

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	None
2.	Declarations of Interest	Alderman Baird, Councillor McCaw, MA McKillop and Schenning
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 15 September 2020	Confirmed
4.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor McMullan, seconded by Councillor Chivers (<i>This Council establishes an "Agricultural Sub-Committee made up from representatives of this council to discuss and promote all aspects of Agriculture within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area)</i>	Carried
5.	Grant Funding Programmes 2021/2022	Option 2 In addition officers are to investigate simplifying the funding application process and to include elected members in a 'review role' prior to reporting to Committee.
6.	Covid 19 Town Centre Recovery Fund Tranche 2	Within the constraints that this EOI was completed and submitted, that

		<p>members agree in principle to accept the concept and amount of a funding package when it becomes available from the departments.</p> <p>It is also recommended that the project list remains open subject to final suggestions, funding availability, and potential to deliver within the existing timeframe.</p>
7.	Village Renewal, Drumsurn Community Project	Option 1: Council agrees to use the available matching funding, in conjunction with the Rural Development Programme and completes the Drumsurn Village Renewal Project of the replacement of the community facility.
8.	Impact of Covid 19 on the Christmas Festivals Fund	Proceed with the Christmas Festive Fund ensuring that funded activities are planned and delivered in accordance with government legislation.
9.	Impact of Covid 19 on the Christmas Events Programme	Option 2: Deliver revised format for Council's

		Christmas activities.
10.	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	Option 3 - Procure only a number of services detailed in Annex A (previously circulated). This will require a reduction in the number of projects delivered and therefore the cost to Council will be reduced proportionately.
11.	Proposed Works at Sports and Wellbeing Facilities	Approve the expenditure detailed in the report for the projects listed.
12.	Transfer of Lime Park Facility to Land and Property	Limepark Playing Fields in Armoy site is now surplus to requirements (Leisure and Development) and is transferred to Corporate Services for consideration as a Land and Property matter.
	For Information (Items 13-17 inclusive)	
13.	Dfc Covid 19 Community Support Funding	Information
14.	Binevenagh Landscape Partnership	Information
15.	Update on Opening of Arts Centres	Information
16.	Update on Opening of Sport and Wellbeing Facilities	Information

17.	Youth Voice Initiative	Information, however the report is to be re-presented to Council in conjunction with Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Mulholland - Youth Shadow Council.
18.	Correspondence	Nil
19.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	Nil
20.	Consultations	Nil
21.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Mulholland, Seconded By Councillor McCaw <i>(This council notes the contribution that young people make to community and civic life in Causeway, Coast and Glens; encourages schools, youth groups and community organisations to become more involved in the life of local government and; resolves to establish a Youth Shadow Council to enhance civic engagement and improve public services that affect young people across this new Council Borough)</i>	Deferred
	'In Committee' (Item 22)	
22.	Funding Unit Structure	Approve the permanent appoint of a Verification Assistant to the structure proposed for the Funding Unit
23.	Any Other Relevant Business Notified In Accordance With Standing Order 12. (O)	Nil

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON
TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Nicholl (C)

Members Present: Alderman Baird (C) and McCorkell (R)
Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Callan (R), Holmes (C), MA McKillop (R), Knight-McQuillan (R), McCaw (C), C McShane (R), Schenning (R), Wallace (C)

Substitution: Councillor McQuillan (C) substituted for Councillor McAuley

Non Committee Members in Attendance: Councillors McMullan (R) and Chivers (R)

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing (R)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
R Gillan, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

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

Press (4 no) (R)
Public (4 no.) (R)

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were recorded as follows:

Councillor McCaw, in Item 10 (Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust), did not participate in the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor M A McKillop, in:-

Item 7 (Village Renewal, Drumsurn Community Project)

Item 10 (Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust)

Item 14 (Binevenagh Landscape Partnership),

did not participate in the meeting during consideration of these items.

Alderman Baird, in Item 7 (Village Renewal, Drumsurn Community Project) , did not participate in the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Schenning in Item 5 (Grant Funding Programmes 2021/22), did not participate in the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Chair advised that Agenda Item 23 (AORB) had been withdrawn.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 15 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

AGREED – To Change The Order of Business and take Item 21 next.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCMULLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR CHIVERS (DEFERRED FROM 6TH OCTOBER 2020 COUNCIL MEETING)

“This Council establishes an “Agricultural Sub-Committee made up from representatives of this council to discuss and promote all aspects of Agriculture within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area.”

Councillor McMullan spoke in support of his Notice of Motion and read from a prepared statement:

“Members can I thank you for the opportunity to bring this motion to the committee. Our Agricultural industry is one of our biggest employers directly and indirectly. It brings in over 50 million pounds into our economy each year from the single farm payment and other grants. This council has many committees that represent many of our sectors in the council area, but members we do not have any to deal with agriculture. When you consider that at present in the Causeway Coast and Glens Council we have a dairy industry that has approx. 45,000 cows, cattle both beef and suckler at around 190,00, sheep in our council we have one of the biggest density of sheep anywhere with numbers around 400,00, the poultry industry with approx. two and a half million birds and finally the pork sector with around 25,000 pigs. So members this should let you know the scale of this industry in our council area. This council needs to be ready to support our farmers, with this motion tonight if

successful we will be playing our part in recognizing the importance agriculture has in our communities.”

Councillor Chivers, concurred with the comments made by Councillor McMullan and read from a prepared statement:

“Speaking as part of a farm family, I don’t like the “term farmers wife” we all work together. Our farm families are facing a lot of uncertainty for their future, with Brexit, brings the Unknown’s , if the SFP is going to be replaced, which is a big part of their income, new regulations, farm gate prices decreasing plus many other factors. In normal times there is constant worry if prices drop, if there is an increase in fuel, banks breathing down their throats they even worry about the weather as this can have a detrimental effect on their livelihoods. All this can cause mental health issues and high suicidal rates as unfortunately pride gets in the way and too often the farm family won’t ask for help. People think that farming is the perfect life, working outdoors enjoying nature but It can sometimes be further from the truth as farmers work long hours and in many cases in isolation. We are a rural council area therefore we need to help this section of our community by setting up a sub-committee to identify areas where help is needed most. We also need to show support and promote our many producers who regardless of the many concerns produce world class produce for our tables.”

Whilst some members were in support of the Notice of Motion and stated that any measures to assist farmers were welcome others felt it would not be useful to set up another committee particularly as Agriculture suitably sat with Stormont at present.

Proposed by Councillor McMullan, Seconded by Councillor Chivers

- to recommend that this Council establishes an “Agricultural Sub-Committee made up from representatives of this council to discuss and promote all aspects of Agriculture within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area.

The Chair put the Motion to a vote.

8 Voted for, 8 Voted against

The Chair, using his casting vote, voted in support of the Motion.

The Chair declared the Motion carried.

***Councillor Chivers left the meeting after consideration of this item**

5. GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMMES 2021/22

***Councillor Schenning having declared an interest, did not participate in the item.**

Report, previously circulated was presented by The Funding Unit Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend the annual grant funding programmes to Council for the 2021-22 period.

Background

Every year Council agrees an annual programme of grants. The grant funding programmes target resources to meet identified need and further Council's objectives as outlined in Council's Corporate Plan and individual Service Strategies.

