

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2024**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	Alderman Callan, Councillors McCully, McGurk	N/A
2.	Declarations of Interest	Nil	N/A
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 15th October 2024	Confirmed as a correct record	N/A
4.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Kane, seconded by Councillor McCully (Abbrev. Support for biodiversity)	To recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion.	
5.	Annual Grants Programme	To recommend to Council: (1) Grant programmes 1-23, listed in Table 3, along with the assessment / scoring criteria as summarised in Annex A. (2) Re-introduction of a simple scoring/assessment for the Christmas Festive Fund to differentiate between applications from the same area.	

		<p>(3) Re-introduction of a simple scoring/assessment for the Community Development Support Grant.</p> <p>(4) Change name of Sport & Wellbeing Grant Programme to Health & Wellbeing Grant Programme.</p> <p>(5) Increase budget for Sport/Health & Wellbeing Grant Programme from £20,000 to £40,000.</p> <p>(6) Increase maximum individual grant award for Sport/Health & Wellbeing Grant from £500 to £1,000.</p> <p>(7) The introduction of a Pilot Green Support Grant Scheme as outlined in the report and in Annex A, along with associated budget of £100,000.</p>	
6.	DfC Integrated Advice Partnership Fund	<p>To recommend that Council approve the following:</p> <p>To allocate the DfC Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (Debt Advice) as outlined in Section 4.4, Table 1 and proceed to procure for delivery from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026</p>	31st March 2026
7.	Ulster History Circle	<p>To recommend that Council accept the nomination of May Hezlet as the recipient of the Ulster History Blue Plaque for 2025.</p>	31st March 2025
8.	PCSP Recruitment Panel	<p>To recommend that Council nominate the two reserve PCSP Panel member</p>	31st March 2026

		<i>positions as per the existing d'Hondt allocation; and to further recommend that the Chair of the PCSP is the Chair of the Panel.</i>	
9.	The Open Project Management	<i>To recommend to Council the allocation of resources to facilitate the request for cooperation and assistance from the R&A and stakeholder organisations. This will involve the formalisation of working groups and an agreed minimum budget allocation of £365,000.00 based on initial estimates at this point in time.</i>	30 September 2025
10.	Review of Limavady Masterplan	<i>To recommend that Council approve the Review of the 2011 Limavady Town Centre Masterplan.</i>	Ongoing – 5 – 10 years
11.	Sub-Regional Economic Plan Update	<i>Noted</i>	
12.	Funding Awards	<i>Noted</i>	
13.	Capital Project Prioritisation Update	<i>To recommend that Council note the contents of this report and the attached updated long list of confirmed capital projects.</i>	
14.	Correspondence	<i>To recommend that Council writes a letter of support for the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance (NITA) re. proposed exemption from the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).</i>	

15.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>Nil</i>	<i>N/A</i>
16.	Consultations	<i>Nil</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	Confidential Consideration (Items 17 – 21 inclusive)		
17.	Cloughmills Sports Pitch	<i>To recommend that Council split the project and progress with a playpark and MUGA facility at an agreed, suitable site, and to further recommend that a full appraisal is undertaken of the Drumbare Road site.</i>	
18.	Burnfoot Project	<i>To recommend that Council note progress with the completion of major remedial drainage works to the existing grass pitch in Burnfoot; and approve capital expenditure [REDACTED] that will enable Officers to procure and appoint a contractor to complete the installation of the modular changing unit and complete the project.</i>	Confidential by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.
19.	Growth Deal OBC Design Team	<i>To recommend to Council to approve the expenditure on essential development and delivery costs of £1.453m (as detailed in Section 6) and provide maximum budget cover of £2.3m for the worst case scenario for the appointment of Design Teams from Council's</i>	

		Professional Services Framework. This approval is required to progress the approved projects through the next stage of the Growth Deal - Outline Business Case development.	
20.	Energy Scoping Study	To recommend that Council approve the Causeway Coast & Glens Boroughwide Energy Scoping Study.	Long-term objective
21.	Events Procurement – Christmas	To recommend to Council approval for the appointment of Streetwise to provide a festival carnival parade package at each of the four towns at [REDACTED], with the possibility of extension for two further periods of 12 months each, subject to satisfactory review.	Confidential by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.
22.	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 ON TUESDAY 19
NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Holmes (C)

