

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025**

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary of key Recommendations</b>	<b>Estimated Timescale for completion</b>
1.	Apologies	<b>Councillors Kennedy, McShane</b>	<b>N/A</b>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<b>None</b>	<b>N/A</b>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	<b>Confirmed as a correct record</b>	<b>N/A</b>
4.	NW 200 – Deputation from Coleraine & District Motor Club	<b>Received</b>	
5.	Garvagh Museum Partnership Agreement	<b>To recommend to Council that approval is granted for the renewal of the Partnership Agreement with the Trustees of Garvagh Museum, as outlined above, for a further 4 years, at £10,000 per year, subject to annual review and future strategic priorities of the service.</b>	
6.	Local Economic Partnership	<b>To recommend 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</b>	<b>Long-term objective</b>

		<p><b>geography and its role as the Accountable body for the funding.</b></p> <p><b>2. To provide delegated authority to the Director Leisure &amp; 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.</b></p> <p><b>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, with the addition of three elected Members from the Leisure and Development Committee, allocated via d'Hondt. The LEP Partnership will report to the Leisure and Development Committee.</b></p> <p><b>4. That the council provides the secretariat support to the LEP. This support will be resourced through the Council's Prosperity &amp; Place team and funded through the revenue funding provided.</b></p>	
<b>7.</b>	Social Supermarket Support Fund	<p><b>To recommend to Council that approval is granted to allocate the DfC Social Supermarket Support Programme contract of £10,642 for The Glens DEA to Glens Social Supermarket Ltd as the new entity that has</b></p>	<b>March 2025</b>

		<i>been set up to deliver the project.</i>	
8.	Asylum and Refugee Funding	<i>Noted</i>	<i>March 2025</i>
9.	Correspondence	<i>None</i>	
10.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>
11.	Consultations	<i>Nil</i>	<i>N/A</i>
12.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Stirling (abbrev Christmas experience in Coleraine)	<i>To recommend that Council supports the Notice of Motion.</i>	
13.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor N Archibald, seconded by Councillor Peacock (abbrev implementation of the Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls)	<i>To recommend that Council supports the Notice of Motion.</i>	
	<b>Confidential Consideration (Items 14 – 18 inclusive)</b>		
14.	Arcadia Multi Play	<i>To recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, Replacement of Multi Play Unit at Arcadia Play Park and recommend to Full Council the award of the tender to Kompan Ltd at a cost of £50,000.00.</i>	
15.	Bushmills MUGA Lighting	<i>To recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, Proposed</i>	

		<b>Floodlighting Installation to existing MUGA at Bobby Greer Sports Complex, Bushmills and recommend to Full Council the award of the tender to Patton Electrical Ltd at a cost of £29,837.16.</b>	
<b>16.</b>	Coleraine Leisure Centre Air Con Unit Replacement	<b>To recommend that Council approve the next steps required, as detailed in the report.</b>	
<b>17.</b>	Property Acquisition for Ballycastle Museum	<b>Noted</b>	<b>April 2025</b>
<b>18.</b>	Benone Tourism Complex	<b>To recommend that Council reconsider the findings from the 2023 Strategic Outline Case and make a recommendation for an alternative approach. This may include adjustment to the management and future development proposals in light of the feedback from the wider stakeholder consultation process.</b>	<b>March 2025</b>
<b>19.</b>	Any Other Relevant Business Notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	<b>None</b>	

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON  
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025 AT 7.04PM**

**In the Chair:** Councillor McGurk (C)

**Members Present:** Alderman Callan (C), John McAuley (C), Stewart (C);  
Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (C), Bateson (C),  
Callaghan (C), Holmes (C), Kyle (C), McCully (C),  
Schenning (R), Stirling (C), Watson (C), Wisener (C)

**Officers Present:** P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)  
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)  
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)  
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (R)  
G Fall, Events Manager (R)  
P Harkin, Good Relations Manager (R)  
S McCartney, Holiday & Leisure Parks General Manager (R)  
S Calvin, Museum Services Development Manager (R)  
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)  
U Harper Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

**In Attendance:** M White, Event Director, NW 200 (C)  
J Andrews, Marketing, Design & Promotion Consultant,  
NW 200 (C)  
T Hogg, Associate Strategic Adviser, Strategic Investment  
Board (SIB) (R)

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

**Substitutions:** Councillor Callaghan substituted for Councillor Kennedy

Press 3 no. (R)  
Public 2 no (C)

**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 Councillor Kennedy and Councillor McShane.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024**

Summary previously circulated.

