

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023

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No.	Item	Decision
1.	The Mayor's Business	Information
2.	Apologies	None received
3.	Declarations of Members' Interests	Alderman S McKillop, Councillors Hunter, MA McKillop, McMullan and Schenning
4.	Deputation – Northern Health and Social Care Trust	That Council respond to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust - Working with you to transform Acute Maternity Services, and engage on Medical expertise in the local area, to be involved in the response
5.	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held Monday 12 December 2022, adjourned	Confirmed as a correct record
6.	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held Thursday 5 January 2023	Confirmed as a correct record
7.	Minutes of the Reconvened Council Meeting held Tuesday 10 January 2023, adjourned from Tuesday 6 December 2022 and Monday 12 December 2022	Confirmed as a correct record
8.	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held Monday 16 January 2023, including Business reconvened from Monday 12 December 2022	Confirmed as a correct record

9.	Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held Wednesday 21 December 2022	Received and Noted
10.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 20 December 2022, adjourned	Noted
11.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 January 2023, including Business reconvened from Tuesday 20 December 2022	
	Matters Arising	
11.1	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o) (Item 27) - Admittance Fees Council's Leisure Facilities (Alderman Duddy) (Item 27 (i))	Information
11.2	Tourism Events Schedule 23/24 (Item 5)	<u>Amendment Lost</u> That Council do not accept the Events Programme as it is; that Council takes note of the debate on the evening which showed a lack of a geographical spread of events, that noted a lack of an even spend across events; that Council look at all events across the board, rather than cherry picking events, such as seasonal events, that ratepayers expect
11.3	Community Centre Fees and Charges (Item 10)	Information
11.4	Adoption of the Minutes	Adopted and recommendations therein approved
12.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Wednesday 11 January 2023	
	Matters Arising	
12.1	Riverside Park, Ballymoney (Councillor Wallace) (Item 20 (iii))	Information
12.2	Castlerock Footbridge Update (Item 10)	Information

12.3	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Mulholland, Seconded by Councillor Quigley, referred from Council Meeting 6th December 2022 (re dog run Portstewart) (Item 14)	Information
12.4	Adoption of the Minutes	Adopted and recommendations therein approved
13.	Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 12 January 2023	Adopted and recommendations therein approved
14.	Minutes of Corporate Policy & Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 24 January 2023	
	Matters Arising	
14.1	Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) – NI100 Stained Glass Window (Item 5)	Amendment Lost That Council approve Option 2. To review the design, giving due consideration to matters raised within the EQIA report
14.2	Adoption of the Minutes	Adopted and recommendations therein approved
15.	Minutes of the Reconvened Audit Committee meeting held Tuesday 31 January 2023, adjourned from Wednesday 14 December 2022	Adopted and recommendations therein approved
16.	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	None
17.	Conferences	Noted
18.	Correspondence	
(i)	NI Housing Council correspondence	Noted
(ii)	M Moore, Programme Director ICS NI, P Cavanagh, Director of Planning and Commissioning, Department of Health	
(iii)	G Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive	That Council write to Grainia Long, Chief Executive Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Nicole Lappin, Chair, Northern Ireland Housing

		Executive Board to express Council's concern regarding the condition of properties due to the fact there is no maintenance availability. A resolution must be found with maintenance staff and a pay deal done, to ensure the necessary maintenance works are being carried out and carried out in a timely manner
19.	Consultation Schedule	Noted
20.	Seal Documents	Seal Affixed
21.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman S McKillop and seconded by Councillor Anderson	Referred to Corporate Policy & Resources Committee
	'In Committee' (Items 22-23.2 inclusive)	
22.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 17 January 2023, including Business Reconvened from Tuesday 20 December 2022 'In Committee'	
	Matters Arising 'In Committee'	
22.1	Mountsandel Project (Item 24)	Information
23.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee Meeting held Wednesday 11 January 2023 'In Committee'	
	Matters Arising 'In Committee'	
23.1	Efficiency Saving and Income Generating Proposals (Item 15)	That the grant of (approximately) £26,000 LCDI Recycling Programme remains in place to protect jobs to assist LCDI to continue the

