

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

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18 th November 2025	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>	<i>N/A</i>
4.	Members will receive a presentation from Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	<i>Received</i>	<i>N/A</i>
	CHANGE ORDER OF BUSINESS		
5.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Allister Kyle, seconded by Councillor Jonathan McAuley	<i>to recommend that Council accept the Notice of Motion, as amended</i>	
6.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Tanya Elder, seconded by Councillor Bill Kennedy	<i>to recommend that Council accept the Notice of Motion</i>	
7.	Development of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	<i>to recommend that Council agree to the development of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the years 2027 – 2032 to ensure</i>	Feb 2027

		<i>Council fulfils its statutory duty under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011.</i>	
8.	Benone Boardwalk	<i>to recommend that Council approve for Council Officers to initiate Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process (scoping, feasibility, and SOC) for the repair and replacement of damaged or deteriorated boardwalks at Benone Coastal and Holiday Park.</i>	Pre April 26
9.	Tourism Events Programme 2026/27	<i>to recommend that Council approve the proposed schedule of activity for Council-led Tourism Events 2026/27 as detailed within the report: The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 (circulated) and Annex A (circulated), at a cost not to exceed £626,693, and subject to the Council rates setting process for 2026-27.</i>	December 2026
10.	Armed Forces Day Monthly Update	<i>Noted</i>	June 2026
11.	153 rd Open Championship Update	<i>Noted</i>	December 2025

12.	Community and Culture Strategy	Noted	April 2026
13.	Leisure and Development Financial Performance, Period 7	Noted	
14.	Commonwealth Games	Noted	
15.	Correspondence		
15.1	Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly regarding fireworks at Council events (Dated 17 November 2025).	Noted (Items 15.1-15.2)	
15.2	Correspondence from The Mary Peters Trust (Dated 03 December 2025)		
	IN COMMITTEE (Items 16-23 inclusive)		
16.	Asylum Dispersal Funding	to recommend that Council accept the Funding from The Executive Office.	TBC
17.	Ballycastle Museum	to recommend that Council agree to a) Approve Option B as the preferred design option for the Ballycastle Museum redevelopment. b) Authorise the project team to proceed to Stage 2 of the Capital Works process, including detailed design and capital cost refinement.	TBC
18.	Holiday and Leisure Park Fees and Charges 2026/27	to recommend to Council to increase the pricing for touring caravan, tents, motorhomes and	31 March 2026

		<p><i>Pods for 2026 as outlined in Table 3, at 3.3% based on average CPI, rounded up to the nearest £5.00; and to recommend that Council approve a reduction in the 2026 electricity invoice for each occupier affected at a cost of £8,250 compensation for the short-term electricity failure at Juniper Hill (Feb/March 2025)</i></p>	
19.	Pitch and Play Renewal Update	Noted	-
20.	Metropole Project	Noted	April 2028
21.	Active Living Strategy	Noted	Sept 2026
22.	Sport and Wellbeing Facility Caretakers	<p><i>to recommend that Council note the contents of the report and approve the recommendation to increase the number of Sport & Wellbeing Caretakers provision by 4 Full Time Equivalent's.</i></p>	Jan 2026
23.	Roe Valley Leisure Centre Pool Dosing System	<p><i>to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A and award the contract for the upgrade of the dosing system at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to a Salt Hypolyser System, to Complete Water Treatments at a cost of £66,140.</i></p>	March 2026

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 DECEMBER 2025 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Anderson (C)

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

**Non Committee
Members in
Attendance:** Councillor J McAuley (R) Item 5

Officers Present: P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
P Harkin, Good Relations Manager (R)
Dr N Wright, Ballycastle Project Officer (R)
R Gillan, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
S Calvin, Museum Services Development Manager (R)
K McGonigle, Destination Manager (R)
G Fall, Tourism Events Manager (C)
L Russell, Biodiversity and Habitat Management Officer
(C)
J McCarron, Performance Officer (R)
S Duggan, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: G Thompson, Director, CC&GHT (Item 4)

L Boyd, ICT Operations Officer (C)
C Ballentine, ICT Operations Officer (C)

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

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

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillor Kane substituted for Councillor McCully
Councillor Wilson substituted for Alderman McAuley.

