£1,289,200

In September 2018 Council approved that the above 6 applicants move forward to stage 2 of the application process, submission of Outline Business Case (OBC) and reject 3 ineligible applications. The submission date for the business cases is **Friday 18 January 2019 @ 12 noon**.

On 20 November 2018 Glens Youth Club notified Council of their intention to withdraw their application from stage 2 due to changes within their committee. Glens Youth Club thanked Council for their help and guidance to date.

One of the rejected applicants, Eoghan Rua GAC, appealed their eligibility rejection.

The appeal panel met in December 18 and decided that Eoghan Rua GAC appeal should be upheld and the application should move to full assessment of the Outline Business Case in stage 2.

Applicant	Notes	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Eoghan Rua GAC	The panel found the application provided enough evidence to satisfy the eligible criteria at stage one, for strategic fit and adding value to the existing provision.	£244,950.00	Status changed from rejected to eligible for stage 2 assessment

With Glens Youth Club withdrawal (-£435,000) and Eoghan Rua progressing to stage 2 (+£244,950), the amount requested by applicants has reduced by £190k but is still over the 18/19 Capital Grants budget allocation.

It is recommended that Members approve progression of the Major Capital Grant application for Eoghan Rua to stage 2 assessment for the following;

Applicant	Project Value	Amount Requested	Project Description
Eoghan Rua GAC	£489,900,00	£244,950	Floodlit sand mattress pitch

On approval Eoghan Rua will join the other successful applicants as approved in September 2018 listed below for stage 2 assessment:

- Corrymeela Community
- Coleraine FC
- Derry GAA
- Limavady Community Development Initiative
- St Canices GAC

It was highlighted that 3 new officers had been assigned to the appeal panel and that the panel had found that there was an error in the logic to say that the application did not meet the criteria at all, as it does meet the criteria to some degree.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl

Seconded by Councillor Mulholland

- to recommend that Council approve progression of the Major Capital Grant application for Eoghan Rua to stage 2 assessment for the following;

Applicant	Project Value	Amount Requested	Project Description
Eoghan Rua GAC	£489,900,00	£244,950	Floodlit sand mattress pitch

Councillor Clarke requested that it be put on record that it was concerning and deeply worrying that the panel had got the assessment wrong in the first instance and queried if the panel had reviewed other applications.

It was confirmed that this was the only application challenged.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote, 9 Members voted for and 5 Members abstained from the vote. The Chair declared the motion to approve carried.

5. MINOR CAPITAL GRANT FUND PROGRAMME

The Committee received an information report to provide Member with information regarding the Minor Capital Grant Programme 2018-19.

In November 2017 Council agreed that both a Large Capital Grant Programme and a Minor Capital Grant programme would operate in 2018-19 with a combined budget of £750k. No Budget breakdown between the two programmes was agreed.

The Minor Capital Grant Fund offers support to the Community and Voluntary Sector within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area to develop and improve the Infrastructure of community premises. Financial assistance of between £5,000 and £30,000 is available to make small scale improvements to existing community owned premises. The project aims to assist organisations providing facilities for community use to become self-sustaining and offer enhanced community services.

The Minor Capital Grant programme was managed via a one stage process with applicants submitting a short business case using a template supplied by Council. The closing date for completed business cases was 30 March 2018. Awards are available for the Minor Capital Grant programme of between £5,000 and £30,000 (excluding VAT) at a maximum of 75% of eligible project costs.

6 business cases were received in advance of the 30 March 2018 closing date for the Minor Capital Grant Programme.

In September 2018 Council approved to issue Letters of Offer to 4 applicants to a total of £60,020.17 and reject 2 ineligible applicants.

One of the rejected applicants Glor Leim an Mhadaidh appealed their eligibility rejection listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Applicant	Eligible	Criteria Failed	Notes
Glor Leim an Mhadaidh	No	5	This project does not satisfy the definition of capital project as defined for the purpose of this minor Capital Grants programme. This is a small element of a much larger capital project and is therefore ineligible

The appeal panel met in October 18 and decided that Glor Leim an Mhadaidh appeal should be upheld and the application should move to full assessment of the Outline Business Case (OBC).

The original Business Case was assessed against the criteria. The scores, assessment notes and recommendations are listed in Table 2 below. The Programme quality threshold is 65% to receive an award.

Table 2

Applicant	Score	Notes	Recommendation
Glor Leim an Mhadaidh	57%	The application failed to meet the funding threshold based on information supplied through their original business case.	Status remains at rejected, no further action required.

The assessment process has now been completed without any further appeal, therefore the application is confirmed as rejected with no further action required.

The Information Report was **NOTED**.

6. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The Leisure and Development Committee received an Information Report to provide Members with an understanding of the definition of a public right of way, the investigation/assertion process and the duties and powers placed upon Council with respect to the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983.