		<i>valuable service they provide in recycling and waste management</i>
23.2	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Mulholland, Seconded by Councillor Quigley, referred from Council Meeting 6th December 2022 (re dog run Portstewart) (Item 14)	<i>Information</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Wallace (C)

Present : Alderman Baird (C), Boyle (C), Duddy (C), Fielding (C), Hillis (C), Knight-McQuillan (R), McKeown (C), S McKillop (R), McLean (C), A McQuillan (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Beattie (R), Callaghan (C), Callan (R), Chivers (R), Dallat O'Driscoll (R), Holmes (C), Hunter (R), McAuley (C), McCandless (C), McCaw (R), McCorkell (R), McGlinchey (R), McGurk (R), MA McKillop (C), McMullan (R), C McQuillan (R), C McShane (R), P McShane (C), Mulholland (C), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (C), Schenning (C), Scott (C), Storey (C), Watton (C), Wilson (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (R)
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (R)
P Donaghy, Democratic and Central Services Manager (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)
J Mills, Land and Property Solicitor (R)
M Jones, Council Solicitor (R)
I Owens, Committee and Member Services Officer (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

J Winfield, ICT Manager (R)
A Lennox, ICT Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)

In attendance : Northern Health and Social Care Trust representatives:
J Welsh, Chief Executive
S Pullins, Director of Nursing, Paediatrics, Women Services and Corporate Support
C Diamond, Assistant Director of Midwifery
D Morgan, Clinical Director Obstetrics & Gynae
N Carson, Carson Head of Corporate Communications

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

Key – C = Attended in the Chamber
R = Attended Remotely

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

The Mayor opened the meeting and extended a welcome to members of the press and public in attendance and provided guidance in relation to Council's Remote Meetings Protocol and audio recordings.

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor asked Elected Members to be respectful to each other when speaking or listening.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies recorded.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Declarations of Interest were received for:

Alderman S McKillop in Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 January 2023, including Business reconvened from Tuesday 20 December 2022, Item 4 Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.

Councillor MA McKillop in Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 January 2023, including Business reconvened from Tuesday 20 December 2022, Item 4 Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.

Councillor McMullan in Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 January 2023, including Business reconvened from Tuesday 20 December 2022, Item 4 Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.

Councillor Schenning in Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Wednesday 11 January 2023, Item 15 Efficiency Saving and Income Generating Proposals.

4. DEPUTATION – NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

The Mayor welcomed NHSCT representatives to the meeting and invited J Welsh, Chief Executive, S Pullins, Director of Nursing, Paediatrics, Women Services and Corporate Support, C Diamond, Assistant Director of Midwifery and D Morgan, Clinical Director Obstetrics and Gynae to present to Council.

NHSCT Chief Executive thanked Council for the Invitation and stated they were happy to also facilitate face-to-face meetings.

Clinical Director Obstetrics and Gynae presented on the Future Model for Maternity Services in NHSCT via Power Point presentation as follows:

FMU: Freestanding Midwifery Unit

- Midwives take professional responsibility for care during labour and birth for straightforward pregnancies.

MLU: Midwifery-led unit

- Maternity units run solely by midwives.

NISTAR: NI Specialist Transport and Retrieval

- The joint pediatric and neonatal transfer service for NI.

Intra-partum care & post-partum care

- Care during labour & care following child birth.

Context

The Long term future of NHSCT Maternity Service

- Planned new-build Women and Children's Unit on the Antrim Hospital site - high-quality, purpose-built accommodation for maternity and paediatric services. Subject to business case approval and funding availability – expected in service 2027/28.

However, due to concerns in relation to workforce, safety and sustainability, service reform in advance of a new build is required.

There is a pressing need for change – the service have worked really hard to sustain services but this is becoming more and more challenging and the team believe it is unacceptable to wait for harm to happen, preferring to proactively work towards a safe and sustainable interim maternity model.

