



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 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 21 st October 2025	Confirmed as a correct record	N/A
4.	Members will receive a presentation from the Head of Community and Culture	Received	N/A
5.	Asylum Dispersal Funding	That Council seeks legal advice prior to approval of the action plan contained within the report, subject to funding from The Executive Office's Dispersal Funding programme for Councils	TBC
6.	Annual Grants Programme 26/27	To recommend that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council: Grant programmes numbered 1-24 for the 2026/27 period, listed in Table 3, along with the	N/A

		assessment / scoring criteria as summarised in Annex A, previously circulated	
7.	PEACEPLUS Partnership Event	<i>To recommend that Council approve this request to allow this PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan (in collaboration with the Northern Regional College) event to be held in the council chamber on Thursday 18th December 2025, from 11am to 1.30pm</i>	N/A
8.	PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan Capital Projects	To recommend Council approval of the change request for the Benbradagh Local Community Regeneration and Transformation project from 'Benbradagh – Gateway to the Sperrins' to the 'Dungiven Castle Park' project	N/A
9.	Sperrins Partnership	<i>To recommended that Council notes the contents of this report, specifically:</i> <i>- The Sperrin AONB 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031 and the next steps outlined with regards to AONB delivery.</i> <i>- The proposed review exercise of the Sperrins Partnership Governance and Management Structure.</i>	N/A

		<p><i>It is also recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee considers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Making the additional financial provision requested towards the maternity costs associated with the Sperrin AONB Project Officer at an estimated range of £3,000 to £5,000.</i> 	
10.	Armed Forces Day Monthly Update	<i>Noted</i>	<i>June 2026</i>
11.	DfC Support Framework for Independent Advice & Debt Services Consultation	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>
12.	Portrush and Portstewart Town Plans	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N/A</i>
13.	Correspondence		
13.1	Correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding Local Councils and the Anti-Poverty Strategy (Dated 28 October 2025)	<i>Noted</i>	
13.2	Correspondence from the Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland relating to their Fundraising Campaign (Dated 05 November 2025)	<p><i>To recommend that the Director of Leisure and Development provide a report at the December Leisure and Development Committee on funding elements and opportunities for athletes in the borough in respect of detail contained within</i></p>	

		<i>the Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland</i>	
	<i>In Committee (Items 14-19.1 inclusive)</i>		
14.	Green Growth Scheme	<i>To recommend to Council Award Funding to businesses as outlined in Table 3, previously circulated, totalling £46,598 under the auspices of the Green Support Scheme 2025</i>	<i>March 2026</i>
15.	Rugby Avenue Proposal	<i>To recommend that Members note the approach from EA to acquire land at Rugby Avenue and agree:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The guiding principles proposed in section 6 above;</i> <i>• To invite the EA to make a proposal along the lines proposed in section 6 above; and</i> <i>• To invite the EA to make a presentation to the Leisure and Development Committee when such a proposal is available</i> 	
16.	SWB Essential Maintenance - Macosquin Changing Accommodation	<i>To recommend that Council note the content of the report and recommend to Full Council the approval to progress with the assessment process for a replacement modular changing facility at</i>	<i>TBC</i>

		<p>Macosquin football pitch.</p> <p>A further report to be brought back to committee with the outcome of the assessment and preliminary investigations, and a request to progress through the four step capital process, i.e. detailed design and planning application.</p>	
17.	Strand Road Public Right of Way	<p>To recommend that Council assert a Public Right of Way between Strand Road and the Coastal Path, Portstewart</p>	N/A
18.	Essential Maintenance Juniper Hill HALP	<p>To recommend that Leisure & Development Committee provides retrospective approval to the Estates Department to complete the required Electrical Switchgear Remedial Works at the Juniper Hill HALP, as listed in section 3.1, at a total cost of £123,807.00+VAT</p>	<p>Initial Programme: Nov 2025 – March 2026</p>
19.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)		
19.1	Legal situation regarding the Jim Watt Sports Centre (Councillor Holmes)	Information	

19.2	Economic support to businesses in Kilrea being affected by the bridge closure (Councillor Bateson)	<i>To recommend that Council raise at Partnership Panel, write to the Department of Finance, Department for Infrastructure and the Executive Office highlighting the impact on businesses in Kilrea following the Bann Bridge closure</i>	
19.3	Progress on the joint promotion of the Causeway Coastal Route and Wild Atlantic Way? (Alderman Callan)	<i>Information</i>	
19.4	Update on the recent engagement with Coleraine BID and progress on their action plan since the vote? (Alderman Callan)	<i>Information</i>	
19.5	Director communications with the MJM Group in last 6 months re Ballykelly area of the former Shackleton Army Camp. (Alderman Callan)	<i>Information</i>	
19.6	Progress of a masterplan for the Roe Mill Playing Fields (Alderman Callan)	<i>Information</i>	

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND
VIA MS TEAMS ON
TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.04PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Anderson (C)

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

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)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
P Harkin, Good Relations Manager (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
N Harkness, SIB Project Officer (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
S Glendinning, Good Relations Officer (R)
R Gillan, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: K Morgan, BL (R)
A Lennox, ICT Operations Officer (C)
L Boyd, ICT Operations Officer (C)

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

The Director of Leisure and Development undertook a roll call.

1. APOLOGIES

No Apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2025

Summary, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Kyle

Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 21 October 2025 are confirmed as a correct record.

The Chair congratulated Councillor Kyle on his recent marriage and Alderman Callan concurred on behalf of the DUP group.

4. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

The Chair invited the Head of Community and Culture to present to the Committee.

The Head of Community and Culture presented via power point as follows:-

- Vision and High Level Outcomes for Community and Culture
- Achievements for 2024-2025
- Targets and Priorities for 2025-2026
- Community and Culture 6-month Report
- Spotlight on Flowerfield Christmas Craft Market
- Spotlight on Ballycastle Museum Engagement
- Project highlight 2024 Pupil Voice – Empowering Young Voices
- 2025 Support for New Arrivals – Funding and Initiatives
- Focus on Tackling Disability Hate Crime
- Focus on Addressing Poverty
- Focus on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Alderman Callan thanked the Head of Community and Culture and her team for the work undertaken in relation to the Massey 100 exhibition which was in response to local needs.

At the request of Alderman Callan the Head of Community and Culture provided an update on the progress made with the Museum exhibition at the Diamond Centre, Coleraine.

The Head of Community and Culture agreed to provide an update to Alderman Callan on partnership working opportunities with the School of History at Ulster University.

At the request of Alderman Callan the Head of Community and Culture agreed to provide figures of those making enquiries relating to genealogy at Council Museums and referred to the ongoing activity at Ballymoney Museum in this regard.

Alderman Callan asked for an update in relation to USA 250 and the Director of Leisure and Development advised that discussions were ongoing with stakeholders and that these are being led by the Chief Executive. The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to provide an update on the outworkings of ongoing discussions.

Alderman Callan referred to the inception of the 'Bad Bridgett' book/podcast from the University and spoke of developing further relationships with Ulster University by way of linking in projects. Councillor McShane concurred with Alderman Callan's remarks, welcomed the progressions in relation to Ballycastle Museum and said she looked forward to additional funding.

