

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2022**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendation
1.	Apologies	None
2.	Declarations of Interest	Councillor McAuley
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 18th January 2022	Confirmed
4.	Coast and Countryside Infrastructure Works	Recommend advancement of the replacement of Runkerry Footbridge and Ballycastle Viewing Platform and complete on design specification and procurement, prior to reverting to Council for an investment decision
5.	Queen's Jubilee Terms of Reference and Draft Programme	Recommend amended Terms of Reference as contained within the report is approved; Recommend approve initial draft programme for Council's Jubilee Programme
6.	PEACE Plus Partnership	Recommend nominate 11 elected representatives using D'Hondt; That the

		preferred option in terms of broad Council representation on the forthcoming Peace Plus Partnership to support both a co design process for the local Action Plan and the necessary governance to ensure its successful implementation.
7.	Taste Causeway	Recommend future support to Taste Causeway CIC, in the amount of £20,000 per annum in relation to the Exploring Enterprise Programme for
8.	Exploring Enterprise	Recommend Option B – Match fund at 22.5% £20,000
9.	Causeway Learn to Earn Programme	Recommend match fund - £20k, allocated in the 2022/23 period for the Causeway Learn to Earn
10.	Portrush and Kerr Street Improvement Works	Recommend to approve the scope of the project including final concept design for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour EIS in order to progress the Project from Stage 1 of the Capital Project Management Process to Stage 2
11.	Technical Assistance Grant	Motion Lost

12.	Correspondence	
12.1	Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.	Noted
13.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	None
14.	Consultations	Noted
14.1	DAERA Consultation on Proposals to Realign District Structures – submission by 28 th March 2022	
	'IN COMMITTEE' (Items 15-19)	
15.	HALP Capital Investment	Recommend progression of the above projects to completion, with a view to implementation either prior to, or early in the 2022 Holiday and Leisure Park season
16.	Coleraine Leisure Centre Investment	Recommend replace existing Equipment, upgrade flooring & air conditioning at a cost of £150k (Appendix 4 – CLC Gym upgrade Proposal)
17.	Greenway Projects	Recommend Officers commission AECOM.....at an expected cost of around £45,000; Officers explore the viability of a replacement Greenway project between Portrush and Portballintrae/Bushmills at a

		<p><i>cost of up to £15,000;</i></p> <p><i>Recommend the use of compulsory purchase as an option of last resort, subject to council agreement.</i></p>
18.	Growth Deal State of Readiness and Affordability	<p><i>Recommend note the State of Readiness Reports, the recommended project-specific next steps and the proposals to reduce the project list to an affordable level and recommend this approach to the Council</i></p>
19.	Funding Support Large Events	<p><i>Recommend proceed with Recommendation 1 to offer a grant programme for Tourism Large Events Fund in accordance with Council's Grant Funding Policy and the parameters and criteria presented to Council October 2021 (Annex A, previously circulated);</i></p> <p><i>Defer a decision on Recommendation 2 until we receive the required independent legal and HMRC advice as outlined in the report.</i></p>
20.	Any Other Relevant Business Notified In accordance with Standing Order 12 (o)	

20.1	Limavady Accessible Playpark (Councillor Chivers)	<i>Deferred to March Committee meeting</i>
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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7.45 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McAuley (C)

Members Present: Alderman Baird (R), Duddy (C), Hillis (C),
Knight McQuillan (R), Councillors Anderson (C),
McMullan (R), Callan (R), Holmes (C/R), McCaw (R), MA
McKillop (R), McQuillan (C), C McShane (R), Nicholl (R),
Schenning (R), Watton (C)

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)
J Elliott, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
N Harkness, SIB Project Officer (R)
S Goldring, Peace Co-Ordinator (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

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

Press 3 (no) (R)

Public 1 (no) (R)

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

The Chair read the remote meetings protocol at the beginning of the meeting:

Welcome to the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th February 2022.

All those in attendance should be aware that the meeting will be audio recorded.

This includes when the meeting is in committee. The public session of the audio recording will be published on Council's website within 2 days of the meeting.

Elected Members are reminded that they are personally responsible for any comments that they make at the meeting.

Members of the press and public will be required to leave when the meeting goes into committee.

If anyone loses connection, please call the number which was sent to you by Democratic Services. The number can be found in the email with the meeting link sent yesterday.

Members, please use the chat facility if you wish to speak. For those in the Chamber, please wait until your microphone is switched on before speaking.

I would also remind all in attendance that the taking of photographs of proceedings or the recording of proceedings, other than by authorised officers, is prohibited.

The Director of Leisure and Development undertook a roll call of committee members present.

SUBSTITUTION

Councillor McMullan substituted for Councillor Bateson.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies recorded

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McAuley declared an interest in Item 12.1 – Consultations from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. Councillor McAuley, having declared an Interest did not participate in the Item.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2022

Summary minute, previously circulated.

AGREED – to recommend that the minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18th January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. COAST AND COUNTRYSIDE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Members Approval to reinstate the viewing platform on Ballycastle Beach, which was destroyed by vandalism in July 2021, and replace the deteriorated footbridge that forms part of the coastal walking route from Runkerry Beach to the Giants Causeway.

Proposals

Runkerry Footbridge

As this footbridge connects council lands to private lands and forms a very important coastal recreational walking asset which is a spur of the Causeway Coast Way/IAT, and in keeping with the Council's approach to securing public access, it is appropriate for Council to enter into a licence agreement with the private landowner to land the new footbridge on their property and design and build a new footbridge.

Officers believe it is necessary to agree a licence to site the footbridge on private lands, design & build a new footbridge conforming to present day Health and Safety requirements. Entering into a licence will secure quality access to one of the most well used coastal paths in the area. As with similar arrangements, Council will agree to undertake regular inspection of the footbridge and provide insurance cover to indemnify the private landowner. If approved this will be advanced by the Tourism and Recreation team with assistance from Estates Team and Council's legal services. The estimated cost of this project is circa £20,000.

Ballycastle Beach Boardwalk Viewing Platform

Replace the structure at Ballycastle Beach as per the original specification to include a larch finish for the walls of the viewing platform and treated softwood for the remainder of the structure in line with what was previously constructed. The estimated costs of this project is £20,000.

Next Steps

Subject to approval, Officers will advance the projects to specification, design and procurement, prior to reverting to the Leisure and Development Committee for an investment decision.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council the advancement of the replacement of Runkerry Footbridge and Ballycastle Viewing Platform and complete on design specification and procurement, prior to reverting to Council for an investment decision.

Alderman Baird and Councillor MA McKillop spoke of their disappointment that this area had been vandalised. Councillor C McShane concurred with their remarks and asked for a timeline on the proposal coming to fruition which the Head of Tourism and Recreation suggested would be in a couple of months time. The Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed for Councillor C McShane that itemised insurance had not been in place for this asset but would be included going forward. Regarding signage in the area the Head of Tourism and Recreation agreed to update Councillor C McShane outside of the meeting.

Proposed by Alderman Baird
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED to recommend to Council the advancement of the replacement of Runkerry Footbridge and Ballycastle Viewing Platform and complete on design specification and procurement, prior to reverting to Council for an investment decision.

5. QUEEN'S JUBILEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DRAFT PROGRAMME

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is:-

- a) To seek approval for the amended Terms of Reference for the NI100 Working Group to incorporate the Queen's Platinum Programme;
- b) To seek approval for the initial draft programme for Council's Jubilee Programme.