The Case for Change

- The current configuration of maternity services in the Northern Trust is a fragile and vulnerable service model that is unsustainable
- Staff shortages create difficulties in staffing safely obstetric services on the Causeway site
- A need for a more clinically sustainable model of maternity care
- A need to improve standards and outcomes by reducing intervention rates

Sustainability

- Significant clinician concerns around maintenance of skills in complex cases and exposure to emergencies
 - The clinical team have escalated concerns around intervention rates, the lack of exposure to emergencies and the gradual but sustained erosion of skills and believe it is unacceptable to wait for harm to happen, preferring to proactively work towards a safe and sustainable maternity model.
- Significant challenges with medical staffing
 - A recent advertisement to recruit two new consultant obstetrician/ gynaecologist posts to the Causeway site, failed to attract any applicants. The impact of inability to recruit to the consultant tier is that the Causeway service is currently in an extremely vulnerable and precarious position
- Over reliance on locum cover – safety concern

Challenges

- Maintaining skills and exposure to emergencies in an environment where 2 babies birthed each day (average)
- Challenges recruiting to Causeway - midwifery & medical

- Hybrid model in Causeway (no-where else in NI)
- Growing issue around neonatal transfers

Future Model: Options

(in advance of Women & Children's Unit at AAH)

Option 1

Do nothing – maintain the status quo

Option 2

Enhance Causeway maternity services in terms of investment for neonatal support, staffing, training and rotation

Option 3

- Consultant-led births move to Antrim site providing intrapartum care for an additional 600-700 births per annum
- Development of a Freestanding Midwifery Unit in Causeway for approximately 200- 300 women suitable for low intervention midwifery-led care and birth.
- Retain and enhance early pregnancy assessment units, antenatal and postnatal clinics and ambulatory services on the Causeway site

Option 4

- Move all births to Antrim site providing intrapartum care for an additional 900 births per annum.
- Retain and enhance early pregnancy assessment units, antenatal and postnatal clinics and ambulatory services on Causeway site

Option 5

Move all maternity services to Antrim Area Hospital.

Discounted Options after consideration by the clinical team

Option 1

Option Description – Do nothing, maintain status quo

Discounted rationale

- This option is used as a baseline only and does not provide solutions to the issues raised.
- Does not address the clinical safety concerns raised
- Not deliverable or sustainable in the medium to long term due to workforce constraints and recruitment concerns
- Not an effective use of current medical staff resources due to decreasing number of births

Option 2

Option Description – Enhancement of Causeway maternity service in terms of investment for neonatal support, staffing, training and rotation

Discounted rationale

- Not deliverable or sustainable due to workforce constraints and recruitment concerns

- Resource impact would be significant and not proportionate to activity levels
- Inability to implement in a timely manner due to lack of staffing and budget constraints

Option 5

Option Description – Move all maternity services to Antrim

- Not deliverable in the short to medium term (until a new build complete) due to the limited footprint in Antrim
- Unable to implement in a timely way
- Removes all access to local maternity services for women in Causeway

Future Model: Clinically Deliverable Option 3

(in advance of Women & Children's Unit at AAH)

Option 3:

- Consultant-led births move to the Antrim Area Hospital site.
- Develop a freestanding midwifery unit in Causeway for approximately 2-300 women suitable for low-intervention midwifery-led care and birth.
- Retain and enhance early pregnancy assessment unit, enhanced antenatal and postnatal clinics and scheduled ambulatory services on the Causeway site.

Deliverability – subject to the outcome of the Coroner's recommendation for a comprehensive review by the Department of Health (DoH) of staff numbers, training and policies within FMUs. This follows the recent inquest into the death of a baby at the MLU Lagan Valley.

Future Model: Clinically deliverable Option 4 (in advance of Women & Children's Unit at AAH)

Option 4

- Move all births to Antrim Area Hospital site.
- Retain and enhance early pregnancy assessment units, enhanced antenatal and postnatal clinics and ambulatory services on the Causeway Hospital site.