In the 2020-21 grant funding period the following grant programmes are being delivered:

Ser	Grant Programme	No of Projects	Amount Requested	Letter of Offer Amount
1	Building a United Community Fund	2	£12,525.00	£3,000.00
2	Community Development Support Grant	51	£130,353.83	£92,836.86
3	Community Festivals Fund * (Cancelled due to DfC withdrawing funding)	38	(£97,000.50) Not included in totals	(£51,420.00) Not included in totals
5	Culture, Arts and Heritage Grant Scheme	28	£34,125.00	£20,012.75
6	Landfill Community Fund	3	£377,496.50	£72,124.00
7	Social Inclusion Grant	23	£19,925.00	£11,215.00
8	Tourism & Recreation Growth	2	£44,950.00	£3,239.49
9	Tourism & Recreation Large	4	£318,000.00	£162,704.29
10	Town Twinning Grant	2	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
11	Strand 1 - COVID-19 Community Support Scheme	50	£86,413.98	£84,017.98
12	Strand 2 - COVID-19 Community Support Scheme	7	£12,291.68	£10,710.00
13	Strand 3 - COVID-19 Community Support Scheme	57	£59,253.00	£52,534.00
14	COVID-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme	548	£545,176.97	£445,884.25
15	Rural Business Development Grant	159	£562,605.57	Not Yet Issued
	Totals	685	£2,310,117.03	£968,278.62

Grant Funding Programmes 2021-22

The Annual Review of Grant Programmes Workshop for Elected Members was held on 17th September 2020 at which the proposed grant programmes for the incoming year were presented and discussed.

A summary of the proposed grants programmes for 2021-22 previously circulated, includes a brief overview of each proposed grant and the criteria to be used for assessment.

The Grant Funding Programmes available for the 2021/22 period are as follows:

Ser	Grant Programme	Revenue / Capital	Council Funding Contribution	External Funding Rate	Project Intervention Rate	Maximum Award
1.	Culture Art and Heritage Grants Programme	R	100%	0%	100%	£1,000
2.	Creative Practitioners Bursary Scheme	R	100%	0%	100%	£1,000
3.	Youth Creative Skills Bursary Scheme	R	100%	0%	100%	£200
4.	Building a United Community Fund	R	25%	75% - The Executive Office	100%	£1,500
5.	Community Development Support Grant	R	50%	50% - DfC	75%	£1,000 / £2,000
6.	Community Festivals Fund Grant	R	53%	47% - DfC	75%	£750 / £1,500 / £3,000
7.	Social Inclusion Grant	R	50%	50% - DfC	85%	£500
8.	Tourism Large Event Fund	R	100%	0%	50%	£100,000
9.	Tourism Growth Event Fund	R	100%	0%	50%	£15,000
10	Christmas Festive Fund	R	100%	0%	100%	£250
11.	Enterprise Fund	R	100%	0%	100%	£10,000

12	Landfill Communities Fund	Landfill Tax	0%	100% HMRC	75%	£30,000
13	Town Twinning Fund	R	100%	0%	100%	£5,000
14	PCSP	DoJ	0%	100%	100%	TBC (£5,000)
15	Rural Business Capital Grant Scheme	DAERA	0%	100% - DAERA	50%	£4,999

All grant programmes will contain a clause which states that responsibility remains with the applicant, to ensure that all events/activities are permitted and comply with current and any future changes in Northern Ireland regulations, as set out in the Government's Coronavirus guidance specific to events and mass gatherings at the time of event planning/delivery. Council reserves the right to withdraw funding if it is deemed that either during the course of planning and/or at the point of the event delivery date the event is contravening the latest Northern Ireland Covid-19 guidance on events and mass gatherings.

Tourism Events Fund Programme (TEFP)

The Covid19 pandemic caused disruption and cancellations to Councils annual grant programmes this year, the Christmas Festive Fund has not opened and is currently under consideration, the Community Festivals Fund was cancelled when DfC withdrew their contribution to the fund and, after much deliberation, the Events submitted as part of the Tourism Events Funds were all cancelled. The late cancellation of Events under the Tourism Events Fund resulted in the project promoters incurring considerable costs for planning and developing their events, which Council agreed to cover at a total cost of £165,943.78. For most of the large events such as the North West 200, Supercup and Stendhal, planning begins in the Summer of the previous year.

There is a high level of uncertainty around whether or not current restrictions and Government guidance will be eased enough to enable events with large / mass gatherings to take place next year. We are reportedly entering a second phase of Covid 19 and restrictions are being brought back in alongside local lockdowns. Based on the impact of Covid19 restrictions on the Tourism events this year and the likelihood that restrictions on mass gatherings may well cancel or curtail events over the next 12 months, Council may want to consider an alternative approach to supporting large and small tourism events in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area in 2021-22.

In order to assist members in the decision making around this, the Tourism Events Manager has undertaken desktop research and benchmarking alongside what other Councils and strategic partners are planning:

Other Councils:

- In the absence of government guidance and the situation being considered too fluid, other funders such as local Councils and Tourism NI are not yet looking at funding guidelines for 2021-022 for events. (This will have implications for events match funded from these sources e.g. Supercup, Northwest, Stendhal).
- Derry City and Strabane and Fermanagh and Omagh Councils are looking at redirecting event money from mass gatherings into other activities for one year (2021 /2022) - activities which are more likely to be permissible e.g. pop-up animation, dressing, smaller events throughout year rather than mass gatherings.
- Other Councils are looking at Contingency Planning - redirecting some of their events budget into other areas for 12 months with the Events Teams working with other Departments such as Economic Development / Communities to animate and activate towns and villages and deliver small scale events or virtual events.

Tourism NI:

- Tourism NI are closing off the 2020-2021 funding process. They have not received departmental approval to open an Events Fund/Sponsorship for 2021-22. In the absence of guidance, they have not started to look at funding parameters for 2021-22.
- Tourism NI have submitted a bid through the departmental in-year monitoring round for monies for tourism event recovery.
- International events such as NW200 were due to receive a 2 year LoO from TNI but this has not been issued and is under review.

Government Guidelines:

- In Northern Ireland, the current legislation states that the '15 limit for both **indoor** and outdoor gathering does not apply, where 'that gathering has a **recognised person** responsible for organising or operating the gathering, and it is organised or operated for cultural, entertainment, recreational, outdoor sports, social, community, educational, work, legal, religious or political purposes'.
- The '**recognised person**' within external event organisations will need to adhere to governmental guidance in relation to event safety and risk assessments. At the current time, this guidance on 'mass gatherings and outdoor events' has not been issued by the Department for Communities. On issue, it will need time for event organisers to develop a robust understanding, as well as to test and implement the guidance in a cautious manner.
- The Tourism Events team, working on the advice they have received to date from the Public Health Agency / Department for Communities and our Environmental Health Department, is keen to reduce the potential for any situations that may put the public at risk and damage Council from a PR / reputational perspective.

- The working assumption is that social distancing will continue to be applied to events and mass gathering with restrictions imposed upon attendance throughout 2021.

TEFP Draft Parameters:

- The parameters of the TEFP funding were discussed at the elected members funding workshop on 17 September with an agreement to reduce visitor numbers from 5,000 to 3,000 and 2,000 to 600 respectively for the large events and the small events. Events are funded based on the number of visitors attending, in the current situation Council may need to consider whether or not we can issue guidelines requesting applicants to demonstrate how they will attract these large numbers.
- Council's Tourism Events Officers are unable to confirm TEFP guidelines and will not be in a position establish criteria / guidance / working parameters in the absence of government direction. (For example: Risk Assessments, Event Safety Plans).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council all grant programmes (except Programmes 8 & 9) along with the assessment criteria and scheduling as detailed in Table 2 report and summarised in Annex A. The exception is the TEFP for 2021-20,

The Committee are asked to consider 2 x options in relation to the TEFP for 2021-22.

Option 1:

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council that the opening of the Tourism Events Funding programme is delayed until February / March 2021 due to the uncertainty around visitor numbers, the availability of match funding and the lack of guidance from the NI Executive on mass gatherings and events.

Or

Option 2:

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council that the Tourism Events Fund is cancelled for 2021-22 and in its place Council establish a Tourism Recovery Fund for established events previously funded through the TEFP. Officers should bring a report back to Council for a final decision before Christmas.

Some members expressed concern regarding the process for grant applications and felt that if the system could be simplified and streamlined with the focus on the outcome and not the procedure.

