



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>Nil</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 19th December 2023	<i>Signed as a correct record</i>
4.	Members will receive a presentation from Mr John McGrillen, Chief Executive, Tourism NI	<i>Received</i>
5.	Drumagully Trail Development	<i>To recommend that Council enter into a licence agreement with Forest Service for the development of the Drumagully Trail at Downhill Forest North. As part of this licence agreement, Council will assume maintenance and insurance liabilities for the walking trails under the 25 year tenure of the licence agreement.</i> <i>The project will be subject to the condition that the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) provide £75,000 Capital funding for the works required.</i>
6.	Play Strategy Mid Term Review	<i>To recommend that Council note the Mid-</i>

		<p>Term update report on the Play Strategy and approve the following recommendations to be actioned over the remaining term of the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The indicative provision suggested of £0.5m per year should be earmarked for planned preventative repair and maintenance of play parks within the Capital Programme; • The Mid Term update report should be used to revisit and inform Council's prioritised list of capital projects for play provision. The projects highlighted above that have not been progressed could then be progressed to business case subject to affordability and Committee/Council approval; and • A report on options to address the development of Non-Fixed Play Approaches to be brought back to Committee/Council for consideration
7.	Correspondence	
(i)	Correspondence from the Department for Communities regarding the annual Celebration of Sport event	To recommend that Council note the contents of the correspondence and approve the request to partner the Department for the event
8.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	Nil
9.	Consultations	Nil

	For Confidential Consideration (Items 10-14 inclusive)	
10.	Leisure Facilities Opening Hours	Noted
11.	Public Path Extinguishment Order	<i>To recommend that Council proceeds with the confirmation of the Order and submits the Order together with the objections and representations to the Department for determination</i>
12.	Sport and Wellbeing Essential Maintenance Projects	<i>To recommend that Council approve the progression of tender exercises for the listed projects in this report, with an expected expenditure of circa £126k.</i> <i>As appropriate for each project, further reports will be brought back to Council for approval of tendered costs.</i>
13.	Riada Astroturf Replacement Tender	<i>To recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, provision of a new Category 03 pitch covering, shock pad and associate works to the hockey pitch and recommend to Council the tender award to Haffey Sportsground Limited at a cost of £186,100.</i>
14.	Small Settlement Regeneration Programme – Drumsurn Tender	<i>To recommend that Council approve Option 2 - Net Zero Option – Community Centre Modular Unit in</i>

		<i>Drumsumn – Western Buildings Systems for a contract sum of £463,978.94 (excl. VAT).</i>
15.	Any Other Relevant Business Notified in Accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	<i>Nil</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024**

In the Chair: Councillor Bateson (C)

Members Present: Alderman Callan (R), Scott (C), Stewart (C);
Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (C), Holmes (R/C),
Kennedy (R), Kyle (C), McCully (C), McGurk (R),
McShane (R), Schenning (R), Stirling (C), Watson (C),
Wisener (C)

Officers Present: M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
K McGonigle, Destination Manager (R)
J Elliott, Town and Village Manager (R)
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R)
R Gillen, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)
A Lennox, Mobile Operation Officer (C)

J McGrillen, Chief Executive Tourism NI (R) (Item 4)

Press 2 no. (R)

Public 2 no. (R)

Key: (C) Attended in the Chamber
(R) Attended Remotely

Substitutions

Alderman Scott substituted for Alderman McAuley.

The Chair advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded; and with the remote meetings protocol.

The Director of Corporate Services undertook a roll call of committee members present.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies recorded.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023

Summary previously circulated.

AGREED – to recommend that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 19 December 2023 were signed as a correct record.

- * **Councillor Holmes attended the meeting in the Chamber at 7.14pm during consideration of this item, after attending remotely**

4. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MR JOHN MCGRILLEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TOURISM NI

The Chair invited Chief Executive, Tourism NI to present.

Chief Executive, Tourism NI provided an overview of how Tourism NI promote tourism in Northern Ireland including the use of social media, working with international journalists and promoting sporting events.

Chief Executive, Tourism NI provided an overview of the Spring Marketing Campaign and how well Council and Tourism NI work in partnership together. Council's growth deal projects were also acknowledged. J McGrillen explained Tourism NI's industry development strategies.

Chief Executive, Tourism NI acknowledged the cost of living crisis was affecting tourism in Northern Ireland; shared consumer sentiments and advised how Tourism NI were proactively promoting low cost, value for money activities within Northern Ireland.