Vision for Causeway

Will be driven by population health needs. The population served by Causeway Hospital is changing.

Over the next 20 years the number of births in the area is projected to fall by 11% and the population of older people (over 75 years) is expected to grow by 65% (NISRA)

Causeway in the Future

- Strategically important
- Level 1 Emergency Department
- Ambulatory pathways for older people
- Enhanced diagnostics
- Increased elective surgery
- Consideration of mental health needs of older people

The Mayor thanked the Clinical Director and invited questions from Elected Members.

Councillor Storey asked how realistic it was that capital provision would be made available for the new build, of £150M for the Women and Children's Unit and stated the likelihood that in 2027/28 would still be looking for money to carry out the work and further delay.

NHSCT Chief Executive advised they were pushing for significant investment in the Northern Trust, investment had gone into East and West Trusts, and it had been recognised by colleagues in the Department of Health's ten-year capital plan. She stated financial challenges were more from a revenue perspective. An interim solution was needed until the new build.

Alderman Baird thanked Health staff for their efforts during the pandemic and commended their sterling work. Alderman Baird posed three questions, 1) will there still be a Consultant available and ready to help at Causeway Hospital, 2) what were the resources like in Antrim Area Hospital for trained staff and the level of support required to deal with an influx, 3) was there a risk that instead of using Antrim Area Hospital, that people from The Glens may be directed to Altnagelvin Hospital?

Clinical Director advised a Free Standing Midwifery led unit would not have a consultant available. During the pandemic all births were centralised in Antrim Area Hospital for four months and fewer women went to Altnagelvin Hospital than expected, and would not anticipate a lot of women choosing to go to Altnagelvin.

Assistant Director of Midwifery added this had been trialled as a model during 2020, work has been done to streamline services and improve how to work through ambulatory areas, there were robust contingency plans employed for additional women coming into service. Additional modelling has shown NHSCT will be able to manage women, should they come from Causeway. During centralisation, out of the women who would have went to Antrim Area Hospital, 1 in 10 went to the Western Trust, and roads have improved in recent times.

Councillor Quigley stated she had local baby deliveries, and staff were excellent. Councillor Quigley stated concern, and queried the rationale as there were services at The Royal and City Hospitals, Belfast, eleven miles away. Councillor Quigley queried investment to sustain Causeway neo natal unit, and a Consultant shared service.

Clinical Director stated the concerns were valid, however from a Human Resources and workforce prospective a neo natal unit required considerable staff recruiting to the service and was challenging. The issue of staff travelling does happen, does make a role less attractive to people. He advised transition in the medical workforce, people want to work less than full time, in a Team of people to provide a service. A small unit is extremely difficult to staff and maintain safely.

NHSCT Chief Executive clarified historical decisions had been taken, the Northern Trust the largest geographical Trust with urban and rural areas. A district General Hospital for the Northern Area was created in Antrim, and it is hard to keep services across two sites. Antrim Area Hospital is funded as a District General Hospital and attracts funding from the Department of Health. She advised Belfast hospitals are a different Trust and catchment area. NHSCT Chief Executive advised leading to difficult challenges, the inability to keep services across two sites and to listen to the clinical teams regarding the right way and safest way to provide services. High risk women already give birth at Antrim Area Hospital. Either option to retain and enhance anti natal and post-natal services at Causeway, and bring some services not currently provided there. Obstetric led births are not provided Causeway Hospital.

Assistant Director of Midwifery commented on the distance to travel for a birth, she advised last year 14 babies were born before arrival (BBA's) and the year before 14 BBA's, irrespective of where there are acute services. She advised of a 24/7 access telephone service and community midwives. She clarified there was no evidence distance travelled less than an hour was a worse outcome for the baby.

Councillor Hunter thanked the representatives for their attendance, and stated she was proud to have Causeway Hospital, she questioned what would be the possibility of maintaining Midwifery Led Unit now that numbers were down, and if there were any changes made to Causeway Hospital, has this been considered overall in the Regional planning for Trusts to work together, as a collaborative approach.