Members Present: Alderman Fielding (C), McAuley (C), Stewart (C);
Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (C), Bateson (R),
Kane (C), Kennedy (C), Kyle (R), McShane (R),
Schenning (R), Stirling (C), Watson (R), Wisener (C)

Non-Committee

Members Present: Alderman Boyle (R)

Officers Present: P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
J Beggs, SIB Project Manager (R)
U Harper, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: D Maze, Senior Project Manager, Action Renewables (R)

A Lennox, ICT Operations Officer (C)
M Kennedy, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Substitutions: Alderman Fielding substituted for Alderman Callan
Councillor Kane substituted for Councillor McCully

Press 3 no. (R)
Public 8 no. (C) 3 no. (R)

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

The Director of Leisure and Development undertook a roll call.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Callan, Councillor McCully and Councillor McGurk.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024

Summary previously circulated.

AGREED – the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 15 October 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that the Notice of Motion would be heard next.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR KANE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCCULLY

This Council welcomes the success of the ‘Don’t Mow, Let It Grow’ initiative, amongst many projects aimed at supporting biodiversity; commits to extending the scheme across the Borough, working with partners in the Department for Infrastructure Roads Service and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to identify further sites for inclusion, whilst maintaining road safety and promoting recreation; and agrees to establish and coordinate a local Biodiversity Forum, bringing together local experts and organisations to share practice and advise Council on the development and implementation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for our Borough.

Councillor Kane stated:

“I am pleased to bring this motion to the Leisure and Development Committee this evening, and I would just like to take a few moments to set out a little of the background to the motion, and the intention behind it.

At the outset, let me acknowledge a simple fact that we are all familiar with- we are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. From the Glens of Antrim to the hills of Benbradagh, the stunning Giant’s Causeway

coast, and the verdant Bann valley, there's not much in this borough that cannot be described as 'outstanding natural beauty'.

Sometimes, however, we forget that we share this borough with a huge range of other species. We forget that we are but one small part of the web of life that makes up the biodiversity of our borough. The animals, the insects, the plants, the trees, the fungi, the micro-organisms, all of which make their homes in the gardens, parks, woodlands, fields, mountains, lakes, rivers, boglands and beaches of Causeway Coast and Glens. It is our duty to protect them.

The Don't Mow, Let It Grow initiative has been active in Causeway Coast and Glens for a number of years. And it does exactly what it says on the tin. The scheme is about identifying areas of grassland across our borough- grass verges along the side of the road, communal green spaces in our towns and villages, even patches of grass in housing developments- areas that before have been cut down by the mower once they reached only a few centimetres in growth. And, instead of keeping these areas cut short, it allows the grass to grow naturally, over the season, before being cut in the autumn.

In allowing the grass to grow, we create habitat and provide valuable food source for a whole range of insects, amphibians, birds and small mammals. We have already seen the scheme having an impact on those animals.

I spoke with a beekeeper in Ballymoney. We all know the impact habitat loss is having on bees, and we all know the devastating effect that losing bees would have on our agrifood sector. As well as keeping bees, the beekeeper also carries out bee rescues, responding to callouts of colonies of bees that have swarmed, left their hives, and have gotten into difficulty. Most often, the bees have gotten into trouble because of lack of food- no flowering plants to provide nectar. However, she told me that she has seen a marked decrease in the number of callouts over the past five years, something she attributes to the additional food on offer thanks to grassy areas being allowed to grow. When we allow the grass to grow, we also allow the wildflowers to grow.

Anyone who had cause to drive around the Lodge Road roundabout quite frequently in the spring and early summer this year, as I did, could not fail to have noticed the abundance of a beautiful pink flower. The cuckooflower, or Ladysmock, was able to put on a great show this year, because we didn't cut it down before it could even establish itself. I had a number of contacts asking for it to be left to grow, to bloom, and to set seed- through Don't Mow, Let It Grow, we were able to do just that.

In turn, this wildflower provided a great food source for the bugs, especially the caterpillars- Orangetip butterflies lay their eggs on it and the caterpillars eat the plant in their early stage. Of course, in turn, those bugs became a good food source for the birds. And so on. And, with it being able to set seed this year, we are hopeful of an even better show next year.

While we welcome the success of the scheme, we know we can, and must, do more. We need to use the learning from those areas that have already been included, to expand the scheme more widely across the borough. In doing so, however, there are a number of issues we need to be clear on.

