



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>None</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Councillors Kyle and Schenning</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 20 th February 2024	<i>Signed as a correct record</i>
4.	Members will receive a presentation from the organisers of the Stendhal Festival	<i>Received</i>
5.	Review Period for Terms of Reference	<i>To recommend that Council approve the addition of a review period to the Leisure and Development Committee's Terms of Reference to partially fulfil the requirements of the recommendation contained in the Governance Transformation Action Plan G11 'that a periodic review of Committees should be included in the terms of reference..' to be carried out prior to the Annual Meeting each year and that the Terms of Reference for the Leisure and Development Committee is updated in the Council's Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation.</i>

		<p><i>The updated Terms of Reference are at Annex A.</i></p> <p><i>And to further recommend that the Terms of Reference are amended to state that the working groups should meet on an ad hoc basis, rather than quarterly.</i></p>
6.	Cultural, Arts and Heritage Fund	<p><i>To recommend that Council approves awards for funding through the Cultural Arts & Heritage Fund as detailed in Annex B, totalling £19,840.00.</i></p>
7.	Community Festival Fund	<p><i>To recommend that Council:</i></p> <p><i>i. Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, subject to confirmation of funding from DfC.</i></p> <p><i>ii. If confirmation of funding has not been received from DfC by 1st April, issue letters of offer to the applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May to a value of £8,025.</i></p>
8.	Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 24/25	<p><i>To recommend that Council approve; Option 2 – Sign-off on the draft Causeway LMP Action Plan and enter into agreement with DfC to roll-out the plan for the area.</i></p>

9.	Skateboarding, Portrush	<i>To recommend that Council takes full responsibility for the site to ensure a consistent approach to inspection, upkeep and repair and maintains the original agreement regarding regular meetings of the Working Group to improve communication and cooperation with the skateboarding community.</i>
10.	Correspondence	<i>Nil</i>
11.	Matters for Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>Nil</i>
12.	Consultations	<i>Nil</i>
13.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman S McKillop, seconded by Alderman Fielding (Abbrev facilities at the Bobby Greer Sports Complex)	<i>to recommend that this Council commits to upgrading the facilities at the Bobby Greer Sports Complex in order to meet a suitable standard for all weather training, games and match play. This upgrade must include an adequate floodlit artificial pitch surface to ensure an all year round sports, leisure and fitness service that will help sustain the growing local football club, improve health & wellbeing of citizens as well as building community cohesion in the area. 3G pitches are championed in the Council's Pitch Strategy. This upgrade will help provide a</i>

		<i>financially viable council facility. By increasing its working capacity it will also help Bushmills United FC and their Youth Academy of over 190 members realise their future long term aspirational goals. And further that this proposal goes forward in line with the Capital projects list, to be reviewed strategically.</i>
	For Confidential Consideration (Items 14-21 inclusive)	
14.	Growth Deal Heads of Terms	<i>To recommend to Council: 1.The final draft Heads of Terms document included at Annex A, while noting that further non-material edits may be required; 2.The updated Growth Deal governance document included at Annex B; 3.The revised cost estimate for Coleraine Leisure and Wellbeing Centre of £32.6m and the OBC Addendum included at Annex C.</i>
15.	Small Settlements Regeneration Programme Dervock MUGA	<i>To recommend to Council Option 2 - Construction of a MUGA in Dervock and the appointment of Northstone Materials Limited for a contract sum of £166,443 (exc.VAT). It is also recommended that a contingency of 15% is added resulting in an overall figure of</i>

		£191,409. The maximum contribution from Council towards Option 2 is £49,621.
16.	HALP Cushendall Camping Pods	To recommend to Council to approve the purchase of 3 camping pods for Cushendall HALP with the preferred tender being Pod Camping Ireland. The total cost for this procurement exercise is £28,500.
17.	Events External Firework Services Tender	To recommend that Council approve the appointment of Nemisis Pyrotechnics Ltd at a cost of £46,460 + VAT to provide Firework Displays at Council Events which will enable the Tourism Events team to deliver on the approved schedule of Council managed events.
18.	Greysteel Playpark Tender	To recommend that Council note the tender outcome in Annex A for Greysteel Playpark, supply and installation of playpark equipment and wet pour, and recommend to Council award of the tender to Hawthorne Heights at a cost of up to £132,863, inclusive of 10% contingency sum.
19.	Coleraine Leisure Centre Tender	To recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, Replacement of Coleraine Leisure Centre Wetside

		Lockers Tender Report and award the tender to Total Cubicles at a cost of £44,075.
20.	Physical Activity Referrals Unit	To recommend that Council note the detail in the above report and recommend for approval to Council, the establishment of a Physical Activity Referral Unit (Sport & Wellbeing) for the delivery of referral health service contracts and associated programmes.
21.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	
21.1	Atlantic Link Campus	Information
21.2	InvestNI Cloonavin office	Information
21.3	Ulster University – Coleraine Campus	Information