Assistant Director of Midwifery advised on evidence Free standing Midwifery Unit (FMU) a safe option for women who are suitable and no risk, they do deliver services for women to have a home birth, the criteria the same. In theory, it is a possibility however, she stated a caveat that until the Lagan Valley Coroner Inquest is completed and reported on, the Department of Health cannot have a Free Standing Midwifery Unit and there are none at present.

Assistant Director of Midwifery advised discussion had taken place with Western Trust colleagues, and should there be a change in services will flex and respond, and planning for all women to come to Antrim Area Hospital.

Councillor McCaw thanked NHSCT for their hard work. He referred to attracting Consultants, a lack of certainty, what affect has there been on being unable to get people apply for posts. He stated a range of Services at Causeway Hospital, how would that affect Gynae, paediatrics, ICU, A&E Department, would there be a wider reconfiguration of health services in the area, for example, consolidating services.

NHSCT Chief Executive referred to NISRA data, a reduction in the number of births and significant growth in the number over 75's, influx of visitors to the North Coast and to plan for the total number. Regarding the future of Causeway Hospital, determined to keep a Level 1 Emergency Department, anaesthetics, and would like to bring more elective surgery. The former Health Minister announced a review into service reconfiguration within Northern Ireland and as part of that Causeway can do a higher amount elective surgery, frailty

assessment unit or direct assessment services, building around an older population, based around the needs of the population.

Councillor Mulholland queried whether there had been research carried out as to why high level posts were unable to be filled, apart from the uncertainty. She queried the statistics comparison to Antrim area and how staff feel about the fact they may have to move to Antrim.

Clinical Director advised the main issues on recruitment were frequency of on call, and maintaining skills frequently.

Assistant Director of Midwifery detailed initial communication engagement, and workforce planning should there be a change. She stated opportunities for those want to stay local, or move to Antrim, depending on the final outcome.

NHSCT Chief Executive stated a fall in births across all areas of Northern Ireland, most dramatic in Causeway Coast and Glens and an increase in Older people most dramatic, and would provide the information to Council.

Alderman A McQuillan stated he was sceptical of the Consultation process. He thanked staff for a recent visit he had experienced.

Alderman A McQuillan referred to a recent build up of ambulances outside A&E, that were unable to have patients admitted, a serious incident and people required care.

NHSCT Chief Executive echoed thanks for all staff, the service was stretched. She advised this had been experienced at every Emergency Department across Ireland, South of Ireland, UK, it was a combination of ongoing Covid numbers, increased numbers of flu patients, paediatric patients RSV and Strep A problems. She stated the number of acute hospital beds per one thousand of the population N Ireland average is 1.3, but the average in the Northern Trust area is 1.03. Investment has been secured for Antrim Area Hospital for two modular wards on site, that will, in turn, ease at Causeway Hospital. It was not the quality of care delivering for anyone and they were working with the Department of Health colleagues.

Councillor McAuley referred to the Northern Trust briefing paper paragraph 7 and cited from the document. He queried whether the Consultant had not retired and other one left, was it that, that has brought the issue to the fore. He questioned why not enhance Causeway Hospital, were there plans for a Capital spend at Causeway, he stated concern the decision already made.

NHSCT Chief Executive advised wanting to build up elective surgery, ambulatory pathway direct assessment and frailty and was in conversation with Department of Health and keen to come back to Council on this.

Clinical Director clarified it had nothing to do with location, it was to do with Services provided within it. Specialists' areas of expertise, larger teams and Consultants providing services together. Consultations offer options clinically deliverable.

NHSCT Chief Executive summarised the consultation open until 3rd March, welcomed engagement in an open forum, happy to have face-to-face meetings and encouraged people to respond.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Mulholland and

RESOLVED – that Council respond to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust - *Working with you to transform Acute Maternity Services*, and engage on Medical expertise in the local area, to be involved in the response (submission by 3rd March 2023).

