

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2020**

**Table of Recommendations**

| <b>No</b> | <b>Item</b>                                                                                                 | <b>Summary of key Recommendations</b>                                                 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | Nomination of Chair                                                                                         | <b><i>The Mayor,<br/>Councillor<br/>Bateson</i></b>                                   |
| <b>2.</b> | Apologies                                                                                                   | <b><i>Alderman<br/>McKillop;<br/>Councillors Callan<br/>and MA McKillop</i></b>       |
| <b>3.</b> | Declarations of Interest                                                                                    | <b><i>Alderman Duddy;<br/>Councillors<br/>McAuley and<br/>Schenning</i></b>           |
| <b>4.</b> | Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 18 February 2020                                                            | <b><i>Confirmed</i></b>                                                               |
| <b>5.</b> | Presentation Coleraine Retailers Consortium                                                                 | <b><i>Withdrawn</i></b>                                                               |
| <b>6.</b> | Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Finlay seconded by Councillor Anderson (Blue Plaque, Mr James Sayers) | <b><i>Support the Notice<br/>of Motion</i></b>                                        |
| <b>7.</b> | Full Fibre NI Programme                                                                                     | <b><i>Approve Option 3<br/>at a cost of £35k<br/>2019/20 and £15k<br/>2020/21</i></b> |
| <b>8.</b> | Development of New Tourist Trail                                                                            | <b><i>Approve Option 2,<br/>proceed to<br/>development</i></b>                        |

|     |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.  | Terms of Reference for Events review        | <b><i>Approve procurement to assist Tourism and Recreation to deliver on the review and achieve key outputs</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10. | Tourism Events Grant Programme              | <b><i>Approve allocation of Tourism Event Funding with reductions outlined</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11. | North West Pipe Band Championship           | <b><i>Approve the request for £12,000 in addition to £10,000 allocated 2020/21</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12. | Cultural, Arts and Heritage Grant Programme | <b><i>Approve recommended amounts of funding; Offer support to unsuccessful groups</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 13. | Community Development Grant Programme       | <b><i>Approve awards; if confirmation of funding is not received by 1 April 2020 issue Letters of Offer to events April-June with remainder issued when confirmation received; Add line into Letter of Offer regarding expenses in relation to activities with vulnerable/isolated individuals</i></b> |

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|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 14. | Delegation of Authority                                                                                                         | <b>Item withdrawn</b>                                                                               |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 15. | LD Capital Projects update                                                                                                      | <b>Information</b>                                                                                  |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 16. | The 148 <sup>th</sup> Open Event Evaluation                                                                                     | <b>Information</b>                                                                                  |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 17. | Correspondence                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                     |
|     | 17.1 Coleraine Twinning                                                                                                         | <b>Refer Twinning Associations' Funding to Corporate Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>           |
|     | 17.2 Student Accommodation                                                                                                      | <b>Refer to Partnership Panel</b>                                                                   |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 18. | Matters for Reporting to Partnership Panel                                                                                      | <b>Refer Ulster University matter of potential change to rates charges on student accommodation</b> |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 19. | Consultations                                                                                                                   | <b>Nil</b>                                                                                          |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 20. | Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Mulholland, seconded by Councillor McCaw, referred from 3 December 2019 Council meeting | <b>Adjourned to a later date, to be arranged</b>                                                    |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 21. | Review of Leisure Management Options                                                                                            | <b>Defer to August committee meeting</b>                                                            |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 22. | Dungiven Bowling Project                                                                                                        | <b>Defer to Council meeting, pending receipt of additional information</b>                          |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 23. | LD Current Financial Position                                                                                                   | <b>Information</b>                                                                                  |
|     |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                     |
| 24. | Any Other Relevant Business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12(o)                                                    |                                                                                                     |

|  |                                                                                             |                           |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | <b>24.1</b> Leisure Centre Memberships (Alderman McCorkell)                                 | <b><i>Information</i></b> |
|  | <b>24.2</b> Investigate possibility of a Private Operator for Waterworld (Councillor McCaw) | <b><i>Information</i></b> |

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF  
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON  
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2020 AT 7:37 PM**

- In the Chair:** Councillor Bateson (Item 2- Item 24 inclusive)
- Members Present:** Alderman Duddy, Hillis, McCorkell  
Councillors Baird, Holmes, Knight-McQuillan,  
McAuley, McCaw, C McShane, Nicholl, Schenning  
and Watton
- Officers Present:** R Baker, Director of Leisure & Development  
W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing  
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation  
P Beattie, Head of Prosperity & Place  
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture  
N McGurk, Project Manager  
K McMullan, Acting Events Manager  
P O'Brien, Funding Manager  
J Beggs, Project Manager  
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member  
Services Officer
- In Attendance:** Alderman Finlay (Item 6)
- Public (1 no)  
Press (1 no)

The Director of Leisure and Development updated committee, the Annual Business Plan report was deferred, in light of the Emergency Plan being enacted for a 3-month period.

**1. CHAIR**

The Director of Leisure and Development advised the Chair, nor Vice-Chair were in attendance and put to committee The Mayor may Chair the meeting.

**IT WAS AGREED** – to recommend The Mayor, Councillor Bateson Chair proceedings.

Councillor Bateson assumed the Chair.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were recorded for Alderman McKillop; Councillors Callan and MA McKillop.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were recorded for Alderman Duddy; Councillors McAuley and Schenning in Community Development Grant Programme, the Members left the Chamber during consideration of the Item.

**4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

The Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18 February were confirmed as a correct record.

**5. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE COLERAINE RETAILERS CONSORTIUM**

The Item was withdrawn from the Agenda.

**AGREED** – To Change the Order of Business, to receive Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Finlay, seconded by Councillor Anderson next, on the Agenda of Business for the evening.

**6. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN FINLAY, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON, DEFERRED FROM THE 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

*“I, Alderman John Finlay, wish to propose that a blue plaque, in recognition of Mr James Sayers, be erected at his former home in Loughguille and that Council make a subsequent application to the Ulster History Circle for this and Council pay for the erection of the plaque. “*

Alderman Finlay spoke in support of the Notice of Motion, supported by Councillor Knight-McQuillan. Councillor Knight-McQuillan advised Mr James Sayers had a big part to play in the second World War, he designed a centimetric radar, was over looked in terms of history and had constructed a water wheel to supply electricity to a farm, worked with NASA, on military operations and Space Work.