Councillor McShane highlighted the positive impact the work undertaken by the Community and Culture Service area was having including wide engagement with communities and referred to the huge amount of work involved.

5. ASYLUM DISPERSAL FUNDING

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

Purpose of Report

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

To seek approval for the action plan relating to the Home Office sponsored dispersal programme for councils across Northern Ireland, supporting the development of networks and initiatives that facilitate integration into local communities.

Background

Previous reports to council provided members with information on:

The dispersal of people seeking Asylum across Northern Ireland and the use of two hotels as emergency contingency accommodation and private rented dispersal accommodation within the council area, provided through the Mears Group, who have been contracted by the Home Office to deliver same.

Home Office sponsored funding provided to Councils via The Executive Office, for the establishment of networks for assistance and integration of those seeking Asylum within local communities.

Accommodation

Whilst the Home Office instructed the closure of hotels UK wide, some hotels continue to operate as a necessity in the absence of alternative emergency accommodation. Three hotels in Northern Ireland continue to function as contingency accommodation, including the Magherabouy Hotel in Portrush which continues to be used as family accommodation. The Rambler Inn in Portstewart is no longer in operation as contingency accommodation, and Mears handed back the hotel in August 2025. The use of existing dispersal accommodation across the region, including the CCGBC area will continue however, there is currently no requirement for Mears to procure additional properties in the CCGBC.

Dispersal Funding

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have previously received funding from the Asylum Dispersal and Refugee Integration funding programmes, administered by the Executive Office, to address priority needs by developing and delivering support initiatives and signposting services to those requiring information and relevant services applicable to their asylum seeker status. The funding included support to establish and/or build upon the necessary networks and infrastructure within local communities and provide support to groups to minimise any potential impact on resources available to support local communities.

Asylum Dispersal Funding 2025/26

A meeting was held with all councils by The Executive Office and The Home Office on 9 October 2025, at which further dispersal funding for all Northern Ireland councils was confirmed, with no match funding required. Councils are requested to submit action plans outlining initiatives to meet the priority needs of asylum seekers and refugees in their area. Plans must include ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) provision and the establishment of a local support/information hubs.

Review

Over the past three years, working with key statutory agencies and community stakeholders, councils have developed a comprehensive understanding of the priority actions needed to support asylum seekers and refugees.

These actions span the entire settlement pathway, including:

- Provision of support to individuals residing in hotel accommodation.
- Continued assistance during transitions to dispersal accommodation.
- Targeted interventions upon receipt of a Home Office asylum decision.

While dispersal accommodation will remain a core component of the system, future new arrivals will no longer benefit from the centralised orientation model previously provided within the hotel infrastructure. This change signals the potential for a significant shift in support needs and requires proactive planning to ensure continuity and equity in service provision.

Council officers in collaboration with community and statutory service providers carried out a review of existing strategies to focus on emerging needs, safeguard vulnerable individuals during transition phases, and reinforce community integration frameworks.

This process facilitated a shared understanding of:

- The evolving needs of individuals and families navigating the asylum process.
- Existing resources and service capabilities within the borough.
- Critical gaps that hinder equitable access and effective support

Collaborative action informed the development and delivery of new services and targeted interventions to date. However, in recognition of ongoing changes to the asylum landscape it remains essential to continually develop the local support infrastructure.

Action Plan

In line with Council's Asylum Dispersal framework approved in June 2023, the following priority actions have been identified to address emerging challenges and further develop relevant support services at a local level. The actions continue to seek to embed and promote collaborative efforts at a local level, while providing a range of activities which ensure relevant support is available to those placed within the borough. All areas of expenditure will be subject to 100% funding from The NI Executive Office.

Staff Resource: To effectively coordinate and implement the Asylum Dispersal Action Plan, it is recommended that a dedicated part-time staff resource be established. This role would support the planning, coordination, and delivery of the action plan across the CCGBC area, ensuring that existing council services and resources are not unduly impacted.

Statutory and Community Engagement: Successful delivery of the action plan depends on strong collaboration and shared understanding across statutory and community partners. Council will continue to facilitate the statutory and community working group, support the Northern Health & Social Care Trust's Wellbeing Hub group, and participate in the cross-council engagement forum coordinated by TEO and the Home Office.

Orientation Information: Providing accessible, accurate, and multilingual information for individuals placed in dispersal accommodation within the borough is essential for effective integration. It is proposed that up to date local information and service details be made available at key community sites and online. In addition to written materials, regular in-person events and support hubs are encouraged to help reduce isolation,

foster community connections, support language practice, and promote volunteering and befriending opportunities.

Cultural Awareness: In response to recent regional challenges, there is a recognised need to strengthen mutual understanding and promote positive community relations. Training initiatives will therefore be developed to support both new arrivals and local partners to include:

Information sessions on local customs, civic responsibilities, community safety, and safeguarding will help promote confidence and understanding of life in Northern Ireland.

Ongoing cultural awareness and inclusion training will aim to enhance understanding, address misconceptions, and support welcoming and safe community interactions.

Local Integration: The rural nature of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough presents practical challenges for people seeking asylum in accessing key services such as legal advice, which are often concentrated in urban areas. Limited transport options can further affect access to appointments and services, impacting wellbeing. Community and voluntary organisations play an essential role in supporting inclusion, though many rely on volunteers and limited resources. Sustainable funding for wellbeing and integration activities will help strengthen local capacity, ensuring continued inclusive support and long-term community cohesion.

Health and Wellbeing: People arriving through the asylum process may have experienced significant hardship and disruption. Supporting positive physical and mental wellbeing is therefore a key priority. Initiatives that promote inclusion, build resilience, and encourage participation in community life will be developed in partnership with local organisations and health providers.

Language Development: English language learning is a cornerstone of successful integration. Formal ESOL classes support communication, confidence, and social connection. In addition, opportunities for informal language learning for adults and children will be explored, including bilingual family activities and accessible educational resources. These initiatives can help families maintain structure and engagement while fostering connections within local communities.

The action plan for the CCGBC continues to contribute to the key outcomes as identified in The Executive Office draft Integration Strategy.

Summary

Activities and associated resources (subject to confirmation of funding from TEO).

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves the action plan contained within the report, subject to funding from The Executive Office's Dispersal Funding programme for councils.

At the request of Councillor Kyle the Head of Community and Culture said that the Asylum accommodation at the Magherabouy Hotel was fully funded by the Executive Office and that there were no live figures in relation to the timeframe of accommodation provision. The Head of Community and Culture advised that hotels were no longer being used to accommodate Asylum seekers and confirmed that the arrangement for use of hotels was between Mears and the Home Office.

Councillor Kyle spoke of the cost to the ratepayer for implementation of Executive Office funding. The Head of Community and Culture advised that funding and resources had been provided to deliver a project and that currently Council were simply facilitating and would not be in a position to implement if funding was not forthcoming which is the reason for seeking approval for application to be submitted.

Alderman McAuley enquired about the Home Office stipulations and said it looked as if Council were undertaking work which was the responsibility of others and asked for clarity on the legal position. Alderman McAuley spoke of the provision provided including education, healthcare, transport to receive legal advice and accommodation.

