



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2026**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	None	N/A
2.	Declarations of Interest	None	N/A
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 20 th January 2026	Confirmed as a correct record	N/A
4.	Age Friendly Champion	To recommend to Council Option 2: The Age Friendly Champion is appointed via D'Hondt from the membership of the L&D committee.	
5.	Portballintrae Air Force Memorial	To recommend that Council approves the application from Bushmills Through the Wars to install the Portballintrae Air Force Memorial on Council owned land, subject to planning permission being granted, and that the application is presented to Land & Property Committee for consideration.	Unconfirmed

6.	Town of Culture Application	<i>To recommend that Council note the contents of this report and approve the appointment of an SIB officer to support the development of a strong application at a cost of approximately £6k.</i>	<i>31st March 2026</i>
7.	EVAWG Change Fund	<i>Noted</i>	<i>31st March 2028</i>
8.	Capital Grants Programme	<i>Noted</i>	
9.	Mobile Beach Saunas	<i>Noted</i>	<i>April 2026</i>
10.	Armed Forces Day Update	<i>Noted</i>	<i>June 2026</i>
11.	Minutes of the Labour Market Partnership held on 6th November and 13th December 2025	<i>Noted</i>	
12.	Community Centre Booking Policy	<i>Noted</i>	
13.	Correspondence		
13.1	Ballymoney Community Centre, Edward Street regarding celebrating 70 years	<i>To recommend that Council marks the 70th year of Ballymoney Community Centre, Edward Street, by installing a flowerbed in Ballymoney.</i>	
13.2	Committee for Communities regarding local councils and the Anti- Poverty Strategy	<i>Noted</i>	
	In Committee (Items 14 – 18.1 inclusive)		
14.	Sport and Wellbeing Centre Opening Hours	<i>To defer a decision on the operational opening hours of Council's Major</i>	

		<i>Leisure Facilities until the full Council meeting.</i>	
15.	Minutes of the Coleraine Future Town Board held on 15th December 2025	<i>Noted</i>	
16.	Minutes of the Local Economic Partnership held on 24th September and 16th December 2025	<i>Noted</i>	
17.	Growth Deal – Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre	<i>To recommend that Council give approval to underwrite the current funding deficit (after Growth Deal funding) for the proposed Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre of £29m while other external funding sources are being pursued.</i>	2030
18.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)		
18.1	Jim Watt Centre (Councillor Holmes)	<i>Information</i>	
	In Public (Items 18.2 – 18.4)		
18.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)		
18.2	20 years of the Causeway Speciality Market (Councillor Elder)	<i>Information</i>	
18.3	Station Square Portrush (Alderman Brown Stewart)	<i>Information</i>	
18.4	Station Square Portrush (Councillor Holmes)	<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 17 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Anderson (C)

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

Officers Present: D Jackson, Chief Executive (R)
P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)
R Gillan, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
J Beggs, SIB Project Manager (R)
U Harper, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

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

Press 3 no. (R)
Public 2 no (R)

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

The Director of Leisure and Development undertook a roll call.

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

1. APOLOGIES

There were no Apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2026

Summary, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

AGREED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 20th January 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. AGE FRIENDLY CHAMPION

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the appointment of an Age Friendly Champion for Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council via D'Hondt or another method as recommended by members of the Leisure & Development Committee.

Further information is provided in the report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the content of this report and recommend to Full Council that;

a) The Age Friendly Champion is appointed via D'Hondt from the full membership of Council.

Or

b) The Age Friendly Champion is appointed via D'Hondt from the membership of the L&D committee.

Or

c) The appointment is made via another method as agreed by the committee.

In response to a query from Councillor Holmes, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that the next Party in line on the rolling d'Hondt list is the Alliance Party. Councillor Holmes proposed option 2, and this was seconded by Councillor Wisener. Councillor Schenning supported this proposal.

Councillor Elder stated that she would have been delighted to have taken on the role, but she was happy to go with the majority decision.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

AGREED – To recommend to Council Option 2: The Age Friendly Champion is appointed via D'Hondt from the membership of the L&D committee.

5. PORTBALLINTRAE AIR FORCE MEMORIAL

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

Purpose of Report

To request that the application from Bushmills Through the Wars (BTTW) is approved, granting permission to install the Portballintrae Air Force Memorial on Council owned land, subject to planning permission being granted.

Further information is provided in the report.

Proposal

That council grants permission to BTTW to install the Portballintrae Air Force Memorial subject to planning approval.

The memorial will consist of two pieces of granite, one with a brief description of the incident and the other with the names of the six airmen who perished. The proposed location overlooks the site where the plane crashed and will be sited on a concrete platform that was used for a hut during the Cold War, therefore enhancing the current site.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approves the application from Bushmills Through the Wars to install the Portballintrae Air Force Memorial on Council owned land, subject to planning permission being granted, and that the application is presented to Land & Property Committee for consideration.

