



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

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	Councillor Callan
2.	Declarations of Interest	Alderman McQuillan
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 18th October 2022	Confirmed as a correct record
4.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor McCaw, seconded by Alderman Boyle referred from Council Meeting held Tuesday 1 November 2022	Support the Notice of Motion
5.	Annual Grant Programmes	To recommend that Council allow Groups to apply to both the Community Development Support Grant (CDSG) and Social Inclusion Grant (Social Connections Fund). to recommend that Council approve 1. Grant programmes 1-17 along with the assessment criteria and scheduling as detailed in Table 3 and summarised in Annex A. 2. That Council defer Pilot VR/AR Demonstrator Grant (Grant no. 18), a report to be brought back to Grants Governance

		<p>Panel with a view to inform decision making.</p> <p>3. Do not apply the annual CPI increase to the CDSG Programme.</p> <p>4. Change name of Social Inclusion Grant Fund to Social Connections Fund.</p>
6.	Town Centre Experience Fund	<p>To recommend that Council award funding the applicants listed in Table 2 (noting the verbal amendments) totalling £10,835 as per budget available.</p>
7.	Autism Action Plan	<p>To recommend that Council allocate 5 Members to the Autism Friendly Working Group through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee, with an additional seat allocated to Council's nominated Diversity Champion (if not a member of the L&D Committee)</p>
8.	Air Show Project Board minutes	Note
9.	Mountsandel Working Group minutes	Note
10.	Rural and Agricultural Working Group minutes	Note
11.	Correspondence	None
12.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	None
13.	Consultations	None

14.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor C McShane, seconded by Alderman Baird referred from Council Meeting held Tuesday 4th October 2022, reconvened on Monday 11th October 2022	<i>To recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion and write to Permanent Secretary Richard Pengelly</i>
	<i>'In Committee' (Items 15-18 inclusive)</i>	
15.	Financial Position	<i>Information</i>
16.	Mountsandel Visitor Project	<i>To recommend that Council defer consideration subject to obtaining two quotations from specialist engineers to place a basic industrial type bridge across the River.</i>
17.	Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway	<i>To recommend that Council</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Take a phased approach to the delivery of the Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway with an initial focus on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Section 1 - Ballycastle Seafront to Ballycastle Forest.</i> <i>Section 2 - Ballycastle Forest to Hillside Road.</i> <i>Section 3 - Hillside Road to Carrowreagh Road (as far as positive landowners currently allow).</i> <i>• That officers work with DFI to progress with this approach while retaining the aspiration to deliver the full Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway via the Growth Deal Programme (10-15 years).</i>

18.	Burnfoot Pitch Project Tender Report	<p><i>To recommend that Council note progress to date with the planned major remedial drainage works to the existing grass pitch in Burnfoot; and approve a £247k investment that will enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from the tender report; - that Council note that this decision is currently affordable within Council's Capital Programme and that this will constitute the Final Investment Decision and allow the project to proceed to 'Stage 3 – Construction' which is scheduled to commence in January 2023 and complete in March 2023.</i></p>
19.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	None

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McCaw (C) (excluding Item 4)
Councillor Schenning Vice Chair (Item 4) (C)

Members Present: Alderman Duddy (C), Hillis (C),
Knight McQuillan (R), A McQuillan (C)
Councillors Anderson (C), Holmes (C), McAuley (C),
McGurk (R), MA McKillop (R), McMullan (R), Peacock (R),
Watton (C)

**Non Committee
Members present:** Alderman Boyle (R) (Item 4), S McKillop (R),
Councillors C McShane (R) (Item 14), Wallace (R)

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)
N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)
J Elliott, Town and Village Manager (R)
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R)

In Attendance: C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)
A Lennox, Mobile Operation Officer (C)
J Winfield, ICT Operations Manager (R)

Public 1 no. (R)
Press 2 no. (R)

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

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

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Callan.

Alderman Hillis advised Alderman Baird ¹may be late to the meeting.

¹ Alderman Baird did not join the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Alderman McQuillan declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (Town Centre Experience Fund).

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

Summary, previously circulated.

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

CHANGE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised he would receive the two Notice of Motion's next as the Items of Business.

As Alderman Baird was not yet in attendance, Councillor C McShane advised she would wait until the relevant part of the Agenda to present their Notice of Motion.