Councillor Holmes stated that whilst the Blue Plaque was well deserving, it was not within the remit of Council to undertake and would vote against it.

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

8 Members voted For; 3 Members voted Against; 2 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the Notice of Motion carried.

## **7. FULL FIBRE NI PROGRAMME**

Report, previously circulated, presented by The Head of Prosperity and Place, the Project Manager was in attendance to answer queries.

The purpose of the report was to propose options for the delivery of the FFNI programme.

### **Background**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is part of a Full Fibre Network NI (FFNI) Consortium of 10 Councils led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMD) that is to receive funding of £15 million from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The funding will be used to install gigabit capable fibre 'direct to the premises' of Council owned buildings by March 2021 that will in turn increase the broadband infrastructure in the surrounding vicinity.

The Council is to draw down 10% of the funding offer amounting to £1.5 million. Currently £50k is profiled within the Prosperity and Place Business Plans for both the current and next financial years i.e. £35k in 2019/20; and £15k in 2020/21.

### **Proposals**

The FFNI bid to DCMS was to include £500k towards the cost of an Operations Team that would be hosted by NMD. The Operations Team is a hybrid team made up of three roles, an Operations Lead, an Analyst and a Project Support Officer, supported by external consulting resource for technical procurements and supplier coordination.

Despite regular communication from DCMS officials in early 2019 confirming that the cost of the Operations Team would be eligible for reimbursement, it was confirmed by separate DCMS officials during the pre-contract procurement stage in late 2019 that such costs were actually ineligible and that this cost would have to be resourced from Council Consortium Members. This amounts to £50k per Council to cover costs up to March 2021.

Members should note that the Consortium agreement (Annex A, circulated) signed by all 10 Councils states under pt. 6.3 that Consortium Councils are obliged to make financial contributions to FFNI Operation

and pt. 8.5 that any unplanned Operations Team costs are obliged to be borne equally by Consortium Members.

### **Options**

NMD has provided Consortium Councils with an Options Paper for consideration (Annex B, circulated) which outlines three potential courses of action with an associated commentary on benefits, risk and cost as follows:

- **Option 1** - Stop the programme and meet costs already incurred at 22k per Council.
- **Option 2** - Meet the costs of consultancy to procurement stage and one operations lead staff member at £37k per Council.
- **Option 3** - Meet all staff and consultancy costs as detailed in the original bid at £50k per Council.

All Consortium Councils have agreed to support Option 3. The adoption of Option 3 amounts to a Council investment of 3% (£50k) against the potential draw down of £1.5 million for fibre infrastructure installation in the Council area. Furthermore as detailed in the benefits section of Option 3, continued support for the Consortium could lead to savings in Council WAN costs via collective Consortium procurement approaches. In addition, the Consortium has significant potential to act as a conduit to draw down additional DCMS funding for 5G infrastructure, future DfE Project Stratum funding, and Growth Deal infrastructure funding.

**It is recommended** that Option 3 is chosen to deliver the FFNI programme to the greatest benefit to Council, businesses and residents in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. The costs for Option 3 are profiled within Prosperity and Place's Business Plans i.e. £35k in 2019/20; and £15k in 2020/21.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes  
Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve Option 3 as chosen to deliver the FFNI programme to the greatest benefit to Council, businesses and residents in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. The costs for Option 3 are profiled within Prosperity and Place's Business Plans i.e. £35k in 2019/20; and £15k in 2020/21.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOURIST TRAIL**

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation, to seek Elected Members approval to make alterations to the

implementation of a project approved by Council in 2019 known as Yellow Frames.

## **Background**

In April 2019, Elected Members approved the advancement of the project known as Yellow Frames. This project entailed the introduction of a tourist trail connecting rural points of interest through the use of a number of sites that featured yellow metal frames that allowed the visitor to view a point of interest and capture the moment through photography. This concept was based on collaboration with the National Geographic magazine and had been successfully implemented in other countries in Europe notably Finland and Estonia.

The total project costs are £170,000 and the costs to Council were £3,000 from Capital contribution and £14,000 from Council's in-year Destination Marketing budget (staff resources were also factored as a contribution to the funding mix).

This project was supported by the Rural Development Programme's Cooperation Projects through DAERA. Its key aims are to enhance the tourism offering by encouraging increased expenditure and overnight stays to the Borough.

## **Required Change in Direction**

This project was originally brokered through the LAG Cooperation Board prior to being presented to Council as a possible applicant for consideration and ultimately approval. It was based on work in Finland and Estonia, whereby the Yellow Frames would be jointly promoted with the National Geographic publication and online channels. The LAG and DAERA's Rural Development Programme officials were negotiating an agreement with National Geographic to market the trail and Yellow Frame locations within our area.

In the autumn of 2019, National Geographic was bought over by Disney inc. As a result, promoters of the Yellow Frames in Finland, Estonia and now Northern Ireland have been advised that the National Geographic does not wish to retain any partnership through association or promotion of the Yellow Frames concept. This means that the project must either change direction from working with National Geographic through the Yellow Frame approach or not proceed through to completion or promotion.

## **Options**

The following options are being proposed;

**Option 1** - Advise the LAG and DAERA that the Council wishes to withdraw from the entire process.

**Option 2** - Develop a new approach to brand and market the tourism trail.

### **Outline Proposal for Option 2**

If Elected Members wish to retain the tourism trail associated with the former Yellow Frames then Officials would adopt an alternative approach that allows the project to remain viable.

An outline for this approach is listed below:

- Maintain Tourism Trail based on a revised theme and branding.
- Promote Trail as a rural alternative to Causeway Coastal Route.
- Develop experiences that link the eight sites and promote our natural and unspoilt landscapes along with local cultural experiences.
- Develop a two day itinerary that would be promoted in conjunction with Tourism Ireland.

The Council will avail of marketing funding from the cooperation project to launch the tourism trail and promote it for the first 12-18 month period. After this funded period the Council will continue to promote this as part of its Destination Marketing remit.

**It is recommended** that Elected Members approve Option 2 allowing this project to proceed through the development of a high quality alternative and viable proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Knight-McQuillan  
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve Option 2 allowing this project to proceed through the development of a high quality alternative and viable proposal.

## **9. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EVENTS REVIEW**

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

The purpose of the report was to present a Terms of Reference to allow the creation of a framework for the development and future management of the Tourism Events remit.