**AGREED** – the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 December 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

## **4. NW 200 – DEPUTATION FROM COLERAINE & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB**

The Chair welcomed Mervyn White, Event Director, and Jason Andrews, Marketing, Design & Promotion Consultant, from NW 200 to present to the Committee.

The Event Director thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present and introduced the members of his team in attendance in the Chamber.

Members were shown a short video showcasing NW 200.

The NW 200 Marketing, Design & Promotion Consultant delivered a presentation, which covered the following areas:

- The scale of the event
- 96-year history and heritage
- Race Week Festival
- Charity fundraising – NW 200 will be fundraising for Air Ambulance in 2025
- Tourism facilitator
- Huge economic impact annually
- Community engagement
- Corporate responsibility
- Environmental sustainability
- Commercial profile and future
- Key roles - NW200 Planning structure has changed in line with the Commercial Sustainability Plan
- Commercial Partnerships
- Golf events comparison
- Event research
- Media profile in 2024
- Borough and regional benefits
- Future investment – improvements at paddocks, a “Tunnel of Legends” to provide Instagram moments for tourists.

- Slogan: No Where Like It!

In response to a question from Councillor McCully, the Event Director stated that the organisation has been working on succession planning for the past three years and now has a good team in place. He noted that health and safety is a major element of the team's work.

In response to Alderman Callan, the Event Director stated that the five-year plan is available for any Councillor who wants to see it. He also advised that they have had some discussions with Tourism NI but there needs to be a small team set up to progress. He expressed his appreciation of Council's work and support.

Alderman Callan suggested that there could be an informal discussion or workshop with NW 200 outside the Committee meeting to further develop ideas and get more detail on the NW 200 plans.

The Event Director suggested that signage relating to the race/motorcycling could be installed, to provide photo opportunities for fans. Councillor Holmes stated that was a great idea and noted that none of the murals in the area relate to motorcycling.

In response to a question from Councillor Holmes, the Event Director stated that the volunteers provide good support and that ongoing meetings and reviews are held to assist with planning.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanked the NW 200 representatives for their presentation.

- \* **The NW 200 representatives left the Chamber at 7.44pm.**
- \* **There was a break in the meeting from 7.44pm to 7.47pm due to technical difficulties.**

## **5. GARVAGH MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

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

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to renew the Partnership Agreement between Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and the Trustees of Garvagh Museum.

The report to Council provided background information on this matter.

### **Proposal**

On the condition that the proposal receives Council approval, a new Partnership Agreement would continue to support the Council's Culture Arts and Heritage Strategy as before. This would include actions that deliver on the strategic themes of:

Theme 1: Enhancing our Cultural Assets

Theme 4: Participation, Inclusion and Equality

Targets:

- Up to 1000 visitors or participants, to include 6 group visits
- Maintain venue and collection
- Participate in at least 2 training sessions
- Up to 300 hours volunteering.

The standard conditions of the Agreement would include:

- To provide a six-month report and an annual report with Accounts to Council
- Acknowledge Council support in all communications including website, flyers and social media.
- Maintain Accreditation
- Maintain annual insurance, providing copy to Council.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended to Council that approval is granted for the renewal of the Partnership Agreement with the Trustees of Garvagh Museum, as outlined above, for a further 3 years, to the end of the current term of council, at £10,000 per year, subject to annual review and future strategic priorities of the service.

Councillor Holmes commended on the fantastic work by the volunteers and proposed that the Partnership Agreement be renewed for a further four years, rather than three, to take the arrangement through the first year of the new Council term.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Alderman Callan and

**AGREED** – to recommend to Council that approval is granted for the renewal of the Partnership Agreement with the Trustees of Garvagh Museum, as outlined above, for a further 4 years, at £10,000 per year, subject to annual review and future strategic priorities of the service.

\* **Councillor Bateson joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.50pm.**

## **6. LOCAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Prosperity and Place. It was noted that the report previously came before L&D Committee in



December but at January full Council meeting, there was a request accepted to send back to L&D Committee for further discussion.

### **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.

Alderman Callan expressed concern about groups being established that can then make decisions that bypass elected Members. He stated that the LEP Membership should include elected Members. He stated that recommendation 3 should be amended to add that three elected Members from the Leisure and Development Committee should be appointed to the LEP, with the allocation established via d'Hondt. He stated that recommendation 4 should be removed.