The Report detailed that public rights of way are public highways that are legally protected in the same way as roads. In addition a public right of way:

- Is a highway which any member of the public may use as a right, not a privilege granted by the landowner.
- May be created specifically or through 'deemed dedication' (by the public openly using a path for a period of time, in some circumstances, for as little as a few years) with the knowledge of the landowner.
- May be limited to certain users, for example walkers only, or walkers and horse riders.
- Is a permanent legal entity and remains in existence unless and until the path is extinguished or diverted by due legal process.
- Must be respected by the occupier and landowner who should do nothing to obstruct the right of way, or prevent or intimidate anyone from exercising their rights of passage.

The maxim is: once a highway, always a highway. A public right of way does not include a road or any other way which is maintained by a government department.

There are three types of public rights of way. The routes may be marked with signposts.

- Footpath – open to walkers only.
- Bridleway – open to walkers and horse riders.
- Carriageway – open to walkers, cyclists, horse riders, horse-drawn vehicles and motor vehicles.

Each council has a specific duty to assert, protect and keep open any public right of way and to make and preserve maps and other records of the rights of way in its area. The Council must enforce the public's common law rights of passage and investigate and record where those rights exist.

The duty to assert public rights of way is one of the Council's most important duties. It is the basis on which the Council can set up, and make known to farmers and landowners and the public, what public rights of way exist, where they run and how they can be used legally.

In addition, the Council will often need to assert a path as a public right of way before it can take action to protect the path, or to allow the route to be signposted, improved and promoted. This is necessary both to decide the precise line and status of the path, and to make sure that the council is acting correctly and within the powers that are available to it.

Under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 Councils have a duty to:

- Assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction any public right of way.
- Make and preserve maps of the rights of way in its area.
- Signpost paths, where necessary, to help anyone who does not know the area.
- Contribute at least a quarter of the cost of maintaining stiles and gates.

Councils have a right to:

- Maintain any public right of way.
- Set up new rights of way by agreement.
- Make orders to divert, extinguish or create paths, and confirm unopposed orders.
- Make and confirm orders temporarily to divert or close any public right of way.
- Allow the erection of new stiles and gates.
- Take legal proceedings.

- In some circumstances, act in default of the landowner and recover its costs.

At present Council is following the assertion/investigation process as advised in guidance issued by Northern Ireland Environment Agency. This process was summarised in the flow chart previously circulated which sets out the various stages of consultation, evidence gathering, negotiation and consideration required in this complex legal procedure.

Officers are preparing a Draft Policy on the Status Investigation of Public Rights of Way which will be brought before members for consideration and approval in due course. This policy will set the direction for Council's approach for dealing with what can be complex and often controversial issues regarding public rights of way.

At present there are currently fourteen public rights of way cases being considered by Council.

In response to queries from Members, the following was advised:

- Details of the Giants Causeway right of way would be presented to Council probably in March 2019.
- Urgent pieces of work would be prioritised to get these completed quickly.
- The right of way through Portrush to hockey pitch was with Council's Barrister.
- A list of all fourteen public right of way cases would be forwarded to Members.
- There were no current cases of extinguishing any right of way.
- Blackburn Path was not one of the fourteen cases

Councillor Callan requested clarification on Blackburn path being a public right of way.

The Information Report was **NOTED**.

7. VERBAL UPDATE – BALLYCASTLE SHARED CAMPUS

The Director of Leisure and Development informed Members that following Council's application for funding to the Peace IV Shared Spaces Programme, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) issued a press release on Monday 7 January 2019 confirming that the Ballycastle Shared Education Campus has been awarded €3.1 million for the community sports hub element. He said the project would create an enlarged sports hall; upgrade a grass soccer pitch to a 3G synthetic

surface, with floodlighting; install floodlighting to both GAA and hockey synthetic pitches and enhance the changing pavilion to accommodate the use of the facilities by local clubs and organisations.

The funding was welcomed by Councillors Baird, Mulholland and C McShane and officers were commending in bringing the funding to Ballycastle and the Borough.

Councillor C McShane pointed out that this was great for the ratepayers and schools who would benefit from the funding. She said that it was hoped that officers would continue with stage two application for funding for a swimming pool.

It was noted that the integrated school system in Ballycastle was leading the way in Education.

The verbal update was **NOTED**.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

None.

10. CONSULTATIONS

None.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR K McGURK, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR C McSHANE

Councillor McGurk proposed:

'That this Council supports the "On the Ball" campaign, the aim of which is to provide free sanitary products in as many sporting grounds and public buildings as possible to combat the ever growing issue of period poverty. As an initial step, that this council

looks at the feasibility of its introduction at Cloonavin, the council offices across Causeway Coast and Glens council area and all council owned sport and leisure facilities.

We should strive, as a council area, to proactively help efforts to tackle period poverty and be part of bringing about such positive change. It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision.

