

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Leisure & Development Committee Tuesday 9th June 2015

Table of recommendations

No	Item	Recommendation
3.	Presentation - The Bushmills Trust re purchase of Bushmills PSNI Station	<i>Discuss in committee (Item 11)</i>
4.	Minutes of Previous Meeting held 12 th May 2015	<i>Confirmed</i>
5.	Policing & Community Safety Partnership Update	<i>Councillor McCorkell nominated as chair for Year 1</i>
6.	Tackling Deprivation beyond 2016	<i>Move the intervention point on the Nobel Multiple Deprivation Measure to 20%</i>
7.	Destination Management Strategy	<i>Approve</i>
8.	Tourism Events Grant Funding	<i>Present to Council on 23rd June 2015</i>
9.	Blue Flag & Seaside Awards	<i>Query Blue Flag status Portballintrae Commend staff</i>
10.	Rural Development Programme	<i>Noted</i>
11.	Purchase of Bushmills PSNI Station	<i>Agreed not to proceed with the acquisition of the PSNI Station in Bushmills</i>
12.	Withdrawal of NIEA Funding	<i>Approve the additional funding for the Biodiversity Officer post.</i>
13.	Coleraine Harbour	<i>Suggested response to DRD approved</i>
14.	Events Programme	<i>Report back to the July Council Meeting</i>

Leisure & Development Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Leisure & Development Committee, held in Council Chamber, Civic Headquarters, Coleraine Office on Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7.00 pm.

In the Chair: Councillor M A McKillop

Members present: Aldermen Hickey, Hillis and Mullan
Councillors Clarke, Douglas, Holmes, Knight-McQuillan, McCandless, McCorkell, McGlinchey, McLean, Mulholland, Nicholl, Stevenson and Wilson

In attendance: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development
E McCaul, Committee Clerk
P Beattie, Development Manager
B McCaughan, PCSP Manager
P Thompson, Tourism Manager
S Irwin, RDP Manager

Councillor A Callan
Councillor G Duddy

Also in Attendance: R Bolton, The Bushmills Trust
J O'Neill, Venture I
Press x 2
Viewing Gallery x 3

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

Alderman Hickey and Councillor Clarke declared that they were Commissioners for Coleraine Harbour.

3. Presentation by The Bushmills Trust re Purchase of Bushmills PSNI Station

The Director of Leisure & Development circulated a report previously circulated and as undernoted:

Bushmills Village Forum put forward a request to the former Moyle District Council in 2012 to purchase the former PSNI Station in Bushmills for use as a community resource.

Bushmills Village Forum agreed to carry out a Needs Analysis and put together a Business Case in order for the Council to make a decision about such an acquisition.

In the meantime Moyle Council submitted an expression of interest to purchase the building through the public sector tawl.

A number of extensions were requested from PSNI in order to facilitate the Forum putting together the case for the project.

In addition agreement needed to be reached locally about whether there was a local committed group of people prepared to take the project forward.

Funding was secured by a local steering group from Community Foundation for N Ireland to appoint Venture I to carry out a Needs Analysis and prepare a Business Case.

By January 2015 the Business Case was completed and The Bushmills Trust had agreed to act as lead for the preferred option of renovation of the station building as self-catering tourism accommodation with creation of a car park to the rear of the site. This tied in with the need for increased car parking in the village that has been identified as part of the draft Bushmills Masterplan.

The valuation from Land and Property Services for purchase was £140k and Moyle Council put this cost forward to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for inclusion in its Capital Expenditure Schedule for 2015-16, since the purchase would not be completed within the time of Moyle District Council.

The final deadline from PSNI for a decision to purchase the former PSNI Station is June 2015; if the site is not purchased by that time it will be put on the open market.

* Councillors McGlinchey and Nicholl arrived at the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Committee received a presentation from Roy Bolton, Bushmills Trust and John O'Neill, Venturei on the proposal. The presentation objectives were:

- to seek Council support to deliver the proposed project (£140,000 purchase cost)
- to communicate to Council that this was a unique one off opportunity presented by the Policing Board
- to provide an overview of a feasibility study & preferred option
- outline the benefits commercially & to the community and
- to confirm the robust nature of the proposal in terms of strategic fit.

Following the presentation, it was confirmed that as The Bushmills Trust had charitable status they were exempt from paying rates; the building had been assessed and no major defects had been identified and that interest had been shown from the private sector in purchasing the building.

