

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2017**

Table of Recommendations

| No | Item | Summary of key Recommendations |
|-----------|---|---|
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | <i>Cllr Douglas – Item 8 Grant Programmes for 2018-19</i> |
| 3 | Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 10 October 2017 | <i>Information</i> |
| 4 | Presentation from Bushmills 2020 | <i>Received</i> |
| 5 | The Regeneration of Bushmills | <i>Agreed Concept A Create a Brand Agreed Site Visit to Bushmills Agreed to Defer Decision on OBC until November Monthly Meeting</i> |
| 6 | Ballysally Youth & Community Centre SOC | <i>Approve</i> |
| 7 | Grant Funding Policy Review | <i>Approve</i> |
| 8 | Grant Programmes for 2018/2019 | <i>Approve</i> |
| 9 | Play Strategy | <i>Approve</i> |
| 10 | Portrush Leisure Facility Options Update | <i>Information</i> |
| 11 | Roe Valley Leisure Centre Pool Maintenance | <i>Information</i> |

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| 12 | Economic Development Review | <i>Information</i> |
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| 13 | Broadband Connectivity/ LPWAN Network Update | <i>Information</i> |
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| 14 | Ould Lammas Fair Economic Impact | <i>Information</i> |
| | | |
| 15 | Review of Leisure Management Options | <i>Amend Options Criteria 6 to 3% Criteria 1 to 25%</i> |
| | | |
| 16 | Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o) | |
| | 16.1 Councillor Stevenson, Ballymoney Public Realm Works | <i>Scope and Options to be brought back to Committee in due course</i> |
| | 16.2 Councillor Stevenson, Update on Ballymoney Ancestry Project | <i>Investigate</i> |

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON
TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7:00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Douglas

Committee Members Present: Alderman Hickey, Hillis and Robinson.
Councillors Baird, Chivers, Clarke, Deighan, Homes, McLean, McShane C, Mulholland, Stevenson and Wilson

Non Committee Members Present: Councillor McShane P

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development
J Gray, SIB Project Manager
N Harkness, SIB Project Manager
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager
P Beattie, Head of Prosperity and Place
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture
E McCaul, Committee & Member Services Officer

In Attendance: Press (1 no.)

SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Wilson substituted for Councillor McCandless for the transaction of business for the evening.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillors Duddy, McCandless and M A McKillop.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were recorded for Councillor Douglas for Item 8 – Grants Programmes for 2018-2019.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2017

The Chair advised the Minutes of the above meeting were confirmed at 24 October 2017 Council Meeting.

4 PRESENTATION – BUSHMILLS 2020 STEERING GROUP

The Chair welcomed Roy Bolton, Bob Hedley and Dr Alan Summers, Bushmills 2020 Steering Group to the meeting.

The Committee were informed that the Giants Causeway was a victim of its own success, with high season traffic being out of control. The Bushmills 2020 Village Plan was developed through extensive community consultation and contains a vision with many possibilities, projects and solutions designed to enhance and develop the full potential of Bushmills for residents, visitors and businesses.

The Gateway Project – MWA Partnership commenced in 2013 with prime objective of seeing how Bushmills could be made fit for purpose as the Gateway and Arrival Hub to the Giants Causeway. The secondary objective was to see if Bushmills could benefit by providing a solution to the increasing parking problems.

The conclusions of the project were that there was an opportunity for developing existing park and rides and leisure facilities linking the Causeway, Dunluce Castle, Bushmills Distillery and even further afield giving the proximity of Bushmills. The project identified the possibility of new parking at various sites in Bushmills; new play facilities; 3G floodlight pitch; potential for developing a community centre; themes village entrance; need for public realm scheme; need for quality street frontage and moving the football pitch to allow for MUGA and dedicated bonfire site.

Members of the Committee commented that the Village Plan was inspirational and endorsed the projects identified.

The Chair thanked Members of Bushmills 2020 Steering Group for their presentation.