Proposed by Councillor Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor Callan

- to recommend that Council agree Option 2 and that officers look at simplifying the funding application process, amending the scoring mechanism to allow some weight to be given to new applicants or new

initiatives and to include elected members on a funding review verification panel.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.

10 members voted for, 5 members voted against.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

6. COVID 19 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY FUND TRANCHE 2

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the development of the second tranche of a Covid Recovery Programme, for town centres and rural businesses.

Background – as per the August Report

On 19 June, Council was informed of the Department for Community's intention to provide funding for town centre recovery actions. The proposal was to fund the Scheme in two tranches - Tranche 1 for immediate and urgent support and ***Tranche 2 for aspects of town actions that are more medium term or require a longer time to design and/or procure.*** Some guidance that was given included:

- Councils will be expected to absorb delivery costs.
- Monitoring and evaluation will be the responsibility of the Council – outcome report card has been developed by the department and surveys will be provided.
- Expenditure must be incurred by March 2021 with final post project evaluation completed by March 2021.
- Funding is provided for capital spend only.

Tranche 2 – spend aimed at mid term recovery

Tranche 2 is based around longer term initiatives to assist town centre recovery. Initially funding was solely from Department for Communities. Staff returned an expression of interest based on the request from Department for Communities, with indicative actions.

Subsequently, a further amount from Department for Infrastructure was committed. Council was also informed that the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs was also being considered.

This brings the total package available to Tranche 2 to:

- Department for Communities – committed – approximately £344,000.
- Department for Infrastructure – committed – approximately £395,000.
- Department for Agriculture – at time of writing, as yet unconfirmed – potentially around £109,000.

Submission was required by 15 September, which given the Unit's ongoing work with several funding streams, meant that a speedy return had to be made. It was completed as requested with the caveat that the project submission had yet to be approved by Council. Where possible, Council officers have fed back to relevant stakeholders, or have sought submissions from interested parties, such as Chambers, Town Teams etc.

A list of 'best guess' projects, with outline costs is provided at Annex 2 (previously circulated). Members will notice that the submission is in excess of any amount likely to be granted. This is to allow for changes, and project 'drop out'. The timetable for approval given at Annex 1 also shows that Council will be receiving feedback from the Departments on their submissions, so this also provides Council with a "pause point" to make changes. (Received at time of writing, and included).

The following points are noted:

- Project spend must be capital. Therefore proposed marketing campaigns or other revenue-type items are not eligible at this point.
- At time of writing, there is no final confirmation of any DAERA funding.
- Funding has to be aimed at helping town centre recovery or making the case for it.
- A list of Department for Infrastructure project areas is appended at Annex 3 (previously circulated) – many of these are expensive as standalone items; it would be doubtful that Council could complete them within the timeframe available, and many of them lie within the remit of external departments.
- It is hoped that the timeline of spend by end-March will be extended, but not yet confirmed

Given the fast turnaround required for the second tranche submission, Members do have the opportunity to contribute, submit or remove any of the project ideas. The Department has been advised that members will have the opportunity to review. Further progress will be advised as it happens, through the Leisure and Development Committee.

As of 1 October, Council has received further feedback and guidance on the nature of projects to be submitted. This is included at Annex 4 (previously circulated).

Summary

- Progress papers will be brought to Committee as Tranche 2 proceeds.
- Members are encouraged – while bearing in mind the constraints outlined in this paper – to feedback medium term scheme ideas at any stage before the meeting to the Head of Service or Director, with copy to the Chair of the Committee. Staff will be happy to facilitate any group discussion that members may wish to have before acceptance of any letter of offer.
- A revised Expression of Interest is requested by the Department, by 9 October 2020.

Recommendation:

Within the constraints that this EOI was completed and submitted, it is recommended that members agree in principle to accept the concept and amount of a funding package when it becomes available from the departments. It is also recommended that the project list remains open subject to final suggestions, funding availability, and potential to deliver within the existing timeframe.

Councillor Anderson suggested that a bike hub and gym equipment be installed at Anderson Park to enable workers to utilise at lunchtime and encourage cycling.

The Head of Prosperity and Place confirmed the Tranche funding source for provision of PPE equipment for businesses as requested by Councillor McQuillan.

Councillor C McShane felt that more consideration should be given to the Ballycastle area and Alderman Baird asking for dereliction funding to be re-routed for Castle Street area of the town. The Head of Prosperity and Place explained that there was a tight timescale for scheduling projects and that intervention on some of the projects raised by members could adversely impact on other projects.

The Head of Prosperity and Place confirmed at the request of Councillor C McShane that Bid figures would be made available to members tomorrow.

Councillor Callan referred to the pressure faced by retail sector and the potential for economic hardship in the near future. Councillor Callan wished the Committee to consider a taskforce in light of this, making reference to the Rates income which Council depended on from businesses.

At the request of members regarding the Masterplan The Head of Prosperity and Place agreed to follow up but confirmed that at present:-

Ballymoney – nearly complete
Coleraine – progressing
Ballycastle – no update
Limavady – no update as falls in Urban Plan

Councillor Anderson asked that consideration be given to awarding local business contract work when undertaking Masterplan work.

Proposed by Alderman McCorkell
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that within the constraints that this EOI was completed and submitted, that members agree in principle to accept the concept and amount of a funding package when it becomes available from the departments. It is also recommended that the project list remains open subject to final suggestions, funding availability, and potential to deliver within the existing timeframe.

7. VILLAGE RENEWAL, DRUMSURN COMMUNITY PROJECT

***Alderman Baird and Councillor M A McKillop having declared an interest, did not participate in the item.**

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

Purpose of Report

Members are reminded of the outcome of Village Renewal Tranche 2 funding that was presented in September. This paper is seeking members' consideration of funding realignment as an outcome of that report, in order to progress the Drumsurn Community Facility Project.

The Village Renewal Programme is a theme within the Rural Development Programme, provided by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, which allows for short term capital interventions in those towns and areas which are within the rural areas of the Borough. It is currently 75% funded by the Department and 25% funded by Council, as per agreement in 2015. Council is the sole applicant and is implementing this measure on behalf of 22 villages in the Borough.

Background

In summary:

- Programmes within the wider Rural Development Programme had been forecast to underspend/not commit.
- The received advice from the Commission on programme extension meant that these programmes are now able to spend/commit.
- The opportunity to transfer from other programmes to the local RDP programme has not transpired and therefore, there will not be an opportunity to fund the submitted expressions of interest.

The affected areas are as follows:

- Armoys - est cost 100k - Play park & trim trail walk
- Dernaflaw - est cost 100k - MUGA
- Dervock - est cost 100k - MUGA
- Mosside - est cost 100k - MUGA
- Drumsurn - £232,545 - replacement of community centre. This project had been agreed much earlier for Tranche 1, however, it was delayed because of NIEA request for a bat survey as part of the planning process.

Impact

At the time of submission, none of applicant villages had applied to the Village Renewal Programme except for Drumsurn.

The second Tranche allowed those villages which had not applied for the main programme, to have the opportunity to apply for funding. For these villages, the outcome is no funding is available at this time.

For Drumsurn, the impact means that the proposed Village Renewal project of a new portacabin cannot proceed, and equally, there is a loss of PEACE funding - £20,000 - which was allocated to fit-out the proposed new portacabin.

The existing portacabin is no longer fit for purpose, and this will leave the community group with no accommodation. This is reflected in the condition survey of 2019. There is no potential for a refurbishment of the existing portacabin. Elements of the condition survey are attached at annex 1 (previously circulated). Its conclusion is as follows:

“Given the above findings and the rapid deterioration of the structure, it would not be viable to invest capital monies in relation to the refurbishment of this facility, as no part of the existing building could be retained due to:

- *Its deterioration, wet rot, structural elements have lost their integrity etc.*
- *Non-fire retardant materials throughout.*

For Consideration

Council cannot now access the second Tranche of Village Renewal Funding. While it is not possible to complete four of the projects mentioned above, due to timing / planning / full funding constraints, it is possible to consider completing the Drumsurn project on the following basis:

- The total cost of the Drumsurn portacabin replacement is £232,545, as costed and tendered by Council’s Capital Projects team.
- There is underspend with the administration budget of Rural Development, of £110,000, which is available and could be used for the Drumsurn project – subject to a presentation to, and agreement of the LAG.
- Council’s match funding for the project is still available within the budget agreed by members for the Village Renewal Programme in 2015.