Background

Following the decision of Council to amend the Terms of Reference of the NI100 Working Group to incorporate the Queen's Jubilee Programme, a draft Terms of Reference, proposed by council's working group, is attached for consideration in Annex A of this report, previously circulated.

The Working Group met in January and have agreed a proposed programme of activities for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee for consideration of the Committee. An initial equality screening process and rural impact assessment has been undertaken for the overall programme which will be reviewed on an ongoing process as the programme is implemented.

The proposed projects have been considered against the following criteria:

- a) Technical capability - availability of technical capability/skills or access to such, including ability to adapt methodology.
- b) Financial feasibility and access to finances to deliver – funding and affordability (subject to external funding and/or council budget).
- c) Managerial capacity and operational implications for teams.
- d) Cultural & social impacts – section 75 implications, community ‘buy in’.
- e) Scheduling (timing/timetabling).
- f) Health & Safety, including potential to deliver in alternative formats.

Proposal

The draft outline programme is comprised of a range of proposed projects that will be delivered by departments within council including Museums service, Good Relations, Arts Service, Community Development, Outdoor Recreation, Democratic Services and Environmental services.

The majority of these Jubilee projects have been included within a range of Council’s departmental business plans and budgets both within the current financial year and for the 2022/23 period. Some projects are part funded by The Executive Office through the Good Relations Programme and other external funders secured through Museums service.

Projects have been deemed to be deliverable in terms of affordability and have sufficient resources (in house) to proceed, subject to funding/budget.

Proposed Projects

There are a total of 19 projects within this proposal (Annex B) previously circulated, the majority of which have been costed within respective service area business plans and budgets. A number of these have secured external match funding.

Additionally, one of the projects (the grants programme) will require 100% additional funds while two projects will require additional funds from a Jubilee budget to ensure implementation, as set out below:

- Community Platinum Jubilee Grant Programme £30,000
(further information below).
- Jubilee Civic Gifts project £ 2,000.
- Jubilee Tree Planting scheme contribution £ 5,000.

Council’s Air Show 2022 has been branded as the key signature/special event to celebrate HRH’s Platinum Jubilee, however, as this special project is managed through a separate process and is therefore not the direct responsibility of this specific working group, it will not have formed part of this report.

Community Platinum Jubilee Grant Programme

Officers have developed a proposed grant fund based on recommendations from the Working group in relation to the scale of grant aid and the intent behind the scheme. The *purpose* of the Grant Programme would be ‘to provide funding to community and voluntary organisations for small scale community events and activities to mark the occasion of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.’

The main objectives of the scheme would be two-fold, namely:

- a) To celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee in a spirit of inclusion and respect
- b) To encourage, promote and celebrate community connections.

Applications will be considered against 2 criteria, namely:

- a) That the project meets the objectives of the fund.
- b) That it encourages communities to actively participate and engage. In

terms of levels of grant aid, the following was recommended by members:

- Single organisations can apply for a grant of: Up to £500.
- Two organisations working together: Up to £1,000.
- Three or more organisations working together: Up to £1,500.

The working group recommended three levels of grant aid to both encourage local collaboration and allow groups to scale up their activities. In terms of rolling out the grant scheme including calls for applications, approval processes and sufficient lead in times for project delivery, the following timeframe for applications would include:

L&D Committee approval	17 th February.
Ratified at full Council	1 st March.
Open for applications	9 th March (following call in period).
Closing date	23 rd March.
Report to L&D due to Easter.	Wed 13 th April * earlier date of meeting
Ratified at full Council	3 rd May.
Issue letters of offer	11 th May.

Estimated Costs

The project costs for the programme are outlined in Annex B, previously circulated. Beyond services area projects delivering Jubilee projects *from within existing budget* the estimated additional cost to Council is estimated at £50,000 with external funding secured of £35,888.

Recommendation

- a) That the amended Terms of Reference as contained within the report is approved.

- b) That the proposal as contained within the report is agreed as Council's Platinum Jubilee Programme, and that members approve an additional specific budget of £50,000 to contribute to delivery, subject to council's rates setting process.

Alderman Duddy welcomed the tree planting initiative but felt that Letterloan may not be the best location.

Some members were keen to ensure the grant application and returns process was simplified and looked forward to the planned events.

Alderman Baird welcomed the concept of community groups working together and felt that additional support should be given to rural groups and suggested that the returns process be extended to 3 weeks rather than 2. The Head of Community and Culture advised that this would not be achievable to meet with the time constraints involved.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

AGREED to recommend that:-

- a) That the amended Terms of Reference as contained within the report is approved.
- b) That the proposal as contained within the report is agreed as Council's Platinum Jubilee Programme, and that members approve an additional specific budget of £50,000 to contribute to delivery, subject to council's rates setting process.

6. PEACE PLUS PARTNERSHIP

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

Purpose of Report

To request the Leisure & Development Committee to nominate an agreed cohort of Elected Members to the Peace Plus Partnership using D'hondt.

This Partnership will be key to developing and driving the Co-Designed Local Action Plan for CCGBC under the new Peace Plus Programme. In addition to the Elected Members, the composition of the Partnership will include Partners from Statutory Agencies, individuals from the Community & Voluntary Sector and representatives from DEAs to be geographically representative. Whilst this is not prescriptive, it is a suggested model. Please see the attached draft report for a full view of the recommendations.

Background

In April 2021, the Leisure & Development Committee received a presentation regarding the Highlights of Peace IV and highlighting the next iteration of funding, Peace Plus.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has the statutory responsibility for the implementation of the current EU PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€283m) Programmes and for preparing the successor programme, PEACE PLUS. We also have a signposting role to promote involvement in the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes.

The overall objective of the PEACE PLUS Programme will be to build Peace and Prosperity and ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible legacy. In CCGBC it is our desire that Peace Plus will build on the positives and successes from Peace IV and will use new opportunities to innovate where possible.

Based on the extensive engagement described, SIX KEY THEMATIC AREAS have emerged. The Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans) (€90million) (1.1) fall under “BUILDING PEACEFUL and THRIVING COMMUNITIES.”

To date the Local Authorities have undertaken workshops and consultations with the SEUPB appointed consultants regarding the structures required prior to the delivery of a Local Action Plan, the Peace Plus Partnership becoming a crucial element in terms of driving the direction of the Action Plan through proposed public consultation in the coming weeks and months. There is a recommendation by the Co-Design Consultants’ Consortium to include “4 Membership Pillars”, which is not dissimilar to the composition of the previous Peace IV Partnership. A full description of the “4 membership Pillars” is outlined in the attached draft report recommendations (Annex A), previously circulated.

The “Partnership”, will be comprised of:

- Elected Members (D’hondt);
- Representatives Statutory Agencies who will be nominated and will act as advisors (they will not have voting rights);
- Social Partners who will undergo a public recruitment process. Partners will have appropriate skills, experience, interest or expertise on peace building, reconciliation or good relations. In addition representation will be sought to ensure broad geographical coverage, Peace Plus target groups, under representative groups, representation from civic society and S75 groups.

As before, the Partnership will be bound by a Partnership Agreement, refer to Standing Orders and register Conflict of Interests.

The attached draft report (Annex A), previously circulated, makes recommendations regarding the considerations required in order to deliver an

inclusive and robust Partnership, and outlines some initial decisions in terms of composition e.g., 50/50 Elected Members/social partners.

Once the Elected Members have been nominated and approved by council, the development of the Partnership and further actions in terms of recruitment process, target groups etc will be brought to council in order to commence recruitment at the earliest possible juncture.

