



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	None	N/A
2.	Declarations of Interest	None	N/A
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 20 th May 2025	Confirmed as a correct record	N/A
	Matters Arising		
3.1	Correspondence from Ulster University regarding the future of the Riverside Theatre (dated 13 May 2025) (Minute Item 18.1)	Considered 'In Committee' at the end of the meeting	N/A
4.	Walking For All Partnership	to recommend that Council a) Accept share of the €7.5 million PEACEPLUS funding to deliver a community cross border walking programme. b) Recruit and employ a Walking For All Officer for a 3-year period (January 2026 – December 2028). c) Contribute financially £5,028 over the 3-year period to	December 2028

		<i>make up the shortfall in funding.</i>	
5.	Impact of Storm on Trees within Council's Estate	<i>Noted</i>	<i>December 2028</i>
6.	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Binevenagh	<i>Noted</i>	<i>December 2028</i>
7.	Digital Update	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Long-term objective</i>
8.	Correspondence		
8.1	Correspondence from the Minister for the Economy (Dated 02 June 2025)	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>
9.	Addendum - 153 rd Open Championship	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>
10.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Alderman Callan, Seconded by Councillor Anderson	<i>to recommend that Council Support The Notice of Motion</i>	<i>N/A</i>
11.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Ciarán McQuillan, seconded by Councillor Peacock	<i>to recommend that Council Support The Notice of Motion</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	<i>In Committee (Items 12-20.1 inclusive)</i>		
12.	Dungiven Priory Lease	<i>Noted</i>	<i>2025/26 Financial Year</i>
13.	Growth Deal - Coleraine Leisure and Wellness Centre	<i>to recommend that Leisure and Development Committee hold a workshop prior to the Council Meeting on Thursday 26 June 2025.</i>	<i>N/A</i>
14.	Metropole Skate Park	<i>to recommend that Council approve Option</i>	<i>-</i>

		3 - Partnership approach proposed by CAUS (outlined within Section 4); with a review in eighteen months at January 2027	
15.	Ballycastle Leisure Centre	to recommend that Council note the progress made on the development of Ballycastle Leisure Centre; and approve the additional budget cover of £1.5m to complete the project in line with the NEC Construction Contract; and approve delegated authority to the ICT/Capital Works Team for CEs below £5k	January 2027
16.	JDLC Essential Maintenance	to recommend that Council note the contents of the report and recommend progression of the Joey Dunlop Essential Maintenance Project to Stage 2, with an indicative spend of £401k	End of 2027
17.	SWB MUGA Tender Awards	to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, for the resurfacing of Macosquin, Ballysally and Coleraine West MUGAs and approve the Contract award to MP Coleman at a cost of £106,600	October 2025

18.	SWB Pitch Fencing Tender Awards	<i>to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, for the upgrade of the fencing at Megaw Park, Ballymoney; Dunloy, Mosside and Balnamore and approve the Contract award to Rogers Fencing at a cost of £147,453.</i>	<i>October 2025</i>
19.	Leisure Centre Opening Hours	<i>to recommend that Leisure Centre Opening Hours is deferred to the Council Meeting, pending additional information</i>	<i>N/A</i>
20.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 20 th May 2025 ‘ <i>In Committee</i> ’		
	Matters Arising		
20.1	Correspondence from Ulster University regarding the future of the Riverside Theatre (dated 13 May 2025) (Minute Item 18.1)	<i>to recommend that Council write to the Department for Communities with a view to asking for financial assistance</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	<i>In Public (Items 21-21.4 inclusive)</i>		
21.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)		
21.1	Coleraine BID (Councillor Stirling)	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>
21.2	Garvagh Forest (Councillor Holmes)	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>
21.3	Jim Watt Centre (Councillor Holmes)	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>

21.4	Blue Plaque (Alderman Callan)	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>
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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND
VIA MS TEAMS ON
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025 AT 7.05PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Anderson (C)

Members Present: Alderman Callan (C), McAuley (C), Stewart (C);
Councillors N Archibald (C), Bateson (R), Holmes (R),
Kennedy (C), Kyle (C), McCully (C), McGurk (C), McShane
(R), Schenning (R), Stirling (C), Watson (R)

**Non-Committee
Members Present:** Councillor McQuillan (Item 11)

Officers Present: P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (C)
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R)
J McCarron, Project Manager - The Open Championship (C)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services
Officer (C)

In Attendance: L Boyd ICT Operations Officer (C)
C Ballentine, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Press 2. 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

There were no apologies recorded. It was advised that Councillor McGurk would be late to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20TH MAY 2025

Summary, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Kennedy
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

AGREED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 20 May 2025 are confirmed as a correct record.