In addition

- The project can be completed by March 2021 in line with discussions with the Council’s Capital Project team
- The project was subject to Planning Approval, which has since been granted.
- The winning tender has agreed to stand over their prices for the project as of September 2020.

The funding required could be allocated as follows:

- RDP slippage from the existing administration budget - £110,000 – to be agreed.
- Council’s existing village renewal match funding - £58,000.
- Shortfall - £64,000.

In January 2020, members agreed to match fund the projects mentioned at Section 2 above, on the basis that it would lever-in a further £300,000. This is obviously now not possible, given that the funding package is not available from DAERA, and the various plans and statutory approvals are not in place for all of the other projects *at this stage*.

It is presented for consideration, that Council allows the agreed match funding to proceed to complete the Drumsurn project.

Recommendation

This report is presented for recommendation with the following options.

Option 1: Council agrees to use the available matching funding as outlined above, in conjunction with the Rural Development Programme, and if agreed, completes the Drumsurn Village Renewal Project of the replacement of the portacabin.

- RDP funding from the existing administration budget - £110,000 – to be agreed by the LAG.
- Council's existing village renewal match funding - £58,000.
- Additional Council contribution - £64,000.

If Members agree to Option 1, it is recommended that Council accepts the price submitted by KES Group Limited of £232,545.00

Option 2: Council does not agree to use this matching funding, and this will result in a saving of £122,000 of capital expenditure.

Additional Information

- The Condition Survey is attached at Annex A (previously circulated)
- The tender report for the Drumsurn project is at Annex B (previously circulated)

Members broadly welcomed this project being progressed but felt that there were other projects, some in areas of deprivation which should be considered also.

The Head of Prosperity and Place assured members that he was continually sourcing funding opportunities and liaising through regeneration channels to lobby for funding.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that of the 74 Capital Projects 44 were earmarked for Leisure and Development and that these had been agreed by members so there was no budget to consider at this time any further projects.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Alderman McCorkell and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve Option 1: Council agrees to use the available matching funding as outlined above, in conjunction with the Rural Development Programme, and if agreed, completes the Drumsurn Village Renewal Project of the replacement of the portacabin.

RDP funding from the existing administration budget - £110,000 – to be agreed by the LAG.

Council's existing village renewal match funding - £58,000.

Additional Council contribution - £64,000.

If Members agree to Option 1, it is recommended that Council accepts the price submitted by KES Group Limited of £232,545.00

8. IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVALS FUND

Report, previously circulated, was presented by The Head of Tourism who confirmed that the report pre-dated the announcement of new Covid 19 restrictions effective Friday 16th October.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to outline concerns regarding funding of community associations for the 2020 Christmas Festive Fund in light of the tightening of restrictions relating to COVID 19.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has for a number of years supported local community associations from towns, villages and hamlets to help celebrate Christmas. This has been through a maximum £250 grant awarded under Christmas Festive Fund and administered through Councils Funding Unit.

To be eligible, only towns, villages and settlements with a population of over 100 residents may apply. Priority is also given to projects that promote wide community involvement for events celebrating the Christmas period.

Latest Government Advice/Guidance

COVID 19 related regulations and guidance has been subject to several changes. As of 22 September 2020 further restrictions have been introduced for all households in Northern Ireland.

The Council is expecting further definitive guidance on cultural, entertainment and recreational gatherings and as it stands, advice states that the event organiser is responsible for carrying out necessary risk assessments and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus.

Government guidance currently states that '*the 15 limit for both **indoor** and **outdoor** gathering does not apply, where **that gathering has a recognised person** responsible for organising or operating the gathering, and it is organised or operated for cultural, entertainment, recreational, outdoor sports, social, community, educational, work, legal, religious or political purposes*'.

The '**recognised person**' with regard to this grant would be the applicant, therefore the 'community association', and therefore they can organise events that will attract crowds in excess of 15 people.

Current legislation insists that to have more than 15 people the groups will need to carry out risk assessments which meets the requirement of the Management of the Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. As stated previously, no current guidance is given on how to achieve this or where it relates to a mass gathering.

Without government guidance which can be attributable to an assessment the event and the associated risk and an evidence of practical measures taken to limit transmission, Officials are not in a position to either give advice or approve risk mitigation measures. Council must also consider the corporate risk implications of facilitating such events in the midst of the pandemic (including the obvious health implications and liability).

Recommendation

Elected Members are asked to give consideration to the issues presented within the body of the report and it is recommended that Council does not continue with the Christmas Festive Fund for 2020 in the current circumstances.

In the light of recent restrictions The Head of Tourism felt that given the difficult situation faced the members should consider the consequences if the public came to harm or there was a risk to the reputation of Council and felt that cancelling the Festival Fund was a prudent move.

Discussion ensued and members were all of the view that no aspect of Council provision for Christmas is cancelled as long as officers and end users comply with Covid 19 restrictions.

Members felt that this small fund was essential to communities who depended on the grant and that volunteers would know how the fund could best serve the community whilst ensuring safety to the community and compliance with restrictions.

Some members felt that this fund could be used to assist with social inclusion and the vulnerable. The Director of Leisure and Development assured members that a great deal of funding had been invested in this area managed by The Head of Health and Well Being via Community Programmes.

Members sought clarity on numbers permitted to attend events. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that the only exceptions to current restrictions of 15 persons were:-

Workplace
Emergency service intervention
Elite Sports
Church services

AGREED – to recommend that Council proceed with funding activities in accordance with government guidance.

***Councillor Holmes left the meeting at 9.40 pm**

9. IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS PROGRAMME

Report, previously circulated, was presented by The Head of Tourism who confirmed that the report pre-dated the announcement of new Covid 19 restrictions effective Friday 16th October.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present a revised approach and seek Elected Members approval for the delivery of Council's managed Christmas festivities programme, in light of COVID 19.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has within its Tourism and Recreation remit a policy to deliver quality events across the area, inspiring visitors to stay and spend within the local economy.

The majority of Council managed events planned for 2020 have been cancelled. This is a direct result of Public Health Agency (PHA) guidance in relation to COVID 19, and in particular as a result of a government ban on events and 'mass gatherings'. The events affected were Ballymoney Spring Fair, Easter Seasonal Programme, Rhythm of the Bann, NW200 Race Week Festival, Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival, Salmon and Whiskey Festival, Seasonal Summer Street Theatre Programme, Summer Fireworks, Summer Entertainment and Auld Lammas Fair.

At the August Leisure and Development meeting, a further decision was taken to deliver the Tourism and Recreation Events Halloween Programme across ten days in a restricted venue and virtual format with a 'Myths and Legends' theme across the Borough,.

The Council Christmas Event Programme includes the delivery of switch on ceremonies across nine towns. These events have traditionally included a schedule of music and entertainment (including local musicians and performers) which is programmed around the arrival of Santa and the Mayor / Deputy Mayor and their subsequent Christmas speeches from the stage. This is followed by the light switch on ceremony and the opportunity for children to visit Santa in his grotto, with the distribution of sweets and selection boxes.

Latest Government Advice / Guidance

COVID 19 related regulations and guidance has been subject to several changes. As of 22 September 2020 further restrictions have been introduced for all households in Northern Ireland. The Council is waiting for definitive guidance on cultural, entertainment and recreational gatherings and as it stands advice states that the event organiser is responsible for carrying out necessary risk assessments and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. Other than this Council has no further government guidance on events and mass gatherings. In the absence of this guidance it is difficult to ascertain what makes risk assessments robust enough.