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

There were no apologies recorded.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

Summary, previously circulated.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

AGREED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18th November 2025 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST

The Chair invited Director, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CC&GHT) to present to Committee.

The CC&GHT Director presented an overview of Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust as follows:

- Established in 2002 as a result of the Causeway Initiative
- Based in Armoy and Magilligan
- Currently 20 staff
- A board of 11 (with 3 vacancies)
- Operate in the Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid & East Antrim Council areas
- Supported by:
 - DAERA
 - TNI
 - CCGBC
 - M&EABC
 - National Lottery Heritage
 - The EU

What we Do

- Develop sustainable and effective partnerships
- Raise awareness of the unique and special qualities/character, in both landscape and heritage terms (natural, built and cultural) of the 3 AONBs and their surrounding area
- Deliver an excellent protected area management provision
- Ensure best practice in sustainable development principles
- Deliver a sustainable, efficient and effective core activity/management.

Alderman Callan stated the events organised through Defence infrastructure were great to see, he requested that a Councillor visit to this was arranged.

Director, CC&GHT provided information on the Dome project which would have a permanent base in the Limavady area.

Councillor Kane sought further information on the tree preservation work undertaken and the possibility of partnership working with Magilligan Nursery. Director CC&GHT advised they had been planting trees at Dark Hedges for twelve years; further advised they would be happy to sell as many trees as possible from the tree Nursery.

The Chair thanked Director, CC&GHT for their presentation.

The Chair advised the visit requested would be arranged after Christmas.

- * **IT Officers left the meeting at 7.16pm during consideration of the item.**
- * **Councillor Bateson joined the meeting at 7.11pm during consideration of the Item.**
- * **CC&GHT Director left the meeting at 7.27pm.**

CHANGE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised the Notice of Motions would be taken next on the Agenda of business for the evening, in order to allow Councillor McAuley to leave.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ALLISTER KYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MCAULEY

"I hereby move that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council support the proposal to rename Riverside Park in Dervock to McKinley Park in memory of the 25th President of the United States, William McKinley, and to commemorate the deep ancestral ties between Dervock and the McKinley family.

As we know year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in the United States, a momentous event that laid the foundation for the nation's freedom and democracy. In recognition of this anniversary and taking into account we have set up a committee to oversee the anniversary, we believe it is fitting that we reflect on the profound historical connections between the North Antrim village and the United States.

Dervock's primary link to the Americas lies in its ancestral connection to William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States. McKinley's great-great-grandfather, James McKinley, who emigrated from the townland of Conagher, near Dervock, in 1743. This historic connection offers a unique opportunity to honour Dervock's contribution to American history and heritage.

The renaming of Riverside Park to McKinley Park would serve as a lasting tribute to the legacy of William McKinley, highlighting the role that Dervock's local heritage has played in shaping American history. This renaming would not only honour McKinley's presidential legacy but also strengthen the bond between the town and its American roots.

By renaming the park, the council would help raise awareness of this important historical link, fostering a greater understanding of the global influence of the Causeway Coast and Glens region. This gesture could also encourage cultural exchanges and promote tourism, with an emphasis on the rich historical ties between the US and Dervock.

I recommend that the Council formally approve the proposal to rename Riverside Park in Dervock to McKinley Park, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and in recognition of the ancestral connection between Dervock and President William McKinley.

This renaming would serve as a lasting tribute to both the McKinley family and the history of the United States, while also promoting local heritage, education, and international ties between Dervock and the United States".

Councillor Kyle presented his Notice of Motion as read.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Elder

Seconded by Councillor Wilson

- To recommend that, following contact by locals and residents including Friends and Family of the late Peter Thomson we propose that the renaming of the park reflects the substantial research that was carried out by Peter. We propose that

in Memory of Peter Thompson the Park is renamed McKinley Park at the Fairhill.

The Chair asked Councillor Kyle whether he accepted the Amendment.

Councillor Kyle agreed to accept the Amendment.

The Chair put the motion to the floor, there was no dissent.

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

6. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR TANYA ELDER, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BILL KENNEDY

"This Council recognises the importance of promoting positive ageing and ensuring that older people across Causeway Coast and Glens are valued, respected, and supported to live healthy, active, and connected lives.