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024**

In the Chair: Councillor Bateson

Members Present: Alderman Callan, S McKillop, Stewart;
Councillors Anderson, C Archibald, Holmes, Kennedy,
Kyle, McCully, McGurk, McShane, Schenning, Stirling,
Watson, Wisener

Officers Present: D Jackson, Chief Executive
P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R)
J Elliot, Town and Village Manager (R)
U Harper, Committee & Member Services Officer

In Attendance: C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer

R Parkhill, Director, Stendhal Festival (Item 4)
C O'Donnell, Stendhal Festival (Item 4)

Press 2 no. (R)
Public 15 no. (1 no. R)

Key: (R) Attended Remotely

Substitutions: Councillor C Archibald substituted for Councillor N
Archibald
Alderman S McKillop substituted for Alderman John
McAuley

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies recorded.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kyle declared an interest in Item 8. Having declared an interest, Councillor Kyle left the Chamber during consideration of the Item and did not participate or vote on the Item.

Councillor Schenning declared an interest in Item 7. Having declared an interest, Councillor Schenning left the Chamber during consideration of the Item and did not participate or vote on the Item.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2024

Summary previously circulated.

Alderman S McKillop noted that, when the minutes were before Full Council, she had asked that the Pitch Strategy be deferred. She further advised that she wished to have the following on record:

“Bushmills United and I fed into the Otium facility audit; however, it would seem from the report that it was Council that compiled the case study of the club. The format of the summary was different from the rest, and it doesn't give the history of the club, the demographical makeup of the area, or the details of the current facility availability. I don't believe that the constraints and vision of the club were adequately covered. The catchment was recorded incorrectly; it should read that the catchment area of the club is Bushmills, outlying rural villages and hinterlands. The Bobby Greer Sports Complex facility is situated at several super output areas. Council has an obligation to ensure that all rural communities have access to necessary services and infrastructure. Therefore, I believe that Bushmills should have been included in the Otium report under “other strategy/policy updates of relevance”, along with Rathlin Island.”

AGREED – to recommend that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 20 February 2024 were signed as a correct record.

4. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE ORGANISERS OF THE STENDHAL FESTIVAL

The Chair welcomed the representatives of Stendhal Festival to the meeting.

The Director of Stendhal Festival delivered a presentation to the Committee, the key points of which were:

- Stendhal Festival is a beacon of arts and culture in NI.
- It is worth £21 million in direct and indirect expenditure.
- It has attracted over 72,000 visitors.
- It facilitates many community-based activities in the area, including a children's festival for key stage 2 students.
- Volunteers are crucial to the festival.
- It is the largest independent camping festival on the island, with a geographic reach that covers all of NI and beyond.
- Over 80% of the festival's programme is indigenous, and every artist is paid equitably.

- Stendhal Festival lost its funding from Tourism NI last year, when the National Tourism Events Sponsorship Scheme was pulled. This year, it has applied to the open call for the Tourism NI International Events Fund.
- Stendhal Festival is very thankful for the support from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.
- The site has huge potential to grow and develop into a world-class outdoor facility, but this requires significant capital investment.
- The organisers are currently going through a retrospective planning application for changes that have been made to the site, and they are keen to work with Council on making adjustments to the site in a timely manner.
- Stendhal Festival is the least funded festival in NI, despite being the biggest culturally, but was successful in securing five-figure sponsorship last year.

A discussion ensued in which the Chair, Councillor Schenning, Alderman Callan, Councillor McShane and Alderman Stewart all thanked the representatives of Stendhal festival for their presentation and praised the festival as a first-class grassroots festival. Councillor Schenning stated that there is potential for the infrastructure at the site to be developed for use by the private, public and community sector, and that more central government support is required.

In response to Alderman Callan asking how the Council could provide more support to the festival, the Director of Stendhal Festival advised that other councils offer multi-year funding that allows for forward planning, and this would be very helpful. He also referred to the Council's creative and cultural strategy and asked that when this is reviewed, it should demonstrate a financial commitment to the arts from Council.

The Chair thanked the representatives for presenting to Council and expressed a hope that Council can continue to support the festival.

* **The representatives of Stendhal Festival left the Chamber at 7.32pm.**

5. REVIEW PERIOD FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to add a review period to the Leisure and Development Committee's Terms of Reference to partially fulfil the requirements of the recommendation contained in the Governance Transformation Action Plan G11 'that a periodic review of Committees should be included in the Terms of Reference..' to be carried out prior to the Annual Meeting each year.

Transformation Action Plan G11 ‘that a periodic review of Committees should be included in the terms of reference..’ to be carried out prior to the Annual Meeting each year and that the Terms of Reference for the Leisure and Development Committee is updated in the Council’s Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation. The updated Terms of Reference are at **Annex A**.

And to further recommend that the Terms of Reference are amended to state that the working groups should meet on an ad hoc basis, rather than quarterly.

6. CULTURE, ARTS & HERITAGE FUND

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to detail the outcome of the assessment of applications received to the Culture, Arts & Heritage (CAH) Grant Programme for 2024-25 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.