5 THE REGENERATION OF BUSHMILLS

The Leisure and Development Committee received a report and supporting information previously circulated to provide Members with an update on the development of a Bushmills Regeneration Plan, beyond the 2020 Village Plan, including:

- The development of a brand proposition for the village of Bushmills;
- The progression of Bushmills 'Arrival Hub' Capital Project to Stage 1 of the Capital Investment Programme.

The report set out background details on Bushmills 2020 Village Plan commissioned by the former Moyle Council. The Plan developed a vision for the village, themes, projects and programmes and was created to inspire and provide direction to the process of regeneration.

Bushmills is unique in that it is at the centre of some of Northern Ireland's most important tourism attractions. In October the Causeway Coast and Belfast were rated best region in the world to visit by Lonely Planet. This will no doubt further raise the profile and popularity of the village.

Without strategic and joined up government support, the process of regeneration is likely to stall or develop in an adhoc fashion, not addressing the needs of Bushmills.

Having completed an early stage of the process, ie the Bushmills 2020 Village Plan, it is now necessary to develop and confirm a unique identify for the village, which allows the regeneration process to have an agreed and common context, which is aligned to the potential funding opportunities.

As part of the brand and vision for Bushmills, Council has commissioned a new tourism destination brand for Bushmills in order to develop a strategic approach to ensure the brand proposition for the village is fit for purpose as it seeks to attract and grow visitor numbers over the coming years.

The consultants commissioned were responsible for delivering a robust process of brand research, data gathering and data interrogation which will later inform the development of the final brand identity and its brand communications strategy.

Following community engagement events, creative concepts for the brand were presented to invited stakeholders, including Elected Members, Community Group representatives, the National Trust, Bushmills Distillery, local business people and school.

Feedback responses from the event have been analysed with the following responses:

| | Preference |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Concept A | 65% |
| Concept B | 25% |
| Concept A & B | 10% |

The work is now complete resulting in the completion of the following documents:

- Bushmills Brand Scoping Report and
- Bushmills Brand Presentation

It is recommended – on the basis of the clear majority support for Concept A, the recommendation is to create a brand guidelines document which can be used by all stakeholders who will be using the brand and supply a toolkit of assets.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
 Seconded by Alderman Hickey and

AGREED - to recommend on the basis of the clear majority support for Concept A, the recommendation is to create a brand guidelines document which can be used by all stakeholders who will be using the brand and supply a toolkit of assets.

In 2016 a study was carrying out on the need for parking solutions for the 2019 Open Golf Championship by AECOM. Based on growing visitor numbers, the study was increased to the area East of the River Bann, with the aim of identifying ‘Park and Stride/Park and Ride’ (P&S/P&R) within towns or Hubs.

These are to be strategically sited to facilitate a viable interconnected transport service to the tourist sites and serve to drive economic benefit to the key resorts hubs of Portstewart, Portrush, Bushmills and Ballycastle. Site preference would be developed for each of the towns in terms of potential R&S/P&R routes including existing car parks (albeit upgraded) to new sites.

Based on acute congestion at the Giants Causeway, the subsequent congestion in Bushmills and the key function as a economic driver, the study prioritised the identification of potential P&S/P&R facility in Bushmills to create an arrival hub. Eight sites were identified and are summarised in the following table:

| Site Name | Score | Rank |
|--|-------|------|
| Dundarave Car Park Extension | 28 | 1 |
| Dunluce School Gravel Sports Field | 22 | 2 |
| Dundarave Estate Polo Lands | 22 | 2 |
| Dundarave Estate Potato Fields | 21 | 4 |
| Main Street Car Park Extension | 21 | 5 |
| Bushmills Distillery Car Park Extension | 19 | 6 |
| Giants Causeway and Bushmills Car Park Extension | 19 | 7 |
| Former Dunluce Presbyterian Church Hall | 17 | 8 |

The entirety of the work detailed presents potential P&S/P&R sites in each of the hubs that will satisfy the objectives of this commission.

Whilst the study focused to a greater degree on Bushmills, potential locations in Portstewart, Ballycastle and Portrush has been identified, which will be considered to a greater degree in the context of Council's Parking Strategy.