Chief Executive, Tourism NI shared specific research which related tourism on the North Coast compared to the rest of Northern Ireland; he briefly highlighted occupancy rates in tourist accommodation since 2019.

In response to questions, Chief Executive, Tourism NI stated the new tourism strategy was focused on promoting areas of the Borough which were not along the coast and encouraging tourists to visit lesser-known attractions citing Glenshane farm as a good example. Chief Executive, Tourism NI confirmed that Tourism NI were working with local Councils to access funding and promote destinations which were consumerable. Chief Executive, Tourism NI stated that promoting secondary tourist spots, such as Mountsandel in Coleraine was limited because there were limited resources with capital monies being redirected. Chief Executive, Tourism NI confirmed that DiscoverNI.com allows Councils, businesses and government bodies to upload onto the platform to promote their area and businesses on a global platform.

Chief Executive, Tourism NI confirmed that Tourism NI's role in certification of holiday accommodation was to determine if the property was suitable and have no control over the number of properties used for holiday accommodation; there was still an increase in the number of Airbnb's but not at the same level as previously seen; these were still an important segment of the market.

Chief Executive, Tourism NI stated Tourism NI have no control over where Cruise ships prebook excursions and that it was important for businesses to make themselves visible on online platforms such as TripAdvisor; he further stated that cruise ships were an insignificant element of tourism business due to little financial income seen from them.

In response to questions regarding the impact of Brexit, Chief Executive, Tourism NI stated it was hard to tell, as all of Ireland has had an impact from Covid and has not yet recovered. He stated that it may be off putting for people to cross the border from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland due to the extra hassle Brexit had caused. After the referendum, the hospitality sector has not recovered in terms of labour availability and that local people need to be encouraged to engage with the hospitality sector. Chief Executive, Tourism NI confirmed the issue with travel was passport, and not visa issues.

In response to further questions Chief Executive, Tourism NI stated the staff within Council have the required skillset to promote the area and they do this very well and questioned the benefits of engaging with a third party to do this, when Council already did this extremely well.

5. DRUMAGULLY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Tourism & Recreation

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present an update, for Members, on the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) and to seek Members' approval to further progress on the delivery of the Drumagully Trail at Downhill Forest North.

Background

The Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) started in September 2020 following a successful application to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for support of £3.4 million. The Partnership has progressed the delivery of projects across the themes Outdoor Recreation, Natural Heritage and Built Heritage and Conservation.

Council agreed in October 2019 to become a supporting partner of the LPS providing £273,560 of match funding over five years.

One of the Outdoor Recreation projects, the Downhill Spatial Masterplan, was developed to consider the recreational use of Downhill Forest and the historic

demesne. The Masterplan recommended, to improve the walking product and visitor experience, that Council considers entering into licence agreement for Downhill Forest North to develop, manage and maintain the existing Ulster Way/North Sperrins Way and create a new spur, in the form of Drumagully Trail.

At the January 2023 Leisure & Development Committee it was agreed Council negotiate the terms of the licence agreement with Forest Service for both Ballycarton and Downhill North proposed projects, which limit council's responsibilities and cost to operational area of interest/benefit. The licence agreement will restrict Council's liability to the maintenance, repair and insurances regarding recreational walking activities where the trails are located.

Proposals

The project works on the Drumagully Trail would see the enhancement of an existing looped walking trail through Downhill Forest North measuring approximately 1.4 kilometres. These works will enhance the visitor experience and minimise negative impact on the site. The route is shown on the trail map below (circulated).

The works will include the appropriate surface dressing of the route and associated trail furniture including footbridges, way markers and interpretation. Council staff have now progressed discussions with Forest Service with respect to the necessary licence agreement for the trail development works. A draft agreement has been prepared and reviewed by Council staff and solicitor. The cost of the trail development is estimated at £75,000 which will receive grant aid at 100%.

Council will have to build in an annual maintenance budget for this facility:

- Circa £2000 per annum, up to year 10.
- Circa £5000 per annum, beyond year 10.

The expected tenure for the licence agreement is 25 years.