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**.

As part of the business planning process, a report was brought forward to Council in November 2023 to approve all grant funding programmes for the 24/25 period, inclusive of the Culture, Arts & Heritage grant programme.

As a result, the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant programme was opened on 11TH December 2023 with a closing date of 26th January 2024 for receipt of completed applications. Virtual Information Roadshows were held in December to provide potential applicants with detailed information and guidance regarding individual grant programmes.

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the assessment of applications received to the Community Festivals Fund 2024-25 for approval, subject to receipt of confirmation of match funding from the Department for Communities.

Background

The Community Festivals Fund (CFF) was established by the Department for Communities (DfC) in recognition of the positive contribution that festivals can make to communities and to the local economy. A key priority of Department for Communities is ‘to enable communities to enhance their quality of life through participation/engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities.’ (*Department for Communities Community Festivals Fund Revised Policy and Guidance Framework October 2015*).

Council receives funding from DfC on an annual basis to operate a Community Festivals Fund which it is required to match. Confirmation of grant funding for 2024-25 has not yet been received from DfC, so to enable timely decisions to be communicated to applicants, some of which having events planned for April and May, approval is being sought in principle. The assumption has been made that the DfC funding award to Council will be at the same rate as 2023-24.

2024/25 Grant Programme

The CFF grant programme was opened for applications on 11th December 2023 with a closing date of Friday 2nd February 2024. The grant opening was publicly advertised as part of Council’s annual grant programme. Online grants roadshows were held to provide potential applicants with details of the grant programmes.

Applications were received from 46 organisations, two of which have since been withdrawn as they were successful in their applications to the Tourism Event Fund. An assessment panel of Council Officers assessed the applications received against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes for the programme. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% to be recommended for funding, in line with Council’s Grant Funding Policy.

An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant programme, detailing eligibility and assessment criteria, is attached at **Annex A**.

a. Applications Received:

No. of applications received	46
No. of applications withdrawn	2
No. of ineligible applicants	1
No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)	43
Total value of CFF funding recommended	£63,963
Expected budget available	£63,530
£27,800 expected from DfC (2023-24 award)	
£35,730 Council	

Under/ Over budget	£433 over budget
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A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and the grant amount recommended are listed in **Annex B**.

According to the criteria for the CFF Grant Programme, each day of a festival must be programmed to be of at least 4 hours duration and include a range of at least 3 activities to suit all sections of the community. One application was deemed ineligible as it did not meet the criteria for sufficient range of activities on the one day applied for. Several applications received less than they applied for as one or more of the days of their festival did not meet this criteria. Detailed feedback will be provided to these applicants to explain the reasons for ineligibility or reduction in amount awarded.

The amount applied for exceeds the expected budget by £433. Since this is a small amount, it is proposed that it will be taken from the general Community Development programme budget. A small amount of underclaiming usually occurs when some organisations don't claim their grant in full and as such the CFF programme may well not be overspent by year end.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members;

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, subject to confirmation of funding from DfC.
- ii. If confirmation of funding has not been received from DfC by 1st April, issue letters of offer to the applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May to a value of £8,025.

In response to Councillor Anderson, the Head of Community and Culture advised that the scoring and allocation of funding is calculated based on the eligibility of the items applied for and the duration of the festival. She referred Councillor Anderson to page 4 of the supporting document, which details the level of grant award based on types of activities applied for.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
 Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED - to recommend that Council:

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, subject to confirmation of funding from DfC.
- ii. If confirmation of funding has not been received from DfC by 1st April, issue letters of offer to the applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May to a value of £8,025.

* **Councillor Schenning returned to the Chamber at 7.44pm.**

* **Councillor Kyle left the Chamber at 7.44pm.**

8. LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 24/25

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request approval for the attached draft Causeway Coast and Glens Labour Market Partnership Action Plan for 2024/25.

Background

Since 2021-22 the Department for Communities (DfC) have supported the development and delivery of 11 Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) in Northern Ireland.

Action 27 of the Causeway Community Plan aims to:

‘Support the development of the Labour Market Partnership - supporting educational and skills initiatives within the Causeway Coast and Glens area to match current and future business needs.’

Employability NI is DfC’s new approach to providing support services for unemployed and economically inactive individuals seeking to get back into to work. Rather than a stand-alone programme, it is a series of interventions that will evolve over time, with legacy programmes (such as Steps to Success and Access to Work) concluded. It has been designed to:

- Deliver a reduction in economic inactivity and long-term unemployment to bring NI closer in line with UK rates.
- Provide increased employability support for those with health conditions and disabilities.
- Create a mechanism for government to collaborate with Councils and other Departments to offer local solutions.

One of the key elements of the programme design is the creation of “Local Labour Market Partnerships” in each council area. The Causeway Coast and Glens LMP will:

- Provide leadership and lead on the integration of services.
- Develop local area plans including setting targets for performance.
- Manage devolved funding and its delivery.
- Manage arrangements for the evaluation of local interventions.

