



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2025**

No	Item	<i>Summary of key Recommendations</i>	<i>Estimated Timescale for completion</i>
1.	Apologies	<i>Alderman Callan, McAuley</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Councillor Schenning</i>	<i>N/A</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 th June 2025	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>	<i>N/A</i>
4.	Presentation from the Head of Prosperity and Place	<i>Received</i>	
5.	Leisure and Development Committee Terms of Reference	<i>To recommend that Council grants approval for the updated Leisure and Development Committee Terms of Reference following the recommended review.</i>	
6.	Shaping Sustainable Places	<i>To recommend to Council Option 1 - to respond to the consultation with the response detailed in Annex A of the previously circulated report.</i>	

7.	Peace Plus Altnahinch Dam Project	<i>To recommend that Council avails of the funding opportunity from Peace Plus and progresses with Option 2 – New path and associated infrastructure at the Altnahinch Dam project.</i> <i>This approval will:</i> <i>•Support partnership working with Northern Ireland Water (NI Water).</i> <i>• Allow for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and NI Water to formalise the partnership.</i> <i>•Permit progression to Stage 1 of the Capital Works process, i.e. appraisal and design, for the new path.</i> <i>This approach represents a cost-effective, sustainable, and deliverable solution that aligns with the funding offer of £180,000 Capital spend under the PEACEPLUS programme.</i>	November 2027
8.	NI International Air Show	<i>To recommend to Council planning and resource allocation for the Northern Ireland International Airshow is assigned for 2028. It is also recommended that a monthly progress report on Armed Forces Day is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee, beginning next month. It is further</i>	September 2026

		<i>recommended that a monthly progress report on the Air Show is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee for the 12 months leading up to the event.</i> <i>To recommend that Council that undertakes a review of the value for money of all Council-run events in 2028.</i>	
9.	Festive Fund Grant Awards	<i>To recommend that Council approves:</i> <i>1.The allocation of grant-aid totalling £33,747 to projects numbered 1–27, as set out in Annex A.</i> <i>2.The Festive Fund remain open to facilitate applications from the 4 remaining principal towns of Ballykelly, Bushmills, Portrush and Rasharkin.</i>	December 2025
10.	Museum Accessioned Object Request	<i>To recommend to Council that the helmet is deaccessioned from Ballymoney Museum's collection and returned to its owner, Rachel and John Burrows.</i>	October 2025
11.	Anti-Poverty Policy Consultation	Noted	31 March 2026
12.	DfC Neighbourhood Renewal	Noted	31 March 2026
13.	DfC Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme	Noted	unconfirmed

14.	Mobile Sauna Provision	<i>Noted</i>	<i>April 26</i>
15.	Labour Market Partnership Minutes	<i>Noted</i>	<i>March 2025</i>
16.	Participation in DSIT Regulators' Pioneer Fund	<i>Noted</i>	<i>September 2026</i>
17.	Coleraine Future Town Fund Update	<i>Noted</i>	
18.	Capital Grants Update	<i>Noted</i>	
19.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Alderman McAuley, Seconded by Councillor Storey (Abbrev. Joey Dunlop 25 Celebration)	<i>To recommend that Council Support The Notice of Motion</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	<i>In Committee (Items 20-23 inclusive)</i>		
20.	Growth Deal – Portrush to Bushmills Greenway	<i>To recommend that Members consider the land assembly options outlined above and attached, and agree to the following approach to land assembly for the greenway:</i> <i>-Accept legal advice provided by CFR, to acquire land for the project</i>  <i>-Agree to secure DfI land assembly support, in line with Hybrid Option 4, where the greenway is intended to become part of the adopted road network; and</i> <i>-Progress with the commissioning of the</i>	

		<i>SAR via the Council's Professional Services framework at an estimated cost of c.£20k.</i>	
21.	Enterprise Fund	<i>To recommend to Council to award funding to 10 businesses as outlined in Table 1 totalling £46,727 under the auspices of the Enterprise Fund 2025.</i>	<i>2025/26 Financial Year</i>
22.	Play Park Tender Report	<i>To recommend that Council notes the tender process in Annex A, for the upgrade of Dhu Varren, Danes Hill, Coral Close and Ballyknock Play Parks and approves the Contract award of Lot 1 to Kompan Ltd at a cost of £139,458.06 (inclusive of Wheelchair Accessible Trampoline) and Lot 2 to Garden Escapes at a cost of £81,586.50.</i>	
23.	Station Square Tender Report	<i>To recommend to Council the award of the supply of Modular Skate Ramps, including delivery and installation at Station Square Portrush, at a cost of £90,833.41 to Garden Escapes (Ireland) Ltd.</i>	
24.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	<i>None</i>	

