

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2020**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>Alderman S McKillop, Councillor McCaw</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Councillor Holmes, Councillor Knight McQuillan</i>
3.	Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 17 December 2019	<i>Confirmed</i>
4.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman McKeown, seconded by Councillor Holmes (Places of Worship Security Scheme Motion)	<i>Support the Notice of Motion</i>
5.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Hunter, seconded by Alderman Hillis (MUGA in Dervock)	<i>Support the Notice of Motion</i>

6.	Lower Bann Project	<i>Make amendments in the works for this project, removing the canoe steps element at Agivey Bridge and carrying out additional investment at the pontoon facilities at Drumaheglis, subject to confirmation 100% funding.</i>
7.	Funding Additional Village Projects	<i>Pursue potential funding on offer from Department, with a cost to Council of 25%, Armoy, Dernaflaw and Mosside identified for projects; expression of interest submitted for the Drumsurn; Project place a cap on the level of match funding.</i>
8.	Community and Culture Quarter 3 Progress Report	<i>Information</i>
9.	Correspondence	
	9.1 Newry Mourne and Down Notice of Motion - Fire and Rescue Service Budget	<i>Support the Notice of Motion</i>
	9.2 Business Start-Up Activity Performance	<i>Information</i>
	9.3 Stendhal Festival	<i>Information</i>
10.	Matters for Reporting to Partnership Panel	<i>None</i>
11.	Consultations	<i>None</i>
	IN COMMITTEE (Item 12)	

12.	Economic Development Strategy Tender Report	<i>Award contract to Grant Thornton to commence the strategy development in January 2020, completed by early May 2020.</i>
13.	Any Other relevant Business (notified in accordance with Standing Order 12 (o)) 13.1 Red Sails Festival (Alderman Fielding)	<i>Information</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

- In the Chair:** Councillor Callan
- Members Present:** Alderman: Duddy, Hillis and McCorkell;
Councillors: Baird, Bateson, Holmes, Knight-
McQuillan, McAuley, MA McKillop, C McShane,
Nicholl, Schenning and Watton.
- Non-Committee Members in attendance** Alderman McKeown (Item 4)
Councillor Hunter (Items 4 and 5)
- Officers Present:** R Baker, Director, Leisure & Development
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation
P Beattie, Head of Prosperity & Place
T McKenna, Committee and Member Services Officer
- In attendance:** Press (1 no)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman S McKillop and Councillor McCaw.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were recorded for:

Councillor Holmes in Items 5 – Notice of Motion, Item 6, Lower Bann Project and Item 7, Funding Additional Villages.

Councillor Holmes left the meeting during the consideration of these items.

Councillor Knight–McQuillan in Item 5, Notice of Motion and Item 7, Funding Additional Villages.

Councillor Knight–McQuillan did not leave the meeting during the consideration of these items.

Councillor Baird stated that she had recently resigned from the committee of the Mosside Community Association in relation to items 7 and 8.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2019

AGREED – that the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 17 December 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

AGREED – to Change the Order of Business

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN MCKEOWN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR HOLMES (DEFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING 5 NOVEMBER 2019)

Alderman McKeown presented the Notice of Motion

PLACES OF WORSHIP SECURITY SCHEME MOTION

“This Council notes recently published research from the charity CARE NI that found 445 attacks have been recorded on places of worship in Northern Ireland in just the last 3 years. It notes with concern that 12 of these despicable attacks were recorded in the Causeway Coast & Glens policing district; unreservedly condemns all attacks on places of worship, no matter what faith or denomination, and upholds the important human right for individuals to be free to worship and live out their faith in this society. This Council also notes the operation of the Places of Worship Security Scheme in England and Wales and expresses regret that a similar scheme is not available in Northern Ireland. This Council therefore agrees to write to the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Office calling for the swift introduction of a similar scheme locally.”

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to vote.

14 members voted for, 0 Members voted Against, 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

* **Alderman McKeown left the meeting at 7.15pm**

5. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR HUNTER SECONDED BY ALDERMAN HILLIS (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING 3 DECEMBER 2019)

“That this Council supports a feasibility study in relation to the funding and installation of a MUGA in the village of Dervock to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of our constituents. That Council consults with local stakeholders including the community association in reference to the potential location of a MUGA.

That Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council explores internal and external avenues to deliver the above.”

Councillor Hunter presented the following statement to committee

“In further discussions with members of the community of Dervock regarding a possible location for a MUGA in Dervock, they have come up with the Riverside Park. The rationale behind this decision is to centralise it and develop the area which already has a play park for young kids. Consideration and discussions have been taken within the community to restrict and relocate the annual and traditional bonfire back to its previous location, which worked well this past year, this allows space for the placement on council owned land of a permanent structure of a MUGA which will not only further enhance Riverside Park, the key area in the centre of Dervock village, which is in major need of redevelopment, but ensures there are facilities for the youth of Dervock, which at the last census they were over 22% of the population of this village. Youth facilities within Dervock are very much lacking in both quantity and quality, and this impacts on anti-social behaviour within the village. The Band (Dervock Young Defenders) in partnership with the Community Association have recently secured funding from the PSNI and NIHE Community Safety Fund for a Youth Network in the village, the MUGA would be an additional resource to encourage youths to engage in health and well-being.

The numbers are there to ensure good usage with near 300 children up to 15 years of age alone in Dervock village, this is not counting those out in the hinterlands heading to Derrykeigan, Mosside and Bushvalley to name a few of the local surroundings areas which would ensure good usage with these areas also having no nearby facilities or resources!!! People do travel to MUGA’s from further afield, this can be seen clearly in the village of Ballintoy, which received a MUGA in my time of Moyle where people travel from afar to the one situated there.

We, as a Council, need to increase the number of residents who participate in any sports, leisure and wellbeing activities within the Borough to at least one day per week. A MUGA is an ideal facility young people can learn and exercise in their local space and enjoy doing so, while creating a very positive link in their minds between having fun and an active lifestyle while enjoying themselves. MUGAs do fulfil this important and innovative way, providing a range of exciting play opportunities. The children play area in Dervock provides no challenges for older children, a MUGA included will ensure there is something there for all ages of children and young people rather than a few bits of child play equipment and a net/basketball hoop! Young people need their community space, as well as to provide a focal point for village life and

recreation. Even the local primary school (William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School) could make use of it for providing 'additionality' to their curriculum with the provision of a MUGA in the village.

Why was this not pursued with the other projects already being facilitated within their Village Plan, was because at that time they were unsure about where to place a MUGA, as there had been initial discussions about the relocation of the ancestral home of President McKinley to the Riverside Park in Dervock being the preferred option, these plans have since changed and so in turn leaves it the best place for the placement of a MUGA. "This Community would like to fold this project into their existing portfolio of works. The Community is moving forward and want to keep the ball moving!"

Later This evening, you, the L&D Committee will be presented with a report on the potential for some new village renewal projects. The MUGA for Dervock has been identified as a community need and could be incorporated into their village plan. Riverside Park is Council owned land which is also the Community's preferred site, this means a site for the project does not need to be identified. The project can be delivered within the 12 month timescale and indicative costs are already available from existing MUGA's which have been completed under this LAG scheme. The Village Renewal Programme is a theme within the Rural Development Programme provided by DAERA. It is currently 75% funded by the Department and 25% funded by Council as per the 2015 agreement. Council is the sole applicant and is implementing this measure on behalf of 22 villages. So I would ask that as a Committee you take these points on board when you come to the further item on your agenda tonight, this proposal could be 75% match funded! Which would in turn save this council considerable monies, while fitting in with this motion looking at external funders, while contributing to the prosperity of health and happiness and wellbeing within Dervock village."

Alderman Hillis reiterated his support for the Notice of Motion and recommended that it be included within Item 7 – Funding Additional Village Projects.

All Parties stated their respective support for the Notice of Motion.

On the proposal of Alderman Duddy, Councillor Hunter agreed to amend the wording of the motion to include a feasibility study to be included in Item 7, Funding Additional Village Projects.