It is recommended - on the basis that a Bushmills 'Arrival Hub' has an identified need, that AECOM refine the work relevant to Bushmills circulated through:

- Consultation with landowners / community groups / relevant stakeholders.
- Establish the objectivity of need through proxy analysis.
- Detailed cost analysis for each site.
- Economic benefit derived through each site.
- Capital funding opportunities.

Facilitating the completion of the Outline Business Case and Economic Appraisal.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Stevenson and

AGREED – that subject to a familiarisation site visit to Bushmills, that decision on the recommendation be deferred to the 28 November 2017 Monthly Council Meeting,

6 BALLYSALLY YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

The Committee received a report (circulated) to present a Strategic Outline Case in relation to Ballysally Youth and Community Centre.

A report was taken to Committee in October 2017 in which outcomes of a Strategic Outline Case for Ballysally Youth and Community Centre affirmed a need for community centre provision within the Ballysally Estate. The report requested Council to consider the finding of the Strategic Outline Case and to therefore proceed to the next stage in developing a business case.

The Committee agreed that a decision on the issue be deferred for a period of one month to facilitate a site visit for Councillors for the centre which took place on Friday 3 November with 10 members in attendance.

The report set out proposals for the future development of Ballysally Community Centre as a result of the strategic review. The current

situation in respect of the withdrawal of Education Authority funding and the implications to the operational budget have been considered separately by Sport & Wellbeing.

The Committee were advised of the methodology in preparation of the Strategic Outline Case (circulated), the key issues considered and options identified for moving forward that would be considered in detail as part of the Outline Business Case as follows:

- Do nothing
- Refurbish existing building
- Renovate extend existing building
- Small scale new build facility
- Large scale new build facility or
- New build facility in a different location.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that in going forward, if Council approves the Strategic Outline Case, the next step would be to progress to preparation of an Outline Business Case with significant detail around identifying a 'preferred option' with full implementation implications such as finances required, management arrangements, risk assessment, marketing planning and post project evaluation. This would also involve robust consultation with key stakeholders around the preferred option to gain a clear consensus on future delivery arrangements.

Recommendation

- i. Prepare an Outline Business Case for Ballysally Youth & Community Centre that explores in detail the options identified in the Strategic Outline Case and identifies a preferred option.
- ii. Progress the other actions recommended in the Strategic Outline Case.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – to recommend that Council

- i. Prepare an Outline Business Case for Ballysally Youth & Community Centre that explores in detail the options identified in the Strategic Outline Case and identifies a preferred option.
- ii. Progress the other actions recommended in the Strategic Outline Case.

7 GRANT FUNDING POLICY ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee considered a report to review Council's Grant Funding Policy and seek approval from Members on the proposed changes to the policy for 2018/19.

The policy sets out a framework for the processing of grants. The overall aim of the funding process outlined in the policy is

“To have a consistent, customer focused process with relevant assessment and evaluation procedures with appropriate appeal and monitoring systems in place.”

The Grants Policy with the recommended changes tracked were circulated.

The following amendments were recommended:

Amendment 1: Section 5.4 Eligibility, Under Exclusions:

- Businesses and for profit organisations where funding would contravene local government, State Aid rules or other legislation.

Change to:

- Businesses and for-profit organisations where funding would contravene local government, State Aid rules or other legislation. (Council's Enterprise Fund will grant-aid local businesses but state aid rules will apply).

Amendment 2: Appendix 1 – The process:

- Add in an additional point to provide clarity on the new risk based audit process:

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 9 | Financial Verification & Payments | In the 2018-19 Grant Funding Period, in order to move to a risk-based verification process, Council will assess the internal financial controls & procedures within an organisation to determine the level of financial competence of an organisation. |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|

Amendment 3: Appendix 2 - Grants Categories:

- The table has been updated to name new or additional specific grant programmes.

Recommendation – that the Leisure & Development Committee is to consider the amended Grant Funding Policy for approval.

Proposed by Councillor C McShane
Seconded by Alderman Hickey and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approves the amended Grant Funding Policy.