Proposal

To request that council nominate Elected Representatives using D'hondt for the composition of the Peace Plus Partnership, following the model that was used under Peace IV and is recommended by the attached annex. In addition to the requirement for Elected Members to be nominated, a range of other Partners will be required, such as relevant Statutory Partners particularly as the Local Action Plan should align with the outcomes of the Community Plan, these partners will perform an advisory role, and the Social Partners who will constitute representation from a wide geographical area and underrepresented groups will be encouraged to apply as individuals or representatives or community organisations.

It is proposed that once nominated, the Elected Members will support this process as a way of driving forward the Co-Designed Local Action Plan and to progress the governance of the Peace Plus Partnership.

Options

Nominate 11 elected representatives using D'Hondt:

DUP X 4
SF X 3
SDLP X 2
UUP X 2

Nominate 16 elected representatives using D'Hondt:

DUP x 6
SF x 4
UU x 3
SDLP x 2
ALL x 1

Recommendation

That the committee agrees a preferred option in terms of broad Council representation on the forthcoming Peace Plus Partnership to support both a co design process for the local Action Plan and the necessary governance to ensure its successful implementation.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

AGREED that to recommend that Council Nominate 11 elected representatives using D'Hondt; That the committee agrees a preferred option in terms of broad Council representation on the forthcoming Peace Plus Partnership to support both a co design process for the local Action Plan and the necessary governance to ensure its successful implementation.

7. TASTE CAUSEWAY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for future match funding to support a successful application to Phase III of Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme by TASTE Causeway Community Interest Company.

Background

Taste Causeway began in 2016 as a Council-led project, to support and showcase artisan food and drink producers. They have grown from an original membership of 14 to almost 100. Following on from successful Council and industry partnership, over the last 5 years, Taste Causeway has now become a community interest company (CIC).

The Taste Causeway priorities, as presented on 21st September 2021 to the Leisure and Development Committee, are summarised as follows:

- Economic Recovery of Local Food and Drink Sector.
- Development of Local Food and Drink Supply Chain.
- Support major "game changing projects".
- Further Development of Taste Causeway Digital/Social Media Platforms.
- Major Autumn/Winter Marketing Campaign.

These priorities align with Council's Economic Development Strategy to support the agri-food business sector.

Council has supported the Taste Causeway project at a cost of £25,000 per annum over the last three years, under the agri-food support initiative, alongside Invest NI support of £144,000 over the last three years up to January 2022.

Taste Causeway are requesting that Council continue with their valuable support and approve an annual financial contribution for the same 3 year period, by way of match funding to support the business case for Phase III of Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme (CGP) to the value of £20k per annum.

Previous Council contribution of £25k was used primarily for marketing the TC brand, including the following:

- Marketing to support *Taste the Island* campaign.
- Trade show attendance by producers.
- To match fund DAERA retail development programme and put branded units into 5 retail outlets and VICs. (£24K additional external fund levered to the programme through this matched fund).

The current request from Taste Causeway CIC for 2022/23 is for Council support of £20k to continue to market the Taste Causeway brand.

The priority areas of focus for Taste Causeway are: [extracted from their application to Phase III of Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme (CGP)]

1. Further development of the local supply chain to build on the foundations for growth and evidence/best practice from research.
2. Further development of the Digital Platform tastecauseway.com to exploit the opportunities around digital innovation, to drives sales and bookings and reach the identified target market.
3. Training /Upskilling/ Business Support/ Accreditation/maximising trade/buyer opportunities to drive growth. Building on collaborative working and alignment of skills and expertise within stakeholder group and realise the opportunities for artisan producers within Industry 4.0 to address scale-ability issue.
4. Brand Development and Marketing to build on the opportunities for growth as a result of trademarked brand with high level of awareness and growing reputation.
5. Food Tourism. This element of the supply chain has developed beyond any expectations in Phase 2 and is now a key aspect of the work plan, given the opportunities for diversification/business growth and accessing new target markets. Now an essential component of the visitor offer for the area.
6. Structure, Governance and Finance. Consolidating the advantages of a CIC structure to facilitate growth in membership and ensure that the network is adequately resourced and financially viable for the future.

Proposal

That council continue to support the local agri-food business sector, through promotion of the Taste Causeway brand. Taste Causeway CIC exclusively manage and protect the Taste Causeway brand and have made a bid to Invest NI for a further £169,850 for continued agri-food business development. As per letter from Taste Causeway Chairperson dated 31st January 2022 (Annex A), previously circulated.

An allocation of £20,000 has been included in the Prosperity & Place budget estimate for 2022/23 for Agri-food Support.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council, its future support to Taste Causeway CIC, in the amount of £20,000 per annum. This annual funding would be for the duration of Phase III, of Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme, up to a maximum of three years, pro rata. This financial support is conditional upon Taste Causeway being successful in their bid for Phase III funding, which is awaiting Invest NI's decision.

Councillor McQuillan enquired if there was a forum for feedback or return on grant support. The Interim Head of Prosperity and Place advised that a set of outputs would be agreed if funding was approved.

Councillor McMullan questioned the branding name given that 'Glens' was not incorporated. Councillor Watton felt that some relevant material would be useful and the Interim Head of Prosperity and Place advised she would send the member the website link and previous presentation.

Proposed by Councillor Callan
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

AGREED to recommend to Council, its future support to Taste Causeway CIC, in the amount of £20,000 per annum. This annual funding would be for the duration of Phase III, of Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme, up to a maximum of three years, pro rata. This financial support is conditional upon Taste Causeway being successful in their bid for Phase III funding, which is awaiting Invest NI's decision.

8. EXPLORING ENTERPRISE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the progress achieved through match funding support for the Exploring Enterprise Programme 2021 and to seek approval for match funding to support the programme for 2022/23 financial year.

Background

Exploring Enterprise Programme (EEP) is a pre-enterprise programme which seeks to support people who are considering self-employment as their route to enter and/or return to the labour market. The programme is a mixture of group training and one to one mentoring support. Participants do not need to have a specific business idea to join; the programme provides an insight into starting a business whilst allowing participants to work towards achieving the OCN endorsed Level I qualification in Understanding Business Enterprise. In addition, there will also be an emphasis with regards guiding and assisting individuals into and through the mainstream business support/further education

options. Pre-enterprise support is an essential first stage in the continuum of support required to encourage entrepreneurship in Northern Ireland. The EEP will help boost the economy by initiating business start-ups and skilling individuals to become more employable.

Council has supported the Exploring Enterprise Programme over the last three years at a cost of up to £25,000 per annum reducing to £15,000 for 2021/22. The current activity report 31st December 2021 details that 70% of target has been achieved to date with 46 participants taking part in the programme. [Full report Annex A, previously circulated]

The programme is delivered throughout the Borough to all people, providing equality of opportunity and particularly for those hardest to reach people and places where disengagement is prevalent:

- Long term unemployed or long term economically inactive.
- Living in areas of deprivation.
- Where the number of workless families is high.
- From underrepresented groups such as lone parents, women, ethnic minority groups; prisoners.
- Individuals with no or low education and skill levels.
- From areas suffering from the economic impact as a result of major employer closures and redundancies including significant Covid-19 related job losses.

The programme activity aligns with the Economic Development Strategy to increase the interest in starting a business by providing enhanced 'exploring enterprise' programmes from school age and up.

