

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	<i>Alderman Callan, McAuley, Councillors Kennedy, Stirling and Watson</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Councillor McGurk</i>	<i>N/A</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 19 th November 2024	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>	<i>N/A</i>
4.	Garvagh Museum – Deputation from Trustees of Garvagh Museum	<i>Noted</i>	
5.	Green Lane Museum Expressions of Interest	<i>To recommend that Council approve that Museum Services seek expression of interests from the community & voluntary sector to operate Green Lane Museum on a voluntary basis with support from Council for overheads and lease, effective from April 2025 to October 2027, subject to annual reviews.</i>	<i>March 2025</i>
6.	Council Events Programme 2025	<i>To recommend that Council approve the proposed schedule of activity for Council-led Tourism Events</i>	<i>December 2025</i>

		<p>2025/26 as detailed within the report:</p> <p>The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 and Annex A, at a cost not to exceed £528,499, and subject to the Council rates setting process for 2025-26.</p>	
7.	CCG Local Economic Partnership	<p>To recommend that Council approve</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To accept the funding of circa £1.5m per year (for the next three years) provided by the Department for the area that makes up the LEP geography and its role as the Accountable body for the funding. 2. To provide delegated authority to the Director Leisure & Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, to commission appropriate external support as necessary to enable timely preparation of the LEP project proposals. 3. The LEP Membership as proposed in this report, including the process of establishing the LEP in line with the current guidance from the Department. 4. That the Elected Members input is coordinated via the Community Planning Partnership representative to 	Long-term objective

		<p>expedite the project development process.</p> <p>5. That the council provides the secretariat support to the LEP. This support will be resourced through the Council's Prosperity & Place team and funded through the revenue funding provided</p>	
8.	Capital Projects Long List	Information	Long-term objective
9.	Correspondence	None	
10.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	See Item 19.1 for the recommendation	N/A
11.	Consultations	Nil	N/A
	Confidential Consideration (Items 12 – 19.2 inclusive)		
12.	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Change Fund Addendum	To recommend that Council accept the recommendation as detailed within the report, circulated	
13.	ExportExplore	To recommend that Council approve ExportExplore's 'Selling Causeway Coast & Glens' report.	Long-term objective
14.	HALP Fees and Charges	To recommend that Council approve Option 3 - An increase of 3.8% based on average CPI of 2.8% plus 1.0% in response to the investments in infrastructure.	31 March 2025

15.	Coastal Repairs Waterfoot Beach	<i>To recommend that Council approve Option 1 - Repair with gabion baskets and reinforcement as currently on site - £130,000 plus VAT (estimated).</i>	<i>June 2025</i>
16.	Ballycastle Leisure Centre	<i>To recommend that Council note the progress made on the design and development of Ballycastle Leisure Centre and outdoor recreation facilities; and approve the winning tender submission to allow Officers to sign the construction contract and progress to Stage 3 - Construction early next year.</i>	<i>December 2026</i>
17.	Pitches and Play Action Plan	<i>To recommend that Council note the content of the report and recommend approval to progress to Stage 2 – design, procurement and final business case for the projects listed in Annexes A and B.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
18.	RVLC Pool System	<i>To recommend that Council note the detail of the report and recommend approval to progress to tender for the upgrade of the dosing system at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to a Salt Hypolyser System.</i>	
19.	Any Other Relevant Business Notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)		
19.1	Merrow Hotel and Spa (Alderman Fielding)	<i>To recommend that the issue of the Merrow Hotel and Spa is progressed to the Partnership Panel.</i>	

19.2	Jim Watt Centre (Councillor Holmes and Alderman Knight-McQuillan)	<i>Information received</i>	
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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McGurk (C) (Items 1-18, 19.2)
Councillor Holmes, Vice Chair (C) (Item 19.1)

Members Present: Alderman Fielding (C), Knight-McQuillan (C), Stewart (C);
Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (C), Bateson (R),
Huggins (C), Kyle (R), McCully (C), McShane (R),
Schenning (R), Wisener (C)