Christmas 2020

In August 2020 Council adopted a revised approach for the delivery of Halloween events across the Borough. A similar approach is required for Christmas festivities. It is possible that further measures will be put in place

that will lead to further restrictions for the organisation and delivery of events, and this will have an impact on what Council can deliver at Christmas.

The Tourism Events team has been in regular contact with other Local Authorities and assessed the approaches being taken to Christmas. Benchmarking across Northern Ireland and the UK has identified that mass gathering switch on events will for the most part not be delivered in 2020.

Council must also consider the corporate risk implications of delivering such events in the midst of a pandemic (including the health implications and other liabilities).

Approach for delivery

The Tourism Events Team have been investigating a revised approach for delivery, taking into account the current situation. In the lead up to Christmas dressing, branding and animation of the Town Centres is important to assist in promoting the retail experience. In previous years some Christmas events attracted crowds greater than 8000 people.

Whilst Government guidance currently states that 'the 15 limit for both **indoor** and outdoor gathering does not apply, where *'that gathering has a **recognised person** responsible for organising or operating the gathering, and it is organised or operated for cultural, entertainment, recreational, outdoor sports, social, community, educational, work, legal, religious or political purposes'*. The Council can act as that '**recognised person**' and therefore we can invite crowds of people to our events in excess of 15 people. At the time of writing this report no further guidance has been issued pertaining to event organisers. The Tourism Events team, working on the advice they have received to date for the Public Health Authority / Department for Communities and our Environmental Health department, is keen to reduce the potential for any situations that may put the public at risk.

Christmas Delivery Options

Members are asked to consider the following options with regard to Christmas festivities:

Option 1: Cancel delivery of Council managed Christmas festivities.

This option will mitigate for ongoing and potential future Government guidelines and restrictions. It will also represent a £50k saving in the Tourism and Recreation budget. It does not however assist with the Council's efforts to support the local tourism and hospitality sectors by the promotion and delivery of events and hence assist the local economy.

Option 2: Deliver revised format for Christmas.

This proposal would entail running a ten day programme of Christmas events in a restricted venue and virtual form. Proposals include the following:

- Online message from The Mayor and Santa (pre-recorded and delivered online) with lights in four main towns to turn on during one pre-agreed evening with 5 smaller towns being turned on during a second pre-agreed evening. The Events Team will promote the 'switch ons', but will encourage people not to congregate at switch on times in various towns (in line with Covid-19 restrictions). Council will post an online video (pre-

recorded) of the lights being turned on in each town to mitigate against this.

- Online Christmas 'storytelling sessions' with Santa with local storytellers.
- Online Christmas Arts and Craft Workshops (Museums / Arts).
- Christmas Food Trail (Town Centre Management / Trade Engagement Teams).
- Pop-up animation in town centres e.g. Walkabout Characters (Events / Town Centre Management Teams).

This approach at an estimated cost of £15k will allow the Council to continue its event programme albeit revised and reduced.

Recommendations

Elected Members are asked to give consideration to the options presented within the body of the report:

- Option 1: That for 2020 the Council Christmas celebrations are withdrawn.
- Option 2: Deliver revised format for Christmas as detailed in this report.

The Head of Tourism provided power point information for members of confirmed Christmas plans for other Councils as follows:-

Derry City and Strabane – Virtual switch on
Mid and East Antrim – Unannounced switch on
Mid Ulster – Unannounced switch on
Lisburn and Castlereagh – Unannounced switch on
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon – No light switch on or twilight market
Belfast – Light projections from mid November onto buildings for 8 weeks and unannounced switch on. No Christmas market.
Fermanagh and Omagh – Seasonal Saturdays comprising 1 or 2 artists and light projections onto walls of buildings.

Councillor McShane asked for consideration to be given to a Beacon lighting in the main towns as a message of hope. The Head of Tourism agreed to follow up enquiries already made in this regard and get back to members but explained that given research he had undertaken already and the constrained budget in place this could be too expensive to pursue.

Proposed by Alderman Baird
Seconded by Councillor Schenning

AGREED to recommend that Council adopt Option 2: Deliver revised format for Christmas as follows:-

This proposal would entail running a ten day programme of Christmas events in a restricted venue and virtual form. Proposals include the following:

- Online message from The Mayor and Santa (pre-recorded and delivered online) with lights in four main towns to turn on during one pre-agreed evening with 5 smaller towns being turned on during a second pre-agreed

evening. The Events Team will promote the 'switch ons', but will encourage people not to congregate at switch on times in various towns (in line with Covid-19 restrictions). Council will post an online video (pre-recorded) of the lights being turned on in each town to mitigate against this.

- Online Christmas 'storytelling sessions' with Santa with local storytellers.
- Online Christmas Arts and Craft Workshops (Museums / Arts).
- Christmas Food Trail (Town Centre Management / Trade Engagement Teams).
- Pop-up animation in town centres e.g. Walkabout Characters (Events / Town Centre Management Teams).

This approach at an estimated cost of £15k will allow the Council to continue its event programme albeit revised and reduced.

10. CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST

***Councillors M A McKillop and McCaw having declared an interest, did not participate in the item.**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by The Coast and Countryside Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on the work of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) that has taken place over the past 12 month period, and to outline potential partnership arrangements for delivery of services for 2020-2021.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have provided funding to the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) since 2016 on the basis of a contract for services, whereby defined activities with specific outputs are undertaken by CCGHT on behalf of Council. From the period 2016 to 2019 the Council awarded £35,000 each year for services delivered.

For the period of 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 the total amount of funding awarded was £16,090, after Council removed two of the activities valued at £18,910. The 19/20 award was subject to the delivery of the three key activity areas below:

- Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.
- Administration of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB.
- Support Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity related projects, engagement with landowners and establishing a volunteer programme.

The outputs from last year's work plan have been reviewed by the Council's Funding Unit and the Coast and Countryside Team. It has been confirmed that these outputs have been completed and delivered with the exception of one requested activity.

The Heritage Trust was to present to a Committee in Council detailing the achievements of the AONB Management Plans and provide an indicative plan as to how CCGHT envisages the next 10 years management of AONBs with predicted outputs/success indicator.

COVID restrictions prevented the opportunity to present to Committee. CCGHT has indicated that it is prepared to present to Council at the earliest opportunity. See Annex B (previously circulated) for details on delivery of 2019/20 activities.

The main focus of CCGHT continues to be based around the development and implementation of a number of environmental and landscape management plans including the AONB; Binevenagh, the Causeway Coast and the Antrim Coast and Glens. CCGHT also has a role working on a regional basis to develop awareness of environmental management and to promote sustainable tourism.

Any agreement to fund this organisation will be based on the fact that the Council's Coast and Countryside remit will be complimented by the activities provided by CCGHT. In addition, any financial transaction will be based on a single tender action for services that only the CCGHT can provide as specialists in this area of work.

Council's financial support continues to play a vital role in sustaining CCGHT. Council's commitment will be subject to funding made available from NIEA, Tourism NI and Mid and East Antrim who have all made an allowance for financial contribution for agreed services as in previous years.

Proposals

CCGHT, in consultation with Council Officers, has developed an activity plan with identified outputs for the current financial year 2020/2021 which is provided in Annex A (previously circulated)

This builds on the existing work identified by Council and CCGHT, ongoing activity that is necessary with respect to AONB and World Heritage Site planning.

In addition the work plan reflects new activity which is considered appropriate to landscape management and the development of further outdoor recreational products and the visitor experience.

Options

The following options are available to Council:

- **Option 1**
Do not procure any services from CCGHT for the 2020/2021 period.
- **Option 2**
Procure the entire services as detailed in Annex A (previously circulated).
The total cost for this work is £35,000.