Programme is flexible in approach to meet individual needs and focused on 4 key areas to enhance a self-employability outcome:

- Participants are provided with knowledge to achieve the OCN Level 1 Understanding Business Enterprise qualification.
- Participants are provided with soft skills and confidence to implement their knowledge.
- Participants are provided with one-to-one support tailored to their needs from qualified and experienced staff.
- Participants are signposted to additional support which is relevant to them to further enhance their self-employability outcomes

Proposal

Enterprise NI request match funding of up to £ 31,101.74 for 7 Exploring Enterprise Programme courses to be delivered under Call 3 of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014-2020 in the period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023. [see full programme structure and request Annex B, previously circulated].

Description	Year 3
	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023
Total Funding Requirement	£ 88,862.11
Funding from ESF / DfE (65%) secured	£ 57,760.37
Match Funding Requirement (35%)	£ 31,101.74

Council match funded up to 20% for previous years' programmes. In 2021-22 the match fund amount was £15,000. Based on the table above 20% match fund equates to £17,772.42. Prosperity & Place budget estimate for 2022/23 has included £20,000 for exploring enterprise activity [22.5% of programme costs].

Programme Proposed outputs:

- 7 courses delivered by Causeway Enterprise [4] and Roe Valley Enterprise [3].
- 75 Participants enrolled.
- 53 people (70%) will achieve a recognised qualification – OCN Level 1 Understanding Business.
- 34 participants (47%) will have an enhanced outcome either entering Self – Employment or progressing to further education and training.
- 16 new jobs.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council one of the following options in relation to the Exploring Enterprise Programme for 2022/23:

Option A – Match fund at 20% £17,772.42

Option B – Match fund at 22.5% £20,000

Option C – Match Fund at 2021 level £15,000 [16.8%]

Proposed by Councillor Schenning

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED to recommend to Council Option B – Match fund at 22.5% £20,000 in relation to the Exploring Enterprise Programme for 2022/23.

9. CAUSEWAY LEARN TO EARN PROGRAMME

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from members to match-fund the Causeway Learn to Earn Programme for an additional year i.e. Year 4.

In November 2019 Council agreed to match fund this employability programme £20,000 per year over three years i.e. 2019-2022. The project has successfully secured additional funding from the DfE's European Social Fund for an additional final year. The project promoters are seeking approval from Council to extend their match funding for another year in line with DfE's European Social Fund extension.

Background

As part of the business planning preparations in 2018 for the 2019 financial year, Prosperity and Place made a call for expressions of interest for any contributions to external programmes which had accessed external funding and required match funding from Council. This was due to the number of requests for funding which had been received, in previous years, after the business planning period.

Over the last four years (2018-2022) the consortium have been delivering programmes of training and development to groups of economically-inactive, unemployed and underemployed across the area of interest. The aims of the programme are:

- To combat poverty and enhance social inclusion to benefit people who are unemployed, underemployed, long term unemployed and/or economically inactive;
- To deliver direct employability skills and NVQ Level 1 training qualifications across the Causeway Borough to empower and benefit those unemployed and/or economically inactive;
- To provide personal development soft skills tutoring and supportive mentoring to build the confidence of people who have been out of work for years;
- To offer actual live work placements in the thematic area pursued by the client to build their CV and gain valuable work experience; and
- To reduce economic inactivity, increase skills base and offer a working future for participants.

The target audience is the economically inactive, under and unemployed, aged 18- 65 years of all genders. Activities include career ideas and CV support, workplace experience, assisted job search, gaining a qualification and dedicated mentor support. Some of the courses and skills development available include NVQ Level 1 in Hairdressing, Childcare, Construction,

Numeracy and Literacy, Certificate for IT Users, Employability Skills and CV Writing Skills.

Current Position

Action 29 of the Causeway Community Plan aims to:

‘Support in developing of the Causeway Workforce Development Forum supporting educational and skills initiatives within the Causeway Coast and Glens Area’.

Since 2019 The Causeway Learn to Earn Programme has overachieved in all its targets to date. This is highlighted in table previously circulated.

The Causeway Learn to Earn Programme has been extended for one final year after the project promoters successfully applied for an extension of European Social Funds to the Department for Economy. The project promoters have made a request to Council to extend their match funding for one additional final year in line with the Department’s extension.

The targets for the additional Year 4 funding by the Department are as follows:

- 17% of unemployed participants entering employment on leaving (as stipulated in guidance by DfE);
- 15% of economically inactive participants entering into employment on leaving; and
- 15% of participants entering into further training on leaving.

Funding

The total cost of extending the Causeway Learn to Earn Programme in Year 4 is £310,959. The breakdown of funding is as follows:

- ESF/DfE - £230,355 – confirmed.
- RVCEF, BCW, Ballycastle; and West Bann, Coleraine - £60,624 (own reserves and staff costs).
- Request to Council £20,000 (2022/23).

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to consider matching funding - £20k, allocated in the 2022/23 period for the Causeway Learn to Earn Programme and that the reporting for this scheme will be captured and monitored by Prosperity and Place staff within its usual evaluation framework.

Councillor MA McKillop and Alderman Baird spoke in support of this

initiative. Proposed by Alderman Duddy

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED to recommend that Council match fund - £20k, allocated in the 2022/23 period for the Causeway Learn to Earn Programme and that the reporting for this scheme will be captured and monitored by Prosperity and Place staff within its usual evaluation framework.

- * **The Mayor, Councillor Holmes, joined the meeting in the Chamber at 8.45pm, having previously been in attendance remotely.**

10 PORTRUSH AND KERR STREET IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Report, previously circulated, was presented by N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to move this 100% DfC funded project - Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour Environmental Improvement Scheme (EIS) to Stage 2 of the Capital Project Management Process.

Background

This public realm works at Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour is the final piece of the public realm jigsaw which began in the town in 2012. DfC intends to link all previous projects and conclude the public realm works in Portrush, this being the final part of the Executive-endorsed £17m Portrush Regeneration Programme.

Kerr Street and the Harbour occupies a strategic location on the western side of Portrush and represents a key element of the town's offering in terms of recreation and leisure, both for visitors and residents. The 2007 Masterplan refers to the Harbour area as the 'Honeypot' given its high footfall and close proximity to a number of very popular restaurants.

There is a consensus that the overall look of Kerr Street (i.e. the landwards) side of the Harbour is poor, and reflects badly on Portrush as a destination. The purpose of this assignment is to enable Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to progress to procurement and construction stage, subject to a successful bid to DfC for funding.

The proposed public realm scheme would join up a number of previous schemes completed in the town, all of which come together around the harbour area. At present, the area does not live up to the high standards of public realm seen across the rest of Portrush yet is the area that attracts the highest footfall.

Previous Decisions of Council

Stage One of the Capital Works Project Management process was approved by Leisure and Development on the 15th December 2020. Project Management

costs are 100% funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) at a value of £113,159 and will take the project to Outline Business Case stage; full scheme design (including cost estimates); planning approval (where applicable), and preparation of the tender for construction works.

Scheme Design

Please see Annex A, previously circulated, for final concept design for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour EIS.

Public Consultation

A public consultation was launched on 22 November 2021 for a twelve week period. Details of concept designs and feedback methods were posted on the Council website, social media platforms, local press, and via Portrush Library. Stakeholder meetings and presentations have taken place via Zoom/Microsoft Teams. As a result of Covid restrictions a public meeting was not called. However, Council officers conducted weekly drop-in sessions at Portrush Town Hall for anybody who wished to view plans, seek clarity and leave feedback.

Consultees have included statutory organisations, interdepartmental briefings, Section 75 groups, Portrush Heritage Group, residents of the project area and members of the public in general.