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND
VIA MS TEAMS ON
TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Anderson (C)

Members Present: Alderman Stewart (C);
Councillors N Archibald (C), Bateson (R), Elder (C), Holmes
(R), Huggins (C), Kennedy (C), Kyle (R), McCully (C),
McGurk (R), McShane (R), Schenning (R), Watson (C),
Wilson (C), Wisener (C)

Non-Committee

Members Present: Councillor Kane (R)

Officers Present: D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (C)
N Harkness, Strategic Investment Board (SIB) Project Officer (R)
R Gillen, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
S Calvin, Museums Services Development Manager (R)
G Fall, Events Manager (R)
G McClements, Capital Projects Officer (R)
U Harper, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: A Lennox, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Press 3. no. (R)

Public 3. no (R)

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

Substitutions: Councillor Wilson substituted for Alderman Callan.
Councillor Huggins substituted for Alderman McAuley

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

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

The Chair began the meeting by extending his condolences and deepest sympathies to the family of Paul Beattie, a former Council Officer. The Chief Executive and Councillors echoed these comments, noting Paul's hard work and professionalism and how he was held in the highest esteem by colleagues.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Callan and Alderman McAuley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Schenning declared an Interest in Item 21 – Enterprise Fund, stating that her son has submitted an application to the scheme. Having declared an interest, Councillor Schenning did not disconnect from the meeting during discussion of the Item.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2025

Summary, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor McCully

Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 June 2025 are confirmed as a correct record.

*** Councillor Schenning joined the meeting remotely at 7.09pm.**

4. PRESENTATION FROM THE HEAD OF PROSPERITY AND PLACE

The Head of Prosperity and Place paid tribute to his predecessor, Paul Beattie, reflecting on his work and his talent as a photographer.

A presentation was delivered by the Head of Prosperity and Place, covering the following topics:

- Economic Development Strategy
- P&P Strategic Objectives
- P&P Team Structure (2022)
- P&P Budget
- Business Development
- Labour Market Partnership
- Regeneration
- Town & Village Management

- Growth Deal/Strategic Priorities
- P&P Priorities 2025/26

In response to a query from Councillor Elder, the Head of Prosperity and Place advised that work is ongoing in respect of the Enterprise Zone. The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of support from the Department for the Economy and Invest NI in respect of its regional balance strategy.

5. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Executive.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the Leisure & Development Terms of Reference (ToR) following the recommended annual review.

Updated Terms of Reference

Following the recommended annual review, the updated Terms of Reference can be found at Annex A (previously circulated).

Recommendation

It is recommended that approval is granted for the updated Leisure and Development Committee Terms of Reference following the recommended review. (Annex A, previously circulated.)

Proposed by Councillor Watson

Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council grants approval for the updated Leisure and Development Committee Terms of Reference following the recommended review.

6. SHAPING SUSTAINABLE PLACES

Report, 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 proposed Shaping Sustainable Places programme and to approve the response to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Proposals

Options

- Option 1 - Council agrees to submit the response as detailed in Annex A in relation to the Consultation on the Shaping Sustainable Places proposals.
- Option 2 – Council does not agree to submit the response as detailed Annex A in relation to the Consultation on the Shaping Sustainable Places proposals.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Services Committee recommends to Council Option 1 - to respond to the consultation with the response detailed in Annex A of the report (previously circulated).

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend to Council Option 1 - to respond to the consultation with the response detailed in Annex A of the report.

7. PEACE PLUS ALTNAHINCH DAM PROJECT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to advance negotiations with Northern Ireland Water to secure agreement through a Memorandum of Understanding, allowing further development of the proposed Altnahinch Dam circular trail project.

Approval is also sought to proceed to Stage 1 – Scoping project and outline design - of the Capital Works Process.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Proposals
 - o Partnership Development and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
 - o Legal Review and Future Agreements
- Future Maintenance Considerations
 - o Proposed Maintenance Schedule
- Access Over Dam Head – DDA Compliance

Options

Members are asked to consider the following options:

Option 1

Do Nothing

- No further action is taken.
- The Funding Unit will revert to the Special European Programmes Body (SEUPB) and decline the offer of £180,000 for Capital Works.