We need to ensure that areas designated for inclusion under the scheme are well marked. We need to ensure that a schedule is in place for mowing these areas at the end of the season, and that the grass cuttings are removed and not left to rot on the ground. It is important that cut grass is not allowed to lie on the ground to rot. We also need to ensure that areas that are not being let grow, particularly recreation areas, are regularly mown during the season.

And, we need to remember that this is not a cost-saving measure. While saving rates-payer money is always to be welcomed, this is about promoting biodiversity and managing grass areas more effectively, not about abandoning them for the summer.

Of course, as the motion makes clear, this must be done in partnership with our colleagues in other public bodies, particularly the Department for Infrastructure and the NI Housing Executive. And, it must never compromise road safety- in particular, sightlines at the ends of roads must be kept clear at all times.

Chair, when I joined this chamber almost 18 months ago, I didn't quite realise the scope of responsibility of council in protecting our natural environment. And, despite considering myself quite 'nature-friendly', I was quite unaware of the huge volume of activity going on in the community to help promote the biodiversity of our borough.

In 2002, the NI Executive wrote:

"Biodiversity itself is part of our inheritance and culture. Its future is bound up with our future. Because of the way we live, this variety of life is deteriorating. This is a sign of an unsustainable relationship between humanity and the natural world. And we believe this is true of NI, just as it is the world as a whole. We also believe this need not be so."

The State of Nature Report (2023) shows that in 21 years, we have continued to see that unsustainable relationship deteriorate. It found that of 2,508 species in Northern Ireland that have been assessed using the IUCN Regional Red List criteria, 12% have been classified as threatened with extinction from Ireland as a whole.

According to research by the Natural History Museum and RSPB published in 2021, in a Biodiversity Intactness Index, NI got a ranking of 12 out of 240 countries and territories. I thought that was quite good, until I realised a ranking of 1 is the lowest biodiversity intactness, and 240 the highest.

Section 1 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011 places a duty on every public body, including councils, to further the conservation of biodiversity. Our Causeway Coast and Glens Local Biodiversity Action Plan ran from 2013-2018. It is clear that, while the plan is now out of date, there is still much action being taken by this council, and that is to be acknowledged and welcomed.

There is also much happening in our communities across the borough. When I was putting this motion together, I was delighted to find a whole community of activists and campaigners in Causeway Coast and Glens, who helped me to understand the challenges we face, but also the ways they are responding to those challenges. And I am pleased to see some of them in the gallery behind me this evening. Let us, as a council, benefit from that knowledge, that expertise, that experience and that drive.

The second part of this motion proposes to establish a Local Biodiversity Forum, to bring together these experts, to inform and advise us, as council, on the development and delivery of a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan for our borough.

We know there is so much going on, and we know there is much more we could be doing. And, we know it can only have an impact when we work together.

A co-produced Local Biodiversity Action Plan, owned by us all, delivered in partnership by us all, I believe, will be best placed to make that meaningful impact. I am proud to propose this motion.”

Councillor Schenning stated that she welcomed and fully supported the motion. She stated that the Council area's ranking in the Biodiversity Intactness Index was disappointing. She noted that the Council has a biodiversity officer in place.

Alderman John McAuley stated that he was not opposed to the motion, but that it is important to ensure that the “Don’t Mow, Let it Grow” initiative is managed to ensure that it does not negatively affect road safety, sightlines or playing areas. He stated that a multi-agency approach may be challenging. He questioned why the motion had come to the Leisure and Development Committee rather than the Environmental Services Committee, as that directorate carries out grass cutting and wildflower sowing.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that the Leisure and Development directorate has the remit for biodiversity. She advised that the biodiversity officer is on maternity leave and that it is hoped to get that role covered soon.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that biodiversity sits under the Coast and Countryside Team, and this fits within the Destination Management remit. He stated that they work closely with Environmental Services.

In response to a query from Councillor Anderson, the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that actions arising from the motion would be picked up by the Coast and Countryside Team in the absence of the biodiversity officer.

Councillor Kane thanked Members for the points they raised and noted that he had also queried why the motion had come to this Committee.

The Chair welcomed the members of the public who attended the meeting in the Chamber.

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

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

The members of the public left the Chamber at 7.22pm.

5. ANNUAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend the annual grant funding programmes to Council for the 2025-2026 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.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Current Year Grant Programmes
- Proposed Grant Funding Programmes 2025-26
- Community Development Support Grant (CDSG)
- Green Support Grant Scheme
- Sports & Wellbeing Grant

Recommendations

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

- (1) Grant programmes 1-23, listed in Table 3, along with the assessment / scoring criteria as summarised in **Annex A**.
- (2) Re-introduction of a simple scoring/assessment for the Christmas Festive Fund to differentiate between applications from the same area.
- (3) Re-introduction of a simple scoring/assessment for the Community Development Support Grant.
- (4) Change name of Sport & Wellbeing Grant Programme to Health & Wellbeing Grant Programme.
- (5) Increase budget for Sport/Health & Wellbeing Grant Programme from £20,000 to £40,000.
- (6) Increase maximum individual grant award for Sport/Health & Wellbeing Grant from £500 to £1,000.
- (7) The introduction of a Pilot Green Support Grant Scheme as outlined in the report and in **Annex A**, along with associated budget of £100,000.

* **Alderman Boyle left the meeting remotely at 7.25pm.**

When briefing Committee on the report, the Funding Unit Manager noted that page 3 of the report states "In the current Grant funding period (2024-25) 21 grant programmes are being delivered", but this should state that there are 20 grant programmes being delivered in the current year.

Proposed by Councillor N Archibald
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

AGREED – to recommend to Council:

- (1) Grant programmes 1-23, listed in Table 3, along with the assessment / scoring criteria as summarised in **Annex A**.
- (2) Re-introduction of a simple scoring/assessment for the Christmas Festive Fund to differentiate between applications from the same area.
- (3) Re-introduction of a simple scoring/assessment for the Community Development Support Grant.
- (4) Change name of Sport & Wellbeing Grant Programme to Health & Wellbeing Grant Programme.
- (5) Increase budget for Sport/Health & Wellbeing Grant Programme from £20,000 to £40,000.
- (6) Increase maximum individual grant award for Sport/Health & Wellbeing Grant from £500 to £1,000.
- (7) The introduction of a Pilot Green Support Grant Scheme as outlined in the report and in **Annex A**, along with associated budget of £100,000.

6. DFC INTEGRATED ADVICE PARTNERSHIP FUND

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for spend of the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (Debt Advice) monies received from the Department for Communities (DfC) for 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Background

The UK Strategy for Financial Wellbeing has set out the following goals to be achieved by 2030:

- 2 million more children and young people getting a meaningful financial education;
- 2 million more working age 'struggling' and 'squeezed' people saving regularly;
- 2 million fewer people often using credit for food and bills;
- 2 million more people accessing debt advice;
- 5 million more people understanding enough to plan for, and in, later life.

Further background information was included in the report to Committee.

Proposals

Council Officers have engaged with key stakeholders and have developed a proposal to increase uptake and outcomes as well as the partnership working that exists within the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group and learning from the previously Wraparound Project that the Group delivered.

Due to the size of the award the project/s will have to be publicly procured. Due to the timescale involved for a public tender process and other aspects of programme delivery, it is proposed that delivery will take place from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. Following deduction of the 10% administration costs by Council an amount of **£91,321** remains for project delivery.

Further detail on the proposal is included in the report to Committee.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that approval is sought for the following:

To allocate the DfC Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (Debt Advice) as outlined in Section 4.4, Table 1 and proceed to procure for delivery from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Proposed by Councillor Stirling
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the following:

To allocate the DfC Integrated Advice Partnership Fund (Debt Advice) as outlined in Section 4.4, Table 1 and proceed to procure for delivery from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

* **The Community Development Manager left the Chamber at 7.40pm.**

7. ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

To update members on the proposed blue plaque installation for 2025 from the Ulster History Circle, in consultation with the Community & Culture team.

Background information is included in the report to Committee.

Proposal

2025 sees the Open Championship return to Royal Portrush Golf Club. As part of this programme, it is fitting that the achievements of Golfer, May Hezlet is recognised through the installation of a blue plaque.

Officers from the Community & Culture team together with representatives from the Ulster History Circle propose to the Leisure & Development Committee that May Hezlet receives a plaque in 2025. Further information regarding the proposed recipient is included in **Annex A** (previously circulated).

Recommendation

It is recommended that approval is granted by both the Committee and full Council to accept the nomination of May Hezlet as the recipient of the Ulster History Blue Plaque for 2025.

Councillor McShane asked about the process for such proposals, and noted that a proposal had previously been made by a Ballycastle group to request a Blue Plaque for Bishop Lamont. The Head of Community and Culture advised that Ulster History Circle was to do its own research on that proposal and that no feedback had yet been received. She advised that an officer would follow up on this. Councillor McShane stated that she was not questioning the merits of the current proposal but wanted to ensure that the proposal for Bishop Lamont had not fallen off the radar.