8 GRANT PROGRAMMES FOR 2018-2019

The Committee received a report and supporting Annex A the purpose of which was to recommend:

- The annual grant funding programmes to Council for the 2018-19 period and
- Modifications to the Capital Grant Programme.

Recommendations – that the Leisure and Development Committee is to consider the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Approve the grant programmes and criteria as set out in Annex A (excluding the new programmes detailed in recommendations 2 & 3).

Recommendation 2: Approve a Commemoration Grant Fund for 2018-19: a minimum grant award of £250 and a maximum award of £1,000.

Recommendation 3: Approve a Pilot Minor Capital Grants Programme for 2018-19 as per the criteria set out in Annex A:

Option 1: Council consider a minimum grant award of £5,000 and a maximum award of £30,000 with a 50% intervention rate.

Option 2: Council consider a minimum grant award of £5,000 and a maximum award of £30,000 with a 75% intervention rate.

Recommendation 4: Consider modifications to the Capital Grants Programme:

Option 1 – Maintain the status quo (50% award with no maximum value on the scale and size of the project)

Option 2 - Introduce a sliding scale of max awards and match funding requirements linked to the scale of the project as set out in the table below:

| Scale of Project | Max Award % | Max Award Value |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| A. £30,001 - £100,000 | 80% | £80,000 |
| B. £100,001 - £200,000 | 60% | £120,000 |
| C. £201,000 - over | 50% | £500,000 |

Proposed by Councillor C McShane
 Seconded by Councillor Mulholland and

AGREED - to recommend to Council approves recommendation 1 and 2 as follows:

Recommendation 1: Approve the grant programmes and criteria as set out in Annex A (excluding the new programmes detailed in recommendations 2 & 3).

Recommendation 2: Approve a Commemoration Grant Fund for 2018-19: a minimum grant award of £250 and a maximum award of £1,000

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
 Seconded by Councillor Mulholland and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approves Options 2 for recommendations 3 and 4 as follows:

Recommendation 3: Approve a Pilot Minor Capital Grants Programme for 2018-19 as per the criteria set out in Annex A:

Option 2: Council consider a minimum grant award of £5,000 and a maximum award of £30,000 with a 75% intervention rate.

Recommendation 4: Consider modifications to the Capital Grants Programme:

Option 2 - Introduce a sliding scale of max awards and match funding requirements linked to the scale of the project as set out in the table below:

| Scale of Project | Max Award % | Max Award Value |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| D. £30,001 - £100,000 | 80% | £80,000 |
| E. £100,001 - £200,000 | 60% | £120,000 |
| F. £201,000 - over | 50% | £500,000 |

9 PLAY STRATEGY

The Committee received a report and supporting Annex A previously circulated on Play Strategy the purpose of which was to:

- Update members on the key findings of spatial analysis and play value audits.
- Present Members with the information to support a decision on the demographic criteria that could be applied to the anticipated Play Strategy.
- Confirm for Members that the identification of the fixed play needs of tourists will be given appropriate consideration in the emerging strategy.

In March 2017 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council commissioned PlayBoard NI to develop an overarching Play Strategy for the Borough.

As part of the ongoing project PlayBoard NI representatives have visited all 99 fixed play facilities and reported on condition and play value; hosted public consultation events across the Borough; met with special interest groups; delivered a Councillor's Play Workshop and presented options and implications to the Councillors in their DEA groups.

Members had previously considered the proposed criteria and requested that specific consideration is given to the fixed play needs of tourists to the CC&GBC area. This paper has been updated accordingly.