3.1 Matters Arising

Correspondence from Ulster University regarding the future of the Riverside Theatre (dated 13 May 2025) (Minute Item 18.1)

Councillor Kyle wished to raise the Item, the Director of Leisure and Development advised it would be considered '*In Committee*' at the end of the meeting.

4. WALKING FOR ALL PARTNERSHIP

Report, previously circulated presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the SEUPB funding application by Outscape (previously Outdoor Recreation NI) for a "Walking for All" (WFA) project across Northern Ireland, working in partnership with named Councils, including Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Background

In November 2023 Council approved the following recommendation;

"...that Council considers the request from ORNI and recommend for approval by Council that CCG agrees to be a named partner in the Outscape (ORNI) Peace Plus "Walking for All" project".

The Outscape/SEUPB project is detailed in Annex A – A summary of that document was a request for Councils with rural settlement populations to work in partnership with Outscape to promote the benefits of "led" walking in rural areas as a conduit towards the creation of healthy communities in rural areas, whilst also tackling social isolation and promoting social inclusion. CCGBC focus areas are detailed in Annex B.

The project will be delivered through the employment of an officer to coordinate an Action Plan devised by Outscape throughout the duration of the project. The cost of the officer will be met by funding through the Peace Plus programme, and Councils will act as the employing authority for the local WFA coordinator, providing office space and officer support (line management).

Current Position

Outscape have been successful in their funding application to SEUPB which will realise circa €7.5million Peace Plus funding to deliver a community cross border walking programme.

Included in the above figure is the cost for recruiting and employing Walk Leaders across the participating Councils for the delivery of the area specific Action Plan. The Walk Leader would be expected to be in post from January 2026 to December 2028.

The original proposal put to Councils in 2023 included 100% funding for the employment costs, and those costs were included in the funding application. However, since the submission of the application, the costs of employment have increased due to changes in the employers national insurance threshold and a cost of living increase in salaries.

Outscape are now asking all partners to contribute financially to the project to meet the shortfall – calculated at £5,028 over the 3 year period.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider this update report on the Walking for All Outscape / Peace Plus project and recommend to Council;

- a) Accept share of the €7.5 million PEACEPLUS funding to deliver a community cross border walking programme.
- b) Recruit and employ a Walking For All Officer for a 3-year period (January 2026 – December 2028).
- c) Contribute financially £5,028 over the 3-year period to make up the shortfall in funding.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council

- a) Accept share of the €7.5 million PEACEPLUS funding to deliver a community cross border walking programme.
- b) Recruit and employ a Walking For All Officer for a 3-year period (January 2026 – December 2028).
- c) Contribute financially £5,028 over the 3-year period to make up the shortfall in funding.

The Chair advised Items 5-8 inclusive were presented as read, *For Information* and invited Committee to raise any matters.

5. IMPACT OF STORM ON TREES WITHIN COUNCIL'S ESTATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of the loss of trees within the council Estate by storms over the recent years and the proposed work by Coast & Countryside with the Estates Team to replant 200 trees within the estate.

Background

In the last 5 years there has been 5 major named storms which have caused significant damage and destruction to trees within Councils Estate.

- Storm Ciara (February 2020), Ciara swept through Europe with winds exceeding 60mph.

- Storm Arwen (November 2021) with winds reaching 98mph.
- Storm Eunice (February 2022) breaking records with gusts of 122mph.
- Storm Darragh (December 2024) 90mph winds.
- Storm Éowyn (24 January 2025) with winds of 97mph.

Estates has estimated that there is a loss of about 200 trees due to these major storms and others.

Tree storm damage is a visible reminder of our environment's challenges. It also raises question about balancing loss and restoration.

Proposals

Under the Estate Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council 2025 – 2030

- Area 4 Sustainable Accessible Environment, Protecting the natural environment, addressing climate change issues, Access to natural environment and a Sustainable environment

Coast & Countryside with Estates Team propose to plant 200 trees across council's estates at an approximate height of 5metres /10-12cm girth at approximately £60 each (bare root) in the autumn 2025.