Feedback has been largely positive, and suggestions and concerns have helped inform the project design on an ongoing basis. Many consultees welcomed the proposals citing lighting, resurfacing and railings as an improvement to the area and a boost to the pedestrian experience. In particular, the resurfacing of the footway was welcomed by those with disabilities, as well as the increased visibility in the area due to the improved lighting.

Costs

The project is 100% funded by DfC with an estimated cost of £1.4m. If the bid for funding is successful, Council will move to re-engage the ICT to commence the procurement process to appoint the IST (contractor) and provide project management through the construction phase of the project.

In order to meet DfC funding restrictions, it is vital that the contractor is appointed no later than September 2022 to ensure that works can be commenced and completed by May 2023.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the scope of the project including final concept design for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour EIS (see Annex A, previously circulated) in order to progress the Project from Stage 1 of the Capital Project Management Process to Stage 2.

Alderman Hillis welcomed this initiative which he said would improve the infrastructure and harbour area of Portrush.

Interim Head of Prosperity and Place, N McGurk clarified as follows for Alderman Hillis:-

Stone wall in situ at Kerr Street will remain;
Access to lower path at South Pier will be of disability friendly design;
Fencing will consist of a 93 metre railing;
Consultation responses will be provided to the member.

Councillor Anderson raised the issue of pavement design and issues with cleanliness, especially around litter receptibles. N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place agreed to feed back to technical team.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised members that the specialised cleaning machine which is for the whole borough would be used in Portrush town.

Proposed by Alderman Hillis
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED to recommend that Council approve the scope of the project including final concept design for Portrush Kerr Street and Harbour EIS add (see Annex A, previously circulated) in order to progress the Project from Stage 1 of the Capital Project Management Process to Stage 2.

11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend the introduction of a Technical Assistance Grants Programme for the 2022-23 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 October 2022 Council agreed to 17 Grant Programmes for the 2022-23 grant period. Council further agreed the concept of a Technical Assistance Grant programme for the purpose of assisting organisations to develop their community or sporting facilities projects and progressing them through feasibility, design and product development stages.

Council requested the Funding Unit Manager to bring back a report with the parameters and criteria for the Technical Assistance grant programme.

Overview of the Technical Assistance Grant Programme

Purpose of the Grant Programme

To support community based organisations with researching the need for a capital project and to examine it against the key principles of eligibility, feasibility, value for money and deliverability. If a project is viable, the successful group will be in a position to apply for grant funding from a range of funders to develop capital projects where the need is identified and viable.

Amount available in Grant-aid

75% of total project costs up to a maximum of £5,000 will be available. The financial support available may not cover all costs associated with the requirements of the group for the development of the project. Where this is the case, the applicant organisation is required to cover any shortfall from their own resources.

Eligible Costs

- Research / Consultancy Costs – to develop the project proposition/to support the development of a Feasibility Study.
- Professional fees or other associated costs which may be required including design, architect, quantity surveyor, chartered surveyor and structural engineers.
- Technical Development – in assessing basic technical feasibility, innovative design.

Ineligible Costs

- Applications are not open to individuals.
- Private businesses / commercial / statutory / regional sector organisations.
- Any works, studies or technical support whose focus does not actively meet a community need.
- Clubs or organisations which have restrictive memberships.
- General Revenue funding.
- Capital works.
- Legal fees.
- Any applicant/facility/site which has successfully received funding from Councils Capital Grants Programme will be ineligible to apply for funding for 5 years after completion of the previous project. In this instance, the completion date will be the date the last payment was made to you from Council. The condition applies jointly to the facility of previously supported schemes as well as applicant organisation.

Criteria for Assessment

The following criteria will be used for evaluating applications:

	Criterion			
1	Match Funding: Evidence that 25% match funding is in place.	Not Scored: Pass / Fail Criteria		
		(0-5)	Weighting	Available Points

2	Feasibility: Why the study/work/project is required, what needs are being met, how these were identified, beneficiaries, outputs and outcomes?		X5	25
3	Deliverability: Details of location, timeframe, management (include specific details on who will manage and review it)		X2	10
4	Value for Money: Estimated total cost. Costs must be reasonable, relevant and present value for money.		X3	15
	Total Maximum Score			50

Projects must achieve a minimum threshold score of **70%** in order to be successful.

Timeframes

The grant programme will open mid-April 2022 and will close on 30 June 2022.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the Technical Assistance grant for the 2022-23 period.

It is recommended that it is named the Project Development Grant to more accurately reflect the grant purpose.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop

- to recommend to Council the Technical Assistance grant for the 2022-23 period;
- that it is named the Project Development Grant to more accurately reflect the grant purpose.

Councillor Holmes felt it would be prudent to re-visit grant funding specific to sport.

At the request of Alderman Duddy the Funding Unit Manager advised that the purpose of this grant was a £5k development costs to enable applicants to provide a business case eg engaging consultants, in advance of submitting an application for larger capital projects. The Funding Unit Manager referred Elected Members to the award of Funding to the Harry Gregg Foundation for which this grant programme was initiated.

Councillor C McShane requested a recorded vote.

The Chair put the proposal to the Committee to Vote.

5 Members voted For; 10 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained

The Chair declared the Motion Lost.

Recorded vote table

For (5)	Councillors Nicholl, C McShane, MA McKillop, McMullan, Schenning
Against (10)	Alderman Baird, Duddy, Hillis, Knight-McQuillan
	Councillors Anderson, Callan, Holmes, McAuley, McQuillan, Watton

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Correspondence has been received to mark the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper which sets out a programme of change to reverse the disparities within the UK.

Contact details previously circulated.

It is recommended that members consider the correspondence.

13. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the partnership panel.

14. CONSULTATIONS

The following consultation was listed:-

14.1 DAERA Consultation on Proposals to Realign District Structures – submission by 28th March 2022

Views are being sought on the proposal to realign Design Structures of Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to those of Local Government Authorities.

Contact details previously circulated.

It is recommended that members consider the consultation.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor Anderson

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

- * **Press and Public were disconnected from the meeting at 9.15 pm**

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

The Chair read the following statement:

Members, I would remind you that this session is being audio recorded in line with Council's guidance. You are reminded that there should be no other persons present who are not entitled to be - either hearing or seeing consideration of such items, and/or recording the proceedings. Failure to comply could be in breach of Code of Conduct responsibilities. You are reminded that you are personally responsible for any comments that you make.

15. HALP CAPITAL INVESTMENT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek Council's approval to complete on a number of maintenance, improvement and repair projects within the Council's Tourism and Recreation remit for Holiday and Leisure Parks.

Background

At the December 2021 Leisure & Development Committee meeting, Officers presented the detail on prioritised elements that require immediate or short-term actions with respect to repair and maintenance across Council's Holiday and Leisure Parks. Elected Members were asked to approve the advancement on project specification and procurement in advance of an investment decision that is detailed within this report.

Project Details

The following maintenance and improvement projects have been prioritised as essential to ensure that the Council's Holiday and Leisure Parks provide a quality and fit for purpose service.

- Purchase of Online Booking software
- Upgrade of Camping Pod provision
- Refurbishment of Camping Pods at Cushendun
- Replacement of RTVs at Carrick Dhu and Juniper Hill

Procurement Details

Officers from Tourism & Recreation, in conjunction with the Estates team have developed specifications and procured for the required work, as summarised in Table 1, previously circulated.

Next Steps

Subject to Council approval, Officers will appoint suppliers and advance the implementation of the repair, improvement and refurbishment projects and detailed in Table 1.