We also recognise the success of our Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan, and the growing number of residents aged fifty and over in our Borough.

In light of this, I would request that an elected member be formally nominated to take on the role of Age Friendly Champion, providing leadership and ensuring continued focus on this important area"

Councillor Elder presented in support of the Notice of Motion, seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

"By way of background, our Borough has a growing and ageing population, with more residents living longer and wanting to remain active, independent, and connected within their communities.

Causeway Coast and Glens already has strong Age Friendly work in place through our Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan and representation on the Over 55's Forum.

Appointing an Age Friendly Champion would strengthen this work by providing a dedicated and inclusive voice within the Council chamber, supporting a joined-up approach between elected members, officers, and community partners. This role would help ensure that the voices and lived experiences of older people from across the whole community continue to inform our decisions and priorities, now and into the future".

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

7. DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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

The purpose of this report is to update Members and seek approval for the development of a new Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Background

All Councils in Northern Ireland have a statutory duty to conserve biodiversity when carrying out their functions under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 (WANE Act). Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) were adopted by Councils as a mechanism to meet the requirements of the WANE Act. The first LBAP (2013-18) covered the four legacy Councils of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle.

A review of the 2013 -2018 LBAP now proposes to develop a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough which will consider the range of functions undertaken by Council.

The new LBSAP will ensure Council carries out its duty to conserve biodiversity effectively and will include targets and actions to ensure Council achieves the necessary outcomes for successful delivery of its statutory duty.

Proposal

The table circulated outlines work undertaken to date and proposed timeline for the development of the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It considers extensive internal consultation and an extensive 12-week public consultation. In tandem with the development of the Strategy and Action Plan, it is proposed to establish a Council-led biodiversity forum (including statutory body representation) and a public facing forum. This will allow for the sharing of knowledge and expertise on biodiversity and will promote the strategic approach being taken by Council through discussion and regular events.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council to agree to the development of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the years 2027 – 2032 to ensure Council fulfils its statutory duty under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011.

Councillor Kane enquired whether the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was for the Council or the Council area? Councillor Kane suggested when

the motion went through on the establishment of the Forum, it was to share practice and advise Council on the implementation of this plan. He queried how much had been built into that Action Plan before engaging with Partners and looking at input from Community groups. Councillor Kane queried how the Partnership would fit into other strategies in Council eg the Climate Action Plan planting 10,000 trees and how that would be built in.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified it was administered by Council but was for the whole area. He advised the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust relationship was near the end of the 3 year contract; Natural Environment and Bio Diversity remit lay within that contract for services and when renewed, there would be the opportunity for further engagement and potential outputs that they will be asked to deliver on, as part of that, the Biodiversity Forum would have representation from CC&GHT.

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

AGREED – to recommend that Council agree to the development of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the years 2027 – 2032 to ensure Council fulfils its statutory duty under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011.

8. BENONE BOARDWALK

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to advance to Stage 1 of the Council's Capital Works Process (scoping project and outline design) for the repair and replacement of boardwalks in the Benone duneland. Background was detailed within the report circulated.

Proposals

A combination of proposals is being suggested that will best meet the needs of facilitating public access within a sensitive duneland habitat and ensure reduced maintenance costs and associated issues.

It is proposed to initiate Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process to assess best options for the network of boardwalks. This includes that consideration is given to the removal of the existing timber boardwalk at Marram Way that is in an advanced state of deterioration and has associated safety risks. A replacement slightly shorter boardwalk could be provided as a durable, accessible route that

aligns with current best practices for sustainable path construction within natural and recreational environments. A wooden boardwalk is more in keeping with the existing provision at the site which experiences high visitor footfall throughout the year.

Due to the ASSI/SAC designation on the duneland the provision of a compacted dust path is not considered an appropriate provision at this location.

With respect to Longboard Way and Kestrel Way, whilst several sections of boardwalk require replacement much of the existing boardwalk appears to be sound. Initial assessment suggests that approximately 150 metres of boardwalk requires replacement.

