



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	Councillor Bateson and McGurk	N/A
2.	Declarations of Interest	None	N/A
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 19 th May 2026	Confirmed as a correct record	N/A
4.	Members will receive a presentation from the Head of Sport & Wellbeing	Received	-
5.	Boardwalk Repair and Replacement, Benone Duneland	To recommend to Council Option 2: Complete removal and replacement of Marram Way in its entirety and replacement of sections of Longboard Way and Kestrel Way, with new Larch wooden path, providing a durable, low-maintenance, and accessible route that aligns with current best practice in sustainable path construction within natural and recreational environments.	2026/27

		Estimated cost with full anti-slip provision (if included) across all boardwalks £368,647	
6.	PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan Capital Projects – The Altnahinch Dam Project	To recommend to Council that the Capital Infrastructure Team will work within the agreed budget of circa £178k to deliver elements that will form the initial phase of opening up the wider site. Works will include at least one bridge and sections of pathway extending the existing boardwalk	-
7.	Accelerated Approval Pathway for Externally Funded Project	To recommend to Council The following pathway: 1. Stage 1 reports brought to L&D Committee for approval. 2. Funding Unit progresses these projects under delegated authority, proceeding to complete all Capital Project Stages through to completion. 3. Tender Assessments and Reports to be taken to Capital Projects Working Group (CPWG) for review and approval prior to progressing to the next stage.	-

		<p>4. Information reports, including tender reports will be presented to the L&D committee as each stage is progressed.</p> <p>5. Should the funding situation change a report will be brought back into Committee requesting any necessary approvals</p>	
8.	HMRC Summer VAT Reduction	<p>To recommend that Council note the rule change on VAT charges which are being implemented by HMRC for the period 25 June to 01 September and approve the implementation of this reduction, within the Council services affected for the period outlined</p>	1 September 2026
9.	Ulster History Circle	<p>To recommend to Council that the Community & Culture team, working with the UHC, installs a blue plaque for Sam Henry in 2026</p>	End of September 2026
10.	USA 250 Revised Signature Event	<p>To recommend to Council approval to proceed with the amended USA 250 Signature Event and associated funding requested of £41,000 as</p>	December 2026

		presented within the report	
11.	USA 250 Working Group Minutes	Noted	December 2026
12.	Dark Hedges	To recommend that Council write to the Department for Infrastructure and Department for the Economy separately to determine what strategy is in place in relation to the Dark Hedges and Bregagh Road to include:- -What works have taken place; -What money has been invested; -What are the immediate and future plans?	-
13.	Council Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2032	Information	-
14.	Ballycastle Environmental Improvement Scheme	Information	-
15.	Sports Grant & Bursary Programme 2025/26	Information	-
16.	Health and Wellbeing Grants Programme 2025/26	Information	-
17.	Consultations	Information	26 June 2026

	In Committee (Items 18 – 22 inclusive)		
18.	Metropole Project	<i>Information</i>	-
19.	Request for Funding COAST	<p><i>To recommend to Council</i></p> <p><i>Approval to enter into a financial agreement with Community Planning partners, to financially support the provision of COAST core services for the remainder of the 2026-2027 period;</i></p> <p><i>This will ensure continued delivery of support programmes for the older residents across the Borough, as the designated Age Sector Network provider and as detailed within Council’s Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan;</i></p> <p><i>To further recommend to Council that the outcome of Community Planning agreement and associated cost to Council be brought back to Council in September.</i></p>	September 2026

20.	Legal Pursuance & Construction Update Jim Watt Sports Centre, Garvagh	To recommend that members note the content of the report and recommend that the Director of Leisure and Development is given delegated authority to instruct Council's solicitors TLT NI LLP, to accept any mediated agreement reached between the parties, if deemed acceptable based on legal advice	September 2026
21.	Armed Forces Day Update	Information	June 2026
22.	Growth Deal – Supplementary Deal Documents	<p>To recommend that:-</p> <p>Council approve the Growth Deal – Supplementary Deal Documents following the Growth Deal signing event with the Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government on 29th April 2026. These documents may be subject to further non-material edits and any significant changes will be brought back to Council for consideration;</p> <p>Council note that an opportunity to revisit budget allocations and overall programme affordability will be brought back for decision later this year. The final investment</p>	-