Retrospective approval is sought for 3.1 Purchase of Online Booking Software, as a January appointment was required to allow advance bookings of touring vans etc for the incoming holiday season.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to make an investment decision to allow the progression of the above projects to completion, with a view to implementation either prior to, or early in the 2022 Holiday and Leisure Park season. A total investment decision of £107,450 is required. This investment is necessary to ensure continued maintenance and delivery of high standards across our Holiday and Leisure Park provision.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

AGREED to recommend to Council the progression of the above projects to completion, with a view to implementation either prior to, or early in the 2022 Holiday and Leisure Park season. A total investment decision of £107,450 is required. This investment is necessary to ensure continued maintenance and delivery of high standards across our Holiday and Leisure Park provision.

Councillor MA McKillop asked for an update on the provision of accessible facilities for the Cushendall caravan site and questioned whether the site was currently compliant with legislation in this regard.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that consideration was being given to improving this site but that there was a longer term plan for this site, which was subject to funding avenues being explored before being brought to

committee for consideration. The Head of Tourism and Recreation agreed to update the member outside of the meeting regarding compliance with legislation.

16. COLERAINE LEISURE CENTRE INVESTMENT

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Well-Being.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to request Members approval of the appended Outline Business Case (OBC) for investment in the gym and equipment offering at Coleraine Leisure Centre with associated investment of £150k.

Background

The focus of the Outline Business Case (attached at Annex A, previously circulated), which has been prepared in the new 'Five Case' format, is a proposal by the In-house Leisure Team ('IHT') to invest in the gym and equipment offering at Coleraine Leisure Centre.

This project represents the second phase of the potential £1m investment in gyms, subject to success and dependant on available capital spend further phases of investment will be outlined, to include a similar project at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and Sheskburn Recreation Centre, followed by upgrade of Cardiovascular equipment at Roe Valley Leisure Centre as well as a project on Access Controls.

Rationale for Investment

As noted above, the need for intervention and investment in gyms and equipment emerged from the In-house Team's Shadow Bid submission. The SOC presented to Council in November 2020 articulated the case with reference to research undertaken as part of this submission including: industry trends for gyms and fitness, feasibility study undertaken by Alliance Leisure, latent demand analysis undertaken by 4global and an audit of equipment across all major and minor leisure centres.

The IHT subsequently prioritised the 'Investment in the gym and equipment offering at Coleraine Leisure Centre' project within its Mobilisation Plan and has taken the opportunity to develop this OBC following the success of the RVLC pilot project.

The current poor condition of the gym equipment and the general gym environment at Coleraine Leisure Centre is evidenced in the OBC, Appendix 2 - Gym Equipment.

The objectives for the project in terms of growth in Memberships, Income, Utilisation and Customer Satisfaction have been analysed with targets set in section 3.3 of the OBC.

Conclusion

The Outline Business Case for investment in Coleraine Leisure Centre fully appraised the costs, benefits and risks of three options (reference Section 4 of the OBC) and identified the preferred option as follows:

- Option 3 – Replace existing Equipment, upgrade flooring & air conditioning at a cost of £150k; see (Appendix 4 – CLC Gym upgrade Proposal)

The project objectives have been evaluated against Option 3 with realistic targets set. The risks and constraints have been analysed, with Option 3 presenting the least risk to Council.

A breakdown of the associated costs of the preferred Option 3 is included in the OBC, Appendix 4 – Gym Upgrade Proposal.

The financial case has been considered against the financial projections, and a 2.5 year pay back on investment has been established.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the Outline Business Case and preferred option:

- Option 3 – Replace existing Equipment, upgrade flooring & air conditioning at a cost of £150k; see (Appendix 4 – CLC Gym upgrade Proposal)

Subject to Council decision, the indicative delivery timeframe to progress Option 3 is summarised as follows:

March '22	Issue Equipment Tender.
April '22	Tender Receipt and Evaluation.
May '22	Tender Report to L&D Committee for approval & contract award.
June '22	Equipment Delivery Lead in time.
July '22	Installation of new equipment.

Due to the nature of some of the works, it is likely that a temporary closure will be required during installation.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

AGREED to recommend that Council approve the Outline Business Case and preferred Option 3 – Replace existing Equipment, upgrade flooring & air conditioning at a cost of £150k. (Appendix 4 – CLC Gym upgrade Proposal)

17. GREENWAY PROJECTS

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development and the SIB Project Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the current Greenway projects included within the Causeway Coast and Glens Growth Deal and to propose a number of recommendations on the way forward.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Growth Deal bid originally contained two Greenway projects which were proposed as:

- Ballymoney to Ballycastle; and
- Ballymena to Cushendall (In partnership with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (M&EABC)).

An update on the current position of the two projects is provided below.

Ballycastle to Ballymoney

The Ballycastle to Ballymoney project is at an advanced stage of development with the Outline Business Case (OBC) underway.

It is therefore proposed that the Council engages additional resources to complete this work while under the management and guidance of the Coast & Countryside Team.

This piece of work is within the scope of the Professional Services Framework Agreement the Council has with AECOM who have experience of similar commissions elsewhere. Officers have worked up a Scope of Service agreement with AECOM and approval is sought to appoint AECOM under the terms of the Framework. The cost will be proportionate to the number of landowners they are appointed to consult with but, if it was the full 170 remaining smaller landowners, the cost is expected to be in the region of £45k. The £250k development cost grant from DfI is expected to fund around 50% of this cost.

Ballymena to Cushendall

Recently M&EABC has advised that the Ballymena to Cushendall project is not a current priority for the Council, and this leaves the project unlikely to proceed under the CC&GBC Growth Deal.

Given this situation the Council has a number of options:

- Reduce the number of Greenway projects to keep the Growth Deal within the indicative budget.
- Bring in a replacement Greenway, or
- Limit the Greenways to one in number and bring in a different project from the long list.

The DfI Strategic Plan for Greenways identifies 6 Greenways that touch on the CC&GBC area and scored them as follows (the higher the score the greater the priority):

- Dungannon to Coleraine, 24.
- Ballymena to Cushendall, 22.
- Coleraine to Giants Causeway via Portrush, 22.
- Derry/Londonderry to Coleraine, 22.
- Macfin to Ballycastle via Ballymoney, 22. (currently at OBC development)
- Limavady junction to Dungiven, 18.
-

In addition to this, the Council has had long term aspirations to develop a Greenway/off road path between Ballintoy and Ballycastle but, since this is not prioritised within the DfI Strategy Plan for Greenways, this section is unlikely to be prioritised for DfI Greenway funding at this time. Tourism NI has also expressed indicative support for a Greenway network along the coastal route from Portrush to Dunluce Castle and the Giant's Causeway.

There are a number of factors that will impact on Greenway development in NI including:

- Access to funding and time constraints.
- Partnership commitments and complexities.
- Landowner issues.

Given these factors, combined with the unique funding opportunity presented by the Growth Deal, it is proposed that officers explore the feasibility of a replacement Greenway project between Portrush and Portballintrae/Bushmills as an incremental step towards a path network that extends from Ballymoney to Ballycastle and on to Ballintoy, The Giant's Causeway, Portballintrae, Portrush and Portstewart. Under the Council's Professional Services Framework AECOM have quoted for this work as follows:

1. Concept and Option Development £8,726.92.
2. Land ownership review - £1,957.44.
3. Costing - £3,588.64.

There would be no expenditure on items 2 & 3 until feasibility had been confirmed at item one.