The Chair invited Vice Chair, Councillor Schenning, to Chair the next Item of Business as he had proposed the Notice of motion.

Vice Chair assumed the Chair.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCCAW, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BOYLE REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2022

This Council commits to providing the following criteria when it comes to Changing Places toilets at Council events.

- A Changing Places unit will be available at all large-scale public events organised or funded by Council.

- Consideration will be given to holding smaller scale events at venues where there already is a Changing Places unit available.

- Smaller events taking place in other venues will advertise in advance asking if people who plan to attend need these facilities to be available.

Councillor McCaw advised Councillors had been lobbied since the lack of accessible facilities at NW200 Road Race and stated Stendhal also did not provide accessibility of Changing Places Toilets. Councillor McCaw stated a Changing Places unit is specific for people who are very severely disabled and needed to be provided. Councillor McCaw stated that by bringing the Notice of Motion it would copper fasten the requirement into Policy within Council events and for large event providers, to ensure the events are accessible to everyone

and also to give consideration at smaller events. He advised Council had introduced units that can be used for this purpose and urged all Elected Members to support the Notice of Motion.

Councillor McCaw invited Alderman Boyle to speak and invited the Director of Leisure and Development to provide an update.

Alderman Boyle seconded the Notice of Motion, she advised that having a Changing Places Facility at large events would mean the events were fully inclusive and accessible, she stated a personal interest and that accessibility was crucial in sustaining quality of life and wellbeing to aid disabled people, carers and family members. Alderman Boyle advised that to date, Council Policy had not required event organisers in a prescriptive specification to provide these facilities, which had meant NW200 Road Race and Stendhal did not have the facilities.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified he had been working with Officers, Councillors and external organisations, predominantly the working relationship with the Mae Murray Foundation on matters related to the motion and would allow the work to proceed that has already started.

The Director of Leisure and Development provided the following update:

- (i) Advised of the formation of an Accessibility Advisory Group between Council and a suitable organisation such as to advise Council on matters.
- (ii) Council's Policy Amendment. The policy or policy amendment will consider the following:
 - Organisers of large-scale public events in receipt of grant funding from the Council, must include a suitably located Changing Places facility, whether that be a mobile/portable facility or a permanent Changing Places toilet.
 - All large-scale Council events must include a suitably located Changing Places facility, whether that be a mobile/portable facility or a permanent Changing Places toilet.
 - For smaller public events, adequate advertising and communication should occur to understand the need for accessible facilities, whereupon facilities may be provided based upon need.
- (iii) 'Let Me Play Strategy'. Inclusion of the Let Me Play document into Council's Play Strategy and review of Council's Play Strategy, inclusivity and accessibility into Play Parks.
- (iii) Communication. Improve Communication specifically on Council's website. Include a dedicated section for Accessibility / Inclusivity related Issues:
 - Toilet Provision.
 - Parking.
 - Dedicated Viewing Areas at events.

- The Provision of a 'Quite Place'.
- (iv) Permanent Changing Places Facilities. Current gaps are identified in Ballymoney and Ballycastle. Investigate funding opportunities for:
- Permanent facility at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre
 - Changing Paces Facility at the Cushendall Harbour / Holiday and Leisure parks.
 - Changing Places Facility at the Ballycastle Harbour public toilets.
 - Accessible Glamping Pod at the Cushendall Holiday and Leisure Park
- (v) McGaw Park Ballymoney. The Inclusion of a Wheel-Chair Swing within McGaw Park.

Elected members spoke to support the motion, that was acknowledged would be of a considerable cost for small events, whilst acknowledging Council were sourcing funding to obtain a mobile unit.

In response to questions from Elected Members, the Director of Leisure and Development clarified the policy amendment within Grant Funding would state a specific requirement for a Changing Places Unit for Large Events, for minor events this would not be required, as he confirmed it would be unaffordable, and for Council ran events, this would be a standard provision. The Director of Leisure and Development clarified Council were sourcing funding for a permanent Changing Places Facility and a mobile unit.

AGREED – to recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Schenning, Vice Chair vacated the Chair.

5. ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAMMES

Report, previously circulated presented by Funding Unit Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend the annual grant funding programmes to Council for the 2023-24 period.

Background

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

Breakdown of Grants awarded 2016-2022 (Table circulated)

Current years grant programmes

In the current Grant funding period (2022-23) the following 19 grant programmes are being delivered (Table 2 circulated).