Option 2

Design solution featuring new path and associated infrastructure.

Approval is sought to progress development of the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan submission for the Altnahinch Dam Walk to SEUPB.

- Project to proceed through partnership working with NI Water.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the Council and NI Water.
- Council's Capital Works Team to progress to Stage 1 of the Capitals Work Process – feasibility and outline design.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development recommends that Council avails of the funding opportunity from Peace Plus and progresses with Option 2 – New path and associated infrastructure at the Altnahinch Dam project.

This approval will:

- Support partnership working with Northern Ireland Water (NI Water).
- Allow for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and NI Water to formalise the partnership.
- Permit progression to Stage 1 of the Capital Works process, i.e. appraisal and design, for the new path.

This approach represents a cost-effective, sustainable, and deliverable solution that aligns with the funding offer of £180,000 Capital spend under the PEACEPLUS programme.

In response to a question from Councillor Watson, the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that the costings for maintenance are based on a worst-case scenario to allow for major repairs, and it is hoped that no spend will be incurred in the first five years. He further advised that minimising maintenance costs will be a consideration in the design stage of the project.

The Chair thanked the Funding Unit Manager and the Funding Unit team for their fantastic work in respect of PEACEPLUS.

Proposed by Councillor Watson
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED – to recommend that Council avails of the funding opportunity from Peace Plus and progresses with Option 2 – New path and associated infrastructure at the Altnahinch Dam project.

This approval will:

- Support partnership working with Northern Ireland Water (NI Water).
- Allow for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and NI Water to formalise the partnership.
- Permit progression to Stage 1 of the Capital Works process, i.e. appraisal and design, for the new path.

This approach represents a cost-effective, sustainable, and deliverable solution that aligns with the funding offer of £180,000 Capital spend under the PEACEPLUS programme.

8. NI INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask if Elected Members wish to proceed with planning and delivery of the Northern Ireland International Airshow in 2026.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Planning requirements for the delivery of the NI International Air Show
- Event Schedule 2026
- Planning Requirement for the delivery of the NI International Airshow

Options for Consideration

It was initially hoped that it would be possible to combine Armed Forces Day with the International Airshow into one joint event, in order to combine resources, however it is now apparent that the Red Arrows will not be available in June 2026, therefore this is no longer a viable option. With the above information factored for, Elected Members are asked to give consideration to the following options:

Option 1

Planning and resource allocation is assigned for the delivery of the Northern Ireland International Air Show – preferred dates 5 & 6 September 2026.

Options 2

Planning and resource allocation for the Northern Ireland International Airshow is assigned for a future date, possibly in 2027 or beyond.

Recommendation

Elected Members are asked to consider the two options provided and make a recommendation with regard to the Northern Ireland International Air Show.

- * **The Chair called a recess at 8pm to allow Officers to resolve technical issues.**
- * **The meeting resumed at 8.10pm.**

Councillor Huggins proposed Option 2, with the future date proposed as 2028. She stated that this would allow for three years of planning and allow Council Officers to focus on Armed Forces Day 2026 and the America250 celebrations. She requested that a monthly progress report on Armed Forces Day is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee, beginning next month. She further requested that a monthly progress report on the Air Show is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee for the 12 months leading up to the event. In response to a request for clarification from the Head of Tourism and Recreation, Councillor Huggins confirmed that these would be “for information” reports.

Councillor Elder seconded the motion.

Councillor McGurk stated that Council's Events Team works incredibly hard and welcomed the consideration given to their limited resources. She stated that her party group has concerns about the overall cost of the Air Show and the value for money of the event. She proposed that, after the next Air Show is completed, Council should undertake a review of the value for money of the event and whether it is providing a return on investment for the Council. She noted that previous reports had stated that Council should be focusing on growing independently-run tourism events.

Councillor N Archibald seconded this proposal.

Councillor Huggins requested a short recess.

- * **The Chair called a recess at 8.16pm.**
- * **The meeting resumed at 8.20pm.**
- * **Councillor Kane joined the meeting remotely at 8.20pm during consideration of the Item.**

Councillor Huggins stated that she was content with this proposal, on the provision that the review encompasses all Council-run events held in 2028.

Councillor McGurk stated she was content to alter the proposal to encompass all Council-run events in 2028. She stated that further discussion would be needed on how the review will operate. The Chair advised that Officers will come back to the Committee with detail on the review process.