## **Background**

At the October 2019 Leisure and Development Committee meeting, Members requested that a review takes place of Council events and the external support provided by Council to other events. Subsequent to this a workshop for Elected Members was held on 4 December 2019 and from this it was agreed to carry out a review of the Event service in line with Council's strategic approach for events.

Areas for review include the existing provision of events in the area, how they are resourced, managed and evaluated with a view to develop a framework for the strategic approach of tourism events for the next ten years.

Key Outputs of the Terms of Reference will include:

- Analysis and review of the Council's event remit.
- Clear identification of 'best fit' future trends and market requirements.
- Strategic direction for future development.
- Actions and timelines for delivery.
- Resources identified, including partnership arrangements (internal and external), including financial and funding opportunities.
- Model for future delivery including proposed staffing structure, governance and delivery and monitoring and evaluation.

## **Terms of Reference**

The proposed Terms of Reference for the 10 year plan was included at Annex A (circulated).

**It is recommended** that the Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the procurement of suitably qualified individuals/companies to assist the Tourism and Recreation team to deliver on the review and achieve the key outputs and actions as detailed in the Terms of Reference detailed in Annex A (circulated).

The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified the cost of £10,000-£15,000 and was budgeted for in-year, the work was required to look ahead and recommend structures to deliver events.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve the procurement of suitably qualified individuals/companies to assist the Tourism and Recreation team to deliver on the review and achieve the key outputs and actions as detailed in the Terms of Reference detailed in Annex A (circulated).

## **10. TOURISM EVENTS GRANT PROGRAMME**

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Leisure and Development. Funding Manager was available to answer questions.

The purpose of this report is to present the key dates and process update for those applicants applying to Council's Tourism and Recreation Event Grant Funding Programme for April 2020 - March 2021 and to approve the allocation of funding.

The Tourism Event Fund is administered as a competitive process via the Council's online funding hub. The fund is established for the purpose of supporting new and existing event organisers, with outputs that align with the broad aims and objectives of the Council's Destination Management Strategy.

In 2020-21 the budget for the Tourism Event Fund is £237,741.

### **2020 - 2021 Application Process**

Facilitated by the Funding Unit and through utilising Council's online funding hub, invitations to the competitive process were issued in November 2019. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers, the Council's website and social media channels. Mailshots were also distributed to Council's mailing lists.

Council Officers organised a series of funding roadshows on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December (5 in total). The funding roadshows were organised to provide more information, in-depth assistance and guidance for applicants to the Council's grant funding programmes.

The Tourism and Recreation Events Fund operates 2 Grant Programmes (Tourism Large Events Fund and Tourism Small Events Fund). To allow for changes to streamline the requirements in some areas of the Small Events Fund, and to introduce a 2 Stage Application Process so that eligibility could be determined early in the application process, options were tabled and agreed at a Councillor Funding Workshop on the 17

October 2019. The changes to the Tourism Events Fund for 2020-2021 include the following:

- Rename Small Events Fund to Tourism Events Growth Fund.
- Adopt a 2 Stage Application Process:
  - Stage 1 - to determine eligibility and signpost applicants to their relevant fund.
  - Stage 2 – Full application to either the Large or Growth Event Fund with event details.
- Mandatory Workshops to assist with the development of a Stage 2 application.
- Stage 2 applicants would have up to four opportunities of One to One sessions with Council's Events Development Officer for guidance and to ask relevant questions.

The 2 Stage Application process opened on 4 December 2019 with the following deadlines:

- Stage 1 Applications must have been submitted by 12.00 noon on 16 December 2019.
- The outcome of the Stage 1 process was notified on 18 December 2019
- Mandatory Workshop for Stage 2 Applicants was held on 13 January 2020.

Applicants successful at Stage 1 were invited to submit a Stage 2 Application by 12.00noon on **Wednesday 12 February 2020**.

### **Event Funding Eligibility 2020-2021**

The outline criteria for each fund is listed below for information.

**Tourism Events Growth Fund** – Events with an overall budget of between £10,000 and £30,000 (previously £15,000 - £30,000) which attract more than 1,000 visitors (Previously 2,000) to the Borough, takes place over a minimum of 2 days (minimum of 5 hours on each day) and includes overnight stays. Events must have a start and end date and run for consecutive days. Applicants are required to prove that their event attracts visitors / overnight stays from outside the Borough. In addition they must demonstrate their return on investment on the funding requested (an economic return of 3:1 is expected), and how they will promote the area in national and local markets. The level of grant award available is up to 50% of total project costs, up to a maximum grant award of £15,000.

**Tourism Large Events Fund** – Events with an overall budget in excess of £30,000 which attract more than 5,000 visitors, takes place over at least 2 days (minimum of 5 hours on each day) generating overnight stays. Events must have a start and end date and run for consecutive days. Applicants will be required to prove that the event attracts visitors / overnight stays from outside the Borough. The large events must demonstrate their return on investment on the funding requested (an economic return of 5:1 is expected), and how they will promote the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area in international, national and local markets. The level of grant award available is up to 50% of total project costs, up to a maximum grant award of £100,000.

### **Assessment Process**

The Tourism and Recreation Large and Growth Events fund uses a 2 stage approach with Stage 1 identifying those applicants that meet the minimum eligibility criteria, which included asking some basic questions relating to event description and duration, visitor numbers, target audience and total project costs. Those applicants that pass the Stage 1 eligibility checks are then invited to submit a Stage 2 application with event details for full assessment and scoring.

Applicants at Stage 2 are assessed on a number of criteria, including full event details and delivery (including event management plan), financial sustainability, tourism economic impact (return on investment), media and marketing impact (including marketing plan), options for further event development and enhancing the visitor experience connected with the event.

Each criteria within the scoring matrix is weighted and minimum threshold pass rate is applied at 65% as per Council's Grant Funding Policy. Successful applicants must attend a project initiation meeting and are offered feedback on their application, the scores awarded and areas that could be improved on in the future. Unsuccessful applicants are offered an opportunity for feedback on improvement if they wish to apply in the future.

