



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	<i>Councillors Anderson, Archibald, Schenning</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Councillor Kennedy</i>	<i>N/A</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18th February 2025	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>	<i>N/A</i>
4.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Boyle, seconded by Councillor McCully (abbrev. Riverside Theatre)	<i>Postponed</i>	
5.	Presentation – Hazel Bay Company Limited	<i>Received</i>	<i>N/A</i>
6.	Community Development Support Grant 2025-26 Assessment Report	<i>to recommend that Council: i. Approve funding awards through the CDSG for 2025-26 as detailed in Annex B, contingent upon the availability of necessary funding from DfC.</i>	<i>31 March 2026</i>

		<p>ii. If DfC funding confirmation is not received by 1st April 2025, issue letters of offer for a six-month period to successful applicants to prevent delays in funding for community groups' operating costs.</p>	
7.	Community Festivals Fund 2025-26 Assessment Report	<p>to recommend that Council approve:</p> <p>I. Funding Awards: Approve the recommended funding awards through the Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, contingent upon confirmation of funding from DfC.</p> <p>II. Provisional Offers: If DfC funding confirmation is not received by 1st April, issue provisional letters of offer to applicants with festivals scheduled in April and May 2025.</p> <p>III. Training Allocation: Allocate £5,000 from the CFF budget for training festival organisers.</p> <p>IV. Budget Reallocation A: Reallocate £4,840 from the remaining CFF budget to the Social Connections Grant Programme.</p>	31 March 2026

		V. Budget Reallocation B: reallocate the remaining £3,811 of CFF underspend to Community, Arts & Heritage Fund	
8.	Culture, Arts & Heritage Fund 2025-26	to recommend that Council approve option 2: All successful applications will receive the full amount of eligible costs requested, totalling £23,811.00. The additional budget will be reallocated from unspent grant funds within Community & Culture	31 March 2026
9.	Go Succeed	to recommend that Council match funding of Go Succeed in 2025-2026 totalling £165,857 – this includes contingency of £42,102 for a 6-month resource extension should challenges with future funding arise. Core match-funding for the service from Council equates to £123,755, maintained at the same level as 2024/25 council contribution.	31 March 2026
10.	Tourism Event Funding Programme (TEFP) – Growth & Large Events Fund 2025-2026	There was no recommendation put to Council	31 March 2026
11.	Correspondence – Local Enterprise Champions	to recommend to Council that 3 Elected Members	

		<i>can submit expressions of interest to become Local enterprise Champions and attend the 4 afternoon workshops.</i>	
12.	DfC Social Supermarket Support Fund	Information	
13.	Sperrin Partnership Project	Information	N/A
	Confidential Consideration (Items 14 – 16 inclusive)		
14.	Tender report Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme (CRSSRP) – Bushmills Signage	<i>to recommend that Council accepts this Tender Report and instructs officers to appoint ASF Engineering Ltd for the tender price of £20,674</i>	30 June 2025
15.	Council Managed Events 2025/26 – External Services Procurement Atlantic Sessions	<p><i>to recommend to Council the appointment of the following to allow the Tourism and Recreation Department to deliver on the approved schedule of Council managed events:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Get Shep to provide services as Event Music Promoter at Atlantic Sessions at a cost of £29,500 + VAT as detailed in Appendix A.</i> <i>• The procurement exercise allows for an extension to this contract for an additional 3 years. Officers ask for approval from Elected Members to extend the contract for an</i> 	

		additional 2 years, subject to an annual performance review.	
16.	Council Managed Events 2025/26 – External Services Procurement – Contract Extensions	to recommend that Council approve the following contract extension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Your Space Circus to provide Circus Skills Animation at Council Events, up to a further 2 years, subject to satisfactory delivery and performance review. 	
17.	Electrical Repairs – Juniper Hill Holiday & Leisure Park	to recommend to Council the retrospective approval for the temporary repairs to allow Juniper Hill to operate with power (£15,750 + VAT), and an immediate initiation of design, procurement and installation solutions, for the electrical supply of this site.	
18.	Any Other Relevant Business Notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)		
18.1	Update on The Open (Alderman Callan)	Information	
18.2	Invest NI Council Briefing Feb 25 - Overview of the current performance of our economy (Alderman Callan)	Information	
18.3	Update on the development of a Tourism Strategy (Alderman Callan)	Information	
18.4	Review of future events following success of Air Show (Councillor Stirling)	Information	

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MS
TEAMS ON
TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McGurk (C)

Members Present: Alderman Callan (C), S McKillop (R), Stewart (C);
Councillors C Archibald (C), Bateson (R), Holmes (R/C),
Kennedy (C), McCully (C), MA McKillop (R), McShane (R),
Stirling (C), Watson (C), Wilson (R), Wisener (C)