Possible Options

Option 1

This option will consider the complete removal of all three existing timber boardwalks and replacement with new composite/hardwood paths, approximately 1010 metres in length and 2.5 metres in width. The new paths would follow the current alignment of the boardwalk and provide a durable, low-maintenance, and accessible surface suitable for pedestrians and recreational use.

Estimated Cost –

£30,300 (removal) + £252,500 (path) + £3,000 (tree works) = £285,800

Option 2

This option will consider the complete removal and replacement of Marram Way in its entirety and replacement of sections of Longboard Way and Kestrel Way, with new composite/hardwood path. The new paths would follow the current alignment of the boardwalks and provide a durable, low-maintenance, and accessible surface suitable for pedestrians and recreational use.

Estimated Cost - £16,500 (removal) + £137,000 (path) = £153,500

Maintenance

Post 5-year annual maintenance wooden boardwalk.

Routine maintenance (inspections, edging vegetation, small top-ups with sand) is estimated at £2,150 per year.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to recommend to Council the approval for Council Officers to initiate Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process (scoping, feasibility, and SOC) for the repair and replacement of damaged or deteriorated boardwalks at Benone Coastal and Holiday Park.

Alderman Callan enquired how quickly the feasibility study would be undertaken.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified it would be undertaken in the next couple of months for complete or partial replacement and if not, it would be done before the Summer or immediately afterwards. There was a potential the estimate could be higher as was based on an Officer assessment; it was clarified that Officers were not aware of any funding opportunities at this moment, but as always would be looking for opportunities.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Elder and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve for Council Officers to initiate Stage 1 of the Capital Works Process (scoping, feasibility, and SOC) for the repair and replacement of damaged or deteriorated boardwalks at Benone Coastal and Holiday Park.

- * **Coast and Countryside Manager and Biodiversity and Habitat Management Officer left the meeting at 7.46pm.**

9. TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2026/27

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the delivery of the schedule of Council-led Tourism Event programme for 2026/27 (i.e. tourism events directly organised and delivered by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council).

Background

The Council's 10-year strategic approach for the Tourism Event remit recommends that the Council need to provide a balanced approach to event development, facilitation, and delivery. With an increasing number of external event providers, the role of Council is more important than ever in terms of being supportive and allowing other event providers to develop the sector. The strategic approach recognises that Council will still be an event provider but recommends that to achieve a balance, Council delivered events should be fewer, better resourced and promoted more effectively. The 10-year strategic approach for Tourism Events was approved by Council in 2021. The recommendations from the strategic review of Tourism Events will be reviewed as part of the ongoing process to develop the Council's Destination Management Strategy for 2026-2036.

The Armed Forces Day in Northern Ireland will be hosted in Coleraine on Saturday 20th June 2026 and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will play a key delivery role as the event organiser along with partner MOD agencies to ensure that this event is a success. The Tourism Events team will be required to assist with strategic and operational planning for this Corporate led event.

During the 2025/26 year the Council's Tourism Events team delivered on the agreed programme of events and played a supporting role in the delivery of The 153rd Open Championship after returning for the second time within a six-year period.

For Elected Members information, the Tourism Events team was shortlisted in November 2025 for the National Outdoor Events Association's "Best Council Events Team" award, recognising their excellence in delivering quality UK outdoor events and the benefit they bring to the visitor economy.

Proposed Council Events for 2026/2027

A summary of the dates and costs for each of the proposed Council-led events, based on the events schedule agreed in previous years by Elected Members, is shown in Table 1 below. Further detail on each of the events is provided in Annex A (circulated).

Officers have made an assessment of the costs based on the requirements to deliver these events in 2025 with an uplift for 2026/27 due to the impact of inflationary pressures. (*The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by 3.6% in the 12 months to Oct 25*). Headroom within budgets for the 2025-2026 period has been challenging and Officers have set the uplift for the 2026/27 budget at 4% on top of the current year's budget due in part to above inflation costs for crowd and traffic management and programme improvements from lessons learned this year. It is hoped that efficiencies can be achieved where possible. Additional costs required for programme delivery in 2026/27 have been detailed in Table 1 (circulated).

Budgetary Position

In advance of the 2026 rate setting process, the Leisure and Development Committee is asked to consider the budget allocation for the delivery of Council led events (as detailed in Table 1 (circulated)).