The discussion paper circulated sets out the Fields in Trust definitions of types of fixed play facilities and their associated distance criteria. It also identifies how population estimates and household location data can be used to identify potential gaps in fixed play provision. Based on the initially proposed criteria this work identifies the need for additional/expanded provision in the following areas:

| DEA | Location | Comments |
|-------------------|------------------|---|
| Ballymoney | Cloughmills | Consider initial expansion of Bio-Park |
| | South Ballymoney | Possible land issues |
| Bann | Castleroe | Review in line with wider Coleraine DEA proposals |
| Benbradagh | Ballykelly | Possible land issues |
| Causeway | Portrush | Consider site to the rear of Portrush PS |

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--|
| | Bushmills | Possible land issues |
| Coleraine | Waterside | Consider partnership with schools |
| | The Cuts 1 | Demand to be tested |
| | Knocklyn | Possible redevelopment of Rugby Avenue site |
| The Glens | Ballycastle West | Possible land issues |
| | Waterfoot | Consider green space identified by community (possible land use planning restrictions) |
| Limavady | Limavady Town | Development of Destination accessible play area Possible further need – test post destination play site development |

Play value is a critical consideration as a play area with low play value has little appeal for children, is likely to have low levels of usage and will not enhance children’s play experiences or support their development.

A paper was circulated which sets out the key findings from the Play Value Audit at a Council wide level with a score for each play individual area.

Fourteen fixed play areas (including amalgamation of Cottagewood 1 and 2) have been proposed for renewal/upgrading during the first 5 years of the strategy due to low play value.

Five sites have been identified as having potentially low levels of demand coupled with low play value.

One of the key issues to be resolved prior to the finalisation of the Draft Play Strategy for Member’s consideration is the establishment of an underlying set of criteria to be applied by Council to support the identification of gaps in residential fixed play provision both now and in the future.

The paper circulated sets out options and implications for 3 criteria and makes recommendations as follows:

Criterion 1: Radial Catchment - that council apply the ABS standards which, despite some concerns regarding their appropriateness in a Northern Ireland context are embedded within the planning system and have national recognition.

Criterion 2: Demographic Thresholds- in order to be eligible for consideration for fixed play provision:

- Urban areas would need to meet minimum threshold of 150 resident children or young people aged between 0 to 14 years.
- Rural areas would need to meet a minimum threshold of 50 children or young people aged 0 to 14 years.

Criterion 3: Residential Household Coverage - Apply existing planning regulation level of 100 units for LEAP fixed play development with tailored approach to meeting play need in areas below 100 units.

In order to effectively meet the needs of tourists and visitors, it is essential that ongoing consideration is given to ensuring that appropriate, attractive and high value fixed play opportunities are in place to meet the needs of children and young people.

In seeking to better meet the needs of tourists and visitors to the area it is recommended that council apply a 3 stage process:

1. Identification of all existing fixed play areas suited/with potential to meet dual residential/tourist use (completed as part of play audit)
2. Identification of tourist sites/locations which, based on their underlying visitor profile would benefit from fixed play provision.
3. Application of 1,000m radial catchment (in line with Fields in Trust NEAP category of play area) from tourist sites/locations to identify existing or future planned fixed play areas falling within the catchment area.

Following identification, fixed play areas falling within the catchment radials should be reviewed for their potential to meet tourist need (based on stage 1 of the process).

Should no existing suitable fixed play area fall within the 1,000m catchment area, council should undertake a review of the wider location to identify whether an appropriate location exists that would meet play need from the tourist site/location. It is recommended that prior to progressing development of new fixed play a consultation be undertaken with a range of stakeholders from within the area alongside an assessment of demand for fixed play from visitors to the site/location.

It is recommended - that Members:

- Note the work undertaken to date to audit the Council's fixed provision.
- Agree the 3 criteria recommended above and approve their application to the upcoming Draft Play Strategy for Member's future consideration.
- Agree to the three-stage process outlined for assessing and meeting demand from tourist sites for fixed play provision.

Proposed by Councillor Baird

Seconded by Councillor Chivers and

AGREED - to recommend that Council:

- Note the work undertaken to date to audit the Council's fixed provision.
- Agree the 3 criteria recommended above and approve their application to the upcoming Draft Play Strategy for Member's future consideration.
- Agree to the three-stage process outlined for assessing and meeting demand from tourist sites for fixed play provision.

10 PORTRUSH LEISURE FACILITY OPTIONS UPDATE

An information report was circulated to the Committee to update Members on progress on the Portrush Community Leisure Facility Options since last considered at the September 2017 Leisure and Development Meeting.