**Non-Committee
Members Present:** Alderman Boyle (R)

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

In Attendance: C O'Donnell, Project Leader, Hazel Bay Company Ltd (C)
J O'Donnell, Project Accountant & Business Advisor, Hazel
Bay Company Ltd (C)
G Rogers, Project Architect, Hazel Bay Company Ltd (C)

R Finlay, ICT Operations Officer (C)
C Ballentine, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Press 3 no. (R)
Public 7 no (R) 1 (C)

Substitutions: Alderman S McKillop substituted for Councillor Anderson
Councillor C Archibald substituted for Councillor N Archibald
Councillor MA McKillop substituted for Councillor Schenning
Councillor Wilson substituted for Alderman McAuley

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 Anderson, Councillor N Archibald, Councillor Schenning.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kennedy declared an interest in Item 9 - Tourism Event Funding Programme (TEFP) – Growth and Large Events Fund 2025 – 2026. Having declared an interest, Councillor Kennedy left the meeting during consideration of the Item.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2025

Summary previously circulated.

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18 February 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair stated that the Notice of Motion will be considered to allow Non-Committee Members to leave.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN BOYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCCULLY REFERRED FROM COUNCIL HELD 4 FEBRUARY 2025

This Council recognises the importance of the Riverside Theatre as vital for the local arts and community sector; reaffirms its position that the theatre should remain in operation as a valuable cultural asset in the Borough; and agrees to write to the Vice-Chancellor and the Minister for the Economy, affirming our position and seeking urgent clarity on the future of the theatre.

Alderman Boyle stated that the motion has prompted a response from Ulster University and that Council have received correspondence from Ulster University.

Alderman Boyle stated that it is welcomed that a dialogue has started between the university and Council which is focused on keeping the theatre open. Alderman Boyle stated that she understood the correspondence will be circulated to Councillors in due course and the Council will consider the contents before issuing a response. Alderman Boyle stated that the motion is postponed to allow Elected Members sufficient time to consider the new development and the implications of the correspondence.

5. PRESENTATION – HAZEL BAY COMPANY LIMITED

The Chair welcomed C O'Donnell, Project Leader, J O'Donnell, Project Accountant & Business Advisor and G Rogers, Project Architect.

Project Accountant & Business Advisor outlined the vision for the former Dunluce Centre and provided detail of the timeframe to have work completed.

Project Architect outlined the planning process to date and confirmed that the planning process is progressing.

Project Accountant & Business Advisor concluded the presentation by stating that the desired outcome is to have a customer focused experiential site that will fit well into the existing Portrush offering.

In response to questions from Elected Members, the Project Accountant & Business Advisor stated the timescale for completion is dependent on planning, once planning permission has been granted work to develop the site can begin.

In response to questions from Elected Members, the Project Architect provided an overview of the responses received from the public consultation. Project Architect stated that there were comments regarding the car park coming with the building. That there was discussion on what is proposed for the site and there were requests for non digital activities such as rock climbing. There was also discussion on the arcade aspect of the development and confirmed that there will be a small section used for gambling/gaming activities. It was also confirmed it would be possible to have another public consultation outside of working hours to facilitate those who could not attend the previous consultation.

Project Accountant and Business Advisor confirmed that the company could work with Council to tidy up the outside of the building before The Open Championship.

- * **The representatives of the Hazel Bay Company left the meeting at 7.35pm**
- * **Alderman Boyle left the meeting at 7.35pm**

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT GRANT 2025-26 ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

Purpose of Report

This report presents the results of the assessment of applications received for the Community Development Support Grant (CDSG), seeking approval contingent upon confirmation of matching funds from the Department for Communities (DfC).

The report included further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Details of Grant
- Applications Received

Recommendations

Approval is sought for the following:

- i. Approve funding awards through the CDSG for 2025-26 as detailed in Annex B, contingent upon the availability of necessary funding from DfC.
- ii. If DfC funding confirmation is not received by 1st April 2025, issue letters of offer for a six-month period to successful applicants to prevent delays in funding for community groups' operating costs.

In response to questions the Head of Community and Culture provided some reasons for applicants not being successful and confirmed that Council Officers engage with community groups to assist them.

Proposed by Alderman Stewart

Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council:

- i. Approve funding awards through the CDSG for 2025-26 as detailed in Annex B, contingent upon the availability of necessary funding from DfC.
- ii. If DfC funding confirmation is not received by 1st April 2025, issue letters of offer for a six-month period to successful applicants to prevent delays in funding for community groups' operating costs.