Next Steps

Subject to Council approval, it is proposed to avail of the £75,000 grant aid at 100%, and complete on the upgrading works for the Drumagully Trail in conjunction with LPS. This site will be promoted in the future as an improved outdoor recreational opportunity for citizens of the Borough and visitors to the area.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council to enter into a licence agreement with Forest Service for the development of the Drumagully Trail at Downhill Forest North. As part of this licence agreement, Council will assume maintenance and insurance liabilities for the walking trails under the 25 year tenure of the licence agreement. The project will be subject to the condition that the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) provide £75,000 Capital funding for the works required.

In response to questions, the Head of Tourism and Recreation provided clarity on the difference between the project at Drumagully Trail at Downhill Forest North and Ballycarton stating that the scale, length of trails, complexity of the sites, and carparking facilities at Ballycarton are the main issues and Council are not in a position to negotiate to the level the Forest Service want. The Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed that Council will continue to engage with the Forest Service in relation to Ballycarton and confirmed that inhouse legal advice had been sought.

The Coast and Countryside Manager confirmed there are issues with Ballycarton and there has been some progress made with the Forest Service. The Coast and Countryside Manager advised that the budget had been set based on the cost of Garvagh Forest and in house experience on path maintenance.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED - to recommend that Council enter into a licence agreement with Forest Service for the development of the Drumagully Trail at Downhill Forest North. As part of this licence agreement, Council will assume maintenance and insurance liabilities for the walking trails under the 25 year tenure of the licence agreement. The project will be subject to the condition that the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) provide £75,000 Capital funding for the works required.

6. **PLAY STRATEGY MID TERM REVIEW**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport & Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to update Members on a Mid-Term Review of the Play Strategy 2020-25 and request approval for the recommendations to be actioned over the remaining term of the strategy.

Background & Approvals to Date

In March 2019, Members received a report on the draft Play Strategy. This report was deferred for approval subject to a Members Workshop. This approach provided the opportunity for consultation with each DEA councillor grouping, allowing for Members' input and agreement of the proposals relevant to specific geographical areas of responsibility.

In October 2020, the strategy was updated following Section 75 consultation, Rural Needs Impact Assessment and Members feedback and approved by Council. The strategy was subsequently published on Council's website and has been a key reference document in the development of multiple business cases for new projects delivered in recent years. An overview of the original Play Strategy is provided below for ease of reference.

Play Strategy 2020-25

Council commissioned independent play sector specialists, PlayBoard NI to develop an overarching Play Investment Strategy for the Borough. The key recommendations of the Strategy are summarised within the costed Action Plan within the Executive Summary.

It is important to note that while the Action Plan acts as a tool to prioritise projects for future investment in fixed play, it does not constitute budget approval. All proposed investments in play will be the subject of proportionate business cases and investment decision making in compliance with Council's capital project procedures and delegated approvals.

The Action Plan recommended investment of £4.129m* across 7 areas over 5 years (table circulated).

**Note: The indicative project costs included above(circulated) are now dated and do not reflect construction hyperinflation during 2021/22.*

In addition, PlayBoard NI undertook a condition audit of all 99 fixed play areas. As a key commitment of the Play Strategy this has resulted in individual reports which in many cases recommend maintenance and repair in addition to the projects listed above in the Action Plan. These repair and renewal recommendations were costed by Council's Estates Team with an anticipated budget of £0.5m per year to protect and reinstate the initial play value of these sites.

Mid-Term Update

Council commissioned Playboard NI to carry out a mid-term review on the Play Strategy. The high level brief for this update was to:

- Conduct a review of strategic recommendations and progress made with the delivery of new capital projects despite affordability constraints and the Covid pandemic;
- Carry out site visits and play audits on any new facilities developed to determine the overall quality and accessibility of provision and 'play values' for new play parks;
- Update strategic context for new strategies/legislation impacting on the strategy;
- Demographic review of population coverage using up-to-date population statistics (2021 census data) to assess and determine current level of need and demand;
- Identify emerging recommendations for consideration e.g. the ongoing need for repair/renewal of play parks.

As part of this review, Officers provided the opportunity for workshops with each of the political party leads to ensure the needs of local DEA Members were taken into account.