Proposed by Councillor Huggins
Seconded by Councillor Elder

- To recommend to Council planning and resource allocation for the Northern Ireland International Airshow is assigned for 2028. It is also recommended that a monthly progress report on Armed Forces Day is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee, beginning next month. It is further recommended that a monthly progress report on the Air Show is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee for the 12 months leading up to the event.

The Chair put the Proposal by Councillor Huggins, seconded by Councillor Elder to the Committee to Vote.

8 Members voted For; 1 Member voted Against; 6 Members Abstained.
The Chair declared the Proposal passed.

AGREED – to recommend to Council planning and resource allocation for the Northern Ireland International Airshow is assigned for 2028. It is also recommended that a monthly progress report on Armed Forces Day is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee, beginning next month. It is further recommended that a monthly progress report on the Air Show is brought to the Leisure and Development Committee for the 12 months leading up to the event.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

AGREED – to recommend that Council that undertakes a review of the value for money of all Council-run events in 2028.

9. FESTIVE FUND GRANT AWARDS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant awards for the Christmas Festive Fund 2025-26.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Overview of the Fund
- Criteria for Eligibility & Assessment

Outcome

27 applications were received by the closing date. The Funding Unit carried out the Stage 1 eligibility checks with all applications progressing for assessment and scoring against the agreed criteria – summary below:

- No of applications received 27
- No of ineligible applications 0
- No of unsuccessful applications at assessment 0
- No of successful applications 27

No applications were received from 4 of the 13 identified towns eligible to apply for Fund A. Council officers continue to work in these 4 areas to facilitate applications to the fund.

A summary of the outcome including applications received and grants recommended is included in Annex A (previously circulated).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approves to full Council:

1. The allocation of grant-aid totalling £33,747 to projects numbered 1–27, as set out in Annex A.
2. The Festive Fund remain open to facilitate applications from the 4 remaining principal towns of Ballykelly, Bushmills, Portrush and Rasharkin.

Alderman Stewart advised that he had been working with the Portrush community to try to identify a group to take the lead with this, and that Portrush Presbyterian Church is now planning to submit an application with the support of Council Officers.

Councillor McCully noted that the lack of a constituted community group is an issue in Portrush and requested information from Council Officers on the progress with discussions to try to rectify this.

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approves:

1. The allocation of grant-aid totalling £33,747 to projects numbered 1–27, as set out in Annex A.
2. The Festive Fund remain open to facilitate applications from the 4 remaining principal towns of Ballykelly, Bushmills, Portrush and Rasharkin.

10. MUSEUM ACCESSIONED OBJECT REQUEST

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request that a helmet accessioned into Ballymoney Museum's collection as part of the Bert McCook donation is returned to its owner.

Background information is provided in the report.

Proposal

Following the procedure, Museum Service staff propose, with permission, to return the helmet to Rachel and John Burrows.

Council do not hold the paperwork trail from Bert McCook with regards to how he acquired any of the helmets, Museum Services cannot therefore ascertain that Mr McCook legally owned the helmets and therefore if ownership of the helmet is confirmed, the helmet can be returned to their owner on request.

Recommendation

It is recommended to Council that the helmet is deaccessioned from Ballymoney Museum's collection and returned to its owner, Rachel and John Burrows.

Proposed by Councillor Kennedy
Seconded by Councillor Elder and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that the helmet is deaccessioned from Ballymoney Museum's collection and returned to its owner, Rachel and John Burrows.

The Chief Executive advised that Items 11-18 inclusive were presented as read, *For Information* and invited Committee Members to raise any matters.

11. ANTI-POVERTY POLICY CONSULTATION

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with the consultation response to The Executive's Anti-Poverty Strategy that will be submitted on behalf of Council.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Consultation Response

Committee NOTED the report.

12. DFC NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of communications received from the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding its planned review of Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) Technical Assistance funding provided to Council.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Current position

In response to a query from Councillor Schenning regarding representation on the DfC neighbourhood renewal group, the Head of Community and Culture advised that it will initially be Council Officers who engage with the DfC neighbourhood renewal advisory group and that DfC has not provided any further information to Council on this matter.

Committee NOTED the report.

13. DFC HERITAGE, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY PROGRAMME

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the Department for Communities' Heritage, Culture and Creativity (HCC) Programme Framework.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Framework synopsis
- Approach
- Cross-cutting Priorities
- Alignment

- Next Steps

Committee NOTED the report.