7. COMMUNITY FESTIVALS FUND 2025-26 ASSESSMENT REPORT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the outcomes of the assessment of applications received for the Community Festivals Fund (CFF) 2025-26, seeking approval subject to confirmation of match funding from the Department for Communities (DfC).

The report included further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Applications received
- Reallocation of remaining budget

Recommendations

Approval is sought for the following:

- I. **Funding Awards:** Approve the recommended funding awards through the Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, contingent upon confirmation of funding from DfC.
- II. **Provisional Offers:** If DfC funding confirmation is not received by 1st April, issue provisional letters of offer to applicants with festivals scheduled in April and May 2025.
- III. **Training Allocation:** Allocate £5,000 from the CFF budget for training festival organisers.
- IV. **Budget Reallocation A:** Reallocate £4,840 from the remaining CFF budget to the Social Connections Grant Programme.
- V. **Budget Reallocation B:** reallocate the remaining £3,811 of CFF underspend to Community, Arts & Heritage Fund

In response to questions the Head of Community and Culture stated that the amount of funding is awarded depending on the duration of activities and confirmed that those who are not successful will receive feedback.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve:

- I. **Funding Awards:** Approve the recommended funding awards through the Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, contingent upon confirmation of funding from DfC.

- II. Provisional Offers: If DfC funding confirmation is not received by 1st April, issue provisional letters of offer to applicants with festivals scheduled in April and May 2025.
- III. Training Allocation: Allocate £5,000 from the CFF budget for training festival organisers.
- IV. Budget Reallocation A: Reallocate £4,840 from the remaining CFF budget to the Social Connections Grant Programme.
- V. Budget Reallocation B: reallocate the remaining £3,811 of CFF underspend to Community, Arts & Heritage Fund

8. CULTURE, ARTS & HERITAGE FUND 2025-26

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the assessment of the applications received to the Culture, Arts & Heritage (CAH) Grant Programme for 2025-26 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme.

The report included further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Applications received

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approve one of the 2 options below for the award of the Culture, Arts & Heritage Fund

Option 1:

A percentage reduction is applied to each successful application on a tiered basis, remaining within budget at a total cost of £20,000, as noted within section 3 of the report.

Option 2:

All successful applications will receive the full amount of eligible costs requested, totalling £23,811.00. The additional budget will be reallocated from unspent grant funds within Community & Culture.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve option 2: All successful applications will receive the full amount of eligible costs requested, totalling £23,811.00. The additional budget will be reallocated from unspent grant funds within Community & Culture

9. GO SUCCEED

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on Go Succeed, the 11 council Entrepreneurship Support Service funded by UKSPF, via the NI Investment Plan.

The report included further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Service Delivery
- Local Outputs

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to council match funding of Go Succeed in 2025-2026 totalling £165,857 – this includes contingency of £42,102 for a 6-month resource extension should challenges with future funding arise. Core match-funding for the service from Council equates to £123,755, maintained at the same level as 2024/25 council contribution.

Alderman Callan requested that the statistics for the Go Succeed Programme are published to promote the success stories in Council.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council match funding of Go Succeed in 2025-2026 totalling £165,857 – this includes contingency of £42,102 for a 6-month resource extension should challenges with future funding arise. Core match-funding for the service from Council equates to £123,755, maintained at the same level as 2024/25 council contribution.

- * **Councillor Holmes joined the meeting in the Chamber at 8.28pm, having previously been in attendance remotely.**

10. TOURISM EVENT FUNDING PROGRAMME (TEFP) – GROWTH & LARGE EVENTS FUND 2025-2026

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the assessment process for the Tourism Events Funding Programme 2025-2026.

The report included further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Application process
- Event funding eligibility criteria 2025-2026
- Assessment process
- Summary of applications
- For Consideration
- Application of Sliding Scale
- Maximising Sustainability

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council;

That funding is awarded, under the Tourism Events Funding Programme, as outlined in **Table 1**, with a sliding scale applied based on scores totalling £400,000.00.

In response to questions the Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed that organisations do receive support with the application process and feedback is provided for those who are not successful.

Discussion ensued regarding providing extra funding to allow all groups to receive the full amount they applied for.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Stirling

- To recommend that the Council agree that funding is awarded, under the Tourism Events Funding Programme, as outlined in Table 1, without a sliding scale being applied subject to the Director of Leisure and Development advising of the affordability of increasing the budget to £437,000 at the Full Council Meeting on 1 April 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding the level of support provided to organisations applying for funding.

Councillor Bateson reflected on a previous decision to work within the budget for sport and community projects last month and stated that the precedent has been set for this year.