The Head of Community and Culture advised that Royal Portrush Ladies had agreed to have the plaque in their clubhouse, and that the timing should allow for this to tie-in with the upcoming Open competition.

Proposed by Alderman Fielding
Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

AGREED – to recommend that Council accept the nomination of May Hezlet as the recipient of the Ulster History Blue Plaque for 2025.

8. PCSP RECRUITMENT PANEL

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

Purpose of Report

To provide members with information regarding the appointment process for independent members of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and to nominate additional panel members comprising of up to three political members of the PCSP to carry out both the shortlisting and interview processes to appoint reserve independent members to the partnership.

Background information was included in the report to Committee.

Proposals

Council have been asked to nominate reserve panel members comprising of up to two political members of the PCSP and identify one current panel member to assume the role of panel Chair.

In nominating panel members, Council have been asked to consider balance in relation to community background and gender.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Council approves the move of the current reserve panel member to the full panel, and recommends nominating up to two reserve panel members who, where possible, should also be PCSP political members to facilitate a replacement if required.

That in nominating reserve panel members, Council consider balance in relation to community background and gender as per the request from the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

That Council also nominate one current panel member to assume the role of panel Chair.

The Head of Community and Culture stated that it is recommended that Council approves that the current reserve panel member, Councillor Steven Callaghan, moves to sit on the full Panel, and recommends nominating up to two reserve Panel members who, where possible, should be PCSP political members, to facilitate a replacement on the Panel, if required. She advised that Council was also recommended to nominate one current Panel member to assume the role of Panel Chair.

Councillor Kane stated that he thought that it had been agreed last June to do this through d'Hondt; that it would be two from the DUP, two from Sinn Féin and the reserves would come from Alliance and the DUP. He stated that the current vacancies arose when he stood down from the PCSP and Councillor Wallace left. He stated that what was agreed previously – at item 10.1 of the 29 June 2023 Council meeting – was that the Chair of the PCSP would be the Chair of the Panel, and that the Panel would be filled through d'Hondt, meaning that it is currently missing a reserve member from Alliance and a reserve member from the DUP.

Councillor Kane proposed that Council keeps the same process, wherein the current Chair becomes the Chair of the Panel and that Council goes back to the nominating officer for the Alliance Party and the DUP to nominate two reserve members.

The Head of Community and Culture advised that she would clarify with Democratic Service, as it had been indicated that the next d'Hondt picks would be UUP and Sinn Féin, but that does not seem to be correct.

Councillor Kane also noted that the report says that Council is also asked to nominate two reserve panel members who, "where possible", should also be PCSP political members. He stated that he was stood down from it because he was no longer a PCSP political member, so it should be one of the people listed in the paper.

The Chair asked the Head of Community and Culture whether the item should be deferred pending further information or if the Committee can proceed with it.

The Head of Community and Culture stated that she was content to go ahead. She stated that it is not a requirement that members sit on the PCSP, but it is preferable because they are involved in the process. She advised that Democratic Services would need to be consulted, but that the report does not specify which parties will be asked for nominations.

Alderman Fielding stated that when nominating for the PCSP, he had given three names – two Panel members and one reserve, which was Councillor Callaghan. Alderman Fielding then proposed Councillor Callaghan for the Panel and Councillor Anderson for the reserve position.

The Head of Community and Culture advised that that was as per the report.

The Chair advised that the meeting would adjourn briefly to allow Members to clarify the situation.

The Meeting adjourned at 7.50pm.

The Meeting resumed at 7.52pm.

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Alderman Fielding and

AGREED – to recommend that Council nominate the two reserve PCSP Panel member positions as per the existing d'Hondt allocation; and to further recommend that the Chair of the PCSP is the Chair of the Panel.

* **The Head of Community and Culture left the Chamber at 7.55pm.**

9. THE OPEN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on Council's involvement in The 153rd Open Championship in 2025 and to seek approval for Council to contribute to the project management of this event, maximising the benefit for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Delivery Structure
- Council's Role
- Activities to Date
- Event Overview
- Proposed Council Involvement

Governance

The governance of the working groups will sit with the respective departments and directorates. Council's Open Golf Championship Project Manager will provide the core function of coordination and administration between the working groups, reporting through the Director for Leisure and Development.