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 (R)
G Fall, Events Manager (R)
S McCartney, Holiday & Leisure Parks General Manager (C)
S Calvin, Museum Services Development Manager (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: P Hutchinson, Chairman, Garvagh Museum (C)
I Davidson, Treasurer, Garvagh Museum (C)

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

Substitutions: Alderman Fielding substituted for Alderman McAuley
Alderman Knight-McQuillan substituted for Alderman Callan
Councillor Huggins substituted for Councillor Stirling

Press 3 no. (R)
Public 1 no (R)

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

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Callan, McAuley, Councillors Kennedy, Stirling and Watson. Committee was advised Councillor Bateson would be late to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Prior to consideration of Any Other Relevant Business, Merrow Hotel and Spa, (Alderman Fielding), Councillor McGurk declared an interest as a member of the Planning Committee, vacated the Chair and left The Chamber.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2024

Summary previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 19 November 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

* **Councillor N Archibald arrived at the meeting at 7.04pm.**

4. GARVAGH MUSEUM – DEPUTATION FROM TRUSTEES OF GARVAGH MUSEUM

For information report was previously circulated.

Recommendation

That members note the summary of the current service provision provided by Garvagh Museum (2021 – 2025) as indicated in this report and by the presentation that the Trustees of Garvagh Museum will deliver.

That members note that Officers will bring a report to the January Leisure & Development meeting to outline the new proposed partnership with the Trustees of Garvagh Museum.

The Chair invited Chairman and Treasurer, Garvagh Museum to present.

Garvagh Museum Chairman and Treasurer presented on what made the Museum unique – connecting communities, preserving memories, promoting education and a tourism asset. The Treasurer presented the finances 2023/September 2024 including voluntary labour hours and challenges the museum faced for the future. The Chairman stated Garvagh Museum needed Council support, appreciated the support in the past and hoped to continue to work with Council in the future.

In response to questions from Committee Members the Treasurer outlined the running costs, whilst not charging an entrance fee they were reliant on donations. The Treasurer confirmed the targets set were achievable and they could undertake no more than two exhibitions while reliant on their Volunteers. The Chairman clarified the Museum promotion and advertising activities.

Committee Members offered their support and to assist in promoting the Museum.
Committee NOTED the report.

- * **Chairman and Treasurer, Garvagh Museum left the meeting at 7.25pm.**
- * **Councillor Bateson arrived at the meeting at 7.07pm during the presentation.**

5. GREEN LANE MUSEUM EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request approval to seek a community group to voluntarily operate Green Lane Museum through a Keyholder Agreement with support from Council for overheads and lease.

Background

In February 2023 Council approved the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum by Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers under the terms of the Key Holder Agreement with support from Council for overheads and lease.

The Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers have operated the museum on a voluntary basis for the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

With the key Holder Agreement being in place for two years and in the interest of due diligence, officers plan to undertake a further call for Expression of Interests for the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum for the 2025 – 2027 seasons.

Recommendation

It is recommended to Council that Museum Services seek expression of interests from the community & voluntary sector to operate Green Lane Museum on a voluntary basis with support from Council for overheads and lease, effective from April 2025 to October 2027, subject to annual reviews.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor Huggins and

AGREED –to recommend that Council approve that Museum Services seek expression of interests from the community & voluntary sector to operate Green Lane Museum on a voluntary basis with support from Council for overheads and lease, effective from April 2025 to October 2027, subject to annual reviews.

6. COUNCIL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2025

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

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the delivery of the schedule of the Council-led Tourism Event programme 2025/26 (ie tourism events directly organised and delivered in-house by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council).

Details of proposed dates and budgetary requirements are provided for Elected Members' consideration, in advance of budget finalisation as part of the rates setting process.

Proposed Council Events for 2025/2026

A summary of the costs and the dates for each of the Council-led events proposed by the Tourism and Recreation service, based on the events schedule agreed in previous years by Elected Members, is shown in Table 1 (circulated). Further detail on each of the events is provided in Annex A (circulated).