Councillor McCully also reflected on the discussion surrounding sport and community projects and stated it is better to work within budget. Councillor McCully stated that if a funding programme is oversubscribed and this is documented this can be evidence to justify changing a budget in future years.

At the request of Councillor Holmes, Alderman Callan repeated the proposal.

The Chair put the motion to the vote.

6 Members voted For; 8 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Director of Leisure and Development declared the motion lost.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Purpose of Report

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

Extract

Correspondence has been received requesting nominations for Council's Local Enterprise Champions for the Class of 2025.

Following on from three NAC (NI) led interactive conferences on Local Enterprise training, entitled "Developing a New Economy," over the past 18 months, together with practical development of next steps with partner bodies including SOLACE, APSE, and Ulster University, NAC (NI) seeks your council's nominations to participate in the 4 afternoon workshops

Recommendation

It is recommended that Leisure and Development Committee make a decision to participate and seek expressions of interest from those who would like to participate.

Alderman Calan thought that it is important that Council contributes to the programme.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor C Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that 3 Elected Members can submit expressions of interest to attend the 4 afternoon workshops.

In response to the Chair the Director of Leisure and Development confirmed there are 3 Elected Members on the Local Economic Partnership. The Chair suggested that those 3 Members attend the workshop and also stated that it is up to each individual Member to decide.

12. DFC SOCIAL SUPERMARKET SUPPORT FUND

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the next stage of delivery of the Social Supermarket Support Fund (SSMSF) received from the Department for Communities (DfC), in relation to The Glens and Ballymoney DEA's.

Further information was provided detailing the background and current situation.

A further report will be presented to the committee upon completion of this process.

Committee NOTED the report.

13. SPERRIN PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on the activities being delivered by the Sperrins Partnership Project.

Further information was provided in the report detailing the background and update report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee notes the information in this report and Appendix A.

AGREED – to recommend that Council notes the information in this report and Appendix A

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor C Archibald

and

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

- * **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8:28pm**

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. TENDER REPORT COVID RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME (CRSSRP) – BUSHMILLS SIGNAGE

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 Prosperity and Place.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the outcome of the procurement process to appoint contractors to undertake the Bushmills signage project as part of the Covid Recovery Small Settlement Regeneration Programme (CRSSRP).

Members are asked to consider the Capital Officers report attached and to agree with the recommendation to proceed to appoint the contractor with the lowest acceptable tender price.

The report included the further background information.

Options

- **Option 1** – Do Nothing: Reject the Tender report and carry out no work at this location.
- **Option 2** – Accept the Tender report and agree to appoint ASF Engineering Ltd. for a cost of ****£20,674**.

*** (This figure is made up from the Tender Total Price of £18,795 plus a 10% contingency amount of £1,879).*

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Leisure and Development Committee accepts this Tender Report and instructs officers to appoint ASF Engineering Ltd for the tender price of £20,674.

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that Council accepts this Tender Report and instructs officers to appoint ASF Engineering Ltd for the tender price of £20,674

**15. COUNCIL MANAGED EVENTS 2025/26 – EXTERNAL SERVICES
PROCUREMENT ATLANTIC SESSIONS**

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 Prosperity and Place.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the appointment of a specialist Event Music Promoter to assist with the delivery of Atlantic Sessions, November 2025.

Further detail was provided within the report detailing the background and procurement process.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee are asked to recommend the appointment of the following to allow the Tourism and Recreation Department to deliver on the approved schedule of Council managed events:

- Get Shep to provide services as Event Music Promoter at Atlantic Sessions at a cost of £29,500 + VAT as detailed in Appendix A.
- The procurement exercise allows for an extension to this contract for an additional 3 years. Officers ask for approval from Elected Members to extend the contract for an additional 2 years, subject to an annual performance review.

Proposed by Councillor C Archibald

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED - to recommend to Council the appointment of the following to allow the Tourism and Recreation Department to deliver on the approved schedule of Council managed events:

- Get Shep to provide services as Event Music Promoter at Atlantic Sessions at a cost of £29,500 + VAT as detailed in Appendix A.
- The procurement exercise allows for an extension to this contract for an additional 3 years. Officers ask for approval from Elected Members to extend the contract for an additional 2 years, subject to an annual performance review.

16. COUNCIL MANAGED EVENTS 2025/26 – EXTERNAL SERVICES PROCUREMENT – CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

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 Prosperity and Place.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to extend the period of appointment for an event procurement contract. This relates to the provision of circus skills animation and entertainment services at Council-led events. Further detail was provided within the report detailing the background and request for extension.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the following contract extension

- In Your Space Circus to provide Circus Skills Animation at Council Events, up to a further 2 years, subject to satisfactory delivery and performance review.