14. MOBILE SAUNA PROVISION

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of work being undertaken to identify coastal sites under Council management that could potentially host mobile saunas.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Proposal

Councillor McCully asked about the timeline for this scheme, whether the process would be similar to that for concessionary trading, and what quality assurances will be requested by Council to ensure an acceptable standard of provision.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that The Coast and Countryside team have identified 10 coastal locations that would be appropriate for such facilities. Senior Planning Officers will need to be consulted on these, with planning applications to be made accordingly, and other safety issues to be considered before this can be put to the bidding process. He advised that it is important to ensure a spread of provision across the Borough without saturating the market. He stated that the Terms of Reference will address the specification for providers in advance of the bidding process, with a target for next spring. The Chief Executive advised that detail on these matters will be addressed in a future report.

Councillor Wilson emphasised the importance of ensuring that the fine detail is considered in advance of any auctions, and suggested that Council could consult with The National Trust in respect of specifications, as a sauna facility is currently in place on Portstewart Strand.

Committee NOTED the report.

15. LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the minutes of Labour Market Partnership Member Meetings on 20th November 2024, 22nd January 2025, 19th March 2025, and 30th April 2025.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Minutes of the LMP Members Meeting – 20th November 2024

Committee NOTED the report.

16. PARTICIPATION IN DSIT REGULATORS' PIONEER FUND

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members that the Council is listed as a supporting partner in a joint Wales-Northern Ireland funding application under the RPF4, led by Caerphilly County Borough Council and coordinated in Northern Ireland by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Project Objectives
- Council's Role

Committee NOTED the report.

17. COLERAINE FUTURE TOWN FUND UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The Purpose of this report is to provide a progress report to the Committee on the Coleraine Future Town Fund (CFTF), and request that Elected Members participate in the online public consultation exercise which is currently live.

Members will recall that this project sits as Action 32 in the Causeway Community Plan and as such reports into council via the Community Planning Partnership.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Key Dates
- CFTF Board
- CFTF Engagement Events to date
- Upcoming CFTF Engagement Events

Committee NOTED the report.

18. CAPITAL GRANTS UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the timeline for the opening of the Capital Grants Programme 2025-26.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- 2025/26 Capital Grants Programme Timeline

Committee NOTED the report.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN MCAULEY, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR STOREY

The Joey Dunlop 25 Celebration was a special occasion that brought thousands of people to Ballymoney from across the world to celebrate and remember Joey Dunlop OBE MBE a legend in motorcycle racing and a citizen and Freeman of our Borough of whom we are rightly proud.

We therefore propose that Council officers now explore options in conjunction with the Dunlop Family to create a permanent exhibition of memorabilia, in a way that reflects our appreciation for the life, legacy and memory of Joey Dunlop OBE MBE.

Councillor Elder introduced the motion, stating:

“The recent Joey Dunlop 25 Celebration demonstrated not only the enduring love and respect held for Joey Dunlop OBE MBE, but also the unique place he holds in the hearts of people in Ballymoney, across Northern Ireland, and indeed throughout the world. Thousands came to our town to remember a man whose sporting achievements and quiet humility made him a legend both on and off the track.

Joey was not only one of the greatest motorcycle racers in history, but also a citizen and Freeman of this Borough. His dedication, generosity, and humanity have left a legacy that transcends sport. It is right and fitting, therefore, that we as a Council explore, in partnership with the Dunlop family, the creation of a permanent exhibition of memorabilia. Such an exhibition would not only preserve and celebrate Joey’s life and achievements but also serve as an inspiration for generations to come, while attracting visitors from far and wide to our Borough.

This is about honouring a man we are rightly proud of – someone whose name and legacy will forever be synonymous with Ballymoney. I commend the motion to the Chamber and encourage full support from all Members.”

Councillor Wilson echoed the sentiment of the motion and stated that Council should work with the Dunlop family and the road racing fraternity to develop this exhibition.

Alderman Stewart reflected on Joey Dunlop’s legacy. He stated that more should be done to strengthen links with Douglas on the Isle of Man, the sister town of Ballymoney, whose Mayor attended the Joey Dunlop 25 event in Ballymoney. He cited previous and upcoming events at Ballymoney Museum and commended Council’s Museums team for their work there. He stated that Members look forward to seeing a range of

options presented to the Committee on how a permanent exhibition of memorabilia may be facilitated within Ballymoney.