Proposed Grant Funding Programmes 2023-24

The Annual Review of Grant Programmes Workshop for Elected Members was held on 20 October 2022 at which the proposed grant programmes for the incoming year were presented and discussed. (Attached at Annex A, which includes a brief overview of each proposed grant and the criteria to be used for assessment).

The Grant Funding Programmes available for the 2023/24 period were circulated within Table 3.

Community Development Support Grant (CDSG)

Part funded by DfC, this is an enabling grant to provide financial assistance towards core operating costs of community development groups.

Last year Council agreed a number of changes to the CDSG which resulted in pass/fail criteria being applied, 3-year deals being offered and the maximum award increasing to £3,500.

The budget for 2022-23 was £141,270:

- 55 applications were successful totalling £145,418.02.
- 52 of these requested a 3-year contract – totalling £140,378.02.
- These 52 will receive a LoO in April 2023 for year 2.
- Council also agreed an annual CPI increase.

Recommendations from Grants Governance Panel:

- Open CDSG alongside the other annual grants.
- Applicants apply for 2-year term – bringing any new applicant groups into the 2024-25 cycle.
- Do not apply an annual CPI increase rate (9.4%) – increases budget required by £13,279.
- New & emerging groups – to receive seeding financial support from Community Development.

Social Inclusion Grant

Provides micro grants (up to £500) for addressing loneliness and isolation and building social connections. This year the Community Development Manager has been working closely with NHSC Causeway Coast and Glens Loneliness Network and has secured match funding from NHSC and WHSC to increase the total budget - currently £10,000. It is anticipated that this could rise throughout the year.

Recommendations from Grant Governance Panel:

- Change name to Social Connections Fund.
- Change objectives to focus on loneliness & social isolation.
- Increase the level of contribution from 85% to 100% of costs.

- Travel expenses for volunteers - eligible cost (based on feedback from grant recipients e.g., volunteers who collect and return older people attending a luncheon club).
- Delay opening until February as December is too early for groups considering their programmes from April – March.
- Operate on a rolling basis.

Pilot VR / AR Demonstrator Grant

The Prosperity & Place Team are proposing a Pilot Virtual Reality (VR) or Augmented Reality (AR) Grant Programme for the incoming year.

The purpose of the grant is to support local entrepreneurs to make advancements with Virtual Reality (VR) or Augmented Reality (AR) applications.

It is proposed that local businesses/individuals would be able to apply for grants between £2,000 and £6,000 (50% matched funded) to contribute towards testing hours. (Full detail, including criteria for assessment in Annex 1, Page 35).

Following discussions with the North West Regional College, gaps have been identified for two potential support streams:

- Stream 1: Virtual Reality (VR)/ Augmented Reality (AR) Testing Support Grant for local businesses/individuals
- Stream 2: Virtual Reality (VR)/ Augmented Reality (AR) Development Support Grant for the charitable sector

It is proposed that Council will target Stream 1 for this pilot and commit a maximum of **£20,000** to deliver this programme. (Budget subject to Council's rate setting process). It is expected that Stream 1 will be serviced by referrals from the local Further Education Colleges who deliver the InnovateUS programme. Their support during the InnovateUS process will help identify projects which have the greatest potential to benefit from testing support.

Recommendations

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

1. Grant programmes 1-18 along with the assessment criteria and scheduling as detailed in Table 3 and summarised in **Annex A**.
2. Do not apply the annual CPI increase to the CDSG Programme.
3. Change name of Social Inclusion Grant Fund to Social Connections Fund.

Councillor Schenning stated Community Centres were now providing warm cafes for example, at an additional cost and not covered within their original grant aid through Community Development Support Grant and proposed that organisations can also apply for Social Inclusion Grant. Councillor McGurk supported the proposal and also referred to warm spaces and warm cafes.

Councillor MA McKillop queried the detail of Pilot VR Grant which had not been brought to the Grants Governance Panel.

Councillor Anderson questioned the £500 seed grant for new Groups and felt £1,000 support should be provided.

Alderman A McQuillan referred to adding the new Pilot VR/AR Demonstrator Grant at a time when Council was looking at costs and budgets. Alderman A McQuillan requested what assistance Council could give to Groups who could not obtain a Bank Account.