The presenters left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

The Chair advised that consideration of the presentation would be discussed IN COMMITTEE at the end of the meeting.

4. Minutes of Meeting held 12th May 2015

The minutes of meeting held 12th May 2015 which were ratified by Council on 26th May 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Policing & Community Safety Partnership Update

The PCSP Manager presented a report to update members with information in respect of Causeway Coast and Glens Policing and Community Safety Partnership previously circulated as undernoted:

Northern Ireland Policing Board is undertaking the recruitment of Independent PCSP members (of which there will be 9). The recruitment panel met week commencing 18th May and agreed on the individuals to be appointed. Letters of Offer have been sent and confirmation of acceptance is pending. The reconstitution date for Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP will be Thursday 25 June 2015.

Council staff appointments have been made as follows:

<i>PCSP Manager</i>	<i>Bridget McCaughan</i>
<i>PCSP Officers</i>	<i>Melissa Lemon</i>
	<i>Michael McCafferty</i>
	<i>Orlaith Quinn</i>

In November 2014, Council took the decision to appoint 10 elected members to the PCSP and to follow the d'Hondt system in relation to representation. The decision in respect of the member to take the PCSP Chair in the first year is required.

The Director of Leisure & Development reported that the DUP Party Lead had confirmed that Councillor J McCorkell had been nominated as chairperson for Year 1 of Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP. **Nomination to be presented to the June Council Meeting.**

* Councillor McGlinchey left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

6. Tackling Deprivation beyond 2016

The Development Manager resented a report on Tackling Deprivation beyond 2016 previously circulated and as undernoted:

In June 2003 the Department for Social Development launched "People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal", a long term Strategy targeting those communities suffering the highest levels of deprivation.

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme was to reduce the social and economic inequalities affecting the most deprived areas. Neighbourhoods in the most deprived ten percent of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. In the current council areas, these are:

- Ballysally & Millburn Neighbourhood Renewal Areas***
- Churchlands Neighbourhood Renewal Area (The Heights & Killowen)***
- Limavady Neighbourhood Renewal Area (Cooleran, Roeside and Greystone)***

The programme benefits around 7500 people under the new Council. Supported programmes cover everything from education to health to capital infrastructure.

In August 2014, officers presented a short report on the future of Neighbourhood Renewal, which will be a transferring function from the Department for Social Development. However, the programme did not transfer on 1 April, and remains under the control of the Department for this year.

Officers now wish to revisit one of the main options discussed in August, with a view to commencing planning for the ultimate transfer of the programme in 2016. Around £1.55m of funding will be transferred to Council for the use of a Neighbourhood Renewal-type programme. The allocation to projects from the current programme is around £1m, leaving a further £500,000 for new projects under a further programme.

The main issue for consideration is using some form of measure for the future disbursement of funding.

The current programme works within the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland, using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure – with a cut-off point being at ten percent.

Officers had considered an expansion to fifteen percent. However, using the Measure above, this meant that only streets and areas within one further area could be included, specifically Dungiven Ward/Dungiven Town.

In presenting the options in August, officers presented an option for moving the cut-off point to twenty percent – this yielded coverage of a much wider area, bringing in areas all over the borough and increased the targeted population to around 20,000 in 65 small areas.

It was recommended that **Committee consider:**

- a) retaining the initial 10% deprivation cut-off point for intervention.**
- b) moving to a 15% deprivation cut-off point.**
- c) moving to 20% intervention point.**

The preferred option will allow officers to commence developing a transition phase from government to local authority implementation of the programme from 1 April 2016.

The Development Manager answered a number of questions on impact of funding to deprived areas and clarified that the programme had been running for around 10 years.

It was proposed by Councillor Nicholl, seconded by Councillor Wilson **to recommend to Council that the intervention point on the Nobel Multiple Deprivation Measure be moved to 20% (option c).**

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded Councillor McCorkell **to recommend to Council that the intervention point on the Nobel Multiple Deprivation Measure be retained at the initial 10% (option a).**

The amended motion was put to the meeting, with 6 voting for and 8 against.

The Chair declared the amended motion lost.

Councillor Nicholl's motion was put to the meeting, with 8 voting for and 6 against.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

7. Destination Management Strategy

The Tourism Manager presented the Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism and Destination Management Plan for 2015 – 2020. He said that the Tourism and Destination Management Strategy pointed to the way forward for tourism in the new Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area taking and had taken the following into consideration:

- Tourism was worth £100m per annum by overnight expenditure into the local economy and accounts for 12% of local employment (4,751 jobs within tourism).
- In 2013 there were 704,716 trips to the area, 64% from Northern Ireland, with average spend per night being £47.00, compared to £68 in Scotland.
- There were 1.6 m visitors to attractions in Causeway Coast & Glens in 2013.