- * **Alderman Hillis arrived at the meeting at 7.17pm.**
- * **Councillor P McShane arrived at the meeting at 7.26pm.**
- * **Representatives left the meeting at 8.29pm.**

5. MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022, ADJOURNED

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held Monday 12 December 2022 adjourned, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD THURSDAY 5 JANUARY 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor McCaw
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held Thursday 5 January 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

7. MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2023, ADJOURNED FROM TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2022 and MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Reconvened Council Meeting held Tuesday 10 January 2023, adjourned from Tuesday 6 December 2022 and

Monday 12 December 2022, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

8. MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2023, INCLUDING BUSINESS RECONVENED FROM MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022.

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Alderman McLean
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held Monday 16 January 2023, including business reconvened from Monday 12 December 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

9. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2022

Copy, previously circulated.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held Wednesday 21 December 2022 are received and noted.

10. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2022, ADJOURNED

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor McCaw
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 20 December 2022, adjourned are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

11. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023, INCLUDING BUSINESS RECONVENED FROM TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2022

Copy, previously circulated.

Matters Arising

11.1 Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o) (Item 27) - Admittance Fees Council's Leisure Facilities (Alderman Duddy) (Item 27 (i))

Councillor Quigley requested information exploring a reduction in admittance fees to Leisure Facilities for individuals over 60 years old to include consideration of free entry.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the current concession was 33% reduction on pay as you go rate, and pending the outcome of the Rates meeting, a report would be brought to the March committee meeting.

Elected Members considered it would be useful to have the report prior to the Rates Meeting.

11.2 Tourism Events Schedule 23/24 (Item 5)

Councillor McGurk stated she was not content with options to reduce Christmas and Halloween events, there were questions regarding the overall distribution and spend geographically.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor McGurk

Seconded by Councillor Peacock

- That Council do not accept the Events Programme as it is; that Council takes note of the debate on the evening which showed a lack of a geographical spread of events, that noted a lack of an even spend across events; that Council look at all events across the board, rather than cherry picking events, such as seasonal events, that ratepayers expect.

Councillor McAuley clarified his proposal was to review and to look at the options for Christmas and Halloween events for the main towns, and an increase in funding, he stated that attendance at Christmas Switch On events was poor.

The Mayor put the Amendment to the Council to vote.

17 Members voted For, 23 Members voted Against, 0 Members Abstained.

The Mayor declared the Amendment lost.

11.3 Community Centre Fees and Charges (Item 10)

Alderman Duddy queried when Council would receive the report on Millburn Community Centre, to reduce energy costs.

The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to provide a response to Alderman Duddy within 24 hours.

11.4 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Watton

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 17 January 2023, including Business Reconvened from Tuesday 20 December 2022 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

12. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Matters Arising

12.1 Riverside Park, Ballymoney (Councillor Wallace) (Item 20 (iii))

Councillor McAuley sought a timeline for completion of the Riverside Park Bridges works.

The Director of Environmental Services clarified the works would be completed within 4-6 weeks.

The Mayor commended the clean-up in Riverside Park.

12.2 Castlerock Footbridge Update (Item 10)

Alderman McQuillan sought an update.

The Director of Environmental Services clarified a report would be brought to the next Environmental Services Committee meeting.

12.3 Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Mulholland, Seconded by Councillor Quigley, referred from Council Meeting 6th December 2022 (re dog run Portstewart) (Item 14)

Alderman Baird queried whether a Public Consultation had been carried out, in comparison to Ballintoy access on privately owned land and was there a distinction with private and public land.

The Director of Environmental Services advised the Dog Control Order Legislation required Consultation to be carried out, there was no statutory requirement to consult to fence off an area for a dog run.

Councillor Mulholland requested a Legal Opinion on whether Council should have carried out a Consultation.

The Mayor advised the Legal Opinion would be received '*In Committee*' at the end of the meeting.

12.4 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Alderman Fielding and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held Wednesday 11 January 2023 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

13. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Alderman McLean
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday 12 January 2023 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

14. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Matters Arising

14.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) – NI100 Stained Glass Window (Item 5)

Alderman Boyle referred to Items from the Minutes of the Equality Impact Assessment, and cited from the document.