Following questions, the Funding Manager clarified the following areas;

- It would be most likely when the two Health Trusts work together, the contribution from the Western Health and Social Care Trust make funds available for the Limavady area and Northern Health and Social Care Trust make funds available for the area they support and that she would further clarify this;
- It was the case when applying for the Community Development Support grant, a Group could not apply for the Social Inclusion Grant and if that was to be changed it would be a matter for Council;
- Prosperity & Place was a new Grant Programme and a full report could be brought back and the grant deferred;
- Clarified the seed funding referred to was not a Grant and the Budget held by Community Support, the Community Development Manager could bring a report on how seed costs work;
- Referred to the Social Inclusion Grant in Table 2, that was small, in comparison, with 12 groups having applied, and 2 successful;
- Groups who do not have a Bank Account are being given leeway if they have a letter from the Bank advising they are in the process of setting up a bank account. A bank account was a way funders test the validity of a group and is part of due diligence, that no funder would accept an application from a Group that does not have their own bank account. The Funding Unit Manager advised she could speak to Audit, however, it was a challenge for many groups and suggested smaller groups may become part of a bigger organisation and was perhaps a conversation to have with the Networks.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McGurk and

AGREED - to recommend that Council allow Groups to apply to both the Community Development Support Grant (CDSG) and Social Inclusion Grant (Social Connections Fund).

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve

1. Grant programmes 1-17 along with the assessment criteria and scheduling as detailed in Table 3 and summarised in Annex A.
2. That Council defer Pilot VR/AR Demonstrator Grant (Grant no. 18), a detailed report to be brought back to Grants Governance Panel with a view to inform decision making.
3. Do not apply the annual CPI increase to the CDSG Programme.
4. Change name of Social Inclusion Grant Fund to Social Connections Fund.

Alderman A McQuillan stated he also agreed to accept Councillor Schenning's proposal.

6. TOWN CENTRE EXPERIENCE FUND

Report, previously circulated presented by the Funding Unit Manager.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the level of applications and the outcome of the assessment panel decisions in respect of the Town Centre Experience Fund 2022 and to seek Council's approval to issue letters of offer.

Background:

The Town Centre Experience Fund was open for grants, up to a maximum of £2,000, total programme fund is £24,000. Groups of traders/town centre stakeholders were encouraged to work together to introduce new experiences, activities, marketing or event development for their respective town centre. The Town Centre Experience Fund is included in Council's annual grant programme and the Prosperity & Place Business Plan 2022/23.

The Town Centre Experience Fund opened on Friday 7th October 2022 and closed at noon on Wednesday 2nd November 2022, with expenditure to be completed and claimed by Friday 31st March 2023. This was promoted through Councils corporate social media and direct to town centre forums, chambers of commerce.

Eligibility Criteria as follows:

- All applicants must be based within the settlements of Ballymoney, Ballycastle, Ballykelly, Bushmills, Coleraine, Cushendall, Dungiven, Garvagh, Kilrea, Limavady, Portrush and Portstewart.
- They must also be actively trading commercially or a constituted organisation.
- The lead applicant must have a business bank (or other financial institution) account for the sole purpose of their business/organisation – i.e. separate from personal finances.

- Businesses/organisations may only make one or be involved in one application per year.

Pre-Application Support:

Guidelines were made available to all interested businesses and included full details in respect of levels of award, exclusions and assessment and scoring processes. [Annex A].

A named contact was also provided to potential applicants wishing to discuss their idea pre-application.

Applications received

9 applications were received at closing time noon on Wednesday 2nd November 2022.

Following eligibility checks through the funding unit an assessment panel of Council Officers assessed the applications received against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes on Monday 7th November 2022.

Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be recommended for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy.

The following is a summary of the assessment of the applications:

Table 1: Summary of Applications (circulated).

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and the grant amount recommended are listed in table below.

Table 2: Town Centre Experience Fund 2022 - Assessment Scores & Recommended Grant Amounts (circulated).

Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback from the Town & Village management team to support future successful applications to the Fund.

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to award funding the applicants listed in Table 2 totalling £8,835 as per budget available.

The Funding Unit Manager provided corrections to the report and verbally updated the recommendation to Committee:

Town Centre Experience Fund – 2022	
No. of unsuccessful applications (scoring less than 65%)	3 2
No. of successful applications (scoring 65% and above)	5 6
Total Value of Town Centre Experience Fund recommended [based on maximum grant £2000 per applicant]	£8,835 £10,835

Verbal Recommendation - It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to award funding the applicants listed in Table 2 totalling £10,835 as per budget available.