The Head of Community and Culture said that there was no legal requirement regarding the provision of assistance to Home Office and Executive Office funding.

The Head of Community and Culture said that sufficient resource had been made available by way of part time staff member employed for 24 months and also pointed out that Council staff were best placed at local level to manage resources. The Head of Community and Culture said she understood the fears amongst the community.

The Director of Leisure and Development said that the in-house solicitor had advised on the legal position which stipulated requirement for compliance and suggested that a decision be deferred pending confirmation.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald
Seconded by Councillor McCully

-That Council approves the action plan contained within the report, subject to funding from The Executive Office's Dispersal Funding programme for Councils.

Discussion ensued on the legal position as to whether or not there was a legal requirement for Council to undertake the outworkings from the proposal.

The Chair declared a recess at 8.00 pm
The meeting reconvened at 8.05 pm

Councillor Holmes felt it would be prudent to seek a legal opinion and defer the decision given the conflicting views of Officers and Alderman Callan concurred with this saying he would support an amendment to await legal advice.

Councillor McShane referred to the Standing Orders saying that from a procedural perspective there was a proposal and seconder so the decision should be put to the Committee. Councillor McShane said that report should have been more more clear in relation to the legal position.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Alderman Callan

-That Council seeks legal advice prior to approval of the action plan contained within the report, subject to funding from The Executive Office's Dispersal Funding programme for Councils.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote

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

The Chair having the Casting vote, voted For and the Amendment Carried.

6. ANNUAL GRANTS PROGRAMME 26/27

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of Council's annual grant programmes and to recommend the annual grant programmes for the 2026-2027 period.

Background

Every year Council agrees an annual programme of grants. The grant programmes target resources to meet identified need and further Council's objectives as outlined in Council's Corporate Plan and individual Service Strategies.

Breakdown of Grants awarded 2016/17 were previously circulated.

Current Years Grant Programmes

In the current Grant funding period (2025-26) 25 grant programmes are being delivered, previously circulated

Proposed Grant Funding Programmes 2026-27

The proposed grant programmes for the incoming year were presented and discussed at the Elected Members Annual Grants Workshop held on 15 October 2025. (Annex A includes a brief overview of each proposed grant and the criteria to be used for assessment).

Table 3, previously circulated, presents a summary of the Grant Programmes proposed for the 2026/2027 period

Pilot Volunteering Small Grant Programme

A new volunteering small grant programme is proposed for inclusion in the 2026/27 annual grants programme.

Purpose of grant

To provide support to the volunteering community to recruit, support and recognise volunteers.

Amount of grant-aid

It is proposed to set aside a pot of £20,000 for this fund. If agreed this will be included in the Leisure & Development Directorate budget for 2026/27.

The maximum grant award per applicant organisation will be £1,000.

What can be funded

Volunteer Recognition – to thank volunteers for their contribution to the organisation.

Volunteer recruitment – to recruit new volunteers for example, to develop a poster campaign or include adverts within the local newspapers.

Travel - Travel on behalf of the organisation relevant to the volunteer role.

PPE – Protective clothing so the volunteer can carry out their role. (Gardening gloves, uniform items etc)

Training – First aid training, safeguarding, food hygiene etc.

Eligibility & Criteria:

Community & voluntary sector organisations, including sporting organisations can apply. Applicant organisations must not have an annual income exceeding £100,000 per year.

Organisations must demonstrate how their proposal delivers on at least one of the following objectives

Objective 1

Increase volunteer activity by under-represented Section 75 groups in the volunteering population:

- Those not in paid employment.
- Aged 65 and over.
- Under 25's.
- Those with a disability.
- Those from a racial / ethnic minority background.

Objective 2

- Increase & involve new volunteers in a meaningful way within their organisation e.g. provide training and/or mentoring for volunteers.

Objective 3

- Benefit to the local community e.g. provide more trained persons within the community, increasing knowledge and understanding of the work of the organisation, the role of volunteers and the impact that is gained.

Improving Grant Efficiency & Services

The current grant cycle involves:

- Council agreeing the annual grant programmes including the parameters for each grant, grant amounts and the assessment & scoring criteria for each grant.
- 11 rolling grant programmes stay open throughout the year or until all funds are allocated. Reports on these funds are taken into Council for information purposes.
- 14 other grant programmes have specific opening and closing dates. Reports on these funds are taken to Committee and then to full Council for decision on grant approvals.

In order to implement a consistent approach, it is proposed that all grant reports go to Council for information rather than approval. This will considerably reduce the time applicants have to wait to receive letters of offer. Presently letters of offer for open/closed grant programmes are not issued until after the Committee decision has been ratified by full council + 5 days (call in period). This process can take 8-12 weeks. The proposal would allow Letters of Offer to be issued immediately after the grant applications have been assessed.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to :

Grant programmes numbered 1-24 for the 2026/27 period, listed in Table 3, along with the assessment / scoring criteria as summarised in Annex A, previously circulated;

The introduction of a Pilot Volunteering Small Grant Scheme as outlined in section 5.0 and in Annex A, previously circulated, along with associated budget of £20,000;

The application of a consistent approach for grant reporting with all grant reports going to Council for information purposes.

Councillor Anderson spoke of the variety of funding available in the borough and Alderman Callan concurred with his remarks referring to the positive impact of Council on communities. At the request of Alderman Callan the Funding Unit Manager referred to the geographic breakdown on DEA funding previously provided on slide 6 shared at Grants Workshop and agreed to reshare with Elected Members

after the meeting. Alderman Callan felt that a PR piece could be useful showing the work being undertaken via the Funding Unit. The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to develop PR in this regard.

At the request of Alderman Callan the Funding Unit Manager advised while there had been no direct engagement with the Community and Voluntary sector, Officers had taken on board some of the queries, questions and requests from Elected Members. The Funding Unit Manager referred to a Voluntary Grant previously administered by LCDI which had ceased with small communities feeling the impact. The Funding Unit Manager said that the Pilot Volunteering Small Grant Scheme would be managed based on previous model for first year after which adaptations would be made as required based on feedback.

Councillor Holmes welcomed the work undertaken in relation to Grant Funding and concurred with Alderman Callan's remarks in relation to PR.

The Head of Prosperity and Place agreed to update Councillor Holmes outside of the meeting in relation to the Enterprise Fund grant outcomes.

At the request of Councillor Holmes the Funding Unit Manager advised of the current funding for Twinning which was £10,000 annually and provided an update on the current Twinning arrangements within the borough.

Councillor Schenning said she was delighted to see the Voluntary Grant saying how beneficial this would be to smaller organisations and emphasised the importance of voluntary support in rural areas.

Councillor McShane shared a GIS graphic in the chat, saying that it was worth noting and applauded the work of the small team in PR saying they do a great job.

Councillor Elder said she fully supported the Voluntary Grant saying it was invaluable

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – To recommend that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council:

Grant programmes numbered 1-24 for the 2026/27 period, listed in Table 3, along with the assessment / scoring criteria as summarised in Annex A, previously circulated;

The introduction of a Pilot Volunteering Small Grant Scheme as outlined in section 5.0 and in Annex A, previously circulated, along with associated budget of £20,000;

The application of a consistent approach for grant reporting with all grant reports going to Council for information purposes.

7. PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP EVENT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present a request from the PEACEPLUS Partnership to hold an event in collaboration with the Northern Regional College (NRC) in the Council Chamber on Thursday 18th December 11am-1.30pm.

Background

The PEACEPLUS Partnership has been in operation since June 2022 and has overseen the design, development and implementation of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Action Plan.

On 05 December 2023 Council approved the £6.1million PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan containing 23 programmes with a target of 6,777 participants from across the Borough.

In September 2025 the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) requested that the PEACEPLUS Partnership produce a short video on the Causeway Coast & Glens PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership have agreed to work with NRC media students to design the video promoting the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan. The students will present three videos to the PEACEPLUS partnership in the council chamber and the best video will be selected for use.

The experience of the council chamber will help the students develop and understand the gravitas of the council chamber and what being part of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council entails. This project will develop a relationship between NRC and the PEACEPLUS Partnership which will help in the delivery and promotion of future PEACEPLUS events.

This is an excellent opportunity to work collaboratively with NRC students, engaging them in local PEACEPLUS programmes whilst at the same time, promoting PEACEPLUS to the local community through involvement and participation in these media productions.

PEACEPLUS Requirements

The PEACEPLUS Partnership require the undernoted arrangements for the meeting to be held in the Council Chamber on Thursday 18th December 2025:

- Access to the Council Chamber and the Elected Members area from 11am to 1.30pm.

Cost to host the PEACEPLUS event

Civic Facilities have advised there is no room charge for the use of the council chamber. The PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan will meet the cost of the catering.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approve this request to allow this PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan (in collaboration with the Northern Regional College) event to be held in the council chamber on Thursday 18th December 2025, from 11am to 1.30pm.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – To recommend that Council approve this request to allow this PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan (in collaboration with the Northern Regional College) event to be held in the council chamber on Thursday 18th December 2025, from 11am to 1.30pm.

8. PEACEPLUS LOCAL ACTION PLAN CAPITAL PROJECTS

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

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the implementation of capital projects in the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan and request the Leisure and Development Committee to approve a change in the capital projects - from 'Benbradagh: Gateway to the Sperrins Project' to the Dungiven Castle Park Project.

Background

In February 2022, the Council approved the nomination of 11 Elected Members to the PEACEPLUS Partnership under D'hondt.

In April 2022, Council approved recruitment of Social Partners to the PEACEPLUS Partnership.

In June 2022 The PEACEPLUS Partnership was established to oversee the development and implementation of the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.

On 4 October 2023, the PEACEPLUS Partnership approved the £6.1m Local Action Plan and sought approval from Council to submit the local Action Plan to SEUPB for approval.

On 21 November 2023 the Leisure & Development Committee approved the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan.

On 5th December 2023 Council approved the local action plan which included the £1.7m of PEACEPLUS Capital Projects under the Local Community Regeneration and Transformation theme.

Current Position

Change Request for Benbradagh Project

Due to the high risk of the project not proceeding an alternative project was identified in conjunction with Council's Coast and Countryside Team. Given that the project will be situated on Council owned land, the risk of the project not being achieved is significantly reduced.

The project will make improvements to Dungiven Castle Park as an outdoor recreation facility, including:

- Path improvements,
- Outdoor furniture installation,
- Improved directional and interpretive signage,
- Habitat management.

The aim is to encourage and increase the potential for increased mobility, on a cross-community/cultural basis by increasing the attractiveness of current offering.

Proposed project maintains outputs previously approved by SEUPB for the Benbradagh project. Full project information including programme aims, activities, rationale, participants and beneficiaries, budgets, and outputs, and key issues project will address are included at Annex A, previously circulated.

On 16th October 2025, the Peaceplus Partnership agreed the proposed project. If Council approval is obtained, a change request will be issued to SEUPB for formal approval.

Options

Option1

Approve change request for the Benbradagh DEA Local Community Regeneration and Transformation project from 'Benbradagh – Gateway to the Sperrins' to the 'Dungiven Castle Park' project.

Option 2

Don't approve change request and return project funding to SEUPB.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends approval of the change request for the Benbradagh Local Community Regeneration and Transformation project from 'Benbradagh – Gateway to the Sperrins' to the 'Dungiven Castle Park' project.

Councillor McGurk welcomed the fast turnaround to find an alternative project in a short time frame.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk

Seconded by Councillor Archibald and

AGREED – To recommend Council approval of the change request for the Benbradagh Local Community Regeneration and Transformation project from 'Benbradagh – Gateway to the Sperrins' to the 'Dungiven Castle Park' project.

9. SPERRINS PARTNERSHIP

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present an update on the activities undertaken by the Sperrins Partnership Project and to seek approval for an additional request for funding.

Background

The Sperrins Partnership Project is a collaboration between 4 Councils; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council, who in 2018 committed to equal financial contribution towards the delivery of this project.

Project activity is overseen by a Project Officer and part time Administrative Support who took up their respective roles in October 2020. Derry City and Strabane District Council agreed to lead on the recruitment and employment of the officers in agreement with the partner councils.

At the June 2024 meeting of Leisure & Development Committee it was recommended that Council provide increased financial support through a £3,000 per annum uplift for 2025-2026 for the continuation of the Sperrins Partnership at a cost of £25,000 annually. Additionally, an extension in the period of Council funding from April 2026 to March 2027 with an annual contribution of £28,000 was recommended, subject to confirmation of the reciprocal financial contribution of all partner Councils.

Update from Sperrins Partnership Project

As part of the update to Council, Sperrins Partnership has provided three documents which are attached for members consideration.

- Annex A, previously circulated - Update on activities within the Sperrins Partnership Project area from March 2025 to November 2025 including a request for additional funding.
- Annex B, previously circulated – Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Draft 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031. Developed through recent management plan consultation.
- Annex C, previously circulated – Letter of Offer from Department of Communities confirming a grant from the Historic Environment Fund to host a Sperrins Heritage Conference.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee notes the contents of this report, specifically:

- The Sperrin AONB 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031 and the next steps outlined with regards to AONB delivery.
- The proposed review exercise of the Sperrins Partnership Governance and Management Structure.

It is also recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee considers:

- Making the additional financial provision requested towards the maternity costs associated with the Sperrin AONB Project Officer at an estimated range of £3,000 to £5,000.
- The Terms and Conditions of the Department of Communities, Historic Environment Division, Revivals Scheme. Letter of Offer attached at Annex C, previously circulated.

Councillor McGurk said she sat on the Board and can attest to the work of the group. Alderman Callan concurred with Councillor McGurk's remarks.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – To recommend that Council notes the contents of this report, specifically:

- The Sperrin AONB 5-year Action Plan 2026 – 2031 and the next steps outlined with regards to AONB delivery.
- The proposed review exercise of the Sperrins Partnership Governance and Management Structure.

It is also recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee considers:

- Making the additional financial provision requested towards the maternity costs associated with the Sperrin AONB Project Officer at an estimated range of £3,000 to £5,000.
- The Terms and Conditions of the Department of Communities, Historic Environment Division, Revivals Scheme. Letter of Offer attached at Annex C, previously circulated.