The indicative cost for this replanting scheme is £12,000.

Recommendation

Elected Members are asked to note the content of this report.

Committee NOTED the report.

6. UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE BINEVENAGH

Report, previously circulated presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of an exercise being undertaken by Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust and Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership to explore the potential of establishing a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the wider Binevenagh area.

Background

The Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership is funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund until 2027. Council is also a contributing partner to the Landscape Partnership. The exploration of establishing a Biosphere Reserve in the Binevenagh area is being considered as a legacy to the work initiated through the Landscape Partnership Scheme from 2020 to 2027.

A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is a region recognized by UNESCO for its unique ecosystem, valued environment, and sustainable way of life of its residents. A Biosphere is a region that includes wildlife and natural habitats of international

importance. It encompasses communities with distinct cultural identities, as well as historic landmarks and heritage sites.

Presently there are no Biosphere Reserves designated in Northern Ireland. There are seven reserves in Scotland, England and Wales and two in the Republic of Ireland.

Proposal

Council officers have been invited to contribute ideas and expertise to assist in the preparation of boundary options and name for a potential Biosphere Reserve. This will in turn be subject to consultation locally, nationally and internationally.

The initial boundary being suggested for discussion is centred around the watershed of the River Roe taking in Lough Foyle, Magilligan and upland areas to the south leading into the north Sperrins. Contained within this area are eighteen designated sites including Areas of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas. These areas would form the core area of the Biosphere Reserve.

Issues and Implications

At this point Council is not being asked to endorse the concept of Biosphere but to solely contribute to an initial discussion around the boundary of such a reserve in and around the Binevenagh area.

The addition of an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area may contribute to the concept of sustainable tourism and destination management.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee note the participation of Council staff in this initial assessment of a boundary for a potential UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the wider Binevenagh area.

Committee NOTED the report.

7. DIGITAL UPDATE

Report, previously circulated presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on digital connectivity and transformation within the Borough.

Background

Members will be aware that since 2020 (i.e. COVID-19 pandemic), the pace of digital change has accelerated dramatically — reshaping how people live, work, and interact with public services. For local authorities like ours, this shift presents both significant opportunities and new responsibilities.

This update outlines the progress made in enhancing digital infrastructure across the Borough, as well as the strategic initiatives underway to ensure services are modern, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of residents and businesses.

Improved broadband coverage, the rollout of full fibre, and the integration of new technologies like artificial intelligence are enabling more efficient operations and better user experiences. At the same time, it is recognised that digital transformation is not just about technology — it's about ensuring equitable access, building trust, and creating services that work for everyone.

Officers are working in collaboration with external partners on a number of initiatives to make Causeway Coast and Glens a connected, innovative, and digitally empowered place to live and work.

The report provided information on the following paragraphs

- Digital Connectivity
Broadband
Project Gigabit Update
Mobile Connectivity - Shared Rural Network
Mobile Connectivity – 5G
- Digital Transformation Flexible Fund
Call Four Update
Challenges
Review of Council's Digital Strategy

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the information in this report.

Alderman Callan enquired whether the digitisation was also internal as well as across the Borough.

There being a technical difficulty on hearing the Head of Prosperity and Place, the Director of Leisure and Development advised she would invite the Officer to respond to Alderman Callan.

Committee NOTED the report.

**Prior to consideration of Item 12, The Head of Prosperity and Place confirmed to Alderman Callan that the Digital Strategy did look internally and externally in the Organisation.*

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Report, previously circulated presented as read.

8.1 Correspondence from the Minister for the Economy (Dated 02 June 2025)

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council participated in the DfE Multiply Programme. The Minister for the Economy thanks Council and the staff involved for their support which contributed to the success of the programme.

Recommendation

The Leisure & Development Committee are asked to note the contents of the correspondence.

Committee NOTED the report.

9. ADDENDUM – 153RD OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Project Manager. A PR video was played.

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on Council's role in the continuing planning in advance of the 153rd Open Championship in Portrush in July 2025.

Background

At its meeting in April 2025, Council's Leisure and Development Committee received an update report which outlined Council's involvement in the planning and delivery of the 153rd Open Championship.