In 2022-23 Council undertook the task of local convenor of a partnership approach to employability interventions in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. The LMP Members are local stakeholders and have been involved in the planning and delivery of the initial Action Plan.

LMP Members meet every two months. Current organisations represented on the Labour Market Partnership include:

- Careers Service
- Causeway Chamber of Commerce
- Causeway Enterprise Agency

- DfC JBO (North West and North East regions)
- Invest NI
- Northern Trust
- NRC
- NWRC
- Roe Valley Enterprises

Development of the Action Plan

A Strategic Assessment was carried out of employability outcomes and local labour market conditions in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. This exercise was undertaken to ensure that the priorities identified in the Labour Market Partnership Strategic Assessment and Action Plan reflect priority employability and labour market issues in the area, informed by analysis of information provided by statutory partners, colleagues across council as well as the results of ongoing Borough wide engagement and consultation with local businesses and the community across the Council area.

The Action Plan has been developed to follow the achievements of the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Action Plans, and to address the employability needs of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

The following three Strategic Priorities (SP) have been identified with the 2024/25 Causeway Coast and Glens LMP Action Plan:

- **SP1:** To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area.
- **SP2:** To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally.
- **SP3:** To promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision available either regionally or locally.

The purpose of the draft Action Plan is to identify the priority areas for action by the LMP. The plan sets out to:

- Review and confirm priority employment and labour market issues locally, evidenced and informed by a comprehensive Strategic Assessment.
- Describe what the LMP aims to achieve.
- Communicate the content of the Causeway Coast and Glens LMP Action Plan and how the LMP will work to deliver its Action Plan.
- Explain how the LMP will work in partnership to make the best use of resources.
- Explain how Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) will be used to measure and manage performance of the LMP.

DfC priorities for the 2024-25 Action Plans include the following employability areas:

- Economic Inactivity.

- Unemployment.
- Disability.
- Skills Labour Supply.

Proposal

The attached draft Causeway Labour Market Partnership Action Plan for 2024-2025 (**Annex A**) aims to contribute to the strategic local objectives and the NI Executive's strategic objectives. As lead authority for Causeway Coast and Glens economic growth, it is important that we play a convening role which brings partners together and drives a LMP with purpose. Considering this fast changing labour market support context, the purpose of this LMP Action Plan will be to support NI initiatives, ensure that local knowledge and insights are 'surfaced' and develop solutions based on local context.

In considering the role of the LMP, a wide range of key stakeholders were consulted including businesses, training and education authorities. The budget breakdown and further detail within each respective theme can be found in the full Action Plan at **Annex A**. Subject to approval from Department of Finance, it is envisaged that DfC will provide 100% funding of £583,406 in 2024/25 to deliver upon the Causeway Coast and Glens LMP.

Options

Council are asked to review the draft Action Plan and to consider the two options below:

Option 1 – do nothing. Do not enter into agreement with DfC for the roll-out of a LMP for the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

Option 2 – Sign-off on the draft Causeway LMP Action Plan and enter into agreement with DfC to roll-out the Plan for the area.

Recommendation

Subject to approval from DfC recommendation re 2024/25 Strategy and Action Plan, it is recommended that Members approve;

Option 2 – Sign-off on the draft Causeway LMP Action Plan and enter into agreement with DfC to roll-out the plan for the area.

In response to Alderman Callan, the Head of Prosperity and Place advised that Council is waiting on confirmation of the labour market partnership funding and that, in the interim, the Director has written to the Department for Communities requesting a letter of comfort. It is understood that funding for this year will be on a one-year basis, but it is hoped that from next year, there will be a three-year action plan.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
 Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve;

Option 2 – Sign-off on the draft Causeway LMP Action Plan and enter into agreement with DfC to roll-out the plan for the area.

* **The Head of Community and Culture left the Chamber at 7.49pm.**

* **Councillor Kyle returned to the Chamber at 7.49pm.**

9. SKATEBOARDING, PORTRUSH

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the temporary designated space at Station Square, Portrush, designed to create a safe, controlled and inviting environment for skateboarders, whilst maintaining public access to the surrounding businesses and established Rights of Way.

Background

In October 2022 Council approved the creation of a temporary designated space at Station Square, Portrush for skateboarding, subject to;

- Council providing Public Liability Insurance for the site as a designated skateboard park.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Working Group Parties.

The establishment of the temporary designated area for skateboarding at Station Square was considered necessary whilst the Recreation Grounds construction was nearing completion and the site at the Metropole Corner is being considered.

The MOU contained the following stipulations;

Council will:

- Retain ownership of the site, managed through the Tourism and Recreation Service Area.
- Undertake a Risk Assessment and Method Statement specific to the activity.
- Install suitable fencing (with rubber skirts to retain skateboards).
- Provide public liability insurance.