		<i>decision to progress all projects to Stage 3: Construction and appointment of contractor will be subject to final Council agreement and confirmation of capital affordability at that time.</i>	
23.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)		
23.1	Safety of electric scooters and similar devices in pedestrianised areas and town centres. (Councillor Elder)	Information	-

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER AND VIA MS TEAMS ON
TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McCully (C)

Members Present: Alderman Brown Stewart (C), Coyle (R), Fielding (C)

Councillors Anderson (R), N Archibald (C), Elder (R),
Holmes (C), Kennedy (R), Kyle (R), McShane (C),
Watson (C), Wisener (C), Wilson (C)

Substitutions: Councillor Wilson substituted for Alderman Callan
Alderman Fielding substituted for Alderman McAuley
Alderman Coyle substituted for Councillor Schenning

Officers Present: P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)
P O'Brien, Head of Funding Unit (C)
R Gillen, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
L Russell, Biodiversity & Habitat Mgmt Officer (R)
G Fall, Events Manager (R)
I Owens, Democratic Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: C McTaggart, ICT Operations Officer (C)
L Boyd, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Press 2 no. (R)

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

The Director of Leisure and Development undertook a roll call.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Bateson and Councillor McGurk.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19 MAY 2026

Summary, previously circulated.

AGREED - That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE HEAD OF SPORT AND WELLBEING

The Chair invited the Head of Sport and Wellbeing to present to the Committee.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing presented via powerpoint as follows:-

Strategic Focus

- Active Living Strategy
- Sport and Leisure Facility Strategy
- Major Capital Projects
- Other Capital Projects
- Feasibility/Scoping Tasks

Service Areas

- **Business Support/Marketing and Communication**
- **Operational Management**
 - Leisure and Sports Centres
 - Outdoor Sports Facilities
 - Community Centres
- **Development Unit – Sport and Wellbeing Development Unit**
 - Community and Inclusion
 - Performance and Coaching
 - Participation and Play
 - Corporate Safeguarding
 - Age Friendly
 - Walking for All
 - Physical Activity and Wellbeing

In-House Transformation 2020-2030

- £600k Gym Upgrade Projects
- Household Membership uptake
- Social Value increase
- Income increase
- Hyrox affiliation and events
- Live members increase
- Membership attrition rate reduced
- Subvention decrease

Play Park Investment – Annual £500k investment in Play Park upgrade projects. The Head of Sport and Well being acknowledged the input by Estates in Play Park projects.

Pitch Investment – Annual £500k investment in Pitch and MUGA upgrade projects.

Youth engagement – Participation and Inclusion

- Participation and Play
- Performance and Coaching
- Community and Inclusion

Causeway Healthy Kids (working in Partnership)

- 69 Primary Schools
- 759 sessions delivered
- 1941 children reached
- £14 cost per child

Age Friendly Causeway

- Strategic Context
- Progress and Impact
- Future Priorities

Physical Activity and Wellbeing

3 Teir 1 Leisure Centres achieved Autism Impact Award
Toolbox Talks for Technical Services Dept on Physical Activity, Mental Health and Nutrition.

Collaboration across the Unit in respect of:-

- Intergenerational Work
- Autism Friendly
- Inclusive Activity

- PAN Disability

Summary provided on details of Development Funding for 2025-2026 in respect of Council Grant Programmes and External Partnership Funding secured.

Councillor Watson acknowledged the works at Ballyknock Playpark which she described as an asset to the locals in this rural location.

At the request of Alderman Brown Stewart, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing provided an update in respect of works at the Crescent in Portstewart and advised of issues on this site due to the weather and proximity to the sea. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing said she would update Alderman Brown Stewart on the timeline for further works.

Regarding the Warren in Portstewart, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing said that this was subject to a concept plan which would involve engagement with Causeway District Electoral Area Elected Members hopefully soon after the summer recess.

Councillor Holmes welcomed the Leisure Centre figures and In-House Transformation 2020-2030 which he said was a credit to Officers involved.