10. ARMED FORCES DAY MONTHLY UPDATE

For information report was previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an information update on the preparations for Armed Forces Day 2026.

Background

At the Council Meeting on 5 December 2023 Council resolved to agree the following Notice of Motion:

“I call upon this Council to submit an application to host Armed Forces Day 2026. This significant event is a great opportunity to show our support and give thanks to our military personnel and families both past and present including our veterans and cadets.

This event will attract thousands of visitors to our beautiful Borough, supporting our local traders and tourism providers”

Update on Planning and Draft Armed Forces Day Programme

Armed Forces Day will take place on Saturday 20 June 2026 which is the week before the rest of the UK and officers are working towards the preparation of a programme of activity.

Council Officials from Democratic Services and the Tourism Events Team met at the start of November with senior staff from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) representing the Army, Navy and RAF.

Ongoing planning for the 2026 Armed Forces Day includes:

- Assessments of locations and venues based on the 2018 AFD which was held in Coleraine. MOD services are willing to explore options for potential new event spaces including the Market Yard adjacent to Coleraine Town Centre, whilst also maintaining a focus along the River Bann at Christie Park.
- Council's Tourism Events team has had discussions with the RAF lead for Northern Ireland around potential flypasts. The application is being prepared as part of the event planning process and will be submitted by the end of November. It is likely that confirmation of available assets will not be known until approximately March 2026.
- Officers have commenced reviewing the format of the activities and how they can be enhanced and improved based on learnings from previous events. Recent discussions with the MOD have indicated that the RAF is likely to have a greater presence within the Military exhibition zone, alongside other services. Ulster Aviation Society has also expressed an interest in attending and has retired assets that would support an RAF ground activation programme.
- The Navy also requires the local authority to make an application for Royal Navy Aviation attendance. Depending on operational requirements, various helicopters and vessels may be able to attend. The Senior Naval Officer for NI will lend his

support to the Tourism Events team's application, seeking the attendance of the Royal Marines band.

- The Army personnel in attendance at the recent planning confirmed that at this stage the booking request has been made for the Band of the Royal Irish (bugles, pipes and drums). Additional bands will also be requested to attend. The Gun Salute will be explored, and enhancements have been sought and the format of the Drumhead service will be agreed as planning progresses.

In preparing a detailed event proposal, Council Officers continue to explore all anticipated costs and revenue streams. The recent conversation with senior MOD staff confirmed that there would be Northern Ireland regional monies available for this event. An application for up to £10,000 is available from the UK Armed Forces Fund for a NI event.

Financial Implications

A budget of £40,000 has been allocated for 2025/26 to cover activities planned by the Commemoration and Celebration Sub-Committee. It is anticipated that the majority of the spend associated with Armed Forces Day 2026 will be incurred in the 2026/27 financial year and should be factored into the estimates for that year. Estimated budget at this stage is £100K.

The breakdown of the estimated expenditure is as follows:

Ground Budget: (Entertainment / Event Planning & Safety)	£24,000
Ground Infrastructure: (Marquees / Comms / Parade setup / Catering / H&S Costs / Estates Infrastructure Setup & Amenities)	£33,000
Marketing and Promotion Costs: (Event Comms, Website, Social and Digital, Programme, Themed Branding and Compere etc)	£10,000
Staffing Costs (Estates / Operations / Events Team / Marketing / PR / Prosperity & Place Dept / Media Consultancy)	£17,500
AFD Programme Features including the logistical operation and hosting of bespoke Bands and Assets	£25,500
TOTAL (estimated exp, subject to budget reprofiling)	£110,000

Equality Implications

The Armed Forces Day Programme will be screened in accordance with Council's Policies and Procedures.

Elected Members are asked to note the contents of this report for Information.

Councillor McGurk acknowledged the information received and said there were lessons to be learned in respect of provision of costings for events saying there was a significant uplift in budget for this event since its inception. Councillor McGurk said while she welcomed events she wished to point out that there was a small Events Team and emphasised the requirement for a strategic approach and the requirement for transparency and accuracy around costings for events.

Councillor Kyle referred to the significant savings by not hosting this year's Air Show.

Councillor Holmes said that most events do not be fully costed from inception and that budgets changed over time and spoke of the income generated from Armed Forces Day.

Councillor Holmes said that the Events Team had delivered the Joey Dunlop anniversary event superbly.

Committee NOTED the report.

11. DfC SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND DEBT SERVICES CONSULTATION

For information report was previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with the consultation response to the Department for Communities (DfC) Support Framework for Independent Advice and Debt Services: Proposals for Consultation that has been submitted on behalf of Council.

Background

The Support Framework puts forward draft proposals for how the Department will work with local government and independent advice providers to ensure that people can access consistent quality advice regardless of where they live in NI, with a focus on ensuring that the Department's investment:

- Supports independent advice and debt service-providers to meet needs on the ground;
- Strikes the right balance between supporting frontline community delivery and regional services; and

- Supports collaboration and joining up of services to minimise duplication, maximise resources and improve outcomes for clients.

Proposals are geared towards achievement of a cohesive relationship between DfC, the District Councils and the independent advice and debt services sector, underpinned by 'Guiding Principles' that are a reference framework for how services should be delivered.

For the purposes of this consultation, independent advice and debt services refers to Department-funded community-based advice and regulated debt advice services.

Council plays a key role in supporting community-based advice provision in Causeway Coast and Glens and commits £172,000 annually to match the funding of £243,000 from the Department for Communities. The Council has contracted Community Advice Causeway (CAC) to deliver the service across the Borough and is currently in the second year of a three-year agreement. Community Advice Causeway has continued to provide the services delivered under previous contracts, formerly as Citizens Advice Bureau. Generalist advice is provided in Dungiven through an agreement between CAC and Glenshane Community Development.

The Support Framework for Independent Advice and Debt Services: Proposals for Consultation were previously circulated.

Consultation Response

The Support Framework acknowledges that the demands on advice providers have changed greatly in recent years. People are presenting with much more complex issues requiring more time consuming casework; the profile of service users is changing, with an increase in numbers of working people being impacted by cost of living; a housing crisis affecting all aspects of society; higher numbers of immigrants and refugees requiring access to advice services; changes to welfare system and migration to Universal Credit and an increasing need for complex debt advice.

The new Support Framework is to be welcomed as a means of supporting and strengthening the advice sector to continue to deliver a vital service in communities, as well as streamlining how the Department will work with local government and independent advice providers.

A response to the consultation has been prepared by Council Officers and has been shaped from experience, evidence and evaluation of the delivery of the Generalist Advice contract which has operated in Causeway Coast and Glens since 2010. This was also supplemented by attendance at workshops with the Department for Communities and relevant Officers from all 11 Councils.

The consultation response, which was submitted by Council in advance of the closing date of 3rd November, is attached at Annex A, previously circulated. Some key issues are extracted and summarised below:

An integrated fund enabling Councils to commission all community-based advice services. This includes the transfer of funding for debt advice to Councils. This will

reduce the administrative burden of managing several various strands of advice that exist currently.

Longer-term investment over five years

This will bring much needed stability to the sector. In recent years, roles in the sector have been unstable due to short term annual funding, which has made it difficult to retain staff. Council has currently committed to a three-year contract, which remains subject to annual DfC funding. However, if a five-year funding commitment were secured, Council may wish to consider extending its own multiyear commitment from three to five years.