Alderman Boyle concluded the EQIA do not say any particular image would affect Good Relations, they say it is the combined impact of images together and they suggest to be more inclusive and reflective of diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity and disability, to proceed with caution, Alderman Boyle proposed an Amendment, Option 2.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor P McShane

- That Council approve Option 2. To review the design, giving due consideration to matters raised within the EQIA report.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McCandless

- That the Question Now Be Put.

The Mayor put the motion to the Council to vote.
21 Members voted For, 17 Members voted Against, 0 Members Abstained.
The Mayor declared the Question Now Be Put Carried.

The Mayor put the Amendment to the Council to vote.
17 Members voted For, 21 Members voted Against, 0 members Abstained.
The Mayor declared the motion lost.

* **Chief Finance Officer left the meeting at 9.22pm.**

14.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor C McShane
Seconded by Alderman McLean and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 24 January 2023 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

15. MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2023, ADJOURNED FROM WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Alderman McKeown
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Reconvened Audit Committee meeting held Tuesday 31 January 2023, adjourned from Wednesday 14 December 2022 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

16. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

17. CONFERENCES

The purpose of the report is to inform Elected Members of conferences and courses they may wish to attend.

Elected Members should contact Democratic Services to register interest.

The following is listed:

(i) National Association of Councillors (NAC) UK Conference

Regeneration Opportunities, Learning Weekend

Venue: The Best Western, Station Hotel, Carlisle

Date: 24-26 February 2023

Delegate Fee: £350 plus VAT

Accommodation: £85 Plus VAT per night

Booking Condition: Please note that a charge is payable on any bookings cancelled.

(ii) Local Government Conference 2023

Date: Thursday 23 February 2023

Venue: Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh.

Delegate Fee: £99

Theme: “*Responding to Future Challenges*” and will focus on how local government should innovate and collaborate across all sectors to achieve its ambitions.

NILGA and Solace NI encourage councillors and officers from the 11 Councils to attend this conference, the main event of the 2023 Local Government calendar.

Programme: <https://www.nilga.org/events/2023/february/lg-conference>

It is recommended that Council note the Conferences listed.

RESOLVED – That Council note the Conference Schedule.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence schedule, previously circulated.

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members’ consideration.

The following correspondence has been received:

(i) NI Housing Council correspondence, dated 13 January 2023 (

Please find attached the Housing Council’s January bulletin, and a copy of the December Housing Council minutes.

(ii) M Moore, Programme Director ICS NI, P Cavanagh, Director of Planning and Commissioning, Department of Health, dated 17 January 2023

Re: Integrated Care System Test, Department of Health

Extract

“As you will be aware work is currently underway to develop an Integrated Care System for Northern Ireland with a planned implementation date of April 2024, subject to legislative provision. ICS NI is a collaborative planned model for HSC services which will see the creation of five Area Integrated Partnership Boards in each of the HSC Trust geographical areas with responsibility for planning local services to meet local needs. Integrated Care System NI - Draft Framework It is proposed that the AIPBs will bring together key stakeholders from within the HSC, Community Planning Partnerships, the Voluntary and Community Sectors as well as service users and carers”.

RESOLVED – that Council note the Correspondence Schedule.

(iii) G Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive, dated 30 January 2023

Summary

Correspondence has been received to advise of changes to the Housing Selection Scheme, which will affect constituents in this area.

These changes are being introduced on a phased basis over the next three years and have been specifically designed to help the Scheme work better for applicants for social housing. They are in response to views shared during the Fundamental Review of Allocations consultation carried out by the Department for Communities in 2017. Details of the review can be found in the Consultation Outcome report (published on 18 December 2020), which can be accessed [here](#).

There will be further changes to the Scheme throughout 2023 and you will be kept up-to-date of these as they occur. More information can also be found on our website [here](#).

It is recommended that Council consider the correspondence.