Alderman McAuley proposed the recommendation, and thanked officers for their support of Bushmills Through the Wars. Councillor Kyle seconded the proposal and commended Bushmills Through the Wars for their work to self-fund the memorial.

Councillor McCully stated the Alliance Party's support for the proposal and commended Bushmills Through the Wars. In response to his query regarding the report having been previously deferred, the Head of Community and Culture advised that information had been provided to the parties that had requested it.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley

Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

AGREED – To recommend that Council approves the application from Bushmills Through the Wars to install the Portballintrae Air Force Memorial on Council owned land, subject to planning permission being granted, and that the application is presented to Land & Property Committee for consideration.

6. TOWN OF CULTURE APPLICATION

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on work being undertaken to complete a Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest Application for Limavady.

Further information is provided in the report.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Community & Culture team who are leading on the development of the EoI application form are supported by an officer from SIB to ensure that the strongest possible application can be submitted.

Council Officers will also provide the Limavady DEA Members with a draft version of the application form in advance of the submission date (31 March 2026), so that their comments can be incorporated into the final document.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and furthermore to approve the appointment of an SIB officer to support the development of a strong application at a cost of approximately £6k.

Councillor McShane thanked Alderman Callan for bringing the Notice of Motion to Council and noted that, due to time constraints, it did not go through the normal process of being referred to a Committee for further discussion before coming back to Council for ratification. Councillor McShane stated that she had not previously been aware that there was a desire from the Ballycastle community to submit a bid backed by their local authority. She stated that she understood from the briefing call with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport that a bid could be submitted at a regional level or across a council area, but it needed to be backed by the local authority to have a chance of success.

Councillor McShane proposed as an amendment that Council submit a joint bid for Limavady and Ballycastle, with Limavady as the lead partner. She stated that there is a rich culture in both areas. She gave examples of people in Ballycastle who are part of the local, national and international cultural community and have been involved in events such as Derry City of Culture, Edinburgh Fringe Festival

and the St Patrick's festivities in Dublin. She also gave the examples of Yarn and Ballycastle museum, and the Rock and Blues Festival, the Lamma Fair, the Lir Arts Festival, the Rathlin Sound Festival, and the monthly craft fair as examples of places and events that showcase the cultural offering in the area. She also referred to the Ulster Fleadh being earmarked for Ballycastle in 2027-28. She asked that the Committee consider a joint bid for Limavady and Ballycastle. Councillor Watson seconded the amendment.

Alderman Callan stated that he had no disagreement with Councillor McShane's amendment in principle, but he was unsure whether it is possible to submit a joint bid. He expressed concerns regarding how this would be resourced and achieved within the timeframe for submission. He emphasised the importance of giving the bid the best possible chance.

The Head of Community and Culture advised that she was unsure whether it would be possible to submit a joint bid, and that she would clarify this for Members. She advised that the SIB officers had already done quite a bit of work and that there is a huge amount of work required to identify existing partnerships and models for delivery.

Councillor Schenning stated that while she fully understood where Councillor McShane was coming from, she wished to propose the Officer recommendation. Alderman Callan seconded the proposal.

Councillor McCully stated that the Alliance Party agreed with the sentiment of the amendment but as it had already been decided at full Council to submit the Limavady bid, it would be right to go with that decision.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor McShane

Seconded by Councillor Watson

- That Council submits a joint bid for the Town of Culture 2028 for Limavady and Ballycastle.

The Chair put the Amendment by Councillor McShane, seconded by Councillor Watson to the Committee to Vote.

5 Members voted For; 10 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.
The Chair declared the Amendment lost.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning

Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – To recommend that Council note the contents of this report and approve the appointment of an SIB officer to support the development of a strong application at a cost of approximately £6k.

7. EVAWG CHANGE FUND

Report, previously circulated, presented as read by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the provision of the 'Local Change Fund' as part of the NI Executive's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and the subsequent bid submitted as a result.

Further information is provided in the report.

Recommendation

Council is asked to note the contents of this report and the funding submission made to The Executive Office in respect of the continuation of the EVAWG Local Change Fund to March 2028.

Committee NOTED the report.

8. CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Report, previously circulated, presented as read by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of the Capital Grants Programme 2025-26.

Further information is provided in the report.

Councillor Bateson noted that a number of clubs were disappointed to be unsuccessful in their applications for two years running. He asked whether it would be possible for Funding Unit Officers to explain the outcome to unsuccessful applicants. He stated that the funding pot is insufficient and that the criteria are too restrictive, and suggested that it should be based on need rather than sporting code. He cited the example of a club that was over the threshold but unable to access the grant due to its sporting code. He noted that previously successful applicants had been disappointed with the actual grant award, as it fell short of what they had expected to receive. He proposed that all successful applicants should get the full award amount of £120,000.