Northern Ireland regional gateway

The proposal suggests that all incoming enquiries would be handled through one telephone and digital platform. Community advice centres are already highly visible within their local areas and there are concerns that moving to a single regional line could mean losing the local, trusted phone number that people utilise on a regular basis.

Quality standard for advice and debt services

An independent quality framework will enhance trust and accountability and improve outcomes. The current standards require a complete review and should be co-designed with frontline providers to reflect the realities of service delivery.

Outcomes-based framework

The proposal that the Department will work with District Councils and advice providers to design a single impact-focused outcomes-based framework is a positive measure. A reporting system that measures the social impact of advice using qualitative evidence is much welcomed as the current Management Information reporting system is not fit for purpose and does not adequately capture the outcomes and impact of advice services.

Committee NOTED the report.

12. PORTRUSH AND PORTSTEWART TOWN PLANS

For information report was previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the completion of the draft Town Plans for Portrush & Portstewart.

Background

The development of Town Plans for Portrush and Portstewart is an action outlined under the Prosperity & Place Business Plan 2025-26 for Town & Village Management.

Following a procurement exercise in March 2025, Third Sector Connect was awarded the contract to deliver the project and produce individual Town Plans for Portrush and Portstewart respectively.

Specifically, the contract required the consultants to :

- *Undertake a site assessment of each town;*
- *Facilitate a minimum of two consultation meetings per town open to all residents of the town to determine local views on the town and the opportunities for future development;*
- *Prepare and produce a concise report presenting the key findings from the consultation, including town issues and potential projects;*
- *Identify a range of innovative ideas to address the current problems and issues;*
- *Prepare and agree with the respective Town Centre Forum an Action Plan to reflect the consultations detailing practical and sustainable initiatives to include timescales, costings and identification of partners, key stakeholders and potential sources of funds; and*
- *Prepare a Small Town Plan, which must be agreed with the Town Centre Forum.*

Following a socio-economic review of each town, the community engagement was conducted over three phases i.e.:

- a. **Phase 1** – Early engagement with Town Centre Management project officers, on site location visit and a meeting with the respective Town Centre Forum members.
- b. **Phase 2** – Community engagement and consultation – to gather views from a broad cross-section of the community, a detailed public survey was released and outreach visits to each town to distribute information flyers and speaking directly to business owners and residents.
- c. **Phase 3** – Analysis of all feedback. Development of draft Town Plan with key findings and a draft Action Plan for each town.

Stage is to present the findings to Portrush & Portstewart Town Centre Forums to confirm agreement on the way forward with the key themes and actions that have emerged.

Outcome

Please see Annex A and Annex B, previously circulated, for further details on each of The individual Town Plans for Portrush and Portstewart, which will act as a guide to the work of Town & Village Management and the wider Council remit going forward.

Committee NOTED the report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

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

13.1 Correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding Local Councils and the Anti-Poverty Strategy (Dated 28 October 2025)

The Committee for Communities are inviting Local Councils to attend a meeting to discuss their response to the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Recommendation

The Leisure & Development Committee are asked to consider the requests contained within the correspondence.

Committee NOTED the correspondence.

13.2 Correspondence from the Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland relating to their Fundraising Campaign (Dated 05 November 2025)

Commonwealth Games NI are seeking financial support to assist with athlete preparation and delivery of TeamNI at the Games in Glasgow in summer 2026.

Recommendation

The Leisure & Development Committee are asked to consider the requests contained within the correspondence.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – To recommend that the Director of Leisure and Development provide a report at the December Leisure and Development Committee on funding elements and opportunities for athletes in the borough in respect of detail contained within the Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Kyle
Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

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

*** Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 8.50**

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. GREEN GROWTH SCHEME

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcome of the competitive grant for the Green Support Scheme.

Background

In March 2024, Council commissioned an independent industry expert to scope high level opportunities for carbon reduction initiatives across the Borough. A key recommendation was the introduction of a local support grant to assist local Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Social Enterprises to understand their carbon reduction needs.

Council is now in a position to help fully realise the energy opportunities which exist within our local SMEs and Social Enterprises by providing the expertise required for these businesses to identify key interventions that will not only introduce energy efficiency measures but also provide cost savings over the longer term.

The proposed Green Support Scheme (GSS) forms a small part of the Council's energy journey that will eventually lead to major energy investments; creation of long-term jobs, reduction in fuel poverty; support for the further development of the clean energy sector; creation of new revenue streams for the public sector and regeneration of local communities, and the overall improvement of the environment.

In November 2024, the Leisure & Development Committee approved the GSS as a pilot project under the Funding Units Annual Grants Programme for 2025/26. This was approved by Council in December 2024. The GSS will be delivered in two phases; Phase 1 Technical Assistance and Phase 2 Capital Support.

In March 2025, B9 Solutions Limited were appointed to provide the technical support to local SMEs and Social Enterprises. Each business received a site visit to collect energy data and discuss energy usage patterns and potential energy efficiency/carbon emission reduction projects. Following the visit tailored Carbon Reduction Action Plans (CRPs) were provided to each client.

Details were previously circulated in respect of Phase 1 - Technical Support and Phase 2 – Grant Award.

The GSS grant was live between Wednesday 1st October 2025 and 12 noon on Friday 31st October 2025. SMEs and Social Enterprises were only eligible to apply for items recommended in their CRP.

Participants could apply for a maximum grant award of up to £5,000 (at a 70% intervention rate). All expenditure must be completed by Tuesday 31st March 2025. Full details of the grant guidance can be found at Annex B, previously circulated.

Pre-Application Support

Via the Go Succeed programme, a bespoke Peer Support Network (PSN) was established to support GSS participants to understand the grant application process and explore additional funding opportunities.

Of the 34 businesses invited to the PSN, 15 signed up for the pre-application support. Table 2, previously circulated, details the support provided

In addition, Officers offered assistance to businesses who enquired about the scheme, via email and telephone. Full support was given to all potential applicants during the funding call.

Green Support Scheme Grant Scoring

14 applications were received by the closing date, with 12 applications scoring above the 65% threshold for funding (See Table 3, previously circulated).

Two applications did not score above the 65% threshold and were therefore unsuccessful (See Table 4, previously circulated).

The above businesses will all be offered appropriate further support via Council's Local Economic Partnership.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to award funding to businesses as outlined in Table 3 totalling £46,598 under the auspices of the Green Support Scheme 2025.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
by Councillor Archibald and

AGREED – To recommend to Council Award Funding to businesses as outlined in Table 3, previously circulated, totalling £46,598 under the auspices of the Green Support Scheme 2025.

15. RUGBY AVENUE PROPOSAL

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

The Head of Sport and Well Being advised that N Harkness, SIB Project Officer was in attendance to answer questions from Elected Members.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on an approach from the Education Authority for access to part of the Council's site at Rugby Avenue, Coleraine.

Background

Officers were invited to a Teams meeting with the Education Authority (EA) on 3 September 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss sites for Sandleford Special School.