RAWEE will:

- Apply the necessary RAMS mitigation measures including the inspection of the site weekly (minimum) to ensure that only equipment (ramps, rails and jumps) which are deemed fit-for-purpose by RAWEE are onsite. Any equipment deemed to be outside of safe parameters will be removed by RAWEE staff.

CAUS will:

- Act as a conduit for information / communication between all stakeholders in the skateboarding / urban sport community.

The Working Group will:

- Work together to protect the reputation of the Council, CAUS and RAWEE (relevant to skateboarding / urban sports).
- Agree any press statements or other forms of public communication before publication / posting.
- Meet monthly to ensure that the terms of the MOU are being applied as agreed.
- Consider the use of the site by other users / events as and when required.

The recommendation referred to a 12 month period of time for the MOU to stand, with a 6 month review / break period if required by Council.

Current position

The 12 month MOU is now expired – no 6 month review was requested.

RAWEE, who (as above), were responsible for weekly checks and monitoring of the site no longer wish to participate in the Working Group arrangement because of business commitments. They have stated that they are willing to continue to work with Council in an advisory role, if required.

Working Group meetings have become sporadic and, since the absence of a Director of L&D, the group have not met.

Feedback Received

The Head of Sport & Wellbeing met with Working Group members and feedback was that they all value the designated space at Station Square as a safe place for locals and visitors to the area to practice and enjoy the sport of skateboarding. Some concerns were expressed as to the general upkeep of the area, the requirement for more bins in the area, and increased signage for pedestrians. Due to the infrequency of meetings and RAWEE no longer having responsibility for their element of the MOU, members of the Working Group would be content to liaise directly with Council and report any maintenance / health & safety issues.

Feedback was sought from internal stakeholders in respect on the current provision and consideration for the future. The following is noted;

- Land & Property Officers require full details of roles and responsibilities in any subsequent MOU between Council and another party in respect of Station Square.
- Health & Safety personnel state that any MOU should be regularly checked against what equipment is in place to ensure compliance and is adequately inspected and appropriate records kept.
- Estates recommend an appropriate barrier system is installed if the designated skateboarding area continues in this location. A system that is removeable but secure enough to withstand being knocked over/damaged.

- If Council was to agree to the continuation of the site, control of operations should sit with Council to ensure adequate and regular checks, record keeping and upkeep and repair of ramps etc.

Equipment Onsite

Ramps were purchased by RAWEE (via grants) for use at the facility. However, they are wooden ramps primarily designed for indoor use. The wet weather experienced over the past year has impacted on the condition of the ramps and resulted in ongoing repairs and concerns over safety.

There is evidence of additional structures being added to the site which have been constructed by local residents, with no control over the standard of construction.

Estimated cost for replacing existing ramps and potentially increasing official provision to replace unauthorised ramps is circa £10,000.

Station Square is a high profile location recognised by many as a Council responsibility. The public perception as to who is responsible for the site tends to rest with Council.

The Urban Plaza at Portrush Recreation Grounds is complete and local skateboarders regularly make use of the facility, although there is no noticeable reduction in the use of Station Square.

Council has approved a Letter of Comfort for Causeway Association of Urban Sports in respect of leasing land at Metropole Park in Portrush for the development of a Skateboard / Urban plaza, subject to funding being secured. CAUS are in the process of applying for funding from the Community Ownership Fund.

Next Steps

Without an MOU in place, there is no local responsibility for checks, upkeep, and repair of the ramps etc, and inevitably responsibility will fall to Council until the situation is resolved.

As per the original MOU, Council will have to consider the requirement for a more robust barrier system around the designated area, increased signage, and litter bin provision. Consideration will also have to be given to inspection and record keeping requirements, plus maintenance of ramps.

Consideration needs to be given as to whether;

- a) The designated temporary space for skateboarding continues at Station Square, with a review of the current MOU, and securing another party to undertake weekly checks and monitoring of the site.

or

- b) Council takes full responsibility for the site to ensure a consistent approach to inspection, upkeep and repair and maintains the original agreement regarding regular meetings of the Working Group to improve communication and cooperation with the skateboarding community.

or

- c) Station Square is returned to its original state as a public thoroughfare (although there can be no guarantee that skateboarders do not continue to practice their skills there).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the content of the report and recommend to Council one of the following options;

- Option 1** The designated temporary space for skateboarding continues at Station Square, and a review of the current MOU is undertaken, with the intention of securing another party to assume responsibility for weekly checks and monitoring of the site. (MOU agreement to be shared with Land & Property officers/Sub-committee as appropriate)
- Option 2** Council takes full responsibility for the site to ensure a consistent approach to inspection, upkeep and repair and maintains the original agreement regarding regular meetings of the Working Group to improve communication and cooperation with the skateboarding community.
- Option 3** Station Square is returned to its original state as a public thoroughfare (although there can be no guarantee that skateboarders do not continue to practice their skills there).

Alderman Stewart stated that Council has a responsibility to maintain this facility and proposed Option 2.