### **Outcome of Stage 1 eligibility process**

On the 17 December 2019, a panel of Officers from the Events Team and Funding Unit met to check the eligibility criteria of the Tourism Event Fund applications submitted at Stage 1 and to signpost applicants to their relevant fund. The outcome of the Stage 1 process was issued to all applicants on 17th and 18th December 2019 by the Events Team and Funding Unit. Each successful applicant progressing to Stage 2 received a phone call from the Events Team advising which Fund they

would progress to, along with some general feedback points that the applicant should make clear in the Stage 2 application. The successful applicants were advised that a Stage 2 Application would be attached to their online funding hub Grant Manager account by the Funding Unit before 20 December 2020. The Funding Unit Manager notified those applicants that were deemed ineligible.

### **New Mentoring and Training for Applicants progressing to Stage 2**

A Tourism Event Fund Mandatory Training Workshop was delivered on 13 January 2020 by Council's Events Development Officer and colleagues, from various service areas outlined, to both Growth and Large applicants, the changes to the application process, new questions and the level of detail required in responses to obtain acceptable scores. Criteria presented at the workshop for all Stage 2 applicants included: Event Management, Tourism Economic Impact, Media and Marketing Impact, Understanding Road Closures and Street Trading Legislation, Event Development and Visitor Experience. All applicants had the opportunity to ask questions relating to the process and all the presentations and templates delivered at the workshop were shared with each applicant.

Four opportunities of One to One sessions for applicants were made available before the TEF application closure deadline with Council's Events Development Officer. These sessions presented the opportunity for both guidance and clarity and enabled relevant questions in relation to the application to be asked before submission of the application. Below is a list of dates that were made available for One to One sessions for Stage 2 applicants:

- Date: Thursday 16th January 2020. Venue: Coleraine, Cloonavin – Members Suite 1
- Date: Friday 17th January 2020. Venue: Ballymoney, Riada House – Dalriada Room.
- Date: Wednesday 22nd January 2020. Venue: Limavady, Council Offices, Training Room.
- Date: Thursday 23rd January 2020. Venue: Ballycastle, Council Offices, Sheskburn House.

The following events booked in and attended the One to One sessions:

- Pirates Off Portrush
- Supercup NI
- Foyle Cup
- Armoy Road Races
- Roe Valley Folk Festival

- Stendhal
- Ballymoney Show
- North West Pipe Band Championships
- Heart of the Glens
- NI Potato Festival

### **Outline of the Tourism and Recreation Event Grant Programme process**

- Score a % between 80-89 get 85% of grant requested.
- Score a % between 70-79 get 75% of grant requested.
- Score a % between 65-69 get 65% of grant requested.

Total cost £237,300 to Council and which results in a £441.00 underspend on the £237,741 budget.

**It is recommended** that Elected Members approve the allocation of the Tourism Event Funding to successful applicants as detailed in Annex A (circulated) with the reductions outlined.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the NW200 had been postponed and allocation kept within the table, money unspent would move into central funds.

The Funding Manager clarified the normal process of claiming up to 50% grant aid, there would be no up-front payments in the instance of an event postponed and contractually obliged payments considered on a case-by-case basis.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy  
Seconded by Alderman McCorkell and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve the allocation of the Tourism Event Funding to successful applicants as detailed in Annex A (circulated) with the reductions outlined.

## **11. NORTH WEST PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

The purpose of the report was to present to Members a proposal from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland (RSPBANI) to hold the North West Pipe Band Championships on Friday 31 July and Saturday 1 August 2020 in Portrush.

## **Background**

For many years Portrush has hosted the North West Pipe Band Championships. Usually located at the Recreation Grounds, this event has attracted participants and visitors to the town during the month of August often bringing up to 900 participants and over 3000 spectators. It has maintained its popularity over the years and is an established summer season event for Portrush complementing the range of events that takes place throughout the year.

In 2018 Council commissioned an Economic Impact study and the findings from this research highlighted the beneficial impact the event has on the local economy. The event generated a direct economic impact from visitors of £320,000 as a result of the spending by non-local event attendees. Of this £286,000 was in the Portrush area.

In 2016 and 2017 the event experienced some disruption as its traditional venue, the Recreation Grounds, was unavailable as a result of ongoing work as part of Portrush Environmental Improvement Scheme. The Council agreed to compensate the event organisers, in addition to grant aid awarded through the Tourism Event Funding programme, and an additional goodwill payment of £10,000 was awarded to RSPBA.

## **Council Funding (TEFP 2020/21)**

The 2020/21 Tourism Event Funding Programme opened for Stage 1 applications on 4 December 2019. The RSPBANI submitted a Stage 1 application and after assessment Council Officials advised that they should progress to a Stage 2 of the Growth Fund application. A Stage 2 application was not submitted.

## **Proposal from Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland**

In the first week of March 2020, RSPBANI approached the Director of Leisure and Development and confirmed that an opportunity had arisen to bring the event to Portrush following a change in their previously agreed programme.

Having missed the opportunity to avail of a grant, the RSPBANI has requested that Council allocate £12,000 in addition to the £10,000 goodwill payment.

Standard grant funding invoice verification processes would apply. The RSPBANI would like to host the event on the 31 July and 1 August 2020 in Portrush.

## **Summer Events Schedule for Portrush 2020**

In 2019 Portrush hosted a number of high profile events. In addition to long established events such as the North West 200, the North West Pipe Band Championships NI and Airwaves, the town also benefited from the 148<sup>th</sup> Open and the Live at the Beach Lush event at East Strand.

In 2020 a decision was taken not to run Airwaves Portrush, an event which for many was the highlight of the end of summer season activities in the resort. An application from Cloughorr Ltd to run Live at the Beach Portrush in 2020 is currently being considered by Council but has yet to be agreed.

If the North West Pipe Band Championships NI does not proceed in 2020, the result would be that Portrush would have a significant reduction in the Summer Event programme. In addition to a reduced visitor experience over the summer months, the town will have a reduction in the economic benefit derived from hosting the event, which in the past has equated to £320,000.

**It is recommended** that the Leisure and Development Committee is asked to give consideration to the request from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI for £12,000 funding in addition to the £10,000 allocated within the Tourism Recreation Events budget 2020/21. The funding would allow the event to take place on 31 July and 1 August 2020.

Alderman Hillis stated Council was in unprecedented times, the event had been lost to another Borough and in the event of not running Airwaves, there was now an opportunity to retrieve it.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified additional legacy costs surrounding traffic management and estates of £4,000.

Councillor C McShane expressed she would be opposing the request, she advised Council was moving outside the stage process and further additional costs had not been included in the report.