The delivery of the proposed Tourism Event programme requires significant procurement, with numerous procurement exercises taking place throughout the year. Officers are requesting that, subject to adhering to Council's procurement guidelines, approval is given for the total expenditure as detailed in Table 1 (circulated), and rather than seeking individual procurement exercise approvals,

Officers be enabled to tender and spend up to the maximum detailed per event as shown in Table 1, with future reports presented to Committee as required confirming expenditure details.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approves the proposed schedule of activity for Council-led Tourism Events 2026/27 as detailed within the report:

The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 (circulated) and Annex A (circulated), at a cost not to exceed £626,693, and subject to the Council rates setting process for 2026-27.

Councillor Holmes enquired whether Council was at the stage whether it needed in-house traffic management for the large number of events. In response to questions during discussion, The Head of Tourism and Recreation clarified that certain elements could be accommodated within the skills which exist in house, however larger events, due to the scale and infrastructure required would prohibit this; however, this will be revisited and looked at in the New Year.

Councillor Kane suggested looking at all events in the future, whether they were the right events, at the right time and to rethink how they were delivered. Alderman Callan enquired on the USA250 event for 2026. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that neither the USA 250 nor Armed Forces Day were listed within the Table as the budget for these was from Corporate Services Department and Tourism Events will be assisting on delivery. There are ongoing discussions with the Chief Executive and others, regarding what format it was going to take, he had not been charged with directly leading the event. Discussion ensued on the quality of delivery and the volume of events for an over stretched Events Team. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised a review would be contained in the new Destination Management Strategy which will seek to balance Council Events and supporting others to deliver Events. Reference was made to the Blue Sail report which recommended rationalising and delivering Events that would benefit the visitor and tourism economies and the Region.

- * **Councillor Holmes arrived in The Chamber at 8.08pm, having initially joined remotely.**

Councillor Wilson stated support for the Events Team, he advised that he was not in favour of workshops, and proposed that a report on each event was brought to Leisure and Development Committee 6 months in advance, to include the PR Strategy, full details of what the event would be doing in order to

look at any changes being made, and to look at public feedback. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised Committee that a dedicated Destination Marketing Officer was now in post.

During discussion, Councillor Holmes stated he was not in favour of losing local events that would benefit local accommodation providers.

The Director of Leisure and Development reflected on the proposal by Councillor Wilson, noting that matters occur on the day of, or, week prior to an event and trying to pre-empt those 6 months in advance would be difficult.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Alderman Callan

- To recommend that Council bring a paper to this Committee in relation to each Event 6 months in advance, giving an outline detail of what the Event will entail; what the budget will be and the PR Strategy for the Event and give us an opportunity if there are any changes needed or we wish to make so we can have that done far in advance.

Following dissent, the Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.

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

The Chair declared the motion lost.

Proposed by Councillor Kane

Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the proposed schedule of activity for Council-led Tourism Events 2026/27 as detailed within the report: The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 (circulated) and Annex A (circulated), at a cost not to exceed £626,693, and subject to the Council rates setting process for 2026-27.

The Chair presented the following Agenda Items as read, and invited questions.

10. ARMED FORCES DAY MONTHLY UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

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 (AFD) 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 meet monthly with senior staff from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) representing the Army, Navy and RAF. As plans progress other multi agencies will join the planning process.

Planning update for the 2026 Armed Forces Day includes:

- The monthly meeting of the Armed Forces Day (AFD) Working Group took place at the beginning of December in Coleraine Town Centre. The session included a walkthrough of potential venues and nearby assets with MOD and multi-agency partners to assess footprint options and establish the scope required to host AFD successfully next June.
- The MOD lead for Northern Ireland advised that military colleagues have begun evaluating options surrounding Christie Park and believe the site will be unable to accommodate all assets intended for display. As a result, an additional location will be required to host the civic elements alongside the Military Village. Should the event feature visiting static aircraft or similar displays, a larger area of green space and hard standing will be necessary.
- Assessments of venue suitability and capability will now be undertaken. Council Officers, together with MOD and partner agencies, are exploring potential new event spaces, including the Market Yard adjacent to Coleraine Town Centre, playing fields at Coleraine Grammar School, and locations along the River Bann near the Waterside and Christie Park.
- Council's Estates Department has also been advised of essential NI Water drainage works scheduled in Christie Park from February to May 2026. An assessment of ground conditions will therefore need to be completed with contractors in the new year to determine whether the site will be suitable as a display area in mid-June.
- Council's Tourism Events team has had discussions with the RAF lead for Northern Ireland around potential flypasts. The application has been

submitted as part of the event planning process. It is likely that confirmation of available assets will not be known until approximately March 2026. The RAF will also have aircraft displaying in Inverness on the same day, therefore requests for flypasts is promising.