Councillor McShane thanked the Head of Sport and Wellbeing for the comprehensive presentation and the work undertaken in this service area. Councillor McShane referred to the new Ballycastle Leisure Centre which she said was an exciting project and at her request the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that the handover was expected by Easter 2027 and that the project was subject to a 3 – 4 week transitional handover period between the builder and Council.

At the request of Councillor McShane, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing said that there was currently no strategy for boxing within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and it was not classed as an emerging sport. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing agreed to speak with Ballycastle Boxing Club and said she recognised the benefits to young people of this sport.

Councillor McShane said she also looked forward to the reinstatement of the outdoor gym facility at Ballycastle.

The Chair thanked the Head of Sport and Wellbeing for the work undertaken by the Service area and the accessibility of Officers to deal with queries from Elected Members.

5. BOARDWALK REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, BENONE DUNELAND

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to progress to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Works Process, procurement and development of a final design for the repair and replacement of the boardwalk at Benone Duneland.

Background

The Leisure and Development Committee considered a report on the replacement of the boardwalk at Benone Duneland on 16 December 2025. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that approval be granted to initiate Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process, including scoping, feasibility assessment, and outline design for the repair and replacement of damaged or deteriorated boardwalks.

At the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 6 January 2026, the minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee were adopted, and the recommendations contained therein were approved.

Details of proposals, cost estimates and next steps were previously circulated.

Options For Consideration

Three options were considered as part of this proposal.

Option 1: All three existing boardwalks are removed and replaced with wooden Larch path for distance of approximately 1010 metres, providing a durable, low-maintenance, and accessible route that aligns with current best practice in sustainable path construction within natural and recreational environments. Estimated cost with full anti-slip provision across all boardwalks £473,804.

Option 2: Complete removal and replacement of Marram Way in its entirety and replacement of sections of Longboard Way and Kestrel Way, with new Larch wooden path, providing a durable, low-maintenance, and accessible route that aligns with current best practice in sustainable path construction within natural and recreational environments. Estimated cost with full anti-slip provision across all boardwalks £368,647.

Option 3: Complete removal of Marram Way with no replacement boardwalk. Replacement of sections of Longboard Way and Kestrel Way, with new Larch wooden path, providing a durable, low-maintenance, and accessible route that aligns with current best practice in sustainable path construction within natural and recreational environments. Estimated cost with full anti-slip provision across all boardwalks £213,588.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the three options provided and express their preference and approve progression to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Works Process, prior to reverting to Council for further consideration and decision to invest. This cost is estimated to range between £213,588 to £368,647 using Larch (with full anti-slip provision).

At the request of Councillor Holmes, the Head of Tourism and Recreation provided clarity on the materials used and durability of products at this site.

Councillor Holmes queried the procurement cost and the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that the £177,000 figure incorporated in all options was for an anti-slip feature which may be unnecessary due to the type of environment and the fact that once in situ would require further maintenance. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that the previous surface which had been in place for 30 years did not have anti-slip feature.

At the request of Councillor Holmes, the Head of Tourism and Recreation outlined the percentage element of works which were earmarked for repair and confirmed that the majority of the walkway will not require works.

Councillor Archibald spoke of the importance of this work being undertaken and of the extensive engagement which had taken place.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

AGREED – To recommend to Council Option 2: Complete removal and replacement of Marram Way in its entirety and replacement of sections of Longboard Way and Kestrel Way, with new Larch wooden path, providing a durable, low-maintenance, and accessible route that aligns with current best practice in sustainable path construction within natural and recreational environments. Estimated cost with full anti-slip provision (if included) across all boardwalks £368,647.

6. PEACEPLUS LOCAL ACTION PLAN CAPITAL PROJECTS – THE ALTNAHINCH DAM PROJECT

Report, previously circulated was presented by the Head of Funding Unit.

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the implementation of the PEACEPLUS 'Altnahinch Dam Project' and request the Leisure and Development Committee to approve the project to move to Stage 2 of the Council's approval process for the development of capital projects.

Further information was previously circulated on background and current position.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to full Council:

- Approval to progress option 5 to Stage 2 of the Altnahinch Dam project with £178,000 funding through the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.
- That the PEACEPLUS Partnership continues to progress this project under delegated authority from Council, proceeding to complete all Capital Project Stages through to completion (Stage 3 & 4). Should the funding situation change Officers will bring a report back into Committee requesting any necessary approvals.
- Details of Tender Assessment and Report to be taken to Capital Projects Working Group (CPWG) for review and approval prior to proceeding to each Stage.
- Officers will provide update reports after each stage, to update elected members on progress and costs.