Councillor Knight-McQuillan stated the NW200 had been postponed, there were a low number of events in Portrush and evidence of £320,000 benefit to the area, the event could be placed in the calendar for people to look forward to.

Councillor Knight-McQuillan seconded Alderman Hillis' proposal, based on the current circumstances and crises currently being faced.

Proposed by Alderman Hillis  
Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan

- to recommend that Council approve the request from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI for £12,000 funding in addition to the £10,000 allocated within the Tourism Recreation Events budget 2020/21. The funding would allow the event to take place on 31 July and 1 August 2020.

Councillor McCaw considered Portrush had taken a lot of adversity recently, relied heavily on Tourism and the hospitality sector and £300,000 was a good return on the investment.

Councillor Watton, whilst taking on board Councillor C McShane's point, supported the proposal in bringing economic benefit.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.  
9 Members voted For; 2 Members voted Against.  
The Chair declared the motion carried.

## **12. CULTURAL, ARTS AND HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAMME**

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

The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the assessment of applications received to the Culture, Arts & Heritage (CAH) Grant Programme for 2020-21 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme, subject to the outcome of the budget process.

### **Background**

The Culture, Arts & Heritage grant programme forms part of Council's Cultural Strategy strategic priority 4 'To ensure increased access to, and participation in, culture, arts and heritage for marginalised and excluded groups' adopted by Council in 2016.

The primary objective of the cultural strategy is to ensure that both local ratepayers and visitors to the area have continuous access to high quality, accessible, inclusive and affordable cultural services, including arts, museums and heritage.

The introduction of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Scheme in 2016 was in direct response to the findings from the consultation process which highlighted the need to support local groups to promote and develop cultural, arts and heritage projects and activities in the area. As part of the business planning process, a report was brought forward to Council in November 2019 to approve all grant funding programmes for the 20/21 period, inclusive of the Culture, Arts & Heritage grant programme. Council opted to reduce grant programmes by 5%, including this particular programme.

As a result, the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant programme was opened on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 for receipt of completed applications. Five information roadshows were held in early December in locations across the Borough to provide potential applicants with detailed information and guidance regarding individual grant programmes.

A total of 33 applications were submitted by the closing date. The grant assessment panel of relevant Council officers assessed the grant applications against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be considered for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy.

### **Purpose of the Programme**

The Culture Arts and Heritage grant scheme has been designed to support, promote and develop cultural, arts and heritage events, projects and activities. It has been devised to support local community and voluntary groups to promote and develop projects which broaden cultural access throughout the council area. An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant detailing eligibility and assessment criteria is attached at Annex A (circulated).

### **Levels of Grant**

Grants are available for a maximum of 100% of the total *eligible* project costs up to a maximum of £1000.

### **Applications Received**

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and maximum eligible funding amount is listed in Annex B (circulated). In summary:

|                                                          |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| No. of applications received                             | 33      |
| Total value of applications received                     | £34,125 |
| No. of ineligible applicants                             | 0       |
| No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%) | 5       |

|                                                              |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)       | 28                |
| <b>Total value of funding recommended</b> (eligible amounts) | <b>£20,012.75</b> |

Five applications did not score sufficiently high enough (65% threshold) to be awarded a grant.

Additionally some applications were reduced in the scale of the grant they were considered for, by way of eligible expenditure.

Due to the high number of successful applications and council's decision regarding a 5% reduction in budgets, amounts offered were reduced according to amount requested/eligibility and scoring as follows:

- Score between 90 and 94 receive 90% of eligible amount requested
- Score between 85 and 89 receive 85% of eligible amount requested
- Score between 80 and 84 receive 80% of eligible amount requested
- Score between 75 and 79 receive 75% of eligible amount requested
- Score between 70 and 74 receive 70% of eligible amount requested
- Score between 65 and 69 receive 65% of eligible amount requested

Unsuccessful applicant groups will be referred to Council staff for a range of support, including feedback on applications submitted, one to one mentoring to assist in developing successful project proposals, focussing on project development, preparing successful bids and creative programming. Council Officers can also provide signposting to source and apply for funding from alternative sources.

Total amount eligible for funding £20,012.75.

Indicative budget requested for 20/21 \*£20,012.80.

**It is recommended** that Council:

- i. Approve the recommended amounts for funding as detailed in Annex B (circulated) (total £20,012.75).
- ii. Offer support to unsuccessful applicant groups through referral to Council initiatives including one to one development support, funding searches and training programmes on offer through Community Development, Cultural Services and the Funding Unit.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council:

- I. Approve the recommended amounts for funding as detailed in Annex B (circulated) (total £20,012.75).
- II. Offer support to unsuccessful applicant groups through referral to Council initiatives including one to one development support, funding searches and training programmes on offer through Community Development, Cultural Services and the Funding Unit.

### **13. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAMME**

\* **Alderman Duddy; Councillors McAuley and Schenning, having declared an Interest, left the Chamber at 8.45PM.**

Report, previously circulated.

The purpose of the report was to provide the outcome of the assessment of applications received to the Community Development Grant Programmes for 2020-21 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the three programmes:

1. Community Development Support Grant (CDSG).
2. Social Inclusion Grant (SIG).
3. Community Festivals Fund (CFF).

Approximately 50% of the Community Development Grants are provided by Department for Communities (DfC) through both the Community Support Programme and Community Festivals Fund Programme. At the time of writing the report, the amount of funding from DfC for 2020-21 is not yet known, however since some of the projects applied for are due to take place in April Council is asked to make decisions in principle, subject to confirmation of necessary match funding from DfC. At its meeting in November 2019 Council agreed to reduce grant programmes by 5% for 2020-21. Proposed funding awards are on the basis of this reduction and on the assumption that DfC allocations to Council will be at the same rate as 2019-20 amounts.

#### **Background**

As part of the business planning process, a report was brought forward to Council in November 2019 to approve all grant funding programmes for the 20-21 period, inclusive of the three aforementioned grant programmes.

Information roadshows were held in early December in five locations across the Borough in order to provide potential applicants with detailed information and guidance about the individual grant programmes. A workshop on how to write a successful application was also held. The grant programmes were opened for applications on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 for approximately 6 weeks.

An assessment panel scored applications against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes for each programme. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be recommended for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy.

An extract from the Guidance Notes for the three grant programmes, detailing eligibility and assessment criteria, is attached at Annex A (circulated).