- 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 various assets.
- The Army have confirmed that the booking request has been received for the Band of the Royal Irish (bugles, pipes and drums). Additional bands will also be requested to attend. The Gun Salute is being explored, and enhancements have been sought and the format of the Drumhead service with various arena options being assessed as part of the event planning. Representation from all Military Units in NI has been requested.
- Council Officers are preparing to explore the idea of theming the event with the possibility to tie in with the US 250th Anniversary.
- Council's Corporate PR team will commence preparing for a soft launch of the event from mid-March.
- Regarding traffic and transport, park and ride plans will be explored at Rugby Avenue along with the possibility of using Ulster University. Visitors will also be encouraged to travel by rail and clear promotion will be prepared with Translink.
- 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. Council Officers will prepare this application early next year.

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:

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 monthly report for information.

There were no questions raised.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

11. 153RD OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

For information report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members following the Borough's hosting of the 153rd Open Championship in Portrush in July 2025. The report detailed information on the following paragraphs:

- Background
- Council's Role
- Economic Benefit and Impact
- Attendees
- All eyes on Portrush
- Footfall in Portrush (Main Street)
- Council's Schools Golf Programme
- Community and Business Engagement
- Local Traffic Management
- Our Town Is Open Stage
- Open Championship Legacy Fund 2025
- Post Event Surveys
- Budget
- Success and Lessons Learned from main Planning Groups

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

Alderman Callan referred to the prior presentation received and asked what work was being done to develop the Golf Legacy within Council going forward, with £191 million value of Destination Marketing that came out of The Open. Alderman Callan advised Council needed actions and to look at a Project

Officer role, that could be utilised on how to market the area, to draw in further investment.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that he expected Golf to be a priority action within the Destination Management Strategy. Conversations continue with Ulster University and TNI on strategically what resources Council needs to put into the Golf and marketing product, in order to exploit within the Region.

12. COMMUNITY AND CULTURE STRATEGY

For Information report, previously circulated presented as read.

The purpose of this report is to provide members with information relating to the development of three service specific strategies and operational plans (Community Development, Arts and Museums Services) that align with the Community & Culture Strategic Framework 2025–2028.

Background/Context was circulated within the report.

Deliverables

To ensure these strategies are evidence-based, inclusive, and reflective of community needs, the plans will be developed simultaneously to ensure complementarity of service provision and will:

- Review the success and impact of previous action plans, building on past achievements and lessons learned.
- Undertake robust stakeholder engagement which reflects the needs of stakeholders, communities, and service users.
- Identify current and emerging needs, challenges, and opportunities.
- Co-develop actionable, realistic, and measurable strategies and operational plans in collaboration with Council teams.

Consultation will commence early in the New Year, with a draft report expected for presentation to Committee in May 2026.

There were no questions raised.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

13. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, PERIOD 7

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the current financial position for the Leisure & Development directorate, as at Period 7.

Background

Council has approved the 2025 /26 budget for Leisure & Development and has delegated authority to officers to utilise this budget in the provision of services to the rate payers. The L&D budget for 2025/26 is £11,692,803. This is based on an expenditure budget of £22.107m and an income budget of £10.477m.

The financial position for L&D as at Period 7 is £776,585.84 positive. The following table (circulated) shows the financial breakdown of expenditure against budget per service area.

Analysis per Service Area was circulated within the report as follows

- Community & Culture
- Prosperity & Place
- Leisure & Development Management
- Sport & Wellbeing
- Tourism & Recreation:
- Funding Unit
- Strategic Projects
- Capital Expenditure

Recommendation

Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Holmes referred to a positive report and sought the expectation of year end.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated the expectation was a positive variance.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

14. COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on a previous item of correspondence taken to the November Leisure and Development Committee from the Commonwealth Games NI fundraising campaign.