At the outset of the meeting EA offered some background to the pressure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) school places in the Coleraine area. Sandleford Special School at Rugby Avenue needs additional capacity for around 100 pupils. EA officers explained that the space requirements per pupil in a SEN setting are around twice that of mainstream education, therefore the scale of the buildings required would be on the scale of a 200-pupil school in mainstream education.

The EA officers advised that two options are under consideration:

- a) An extension to the existing Sandleford school buildings at Rugby Avenue; or
- b) A new building on a separate site, thereby creating a split site school, managed by the existing Sandleford management team.

EA consider option a) to be preferable and made a request for Council to consider the disposal of an area of the Rugby Avenue site as per the image below.

Internal Stakeholders

Council officers undertook to consult with internal stakeholders across the various Council service areas that have an interest in the Rugby Avenue site. As a result of the officer-level consultation the following issues and potential mitigations for the requested disposal were identified, previously circulated.

EA feedback on issues identified

In a subsequent meeting with EA on 7th October 2025, Council officers raised all the issues listed above and highlighted that the Elected Members would have to carefully consider these competing pressures when considering the disposal request.

EA officials raised the option of a land swap (subject to LPS valuations and advice), where some of the outdoor sports facilities at the site of the old High School on the Lodge Road could be offered in lieu of the required site at Rugby Avenue. EA officials reported that the entire site extends to 7.2 hectares, the buildings are the subject of significant vandalism, and planning is at an advanced stage for demolition. EA officers proposed that Council could consider a 'land swap' which could include some of the school's former sports facilities.

Site Visit

On 3rd November 2025, EA gave Council officers a guided tour of the site. At this site visit officers noted a series of school buildings that are well beyond their useful life and for which demolition seems to be the only option. In addition, there is a more recent modular two-team changing pavilion. While this part of the school buildings has suffered some vandalism it is in a state of repair that, with some investment, could be brought back into useful service. Even if this building were to be repaired, it is too small to provide sufficient changing accommodation for community use of the outdoor pitches. There is currently insufficient parking close to the pitches to support community use, and the vehicular access is via a new housing development.

There are three significant outdoor areas which could be of use for community sport, details of which were previously circulated.

Potential way forward

While taking account of the issues noted in section 3 above, the Elected Members may be minded to agree some principles that would guide officers in how to move these discussions forward with the EA. These guiding principles could include some or all of the following.

The Council is:

- Sympathetic to the needs of the EA to expand SEN provision in the Coleraine area.
- Open to working with EA to help find a solution that works for both parties.
- Mindful of the pressures on pitch provision in Coleraine as set out in the Pitch Strategy.
- Mindful of the play needs in the Coleraine area as set out in the Play Strategy.
- Willing to consider any proposal presented by EA in which any loss of provision brought about by a proposed extension to Sandleford Special School, is replaced, by suitable upgrades or at a suitable alternative location elsewhere in Coleraine, on a cost neutral basis to the Council. Open to the EA to exploring opportunities for any extension to Sandleford Special School on Rugby Avenue to include some shared areas for school and community use such as car parking and an inclusive play park.
- Open to considering a proposal for Council to acquire land on Lodge Rd for a future expansion of sport, leisure, urban parkland and play provision in Coleraine.

Based on these guiding principles, officers consider that the best next step may be for the Council to invite the EA to make a cost neutral proposal that would include:

- Disposal of part of the Rugby Avenue site for an extension to Sandleford Special School,
- EA providing alternative facilities, as set out above, via an upgrade to the remaining facilities at Rugby Avenue and/or a land exchange, with suitable

upgrades, that would ensure no loss or downgrade of provision for community leisure.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the approach from EA to acquire land at Rugby Avenue and agree:

- The guiding principles proposed in section 6 above;
- To invite the EA to make a proposal along the lines proposed in section 6 above; and
- To invite the EA to make a presentation to the Leisure and Development Committee when such a proposal is available.

Councillor Holmes spoke of the lack of spaces in Special Schools. In response to Councillor Holmes the Head of Sport and Well Being advised that the building had been badly vandalised, site was problematic and access to Coleraine Leisure Centre was not an option at this time.

Councillor Elder said this was an exciting development and said a Masterplan for Rugby Avenue was required. Councillor Elder said that the nearest accessible running track was in Magherafelt and would welcome a facility in the Borough.

Councillor Archibald said she could see the potential in development of this proposal and spoke of how excellent Sandleford was and felt that a single school at one site may be prudent.

N Harkness, SIB Project Officer advised Elected Members of the options, potential for shared facilities/space, requirement for inclusive play and current provision at Rugby Avenue.

Councillor McCully referred to SEN provision being a challenge for the Education Authority, acknowledged the need for an expansion being requested by Sandleford and said a Masterplan should be provided.

At the request of Councillor Wisener the Head of Sport and Well Being provided an update on ownership of land in Rugby Avenue, extent of engagement entered into with the stakeholders.

The Chair emphasised the need for Education Authority to agree Sandleford needs

Proposed by Councillor Cully

Seconded by Councillor Archibald

AGREED – To recommend that Members note the approach from EA to acquire land at Rugby Avenue and agree:

- The guiding principles proposed in section 6 above;

- To invite the EA to make a proposal along the lines proposed in section 6 above; and
- To invite the EA to make a presentation to the Leisure and Development Committee when such a proposal is available.

16. SWB ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE – MACOSQUIN CHANGING ACCOMMODATION

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to prioritise the replacement of the portable changing unit at Macosquin football pitch, in line with the agreed format for assessing projects at a value of between £150k and £1m.

Background

In 2017 the newly formed CCGBC prioritised a range of projects across the Council for capital investment. A replacement changing facility at Macosquin football pitch was included on that list.

In Sept 2024 Council updated the Capital Projects list, with an agreed format for assessment criteria - Macosquin changing facility remains on the list and is likely to fall within the £150k - £1m bracket, based on a similar project for a replacement modular team changing unit at Burnfoot football pitch.

The agreed assessment criteria for a Minor project was previously circulated.

In September (2025), Council's Estates service informed SWB officers that repairs were required to the current modular unit, and onsite inspection indicated that it was in a very poor condition. Temporary repairs could be carried out, but it would be prudent to consider options for replacement at the earliest opportunity. The portacabin would be considered to be at "end of life".

Macosquin FC participate in the local Coleraine & District Football League and have done so for circa 50years. The Club has a long-standing presence in the village of Macosquin having been established in 1910. Competitive League football has an expected standard of changing accommodation for home and visiting teams that are at risk of not being met by Macosquin FC.

Next steps

In line with the above agreed process, officers would recommend progressing with the assessment process for this project.

Given the limited lifespan of the changing facility Council's Estates Team, in conjunction with Capital Infrastructure should carry out preliminary investigation for a replacement modular changing facility.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the content of the report and recommend to Full Council the approval to progress with the assessment process for a replacement modular changing facility at Macosquin football pitch.

A further report to be brought back to committee with the outcome of the assessment and preliminary investigations, and a request to progress through the four step capital process, i.e. detailed design and planning application.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

AGREED – To recommend that Council note the content of the report and recommend to Full Council the approval to progress with the assessment process for a replacement modular changing facility at Macosquin football pitch.

A further report to be brought back to committee with the outcome of the assessment and preliminary investigations, and a request to progress through the four step capital process, i.e. detailed design and planning application.