- Option 3

Procure only a number of services detailed in Annex A (previously circulated). This will require a reduction in the number of projects delivered and therefore the cost to Council will be reduced proportionately.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to consider the above options outlining the extent of a contract for services for delivery of activities that complement the Council's Tourism and Recreation remit and in line with Council's Destination Management Plan. The activities are outlined in Annex A of this report (previously circulated). (Agreement is subject to completion of outstanding activities from the 2019/20 year).

Councillor Callan suggested that a representative from Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust should have been presenting at the meeting and raised concerns about value for money referring to matters not delivered last year.

Some members felt it that beach cleans being undertaken were duplication and asked for clarity that the provision on offer was outside of the remit of Council staff.

The Coast and Countryside Manager confirmed that the organisation had not been invited to present at a committee due to time limitations which would have done them an injustice. The Director of Leisure and Development further confirmed that whilst Council had a capable team there was not the capacity at present to deliver.

Many members applauded the work of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and felt that their contribution was valuable.

Proposed by Councillor Callan
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan

to recommend that Council agree Option 3 - Procure only a number of services detailed in Annex A (previously circulated). This will require a reduction in the number of projects delivered and therefore the cost to Council will be reduced proportionately.

The Chair put the motion to the committee to vote.

8 voted for, 6 voted against

The Chair declared the motion carried.

***Councillor Holmes re-joined the meeting at 10.25 during consideration of this Item.**

11. PROPOSED WORKS AT SPORTS AND WELLBEING FACILITIES

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

Purpose of Report

To update Members on priority works / maintenance / repair required at Sport & Wellbeing Facilities and seek approval for expenditure of more than £10k at a number of sites / facilities.

Background

To ensure that the Leisure and Development Directorate remained within budget for the financial year 2019 / 2020, maintenance works were limited to what was deemed essential only. Due to the restrictions during Covid-19 lockdown, this 'essential maintenance only' approach continued throughout Q1 and Q2 of the financial year 2020/2021.

Priority Projects as at October 2020

Council Officers have now identified a number of priority projects which now require prompt action in order to enhance or restore facilities for the health and wellbeing benefit of Council's citizens.

The projects which exceed the threshold of authorised spend and are summarised as follows:

Serial	Project	Estimated Cost
1	Additional Lighting at Rasharkin Community Centre.	£14k
2	Tennis Courts at Anderson Park Coleraine.	£11k
3	Quay Road Playing Fields, Ballycastle.	£20k
4	Hockey Pitch at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.	£5k*
5	Tennis Courts @ Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre	£8k*
6	Ballycastle Synthetic Tennis Courts	£30k
Total Estimated Cost		£85k

*Note that projects 3 and 4 are listed with project 5 as the three projects will be tendered as a single package to secure the most competitive price for the works which are generally similar at the three sites.

Project Details

The Priority Projects which exceed the threshold for authorised spend of £10k are detailed below;

Additional Lighting at Rasharkin Community Centre and Site.

Rasharkin Community Centre and associated facilities including a soccer pitch, play park, MUGA and car parking occupies a considerable site footprint. The Community Centre itself is Council owned, but operated by

Community Volunteers. With its existing facilities and pathways the site offers a safe space for families and residents of the area. These facilities and pathways would be greatly enhanced with the provision of additional street lighting, improving the overall safety of the site and reducing the potential for anti-social behaviour. The costs of works are 14k, having received a contract cost using Council's Procurement Framework.

Tennis Courts at Anderson Park Coleraine.

The surface of the tennis courts at Anderson Park, Coleraine is painted bitmac. The painted surface is badly worn and slippery in areas. Initial quotations have been sourced to repaint the full 4 court surface. The works will ensure future longevity of the playing surface and meet the requirements of the local tennis club. The costs of works are 11k, having received a contract cost using Council's Procurement Framework.

Quay Road Playing Fields, Ballycastle.

The sand on the Astroturf pitch at Quay Rd is compacted to such an extent that full rejuvenation is required. Rejuvenation is a process whereby the original properties of the synthetic pitch are restored. During rejuvenation the old sand is extracted and replaced with new, thus improving the porosity of the surface and reducing the potential of waterlogging and flooding.

As the Shared Education Campus project is not due for full completion until 2024 (with the 2G pitch completing in 2022) the Astroturf provides a much needed facility for training for all local football and GAA teams. Plus the local primary and post-primary schools regularly use the facility. The Astroturf pitch at Quay Rd is currently closed due to the condition of the 'carpet'. The estimated cost of the works is £20k following a specialist inspection.

Members should note that additional drainage works and minor maintenance will commence at the Quay Rd site to increase the playability of the grass surfaces.

Hockey Pitch at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre (listed for information).

The Astroturf pitch at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre has numerous areas of significant deterioration. Full rejuvenation is not required, however a specialist 'deep clean' is necessary, in order to extend the longevity of the 'carpet', and improve its current playability. Following the 'deep clean' sand top dressing will occur followed by brushing to ensure surface regularity. The estimated cost of the works is £5k following a specialist inspection.

Tennis Courts at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre (listed for information).

The sand on the Astroturf Tennis Courts at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre is also compacted to such an extent that full rejuvenation is required. The benefit of the rejuvenation process is outlined at 4.3. The estimated cost of the works is £5k following a specialist inspection.

*Note that projects detailed at 4.4 and 4.5 are listed with project 4.3 as the three projects will be tendered as a single package to secure the most competitive price for the works which are generally similar at the three sites.

Ballycastle Synthetic Tennis Courts.

The surface of the Ballycastle Tennis Courts is a polymeric compound (exhibiting characteristics similar to rubber). Following extensive use, the surface of 4 of the 6 courts has deteriorated and is now in a poor state of repair.

The two other courts are deemed fit for purpose and do not require repair works at this time.

This proposal therefore focuses on the repair of the surface of the 4 polymeric courts:

- Deep cleaning.
- The application of polymeric structure protector.
- The application of a specialist non slip textured paint.

Following a specialist inspection, the estimated cost of the works is £30k.

Members are to note that the estimated cost for the full replacement of one court with a new polymeric surface is £25k. The proposed works will therefore extend the longevity of the existing surfaces and not necessitate the full surface replacement.

Budget

The budget from which the cost will be allocated is the 'Estates Life Cycle Budget', which is the Estates' annual budget set aside for capital expenditure for the upgrade works of Council facilities.

Next Steps

Subject to Council's agreement, Sport and Wellbeing and Council's Estates department will aim to complete the works within a 3 month period of Council's decision.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the expenditure of £85k for the projects listed in this report.

Councillor C McShane sought clarity from the Director of Leisure and Development re availability of maintenance equipment, currently located in Limavady. The Director confirmed that The Head of Sport and Well-being would give consideration to this matter.

Councillor Callan sought clarity on the reduced figure of £85,000 and the Director confirmed that this was an error on his part.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed to provide clarity to members that these were not capital projects but were minor works.

Proposed by Councillor M A McKillop
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

AGREED to recommend that Council approve the expenditure of £85k for the projects listed in this report.

12. TRANSFER OF LIME PARK FACILITY TO LAND AND PROPERTY

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

Purpose of Report

To confirm that the previous occupiers of the Lime Park facility, Armoy Rugby Club has vacated the site and no longer has any claim or requirement for the site now or in the future.

The Leisure and Development Directorate therefore recommends that the site is now surplus to requirements and be transferred to Corporate Services for consideration as a Land and Property matter.

Background

In recent years Armoy Rugby Club has ceased to operate. Following recent discussions with the former chairman of Armoy Rugby Club, it is confirmed that the Club no longer has any interest or requirement for the Lime Park Site.

At the request of Armoy Rugby Club the lease between Council and the Club has been terminated as at the 31 July 2018.

Therefore the evidence of need does not support the development of the site for sporting purposes.

In accordance with the Pitches Strategy adopted by Council in October 2020, the development of the Lime Park site was '*dependent upon the long term future of the [Rugby] club*'.

Council has not earmarked capital expenditure for this site.

As the club has relinquished any claim on the site, the Leisure and Development Directorate can confirm that there is no requirement to retain the land for service delivery.