The Director of Leisure and Development reminded Members there was a possibility the proposal in this motion could receive up to 75% funding,

however, there were already 17 existing projects seeking this 75% funding.

Following the conclusion to amend the motion, Councillor Holmes declared an Interest and left the meeting.

- * **Councillor Holmes, having declared an interest in relation to Notice of Motion - a feasibility study in relation to the funding and installation of a MUGA in the village of Dervock, left the meeting at 7.25pm**

Councillor Knight-McQuillan declared an interest stating she was a member of the Local Action Group of the Rural Development Programme Board and did not leave the meeting.

Councillor Hunter stated she was a member of the Local Action Group of the Rural Development Programme Board, She advised that she would declare her interest at the Local Action Group meeting.

AGREED - to recommend that Council support the amended Notice of Motion, to include a feasibility study within Item 7, Funding Additional Village Projects.

The Chair put the amended Notice of Motion to the Committee to vote.

9 members voted for, 0 Members voted Against, 1 Member Abstained.

The Chair declared the amended Notice of Motion carried.

6. LOWER BANN PROJECT

Report previously circulated, presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Elected Members to make an amendment to the Capital Works agreed for the Lower Bann River projects in October 2019. This amendment requires the removal of one element of the project at Agivey Bridge and carrying out additional infrastructure work at Drumaheglis Ballymoney.

The Lower Bann Rivers Project was originally taken to Council for Stage 1 approval in June 2019, and Stage 2 approval in October 2019.

The project is jointly funded by DAERA and Waterways Ireland, with Council's capital contribution for these projects being zero.

Approved Proposals:

- (i) Camus (west bank of River Bann-A54). Plans include installation of canoe steps to improve access and egress to the waterway that is currently restricted at the pontoon facility for canoe and small paddle boat users.
- (ii) Agivey Bridge (Bann Road B66). This scheme involves improvements to small car park and installation of canoe steps on the up-stream of the bridge.
- (iii) Drumaheglis Holiday and Leisure Park. This scheme involves extending the pontoon facilities at the Marina to attract and facilitate private sector operators to use the Lower Bann for water-based holiday and leisure activities.
- (iv) Within Christie Park at the Sandleford Bridge end. It is proposed to create a new link from the southern end of the park into Somerset Riverside Park.

The original agreement with Waterways Ireland regarding maintenance is listed as follows.

- Camus Canoe pontoon – Waterways Ireland
- Agivey Bridge canoe steps - Waterways Ireland
- Christie Park tarmac path – Council
- Drumaheglis pontoons – Council

Since the report in October 2019, Waterways Ireland have advised that they will not be able to take on future maintenance responsibility of the canoe steps at Agivey Bridge. Council do not own the Agivey Bridge site which is the ownership of DfI Roads and Officers are concerned about the responsibility for maintenance. Council have not been given approval to maintain any element of this site.

Officers would like to take this opportunity to reallocate the funding from the Agivey Bridge element and use this for further investment at the Council owned Drumaheglis Marina and Pontoon facility. This proposal would, in addition to the works listed above, carry out much needed repair work to a static pontoon that has been closed to the public due to its poor state of repair. This investment would allow Council to reopen this pontoon to the public and commercial operators. This represents a significant further contribution to the viability to the waterside infrastructure at Drumaheglis. Details of the proposed changes will be presented at the Leisure and Development meeting.

Both the Local Action Group for the Rural Development Programme, Cooperation Projects and Waterways Ireland have agreed to the

alteration in works.

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee provides approval to make the amendments in the works for this project, removing the canoe steps element at Agivey Bridge and carrying out additional investment at the pontoon facilities at Drumaheglis. These additional works are subject to confirmation that the projects continue to be 100% funded by Rural Development Cooperation Projects and Waterways Ireland.

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve the amendments in the works for this project, removing the canoe steps element at Agivey Bridge and carrying out additional investment at the pontoon facilities at Drumaheglis. These additional works are subject to confirmation that the projects continue to be 100% funded by Rural Development Cooperation Projects and Waterways Ireland.