### **Community Development Support Grant**

Purpose of Grant Programme: To contribute to the running costs/overhead costs incurred by core community development organisations.

Levels of Grant available: Community Development groups with premises could apply for grants of up to 75% of costs up to a maximum grant of £2,000. Community Development groups without premises could apply for grants of up to 75% of costs up to a maximum grant of £1,000

|                                                          |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| No. of applications received                             | 65         |
| No. of ineligible applicants                             | 4          |
| No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%) | 10         |
| No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)   | 51         |
| Total value of CDSG funding recommended                  | £92,836.86 |

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and maximum eligible funding amount recommended are listed in Annex B (circulated).

Four of the applicant organisations were deemed to be ineligible as the applicant organisation did not meet the eligibility criteria for the grant programmes. Ten applications did not score sufficiently high enough to be awarded a grant.

### **Social Inclusion Grant**

Purpose of Programme: To provide small grants to local community and voluntary organisations that are involved in activities that encourage

people within their community, particularly those that are socially isolated, to participate in social and recreational activities.

Levels of Grant: 85% of costs up to a maximum grant of £500.

|                                                          |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| No. of applications received                             | 38      |
| No. of ineligible applications                           | 7       |
| No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%) | 8       |
| No. of successful applications scoring 65% or more       | 23      |
| Total value of SIG funding recommended                   | £11,215 |

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and maximum eligible funding amount recommended are listed in Annex C (circulated). Of the seven ineligible applications six were ineligible as they had annual income in excess of £50,000, which deems them ineligible as outlined in Section 1.8 of the Guidance Notes. The other ineligible applicant had already applied for and is eligible to receive a Community Development Support Grant and as stated in the Guidance Notes, '*organisations that intend to apply for a Community Development Support Grant from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are not eligible to apply for a Social Inclusion Grant.*' Eight applications did not score sufficiently high enough to be awarded a grant.

### **Community Festivals Fund**

Purpose of the Programme: To support, promote and develop the capacity of communities to host community festival events across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. A community festival is a festival which has developed from within a community and should celebrate and positively promote what the community represents. DfC's CFF Policy & Guidance Framework sets the programme criteria for this particular fund.

Levels of Grant available:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <u>One day community fun day type events.</u><br>Events must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours consecutive duration and include a range of at least 3 types of activities to suit all sections of the community. | 75% of costs up to a maximum of £750   |
| <u>Festival events lasting 2 consecutive days or more.</u><br>Each of the days of the festival must include a range of activities to suit all sections of the community and be programmed to be at least 4 hours       | 75% of costs up to a maximum of £1,500 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| duration. The Festival must have different activities on each day that it takes place.                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |
| <u>Festivals lasting 3 consecutive days or more and anticipated to attract at least 500 participants.</u><br>Each of the days of the festival must include a range of activities to suit all sections of the community and be programmed to be at least 4 hours duration. | 75% of costs up to a maximum of £3,000 |

|                                                          |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| No. of applications received                             | 49      |
| No. of ineligible applications                           | 4       |
| No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%) | 7       |
| No. of eligible applications (scoring 65% and above)     | 38      |
| Total value of CFF funding recommended                   | £52,270 |

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and maximum eligible funding amount is listed in Annex D (circulated).

Some applications were reduced in the scale of the grant they were considered for as they did not meet the eligibility criteria for higher awards. Four applications were deemed ineligible as they did not meet the eligibility criteria in terms of the range of activities and length of their events as defined in the Guidance Notes. Seven applications did not meet the threshold of 65% to be successful for funding.

In the event that the letter of offer from DfC is delayed beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March, Council may wish to consider awarding grants to successful organisations with events scheduled to take place in April, May and June in order to ensure that they can plan ahead. A letter of offer could then be issued for the remainder of the applicants when Council receives confirmation of funding from DfC, and subject to the amount received. Community Development Officers will provide feedback and capacity building support to the unsuccessful applicant groups in all three programmes in order to increase their capacity and to source and apply for other funding.

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Total amount recommended for funding through CDSG | £92,836.86 |
| Total amount recommended for funding through SIG  | £11,215    |
| Total amount recommended for funding through CFF  | £52,270    |
| Total amount recommended for funding              | £156,322   |
| DfC contribution*                                 | £80,060    |
| Anticipated net cost to Council                   | £78,927    |

\* Based on assumption that DfC allocations to Council will be at the same rate as 2019-20 amounts.

**It is recommended** that Council:

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Development Support Grant, Social Inclusion Grant and Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, C & D, (circulated) subject to the necessary funding being available from DfC.
- ii. If confirmation of funding is not received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 issue letters of offer to events taking part in April, May and June, with the remainder of the letters of offer to be issued when confirmation of funding is received from DfC.

The Funding Manager further recommended, in relation to Social Inclusion Grants and the situation with COVID 19, adding a line to the Letters of Offer,

*“any expenses in relation to activities with vulnerable / isolated individuals in the community will be eligible for funding”.*

Proposed by Councillor C McShane  
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council:

- I. Approve awards for funding through Community Development Support Grant, Social Inclusion Grant and Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, C & D (circulated), subject to the necessary funding being available from DfC.
- II. If confirmation of funding is not received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 issue letters of offer to events taking part in April, May and June, with the remainder of the letters of offer to be issued when confirmation of funding is received from DfC and  
- in relation to Social Inclusion Grants and the situation with COVID 10, adding a line to the Letter of Offer, *“any expenses in relation to activities with vulnerable / isolated individuals in the community will be eligible for funding”.*

The Head of Community and Culture agreed to contact Councillor Baird with further detail on The Friends of Ballycastle failed application.

\* **Alderman Duddy; Councillor Schenning returned to the Chamber at 8.55PM.**

#### **14. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

Report, previously circulated.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised, following the decision at the Special Council Meeting, the Item was withdrawn from the Agenda.

\* **Councillor McAuley returned to the Chamber at 8.59PM.**

## **15. LD CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Information report, previously circulated.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on the Leisure and Development Capital Projects.

Members requested that an update be brought back to committee on the current position of capital projects within Leisure and Development. The update was attached at Annex A (circulated).

## **16. THE 148<sup>TH</sup> OPEN EVENT EVALUATION**

Information report, previously circulated.