In response to Councillor Holmes, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing stated that her understanding is that the site is covered from an insurance perspective.

Alderman S McKillop stated her support for option 2 and suggested that CAUS could be invited to present to Committee at a later date.

In response to Councillor Anderson, the Head of Community and Culture advised that RAWEE had stepped back due to other business commitments. She further advised that if Option 2 is approved, this would include an agreement that only Council-provided equipment would be permitted on the site and that any additional equipment would be removed. She advised that the cost of replacing equipment is estimated at £10,000 and that the barrier system would need replaced, with the price to be established. She advised that there will be no additional cost for inspections as it will be added to the playpark inspection rota.

Councillor Anderson proposed Option 1, citing the additional costs involved.

Councillor Kyle, Councillor McCully and Alderman Callan all expressed support for Option 2. Councillor McCully emphasised that this facility should be a

temporary one, and that Council should do everything it can to support a permanent skate park at the Metropole area.

In response to a query from Alderman Callan regarding when the Working Group last met, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that she will clarify that with officers. She also advised that it is yet to be established which Council officer will take the lead on communicating with the Working Group, if the recommendation is approved.

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED - to recommend that Council takes full responsibility for the site to ensure a consistent approach to inspection, upkeep and repair and maintains the original agreement regarding regular meetings of the Working Group to improve communication and cooperation with the skateboarding community.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

11. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to report to the Partnership Panel.

12. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN S MCKILLOP, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FIELDING

That this Council commits to upgrading the facilities at the Bobby Greer Sports Complex in order to meet a suitable standard for all weather training, games and match play.

This upgrade must include an adequate floodlit artificial pitch surface to ensure an all year round sports, leisure and fitness service that will help sustain the growing local football club, improve health & wellbeing of citizens as well as building community cohesion in the area.

3G pitches are championed in the Council's Pitch Strategy. This upgrade will help provide a financially viable council facility. By increasing its working capacity it will also help Bushmills United FC and their Youth Academy of over 190 members realise their future long term aspirational goals.

Alderman S McKillop briefed the Committee as follows:

“The purpose of my motion is to ensure an adequate, more sustainable sports, games and training facility at the Bobby Greer Sports Complex, to meet the needs of the community in this area.

The facility is predominantly accessed by people living in the rural community of Bushmills, the surrounding villages and hinterlands. It is Bushmills United football club’s home pitch for association football matches, tournaments and training sessions. The club’s 16 teams - one senior, 15 junior - and visiting teams would like to access this pitch on a more regular basis. Our community users would also like to do so. However, due to the grass turf pitch surface, absence of lighting, and non-availability of training bookings between April and September, other facilities must be sourced. This is acceptable within reason, but the community believes that it is excessive and is only going to get worse due to the growth in underage participation in football.

The club reports having to attend midweek training in several venues in the borough, including Council facilities and school facilities in the Coleraine and Ballymoney area. This necessitates transport, time and cost, which poses a constraint to the club’s future growth. It affects the club’s ability to increase participation, not least among females and young people.

The club aspires to growing its membership base further, to include a female team and a disability team, and to play in other youth leagues, due to the growing number of teams. The club’s male to female ratio is 80:20, which is to be commended, and it has the same ratio for coaches. The effort of the club in supporting the most vulnerable and underrepresented in our society is commendable.

The Leisure and Development report on 20th of February states, ‘the pitches strategy should set out a 5-year plan and make area-specific recommendations’, and ‘the strategy recommendations should also take account of levels of deprivation and barriers to access such as disability or rurality, etc’. I do not believe that this can happen unless the Council intervenes and accepts this proposal.

Members are aware that detailing deprivation in rural areas is important, and a rural needs impact assessment is required when developing, adopting and implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services.

Of our population, 43,600 people are aged 25 years and younger, and 47.7% of these live in rural communities. Twelve super output areas are ranked in the top 100 for rural deprivation, and 16 of these 72 are ranked in the top 100 for income deprivation affecting children. There are 14 super output areas in my DEA, one is in the top 20%, along with Ballylough and Bushmills, Carnmoon and Duseverick, Atlantic, Benvardin, Dervock and Dundooan, which are in the top 50%. Deprivation in a rural setting is worsened by having poor access to services, including Internet access and having limited or no access to transportation.

The areas I mentioned are in the vicinity of the Bobby Greer Sports Complex, and Council has an obligation to ensure rural communities have access to necessary service and infrastructure.

Children and young people have spoken by showing that they want to be part of this rural-based community sports team, and rural people want equal opportunity and consideration given to them and their needs. The club informed Otium that it is sustained by members monthly subscription of £15, and most of the funds raised are spent on travel costs. This is unfair; these funds would achieve better outcomes for Council if the funds were spent on improving the lives of young people in rural areas, including helping them to upskill and build healthy relationships within their local community and further afield.

We recently learned that the Super Cup Northern Ireland matches will be played in the Bushmills facility. This is fantastic news. But let us not lose sight of the importance of local teams being able to train and organise community events and tournaments at their local sports facilities, as this will have positive outcomes for local youths and the area also.