Councillor Anderson seconded Alderman Callan's proposal. In response to his questions, the Head of Prosperity and Place advised that section 2.11 of the report for this Item details the short, medium and long term projects. He further advised that the membership will include representatives from the private sector.

Councillor Holmes stated that it was important that the LEP should not turn into a talking shop, as he noted that some of the issues it is concerned with fall under the remit of Westminster.

In response to a query from Councillor McCully regarding how d'Hondt should operate, Councillor Holmes responded that in such instances, a fresh round of d'Hondt is run, rather than using the rolling d'Hondt list. Alderman Callan stated that he was content with this, and is happy to take advice from Democratic Services on the matter.

The Chair noted that the final decision on the matter will be made at full Council, and advice would be sought from Democratic Services on the d'Hondt allocation.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

**AGREED** – to recommend 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, with the addition of three elected Members from the Leisure and Development Committee, allocated via d'Hondt. The LEP Partnership will report to the Leisure and Development Committee.
4. 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.

## **7. SOCIAL SUPERMARKET SUPPORT 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 an amendment in the award of Social Supermarket Support Fund (SSMSF) monies received from the Department for Communities (DfC) for 2024-25 for The Glens DEA.

The report to Council provided background information on this matter.

### **Recommendation:**

It is recommended to Council that approval is granted to allocate the DfC Social Supermarket Support Programme contract of £10,642 for The Glens DEA to Glens Social Supermarket Ltd as the new entity that has been set up to deliver the project.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

**AGREED** – to recommend to Council that approval is granted to allocate the DfC Social Supermarket Support Programme contract of £10,642 for The Glens DEA to Glens Social Supermarket Ltd as the new entity that has been set up to deliver the project.

## **8. ASYLUM AND REFUGEE FUNDING**

For Information report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update to members on dispersal of asylum seekers in the CCGBC area.

To update members on Home Office and The Executive office sponsored Refugee Integration Funding and Asylum Dispersal funding programmes for councils across Northern Ireland.

The report to Committee included information under the following headings:

- Background
- Update on current position
- NI Executive Office /Council Engagement & funding
- Moving Forward

Committee NOTED the report.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of Correspondence.

## **10. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

## **11. CONSULTATIONS**

There were no consultations.

\* **Councillor Schenning left the meeting remotely at 8.09pm.**

## **12. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR STIRLING**

*That this Council engage in a scoping exercise to establish a magical Christmas experience in Coleraine similar to the successful events of the Yulefest Kilkenny and Enchanted Winter Garden in Antrim, utilising the Market Yard in the town and accessing the Coleraine Town Fund to deliver a Christmas experience for the community.*

Councillor Anderson proposed the Notice of Motion, and stated that a Christmas experience would benefit both tourists and local families. He suggested that there should be a reduced rate for residents of the Borough, and that the Market Yard in Coleraine could be a potential location for it.

Councillor Stirling seconded the Notice of Motion and stated:

*“A Christmas Wonderland event would not only bring joy and cheer to our Coleraine community but also significantly boost the local economy.*

*A Christmas market would provide a platform for local artisans and businesses to showcase their products, attracting visitors from surrounding areas. This influx of foot traffic through the streets of Coleraine which would benefit not just the market vendors but also nearby shops, cafes, and bars, creating a vibrant atmosphere that encourages spending.*

*Additionally, creating a wonderland with festive decorations, entertainment, and family-friendly activities would enhance the appeal of our town.*

*Ideally this could become a cherished annual tradition that fosters community spirit while supporting our local economy.*

*I believe that with thoughtful planning and collaboration, we can make this vision a reality. I look forward to discussing this further and exploring how we can work together to bring this exciting opportunity to life.”*

Councillor N Archibald stated that this event would be a brilliant way to utilise the Market Yard. She stated that she was happy to support the Notice of Motion.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that the Tourism and Recreation team will carry out a scoping exercise that looks into the possibility of an expansion of the Coleraine Christmas activity schedule, to include a similar scale of programming, infrastructure and event activity to the Yule Fest in Kilkenny and Enchanted Winter Gardens in Antrim. She noted that this cannot be achieved within the existing programming and cost resources. She further advised that the first meeting of the Coleraine Town Fund Board is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and that an extensive community consultation will be undertaken over a three-month period to identify a wide range of capital and revenue projects in line with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments guidelines. She stated that Officers will ensure that this proposal is considered as a potential project under the new Fund and encouraged local DEAs to raise it as part of the consultation process.