Furthermore the Model Aircraft Club who also occupied part of the lands at Lime Park has also confirmed that the club no longer wishes to use the land.

In accordance with Council's Land and Property policy, adopted in February 2020, land identified as surplus in terms of service need is brought to the Land and Property Sub-Committee in terms of disposal.

Recommendation

That the Limepark Playing Fields in Armoy site is now surplus to requirements and is transferred to Corporate Services for consideration as a Land and Property matter.

Proposed by Councillor C McShane

Seconded by Councillor Callan and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that the Limepark Playing Fields in Armoy site is now surplus to requirements and is transferred to Corporate Services for consideration as a Land and Property matter.

***Councillors Anderson, MccQuillan and Wallace left the meeting at 10.40 pm during consideration of this Item.**

Alderman Baird ask for confirmation that the valid planning permission until 17.12.20 would not be permitted to lapse as such would enhance the value.

Councillor M A McKillop felt a material start should be made in the light of the date which planning permission expires.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that in effect once the matter is referred to Land and Property it is essentially not within the remit of the Leisure and Development portfolio and further explained that there may be a cost associated with progresing the planning for a purpose other than originally agreed.

13. DfC FUNDING FOOD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with further information regarding additional funding from Department for Communities (DfC), particularly the presentation of the proposal submitted to the Department to address financial wellbeing/inclusion and food poverty.

Background

The Department for Communities has made 3 funds available to Councils to help respond to the Covid 19 pandemic. The funds are as follows:

- Covid 19 Community Support Fund (additional tranche)
- Covid 19 Access to Food Fund; and
- Covid 19 Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund.

An information report was provided to the committee in September 2020 in relation to the first aspect of the funding package, namely the Covid 19 Community Fund (£126, 226), which is now live and being administered and has just closed for applications with 51 applications currently being assessed.

Additionally, Council has been offered financial assistance from the Department for Communities for the following strands:

<p>Covid-19 Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund to support preventative financial wellbeing measures, to be delivered through community sector organisations, led by Councils.</p>	<p>£58,147</p>
<p>Covid-19 Food Partnership Fund to develop a collaborative approach to deliver a more effective and efficient and flexible supply of food (and other linked supports) to those in critical need</p>	<p>£63,113</p>

The Department advised that they wish to use a co-design approach to enable the design of local proposals to be delivered under these strands, the Covid 19 Food Partnership and the Financial Inclusion Partnership Funds. Meetings were held in September for DfC officials and council officers to discuss the co-design of a the local strategy for both the Financial Inclusion Fund and the Access to Food Fund. Officers were asked to submit an application by 30th September, based on indicative offer to council and at the time of writing this report, DfC have approved the submission.

Approach

A proposal has been submitted from officers to the Department, following meetings in early September during which DfC officials provided further details in relation to the performance measures and outcomes required of councils in relation to the funding on offer. These are included in Annex A of the report.

The proposal was compiled based on an understanding that poverty has a range of causal factors which cannot be easily segregated into types of poverty such as food, fuel and therefore the 2 strands have been compiled into one overall programme which will be guided by the establishment of an Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (involving relevant stakeholders) with an associated Action Plan. This will ensure that a multi-disciplinary approach will be taken to addressing poverty that will also be embedded in the Community Plan. Structures established will therefore be sustained beyond the timescale of these DfC programme strands.

- Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group

The proposal includes the establishment of an Anti-Poverty Steering Group to facilitate those organisations whose core business is tackling poverty in the Borough in order to ensure a collaborative and co-ordinated approach to developing an Anti-Poverty Action Plan to address the key performance measure and outcomes associated with the DfC programme, as well as additional priorities which address broader poverty related issues.

Prior to submission, officers carried out an initial scoping exercise with a range of organisations who deliver anti- poverty programmes to test the proposed approach and determine current need, to ensure the feasibility of adopting the approach outlined above.

- Development of an Action Plan

Council will work with the Steering Group to research, consult and develop an 18 month Anti-poverty Action Plan that will identify collaborative interventions to assist in achieving the objectives the Financial Inclusion and Access to Food programme strands in Causeway Coast and Glens:

- To bring together local expertise to provide joined-up action to support a wide range of initiatives to help people emerge from the crisis.
- To build and develop those local support mechanisms and partnerships to further maximise limited resources to meet increasing needs in local communities.
- To build capacity and capability within the existing local infrastructure
- To facilitate a collaborative approach to develop local food poverty/food insecurity interventions and deliver a more effective and efficient and flexible supply of food (and other linked supports) to those in critical need.
- To move from an emergency response towards a longer term food poverty approach, in the context of the Anti-poverty Strategy.
- To target those most likely to be adversely impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic, help build financial resilience and improve overall financial wellbeing
- To promote a joined-up coordinated 'whole person' approach.
- To maximise collaboration with regional resources

Engagement with the wider community and voluntary sector will be a key element of development of the action plan.

- Programme elements and budget allocation

The submission to DfC the programme is as follows:

Strand	Details	Timescale	Estimated cost (£)
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group with external facilitation to support establishment for first 4 meetings • Research, consult and develop an 18 month Anti-Poverty/ Building Resilience Action Plan 	<p>Initiated in October 2020</p> <p>By mid December 2020</p>	£7,200
B	<p>Build capability of local infrastructure in 4 main registered foodbanks with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchase and installation of necessary equipment • Expert mentor support to assess operating models and develop sustainability/ fundraising plans 	<p>By end November 2020</p> <p>By end Jan 2021</p>	£23,000

C	<p>Collate directory of local poverty intervention services (food banks, advice organisations, social supermarkets, family support services, credit unions, fuel voucher scheme etc) and develop and roll out an awareness raising campaign to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated interactive webpage on Councils website • Social media campaign on Council corporate media platforms • Leaflets and posters for community houses, community centres and other community hubs • Information/ training session for community groups on services available and how to refer 	By start November 2020	£10,000
D	<p>One to one wraparound support programme <i>for people experiencing poverty who aren't currently availing of services</i> to improve their financial wellbeing</p> <p>Support will be delivered over a series of 6 regular sessions to include access to food bank, social supermarket, budgeting and money management, benefit checks and whatever other 'handholding' support is required to improve their confidence and capability – to be delivered by a consortium of community partners, with possibly one hub to cover the West of borough and another to cover the East of the borough.</p>	By end March 2021	£60,000
E	<p>Other projects to be identified within Anti-poverty Action Plan Eg holiday hunger projects, preparation of meals on a budget.</p>	By end March 2021	£21,060

Timescale

Council has secured interim approval from DfC to appoint a consultant through SIB to commence work on establishing the Stakeholder Steering Group. Work will commence immediately to establish the steering group and plan the engagement process to develop an Action Plan. The full allocation will be required to be expended, following DfC sign off, by 31st March 2020.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Report cards will be developed for each of the elements of the programme using an Outcomes Based Accountability approach to measure:

- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- Is anyone better off?

DfC has provided draft report cards with a range of indicators which are attached at Annex 1 and 2 (previously circulated). Appropriate indicators will be determined when project outputs and outcomes have been agreed for each of the programme elements.

The Director confirmed at the request of members that this item would remain on the Leisure and Development Agenda.

14. BINEVENAGH LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

***Councillor M A McKillop having declared an interest, did not participate in the item.**

Report, previously circulated, presented by The Head of Tourism.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present an update to Members on the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS).

Project Update

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) notified the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands LPS that its application for support of up to £3.4m had been successful on 24 March 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to commence work on the scheme at this time. With NLHF's support the project commencement was delayed by 6 months, receiving permission to start on 14 September 2020.

Map - Project Area (previously circulated)

Permission to start was granted based on an updated risk assessment and COVID resilient activity plan which was submitted to NLHF in August 2020. This has enabled the LPS Board to begin undertaking a recruitment exercise for four new Delivery Phase roles (Outdoor Recreation Officer, Natural Heritage Officer, Built Heritage and Conservation Officer and Finance and Administration Assistant).