* **Councillor Hunter left the meeting at 7.30pm**

7. FUNDING ADDITIONAL VILLAGE PROJECTS

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

The purpose of the report is to consider the potential for matching funding for further Village Renewal Projects.

The Village Renewal Programme is a theme within the Rural Development Programme, provided by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), which allows for short term capital interventions in those towns and areas which are within the rural areas of the Borough.

It is currently 75% funded by the Department and 25% funded by Council, as per agreement in 2015. Council is the sole applicant and is implementing this measure on behalf of 22 villages in the Borough.

On 12 December 2019, correspondence was received from the DAERA:

“Following the first tranche of additional funding offered to LAGs in May 2019 the Department has decided to go out again to LAGs to find out the scope/nature and value of projects that may be under development or in the pipeline that could be delivered by assistance from the LEADER Village Renewal Scheme.

“The Department at this time has not put a budget figure on the possible funding which may be available and we will wait to see what comes into the Department based on the criteria set out below. This exercise is to determine capital budget requirements only.”

An expression of interest was included, which must be completed by 31 January 2020. Conditions to be met are as detailed in the report.

Three villages did not enter the Stage 1 Village Renewal process of village plans, and after subsequent approaches, Council funded village plans for Armoy, Mosside, and Dernaflaw.

After the approach from the Department, these three village plans were examined for potential projects. This yielded the following, however it should be noted that no consultation has yet taken place with the villages, given the very recent nature of the request from the Department.

It is recommended that Members are first asked to consider if they wish to pursue the potential funding on offer from the Department, with a cost to Council of 25%, with attention given to the issues mentioned above.

If Members agree to the funding, Armoy, Dernaflaw and Mosside are identified for projects that are deliverable within the framework set out by the Department. This will also require the agreement of the Local Action Group.

The next step will be to submit the requisite expressions of interest to the Department. Officers will undertake a review of the village plans to ascertain which projects could potentially fulfil the criteria mentioned in the email from the Department.

If Members do not wish to submit extra expressions of interest, in terms of the Drumsurn project, which will require no extra allocation from Council, and is “shovel ready”, it is recommended that an expression of interest is submitted; the outstanding environmental assessment which needs to be completed will be resolved by April; this project’s matching funding is included within the existing allocation from Council.

Given the completion date of 31 January for this action, there will not be an opportunity to revert to full Council for approval. Members may wish to place a cap on the level of match funding which will be required – for example, £100,000 will yield funding of £300,000 if successful.

Councillor Baird welcomed these proposals and stated that they were much needed as Armoy and Mosside were amongst the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and there was a need to stop the village decline. Councillor Baird expressed concerns over the current state of Mosside Community Hall. Councillor Baird asked that Council considers the installation of a MUGA in Dervock.

All parties stated their support for the Proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Baird
Seconded by Councillor Bateson

AGREED - to recommend that Council pursue the potential funding on offer from the Department, with a cost to Council of 25%, with attention given to the issues mentioned above; Armoy, Dernaflaw and Mosside are identified for projects that are deliverable within the framework set out by the Department. This will also require the agreement of the Local Action Group; submit the requisite expressions of interest to the Department. Officers will undertake a review of the village plans to ascertain which projects could potentially fulfil the criteria mentioned in the email from the Department; in terms of the Drumsurn project, which will require no extra allocation from Council, and is “shovel ready”, it is recommended that an expression of interest is submitted; the outstanding environmental assessment which needs to be completed will be resolved by April; this project’s matching funding is included within the existing allocation from Council; place a cap on the level of match funding which will be required – for example, £100,000 will yield funding of £300,000 if successful.

The Chair put the Motion to the Committee to vote.

Committee voted unanimously in favour.

The Chair declared the Motion carried.

* **Councillor Holmes re-joined the meeting.**

8. COMMUNITY & CULTURE PROGRESS REPORT Q1-3

Information report previously circulated.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of performance against the targets to Quarter 3 (April – December) as set out within the Business Plan for the 2019 -20 period.