Background was circulated within the report.

Key Considerations

Council's Grant Funding Policy, Annex C (circulated), should be considered when requests for sponsorship are received, the policy clearly defines the difference between grants, donations and contracts for services. As per the policy sponsorship needs to be dealt with through 'a request to the Mayors fund, approval for which is at the sole discretion of The Mayor and any award is via a Contract for Services which forms a trading relationship established through procurement'.

Whilst it is anticipated that a number of our local athletes will get selected to participate in the Games, it must be noted that they will be able to apply for Council's Sports Fund and Bursary (up to £400) and also our Elite Athlete Scheme, which supports the athletes training with free gym access and swimming for 1 year.

Therefore, it is proposed that any decision around providing corporate sponsorship is postponed until we get a clear picture of the number of athletes selected and the support staff involved. It is anticipated that this information will be available in Spring 2026.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee notes the contents of this report, with a further report to be brought for decision once it is understood how many athletes from the Borough shall be participants in the Games.

There were no questions raised.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

The following items are listed:

15.1 Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly regarding fireworks at Council events (Dated 17 November 2025).

Mr Jon Burrows MLA is requesting a review of the use of fireworks at council events followed by an update on whether alternative options can be incorporated.

Councillor Kane asked that Mr Jon Burrows was referred to the Minutes of the November 2025 Environmental Services Committee meeting where the issue was discussed.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised the issue had been discussed at Senior Management Team (SMT) and a report would be brought to the January 2026 Committee meeting.

15.2 Correspondence from The Mary Peters Trust (Dated 03 December 2025)

Lady Mary Peters LG CH DBE DL DStJ OLY has written to Council requesting a financial contribution to assist in their endeavours to support athletes within the Causeway Coast and Glens area for 2026-27.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee are asked to consider the request contained within the attached correspondence.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the correspondence (Items 15.1-15.2 inclusive).

- * **The Chair declared a recess at 8.42pm.**
- * **The meeting reconvened at 8.54pm.**

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Callan

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.

16. ASYLUM DISPERSAL FUNDING

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

Purpose of Report

This report follows the Committee's November 2025 decision to defer Item 5: Asylum Dispersal Funding Report, pending clarification of the Council's legal obligations to support informed decision-making.

Further information was detailed within the confidential report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the legal opinion outlined in this report and, on that basis, revisits its decision regarding approval of the Asylum Dispersal Funding and associated action plan, subject to support from The Executive Office's Dispersal Funding Programme for councils.

Councillor Kyle enquired why the report was recommended for confidential consideration as it was not commercially confidential.

The Head of Community and Culture clarified that it was due to the Legal Opinion enclosed and responded to questions.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk

Seconded by Alderman Stewart

– to recommend that Council accept the Funding from The Executive Office

The Chair put the motion to a vote.

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

The Chair declared the motion carried.

17. BALLYCASTLE MUSEUM

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 Community and Culture.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to advance to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Works Process for Ballycastle Museum redevelopment.

Further information was detailed within the confidential report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

- a) Approve Option B as the preferred design option for the Ballycastle Museum redevelopment.
- b) Authorise the project team to proceed to Stage 2 of the Capital Works process, including detailed design and capital cost refinement.

Proposed by Councillor Kennedy
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council agree to

- a) Approve Option B as the preferred design option for the Ballycastle Museum redevelopment.
- b) Authorise the project team to proceed to Stage 2 of the Capital Works process, including detailed design and capital cost refinement.

* **The Head of Community and Culture left the meeting at 9.09pm.**

18. HOLIDAY AND LEISURE PARK FEES AND CHARGES 2026/27

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 Tourism and Recreation.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Elected Members to consider options for fees and charges across Council's six Holiday and Leisure Parks (HALPs). Members are asked to consider options with regards to fees for static and seasonal vans, touring caravans, tents, motorhomes and pods for the 2026-2027 season. Options for compensation for a partial loss of electricity at one HALP are also discussed.

Further information was detailed within the confidential report.