A Report will be brought to Council in the coming months detailing the work activities planned for each of the Council-led working groups, providing an overview of the ongoing planning for The Open and confirming cost requirements in terms of budget.

Further information on the Golf Project Manager is included in the report to Committee.

Budget

Based on the experience of 2019, Council Officers have estimated a financial contribution from Council of £365,000 is required. A breakdown of this is provided in the report.

Further information on Next Steps is included in the report to Committee.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to recommend the allocation of resources to facilitate the request for cooperation and assistance from the R&A and stakeholder organisations. This will involve the formalisation of working groups and an agreed minimum budget allocation of £365,000.00 based on initial estimates at this point in time.

Alderman Stewart asked whether it was intended to locate the media centre at East Strand car park again. He noted that the car park was closed for several months the last time this happened and that he would prefer an alternative location. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that there had been a phased closure of East Strand car park in 2019 and that The R&A's preferred location is East Strand due to its proximity to the course.

Alderman Fielding expressed concern that some media channels give the impression that the area is only for those interested in golf during The Open. He stated that it is important to get the message out that the area is open for business to everyone, including the traditional holidaymakers, during this time. He asked whether Councillors would be involved in the working groups.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation stated that Councillors will not be directly involved in the working groups but that they will be invited to the consultation events and stakeholder events. He advised that there is media managed by Council officials and another media group led by Tourism NI. He advised that both will be pushing the message that Portrush and the surrounding areas are open to business, with traffic being managed to accommodate normal traffic flow where possible.

Alderman Stewart agreed that it is important to get the message out that Portrush and the surrounding area are open for business, as there was a negative impact on some local businesses when The Open was previously hosted here.

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Alderman Fielding and

AGREED – to recommend to Council the allocation of resources to facilitate the request for cooperation and assistance from the R&A and stakeholder organisations. This will involve the formalisation of working groups and an agreed minimum budget allocation of £365,000.00 based on initial estimates at this point in time.

10. REVIEW OF LIMAVADY MASTERPLAN

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from members for the adoption of the review of the 2011 Limavady Town Centre Masterplan.

Background information is included in the report to Committee.

Proposals

Eleven specific projects were identified as high priority, some involving the public sector and some involving the private sector. These are summarised below:

1. Public Realm strategy;
2. Frontage enhancement strategy;
3. Signage strategy;
4. Entries strategy;
5. Council Office forecourt;
6. Car parking strategy;
7. Traffic calming project;
8. 42 Main Street – new building;
9. Market Yard – new buildings, new public realm, new landscape;
10. Corner of Connell St/Irish Green St – new buildings, new public realm; and
11. 27-29 Catherine Street.

Further information on Options is included in the report to Committee.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Leisure and Development Committee approve the Review of the 2011 Limavady Town Centre Masterplan. Further update reports will be brought to Committee at key milestones in the delivery of the Masterplan.

Alderman John McAuley asked for a progress update for the other masterplans. The Chair suggested that this information could be brought to the next meeting of the Leisure and Development Committee.

Councillor Schenning thanked the Head of Prosperity and Place and his team for their work on this.

Councillor Anderson suggested that the Coleraine masterplan be revisited in light of the £20 million funding package.

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the Review of the 2011 Limavady Town Centre Masterplan.

11. SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on progress and timelines for the implementation of the Sub-Regional Economic Plan.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Local Economic Partnerships

Next Steps

The Department for the Economy has recently made contact with council to start the process of establishing the proposed Local Economic Partnerships. An initial timeline has been provided:

- Initial setup – November 2024
 - A DfE strategic advisor has been appointed.
 - An initial meeting has been arranged between council, DfE and INI to discuss the proposed structure.
 - Council, in collaboration with the Economic Advisory Group, will agree the draft Terms of Reference along with DfE/INI.
 - Meetings will then be planned.
- Action Planning will follow – December 2024.
- Projects and Funding – January – March 2025.

Guidelines have also been provided to assist with establishment of the Partnerships including roles and responsibilities, structure and group membership.

A further report will be brought back to Members in December/January for consideration.

Councillor McShane stated that it is alarming that Causeway Coast and Glens is second from the bottom in the median wage ranking. She referred to the correspondence received by the Committee regarding additional costs for tourists, and expressed concern about this, given the reliance on tourism in the Borough for income. The Chair echoed these concerns.