At the September meeting, Members received a report and presentation recommending the development of business cases to evaluate the options relating to a number of leisure projects in the town of Portrush.

The report recommended that Members approve:

- The proposed objectives for the leisure and recreation projects in Portrush and
- That officers proceed to outline business case appraisals for the 3 projects as follows:
 1. Outdoor recreation, formal and informal at Ramore Head Recreation Grounds
 2. Integrated Play Facility, The Bowl or Dunluce/Metropole and
 3. Training pitch/small sided games, Parker Avenue or Glenmanus.

Members asked officers to convene a Member/Stakeholder Workshop where relevant stakeholder groups would be invited to present an account of their needs and aspirations to Councillors.

The Member/Stakeholder Workshop took place on Monday 30 October at Portrush Town Hall and 7 groups were in attendance. The workshop was also well represented by Members.

As the result of high level of attendance and the extent of the question and answer sessions, there was little time for Members and the officer to discuss next steps. Some Members suggested that an additional Member/officer workshop would be a helpful next step.

Arrangements have now been made to hold a joint workshop on Wednesday 6 December 2017 in Cloonavin to cover the following:

- 7 – 8 pm Pitches Strategy
- 8 – 9 pm Portrush Community Leisure Facilities Options.

The Committee noted the update on Portrush Leisure Facility Options.

11 ROE VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE POOL MAINTENANCE

An information Report was circulated on Roe Valley Leisure Centre Pool Maintenance.

Essential maintenance and repair requirements will necessitate the closure of both swimming pool in Roe Valley Leisure Centre in the near future.

The Minor pool will be closed, drained and repaired from 6 December for 2 – 3 weeks, reopening again in time for the New Year. During this time, any essential repair work required around the Main Pool, with minimal disruption to customers will take place. This may require part closure of sections of the pool or ½ day closure in order to ensure that absolutely essential repair work is not delayed.

Subject to Council agreement, management will schedule a second shut down for essential repairs to the main pool during June. This will be planned to minimise disruption to ensure essential repairs are carried out in a timely manner.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that the public would be made aware of pool maintenance at Roe Valley Leisure Centre.

The Committee noted the report on Roe Valley Leisure Centre Pool maintenance.

12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee received an information report and supporting Annex A to provide the mid-year review of activity under the current Economic Development Programme, which is due to end this financial year.

The current programme was put in place in 2015 to manage the transition from the previous four-council model to Causeway Coast and Glens. Most of the activities were transitional or a continuation of existing programme. In addition, the programme was put in place to manage Council's obligations while the new staffing structure were determined. While this took longer than envisaged, a range of activities have been completed and several targets fulfilled. As at November, the final staff numbers are now in position.

The table in Annex A follows the themes and activities agreed by Members in 2015, and subsequent action plans presented for consideration since. With the team now near completion, this is improved on last year and will yield a full programme for next year.

Although there remained some delays and gaps in programme delivery, although successes have come through from smaller programmes. Longer term projects also continue, with Atlantic Link, the development of an energy lobbying programme, connectivity issues, Portrush Public Realm and the Regeneration of Bushmills.

Staff are currently finalising a workplan for the next three years, taking into account the demands of continuing programmes, input from the community planning process and consultation with partners such as Invest NI, Ulster University and Tourism NI.

The Committee noted the economic Development review report.

13 BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY / LPWAN NETWORK UPDATE

The Committee received an information report on Broadband Connectivity, the purpose of which was to update Members on communication projects including broadband connectivity and the potential for a free-to-use regional LPWAN network.

As part of the economic development's programme to look at solutions to improve broadband connectivity, especially in rural areas within the Borough, two short reports were contracted to (1) identify broadband

problem areas, and (2) look at more detailed solutions. This has provided useful information in itself, but also has provided a potential project application to the Rural Development Fund. Both reports are not lengthy, and are available on request should members require.

Based on the information gleaned from these reports, the Head of Service will write to the Department for Agriculture and Environment to outline the solutions and opportunities in the reports. It will then be up to the Department to adjudicate on the admissibility of the project, as they have not yet given final direction on potential projects.