Recommendations

It is recommended the Leisure and Development Committee considers the options for static and seasonal fees for the 2026 – 2027 season and recommends to Council its preferred option:

- Option 1 - No increase in fees other than with 2026 rates adjustment.
- Option 2 - An increase of 3.3% based on average CPI.

It is recommended the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the increase in the pricing for touring caravan, tents, motorhomes and pods for 2026 as outlined in Table 3.

It is also recommended the Leisure and Development Committee consider the three options for possible compensation for the short-term electricity failure at Juniper Hill (Feb/March 25) and recommends to Council its preferred option:

- Option 1 - No payment to be made.
- Option 2 – A pro-rata payment equivalent to the number of available days lost at a cost of £48,059.74.
- Option 3 – A reduction in the 2026 electricity invoice for each occupier affected at a cost of £16,500.

In response to questions from Councillor Holmes the Head of Tourism and Recreation confirmed there is a demand for sites at Juniper Hill.

During discussion Councillor Holmes proposed Option 2 - An increase of 3.3% based on average CPI.

In response to further questions from Councillor Holmes the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that there has not been a high demand for refunds at Juniper Hill. In light of this Councillor Holmes considered it would be appropriate to award half the reduction outlined in Option 3 of the options for compensation for the short term electricity failure.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Elder and

AGREED – to recommend to Council to increase the pricing for touring caravan, tents, motorhomes and pods for 2026 as outlined in Table 3, 3.3% based on average CPI, rounded up to the nearest £5.00; and to recommend that Council approve a reduction in the 2026 electricity invoice for each occupier affected at a cost of £8,250 compensation for the short-term electricity failure at Juniper Hill (Feb/March 2025).

The Director of Leisure and Development presented the following Items as *For Information* and read.

19. PITCH AND PLAY RENEWAL UPDATE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work to date on the planned, preventative repair and maintenance of Play Parks and Sport Pitches and to ask Members to note the action plan for 2026/2027.

Further information was detailed within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note, both the progress to date in terms of the works associated with the Play Park and Sports Pitch Strategies for 2025/2026 and the Action Plan for works associated with the Play Park & Sports Pitch Strategies for 2026/27.

There were no questions raised.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

20. METROPOLE PROJECT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposal to develop an Integrated Urban Sports & Community Plaza at the Metropole Park, Portrush in partnership with Causeway Association of Urban Sports (CAUS).

Further information was detailed within the confidential report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update on the proposal to develop an Integrated Urban Sports & Community Plaza at the Metropole Park, Portrush in partnership with Causeway Association of Urban Sports (CAUS).

Alderman Stewart asked whether Councillors could be invited to the meetings with CAUS. The Director of Leisure and Development agreed.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

21. ACTIVE LIVING STRATEGY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress with the development of a new 'Active Living' Strategy for the period 2026-31.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report including the Terms of Reference at Annex A.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

22. SPORT AND WELLBEING FACILITY CARETAKERS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval to increase the number of Council employed Caretakers within the Sport & Wellbeing Department by 4 full time equivalents (Full Time Equivalent's), thereby decreasing the dependency on Agency Staff.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and approve the recommendation to increase the number of Sport & Wellbeing Caretakers provision by 4 full time equivalent's.

In response to questions from Councillor Holmes, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised Council was moving from cover to permanent, that Agency staff would still be required as and when.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Kane and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the contents of the report and approve the recommendation to increase the number of Sport & Wellbeing Caretakers provision by 4 Full Time Equivalent's.

23. ROE VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE POOL DOSING SYSTEM

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date on the upgrade of Roe Valley Leisure Centre's Swimming Pool Dosing System and seek Member approval to award the contract for completion of the works to Complete Water Treatments at a cost of £66,140.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the tender process in Annex A and award the contract for the upgrade of the dosing system at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to a Salt Hypolyser System, to Complete Water Treatments at a cost of £66,140.

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Councillor Elder and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A and award the contract for the upgrade of the dosing system at Roe Valley Leisure Centre to a Salt Hypolyser System, to Complete Water Treatments at a cost of £66,140.

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

There were no Items of Any Other Relevant Business.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

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

The Chair wished the Vice-Chair, Elected Members, Officers and staff a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.33pm.

Chair