We ask that council writes to the Education Authority, the Northern Trust and the Western Trust to ask that they consider providing free sanitary items in schools and hospitals’.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor McGurk read the following statement:

‘Period poverty is a worldwide phenomenon. Harrowing cases of poor menstrual hygiene are commonplace: India, Kenya and Cambodia have battled for years to prevent girls from dropping out of school in communities where mattress stuffing and leaves are often used for menstrual management. However, in 2019 in a developed country such as ours, period poverty should not be an issue facing our young girls and women, but unfortunately it is a problem that is becoming increasingly prevalent in our society.

With the average cost of sanitary products over a lifetime approximately £4800, this financial burden on our women to maintain basic hygiene during their monthly menstruation is too much for many to bear. Many women and girls may struggle to access sanitary products at points in their life due to a variety of reasons.

Recent studies in Britain & Ireland have highlighted the extent of the issue;

- *1 in 10 young women unable to afford sanitary products*
- *12% of young women have had to improvise with socks, newspaper & toilet roll because of a lack of proper sanitary products*
- *1 in 7 women have had to borrow sanitary products*
- *61% of Irish girls have missed school due to their period*

Some of the circumstances which can make accessing sanitary products difficult include;

- *Homelessness*
- *Domestic violence/Coercive relationships*
- *Low household income and*
- *Health conditions which can impact menstrual flow*

The choice between feeding your children or keeping yourself clean and healthy during your monthly period is a choice that no woman should face. I believe that access to sanitary products is a basic human right for all women. The lack of access to sanitary products can have far reaching affects beyond their physical health. It can affect a women’s mental

health by isolating, impacting confidence, feeling shame which in turn can cause anxiety and depression. It can also affect women's opportunities in both educational and employment spheres, through missed school or work days, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Menstruation is a natural bodily function of women and young girls but is still a taboo subject in today's world. The stigma and shame that shrouds menstruation means women are left to improvise alone every month, often without the knowledge of family members or friends. As we live in a world where periods are euphemised and belittled, and blue liquid is preferable to actual blood on TV adverts for sanitary towels, it's no surprise that they cannot and do not ask for help.

Therefore I think it is imperative that basic hygiene items such as sanitary products should be free to all women that need them. Women should not have to choose between sanitary products or other basic needs. I want to congratulate the campaign groups such as "On the Ball", and "Free Period" who have been working tirelessly on this issue over the past few years and I urge this council to support this motion to lead the way in tackling period poverty in our society. This motion will allow women who visit our council buildings to access sanitary products should they require them without the embarrassment or stigma of having to request items or improvise without.

The notice of motion was seconded by Councillor C McShane who advised that Derry and Strabane District Council offered sanitary products for free.

The notice of motion was welcomed by Members of SDLP and UU.

On being put to a vote, the notice of motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

MOTION TO PROCEED IN COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor Baird and

AGREED - that the committee conduct the remainder of the business 'In Committee'.

* Press left the meeting at 7:32 pm.

12. WEST BAY PROJECT TENDER REPORT

The Committee received a confidential report to request permission to progress the project to Stage 3 of the Capital Programme Management System (appointment of a contractor and construction of the works).

The Director of Leisure provided background information and reminded Members that in October 2018, proposals to make improvements at West Bay Green to create a multi-purpose space for community and event use had been presented to Members. He said that there was currently 2 sunken areas which had been in place for over 40 years.

The proposed works include

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

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 as they are supportive of the proposed works to create a multi purposed area of open space.

DfC have now completed the Economic Appraisal and a Letter of Offer has been received for the full tendered sum of the works (plus 5% contingency if required).

Due to the engineering works required to create a multi-purpose area of open space, planning permission is required. As such Council has submitted a planning application. Officers anticipate that the planning application will be scheduled at the February Planning Committee.

A Two Stage Tender Process was conducted consisting of Stage 1 Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) and Stage 2 Invitation to Tender (ITT). 24 companies expressed an interest in the project which was advertised in the Belfast Telegraph, Chronicle & Times.

Of the 24, 5 companies returned a PQQ Pack for assessment. Following assessment of the submissions, 4 companies progressed to Stage 2 (ITT).

Following a tender evaluation process the most economically advantageous tenderer has been identified as follows:

- CivCo Limited in the tendered sum of £117, 770.60 (excl. VAT).

It is recommended that Members consider the above and approve progression of this project to Stage 3 of the Capital Programme Management System and appoint CivCo Ltd to carry out the work, in the tendered sum of £117,770.60 (excl. VAT).

Works commencing will be subject to receiving planning approval.

At this point Members of the Planning Committee left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor S McKillop

Seconded by Alderman Hillis

- to recommend that Council consider the above and approve progression of this project to Stage 3 of the Capital Programme Management System and appoint CivCo Ltd to carry out the work, in the tendered sum of £117,770.60 (excl. VAT).

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

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor A Mulholland

Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

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

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7:40 pm.

Chair