Elected Members stated concern regarding the changes, reflected on the poor condition of some properties and issues with Housing Executive maintenance and contractors.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

RESOLVED – that Council write to Grainia Long, Chief Executive Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Nicole Lappin, Chair, Northern Ireland Housing Executive Board to express Council's concern regarding the condition of properties due to the fact there is no maintenance availability. A resolution must be found with maintenance staff and a pay deal done, to ensure the necessary maintenance works are being carried out and carried out in a timely manner.

19. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Consultation schedule, previously circulated.

- (i) Department for the Economy (DfE), Energy "One Stop Shop" Implementation Plan - Consultation On Policy Options, Extended to 31 January 2023;
- (ii) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Draft Ammonia Strategy For Northern Ireland Consultation, submission by 3 March 2023;
- (iii) Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Corporate Plan 2023-2027 Corporate Plan 2023-2027 & Performance Improvement Plan 2023-2024, submission by 4 April 2023.

The following documents were made Available to View:

- (iv) Department for Communities (DfC) Equality Unit, Equality screening archive October to December 2022;

- (v) Department of Finance, Public Service Pensions (Exercise of Powers, Compensation and Information) Directions (Northern Ireland) 2022;
- (vi) Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Equality Screening Report for period October - December 2022
- (vii) Translink, Equality Screening Reports for October-December 2022
- (viii) Department for the Economy (DfE), October 2022 –December 2022 Screenings
Open Consultations were listed.

20. SEAL DOCUMENTS

Members were advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met.

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, No's 5503 to 5519 inclusive;
- (ii) Renewal of Commercial Lease Ballyrashane Reservoir, Creamery Road, Coleraine - Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Tom Grant and Stephen Smyth.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED - that the sealing of documents as listed (i-ii) be approved.

21. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN S MCKILLOP AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

This Council honours the 50th Anniversary of Greenfinches in Northern Ireland; remembers that on 6th July 1973 the Ulster Defence Regiment Bill permitted the recruitment of women into the Ulster Defence Regiment. Women were given the codeword Greenfinch and defended Northern Ireland against terrorists; we are forever grateful for their commitment and sacrifice. To mark this anniversary we ask the Council to work with the local UDR Associations to support planned events in the Council area.

The Notice of Motion was referred, without discussion, to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Hunter
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

AGREED – 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.

* **Press/Public were disconnected from the meeting at 9.49pm.**

22. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023, INCLUDING BUSINESS RECONVENED FROM TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2022

22.1 Mountsandel Project (Item 24)

In response to Councillor Watton, the Director of Leisure and Development advised a quotation was being commissioned through Council's framework and would be brought to the March Leisure and Development Committee meeting.

23. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2023 'IN COMMITTEE'

Matters Arising 'In Committee'

23.1 Efficiency Saving and Income Generating Proposals (Item 15)

Operations Saving proposal - LCDI Recycling Project

Councillor Callaghan referred to a proposal to cut £26,000 grant to LCDI and make net savings of £14,000 to Council.

Councillor Callaghan detailed the major adverse impact on services LCDI supply and other services in Limavady if this cut was to proceed. Councillor Callaghan detailed that this would result in job cuts, closure of the refurbished shop, impact on staff and volunteers to include resulting in poor mental health and wellbeing. Councillor Callaghan stated the very valuable work LCDI do in the community, that staff were grateful to the Council for this financial support which had remained the same since Limavady Borough Council.

Proposed by Councillor Callaghan
Seconded by Councillor Callan and

RESOLVED – that the grant of (approximately) £26,000 LCDI Recycling Programme remains in place to protect jobs to assist LCDI to continue the valuable service they provide in recycling and waste management.

23.2 Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Mulholland, seconded by Councillor Quigley, referred from Council Meeting 6th December 2022 (re dog run Portstewart) (Item 14)

Council Solicitor (Land and Property) provided Legal advice, citing from the Clean Neighbourhoods Act, Dogs NI Order 1983 and Planning.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – that Council move 'In Public'.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 10.01pm.

Mayor