The Community & Culture Service area, established in 2015, is comprised of Community Development & Tackling Deprivation, Good Relations, Policing & Community Safety Partnership, Peace IV, and Culture, Arts & Heritage services, which includes cultural venues (Museums & Arts Centres) and cultural outreach/engagement. The vision for the service area is twofold and includes:

'To address local issues associated with disadvantage, social exclusion, good relations, community safety and the reduction of crime. To enhance the well-being and increase the prosperity of citizens, communities and visitors by enabling access to and an understanding of culture, arts and heritage.'

The Report details Budget, Strategic Themes/Functions, Strategic Aims of the Service, Business Plan Constraints/Known Issues, Business Plan, 2019-2020 Headline performance against Targets, 2019/2020 C&C High Level Key Performance Indicators and provides an Overall Synopsis.

Annex A: Q1-Q3 Community and Culture Business Plan Progress Report was previously circulated.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Report previously circulated.

9.1 Newry and Mourne and Down – Notice of Motion: Fire and Rescue Service Budget

Correspondence had been received from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council requesting Council's support in calling on the Permanent Secretary to address the significant shortfall in the budget for the Fire and Rescue Service.

"That this council contact Mr Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, and ask all other Councils to do likewise, to address the significant shortfall on the proposed budget for the Fire and Rescue Service. The continuing cutting of budgets has left lifesaving services at a critical level. We also call on Mr Pengelly to look again at expanding and sharing emergency services and cover, especially in rural areas"

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee consider the request for support.

AGREED - to recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion.

9.2 Business Start-Up Activity Performance

Members were asked to note the information provided by the Department for the Economy on the performance of the NI Business Start-Up Programme and in particular the success of the programme within Causeway Coast and Glens.

Councillor C McShane welcomed the positive news for the Council area.

Alderman Duddy suggested that Council's best wishes should be communicated to all involved. Alderman Duddy further requested a presentation from Alchemy to the Leisure & Development Committee.

The Director of Leisure & Development advised this could be scheduled for May or June 2020

9.3 Stendhal Festival

Correspondence had been received from the organisers of the Stendhal Festival thanking Council for their continued support.

10. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

11. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

MOTION TO PROCEED *IN COMMITTEE*

Proposed by Alderman Duddy

Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED - that the Committee proceed to move '*In Committee*'.

* **Press left the meeting at 8.00pm.**

12. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TENDER REPORT

Confidential report previously circulated.

The Head of Prosperity and Place presented Elected Members with a confidential report seeking Members' approval to award the provision of the new Economic Development Strategy/Action Plan to Grant Thornton.

It is recommended that Council agrees to award the contract to Grant Thornton to commence the strategy development in January 2020 and to be completed by early May 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

AGREED - to recommend that Council award the contract to Grant Thornton to commence the strategy development in January 2020 and to be completed by early May 2020.

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

13.1 Red Sails Festival (Alderman Fielding)

“What assurances can be given that an evaluation will be undertaken in 2020 into the economic contribution of the Red Sails Festival to the local economy in accordance with the Motion presented to and passed by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in December 2018?”

The Director of Leisure & Development passed on Alderman Fielding's apologies, as he could not be in attendance.

The Director of Leisure & Development clarified: In 2019 there was a tender process for an economic evaluation of Council sponsored events for which no responses had been received. Council were currently exploring other ways of gathering this information. In order to assess the economic impact of these type of events was not necessarily cost effective, that Council had been quoted approximately £10,000 for an evaluation of a single event. The Director of Leisure & Development questioned that, given the costs involved, for a small cost event, was it worth evaluating?

In response to a question as to how much it would cost to advertise for the evaluation of a tender, the Director of Leisure and Development advised any tender cost below £30,000 was put to a quotation process, above £30,000 was an open tender process.

Alderman Duddy questioned what funding the Red Sails Festival received from Council. The Director of Leisure and Development

considered the Red Sails Festival received a Community grant as opposed to an Events grant approximately £3,500, however this would be clarified.

MOTION TO PROCEED *'IN PUBLIC'*

Proposed by Councillor Knight-McQuillan

Seconded by Alderman McCorkell and

AGREED – that the Committee proceed to move *'In Public'*.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at **8.06pm**.

Chair