The Funding Unit Manager advised of a correction to the Portstewart Traders Association applicant 9722, the total score was not 40%, was actually 70% and £2,000 recommended to that project.

Following questions, the Funding Unit Manager advised a mistake had been made on the assessment of the Portstewart Traders Association application, that Portstewart Traders Association were willing to change the date of the event, if it fitted in with the financial year and application reassessed prior to the Committee meeting.

The Funding Unit Manager advised Prosperity and Place would open their grant programme earlier in May next year;

- Rawee was a business in Portrush that provided skate boarding equipment their application to provide ramps and safety panels at Station Square, Council were providing the space;
- that more detail could be provided on the Applicants' and Projects and the issue of lack of detail noted going forward.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified an in-year saving would be made for any underspend;

- With regards to Portstewart Traders Association being aware of their score, reports are published on Council's website before the Committee meetings and in the public domain.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend that Council award funding the applicants listed in Table 2 totalling £10,835 as per budget available.

- * **Alderman Hillis left the meeting at 8.02pm and returned at 8.12pm during consideration of the Item.**
- * **Alderman A McQuillan, Councillors Anderson and McAuley left the meeting at 8.11pm and rejoined a short time later.**

7. AUTISM ACTION PLAN

Report, previously circulated presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

To progress the development and implementation of a Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Autism Action Plan for Sport & Wellbeing services and facilities.

Council is working to adopt and put in place an Autism Action Plan to make the council more Autism friendly. The aim of the action plan is to create better opportunities for autistic people and to make those opportunities more accessible. A draft Autism Action plan has been drawn up and will form the basis

on which services need to be adapted to become more accessible to Autistic citizens, families, and carers.

Background

Autism is currently the fastest growing disability in Europe with a 69% increase in diagnosis rates in Northern Ireland ([Impact Award — Autism NI](#))

Autism NI figures estimate there to be 30,000 autistic individuals/families in Northern Ireland. ([Impact Award — Autism NI](#))

Table: Rate of autism diagnosis for children during year ending 31 March 2022 (circulated).

For the first time ever the 2021 Census will capture the population of our autism community which will assist future planning of autism services in Northern Ireland.

In 2019 Council adopted the following Notice of Motions:

- *Council notes the increased number of citizens across Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorders. We want to ensure that those with A.S.D can have full access to services within our Borough. We want the Borough to be a place where those with Autism and their families feel welcome and supported.*
- *Council agrees to develop and bring forward proposals which would see the Borough become Autism Friendly. Council agrees to establish a working group in line with standing orders, and tasks that group with the responsibility of developing proposals for consideration.*
- *Council should engage with support groups, training providers and statutory partners within the sector to help shape proposals for councils' consideration. This would include structured Autism Awareness training for our staff in all council facilities as well as reaching out to businesses, sporting, and community groups across the borough.*
- *Consideration should also be given to council leading the way by offering quiet periods and spaces within our leisure Centres and community facilities across the borough in the hope the private sector will follow.*

(Proposed by Cllr MA McKillop, seconded by Cllr A Mulholland, adopted February 2019)

- *That this Council dedicates a 'Quiet Time' hour in all our Leisure Facilities.*
(Proposed by Cllr Nicholl, seconded by Cllr McGlinchey, adopted March 2019)

The Department of Health developed an Interim Autism Strategy (2021-22) which is focused around 3 key components:

- A healthy life with access to services on an equal and timely basis.
- A life with opportunities to live as an active citizen.
- An independent life with greater understanding and choices.

A further 5-year co-produced cross departmental strategy is being developed, and the Autism Amendment Act (2022) will form a large part of the actions within the new strategy.

Council has a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments/adaptations to services to promote accessibility to Autistic residents and families, under the Autism Amendment Act 2021 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

Current position

Officers have engaged with both the Northern and Western Health & Social Care Trusts, and Mid & East Antrim BC* to establish best practice in respect of the approach to be taken when adopting an Autism Friendly action plan specific to Sport & Wellbeing services and more generally in terms of a corporate approach to the established need.