The Head of Funding Unit advised of a further option now available for Elected Members's consideration:-

It is Recommended

-That the Capital Infrastructure Team will work within the agreed budget of circa £178k to deliver elements that will form the initial phase of opening up the wider site. Works will include at least one bridge and sections of pathway extending the existing boardwalk.

Councillor Watson referred to papers presented from the inception of PEACEPLUS which had cited contradictory figures from those presented to the Leisure and Development Committee.

Councillor Watson sought assurance that on depletion of PEACEPLUS funding that that there would be funding to complete the project.

Councillor McShane referred to figures available on the Council website which were also not in keeping with options presented this evening and felt that there should be fuller collaboration internally across directorates which would avoid confusion.

The Head of Funding Unit confirmed that project costs had been underestimated originally and the PEACEPLUS funding was a form of enablement towards part funding of projects and additional funding would be required.

The Director of Leisure and Development acknowledged the concerns raised by Elected Members and said that officers would provide a summary for Elected Members detailing the projects, the updated cost estimates, and the funding secured. She stated that officers would ensure accurate information was communicated via the PEACEPLUS Partnership and website also.

Proposed by Councillor Watson
Seconded by Councillor McShane and

AGREED – To recommend to Council that the Capital Infrastructure Team will work within the agreed budget of circa £178k to deliver elements that will form the initial phase of opening up the wider site. Works will include at least one bridge and sections of pathway extending the existing boardwalk.

7. ASSOCIATED APPROVAL PATHWAY FOR EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Report, previously circulated was presented by the Head of Funding Unit.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request approval for an accelerated approval pathway for Leisure & Development Capital Projects in receipt of external funding and subject to strict external funding deadlines.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background & approvals to date.

Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the accelerated approval pathway for externally funded projects where the funding would be at risk if the acceleration was not applied.

The following pathway is recommended:

1. Stage 1 reports brought to L&D Committee for approval.
2. Funding Unit progresses these projects under delegated authority, proceeding to complete all Capital Project Stages through to completion.
3. Tender Assessments and Reports to be taken to Capital Projects Working Group (CPWG) for review and approval prior to progressing to the next stage.
4. Information reports, including tender reports will be presented to the L&D committee as each stage is progressed.
5. Should the funding situation change a report will be brought back into Committee requesting any necessary approvals.

At the request of Councillor Holmes, the Head of Funding Unit agreed to circulate to all Councillors a full listing of all projects under consideration.

Referring to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's 4 stage process Councillor Holmes queried the efficiency and what could be learned going forward.

The Head of Funding Unit said that funders had differing processes and requirements and said that our process, which ends with a 5 day call-in process, is good – albeit elongated – governance, but it does not always sync with other stakeholders and funders as often there is an offer of monies with a tight deadline for spending.

The Head of Funding Unit said that the urgency to spend monies dictates what does or does not get funded and explained that the purpose of this recommendation is to avoid losing funding opportunities which arise.

The Director of Leisure and Development said that this proposal provided an opportunity to review the 4 stage process and consider mechanisms to enhance efficiency and be in a position to undertake spend when funding was provided within a tight timescale.

Councillor McShane said she understood the merits of the recommendations. Councillor McShane said that it would be helpful if Elected Representatives sat on the Capital Projects Working Group by d'Hondt to provide democratic oversight and accountability and enquired how this is undertaken by other Councils.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that all Councils take a differing approach and gave assurance that the Working Group is extremely operational in nature. The Director of Leisure and Development noted that

the Working Group would benefit by representation from Planning Department and enhanced communication to Elected Members.

Councillor McShane said it would be prudent to explore including Committee Chairs under d'Hondt on membership in a move to improve accountability.