The Tourism Manager outlined why a destination management approach was needed for the Causeway Coast and Glens area. He said that tourism was the interaction between visitors, the industry that serves them, the community that hosts them and their collective impact on and response to the environment where it all takes place. Through best practice in destination management, Council will support and work in partnership with the tourist industry to develop and sustain the region as a high quality competitive visitor destination.

It was noted that as part of the overall vision, the strategic themes/source areas were marketing/promotion, trade engagement, product development and visitor servicing. It was anticipated that this would achieve key measurable outputs in trips (2% per annum) spend (3% per annum) and stays (3% growth bed nights per annum).

The Tourism Manager indicated that the next steps were to complete operational plans and align with coast & countryside management, outdoor recreation, events, tourism facilities and caravan parks.

It was recommended that the Tourist & Destination Management Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens Council area be approved for implementation for the period of 2015-2020.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Alderman Hillis and **AGREED to recommend to Council that the Tourist & Destination Management Strategy for**

Causeway Coast and Glens Council area be approved for implementation for the period 2015-2020.

8. Tourism Events Grant Funding

The Director of Leisure & Development presented a report on Tourism Events Grant Funding. He said that officers were currently accepting, evaluating and scoring the grant applications for Small and Large Tourism Events. This process is expected to be completed by 12th June 2015.

In order to ensure that those event occurring from 1st July 15 are able to proceed with grant funding from Council, officers are seeking the permission of the Committee to present the report recommending Tourism Events Grant Funding direct to Council on 24th June 2015.

It was recommended that permission would be granted to allow officers to present the report regarding Tourism Events Grant Funding direct to Council on 23rd June 2015.

It was proposed by Alderman Hickey, seconded by Councillor McLean and **AGREED that permission would be granted to allow officers to present the report regarding Tourism Events Grant Funding direct to Council on 23rd June 2015.**

9. Blue Flag & Seaside Awards

The Director of Leisure & Development presented a report on Blue Flag & Seaside Awards previously circulated and undernoted:

At the 2015 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Beach Awards the North Coast's stunning coastline was well represented with the Mayor accepting six Blue Flags and three Seaside Awards on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Of particular note was the twenty fifth consecutive Blue Flag being awarded to Benone Strand with Downhill, Castlerock, Portrush West and White Rocks also receiving the award. Ballycastle Marina also played its part as a Blue Flag marina.

The Blue Flag Award is an independent recognition of environmental excellence run by the non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Worldwide there are over 2,000 Blue Flag beaches in 36 countries.

The Blue Flag award works towards sustainable management of beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, safety and lifeguard provision and other services.

In addition Portrush East Strand, Ballycastle and Waterfoot all received Seaside Awards which recognises that whilst these beaches may not meet the

high standards of bathing water quality, they are managed to the same standard as a Blue Flag beach with respect to lifeguard provision, information and facilities.

The following sites managed by Council have been awarded Blue Flag, Seaside Resort or Seaside Rural status.

Name of Beach	Award
Magilligan Benone	Blue Flag
Magilligan, Downhill	Blue Flag
Castlerock	Blue Flag
Portrush West	Blue Flag
Whiterocks	Blue Flag
Ballycastle Marina	Blue Flag
Portrush East	Seaside Resort
Ballycastle	Seaside Resort
Waterfoot	Seaside Rural

In response to a query from a Member the Director of Leisure & Development agreed to report back to the Committee on why Portballintrae had not achieved Blue Flag status. He also agreed to forward tributes paid to staff on helping Council achieve the awards, particular those working at Benone, which had achieved Blue Flag status for 25 consecutive years.

10. Rural Development Programme Update

The Rural Development Programme Manager presented a report to update members on the Rural Development Programme previously circulated and as undernoted:

At its Annual Meeting, Causeway Coast and Glens District Council confirmed the nomination of the 8 elected members onto the Local Action Group (LAG). The process of appointing social partners on to the LAG has also been completed and the Local Action Group (LAG) for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council met on 1st April 2015 with 18 members having been appointed. The membership breakdown complies with the EU Common Provisions Regulation which stipulates among other things that 'no one single interest group shall represent more than 49% of the voting rights'. This means public sector representatives (considered as a single group) must not exceed 49% of the makeup of the LAG Board.