Year One match funding has been confirmed by all relevant partners, including CCGHT, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Woodland Trust and Loughs Agency. The LPS team commenced delivery of Year One activities in September 2020.

The following table provides an outline of the payment schedule for all Year 1 match funders.

Source	Total Income
HLF	£519,423.08

CCGBC	£66,800.00
CCGHT	£30,000.00
Woodland Trust	£8,500.00
Loughs Agency	£10,000.00
Outdoor Recreation Course Participants	£1,200.00
MOD	£20,000.00
QUB	£3,000.00
Castlerock Golf Club	£210.00
Volunteer Time	£9,480.00
Total Income	£668,613.08

Council supported activities in Year1 includes:

- The Moors of Castlerock Conservation Grazing and Access Scheme.
- Invasive Species Action.
- Delivery of activities outlined in the Binevenagh and Ballycarton Outdoor Recreation Masterplan.
- Delivery of local community training and trails.

In Year 1 Council will provide match funding of £66,800 in support of these activities (21% of activity costs), with the remainder granted by NLHF.

The match funding contributions from Council over the five-year duration of the project remains as detailed in the table (previously circulated).

The Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands LPS Manager would welcome an opportunity to update members on progress in early 2021.

15. UPDATE ON OPENING OF ARTS CENTRES

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development who clarified that the report pre-dated the recent Covid 19 regulations and restrictions issued on Friday 16th October 2020.

The Director confirmed as per email to members that Roe Valley Arts Centre, Flowerfield Arts Centre and Ballymoney Museum would be closed for 4 weeks from Friday 16th October.

16. UPDATE ON OPENING OF SPORT AND WELLBEING FACILITIES

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development who clarified that the report pre-dated the recent Covid 19 regulations and restrictions issued on Friday 16th October 2020.

The Director confirmed as per email to members that:

Swimming pools remain open with no facility for families or schools;

Gyms remain open for individual training and online training

All matches suspended and grass pitches closed

Community Centres closed with exception of child care booking provision.

Camping and glamping facilities closed.

Static caravan users permitted but no toilet facility.

17. YOUTH VOICE INITIATIVE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with information about the **Youth Voice** initiative which forms part of a NI wide overall participation structure within Education Authority (EA) Youth Services.

Youth Voice is a sub-regional structure funded and supported by EA Youth Services with proposed links to every District Council across Northern Ireland. The initiative will work in collaboration with a range of Community Planning Statutory Partners, local EA Youth Services and the local community & voluntary sector. A vital role of the initiative is to represent the views of young people to decision makers.

Background

Legislation is now in place for young people to have a say in the development of services and policies that affect their lives, namely:-

- The Children's Services Co-operation Act NI (2015).
- The Education Authority (EA) – Priority for Youth (2013).

Youth Voice has been incorporated in a draft action for the newly revised Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Delivery Plan 2020 (currently draft pending wider consultation).

The action is led by Council's Community Development Team and focuses on the provision of a borough wide inclusive participative engagement platform to connect more voices to local decision-making bodies for the benefit of all Community Planning partners.

Youth Voice within this context will provide opportunities for young people to actively participate in consultations and engagement with consideration of the views of other young people. Intensive levels of training and leadership development will be provided by EA Youth Services personnel with links into a wider regional structure of activities.

EA Youth Services has stressed that the 4 existing local Youth Councils in Causeway Coast and Glens representing a younger age group 12 to 18+ years and representing the four legacy Council areas, will continue as part of

their active citizenship theme and welcome continuing engagement by Council's Youth Champions (usually the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) with these group's activities.

The local Senior Youth Officer is Deirdre Bradley who is first point of contact. Four local Youth Councils are being formed as part of a progression in the EA participative framework ranging through Local Voices, Thematic Voices towards the proposed Youth Voice initiative and onward to regional Networked Voices.

Recruitment to Youth Voice

Each Youth Voice group will be recruited every two years with the young people committing to a 2 year term. It is proposed that 24 young people will be recruited from the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area as Youth Voice members aged between 16 –21 years. Recruitment will take the form of an independent and open process promoted in schools, further education colleges, outreach and detached events, Youth Service and Council networks and other opportunities. Each Youth Voice will aim to be representative from across the council area (each DEA) and of Section 75 groupings.

Next Steps

- A local Project Steering Group to support Youth Voice was established in February 2020 just prior to lockdown – it continues to meet virtually to establish the project.
- The group represents the statutory organisations and voluntary groups with clear links to young people and includes Council representation from Community Development, Good Relations and PCSP. It is currently chaired through Community Planning supported by EA Youth Services.
- An indicative timeline and actions for the initiative is attached which will be adapted to comply with Covid-19 restrictions.

The Director advised that this matter would be tabled for discussion at a future Committee meeting.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no Items of correspondence.

19. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

20. CONSULTATIONS

There were no Items for consultation.

21. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MULHOLLAND, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCCAWE, DEFERRED FROM THE 18

MARCH 2020 (COUNCIL MEETING THEN THE 15TH SEPTEMBER 2020 LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS)

This council notes the contribution that young people make to community and civic life in Causeway, Coast and Glens; encourages schools, youth groups and community organisations to become more involved in the life of local government and; resolves to establish a Youth Shadow Council to enhance civic engagement and improve public services that affect young people across this new Council Borough)

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that this Motion would be deferred.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor M A McKillop
Seconded by Councillor McCaw and

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

*** Press and guests were removed from the meeting.**

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

22. FUNDING UNIT STRUCTURE

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by The Funding Unit Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to propose an additional staffing resource in the Funding Unit which is required to provide a comprehensive financial and monitoring service in the delivery of Council’s Grant Funding Programmes.

Background

The establishment of Council’s Funding Unit has been a significant success for Council. It serves both Leisure and Development and Environmental Services, plus a huge number and variety of external organisations.

The Funding Unit has secured millions of pounds of capital grant funding and successfully manages £1m of revenue funding annually (in a normal year).

It was established with 4 strategic aims:

- Securing Funding - To secure increased levels of funding to support Councils priorities, strategies and business plans.
- Business Support for EU & UK Funding Programmes.
- External Engagement - To develop and manage external working relationships and to support organisations in sourcing funding.

- Management & Administration of Council's grant Funding; Corporate management & administration of Council's Grant Funding programmes

Since 2015 the Funding Unit has relied upon agency staff to assist in the administration and verification of Council's grant funding programmes.

On an annual basis the Funding Unit administer circa 17 grant programmes, for which verification staff are responsible for issuing Letters of Offer and the verification of the associated expenditure. In the 2019-20 period 296 Letters of Offer were issued with verification of £972k worth of expenditure.

In the 2020-21 period, the Covid 19 grant programmes has increased the Letters of Offer to 685. The need for a permanent Verification Assistant post has been clearly established.

Existing Structure

Since 2015 the Funding Unit has consisted of the Funding Unit Manager, a Funding Development Officer and a Compliance & Verification Officer.

Since January 2016 additional support has been provided to the Funding Unit through the provision of temporary Verification Staff from Council's recruitment agency.

The Funding Unit requires the Verification Assistant post to be made part of the permanent structure, to align the staff resources to the capacity demands of the Unit.

Verification Assistant

The post holder will be responsible for providing support to the Funding Unit. This support will include vouching, verification and monitoring of the Councils Grant Funding expenditure in accordance Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council requirements.

The Verification Post has been evaluated and is a grade 5 post, the cost for covering this post has been accounted for within the Funding Unit annual budget.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the permanent appoint of a Verification Assistant to the structure proposed for the Funding Unit.

Proposed by Councillor M A McKillop

Seconded by Councillor Watton

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve the permanent appoint of a Verification Assistant to the structure proposed for the Funding Unit.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Alderman Baird

Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

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

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

There was no AORB.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 10.40 pm.

Chair