Officers have made an assessment of the costs based on the requirements to deliver these events in 2024 with an uplift for 2025/26 due to the impact of inflationary pressures. (The average CPI rate period based on twelve month period Nov 23 – Oct 24 is 2.8%). Officers have set the uplift against the 2024 budget at 2% and hope to achieve, where possible, efficiencies. Additional costs for programme delivery that is required for 2025 has been detailed.

Budgetary Position

In advance of the 2025 rate setting process, the Leisure and Development Committee is asked to consider the budget allocation for the delivery of Council led events (as detailed in Table 1).

The delivery of the proposed Tourism Event programme requires significant procurement, with numerous procurement exercises taking place throughout the year. Officers are requesting that, subject to adhering to Council's procurement guidelines, approval is given for the total expenditure as detailed in Table 1, and rather than seeking individual procurement exercise approvals, officers be enabled to tender and spend up to the maximum detailed per event as shown in Table 1, with future reports presented to Committee confirming expenditure details.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approves the proposed schedule of activity for Council-led Tourism Events 2025/26 as detailed within the report:

The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 and Annex A, at a cost not to exceed £528,499, and subject to the Council rates setting process for 2025-26.

In response to questions from Committee Members, the Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified VE Day was not presented in the report as it was a Civic Event, with a separate budget, led by Corporate with support from the Tourism

Events team. The VE Day event would be promoted and fully captured on all marketing channels Council had responsibility for, including Destination Management remit. The Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed that an aspiration was the Salmon and Whiskey Festival would have a full programme of activities on both Saturday and Sunday, Thursday and Friday night, based on the level of demand.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed Halloween events' costs had increased by £2,000, 32% attributed to statutory obligations, health and safety and Department of Justice legislation, costs had increased significantly since covid. Discussion ensued on the cost of fireworks at Halloween over 4 locations, and drone or laser show as an alternative to explore. It was clarified the budget included staff costs, a 2% increase applied, the target is to drive efficiencies rather than increase expenditure by the CPI index of 2.8%.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified that in relation to the Summer Fireworks and Entertainment Evening, Portrush, the additional £2,000 was for the Bandstand, to improve the physical elements of the Summer events provision. The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified there was a compliment of 7 Event Staff; that VE Day, Michael Dunlop Homecoming Civic Events were required to be delivered on and not factored into the Business Plan, however, he stated Tourism/Events did provide support, over and above the scheduled activities. There were constraints, causing welfare issues to do with hours worked, securing annual leave, and advised the team was stretched.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed he had discussed the issue with the Director of Leisure and Development, he referred to a 10-year Strategic Plan produced a couple of years ago and detailed the findings, that Events team should deliver fewer events, more impactful; the number of events had not been reduced but they were working proactively across all departments to reduce the strain, improve shift patterns and working hours and that he would be asking for support based on the recommendation.

Councillor Anderson stated he agreed with Councillor McShane that additional staff were needed, whilst aware of the good work being done and asked the Director to make the matter a priority to be looked at.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the proposed schedule of activity for Council-led Tourism Events 2025/26 as detailed within the report:
The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 and Annex A, at a cost not to exceed £528,499, and subject to the Council rates setting process for 2025-26.

7. CCG LOCAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Report, previously circulated was presented as read by the Head of Prosperity and Place.

Purpose of Report

To enable Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to implement the requirements of the Local Economic Partnership following guidance (Annex A) from the Department for the Economy (DfE) including the identification of actions and development of projects that align with the Sub Regional Economic Plan.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee accepts the following, and recommends to full council for approval:

1. To accept the funding of circa £1.5m per year (for the next three years) provided by the Department for the area that makes up the LEP geography and its role as the Accountable body for the funding
2. To provide delegated authority to the Director Leisure & Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, to commission appropriate external support as necessary to enable timely preparation of the LEP project proposals.
3. The LEP Membership as proposed in this report, including the process of establishing the LEP in line with the current guidance from the Department.
4. That the Elected Members input is coordinated via the Community Planning Partnership representative to expedite the project development process.
5. That the council provides the secretariat support to the LEP. This support will be resourced through the Council's Prosperity & Place team and funded through the revenue funding provided.