Proposed by Councillor Watson

Seconded by Councillor C Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the following contract extension

- In Your Space Circus to provide Circus Skills Animation at Council Events, up to a further 2 years, subject to satisfactory delivery and performance review.

17. ELECTRICAL REPAIRS – JUNIPER HILL HOLIDAY & LEISURE PARK

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Elected Members of a recent power outage at Juniper Hill Holiday and Leisure Park (HALP) and to request retrospective

approval to immediately rectify the issues through a Direct Award Contract. In addition, approval is sought to seek immediate intervention measures for permanent solution to rectify electrical failures.

The report included further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Proposal

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends the retrospective approval for the temporary repairs to allow Juniper Hill to operate with power (£15,750 + VAT), and an immediate initiation of design, procurement and installation solutions, for the electrical supply of this site.

In response to questions, the Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed the Estates team do complete regular maintenance on the caravan sites. The Head of Tourism and Recreation stated that the priority is to get the caravan site fully operational as soon as possible and there will be a further report presented to the next Leisure and Development Committee to provide an update.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Alderman S McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend to Council the retrospective approval for the temporary repairs to allow Juniper Hill to operate with power (£15,750 + VAT), and an immediate initiation of design, procurement and installation solutions, for the electrical supply of this site.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

AGREED - to recommend that Council move ‘In Public’.

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

18.1 Update on The Open (Alderman Callan)

Update from The Open Project Manager on the current preparation and work underway for the 153rd Open in July.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated that Council's commitments and work streams relating to the delivery of the 153rd Open Championship are all progressing well, on target and on budget. This is enabled by ongoing positive and productive working relationships with our key partners the R&A and TNI. Some key, current areas of focus for Council are as follows:

- Business and Community Engagement Day in February welcomed 243 attendees including 75 representatives from 66 different businesses and 8 Elected Members, who received a briefing from the R&A's Director of Public Affairs. This will be repeated in May as well as a rolling programme of drop-in sessions in Portrush Town Hall.
- Traffic & Travel arrangements and Branding & Promotion Plans, as well as the Animation and town centre Events Programme, are all progressing well.
- Plans for Town Presentation and service continuity during the Championship are also well developed

Members are due to receive a briefing from the R&A's Johnnie Cole-Hamilton, Executive Director Championships and Robert Oxley, Director, Public Affairs on Tuesday 6th May 2025.

In response to questions the Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that a written report can be provided to Elected Members and that the Project Manager can attend future Leisure and Development Committee meetings.

18.2 Invest NI Council Briefing Feb 25 - Overview of the current performance of our economy (Alderman Callan)

Invest NI Council Briefing Feb 25 - Overview of the current performance of our economy.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated that there is a document available that provides an overview of the current situation of the Borough at this point in time.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated that the link for Invest NI can be forwarded to Elected Members as well as the document outlining the overview of the current performance of the economy.

The Head of Prosperity and Place stated that the Invest NI document only details information regarding businesses involved with Invest NI and does not represent all businesses in the Borough.

18.3 Update on the development of a Tourism Strategy (Alderman Callan)

Update on the development of a Tourism Strategy.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that at the October 2024 Leisure and Development Committee Meeting, Officers presented on the proposal to develop a new Destination Management Strategy for the period 2025 - 2035. This was approved with agreement to proceed with the procurement of specialist expertise to assist in the development of the strategy, the appointment being subject to the 2025-2026 rate setting process. A draft Terms of Reference is being worked on with a view to procurement at the start of the new financial year. In addition to the Terms of Reference, the Tourism and Recreation team has also been working on product audit for the Council area and a situational analysis.

18.4 Review of future events following success of Air Show (Councillor Stirling)

Following the success of last year's Airshow, I would like to request a review of its execution and the development of plans for future events.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated as Members will be aware, in January 2021 Council approved a Notice of Motion to develop a new international airshow for 2022 and explore holding the event every 2 years thereafter. Subsequent approval was sought to deliver the event which took place in September 2024. Officers plan to bring a report to the June Leisure and Development Committee for consideration, that details the investment required, options for delivery, and potential scheduling for 2026 (based on the 2021 Council decision to explore holding the event every 2 years). The Tourism and Recreation team recently met with Officers from Newry, Mourne and Down Council to explore opportunities for synergy and cooperation as they are considering reintroducing the Festival of Flight airshow.

In response to questions the Director of Leisure and Development agreed to hold a meeting prior to a report coming to the Leisure and Development Committee to discuss how to move forward with the Air Show in future years.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9:09pm

Chair