In considering the feedback provided within this section it is important to recognise the delaying impact of Covid-19 and to acknowledge that Council are still only at the halfway point in delivering the overarching play strategy. The Mid-Term update report was concluded in December 2023 and the full report is included as an Annex to this report. The key review points are summarised below:

- **Limavady Accessible Play Park (completed):** Play Value score of 655 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value. Limavady accessible play park offers an attractive, high-quality location for play incorporating a broad range of fixed play opportunities aimed at children of all abilities.
- **Ballycastle Accessible Play Park (planned):** Council have recently released plans for the redevelopment of the site to incorporate, alongside a number of key leisure facilities an accessible play park. The concept behind the play park provide a destination level play park that offers a wide range of play experiences for children of all ages and abilities. Specific play equipment will be incorporated for children with reduced mobility and the play park will also include multi-sensory play experiences, tactile surfacing, landscaping and interactive panels.
- **Megaw Accessible Play Park (completed):** Play Value score of 640 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value. During the period under review, a number of developments and enhancements have been undertaken including the introduction of an accessible trampoline, inclusive seesaw and inclusive swing seat alongside quiet play opportunities. Acknowledging the requirement for appropriate accessible toilet and changing facilities at District level inclusive play parks, a review is currently being undertaken focused on the potential installation of a Changing Places facility.
- **Flowerfield Accessible Play Park (completed):** The inclusive play park located at Flowerfield (Portstewart) was opened in 2016 providing a flagship inclusive play facility. As part of the review, a play value assessment was undertaken for Flowerfield to provide an up-to-date assessment of the level of play value currently being delivered by the play park alongside recommendations. Play Value score of 640 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value albeit reduced slightly from 675.
- **Portrush Destination Play Park (completed):** As part of the play investment strategy, a new District level destination adventure play park has been developed at Ramore Head in Portrush. Play Value score of 655 (out of 800) and graded at the highest level of play value. The recently developed play park at Ramore head in Portrush provides an attractive, high value location for play for residents and visitors to the area.
- **Coleraine Waterside (no progress):** Given the high level of demand for play, the strategy recommended that Council should progress towards the development of a new fixed play park to service the area. During the intervening period, Council have undertaken a review of land availability however have been unable to progress development. Given the area remains in high need, Council should continue to explore land options.

- **Waterfoot (no progress):** Based on pre-RPA authorisation, the play investment strategy recommended that Council should explore options for the provision of a fixed play park within the main settlement of Waterfoot. To date Council has not progressed the development of an additional fixed play park within Waterfoot and should look to progress in the next phase of delivery.
- **Enhancement of Existing Play Parks:** The identified play parks were: Ballykelly, The Bio Park, Cloughmills, Quay Road (Ballycastle) to accessible destination standard and Rugby Avenue, Coleraine to destination standard. To date none of the identified play parks have been subject to extension or enhancement as outlined within the strategy.
- **Land Exploration for New Play Development:** The locations identified were: Ballymoney South, Castleroe, Bushmills and The Cutts (Coleraine). To date no potential development sites have been identified at any of the first four locations, however land exploration continues with a view to progressing the recommendations.
- **Capital Renewal Programme:** The strategy identified 12 play parks which, due to their low level of play value, required upgrade and renewal in order to enhance the standard of play on offer. As part of the review process, a further play value assessment has been undertaken for each of the identified alongside further recommendations. The Mid Term Review report highlights the significant deterioration in play values at the locations alongside actions taken since the formalisation of the play investment strategy.
- **Transformation Programme:** The investment strategy identified 5 locations which, based on a low level of demand for play, were recommended for site transformation. The five sites identified for transformation and their relative play values are: Shanes Park (Play Value = 255), Islandmoore (Play Value = 270), Ballyknock (Play Value = 290), Glenuillin (Play Value = 335), Ballanagarvey (Play Value = 365). During the intervening period none of the identified sites have been subject to transformation action.
- **Development of Non-Fixed Play Approaches:** The Play Strategy acknowledged that whilst fixed play parks have a key role to play in meeting play need, it is not always economically viable to develop new fixed play parks within areas of low population density. In reviewing progress, Council have undertaken some steps towards the enhancement of non-fixed play approaches, albeit progress has been limited in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With regards to establishing a dedicated role to drive implementation of the play investment strategy, Council have allocated responsibility for play matters to the Sport and Wellbeing Development Unit Manager.

Key Conclusions

It is important to note that the Play Strategy does not commit Council to investment, instead the research/analysis supports the development of project Business Cases that may attract Council funding or new external funding opportunities e.g. UK Government Levelling Up Fund/Community Ownership Fund, Peace Plus/Small Settlement Fund etc.