In response to questions from Councillor Anderson, the Head of Prosperity and Place confirmed the total was £4.5M, that Elected Member representation would come from the Community Planning Strategic Partnership, via the Local Economic Partnership and through Council. The Head of Prosperity and Place referred to Councils' priorities in June short, medium and long term within the report priorities would be put to the Department/Invest NI, proofed against the new sub-regional plan, who would look at other Councils to identify savings and opportunities to work collaboratively. Councillor Anderson asked that the matter of wages for Causeway Coast and Glens was looked at as the medium was below average.

Referring to Invest NI moving into Cloonavin, the Head of Prosperity and Place clarified at that time, Invest NI went through a review and a new restructuring is in place with the sub-regional plan and they were now looking at how best to get value within the Borough, that he would like to see Invest NI front facing within the towns, that they were working with them to see what that would look like.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council accepts the following, and approve

1. To accept the funding of circa £1.5m per year (for the next three years) provided by the Department for the area that makes up the LEP geography and its role as the Accountable body for the funding.
2. To provide delegated authority to the Director Leisure & Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, to commission appropriate external support as necessary to enable timely preparation of the LEP project proposals.
3. The LEP Membership as proposed in this report, including the process of establishing the LEP in line with the current guidance from the Department.
4. That the Elected Members input is coordinated via the Community Planning Partnership representative to expedite the project development process.
5. That the council provides the secretariat support to the LEP. This support will be resourced through the Council's Prosperity & Place team and funded through the revenue funding provided.

CHANGE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised Agenda Item - Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Change Fund and its accompanying addendum would be taken *In Committee*, at the end of the meeting.

8. CAPITAL PROJECTS LONG LIST

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the correct version of the long-list of proposed capital projects, following previous workshop and allowing time for Members to review and suggest additional projects. Unfortunately, the list presented to the November L&D was incorrect.

The correct list is now provided below at Table 1. As noted previously all projects will need to be assessed against the agreed criteria and future projects may include elements not specifically detailed below, but which arise from town or village master planning processes.

The Table was circulated within the report.

The Director of Leisure and Development apologised, that since the report had issued, there was now a version 7 that included five additional elements, identified through previous conversations with DEA Members - Articlave Play

Park, Ballysally MUGA, Banagher Glen Master Plan, Bendooragh Playpark and Football Pitch and Mosside MUGA.

The Director of Leisure and Development asked Committee Members to review the list and come back to the Director by email.

Councillor Huggins clarified it should have stated Article 'Community Centre', and not Article 'Play Park'.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of Correspondence.

10. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

During consideration of Minute Item 19.1 AORB - Merrow Hotel and Spa (Alderman Fielding), Committee recommended an Item to the Partnership Panel.

11. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

MOTION TO PROCEED '*IN COMMITTEE*'

Proposed by Councillor Anderson

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

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

* **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.14pm.**

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.

12. ADDENDUM TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS CHANGE FUND AND ADDENDUM

Agenda Item - Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Change Fund was circulated as a public, *for information* report and subsequently updated by a Confidential, embargoed report.

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) and accompanying addendum were previously circulated, presented as read by the Head of Community and Culture.

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council accept the recommendations within the report, circulated.

This report has been embargoed by The Executive Office until further notice.

13. EXPORTEXPLORE

Confidential report by virtue of Schedule 6, paragraph 3 of the NI Local Government Act, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Prosperity and Place as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the ExportExplore's 'Selling Causeway Coast and Glens' report (see Annex A). The report identifies bespoke inward investment and trade support programmes for Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approves ExportExplore's 'Selling Causeway Coast & Glens' report.

Further information was provided within the confidential report.

In response to Councillor Anderson regarding the 250th Anniversary of America, the Head of Prosperity and Place outlined connecting with Trade Shows with a bespoke offering.