** MEA has already established its Autism Friendly programme which follows a similar format to that specified in CCG's notice of motion. Officers were briefed on lessons learned, training programmes implemented, and collaborative approach taken with external agencies / support groups.*

Based on the above engagement process and with further discussions with statutory partners in the sector, officers have developed a draft action plan for consideration by Members (Annex A).

The key stakeholders engaged for the progression of the Autism Friendly project are:

- Northern Health & Social Care Trust / Northern Area Autism Forum*
- Western Health & Social Care Trust / Western Area Autism Forum
- Public Health Agency (PHA)
- Autism NI

**The Northern Area Forum has a reference group of parents, carers and autistic adults who are an integral part of all the work taken forward acting as the voice of the autistic population. This reference group is key member of the forum independent to the Northern Health Trust. This knowledge and skill will be brought together to support the families and improve the lives of people in the Northern Area, delivering on the Regional Autism Strategy at local level.*

Next steps

- As per the notice of motion (2.1), Officers will work towards the establishment of a Councillor Working Group to consider the Draft Action Plan and its implementation.
- A draft Terms of Reference will be developed for the Working Group outlining the role and responsibilities plus wider representation from statutory partners to add value and strategic input into the action plan.
- Officers will work internally with other service areas to consider and bring back to the Working Group proposals for wider implementation of Autism

Friendly actions relevant to each service area, further reports to be taken to relevant Council Committees for consideration / approval as appropriate.

- Officers will work externally with statutory partners and stakeholders and develop, via the Northern & Western Health & Social Care Trusts, access to Area Autism Forums and Autism support groups, to best represent the views of the autistic population across the Borough in the on-going development of the CCGBC Autism Friendly Action Plan.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the work to date in the drafting of an Autism Friendly Action Plan for CCGBC and to approve a method of Member allocation to the Working Group by D'Hondt as follows.

To allocate 5 Members to the Autism Friendly Working Group through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee, with an additional seat allocated to Council's nominated Diversity Champion (if not a member of the L&D Committee).

This would result in the following allocation:

- 1 DUP
- 2 SF
- 3 UU
- 4 DUP
- 5 SDLP

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified the report had been presented from Sport and Wellbeing and could be considered as a Corporate Action Plan going forward, the membership from Leisure and Development, or Council wide.

Councillor MA McKillop welcomed the report and stated disappointment that progress of the motion had taken three years and Council had let the autism community down, whilst neighbouring Council's had made huge progress and Council should make up for lost time to have a Strategy in place.

Alderman Duddy shared the same concern, and referred to the levels within the Autism Spectrum, Alderman Duddy queried setting up a working group at this stage in the mandate, or whether it could be absorbed.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified there was not an overarching working group that would encapsulate the area.

Councillor McMullan advised Council should liaise with the Children's Commissioner and Department for Education and undertake staff training on Autism awareness.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified engagement with stakeholders would broaden, Council would also be benchmarked against other Council's they are currently engaged with. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified the Diversity Champion was Councillor C McShane.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

AGREED - to recommend that Council allocate 5 Members to the Autism Friendly Working Group through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee, with an additional seat allocated to Council's nominated Diversity Champion (if not a member of the L&D Committee).

8. AIR SHOW PROJECT BOARD MINUTES

Notes of the Airshow Project Board Meeting held Friday 7 October 2022 were circulated.

Councillor McGurk referred to the intention of the Air Show to return in 2024 within the notes, that in light of the financial situation Council were facing it may require a second thought, last year's event came out of Council Reserves and with the cost pressures Council are going to be facing to be in a similar situation in 2024. Councillor McGurk proposed that Council do not automatically go and fund the event and take time to see if it was affordable for Council.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the Notice of Motion in 2020, to deliver an Air Show linked to the Queen's Jubilee in 2022 and stated consideration of holding the Air Show every two years would be considered, that it was not an automatic decision and the intention to bring the 2023 Events Programme to Leisure and Development committee in December and require a Council decision.

Councillor Holmes commented it was important to have a look at it next month, it was a lot of money and he stated he was not entirely convinced the best way to spend money in the area, there may be other things to bring economic development. Councillor Holmes stated there were a lot of costs and hoped it would have been smaller.

Councillor McAuley stated Sinn Féin had never supported the Air Show and were using the cost of living as an opportunity against the event.

Councillor Peacock rebuked the comment.

The report was NOTED.

9. MOUNTSANDEL WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Notes of Mountsandel Working Group Meeting held Thursday 27 October 2022 were circulated.