The Department for Rural Development (DARD) is still waiting for formal approval of the draft Programme from the European Commission. The overall allocation to the Causeway Coast & Glens Council area is, at £9.6million, the third highest of the ten areas. Up to 22% of the overall budget can be used for administration which means there is a programme budget of £7.78m and a technical assistance budget of £1.73m available for up to a six year period.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will be responsible for providing administrative and advisory services to the Local Action Group (LAG) for the delivery of the new Rural Development Programme for the period 2014-2020. In January the Council agreed to submit an application to the Department for Rural Development (DARD) for funds to enable the Council to appoint staff to facilitate the LAG.

From 1st May 2015, an Animation Contract of up to £50,000 has been available from DARD for Council to recruit staff to start the Animation of the Programme and the development of the Strategy. DARD are currently working through the process and will shortly be issuing a Service Level Agreement to Causeway Coast & Glens Council. The purpose of this Service Level Agreement is to formalise an arrangement between DARD and the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to deliver administrative and advisory support services to the LAG during the period prior to the LAG formally contracting with DARD at Programme approval stage. Mrs Suzanne Irwin has been appointed by the Council as the Rural Development Programme Manager.

The LAG held its first two meetings on 1st and 30th April 2015 with the third meeting scheduled for Thursday 28th May 2015. As a result of these meetings:

- **Patsy Bradley has been nominated as the Interim Chair of the LAG,**
- **A number of LAG members attended the Balmoral Show to represent the Causeway Coast and Glens area in the LEADER marquee,**
- **A meeting schedule for the next year has been agreed,**
- **A Governance sub-group met to consider the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association for the LAG,**
- **The Causeway Coast and Glens LAG was one of three LAGS that had to submit a Gender Action Plan to support the LAG application because female representation is less than the anticipated 28%.**

The first compulsory capacity building and training session for local LAG members is scheduled for Tuesday 9th June 2015 and will be facilitated by the Rural Development Council.

The Department is continuing work on the range of templates for the Local Action Groups. These include templates for the Interim Strategy, the Application form and the Scoring documentation.

It is expected that the Department will score the Causeway Coast and Glens LAG application this week and that an appointment letter will follow (to commence when the Programme is formally agreed by the European Commission).

The contents of the report were noted by members.

It was proposed by Alderman Mullan, seconded by Councillor Wilson and AGREED that agenda items 11, 12 and 13 would be discussed **IN COMMITTEE**.

Members of the public and press left the meeting at 8:55 pm.

11. Presentation by the Bushmills Trust re Purchase of Bushmills PSNI Station

Members discussed details of the presentation held earlier in the meeting and to the possibility of Council purchasing the site and building from the Policing Board at a cost of £140,000.

Following debate and the Chair putting the matter to the vote, it was agreed 6 voting for, and 8 voting against **not to proceed with the acquisition of the PSNI Station in Bushmills**.

The Director of Leisure & Development agreed to inform Bushmills Trust that although members were impressed with the presentation, Council had agreed not to proceed with the acquisition of the PSNI station.

12. Withdrawal of NIEA Funding

The Director of Leisure & Development presented a confidential report with regard to withdrawal of NIEA funding and implications this would have on budgets for 2015/16.

It was noted that the withdrawal of funds would leave a shortfall of £11,400 for the Biodiversity Officer post for the current year and £10,300 for the next financial year.

It was proposed by Alderman Hillis, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and AGREED **that the Committee would recommend that Council approve the additional funding for the Biodiversity Officer post**.

13, Coleraine Harbour

The Director of Leisure & Development presented a confidential report previously circulated to allow Council to make a decision that constitute 'a statement of intent' in the June reporting cycle (without undertaking full due diligence) based upon:

- Further investigation and analysis to establish the accuracy of the findings and assumption made in a report presented to Council in May 2015;
- Engagement with DRD at the earliest opportunity to discuss the assumptions made within the report, the responsibility placed upon Council to fund any due diligence and specifically question the market demand to sustain a commercial port in Coleraine.

It was proposed by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor Holmes and AGREED **that the Committee would recommend to Council that the suggested response outlined within the report would be communicated to the Department of Regional Development**.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor McCandless and AGREED to resolve the meeting **OUT OF COMMITTEE.**

14. Event Programme

In response to a query on why the Mayor's Show had not been held in Ballymoney for 2015, the Director agreed to review the programme of events and report back to the July Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 10:05 pm.