Following the April 2025 report, Council Officers have committed to bring further updates to Committee on a monthly basis.

Headline Updates on Council Led Activity

Further information was provided within the following paragraphs:

Traffic and Transport

Business and Community Engagement

Tourism and Promotion

Service Continuity and Town Presentation

Budget

Other Key Areas of Work

Recommendation

Elected Members are asked to note the content of this update report.

In response to questions from Elected Members, the Project Manager outlined a timeline for the Events schedule to be published. He detailed the service continuity arrangements for residents' bin lifts. The Project Manager advised that regarding any Translink impact that had been publicised that day, contingency arrangements were in place and Translink was confident there would be little effect. The Project Manager asked Elected Members to push the message regarding the residents' parking, he confirmed the former Dunluce Centre tower was being used to facilitate installation of a camera to support traffic and transport operations. The Project Manager clarified

local signage that was in relation to the Site Reporting Offices and outlined the logistics of having a staging post for deliveries.

Committee NOTED the report.

- * **Councillor Holmes joined the meeting at 7.22pm during consideration of the Item.**
- * **Councillor McGurk arrived at the meeting at 7.35pm.**

10. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN CALLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

That this Council sets up a 250 USA Working Group, of no more than 8 Councillors by D'hondt, to explore opportunities for the Borough to tie into the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence given the historical connections between Northern Ireland and the United States. This initiative would aim to commemorate the role that individuals from Northern Ireland, played in shaping American history during the Revolutionary era and beyond. Furthermore, that we would write to other councils located in County Antrim namely Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council, and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to engage on a joint working group to maximise opportunities from this key anniversary.

Alderman Callan presented in support of the Notice of Motion, Alderman McAuley seconded the motion:

"I'm proud to bring forward this motion recognising the upcoming, 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 2026 — a historic milestone that offers not only a moment of reflection, but a real opportunity for our borough and region.

Northern Ireland — and particularly County Antrim — has played a remarkable role in shaping American history. It's estimated that over 2 million people emigrated from Ulster to America over the past few centuries — a staggering figure that actually exceeds the population of Northern Ireland today, which sits around 1.9 million. That gives a sense of just how deep and far-reaching our historic ties with the United States truly are.

Individuals from our towns and villages helped shape America's earliest institutions — some even signed the Declaration of Independence itself. This shared legacy matters, and the 250th anniversary provides a powerful platform to celebrate it.

But this isn't just about commemorating the past — it's about seizing the future.

The anniversary presents a unique opportunity to attract American visitors tracing their ancestry, boosting heritage tourism and local economic growth. Thousands of Americans already visit Northern Ireland each year for this very purpose. We've seen the appetite — take, for example, the recent exhibition in Belfast of an original copy of the Declaration of Independence, which attracted huge public interest, widespread media coverage, and international attention.

By establishing a joint working group with our neighbouring councils in County Antrim — Antrim & Newtownabbey, Lisburn & Castlereagh, and Mid & East Antrim — we can present a united and ambitious programme of events and partnerships. This strengthens our case for external funding from sources like the UK Government, the National Lottery, Department for Communities, and beyond.

In short, this motion is about recognising our past, working together in the present, and building for the future. Let's make sure Northern Ireland's story is part of the global commemoration of this key moment in world history — and let's ensure our communities benefit from it.

I urge Members to support this motion.”

Councillor McCully supported the Notice of Motion, he questioned the process as to why it had been referred to Leisure and Development Committee, considering Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and the Celebration and Commemoration Sub Committee had relevant Terms of Reference.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised the Chief Executive had been asked for the Notice of Motion to be referred to Leisure and Development Committee and he had accepted that.

Councillor McGurk stated that, whilst she appreciated the sentiments of the motion and close ties with America, it would be remiss not to take into account the schedule of events for the incoming year, the events had not been costed in Rates setting, the time limits were ambitious and would adversely impact on the Events Team.

Councillor McShane stated she could not support the motion, she outlined the historic decision on Council's Signature tourism events, she stated the Tourism Events Team was the Events team with skeleton staff and were expected to run new events year on year, which was diluting Signature events; Councillor McShane detailed the example of Rathlin Sound Festival. Councillor McShane stated it could be considered within the next mandate.