Staff are also currently working in a consortium (led by Ulster University) consisting of both the Schools of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, Invest NI, the majority of local councils in Northern Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and a significant number of Northern Ireland businesses with various digital needs to investigate the potential for a free-to-use regional LPWAN network – a low power, wide area network.

Businesses are exploring new solutions with this inexpensive data collection to monitor tourism, improve agriculture, streamline health service delivery, improve service delivery, and drive up operational efficiency. This is an example of the “Internet of Things”, but many of the business applications are still to be discovered.

In terms of the economic development opportunity, it is two-fold:

- Digital Providers – The digital companies including the app developers, system developers, digital media and data analytics.
- For Domain Experts – Businesses which serve agriculture, food production, tourism, waste disposal, security, sustainable energy, health and many other sectors have potential opportunities to make new solutions for themselves or for their customers.

An update on the outcome of both these pieces of work will be available should they progress.

The Committee noted the information report on Broadband Connectivity.

14 OULD LAMMAS FAIR ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Committee received an information report and supporting documents in Annex A and B. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with the outcome of the Event Evaluation carried out by Sheffield Hallam University during the Ould Lammas Fair.

In March 2017, Council agreed to have an external event evaluation carried out for both events to which Council contributes through funding and the provision of additional resources and those which are run internally by Council's own Events Team.

The key highlights of the Ould Lammas Fair Economic Impact report were:

- The Economic Impact attributable to event specific spectators across the week was at least £2.8 million, with an additional £0.42 million of expenditure by local residents
- The overall perception of the event was very positive. The vast majority (89%) believed that the Lamas Fair presents a positive image of the Borough and the vast majority of respondents felt that they would return to the area for the Fair in the future (91%)

Based on a net cost of £40k, the Lammas Fair presents significant value for money and is beneficial to the economy and reputation of the Council area.

However, whilst a number of improvements to the construct of the event have occurred in recent years, the ongoing development of the fair is necessary to capture the experience and enjoy the unique charm of the oldest fair in Ireland. This is the basis for Annex B, Development Plan previously circulated, which will be considered in the context of 2018 events programme, presented to Council in December.

Members commented that despite the poor weather, the Fair had been extremely well attended.

AGREED - that a report would be brought to the December 2017 Leisure and Development Meeting on Council's plans to extend and expand the Ould Lamas Fair for 2018.

The Committee noted the information report on Ould Lammas Fair Economic Impact.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Chivers
Seconded by Councillor Stevenson and

AGREED – that the Committee proceed to conduct the following business 'In Committee'.

15 REVIEW OF LEISURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The Committee considered a confidential report to update Members on progress with the review of leisure management options and to seek Member's approval for the proposed evaluation criteria and weighing's.

It is recommended - that Members consider and give indicative approval for the proposed criteria for the options review of leisure management models and the associated weightings. In doing so, allow the Project Board to apply the criteria to the assessment process and bring the outcomes back to Committee and Council for consideration and final approval.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Wilson

That the recommendation be approved subject to Criteria 6 being amended to 3% and Criteria 1 to be increased to 25%.

The Chair put the proposal to the meeting, with 9 voting for and 5 against. The Chair declared the proposal carried.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland
Seconded by Councillor Stevenson and

AGREED - that the Committee proceed to conduct the following business 'In Public'.

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

Under Standing Order 12. (o) the following Items were considered:

16.1 Councillor Stevenson (public realm works in Ballymoney

'That an update be given in regards to public realm works in Ballymoney to date'

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that a meeting had been held with DfC during the previous week to kick-off Ballymoney public realm works. DfC confirmed that although capital funding had not been allocated to this project at this stage, the need for the public realm works was evident. Details of the proposed works will be presented to the Committee in due course.

16.2 Councillor Stevenson (update on Ballymoney Ancestry Project)

'That an update is given in regards to the Ballymoney Ancestry Project, to what its current status is and regarding plans for its future'

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that he was unaware of the Ballymoney Ancestry Project. He agreed to report back to Councillor Stevenson after investigation.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9:50 PM.

Chair