The report was NOTED.

10. RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Notes of the Rural and Agriculture Working Group meeting held Monday 27 June 2022 and held Monday 27 October 2022 were circulated.

Councillor McMullan requested an update on the correspondence that had been sent to DAERA. He advised it was a Rural and Agricultural Working Group and there should be 50% content on the Agenda for each. Councillor McMullan stated he had received support from farming families for a voice from Council.

Alderman A McQuillan considered the Group did not have enough power and questioned its existence.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that on the subject of the Northern Ireland Protocol and the effects upon the movement of pharmaceuticals for the agricultural and farming community, Council had not received correspondence from the DAERA Minister.

The report was NOTED.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

12. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

13. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultation documents.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR C MCSHANE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BAIRD REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2022, RECONVENED ON MONDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2022.

Parental Alienation Motion

That Causeway Coast and Glens Council recognises that domestic abuse can take many forms.

To recognise that Parental Alienation can be captured as a form of domestic abuse as it is accepted as a group of behaviours.

That this Council acknowledges that more needs to be done to include training and education within the area of parental alienation, so that professionals are trained to meet the ongoing needs of families.

Furthermore, that this Council writes to the Justice Minister to highlight the issue of parental alienation, raising the concerns of families who have been impacted locally and requesting a meeting with representatives from the La

Dolce Vita Project, to help inform and shape future solutions for children and families involved in court related matters.

Councillor C McShane stated she wished to raise awareness and in the absence of a Justice Minister that Council now write to the Permanent Secretary, Richard Pengelly.

Councillor C McShane stated the definition of Parental Alienation varies, it may be defined as a process by which a child is manipulated by one parent to a degree that they dislike the other parent and no longer wish to spend time with them. It is often a term that is used to refer to estrangement of a child and sometimes that parent's extended family. While contentious, Parental Alienation is recognised across the world through divorce and court cases and leads to tragic and sad circumstances for children and individual parents.

The Dolce Vita Project, founded in Derry, supports those affected by domestic abuse and parental alienation and the motion passed in other Councils. Councillor C McShane hoped to raise awareness and reach out to Causeway Coast and Glens to support and have more joined up working to support the people involved. She advised she had contact information for the individual whom had asked to bring the motion and to meet with representatives.

In the absence of Alderman Baird, Alderman Hillis seconded the Notice of Motion. He stated Parental Alienation is very serious for all involved, it can lead to depression, violence, stress and has very sad effects on everyone in society.

AGREED – to recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion and write to Permanent Secretary Richard Pengelly.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

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

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.

* **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.51pm.**

15. FINANCIAL POSITION

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report to provide Members with a financial summary of the 2022/23 in-year position at Period 6.

Further detail was provided within the confidential report.

In response to questions, the Director of Leisure and Development clarified Leisure Centre prices were raised by 6% in April and the family membership package had succeeded its target at this point. Further increases would be brought to Council as part of Rates setting to include proposed increases in Holiday and Leisure Parks, relevant to the CPI index (Consumer Price Index) and backdated.

16. MOUNTSANDEL VISITOR PROJECT

Confidential report, previously circulated presented by SIB Project officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on the independent appraisal of the Mountsandel Visitor Experience Project contained within the Strategic Outline Case (SOC); and to request approval to remove the project from the Growth Deal programme.

Further detail was provided within the confidential report circulated.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note the independent appraisal of the Mountsandel Visitor Experience Project contained within the Strategic Outline Case; and to approve the removal of the project from the Growth Deal programme.

The project remains on Council's Capital Programme (Stage 1) and in doing so, Council maintains its commitment to the longer-term development of the Mountsandel site and continues to pursue major external funding opportunities, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Peace Plus and the Levelling Up Fund.

Councillor Anderson stated a specific quotation for placing a bridge across the River had not been obtained and varying estimates had been approximated only. There was an opportunity to have a tourist attraction.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the legislative compliance required and nature of the major engineering structure for the proposed project. He advised a site visit had been undertaken by Doran's. The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the timetable for the Strategic Outline Case to be completed by March 2023 and Council did have time to obtain the information, to inform the decision. The Director advised the sluice gates included historical monuments and were not designed for a vertical force.

* **Chair left the meeting from 9.26pm-9.30pm for a comfort break.**

Elected Members stated support for the Mountsandel Visitor Project, and summarised below.