It is important that Council's investment recommendations have strategic context, linked to our three key planning functions, strategies and plans. Including the facility in the capital works programme, and subsequently improving access to and the capability of this facility, will enable related activities such as regeneration, and social, economic, environmental and wellbeing activities.

I ask that Council not only understand the added value that the upgraded sports facility would bring to Council directly, but that it also accepts the economic benefits, through tackling isolation and improving physical, emotional and mental wellbeing for people, which is of the utmost importance. Monetary value should be assigned to changes that have a positive impact on our local economy. Framing sports spaces as economic assets and quantifying their impact would help to inform us Members in our decisions. As a Council, we should be taking health and wellbeing benefits into consideration when we are making decisions on spending public money, as we heard during the presentation on the Stendhal Festival.

Increasing this facility's capacity will ensure continued and increased participation in football in this locality. The community will be afforded the opportunity to shape their place and improve the lives of rural people living in the area, which will undoubtedly help to regenerate the area.

I ask Members to endorse my Notice of Motion and have this Council asset recorded in the mid-term pitches strategy review as a recommended item for development on capital works list, and for that to be implemented pending any funding opportunities that become available."

Councillor Kyle stated that he wished to support and endorse the Notice of Motion, having witnessed the good work being done at the Bobby Greer Sports Complex.

Councillor McGurk thanked Alderman McKillop for bringing the Notice of Motion and stated that sports facilities are important in all rural communities. She suggested an amendment to the Notice of Motion to include that this proposal goes forward to the list of projects to be reviewed strategically, this was seconded by Councillor McShane.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated that there is a plan to review the capital projects list, which was drafted in 2017. It is planned to develop selection criteria, with the hope that this will be brought to the April Committee meeting for consideration.

Alderman S McKillop stated that she was content with the suggested addition to her Notice of Motion and asked that the merits of the development be considered.

The Chair summarised that Alderman Mckillop was content to incorporate the suggestion from Councillor McGurk into her Notice of Motion - *to include that this proposal goes forward to the list of Capital projects, to be reviewed strategically.*

The Chair sought clarification from Councillor McGurk, who indicated she was content with this approach.

Councillor Holmes stated he wished to add, *in line with the Capital Projects List* to the Notice of Motion, and this was also agreed.

AGREED – to recommend that this Council commits to upgrading the facilities at the Bobby Greer Sports Complex in order to meet a suitable standard for all weather training, games and match play. This upgrade must include an adequate floodlit artificial pitch surface to ensure an all year round sports, leisure and fitness service that will help sustain the growing local football club, improve health & wellbeing of citizens as well as building community cohesion in the area. 3G pitches are championed in the Council's Pitch Strategy. This upgrade will help provide a financially viable council facility. By increasing its working capacity it will also help Bushmills United FC and their Youth Academy of over 190 members realise their future long term aspirational goals. And further that this proposal goes forward in line with the Capital projects list, to be reviewed strategically.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Councillor C Archibald and

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

- * **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.32pm**

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.

14. GROWTH DEAL HEADS OF TERMS

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the final draft Heads of Terms document, updated governance arrangements and revised cost estimate for Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre.

Recommendation

Members are asked to recommend approval of the following recommendations to full Council:

1. The final draft Heads of Terms document included at Annex A, while noting that further non-material edits may be required;
2. The updated Growth Deal governance document included at Annex B;
3. The revised cost estimate for Coleraine Leisure and Wellbeing Centre of £32.6m and the OBC Addendum included at Annex C.

In response to a query from Alderman Callan, the Chief Executive advised that he will be meeting representatives from the Department for Levelling Up later in the week and will request an update on round 3 of Levelling Up.

In response to Alderman Callan's suggestion that an event be held to highlight the potential of the Growth Deal for this area, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that there is an upcoming event at Ulster University to publicise the Growth Deal, to which Members will be invited.

In response to Councillor Wisener, the Director of Leisure and Development agreed that there was a typo under point 25 on page 6 of the Heads of Terms, "Only 7% of companies in Causeway Coast and Glens achieved a turnover greater than £500,00 in 2022" and that it should read £500,000.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman S McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend to Council:

1. The final draft Heads of Terms document included at Annex A, while noting that further non-material edits may be required;

2. The updated Growth Deal governance document included at Annex B;
3. The revised cost estimate for Coleraine Leisure and Wellbeing Centre of £32.6m and the OBC Addendum included at Annex C.

15. SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME DERVOCK MUGA

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 Prosperity and 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 Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and associated path works in the village of Dervock as part of the Covid Recovery Small Settlement Regeneration Programme (CRSSRP).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council their preferred option regarding the construction of a new MUGA in Dervock.

1. **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.
2. **Option 2 - Construction of a MUGA in Dervock** and the appointment of Northstone Materials Limited for a contract sum of £166,443 (exc.VAT). It is also recommended that a contingency of 15% is added resulting in an overall figure of £191,409. The maximum contribution from Council towards Option 2 is £49,621.