Councillor Kyle stated that he was happy to support the motion and that there is a need for a lasting exhibition, as demonstrated by the support for the Joey Dunlop 25 event.

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

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Elder and

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

- * **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.55pm.**

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.

20. GROWTH DEAL – PORTRUSH TO BUSHMILLS GREENWAY

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 was previously circulated and presented by the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) Project Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request Members approval for a land assembly approach to the Portrush to Giant’s Causeway greenway project as part of the Causeway Coast & Glens’ Growth Deal.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Recent Development
- Engagement with DfI Active Travel Team
- Commissioning a Scheme Assessment Report (SAR)
- Next Steps
- Conclusions

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the land assembly options outlined above and attached, and agree to the following approach to land assembly for the greenway:

- Accept legal advice provided by CFR, to acquire land for the project [REDACTED]
- Agree to secure DfI land assembly support, in line with Hybrid Option 4, where the greenway is intended to become part of the adopted road network; and
- Progress with the commissioning of the SAR via the Council’s Professional Services framework at an estimated cost of c.£20k.

If the recommendations are approved by the Leisure and Development Committee, they will then go before the Land and Property Committee before being presented to Council for final decision.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

AGREED – to recommend that Members consider the land assembly options outlined above and attached, and agree to the following approach to land assembly for the greenway:

- Accept legal advice provided by CFR, to acquire land for the project
- Agree to secure DfI land assembly support, in line with Hybrid Option 4, where the greenway is intended to become part of the adopted road network; and
- Progress with the commissioning of the SAR via the Council's Professional Services framework at an estimated cost of c.£20k.

21. ENTERPRISE FUND

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 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 update members on the Enterprise Fund 2025.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Pre-Application Support
- Enterprise Fund Scoring

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to award funding to 10 businesses as outlined in Table 1 (previously circulated) totalling **£46,727** under the auspices of the Enterprise Fund 2025.

Councillor Elder noted that businesses in the Limavady area had been very successful in the scheme.

Councillor Schenning declared an Interest, stating that her son has submitted an application to the scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Elder
Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

AGREED – to recommend to Council to award funding to 10 businesses as outlined in Table 1 totalling £46,727 under the auspices of the Enterprise Fund 2025.

22. PLAY PARK TENDER REPORT

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 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 Play Park upgrade projects, and to seek approval to award the contracts to Kompan Ltd at a cost of £139,548.06 and Garden Escapes at a cost of £81,586.50.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Tender Report
- Next Steps

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the tender process in **Annex A**, for the upgrade of Dhu Varren, Danes Hill, Coral Close and Ballyknock Play Parks and approve the Contract award of Lot 1 to Kompan Ltd at a cost of £139,458.06 (inclusive of Wheelchair Accessible Trampoline) and Lot 2 to Garden Escapes at a cost of £81,586.50.

Councillor Huggins passed on a message from Alderman Fielding stating that this was good news for Dhu Varren and a welcome upgrade, particularly the wheelchair accessible trampoline. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that she would get back to the Committee with an update on the timeframe for completion.

Proposed by Councillor Huggins

Seconded by Councillor Watson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council notes the tender process in Annex A, for the upgrade of Dhu Varren, Danes Hill, Coral Close and Ballyknock Play Parks and approves the Contract award of Lot 1 to Kompan Ltd at a cost of £139,458.06 (inclusive of Wheelchair Accessible Trampoline) and Lot 2 to Garden Escapes at a cost of £81,586.50.

23. STATION SQUARE TENDER REPORT

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 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 seek Council approval of the tender for new skateboarding ramps for the designated space at Station Square, Portrush to provide a safe, controlled and inviting environment for skateboarders, whilst maintaining public access to the surrounding businesses.

The report provided further information under the following headings:

- Background
- Next Steps

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the outcome of the Tender exercise and recommend to Council the award of the supply of Modular Skate Ramps, including delivery and installation at Station Square Portrush, at a cost of £90,833.41 to Garden Escapes (Ireland) Ltd.

Councillor McCully thanked the Head of Sport and Wellbeing for her work on the Skate Jam over the summer.

Proposed by Alderman Stewart

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend to Council the award of the supply of Modular Skate Ramps, including delivery and installation at Station Square Portrush, at a cost of £90,833.41 to Garden Escapes (Ireland) Ltd.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Huggins

Seconded by Councillor McCully and

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

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

There were no items of Any Other Relevant Business.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.19pm.

Chair