Councillor Anderson stated that the event should not be to the detriment of other events in the Borough, and extra money would have to be found for it.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson  
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council supports the Notice of Motion.

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR N ARCHIBALD, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PEACOCK**

*This Council calls for the urgent implementation of the Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which must address violence at its roots, tackling everyday sexism and misogyny, working with Women’s Aid and other community and voluntary organisations and most importantly with those women who are victims and survivors and families of those who have been killed. This Council supports tackling violence against women and girls being a priority in the new Policing Plan 2025-2030 and calls on the local PCSP to include tackling violence against women and girls in the development of the local PCSP plan and work with the community and voluntary sector and statutory bodies to deliver on this priority.*

Councillor N Archibald proposed the Notice of Motion and stated:

*“The issue of Violence Against Women and Girls, goes beyond policy - it is a moral obligation, a matter of social justice.*

*We need to confront the epidemic that devastates the lives of countless women as behind every statistic is a woman - someone’s daughter, mother, sister, or friend - whose life has been affected or tragically lost due to violence.*

*But this violence does not happen in isolation. It is rooted in a culture of everyday sexism, misogyny, and the deep structural inequality of patriarchy that normalises abusive behaviours and silences the voices of victims.*

*Our schools, workplaces, public spaces, and leisure facilities must be places of safety and respect.*

*This work will require close collaboration with victims, survivors, and organisations like Women’s Aid, and the strategy must be prioritised within policing frameworks.*

*We must move from words to real, measurable, and transformative change.*

*We must come together and say "enough is enough" because the true cost is borne by women and girls whose lives are shattered by violence. It is borne by communities living in fear and loss. It is borne by families who endure unimaginable grief of devastating loss.*

*I would like to acknowledge the report presented at December’s Leisure and Development meeting, along with a previous motion brought to this council by Alderman Michelle Knight-McQuillan. This motion seeks to build on that important work. The time to act is now.*

*By fully implementing the Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls, by addressing the root causes of violence, and by prioritising this issue within policing and community safety plans, we can make our communities safer and more equitable for all. I hope all members will support this motion.”*

Councillor Watson seconded the proposal.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated that: the Leisure and Development Committee approved an Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) implementation plan in December 2024, subsequently approved by Council in January. All councils are working in partnership with the Executive Office to deliver against Priority One of the EVAWG strategy. This involves momentum funding to be expended by the end of March which will include: research to identify existing local support provision and gaps therein; best practice in terms of addressing prevention; a toolkit for organisations wishing to address the issue; training for recipients of the grant fund (which will be launched in Feb/March); a promotional campaign to raise awareness (including seminars) and training for council employees.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated this momentum funding project is being delivered in partnership with Causeway & Mid Ulster Women’s aid and will be followed by the roll out of an EVAWG funding programme from April 25 for local groups to deliver appropriate projects. She advised PCSP’s plan includes support for Women’s Aid to deliver core services to victims of domestic violence. Additionally, PCSP resource the ‘Healthy Relationships Programme’ and Cyber Safety projects, targeted at young people within post primary schools addresses, among other issues, healthy/unhealthy relationships, coercive control, consent, dating violence, domestic violence and abusive relationships, self-care, social media (cyber bullying etc). Domestic and Sexual Violence has been identified as one of the 6 key strategic priorities for the PCSP moving forward.

Councillor Holmes stated that he supported the motion. He emphasised that it is also important that the justice system ensures that there is appropriate punishment that will act as a deterrent.

Proposed by Councillor N Archibald  
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council supports the Notice of Motion.

**MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’**

Proposed by Alderman Callan  
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council move ‘In Committee’.

- \* **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.20pm.**

***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.***

#### **14. ARCADIA MULTI PLAY UNIT**

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 Director of Leisure and Development.

##### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this paper is to update Members on progress to date on the replacement of the Multi Play Unit at Arcadia Play Park and to request approval to award the contract as per the associated Tender Report at a cost of £50,000.

##### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the tender process in Annex A, Replacement of Multi Play Unit at Arcadia Play Park and recommend to Full Council the award of the tender to Kompan Ltd at a cost of £50,000.00.

Alderman Callan requested that, for all directorates, Committee reports relating to expenditure should include the capital spend for the year to date and how this fits into the department's capital profile, and the impact of the spend on the capital projects priority list. The Director of Leisure and Development stated that she was content to provide quarterly reports on capital expenditure.