The purpose of this report is to present the 2019 Open Golf Championship Post Event Evaluation, following the conclusion of the independent event impact assessment by the Sports Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University (SIRC) on behalf of the R&A, in partnership with Tourism NI.

### **Executive Summary**

The 148th Open Golf Championship was the largest event ever to take place on the island of Ireland. It had been 67 years since an Open Golf Championship had been staged at Royal Portrush.

The 148th Open, will be etched in the memories of those people who either live, work or were fortunate to be visiting the borough between the 14th to the 21st July 2019.

The Royal and Ancient (hereafter referred to as The R&A, the event owner) has been overwhelming positive about the event. It has been described by the R&A and the sports media as the most successful Open Golf Championship ever.

Why was the event such a success? There are many contributing factors, but throughout the evaluation exercise, the quality, depth and

trust of the relationships between all agencies involved in planning and delivery of the event has been highlighted repeatedly.

The partner host agencies had a common goal to deliver a successful world class event and exceed the expectations of the R&A.

Outside of the event, a further area of success was the atmosphere and activity throughout Portrush during the week of The Open. This epitomised the way the whole of Northern Ireland embraced the Open. The Council was committed to consulting and engaging with the community for 18 months prior to the event. This engagement, along with the dressing and animation programme helped create a sense of civic pride which then generated a celebration off the course throughout the week of the event.

The story continues with the delivery of the R&A's Legacy Fund. £100k was distributed via grants to ten community groups and organisations within Portrush.

Council's allocated budget to prepare for, dress the Borough, animate Portrush and support The Open was £350k. Whilst additional funding was gained from other sources, the final account for the Council's allocated budget is £344k.

The forecast total economic benefit for Northern Ireland was, at least, £80m. The independent research now confirms a total economic benefit for NI of £106m.

The full post event evaluation is at Annex A (circulated).

### **Economic Benefit and Impact**

At the time the post event evaluation was conducted the independent event impact assessment had not been concluded. It was undertaken for the 148<sup>th</sup> Open Championship by the Sports Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University (SIRC) on behalf of the R&A, in partnership with Tourism NI.

It is now clear that the benefit has exceeded all stakeholder expectations.

The methodology deployed for this study is consistent with that used for previous Open Championships and used by Tourism Northern Ireland as part of the UK agreed event economic impact evaluation framework. The assessment looks at the economic and media value directly attributable to The Open in Northern Ireland.

The forecast total economic benefit for Northern Ireland was at least £80m. The estimate included a total economic impact, new money, of £33.4m and a destination marketing benefit derived from global media coverage of circa £50m. The total economic impact for CC&G was forecast as £17.5m.

The independent research now confirms a total economic benefit for NI of £45m and a destination marketing benefit of £61m. Giving a total economic benefit of £106m.

The independently researched total economic impact for the CC&G council area is £26.2m.

The impact assessment does not include the wider benefits derived as a result of hosting the event in Northern Ireland e.g. golf tourism legacy. Golf tourism is now worth over £42.6 million annually (Sports Marketing Surveys 2018), having increased by 58% since 2013. 39% of golf visitors in 2018 stated that the hosting of The Open in NI was a major influencer to choosing NI.

Whilst the full legacy value of the event is still to be collated, the current piece of work concludes that the benefit to Northern Ireland of hosting The 148<sup>th</sup> Open is in excess of £100 million.

#### Public Perception Survey

In excess of 5000 individual surveys were conducted during The Open, which also established:

- 95% of spectators were satisfied/very satisfied with their Open experience overall.
- 98% from CCG agreed The Open made them feel more positive about where they live.
- 90% from CCG agreed The Open brought the local community closer.
- 99.5% from somewhere in NI were proud that the country was hosting The 148<sup>th</sup> Open.
- 98% of NI residents felt the event enhanced NI's event hosting reputation.
- 96% of visitors to NI for The Open had an enhanced image of the country as a place to visit.
- 83% of visitors to NI were more likely to visit again in next 2 years as a result of The Open.

#### Further Key Headlines

Attendance;

- Total attendance 237,750.
- Unique Spectators 87,200.
- Record spectator attendance for any Open outside St Andrews.

Spectators Origin;

- Northern Ireland 42.4%
- Rest of the UK 20.2%
- Outside NI 37.4%

### **Conclusion**

The success of the 148<sup>th</sup> Open is a reflection of what can be achieved through collaborative working across public and private sectors, focusing on a shared and common goal.

The success of The Open is also a consequence of the additional initiatives and cross government backing undertaken by NI agencies, through extending marketing activity and wider infrastructure development, including the Regeneration of Portrush.

The success of The Open will benefit the Borough for years if not decades. The European Tour responsible for the Irish Open, is currently considering a return to Portstewart in 2021 and we eagerly await news of the return of The Open.

## **17. CORRESPONDENCE**

The purpose of the report was to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

### **17.1 Coleraine Twinning**

Correspondence has been received from Coleraine Twinning Association requesting that Council considers the funding process along with their future commitment to Twinning.

**It is recommended** that the Leisure and Development Committee considers the content of the correspondence.

### **17.2 Student Accommodation**

Members were asked to note the correspondence received from the University of Ulster regarding the potential change to rates charges on student accommodation.

In response to Councillor Knight-McQuillan, the Director of Leisure and Development apologised for the delay in presenting the correspondence from Coleraine Twinning.

Proposed by Councillor Knight-McQuillan  
Seconded by Alderman Duddy

- to recommend that Council refer Twinning Associations' Funding to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

The Funding Manager outlined a 'light-touch' Twinning Funding application process, opened 3 times specifically for the 4 Twinning Associations, 2 had applied and had received Letters of Offer.

Alderman Duddy requested the Charter referred to within the correspondence was circulated, he considered the same application process opened to Community Associations should be applied to Twinning Associations.

Councillor Watton stated he did not support funding Twinning Associations and suggested Council hold a workshop.

Councillor Schenning supported a presentation from the Twinning Associations.

Councillor Baird praised Limavady Twinning Association and their programme of activities with Vigneux Sur Yon, Councillor Baird supported taking another look at Twinning.

Alderman McCorkell stated his dissatisfaction taking another look at Twinning, due to receiving correspondence from one Association, he advised funding Limavady Twinning Association was working very well.

- \* **Press left the meeting at 9.02PM during consideration of the Item.**
- \* **Councillor C McShane left the meeting at 9.20PM during consideration of the Item.**

## **18. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

Proposed by Alderman Duddy  
Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

**AGREED** – to recommend that the matter of the earlier correspondence from Ulster University regarding the potential change to rates charges on student accommodation is referred to the Partnership Panel.