Councillor Wisener stated concern that at a recent Heritage meeting it was stated Magee were already engaging in Ethical Artificial Intelligence (EAI); regarding the golf, and people visiting the area, arriving at the largest retail park in the Borough was the worst road in the area and would look very bad.

The Chair stated Councillor Wisener was straying into operational matters.

The Head of Prosperity and Place clarified Ulster University would be presenting in the Chamber and that point could be addressed then. He clarified the current EAI facility is at Magee, but that they were looking for hubs and that was where there was synergy with the Growth Deal.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve ExportExplore’s ‘Selling Causeway Coast & Glens’ report.

14. HALP FEES AND CHARGES

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Elected Members to consider options for fees and charges across Council’s six Holiday and Leisure Parks (HALPs). Members are asked to consider options with regards to fees for static and seasonal vans, touring caravans, tents, motorhomes and pods for the 2025-2026 season.

Further information was provided within the confidential report.

Recommendations

It is recommended the Leisure & Development Committee consider the three options for static and seasonal fees for the 2025 – 2026 season and recommends to Council its preferred option:

- Option 1 - No increase in fees other than with 2025 rates adjustment.
- Option 2 - An increase of 2.8% based on average CPI.
- Option 3 - An increase of 3.8% based on average CPI of 2.8% plus 1.0% in response to the investments in infrastructure.

Elected Members are also asked to approve the pricing for Caravan, Tents, Motorhomes and Pods as outlined in Table 3 (3.8% except Pod/Cabins).

In response to Councillor Holmes, the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised of the way forward to increase revenue of the pods. Councillor Holmes referred to a previous approximate £1m investment in upgrading electricity supplies that was not clawed back, he considered there was justification for Option 3.

Councillor McGurk queried whether there were Changing Places style pods. The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified there was fully compliant DDA Pods in Cushendall and Benone, Council work with the Mae Murray Foundation at Benone and was at the forefront of the direction.

Councillor Huggins questioned the disparity of the fees between Cushendun and Cushendall. The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified this was a decision taken by the former Moyle District Council.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve Option 3 - An increase of 3.8% based on average CPI of 2.8% plus 1.0% in response to the investments in infrastructure.

15. COASTAL REPAIRS WATERFOOT BEACH

Confidential report, By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. 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 to progress and complete on Stage 2 of the Capital Works Projects Management process (full design and procurement), to address coastal erosion issue at Waterfoot Beach.

Options

- Option 1 – Repair with gabion baskets and reinforcement as currently on site - £130,000 plus VAT.
- Option 2 – Repair with rock armour revetment - £207,000 plus VAT.
- Option 3 – Repair with concrete seawall - £142,000 plus VAT.

Next Steps

With Council approval to proceed to Stage 2 of the Capital Works process, Officers from the Tourism and Recreation team will liaise with the Infrastructure team to develop full detailed specification and design, competitive procurement prior to reverting to Council for an investment decision.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council Option 1 - Repair with gabion baskets and reinforcement as currently on site - £130,000 plus VAT (estimated).

Councillor McShane stated people would wish to see this expediated, she was accepting the expertise, flexibility and recommendation.

Councillor Schenning welcomed the report.

Proposed by Councillor McShane

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve Option 1 - Repair with gabion baskets and reinforcement as currently on site - £130,000 plus VAT (estimated).

* **Holiday and Leisure Parks Manager left the meeting at 8.50pm.**

16. BALLYCASTLE LEISURE CENTRE

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress made on the design and development of a new Ballycastle Leisure Centre and outdoor recreation facilities and request approval to appoint a contractor from a recent tender exercise. Having secured Planning Approval earlier this year, this approval will constitute the Final Investment Decision to allow the project to proceed to Stage 3 – Construction.

Further detail was provided within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the progress made on the design and development of Ballycastle Leisure Centre and outdoor recreation facilities; and approve the winning tender submission to allow Officers to sign the construction contract and progress to Stage 3 - Construction early next year.

Councillor McShane referred to the planning application for the signage for Ballycastle Leisure Centre and hoped Council would be visibly seen, as it did not look like it had been a funder.