17. STRAND ROAD PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland), previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation invited K Morgan to provide legal advice.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the additional findings of the Status Investigation Report completed as part of the investigation into the existence of an alleged Public Right of Way between Strand Road and the coastal path, Portstewart.

Background details were previously circulated.

Annex 1 - Redacted supplementary investigation report.

Annex 1.1 – Redacted original investigation report.

From reviewing the additional submissions Counsel has formed the following conclusions which were previously circulated.

Conclusion

Council Officers are satisfied that adequate resources and time have been allocated to investigating the claim of the existence of a public right of way. In addition to the

initial investigation report, and on the advice of counsel, Officers have sought further evidence and produced a supplementary investigation report. Kevin Morgan (barrister) will be in attendance at the November Leisure and Development Committee Meeting. Members are asked to consider the opinion provided by legal Counsel which has been formed on review of the initial Status Investigation Report and supplementary evidence gathered as requested by Council in October 2024.

Annex 2 – Addendum to Counsel Opinion (to be read in conjunction with Annex 2.1), previously circulated.

Annex 2.1 – Council Opinion, previously circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council that, based on the investigations carried out by Council, along with expert legal advice, the evidence as to the Public Right of Way remains inconclusive and that Council is not in a position to assert a Public Right of Way between Strand Road and the Coastal Path, Portstewart.

K Morgan gave a legal opinion outlining the potential outworkings of any decision reached by Elected Members and implications of outcomes and challenges.

At the request of Councillor Holmes K Morgan said it would be difficult to determine costs should Council wish to assert a Public Right of Way.

Proposed by Councillor McCully

Seconded by Alderman Stewart

-To recommend that Council assert a Public Right of Way between Strand Road and the Coastal Path, Portstewart.

The Chair declared a recess at 9.55 pm

The meeting reconvened at 10.00 pm

Councillor Kyle requested a Recorded Vote.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote.

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

The Chair declared the Proposal Carried.

Recorded Vote Table

For (7)	Alderman Stewart
	Councillor Archibald, Bateson, McCully, McGurk, McShane, Watson
Abstained (9)	Alderman Callan, McAuley

	Councillor Anderson, Elder, Holmes, Kennedy, Kyle, Schenning, Wisener,
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18. **ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE JUNIPER HILL HALP**

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek retrospective approval from Elected Members for the provision of a DAC for the specialist electrical remedial works now being implemented during winter operations at Juniper Hill Holiday and Leisure Park (HALP). This is following the power outage that occurred in March 2025 at the beginning of the Juniper Hill season.

Background

On 24 February 2025, Council's Holiday and Leisure Parks (HALP) service reported a power outage at Juniper Hill HALP which affected approximately 189 static vans, 9 seasonal vans and 80 touring pitches. During the initial repair works, further tripping issues were identified on the site, including the wide presence of damp and moisture within distribution boxes. In addition, other equipment has shorted and burned out, with evidence of small fires in three of the eleven distribution boxes.

At the time of survey, findings discovered that the damage to the distribution boxes has been caused as a result of water ingress to electrical equipment, leading to failure. Water pooling, as a result of a high-water table within close proximity to the distribution units, evaporation and condensation effects on metal units have led to the mixing of moisture and electrical components, leading to failure. In addition to this, heating elements designed to reduce the effects of condensation and evaporation were non-operational. These heating elements are now replaced.

Details of Proposal / Remedial Action were previously circulated.

Next Steps

Estate Department in conjunction with appointed Electrical Consultant and awarded Specialist Switchgear Electrical Contractor, will plan/programme works in conjunction with the Juniper Hill Caravan Site, for completion of works before the 2026 season.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Leisure & Development Committee provides retrospective approval to the Estates Department to complete the required Electrical Switchgear

Remedial Works at the Juniper Hill HALP, as listed in section 3.1, at a total cost of £123,807.00+VAT.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED – To recommend that Leisure & Development Committee provides retrospective approval to the Estates Department to complete the required Electrical Switchgear Remedial Works at the Juniper Hill HALP, as listed in section 3.1, at a total cost of £123,807.00+VAT

The Head of Tourism and Recreation agreed at the request of Alderman Callan to facilitate site visits for all Elected Members at the Holiday and Leisure Park venues in spring 2026.

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

19.1 Legal situation regarding the Jim Watt Sports Centre (Councillor Holmes)

Councillor Holmes expressed his frustration at lack of progress regarding this facility and the impact on users. At the request of Councillor Holmes the Director of Leisure and Development advised there will be a decision taken at the beginning of 2026 around advancing discussions and agreed to a PR piece on the matter.

***Councillor Kennedy and McCully left the Chamber at 10.15 pm**

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

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

*** Public and Press were re-connected to the meeting at 10.25 pm.**

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

19.2 Economic support to businesses in Kilrea being affected by the bridge closure (Councillor Bateson)

The Director of Leisure and Development referred to engagement involving the Chief Executive on Friday 14th November.

Councillor Bateson spoke of the struggles businesses are facing saying that there was a requirement to alleviate businesses being affected and requested a package for businesses. Councillor Bateson said that as much pressure as possible needed to be applied to the Department alongside an enhanced marketing/PR campaign highlighting ongoing engagement and the switch on in Kilrea scheduled for 7th December. Councillor Bateson said that a Kilrea Business Forum was also required.

Alderman Callan concurred with Councillor Bateson's comments and said that the Minister for Department for Infrastructure did not accept an invitation to visit the town and felt that the Minister should see the situation on the ground and spoke of the havoc caused by the closure. Alderman Callan said that the matter should be raised at the Partnership Panel. Alderman Callan felt given the 30% downturn that the Department of Finance should provide financial support given that this eventuality was not budgeted for. Alderman Callan suggested writing to the Department for Infrastructure and Department of Finance.

Councillor Holmes spoke of the issue on the ground being palatable and that the Department for Infrastructure had a case to answer saying that the concerns of businesses in Kilrea were not being taken seriously. Councillor Holmes referred to a meeting in Kilrea last week and said that it seems no-one is responsible for the failure or compensation. Councillor Holmes wished also to write to the Executive Office.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – To recommend that Council raise at Partnership Panel, write to the Department of Finance, Department for Infrastructure and the Executive Office highlighting the impact on businesses in Kilrea following the Bann Bridge closure.

The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to develop an action plan via the Prosperity and Place team outlining what support could be provided.

19.3 Progress on the joint promotion of the Causeway Coastal Route and Wild Atlantic Way

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that she had responded prior to the Committee meeting to Alderman Callan

At the request of Councillor McShane the Director of Leisure and Development agreed to share her response to Alderman Callan with all Elected Members.

19.4 Update on the recent engagement with Coleraine BID and progress on their action plan since the vote

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that she had responded prior to the Committee meeting to Alderman Callan

19.5 Director communications with the MJM Group in last 6 months re Ballykelly area of the former Shackleton Army Camp

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that she had responded prior to the Committee meeting to Alderman Callan

19.6 Progress of a masterplan for the Roe Mill Playing Fields

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that she had responded prior to the Committee meeting to Alderman Callan

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 10.35 pm.

Chair