In response, Alderman Callan stated he was content to go to a vote, he stated there was an opportunity to explore this and it would be positive for the Borough.

The Chair put the Notice of Motion to the Committee to vote.

10 Members voted For, 5 Members voted Against. 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

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

11. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR CIARÁN MCQUILLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PEACOCK

Councillor McQuillan cited the Notice of Motion:

That this Council recognises the importance of engaging young people in the political process and believes that more must be done to create meaningful opportunities for youth participation in civic life. Therefore, this Council proposes to work in partnership

with Youth Services and local schools to establish a Youth Council within the Causeway Coast and Glens.

This Youth Council would serve as a platform to empower young people, encourage their involvement in public life, and ensure their voices are heard on issues that affect them. By fostering political awareness, democratic engagement, and leadership skills among young people from all backgrounds, the Council hopes to inspire a new generation to become actively involved in the political system. This initiative will help elected members to better understand and respond to the needs and aspirations of our young people.

Alderman Callan stated that, as former Youth Champion, he was delighted to support the Notice of Motion to engage young people in the democratic process, and foster more democratic discussion throughout schools in the Borough.

Councillor McCully stated support for the Notice of Motion, he referred to the Pupil Voice event and the level of passion amongst local children and young adults around political issues, anything to get them involved in the political process was to be encouraged.

Councillor Schenning, as former Youth Champion advised she sat on Youth Voice through Community Planning, there was a need to invest in the political side, she stated support for the Notice of Motion.

AGREED – to recommend that Council Support The Notice of Motion.

- * Councillor McQuillan left the meeting at 7.54pm.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

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

- * **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 7.54pm.**

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.

- * **A recess was held from 7.54pm-7.57pm.**

12. DUNGIVEN PRIORY LEASE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to obtain Members’ approval to enter into a 50-year lease agreement for a strip of land adjacent to Dungiven Priory to facilitate the development of a new pedestrian access into the Priory from Bleach Green Lane and linking to Priory

Lane; as part of the Covid Recovery Small Settlement Regeneration Programme (CRSSRP).

Further information was circulated within the confidential report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council, subject to planning permission and the necessary licence agreements in place, to enter into a 50-year lease agreement with the landowner for the development of the Priory Path. Council will assume maintenance and insurance liabilities for the trail corridor under the 50-year tenure of the lease agreement.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – to recommend to Council, subject to planning permission and the necessary licence agreements in place, to enter into a 50-year lease agreement with the landowner for the development of the Priory Path. Council will assume maintenance and insurance liabilities for the trail corridor under the 50-year tenure of the lease agreement.

13. GROWTH DEAL - COLERAINE LEISURE AND WELLNESS CENTRE

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 was previously circulated and presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to update Members on progress made to date on the development of a new Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre within the Growth Deal and outline design options currently under consideration.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note progress made to date on the development of a new Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre and outline design options currently under consideration.

In response to questions by Elected Members, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified the lifespan of Coleraine Leisure Centre within the Estates Condition report as 5-10 years.

Elected Members stated Coleraine Leisure Centre should be an ambitious, wet play tourism destination for families and tourists, similar to Lisburn Leisureplex and Andersonstown Leisure Centre, it was a unique and exciting project that Councillors should feed in to.

In response to comments about Coleraine and Causeway DEA Councillors being involved in the design, the Director of Leisure and Development clarified Leisure and Development Committee Members would be involved and receive a workshop prior to the July recess; she clarified the Project Steering Group brought reports to the Growth Deal Executive Programme Board.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Leisure and Development Committee hold a workshop prior to the Council Meeting on Thursday 26 June 2025.

14. METROPOLE SKATE PARK

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposal from Causeway Association of Urban Sports (CAUS) to develop an Integrated Urban Sports & Community Plaza at the Metropole Park, Portrush; and ask Members to agree a preferred delivery model for the project.