Proposed by Councillor McShane

Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the progress made on the design and development of Ballycastle Leisure Centre and outdoor recreation facilities; and approve the winning tender submission to allow Officers to sign the construction contract and progress to Stage 3 - Construction early next year.

17. PITCHES AND PLAY ACTION PLAN

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to ask Members to note progress on action planning for planned, preventative repair and maintenance of play parks and sport pitches across the borough, and approve progression to Stage 2 Design, Procurement and Final Business Case (1/2 page proforma).

Further detail was provided within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of the report and recommend approval to progress to Stage 2 – design, procurement and final business case for the projects listed in Annexes A and B.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing provided an explanatory response for Alderman Fielding in consideration of the red type 'RPII score' column within the Annex.

Proposed by Councillor Wisener

Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the content of the report and recommend approval to progress to Stage 2 – design, procurement and final business case for the projects listed in Annexes A and B.

18. RVLC POOL SYSTEM

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 previously circulated, was presented by

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval to upgrade the existing Pool Water Dosing System at Roe Valley Leisure Centre at an indicative cost of £40k.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the detail of the report and recommend approval to progress to tender for the upgrade of the dosing system at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to a Salt Hypolyser System.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing detailed the savings made, Councillor Holmes stated that it was a lengthy pay back over 6-7 years.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the detail of the report and recommend approval to progress to tender for the upgrade of the dosing system at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to a Salt Hypolyser System.

The Chair advised the AORB matters would be considered '*In Committee*'.

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

Councillor McGurk declared an Interest as a member of the Planning Committee, invited the Vice Chair, Councillor Holmes to Chair the next Item of business.

- * **Councillor McGurk vacated the Chair and left The Chamber at 9.08pm.**
- * **Councillor Holmes assumed the Chair.**
- * **Alderman Stewart and Councillor Anderson left the meeting at 9.08pm.**

19.1 Merrow Hotel and Spa (Alderman Fielding)

Can the Director outline how the council is engaging with the Department of Infrastructure on the planning application of the Merrow Hotel and Spa, particularly

in the context of promoting high-quality tourism infrastructure and addressing any potential barriers to its progress?

Alderman Fielding presented the Item he asked had the Minister responded and what was the delay?

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the issue was being led by Planning. Council issued correspondence in August 2024 from the Planning Committee and on 3 September, further correspondence was issued on 12 September and 28 November, communication had not been received from the Department to date. The Director of Leisure and Development advised the Developer may be best placed to query with Department for Infrastructure why the application had not been progressed.

Alderman Fielding stated the Minister had failed to respond, he was neglecting his duties and he would raise with the Partnership Panel.

Proposed by Alderman Fielding
Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend that the issue of the Merrow Hotel and Spa is progressed to the Partnership Panel.

- * **Councillor Holmes vacated the Chair at 9.14pm.**
- * **Councillor McGurk returned to The Chamber and assumed the Chair at 9.14pm.**
- * **Alderman Stewart and Councillor Anderson returned to The Chamber.**

19.2 Jim Watt Centre (Councillor Holmes and Alderman Knight-McQuillan)

Please provide a verbal update to the Committee on the issues with the Jim Watt Centre, legal discussions, and any interim resolutions which may be possible.

Councillor Holmes presented the Item, he stated DEA Councillors had met with Officers to discuss the matter, public opinion was incorrect and he wished Council to provide a robust response.

The Director of Leisure and Development outlined a timeline of communication from Council's Legal department outlining the timeframe set by the Judge for all Parties and would seek advice on publication and release of this fact.

Alderman Knight-McQuillan urged engaging with the Sporting groups, the Director of Leisure and Development agreed to meet with the two groups stated.

- * **The Head of Tourism and Recreation left the Chamber at 9.19pm.**
- * **Councillor McCully left the Chamber at 9.23pm**

MOTION TO PROCEED '*IN PUBLIC*'

Proposed by Councillor Huggins
Seconded by Councillor Anderson 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 9.26pm.

Chair