Council Policy Position Relating to Land Acquisition for Greenway Development

It is very clear that Greenway development cannot proceed without access to land. The ideal scenario is that the Council reaches a voluntary agreement with each landowner to purchase the required section of their land. After the initial in principle agreement between the landowner and the Council (or its agents) the final valuation and purchase contracts are normally undertaken by Land and Property Services (LPS). The compensation offered to the landowner usually includes:

- The commercial value of the land.
- The landowner's agent and legal costs.

- Any accommodation works required to secure the site and protect the landowner's other assets and interests e.g. fencing, gates, hedging, access.

Recommendations

Based on the information contained within the report, Members are asked to consider the following recommendations:

1. Officers commission AECOM, via the Council's Professional Services Framework, to increase the Council's capacity to deliver landowner consultations as soon as possible at an expected cost of around £45,000 (circa 50% funded by Dfl, subject to OBC approval).
2. Officers explore the viability of a replacement Greenway project between Portrush and Portballintrae/Bushmills at a cost of up to £15,000.
3. That Council agrees to use compulsory purchase as a 'tool of last resort' for the acquisition of land for Greenway development.

***The Mayor, Councillor Holmes left the Chamber at 10.05 pm.**

Councillor McQuillan said he was content to propose with the caveat that if consideration needed to be given to a compulsory purchase it would be brought back to Council for consideration. Alderman Baird said she would be content to second the proposal on this basis.

The SIB Project Officer advised Elected Members that incorporating 'tool of last resort' was critical given the enormous costs and challenges of acquiring land from multiple owners stressing the resolution of ability of Council to acquire land was essential.

The SIB Project Officer clarified that in addition to market value of land being payable (determined by Land and Property Service) to land owners the cost of enabling works ie fencing or gates would be carried out at no cost to the landowner as would any associated agents or legal costs incurred.

Councillor Holmes pointed to potential difficulties with the sensitivities of the process

The Director suggested given the concerns and raised that an alternative form of wording could be agreed by Elected Members.

Councillor McQuillan, confirmed that he was content for the wording to be 'Use of compulsory purchase is an option as a tool of last resort, subject to council agreement.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed at the request of Councillor McMullan that there was a legacy Memorandum Of Understanding between the Forestry and Moyle District Council regarding completing works at Glenariffe touring park. The Director confirmed that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council did not proceed with that agreement and no further agreements beyond that were entered into.

Councillor McMullan asked for clarity on the Mid and East Antrim Council Greenway status. The SIB Project Officer said that of the 5 Greenway projects

on the list for Mid and East Antrim Council Ballymena to Cushendall was not one of those listed and that if 2 or 3 within the 5 listed were achieved that would be a successful outcome. The SIB Project Officer indicated that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council still aspire to work with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in respect of Greenway initiatives.

Councillor Nicholl erred caution that one project was being prioritised at the expense of another. Councillor C McShane spoke of issues with the road infrastructure between Ballintoy and Ballycastle, however the SIB Project Officer advised that this route did not qualify as active travel.

Councillor C McShane asked what engagement had taken place with Tourism NI on Greenway options. The SIB Project Officer advised that engagement had taken place between Causeway Coast and Glens Officers all relevant departments in addition to tour operators with their views being taken on board.

The SIB Project Officer stressed the need to take advantage of the current opportunity and progress the proposal which best aligns with funding.

At the request of Alderman Duddy The Director of Leisure and Development advised that there were two elements of grant funding which was:

- a) Growth Deal funding;
- b) Eligibility for DFI Greenway funding

The Director of Leisure and Development added that if an Outline Business Case was submitted, DFI funding of £225k enabling costs would be awarded to take the project to the next stage.

Alderman Baird suggested that a phased stage approach would be useful giving 'Armoy to Dark Hedges' as an example and felt this would help gain support from locals, land owners and improve the economy of the borough.

The SIB Project Officer advised that this path may be an option once approved in line with active travel but is not likely to be accepted at this stage by DFI.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

AGREED- to recommend to Council that

1. Officers commission AECOM, via the Council's Professional Services Framework, to increase the Council's capacity to deliver landowner consultations as soon as possible at an expected cost of around £45,000 (circa 50% funded by DfI, subject to OBC approval).
2. Officers explore the viability of a replacement Greenway project between Portrush and Portballintrae/Bushmills at a cost of up to £15,000.
3. That Council agrees to use of compulsory purchase option as a tool of last resort, subject to council agreement.

***The Mayor, Councillor Holmes re-joined the meeting remotely at 10.30 pm.**

18. GROWTH DEAL STATE OF READINESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development and the SIB Project Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out a 'State of Readiness Assessment' of the proposed Growth Deal projects and to make recommendations for the programme to become affordable.

Background

At the Executive Programme Board in October 2021, Members noted that the £157m total anticipated cost of the 14 shortlisted projects far exceeds the indicative programme budget of £72m (+10% partnership contribution). Members also noted that all projects need to move through Strategic Outline Case (SOC) and Outline Business.

State of Readiness Reviews and Recommended Next Steps

The detailed Reviews, attached at Annex A, previously circulated and each Review sets out:

- The anticipated high-level project risks across all 5 business case components
- A RAG status linked to the ability to deliver an SOC over the next 6 months
- Recent developments; and

The table, previously circulated, summarises the State of Readiness Review for each of the 14 Projects and recommends actions that the Executive Programme Board and Elected Members may wish to consider.

Key Emerging Conclusions

The key emerging conclusions include the following:

- Research requirements: Various pieces of project specific research will be required for feed the business case process. The Council and any third-party Project Promoters need to commission this research as soon as possible.
- Veterinary School: Growth Deals focus is on innovation. UU accepts that teaching a new subject to students in a university will not pass the innovation test. UU agree with removal from GD and is pursuing other funding sources e.g. Shared Island Fund.
- Greenway projects:
 - Ballymena to Cushendall Greenway project does not have any current commitment from M&EABC and should be replaced by a different Greenway project
 - Officers should explore feasibility of an alternative proposal

- Landowner issues are critical to success and need to be address urgently
- Mountsandel Project:
- Dunluce Castle Redevelopment:
- Skills and Employability:
- Digital Infrastructure Fund:
- Rural Digital Hubs:
- Rathlin East Lighthouse:
- Smart Local Energy System
- Ongoing overcommitment

Programme Budget Review

Given the need to urgently demonstrate to UKG and NIE that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has prioritised its Growth Deal project list to a level that is broadly consistent with the available budgets it is proposed that the findings of the state of readiness review should be used to further refine the project list. The tables below show how this can be achieved and that, given the conclusions of the review, the programme can proceed with a list of projects that are broadly affordable within the programme budget of: UKG £36m and NIE £36m plus a minimum of 10% partnership funding.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the State of Readiness Reports, the recommended project-specific next steps and the proposals to reduce the project list to an affordable level and recommend this approach to the Council.

Councillor C McShane enquired about the status of the Rathlin Project and the SIB Project Officer advised that it had been removed from United Kingdom funding stream but added to bottom of Northern Ireland funding stream.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
 Seconded by Councillor C McShane and

AGREED to recommend to Council that Members note the State of Readiness Reports, the recommended project-specific next steps and the proposals to reduce the project list to an affordable level and recommend this approach to the Council.

19. FUNDING SUPPORT LARGE EVENTS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to propose a funding option for the benefit of the external Large Tourism Events which occur in the Borough.