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

AGREED – to recommend to Council Option 2 - Construction of a MUGA in Dervock and the appointment of Northstone Materials Limited for a contract sum of £166,443 (exc.VAT). It is also recommended that a contingency of 15% is added resulting in an overall figure of £191,409. The maximum contribution from Council towards Option 2 is £49,621.

16. HALP CUSHENDALL CAMPING PODS

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 Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

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 upgrade of Greysteel Playpark and associated works, and to request approval to award the contract as per the associated Tender Report at a cost of £132,863.50.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the tender outcome in **Annex A** for Greysteel Playpark, supply and installation of playpark equipment and wet pour, and recommend to Council award of the tender to Hawthorne Heights at a cost of up to £132,863, inclusive of 10% contingency sum.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the tender outcome in **Annex A** for Greysteel Playpark, supply and installation of playpark equipment and wet pour, and recommend to Council award of the tender to Hawthorne Heights at a cost of up to £132,863, inclusive of 10% contingency sum.

19. COLERAINE LEISURE CENTRE 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 the wetside changing room lockers in Coleraine Leisure Centre and associated works, and to request approval to award the contract as per the associated Tender Report at a cost of £44,075.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members are asked to note the tender process in Annex A, Replacement of Coleraine Leisure Centre Wetside Lockers Tender Report and award the tender to Total Cubicles at a cost of £44,075.

Proposed by Councillor Stirling
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, Replacement of Coleraine Leisure Centre Wetside Lockers Tender Report and award the tender to Total Cubicles at a cost of £44,075.

20. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REFERRALS UNIT

Confidential report by virtue of paragraphs 2 and 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

To seek approval for the formal establishment of a Physical Activity Referral Unit in the Sport & Wellbeing organisational design. Employees operating in the Unit to provide a service for partner health organisations through service contracts, which aim to provide opportunities for physical activity for individuals in the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council living with diagnosed health limiting conditions.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the detail in the above report and recommend for approval to Council, the establishment of a Physical Activity Referral Unit (Sport & Wellbeing) for the delivery of referral health service contracts and associated programmes.

Alderman Stewart stated that this is a very emotive issue and proposed that it be deferred until the next meeting of the full Council. He further suggested that, in advance of that meeting, officials provide costing for an option to continue the service in its current format.

Councillor McCully seconded this proposal.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Alderman McCully

- To recommend that this Item be deferred until the next meeting of the full Council, and to further recommend that officials provide Members with a costed option to continue the service in its current format.

The Chief Executive advised Members that under Standing Order 16.3, a proposal to defer must be voted on and if that passes, there should be no further debate on the matter until the full Council meeting.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote.
2 Members voted for; 14 Members voted Against.
The Chair declared the Amendment lost.

A debate on the matter ensued, in which Members agreed that this is a difficult issue and that the work of the MoveMore Coordinator was obviously extremely

valuable to, and appreciated by, the client group. Members agreed that it was important to provide reassurance to, and continuity for, the client group.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that eight of the eleven other councils are opting for the same route as proposed by this Council, and that Macmillan has stated a preference for a co-ordinated approach across councils.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Members that there is an option to ensure that the current grouping of patients is maintained and supported by a staff member, with the caveat that the staff member would be required to work on additional elements as well as supporting the group.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing stated that Council would commit to providing this continuity of service as part of its engagement with Macmillan and this would be facilitated in the transition to the Physical Activity Referral Unit, if the proposed recommendation is agreed.

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the detail in the above report and recommend for approval to Council, the establishment of a Physical Activity Referral Unit (Sport & Wellbeing) for the delivery of referral health service contracts and associated programmes.

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

21.1 Atlantic Link Campus (Alderman Callan)

“Can the Director provide an update on the Atlantic Link Campus - following the recent announcement of a Northern Ireland Investment Zone.”

The Chair advised that the Director of Leisure and Development had corresponded with Alderman Callan on his AORB items in advance of the meeting.

Alderman Callan stated that promoting the Atlantic Link Campus is vital. He stated that the Council website should include information on the Atlantic Link Campus and that both websites should be linked.

21.2 Invest NI Cloonavin Office (Alderman Callan)

“Following the presentation from Invest NI - have we received any further confirmation of Invest NI re-establishing a presence in Cloonavin and enhancing their engagement with elected members?”

Alderman Callan stated that the Council needs to look at how Invest NI delivers for this area going forward.

21.3 Ulster University Coleraine Campus (Alderman Callan)

“Can the Director confirm if there has been any meetings with the Senior Leadership Team at Ulster University about the current student numbers and provision of courses at Coleraine campus?”

Alderman Callan expressed concern that the Council hasn't had engagement with Ulster University since last August and stated that the Coleraine campus needs further investment.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated that she was happy to take these matters forward.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman S McKillop and

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 9.56pm

Chair