The Head of Prosperity and Place stated that he would bring a more detailed paper on this to a subsequent meeting of the Leisure and Development Committee for consideration.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

12. FUNDING AWARDS

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members that Council has been successful in 2 recent funding applications and to provide members with background and details of the applications.

Background

Project 1:

In August 2024 The Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, made an indicative allocation of funding totalling £733,367.00 to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council under the Communities and Place Commission 2024-25. The funding was subject to the submission of a full application to the fund by 19 September 2024.

On 17 September 2024 the Funding Unit Manager presented a report to Committee on the options available for an application to the fund and delivery of a project by March 2025.

With agreement of the funder an application was submitted for activity already undertaken on the Red Bay Pier Project on the provision that Council would identify and deliver projects aligned to the funding criteria at a later date.

Outcome

£733,000 has been awarded from UK Shared Prosperity Fund towards the cost of the refurbishment and redevelopment of the Red Bay Pier. A report on the alternative projects to be completed will be brought to Council at a later date.

Project 2:

In September 2023 Council submitted an application to the Measure 1.4 of the PEACE PLUS programme for the Ballycastle Shared Space project at the Ballycastle Shared Campus site. The project entailed the enhancement of the sporting facilities on the new shared campus site to facilitate evening, weekend and holiday time use of the sporting facilities by sports, clubs and the local community.

Outcome

€5.2m has been awarded from PEACEPLUS managed by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) for the Ballycastle Shared Space Project at the Ballycastle Shared Campus site.

The construction of the project is due for completion in July 2027. Regular updates and progress reports will be taken to Council to keep members informed of progress.

Councillor McShane praised the staff in the Funding Unit for this work.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

13. CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITISATION UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an updated version of the long list of proposed capital projects, following the previous workshop and allowing time for Members to review and suggest additional projects.

Background information is included in the report to Committee.

Update

Further to the previous workshop and report provided to the Leisure and Development Committee in September, Members have had a further opportunity to add to the list and the updated version is now provided in **Annex A**.

To ensure that a range of corporate projects can be progressed, an annual allocation will be provided across all Directorates (approx. £2 - £3m for L&D).

Members are reminded that each project will be allocated into one of the new agreed categories (as shown in Table 1, previously circulated) based on anticipated project costs and assessed against the previously approved criteria, scored and prioritised accordingly.

Projects which are anticipated to cost less than £150K will not be assessed and scored. Instead, these shall be delivered on a first come basis, depending on the date they were initially requested, and these shall be funded from the already agreed Repairs & Renewals budget.

Information on Next Steps is included in the report to Committee.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council note the contents of this report and the attached updated long list of confirmed capital projects.

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the contents of this report and the attached updated long list of confirmed capital projects.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

The following items are listed:

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance (NITA) regarding the roll out of the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) to all non-visa national countries (Dated 31 October 2024)

The NITA has secured a meeting with the Minister for Immigration, Seema Malhotra, on 13th November to discuss concerns they have about the introduction of the ETA and the affect it will have on visitor numbers.

The draft letter included outlines these concerns, potential impact on the tourism economy along with a proposed solution.

Council may wish to consider writing a letter of support for the ETA exemption as proposed.

Councillor McShane stated that the introduction of the travel scheme will impact Causeway Coast and Glens as a tourism hub. She stated that both the cost and the bureaucracy will discourage people from coming here, and that Council should write a letter of support for an ETA exemption.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation stated that Council had previously flagged issues with this proposal, stating that it would curtail and discourage travel to NI.

Proposed by Councillor McShane
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council writes a letter of support for the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance (NITA) proposed exemption from the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).

15. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

16. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Alderman Fielding and

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

- * **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.19pm.**

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 SIB Project Manager joined the meeting remotely at 8.21pm.**

17. CLOUGHMILLS SPORTS PITCH

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

The report was confidential by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on efforts to date on the development of the Cloughmills Sports Pitch Project; and request direction on the best course of action, prior to progressing to Stage 2 of Council's capital approval process.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background and approvals to date
- Project Update

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note efforts to date on the development of the Cloughmills Sports Pitch Project; and approve the best course of action from Section 3.6 of the report, prior to progressing to Stage 2 of Council's capital approval process.

Alderman John McAuley thanked the Head of Sport and Wellbeing and her team for their perseverance with this matter. He stated that no site was ideal so he proposed that the project be split to allow for some progress. He asked about the 'Your School

Your Club' initiative, and the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that this could be looked into.