Further information was circulated within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update and agree a preferred delivery model:

- Option 1 – Retain the current position with CAUS to develop the project on leased lands from Council in line with the agreed Heads of Terms.
- Option 2 – Reject the Partnership approach due to the uncertainty of the timeline for funding opportunities of the skatepark and ask officers to engage with CAUS on a Council led project; or
- Option 3 - Partnership approach proposed by CAUS (outlined within Section 4); or

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing responded to questions and comments from Elected Members in relation to the timeframe associated with Option 2, discussion was held on percentage funding split options, detailed agreement on roles and responsibilities for any proposed partnership arrangement.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley

Seconded by Alderman Callan

–To recommend that Council approve Option 1 – Retain the current position with CAUS to develop the project on leased lands from Council in line with the agreed Heads of Terms, but we still keep this on with Council Capital Programme, so if funding suitable for it does become available, it is not off the table.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Stewart

Seconded by Councillor McCully

–To recommend that Council approve Option 3 - Partnership approach proposed by CAUS (outlined within Section 4); with a review in eighteen months at January 2027.

Councillor McCully requested a Recorded Vote.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.

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

The Chair declared the Amendment carried.

AGREED - To recommend that Council approve Option 3 - Partnership approach proposed by CAUS (outlined within Section 4); with a review in eighteen months at January 2027.

Recorded Vote Table

For (9)	Alderman Stewart
	Councillors N Archibald, Bateson, Holmes, McCully, McGurk, McShane, Schenning, Watson
Against (6)	Alderman Callan, McAuley
	Councillors Anderson, Kennedy, Kyle, Stirling
Abstain (0)	

15. BALLYCASTLE LEISURE CENTRE

- * **Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer left the meeting from 9.02pm-9.06pm.**

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 was previously circulated and 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 development of a new Ballycastle Leisure Centre and request approval for additional budget cover to complete the project in line with the existing NEC Construction Contract.

Further information was provided within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the progress made on the development of Ballycastle Leisure Centre; and approve the additional budget cover of £1.5m to complete the project in line with the NEC Construction Contract; and approve delegated authority to the ICT/Capital Works Team for Compensation Events below £5k.

Alderman Callan asked that a response was brought back to the Council Meeting on how the borrowing was being funded.

SIB Project Officer outlined the quarterly LUF Funding draw down process.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McShane and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the progress made on the development of Ballycastle Leisure Centre; and approve the additional budget cover of £1.5m to complete the project in line with the NEC Construction Contract; and approve delegated authority to the ICT/Capital Works Team for CEs below £5k.

16. JDLC ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the findings of the Stage 1 Capital Project Process for the Essential Maintenance Project at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and to seek Member approval to progress to Stage 2 – appointment of design team at an indicative cost of up to £401k.

Further information was provided within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and recommend progression of the Joey Dunlop Essential Maintenance Project to Stage 2, with an indicative spend of £401k.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the contents of the report and recommend progression of the Joey Dunlop Essential Maintenance Project to Stage 2, with an indicative spend of £401k.

17. SWB MUGA TENDER AWARDS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date on a number of Sport & Wellbeing MUGA upgrade projects and to seek approval to award the contract to MP Coleman at a cost of £106,600.

Background

In March 2024 as part of the midterm review of Council's Pitch Strategy, Council approved a Capital provision of £0.5m per year to be allocated for the planned preventative repair and maintenance of sports pitches.

A further report was presented to Council in December 2024, where Officers identified the intended next steps associated with the identification of projects, Councillor workshops and the tender process. The report highlighted that to ensure Council's stock of outdoor recreational facilities are maintained to an acceptable level, MUGAs would be included in the action plan for potential works.

The approved recommendation from December 2024 was, *'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.'*

Following the February 2025 Councillor Workshops, a number of MUGA's were identified for upgrade in year 1. These MUGA's are located at Macosquin, Ballysally and Coleraine West.

Further information was provided within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the tender process in Annex A, for the resurfacing of Macosquin, Ballysally and Coleraine West MUGAs and approve the Contract award to MP Coleman at a cost of £106,600.

Proposed by Councillor Stirling

Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, for the resurfacing of Macosquin, Ballysally and Coleraine West MUGAs and approve the Contract award to MP Coleman at a cost of £106,600.

18. SWB PITCH FENCING TENDER AWARDS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date on a number of Sport & Wellbeing Pitch Fencing Projects and to seek approval to award the contracts to Rogers Fencing at a cost of £147,435.

Background

In March 2024 as part of the midterm review of Council's Pitch Strategy, Council approved a Capital provision of £0.5m per year to be allocated for the planned preventative repair and maintenance of sports pitches.

A further report was presented to Council in December 2024, where Officers identified the intended next steps associated with the identification of projects, Councillor workshops and the tender process.