Alderman Hillis supported the proposal and to work towards a long term goal of a tourist attraction for Coleraine, whilst aware of limited funding.

Alderman Duddy stated support for the Project and to be taken to Stage 1 of the Capital Programme.

Councillor McGurk suggested working with Dr Caoimhe Archibald who had undertaken work on the Project in consultation with Rivers Agency and supported obtaining more accurate costs.

Councillor Watton supported the potential of the project, that he considered could only be funded by Central Government.

Councillor MA McKillop referred to the report, a strategic risk was the Attraction and was not clear, and queried this, she supported Councillor Anderson's proposal.

SIB Project Officer clarified consultation had taken place with The Honourable The Irish Society and there were a number of operational constraints.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – to recommend that Council defer consideration subject to obtaining two quotations from specialist engineers to place a basic industrial type bridge across the River.

In response to the Director of Leisure and Development, it was proposed by Alderman Duddy and supported by Councillor Schenning that the Director of Leisure and Development share the confidential report with the representatives of the Mountsandel Working Group, whom he would be meeting.

17. BALLYCASTLE TO BALLYMONEY GREENWAY

Confidential report, previously circulated presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the landowner engagement for the proposed Ballycastle and Ballymoney Greenway as part of the Growth Deal Programme and to make recommendations for the way ahead.

Recommendations

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

- To take a phased approach to the delivery of the Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway with an initial focus on:

Section 1 - Ballycastle Seafront to Ballycastle Forest.

Section 2 - Ballycastle Forest to Hillside Road.

Section 3 - Hillside Road to Carrowreagh Road (as far as positive landowners currently allow).

- That officers work with DFI to progress with this approach while retaining the aspiration to deliver the full Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway via the Growth Deal Programme (10-15 years).

Councillor Peacock stated support for the substantial project which had significant community support and would be hugely beneficial.

Councillor MA McKillop posed questions related to the sections, around the Ballycastle Masterplan, landowners and gradients.

Alderman A McQuillan stated Ballymoney should be taken off as it was not referenced.

The Director of Leisure and Development responded regarding the location of the Ballycastle Masterplan, he advised the project was a Strategic Outline Case and advised the Department for Infrastructure were looking at strategic road development which would be the preferred option for a joint project.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend that Council

- Take a phased approach to the delivery of the Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway with an initial focus on:
 - Section 1 - Ballycastle Seafront to Ballycastle Forest.
 - Section 2 - Ballycastle Forest to Hillside Road.
 - Section 3 - Hillside Road to Carrowreagh Road (as far as positive landowners currently allow).
- That officers work with DFI to progress with this approach while retaining the aspiration to deliver the full Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway via the Growth Deal Programme (10-15 years).

18. BURNFOOT PITCH PROJECT TENDER REPORT

Confidential report, previously circulated presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on progress to date with the planned major remedial drainage works to the existing grass sports pitch in Burnfoot; and to request approval for a £247k investment that will enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from a recent procurement exercise.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note progress to date with the planned major remedial drainage works to the existing grass pitch in Burnfoot; and approve a £247k investment that will enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from the tender report.

Members are requested to note that this decision is currently affordable within Council's Capital Programme and that this will constitute the Final Investment Decision and allow the project to proceed to 'Stage 3 – Construction' which is scheduled to commence in January 2023 and complete in March 2023.

Alderman Duddy stated the project had been in the top ten Capital Projects since the inception of Council, stated concern for the modular buildings, that Macosquin were still using a shipping container. Alderman Duddy referred to the age of the Notices of Motion, Capital Projects and now added costs. Alderman Duddy congratulated the outside funding sourced.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the modular changing to be spent by 31 March 2023, a degree of flexibility within the Small Settlement regeneration Programme a number of months after that, dependent upon Planning and the tender process.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Alderman A McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note progress to date with the planned major remedial drainage works to the existing grass pitch in Burnfoot; and approve a £247k investment that will enable Council to appoint the recommended contractor from the tender report;
- that Council note that this decision is currently affordable within Council's Capital Programme and that this will constitute the Final Investment Decision and allow the project to proceed to 'Stage 3 – Construction' which is scheduled to commence in January 2023 and complete in March 2023.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Watton
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

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

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

There were no matters of any other relevant business.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 10.00pm.

Chair