As an alternative, Councillor Holmes suggested reinstating six-monthly workshops on capital projects. The Director of Leisure & Development noted that at the request of Elected Members, the regular L&D workshops had been moved to occurring on an ad hoc basis and agreed to schedule a more regular workshop specifically focused on capital projects.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor McShane and

AGREED – To recommend to Council

The following pathway:

1. Stage 1 reports brought to L&D Committee for approval.
2. Funding Unit progresses these projects under delegated authority, proceeding to complete all Capital Project Stages through to completion.
3. Tender Assessments and Reports to be taken to Capital Projects Working Group (CPWG) for review and approval prior to progressing to the next stage.
4. Information reports, including tender reports will be presented to the L&D committee as each stage is progressed.
5. Should the funding situation change a report will be brought back into Committee requesting any necessary approvals.

8. HMRC SUMMER VAT REDUCTION

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of a rule change on VAT charges which are being implemented by HMRC for the period 25 June to 01 September and to seek approval for these changes to be implemented within the Council service areas affected.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background and proposals.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the rule change on VAT charges which is being implemented by HMRC for the period 25 June to 01 September and approve the implementation of this reduction, within the Council services affected for the period outlined.

Councillor Archibald welcomed this proposal and spoke of potential for business in the borough to engage also given how many families are struggling due to cost of living.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

AGREED – To recommend that Council note the rule change on VAT charges which are being implemented by HMRC for the period 25 June to 01 September and approve the implementation of this reduction, within the Council services affected for the period outlined.

9. ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE

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

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the proposed blue plaque installation for 2026 from the Ulster History Circle, in consultation with the Community & Culture team.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background and moving forward.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council that the Community & Culture team, working with the UHC, installs a blue plaque for Sam Henry in 2026.

Councillor Archibald referred to his traditional songs and the importance of this heritage to this area.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald
Seconded by Alderman Brown Stewart and

AGREED – To recommend to Council that the Community & Culture team, working with the UHC, installs a blue plaque for Sam Henry in 2026.

10. USA 250 REVISED SIGNATURE EVENT

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

Purpose of Report

This report seeks Council approval for an amended Signature Event programme of activity to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence (USA250), as developed by Council's USA250 Working Group.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background, amended proposal and financial summary.

Recommendations

Council's USA 250 Working Group seek approval to proceed with the amended USA 250 Signature Event and associated funding requested of £41,000 as presented within the report.

Councillor Elder welcomed the revised proposal and thanked the Tourism and Recreation team for their work in creating an engaging programme to celebrate links between our borough and the USA. Councillor Elder noted that an inclusive and family-friendly day has been planned.

Councillor Holmes welcomed the changed timing.

Proposed by Councillor Elder
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – To recommend to Council approval to proceed with the amended USA 250 Signature Event and associated funding requested of £41,000 as presented within the report.

11. USA 250 PROGRAMME MINUTES

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the minutes of Council's USA 250 Working Group Meetings held on 30th March 2026, 13th April 2026, and 11th May 2026.

Committee NOTED the report and USA 250 Programme Minutes

12. DARK HEDGES

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Dark Hedges, based on specific queries received from an Elected Member at the May Leisure & Development Committee.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background questions posed and responses received.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee note the contents of the report.

Councillor Wilson spoke of how famous this area has become since the filming of Game of Thrones and referred to visitor numbers in the last 15 years numbering between four to six million and described the area as a national treasure and landmark being the second most visited attraction in the borough after the Giants Causeway.

Councillor Wilson felt there was a dereliction of duty by the Department for Infrastructure and Department for the Economy over the past 12 years and referred to inadequate signage, abuse of the road closure and natural damage which occurred.

Councillor Holmes referred to correspondence from Alderman Hunter including a series of questions for Officers in respect of the Dark Hedges. Alderman Hunter had reported that the Terms of Reference were not progressing, there were questions around ownership and planting of new trees. Alderman Hunter had also raised concern around lack of engagement/progress and frequency of meetings by stakeholders. At the request of Councillor Holmes the Director of Leisure and Development advised that the Coast and Countryside Officer sat on the Dark Hedges Management Board. Councillor Holmes advised he would forward the questions raised by Alderman Hunter to the Director of Leisure and Development for response.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Alderman Fielding and

AGREED – To recommend that Council write to the Department for Infrastructure and Department for the Economy separately to determine what strategy is in place in relation to the Dark Hedges and Bregagh Road to include:-

- What works have taken place;
- What money has been invested;
- What are the immediate and future plans?