Proposed by Alderman Callan  
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, Replacement of Multi Play Unit at Arcadia Play Park and recommend to Full Council the award of the tender to Kompan Ltd at a cost of £50,000.00.

##### **Change to Order of Business**

The Chair advised that Agenda Item 15 – Benone Tourism Complex would be heard at the end of the In Committee section.

#### **15. BUSHMILLS MUGA LIGHTING**

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 Director of Leisure and Development.

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this paper is to update Members on progress to date on the installation of floodlighting to existing MUGA at Bobby Greer Sports Complex, Bushmills and to request approval to award the contract as per the associated Tender Report at a cost of £29,837.16.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the tender process in Annex A, Proposed Floodlighting Installation to existing MUGA at Bobby Greer Sports Complex, Bushmills and recommend to Full Council the award of the tender to Patton Electrical Ltd at a cost of £29,837.16.

Proposed by Councillor Kyle  
Seconded by Alderman John McAuley and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, Proposed Floodlighting Installation to existing MUGA at Bobby Greer Sports Complex, Bushmills and recommend to Full Council the award of the tender to Patton Electrical Ltd at a cost of £29,837.16.

## **16. COLERAINE LEISURE CENTRE AIR CON UNIT REPLACEMENT**

For Information 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 Director of Leisure and Development.

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the essential emergency replacement of the air conditioning service in Coleraine Leisure Centre.

The previously circulated report circumvents the standard process of requesting approval to progress to tender due to the essential nature of the works and the need to have the system replaced in a timely manner. The Director of Leisure and Development advised that the outcome of the tender report will be brought back to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson  
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve the next steps required, as detailed in the report.

## **17. PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR BALLYCASTLE MUSEUM**



For Information 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 Community and Culture.

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide the council with an update on the acquisition process for 57 Castle Street, Ballycastle for the purposes of extending Ballycastle Museum consequently forming part of the stage 3 application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund Capital Fund.

Committee NOTED the report.

## **18. BENONE TOURISM COMPLEX**

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 present to Elected Members the findings from stakeholder consultation following the completion of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) in 2023, that identified a number of options for the future of the facility.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Elected Members consider the findings of the Report (Appendix B, previously circulated) which details the feedback received from stakeholder consultation.

#### Option 1

Proceed with the recommendation from the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held September 2023 and release the site and advance to Outline Business Case (OBC) releasing the site to the open market under a 'development brief' limiting future use to tourism related activities.

#### Option 2

Reconsider the findings from the 2023 Strategic Outline Case and make a recommendation for an alternative approach. This may include adjustment to the management and future development proposals in light of the feedback from the wider stakeholder consultation process.

#### **\* The SIB representative joined the meeting remotely at 8.36pm.**

The SIB representative delivered a presentation on the results of stakeholder consultation and engagement.

Members discussed the consultation results and the different options. Councillor Callaghan thanked the SIB representative for her report, and noted that the public and service users want the site to remain in Council hands. He suggested that, with the proper structures and investment in place, its performance could be turned around. He emphasised the mental health and wellbeing value of the site. He asked that Officers develop a business plan that identifies short-term actions that could be taken, and then develop a medium and long-term business plan that looks at the possibility of external investment. Councillor Callaghan proposed Option 2.

Alderman Callan stated that the facility is a hidden gem, but one that requires constant investment. He seconded the proposal of Option 2, with a twin-track approach exploring the possibility of strategic partners.

Councillor Bateson expressed his support for Option 2.

The SIB representative emphasised the importance of the social return on the investment in the asset, and the need to balance the financial viability of the site with its health and wellbeing value to the Borough.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified that Option 2 would include a masterplanning exercise that would investigate the possibility of working with the private sector. She stated that there could be a cross-departmental Officer working group in the first instance, with progress fed back to the Committee. Following discussion, it was agreed that updates would be provided to the DEA Councillors and Councillors from the legacy Limavady Council area.

\* **Councillor Anderson left the Chamber at 9.06pm.**

Proposed by Councillor Callaghan  
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Council reconsider the findings from the 2023 Strategic Outline Case and make a recommendation for an alternative approach. This may include adjustment to the management and future development proposals in light of the feedback from the wider stakeholder consultation process.

**19. 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 McCully

Seconded by Councillor N Archibald 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 9.23pm.

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Chair