Councillor Kane thanked the Head of Sport and Wellbeing and her team for their work and stated that it is frustrating not to be able to get a better resolution. He stated that it needs to be made clear publicly that the delay is due to the lack of a suitable site.

There was a discussion regarding the various sites and the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that there would be engagement with the local community before proceeding with any site.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council split the project and progress with a playpark and MUGA facility at an agreed, suitable site, and to further recommend that a full appraisal is undertaken of the Drumbare Road site.

18. BURNFOOT PROJECT

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

The report was confidential by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on progress to date with the completion of major remedial drainage works to the existing grass sports pitch in Burnfoot; and to request approval for capital expenditure [REDACTED] on the modular changing unit to complete the project.

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'.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background and Approvals to Date
- Project Update
- Conclusions

Recommendation

Confidential
by virtue of
paragraph 3
of Part 1 of
Schedule 6 of
the Local
Government
Act (Northern
Ireland) 2014.

Members are requested to note progress with the completion of major remedial drainage works to the existing grass pitch in Burnfoot; and approve capital expenditure [REDACTED] that will enable Officers to procure and appoint a contractor to complete the installation of the modular changing unit and complete the project.

Confidential by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note progress with the completion of major remedial drainage works to the existing grass pitch in Burnfoot; and approve capital expenditure [REDACTED] that will enable Officers to procure and appoint a contractor to complete the installation of the modular changing unit and complete the project.

19. GROWTH DEAL OBC DESIGN TEAM

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Prosperity and Place.

The report was confidential by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request Members approval for expenditure on essential development and delivery costs, including the appointment of Design Teams from Council's Professional Services Framework required to progress the approved Growth Deal projects through the next stage - Outline Business Case development.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the expenditure on essential development and delivery costs of **£1.453m** (as detailed in Section 6) and provide maximum budget cover of £2.3m for the worst case scenario for the appointment of Design Teams from Council's Professional Services Framework. This approval is required to progress the approved projects through the next stage of the Growth Deal - Outline Business Case development.

Members are asked to note that quarterly progress and budget updates will be brought to the Executive Programme Board during OBC development, and an updated Growth Deal Project List brought back to Committee/Council for approval next year to allow formal submission of the OBCs to lead Departments.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson

Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend to Council to approve the expenditure on essential development and delivery costs of £1.453m (as detailed in Section 6) and provide maximum budget cover of £2.3m for the worst case scenario for the appointment of Design Teams from Council's Professional Services Framework. This approval is required to progress the approved projects through the next stage of the Growth Deal - Outline Business Case development.

- * **The SIB Project Manager left the meeting remotely at 8.51pm.**
- * **The Action Renewables representative joined the meeting remotely at 8.51pm.**

20. ENERGY SCOPING STUDY

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Prosperity and Place.

The report was confidential by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcomes from the boroughwide energy baseline update and to provide high-level options for potential energy projects which could be further developed and implemented across the borough.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Outcomes
- Project opportunities

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approve the Causeway Coast & Glens Boroughwide Energy Scoping Study. Further update reports will be brought to Committee at key milestones in the delivery of the Scoping Study.

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the Causeway Coast & Glens Boroughwide Energy Scoping Study. Further update reports will be brought to Committee at key milestones in the delivery of the Scoping Study.

* **The Action Renewables representative left the meeting remotely at 8.53pm.**

21. EVENTS PROCUREMENT – CHRISTMAS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the procurement of an external provider of a festive carnival package for Council-led Christmas switch-on celebrations 2024 in Ballymoney, Limavady, Ballycastle and Coleraine.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Procurement Process

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to recommend approval for the appointment of Streetwise to provide a festival carnival parade package at each of the four towns at [REDACTED] with the possibility of extension for two further periods of 12 months each, subject to satisfactory review.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation apologised to the Committee for the delay in presenting this paper to the Committee. Alderman John McAuley stated that he appreciated having this acknowledged but asked that the Senior Management Team address the matter of retrospective approvals.

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

Confidential by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

AGREED – to recommend to Council approval for the appointment of Streetwise to provide a festival carnival parade package at each of the four towns [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the possibility of extension for two further periods of 12 months each, subject to satisfactory review.

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

There were no items of AORB.

MOTION TO PROCEED *'IN PUBLIC'*

Proposed by Councillor Kane

Seconded by Councillor Wisener 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 8.59pm.

Chair