Committee NOTED the report.

13. COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2026 – 2032

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Council Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP).

Further information was previously circulated regarding background and current position.

The internal consultation period is complete with amendments made to the draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Appropriate screening has been completed. The draft Council Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is complete and ready to go to public consultation.

Recommendation

Elected Members are asked to note the update on progress on the development of a new Council Biodiversity Strategy

Committee NOTED the report.

14. BALLYCASTLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

This report provides Members with an update on the proposed new £2m Ballycastle Environmental Improvement Scheme (EIS) at the Diamond (including Ann Street, Castle Street and Fairhill Street).

Further details were previously circulated regarding background, scheme design and public consultation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and Council officers will continue to keep the Leisure and Development Committee updated on the progress of the Ballycastle Diamond EIS.

Councillor McShane said she was concerned around delays and the potential for losing out on Department for Communities investment in the Diamond area of Ballycastle and referred to ongoing issues around Antrim Arms.

Councillor McShane thanked the Officers for the update and said it was important to maximise connectivity opportunities in Ballycastle.

Committee NOTED the report.

15. SPORTS GRANT AND BURSARY PROGRAMME 2025/26

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

Purpose of this report is to inform members of the outcome of the Sports Grant and Bursary Programme 2025/26.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background, the process and outcome.

Committee NOTED the report.

16. HEALTH AND WELLBEING GRANTS PROGRAMME 2025/26

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the outcome of the Health and Wellbeing Grants Programme 2025/26.

Summary of Health and Wellbeing Grants Programme applications and awards were previously circulated.

Committee NOTED the report.

17. CONSULTATIONS

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Northern Ireland Office Consultation on Northern Ireland Local Growth Fund 2026-29 – submission by 26th June 2026.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that a response is being submitted by the Prosperity and Place Team.

Committee NOTED the report.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Archibald
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

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

* **Press and Public left the meeting at 8.45pm**

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.

18. METROPOLE PROJECT

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

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposal to develop Metropole Park, Portrush in partnership with Causeway Association of Urban Sports (CAUS).

Further information was previously circulated on approvals to date, partnership approach and a project update.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update on the proposal to develop Metropole Park, Portrush in partnership with Causeway Association of Urban Sports.

Committee NOTED the report.

19. REQUEST FOR FUNDING COAST

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Well Being.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to enter into a financial agreement with Community Planning Partners to support the continued delivery of Causeway Older Active Strategic Team (COAST) core services for the remainder of the 2026/27 financial year.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background and next steps.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to consider the content of this report and recommend to Council:

- a. Approval to enter into a financial agreement with Community Planning partners, to financially support the provision of COAST core services for the remainder of the 2026-2027 period.

This will ensure continued delivery of support programmes for the older residents across the Borough, as the designated Age Sector Network provider and as detailed within Council's Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.

and

- b. The outcome of Community Planning agreement and associated cost to Council to be brought back to Council in September.

Councillor Elder spoke of the invaluable service which is a tremendous help to older people and Councillor Archibald concurred with these remarks.

Proposed by Councillor Elder

Seconded by Councillor Archibald and

AGREED – To recommend to Council approval to enter into a financial agreement with Community Planning partners, to financially support the provision of COAST core services for the remainder of the 2026-2027 period; This will ensure continued delivery of support programmes for the older residents across the Borough, as the designated Age Sector Network provider and as detailed within Council's Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan;

To further recommend to Council that the outcome of Community Planning agreement and associated cost to Council be brought back to Council in September.

20. LEGAL PURSUANCE AND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE JIM WATT SPORTS CENTRE, GARVAGH

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Well Being.

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on legal pursuance on the closure of the Jim Watt Sports Centre sports hall for recommended remedial construction work and to seek delegated authority to officers for any agreement reached between parties during mediation on 4th September 2026.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background and next steps.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of the report and recommend that the Director of Leisure and Development is given delegated authority to instruct Council's solicitors TLT NI LLP, to accept any mediated agreement reached between the parties, if deemed acceptable based on legal advice.

A further update report will be brought to Leisure and Development committee in September detailing the outcome of the mediation process.