Furthermore, the report also outlines an opportunity to promote the Borough through a 'Contra Arrangement', whereby advertising / marketing opportunities are provided by the event organiser in return for the non-financial support provided by Council.

Note that the two proposals are entirely separate.

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 October 2021 Council approved the parameters, criteria and timeframes for 17 grant programmes for the 2022-23 period. This included the Tourism Large Events Fund.

Subsequently Council agreed to explore a sponsorship option to replace the Tourism Large Events Fund.

Sponsorship

Expert legal opinion was sought from Carson McDowell relating to the vires, risks, parameters and implications of Council being in a Sponsorship role.

Sponsorship can be defined as "a business relationship of mutual benefit involving the transference of funds, resources or services from the sponsor to the sponsored party in return for an association and a set of rights which are to the mutual satisfaction of both parties".

Sponsorship should not be confused with advertising which can be defined as "any paid form of non-personal presentation and promotion of ideas, goods or services by an identified organisation". (Cardiff Council Sponsorship Policy).

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council falls under the definition of a contracting authority as per section 2 of the Public Contracts regulations 2015 (PCR 2015).

If the Council provides sponsorship funding to an organisation and a contract is required, the Council has obligations to ensure they are compliant with the PCR 2015.

Section 74 PCR 2015 states Public contracts for social and other specific services listed in Schedule 3 (such as recreational, cultural and sporting services) shall be awarded in accordance with this Section and are subject to a *light touch regime* (regulations 74-76 PCR 2015).

Light touch rules require the contracting authority to make known their intention by submitting either a contract notice or a prior information notice to the UK e-notification service for publication.

The threshold for contracts under the light touch regime is £663,540, if a contract is below threshold the application of General Procurement Principles applies and it is subject to Council's own procurement policy – which states that anything above £30k must be publicly advertised on eSourcingNI.

Applying Council's Procurement Policy for contracts above £30k, award will be on the basis of the lowest acceptable price which meets the specification and any mandatory requirements/minimum quality standards that have been set.

If quality criteria e.g. previous experience/capability, methodology, etc are used, there should be no more than two and the quality element should be a minimum of 30% of the price quality ratio. Criteria must be selected on a clear rationale that ensures that the award is based on the best combination of price and quality.

In Summary, in pursuing a sponsorship option Council must abide by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and advertise and award contracts as per these regulations, ensuring compliance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment. In addition, Council is further obligated to abide by its own procurement policy in setting and awarding the contract.

Consequently, having followed Council's direction to consider the Sponsorship option, based upon the received legal advice, it is officers' view that the application of the necessary procurement process, is not applicable or appropriate for funding the large tourism events in the borough.

In conclusion, it is recommended that Council reverts to the Large Events Funding Programme.

Grant Programme

The parameters, criteria and policy for the Large Events Grant Fund have been developed and recently adjusted to reflect guidance received from HMRC.

To progress the grant programme, Council will advertise the funding opportunity based on this pre-determined criteria (Annex A, previously circulated), and will invite event promoters to submit applications based on their events ability to:

- Attract visitor numbers greater than 3,000.
- Run a 2 day event.
- Encourage overnight stays.
- Demonstrate how they will promote Causeway area as a destination for visitors. Successful applicants will be awarded a Letter of Offer based on the event they have presented for funding.

A Contra-Arrangement to Promote our Borough

Every year based upon established legacy arrangements, Council provides physical resources, staff resources and facilities at no cost to a number of external events in the Borough.

This support is additional to the monetary grant which event organisations have received.

To recognise Council's support and to gain an advertising / marketing benefit for the Borough, it is proposed we utilise a Contra Arrangement, which is an arrangement where parties exchange goods or services with no money changing hands.

A Contra Arrangement allows Council to apply a monetary value to the support provided to events such as the NW200 and SuperCup. In return, an agreement is negotiated in which Council could receive benefit such as advertising and promotional opportunities.

HMRC classify a Contra Arrangement as a Barter Transaction. The management of VAT in a Barter Transaction is explained at: [VAT: part-exchanges, barter and set-offs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/vat-part-exchanges-barters-and-set-offs). Council's Finance Department will manage the treatment of VAT in the case of a Contra Arrangement or Barter Transaction accordingly.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

It is recommended that Council proceed with the option to offer a grant programme for the Tourism Large Events Fund in accordance with Council's Grant Funding Policy and the parameters and criteria presented to Council October 2021 (Annex A, previously circulated).

Recommendation 2:

In return for the non-financial support provided by Council to external events, a 'Contra Arrangement' is negotiated with the event organiser, in which Council benefits from advertising / marketing opportunities.

Recommendation is subject to independent legal/HRMC advice in terms of the vires of such an arrangement, and appropriate legal arrangements being in place to measure and monitor the contra arrangement and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

During debate it was Proposed by Councillor McQuillan and Seconded by Alderman Hillis to recommend that Council consider Recommendations 1 and 2, later withdrawn by the Proposer and Secunder.

At the request of Councillor McQuillan the Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that the Chief Executive had spoken with the Chairperson of the NW200 and Supercup who confirmed they were content with the arrangement; that advertising would be arranged by means of a Contra arrangement.

Proposed by Councillor C McShane
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl and

AGREED to recommend that Council proceed with Recommendation 1 to offer a grant programme for the Tourism Large Events Fund in accordance with Council's Grant Funding Policy and the parameters and criteria presented to Council October 2021 (Annex A, previously circulated); Defer a decision on

Recommendation 2 until we receive the required independent legal and HMRC advice as outlined in the report.

Discussion ensued around the implications and definition of a Contra agreement and why it was required.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that this report is separating the grant funding element which has no return from the marketing element which forms the Contra agreement.

The Director further explained the rationale behind Recommendation 2 stating that members were being asked to agree in principle so that Council can get return by way of advertising to promote the tourism economy and reminded members of the £10m income generated by the NW200 to this borough.

The Director of Leisure and Development said that this would enable Council to negotiate terms for support given to events ie staff costs and other support and give the Interim Director of Finance more time to understand the implications of the Contra agreement in terms of VAT elements, subject to HMRC advice in terms of vires of such arrangement.

Alderman Duddy expressed disappointment that a report had not come back which cleared up ambiguities concerning VAT, given that the decision to report back to the Committee was ratified in November 2021. The Director of Leisure and Development advised members that the Interim Director of Finance was concentrating on the rates setting process in recent weeks, however Alderman Duddy said he did not accept the rates setting process as a valid reason for the information not being available at this meeting.

The Director of Leisure and Development requested that the following words be recorded. *“Considering the workload of officers and how hard they work to deliver outcomes with lean resources, it was unfair for Alderman Duddy to suggest that officers are not delivering as required.”*

Alderman Duddy requested that the following words be recorded *“I did not and never had underestimated the work which our staff do; I believe that the Director of Finance (Interim) simply had to write a letter to seek advice in advance of this committee meeting”*

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that questions had already been put to HMRC by the Interim Finance Director.

The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to follow up on Wednesday 16th February in a bid to expediate information being available at Full Council meeting as requested by members.

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

20.1 Limavady Accessible Playpark (Councillor Chivers)

Would Council consider a development of a Master Plan for the site at Limavady accessible playpark to ensure that all future development is carried with a consistent phased approach rather than ad-hoc. This should encourage more efficient and cost effective use of council resources and rate payers money. This plan should be carried out in consultation with the community and Councillors?

The Chair advised that as Councillor Chivers had left the meeting the item would be deferred to the March Leisure and Development Committee Meeting.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

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

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 11.15 pm