The approved recommendation from December 2024 was, *'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.'*

Following the February 2025 Councillor Workshops, a number of football pitches were identified for upgrade works to their existing fencing in year 1. These pitches are located at Megaw Park, Ballymoney; Dunloy, Mosside and Balnamore.

Further information was provided within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the tender process in Annex A, for the upgrade of the fencing at Megaw Park, Ballymoney; Dunloy, Mosside and Balnamore and approve the Contract award to Rogers Fencing at a cost of £147,453.

Alderman McAuley raised a health and safety matter with the fencing at Dervock pitch which he stated was required to be repaired during the off season. Councillor Stirling advised the fence should be prioritised, the Ladies had been promoted for 5 years and to show equality. Councillor Stirling asked whether costings could be brought back to the Council Meeting.

Alderman McAuley proposed the Officer recommendation and added *to include repairing the fencing at Dervock pitch, as a matter of urgency, during the off season.*

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing provided a timeframe for delivery which she advised could take up to a year, advised the outer boundary at the Dervock pitch may need to be reconfigured and there were associated issues to erect a compliant fence. The Officer clarified Pitch 1 was noted for replacement and if it could be accommodated within this financial year, that would be undertaken.

The Chair sought clarification from Alderman McAuley whether the proposal still stood, Alderman McAuley confirmed this.

Councillor McCully sought clarification on the motion, whether Council was approving the Officer recommendation and to also include the matters at Dervock?

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified the recommendation was paying for the pitches as detailed in the report, she advised the chestnut fencing at Dervock was next on the list for this financial year, and the second issue of the Ladies Football team and boundary fencing was a separate discussion which may require a different report.

There was no dissent from Alderman McAuley.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley

Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, for the upgrade of the fencing at Megaw Park, Ballymoney; Dunloy, Mosside and Balnamore and approve the Contract award to Rogers Fencing at a cost of £147,453.

19. LEISURE CENTRE OPENING HOURS

Confidential report, By virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 was previously circulated and presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the work to date on the review of the operational opening hours of Council's Major & Minor Leisure Facilities, and to seek Member guidance on the next steps within the process.

The report will also seek guidance from Members on the next steps in terms of the continuation of the interim arrangements at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, implemented in January 2024, extending the weekday evening opening.

Options

Option 1; Continue with the interim arrangements of extension of the opening hours at Joey Dunlop LC for 1 additional hour Monday to Thursday, until final Council decision on opening hours.

Option 2; Remove the interim arrangements of extension of opening hours at Joey Dunlop LC, until final Council decision on opening hours.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and approve the next steps in terms of organising a Councillor Workshop on Leisure Centre opening hours.

Members are asked to consider the interim arrangements in place at Joey Dunlop LC and confirm preferred option set out in 6.1 and 6.2 above.

Alderman McAuley requested the 'normal' opening hours for the swimming pool and gym. Alderman McAuley requested figures of the interim arrangements, rather than descriptive text, with regards to usage in order to make an informed decision.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing clarified the swimming pool times were not changed, only the gym and provided the *normal* opening hours for Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, Roe Valley Leisure Centre and Coleraine Leisure Centre. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that in the last half hour of opening hours of Joey Dunlop Gym, at this time of year, single figure usage would not be unusual across any gym.

Councillor McCully stated he wished to keep consistency, it had been costed in this years' Rates, rather than changing twice. He stated it did not look well to cut an hour, and would give clarity to the residents and users of the facilities.

It was proposed by Councillor McCully - to recommend that Council hold a workshop and to recommend that Council approve Option 1; Continue with the interim arrangements of extension of the opening hours at Joey Dunlop LC for 1 additional hour Monday to Thursday, until final Council decision on opening hours.

Councillor McShane welcomed the workshop, stated she had been lobbied and the pilot extensive, she queried discussions with Trade Unions and staff and their wishes. Councillor McShane proposed Option 2, as it would be a conclusion between the pilot scheme and reverting back and then going forward to be taken into further consideration with the workshops.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor McShane - to recommend that Council approve Option 2; Remove the interim arrangements of extension of opening hours at Joey Dunlop LC, until final Council decision on opening hours.

During the course of discussion, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised the intention was to bring utilisation figures to the workshop for future decision making; however these could be brought to the Council Meeting.