At the request of Councillor Holmes, the Head of Sport and Well being provided further details around mediation process, financial position and outlook.

The Head of Sport and Well being said she would advise Councillor Holmes of the level of information which can be made public at this time.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

AGREED – To recommend that members note the content of the report and recommend that the Director of Leisure and Development is given delegated authority to instruct Council's solicitors TLT NI LLP, to accept any mediated agreement reached between the parties, if deemed acceptable based on legal advice.

21. ARMED FORCES DAY UPDATE

For information confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with the final information update on the preparations for Armed Forces Day 2026 ahead of event delivery.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background, update on planning and draft Armed Forces Day Programme, financial Implications and equality Implications.

Elected Members are asked to note the contents of this monthly report for information.

Committee NOTED the report.

22. GROWTH DEAL – SUPPLEMENTARY DEAL DOCUMENTS

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request Members approval of the Growth Deal – Supplementary Deal Documents following the Growth Deal signing event with the Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government on 29th April 2026. Approval of these documents by Council, NI Executive and UK Government will allow funding contracts for approved projects to be issued by the respective lead Departments.

Further information was previously circulated regarding background of Growth Deal Approvals and Growth Deal Supplementary Deal Documents.

Recommendation

Members are asked to approve the Growth Deal – Supplementary Deal Documents following the Growth Deal signing event with the Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government on 29th April 2026. These documents may be subject to further non-material edits, and any significant changes will be brought back to Council for consideration.

Members are asked to note that an opportunity to revisit budget allocations and overall programme affordability will be brought back for decision later this year. The final investment decision to progress all projects to Stage 3: Construction and

appointment of contractor will be subject to final Council agreement and confirmation of capital affordability at that time.

Proposed by Alderman Brown Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – To recommend that:-

Council approve the Growth Deal – Supplementary Deal Documents following the Growth Deal signing event with the Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government on 29th April 2026. These documents may be subject to further non-material edits and any significant changes will be brought back to Council for consideration;

Council note that an opportunity to revisit budget allocations and overall programme affordability will be brought back for decision later this year. The final investment decision to progress all projects to Stage 3: Construction and appointment of contractor will be subject to final Council agreement and confirmation of capital affordability at that time.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council move ‘In Public’.

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

23.1 Safety of electric scooters and similar devices in pedestrianised areas and town centres. (Councillor Elder)

I wish to raise concerns regarding the safety of electric scooters and similar devices in pedestrianised areas and town centres. There are increasing reports of excessive speed and near misses, particularly affecting vulnerable pedestrians. I ask that officers engage with relevant agencies on enforcement, safety and awareness, consider appropriate signage, and provide a short report on Council powers and partnership options to improve pedestrian safety.

The Chair invited Councillor Elder to address the Committee.

Councillor Elder spoke of concerns raised by residents of use of electric scooters and similar devices in pedestrian areas including excessive speeds

and near miss occurrences and said that people feel unsafe about walking in public spaces.

Councillor Elder asked that Council understands better the scale of the issue and explores powers to improve safety for older people, children and those with mobility issues.

The Director of Leisure and Development said that this was an incredibly complex process due to lack of specific legislation and limited capacity around enforcement and said that the PSNI were working on this issue at a regional level.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that Council's enforcement powers would be considered in tandem with bye-laws and referred to a recent PCSP awareness campaign in conjunction with other stakeholders which had been successful with 94,000 views.

Councillor Wilson referred to statistics around accidents and said that Elected Members were a lobbying voice for public spaces and referred to ties with PCSP and the requirement of PSNI to uphold the law. Councillor Wilson suggested a ban on electric scooters and similar devices in Council owned parks. The Director of Leisure and Development said she would investigate the possibility and bring a report back to Leisure and Development Committee in next quarter.

Elected Members raised some of the problems encountered in towns and villages, the impact on individuals and of the need for awareness and education and a cross-departmental approach.

The Head of Community and Culture said the matter had been raised at PCSP and referred to social media campaigns and forthcoming radio campaign. The Head of Community and Culture said there were challenges around determining ownership and insurance issues and referred to the three-tier approach being taken by the PSNI by way of Education, Engagement and Enforcement.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.

Chair