As noted above by Playboard NI, the Covid pandemic has inhibited progress up to the mid-point of the strategy period. In addition, the Council's more restricted financial position during the early years of the strategy also slowed down progress with play projects that could not secure substantial external funding from other sources.

As highlighted above the indicative project costs included above are now dated and do not reflect construction hyperinflation during 2021/22. The indicative investment required of £4.129m could be uplifted by 50% to £6.193m to forecast financial need more accurately.

Both the original Play Strategy and Mid Term update report highlight the ongoing need for repair and renewal and adequate lifecycle budget provision to maintain the play value of existing sites.

A new play strategy will be commissioned in 2024/25 and developed for approval in March 2025 to ensure continued planning and prioritisation of investment in play across the Borough.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the Mid-Term update report on the Play Strategy and approve the following recommendations to be actioned over the remaining term of the strategy:

- The indicative provision suggested of £0.5m per year should be earmarked for planned preventative repair and maintenance of play parks within the Capital Programme;
- The Mid Term update report should be used to revisit and inform Council's prioritised list of capital projects for play provision. The projects highlighted above that have not been progressed could then be progressed to business case subject to affordability and Committee/Council approval; and
- A report on options to address the development of Non-Fixed Play Approaches to be brought back to Committee/Council for consideration.

In response to questions, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing stated that Ballybogey play park has been discussed with Estates regarding location and progress of repairs and that Council are working towards reinstatement of the slide which has been damaged. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed that maintenance work for the mini golf facilities in Ballycastle will be looked at.

Proposed by Councillor Kyle
Seconded by Councillor McShane and

AGREED - to recommend that Council note the Mid-Term update report on the Play Strategy and approve the following recommendations to be actioned over the remaining term of the strategy:

- The indicative provision suggested of £0.5m per year should be earmarked for planned preventative repair and maintenance of play parks within the Capital Programme;

- The Mid Term update report should be used to revisit and inform Council's prioritised list of capital projects for play provision. The projects highlighted above that have not been progressed could then be progressed to business case subject to affordability and Committee/Council approval; and
- A report on options to address the development of Non-Fixed Play Approaches to be brought back to Committee/Council for consideration

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

The following are listed:

(i) Correspondence from the Department for Communities regarding the annual Celebration of Sport event (Dated 18 January 2024)

The Department for Communities has policy responsibility for sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland and as part of this delivers an annual Celebration of Sport event which promotes sporting and physical activity opportunities and encourages young people of all abilities and from different backgrounds to participate in and appreciate the wider benefits of sport. The 2024 event is due to be held in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough and a request has been made for Council to partner the Department for the event and to consider complimentary use of Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre for the event.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of the correspondence and consider the request to partner the Department for the event.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson

Seconded by Alderman Scott

AGREED - to recommend that Council note the contents of the correspondence and approve the request to partner the Department for the event.

8. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to Partnership Panel.

9. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Alderman Scott
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council move ‘*In Committee*’.

- * **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8:29pm.**

The information contained in the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

10. LEISURE FACILITIES OPENING HOURS

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the methodology which will be applied to reviewing the operational opening hours of Council’s main & minor leisure facilities.

The report will also provide Members with an update on the interim arrangements which will be implemented in January 2024, extending the weekday evening opening at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.

Further details provided in the confidential report.

Committee NOTED the report.

In response to questions, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed the figures for income and expenditure of the trial period at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre will be brought to the April Leisure and Development Committee meeting. It was also confirmed that a trial can also be completed in Sheskburn at the earliest opportunity.

11. PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the opportunity for Members to consider responses to the Blackburn Public Path Extinguishment Order public consultation and to decide whether to confirm or give notice not to confirm the Public Path Order.

Options

If Council is satisfied that the objections or representations are unlikely to be withdrawn, and Council still wishes to proceed with the Order, it must submit the Order together with the objections and representations to the Department for determination.

This presents Council with two options:

Option 1 – Council does not proceed to confirm the Order made on 3rd October 2023 and notice is given not to confirm. In this case the path remains open.

Option 2 – Council proceeds with the confirmation of the Order and submits the Order together with the objections and representations to the Department for determination.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee considers Option 1 and Option 2 as detailed in section 6 of this report and makes its preferred recommendation for full Council.