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

Proposed by Alderman Duddy  
Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council move, 'In-Committee'.

\* **Public left the meeting at 9.35PM.**

## **19. CONSULTATIONS**

There were no consultation documents.

## **20. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MULHOLLAND, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCCAWE, REFERRED FROM 3 DECEMBER 2019 COUNCIL MEETING**

*"This Council notes the contribution that young people make to community and civic life in Causeway, Coast and Glens; encourages schools, youth groups and community organisations to become more involved in the life of local government and; resolves to establish a Youth Shadow Council to enhance civic engagement and improve public services that affect young people across this new Council Borough".*

The Director of Leisure and Development advised, young citizens had wished to be in attendance to listen to the debate and in light of the COVID 19 Pandemic, he advised the Item would be deferred.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes  
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

**AGREED** – to recommend the Notice of Motion is adjourned to a later Leisure and Development committee meeting, date, to be arranged.

## **21. REVIEW OF LEISURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by The Head of Sport and Wellbeing. Project Manager was in attendance to respond to queries.

The purpose of the paper was to update Members and seek approval for the recommendation and next steps in relation to the evaluation of Leisure Management Options for Council's Tier 1 leisure facilities (Coleraine Leisure Centre, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, Roe Valley leisure Centre) and Tier 2 leisure facilities (Jim Watt Sports Centre, Dungiven Sports Centre and Sheskburn Recreation Centre).

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

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

A graphical summary of the management options to aid Members consideration of the above was included as Annex E, circulated.

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

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

**It is recommended** that Members note that the approval of Option A – Continue with In-House Transformation is subject to an independent review mechanism against critical success factors. In the event of non-achievement of these critical success factors, this review mechanism will allow for a review of the original decision and selection of either: Option B – Deploy a Council Owned Company; or Option C – Outsource Leisure Centres depending upon the circumstances of non-achievement. This independent review mechanism will be developed further over the next three months along with finalised Service Level agreements with corporate support services.

Councillor Holmes stated, given the current situation and proposed £1M spend, there may be higher priorities and the matter be deferred.

Alderman Duddy concurred, given the current circumstances.

The Head of Wellbeing and Sport advised the in-house transformation would continue.

Councillor Schenning supported Alderman Duddy.

Councillor Nicholl supported bringing the Item back to committee at the next earliest opportunity.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes  
Seconded by Alderman Duddy

- to recommend that Council defer Review of Leisure Management Options to the August committee meeting.

The Chair put the proposal to the committee to vote.  
Committee voted unanimously in favour.  
The Chair declared the motion carried.

## **22. DUNGIVEN BOWLING PROJECT**

Confidential report, previously circulated.

The purpose of the paper was to update Members on the conclusions arising from a Strategic Outline Case for the Dungiven Bowling Project, and to request approval before committing resources in the development of an Outline Business Case for investment decision.

### **Options**

A Strategic Outline Case for the project has been prepared (included at Annex A (circulated) and identifies the most feasible options as follows:

#### **Option 1 – Do Nothing**

Council deems any investment to be unaffordable with Options 2 and 3 deferred and the project placed on Council's "prioritised project" list for future consideration. Dungiven Bowling Club has to leave the existing site on disposal and is supported in their efforts to secure a longer term relocation to Limavady Recreation Club. This will secure £190,000 capital monies for Council's Capital Programme.

#### **Option 2 – Develop existing bowling green (at old Main Road site)**

Council deems the level of investment at the new Curragh Road site to be cost prohibitive and withdraws the bowling green and MUGA from the portfolio of the current Main Street site. Officers are then instructed to bring forward an OBC for the construction of an appropriately scaled

changing pavilion and floodlighting at an estimated cost of £225,000 for the use of the Bowling Club at the old site. The OBC will be supported with a Club Development Plan. The capital receipt on disposal will be significantly less than £190,000 (*TBC by LPS*) generating a net cost of at least £35,000 which will impact upon Council's Capital Programme.

### **Option 3 – Develop new bowling green (on new Curragh Road site)**

Council approves Officers to progress to Stage 1 - the construction of a new bowling green on Curragh Road site at an estimated cost of £205,000 for grass or £240,000 for synthetic surface. The resultant OBC will be supported by a Club Development Plan for Dungiven Bowling Club with agreed KPIs. The net cost after capital receipts on disposal is between £15,000 (grass) and £50,000 (synthetic) which will impact upon Council's Capital Programme.

**It is recommended** that Members consider the above 3 options and make a decision on the preferred option before committing resources in the development of an Outline Business Case.

Alderman Duddy stated the project was not on the Capital Works schedule and Council did not have the funding to develop.

The Head of Wellbeing and Sport responded to questions and clarified she would investigate supporting the cost of a relocation to Limavady, however discussions were at an initial stage.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes  
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl and

**AGREED** - to recommend that Council defer the Item to the April Council meeting, pending receipt of additional information.

- \* **Councillor Baird left the meeting at 10.14PM.**
- \* **Alderman Duddy left the meeting at 10.16PM.**

## **22. LD CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION**

Confidential report, previously circulated.

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with information on the current financial position of Leisure and Development Directorate at the end of Period 10.

## **24. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 12 (O)**

## **24.1 Leisure Centre Memberships (Alderman McCorkell)**

Alderman McCorkell requested the Chair consider the matter of fees to leisure centres being waived.

The Chair advised, given the late hour, he would prefer not to have additional matters raised.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified that refunds would be forthcoming in the event of facilities being closed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

## **24.2 Investigate possibility of a Private Operator for Waterworld (Councillor McCaw)**

In accordance with Standing Order 12(o), Councillor McCaw requested an update on the current status of Waterworld, to investigate whether a private operator could be in place for 2020.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that Waterworld was advancing through the Asset Disposal Process.

He also highlighted the increasing annual operating loss, annual maintenance requirements, staffing position and health and Safety regime.

To add an open procurement process, and considering business tenancy, it may not be possible to consider a 'Private Operator' at this time for 2020. The Covid 19 Pandemic and the closure of facilities further complicates this option.

### **MOTION TO PROCEED *'IN PUBLIC'***

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council move, *'In Public'*.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 10.23PM.

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Chair