Councillor McCully withdrew his proposal and agreed to defer to the Council Meeting. Alderman Callan agreed to defer to the Council Meeting. Councillor McShane agreed to defer to the Council Meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Leisure Centre Opening Hours is deferred to the Council Meeting, pending additional information.

20. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20TH MAY 2025 ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Matters Arising

20.1 Correspondence from Ulster University regarding the future of the Riverside Theatre (dated 13 May 2025) (Minute Item 18.1)

Councillor Kyle stated, that, following the meeting with Ulster University it was disappointing to hear Council had been the only external option considered and Ulster University had not contacted Department for Communities nor Arts Council NI for financial assistance. Councillor Kyle stated he noted that this year Lyric Theatre is going to, or, has, received £1.6M.

Proposed by Councillor Kyle
Seconded by Councillor McCully
- To recommend that Council write to the Department with a view to asking for financial assistance.

Alderman Callan stated it was clear from the outset Ulster University had made up their mind about the facility and what they were going to do with it, it was its end of life and they had no long term plans for it. The sponsor department was Department for Economy, and it was for Ulster University to explore options to develop; that it was not Council's place to write to the Department. Ulster University had already moved on with plans for the Campus, Councillors needed to see the Estates strategy for the

Coleraine campus. Alderman Callan stated he did not believe Ulster University had consulted with Council on the Riverside.

Councillor McCully stated the need to explore all possible options, albeit, did not hold out hope Ulster University were going to revert its decision.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified she had previously written to Minister Archibald, Department for Economy, following the Notice of Motion, and had not received a reply, to date.

AGREED - To recommend that Council write to the Department for Communities with a view to asking for financial assistance.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

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

* **The time being 10.07pm.**

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

21.1 Coleraine BID (Councillor Stirling)

Can the Director or relevant officer provide an update on the Coleraine BID progress since the re-ballot last year?

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Coleraine BID hosted a levy payer engagement session the day before, she clarified a presentation by BID to Leisure and Development Committee would be rescheduled to September or October when a new Manager would be in place; Coleraine BID provide updates at Town Team meetings. The Director of Leisure and Development stated that potentially, Councillor Stirling had been lobbied as non-payers had recently received a notice to attend Small Claims Court.

Alderman Callan stated there had been limited activity since the re-ballot which was prior to the stated reasons and there was concern within the local area. Alderman Callan considered inviting Coleraine BID Board to an informal meeting with Leisure and Development Committee to discuss matters, instead of a presentation. Alderman Callan commented that Council was a levy payer with an Officer representative, however there was no direct engagement with Councillors.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated she was content to arrange the meeting.

Committee NOTED the verbal update.

21.2 Jim Watt Centre (Councillor Holmes)

Please provide an update on the Jim Watt Centre and a statement which can be released to the public.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Defence had requested an extension, therefore a review meeting set by the Court had been pushed back to this week, and were awaiting the Defence Case. Council's Legal Counsel had noted the next steps were to prepare a response and make a decision on the merits of participating in mediation between the parties. Once the Court review would take place the Court will dictate future timeframes.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated she was content to issue a statement pending legal advice.

Councillor Holmes advised of disquiet in the Garvagh area, Council should be giving a regular update and something may need to be in place longer term, as an interim arrangement.

Committee NOTED the verbal update.

21.3 Garvagh Forest (Councillor Holmes)

Please provide an update on the work to repair the bike trails in Garvagh Forest.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified Red 2 and Red 3 trails had not been cleared by Council's Contractor, Forest Service were bringing forward their harvesting schedule, with specialised equipment to clear the debris and open the Trails as soon as possible.

In response to Councillor Holmes, The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised he would check the notification signage at the Trail Head regarding its inaccessibility.

Committee NOTED the verbal update.

21.4 Blue Plaque (Alderman Callan)

Can officers provide an update on the Blue Plaque process with UHC?

Alderman Callan stated he was disappointed DEA Councillors had not received an invite to the last Blue Plaque, nor did they feed into the process Council, despite paying for it. He advised there was not good engagement with Ulster History Circle, and that needed to be addressed going forward; he advised the relevant Officers had agreed and would bring a report back.

Committee NOTED the verbal update.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 10.21pm.

Chair