In response to questions, the Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed the percentage of respondents objecting to the Blackburn Public Path Extinguishment Order as being 73% and confirmed the procedure if Council were to submit the Order to the Department for determination - Council would contact the Natural Environment Division (NED) a Department in DAERA, an inspector would complete a local enquiry, write a report and the Department would make a decision; there will be further consultation with the representations both objectors and those in support of the Order. In terms of a timescale the Head of Tourism and Recreation stated it could be a short period of time or it could be protracted, over many months.

In order to provide further information, the Coast and Countryside Manager reflected on his experience in relation to referring these matters to the Department for consideration. The Coast and Countryside Manager stated his experience is from 20 years ago; that it was a long drawn-out process where someone was brought in from England as an appropriately qualified inspector; the challenge is finding someone who is appropriately qualified to lead a local public enquiry and that is a matter for DAERA and NED, not for Council. Council's role in this is to be an honest broker and apply the procedures in line with legislation. The Coast and Countryside Manager confirmed that he does not recall if there is a cost to Council, circumstances may have changed.

Alderman Callan referred to the strong feeling in Limavady regarding the Blackburn Path and stated the DUP are not in opposition of the two schools.

Alderman Scott stated how the Blackburn Path is of benefit to the local elderly population and stated his support of the schools.

Proposed by Alderman Scott
Seconded by Alderman Callan

- That Council approves Option 1 – Council does not proceed to confirm the Order made on 3rd October 2023 and notice is given not to confirm. In this case the path remains open.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McCully

- That Council approves Option 2 – Council proceeds with the confirmation of the Order and submits the Order together with the objections and representations to the Department for determination.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote.
10 Members voted For; 5 Members voted Against; 1 Member Abstained.
The Chair declared the Amendment carried.

AGREED – to recommend that Council approves Option 2 – Council proceeds with the confirmation of the Order and submits the Order together with the objections and representations to the Department for determination.

12. SPORT AND WELLBEING ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

To update Members on priority works / maintenance / repair required at Sport & Wellbeing Facilities and seek approval for expenditure of more than £15k at a number of sites / facilities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to approve the progression of tender exercises for the listed projects in this report, with an expected expenditure of circa £126k.

As appropriate for each project, further reports will be brought back to Council for approval of tendered costs.

In response to questions, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed there is an issue of sound proofing in a number of Community Centres. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing provided clarification on concerns raised regarding the Management Agreement with Millburn Community Association; stating the needs of the group; provided information on the wider context of the situation in Millburn Community Centre and that the Community Association have a planned programme of activities which the Community Centre can accommodate. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified there is little usage of Millburn Community Centre by other groups.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the progression of tender exercises for the listed projects in this report, with an expected expenditure of circa £126k;

As appropriate for each project, further reports will be brought back to Council for approval of tendered costs.

13. RIADA ASTROTURF REPLACEMENT TENDER

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date on the replacement of Riada Astro turf Carpet and associated works, and to request approval to award the contract as per the associated Tender Report at a cost of £186,100.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the tender process in Annex A, provision of a new Category 03 pitch covering, shock pad and associate works to the hockey pitch and recommend to Council the tender award to Haffey Sportsground Limited at a cost of £186,100.

Proposed by Councillor Stirling
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, provision of a new Category 03 pitch covering, shock pad and associate works to the hockey pitch and recommend to Council the tender award to Haffey Sportsground Limited at a cost of £186,100.

14. SMALL SETTLEMENT REGENERATION PROGRAMME – DRUMSURN TENDER

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by Head of Prosperity & Place.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the outcome of the procurement process to appoint contractors to undertake the construction of a new Community Centre Modular Unit in Drumsurn as part of the Covid Recovery Small Settlement

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council their preferred option regards the construction of a new Community Centre Modular Unit in Drumsurn i.e.:

Option 1 – ‘Do Nothing’ i.e., do not proceed with this project under the CRSSRP and retain the project on the capital works programme list.

Option 2 - Net Zero Option – Community Centre Modular Unit in Drumsurn – Western Buildings Systems for a contract sum of £463,978.94 (excl. VAT).

Option 3 - Non Net Zero Option – Community Centre Modular Unit in Drumsurn – Western Buildings Systems for a contract sum of £443,213.69 (excl. VAT).

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve Option 2 - Net Zero Option – Community Centre Modular Unit in Drumsurn – Western Buildings Systems for a contract sum of £463,978.94 (excl. VAT).

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

There were no items of Any Other Relevant Business.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McCully

AGREED - to recommend that Council move ‘*In Public*’.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9:19PM

Chair