The Funding Unit Manager advised that the Funding Unit provides feedback to all unsuccessful applicants as part of the process. She noted that groups that had taken on the detailed feedback improved their score in their subsequent application and she asked Councillors to encourage all groups to avail of the feedback available. She advised that the criteria and parameters for all grant programmes are a decision for Council, and that they are agreed annually at the Annual Grants Workshop in November each year. She stated that the parameters for 2026-27 have already been agreed at full Council, however the Committee can make a recommendation to review these, which would then be brought to full Council.

Councillor Holmes stated that the decision to amend the budget is for Council to make, and noted that the rates have already been struck for the coming year. He noted that Garvagh tennis club, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary, had applied for £20,000 but did not score highly enough to get awarded funding. The Funding Unit Manager stated that Officers would be happy to meet representatives of the tennis club to identify alternative funding opportunities.

Alderman Callan congratulated the Officers on their work on this programme. He agreed that with the rates already having been struck for the year, it is important to stick with the processes that are in place.

Councillor McGurk seconded the proposal by Councillor Bateson. She stated that given that most money is not drawn-down in the current financial year, it would not represent a significant overspend for Council to award the full amount of £120,000 to all successful applicants.

In response to a query from Councillor Schenning, the Funding Unit Manager advised that there is a process for unsuccessful applicants to appeal the outcome. She advised that should an appeal result in a decision being overturned, Council would need to find the money and that it would be brought to Council for approval if a significant amount of money were involved.

Councillor McCully stated that he has sympathy for the argument regarding increasing the size of the funding pot, but that this should be raised during the Annual Grants Workshop. He stated that Council should stick with what was agreed.

Councillor Schenning expressed support for Councillor Bateson's proposal and requested a recorded vote.

Proposal

- To recommend that all successful applicants to the Capital Grants Programme 2025-26 should get the full award amount of £120,000.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor McGurk

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to Vote.
6 Members voted For; 9 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.
The Chair declared the Proposal lost.

Recorded Vote Table

For (6)	Councillors N Archibald, Bateson, McGurk, McShane, Schenning, Watson
Against (9)	Alderman Brown Stewart, Callan, McAuley
	Councillors Anderson, Elder, Holmes, Kyle, McCully, Wisener

Committee NOTED the report.

9. MOBILE BEACH SAUNAS

Report, previously circulated, presented as read by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

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

Further information is provided in the report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Councillor McShane queried the proposed location for a sauna at Ballycastle seafront, and expressed some concerns about people entering the water directly across from the Marine Hotel. The Coast and Countryside Manager advised that work is ongoing to confirm the location for the purposes of the Planning application, and they are mindful of concerns. Councillor McShane stated that she was content to follow up directly with the Coast and Countryside Manager.

Committee NOTED the report.

10. ARMED FORCES DAY UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read by the Director of Leisure and Development.

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.

Further information is provided in the report.

Committee NOTED the report.

11. MINUTES OF THE LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER AND 13TH DECEMBER 2025

Minutes, previously circulated, were presented as read by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Committee NOTED the Minutes.

12. COMMUNITY CENTRE BOOKING POLICY

Report, previously circulated, presented as read by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the requirement to establish a policy for the booking of Council's community centres to standardise the approach to booking applications, what bookings can be accepted, and what supporting documentation is required.

Further information is provided in the report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of this report, with a date for the Members Workshop to follow.

Committee NOTED the report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Purpose of Report

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

13.1 Correspondence from Committee Members of Ballymoney Community Centre, Edward Street regarding celebrating 70 years (Dated 30 January 2026).

The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer have written on behalf of their members to request that council marks their 70th year by considering a flowerbed in Ballymoney as part of their celebrations.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Elder and

AGREED – To recommend that Council marks the 70th year of Ballymoney Community Centre, Edward Street, by installing a flowerbed in Ballymoney.

13.2 Correspondence from Committee for Communities regarding local councils and the Anti- Poverty Strategy. (Dated 06 February 2026)

The Committee is holding a dedicated meeting on 8th March to allow councils to highlight strategic priorities prior to finalisation of the Executive Strategy.

Key areas for discussion will be:

- Consultation Feedback - Key issues raised by each council in its response to the draft strategy.
- Local Interventions – Overview of council's current anti-poverty framework along with examples of successful interventions.
- Integration – How the final Strategy can best align with local action plans to avoid duplication.

Recommendation

The Leisure & Development Committee are asked to note the correspondence from the Committee for Communities and consider the request from Ballymoney Community Centre.

In response to a query from Councillor McGurk, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that the Head of Community and Culture will be attending the meeting on 8th March to present evidence to the Committee for Communities.

Committee NOTED the correspondence.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Elder
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

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

* **Press and Public left the meeting at 8.04pm.**

- * **The Head of Community and Culture and the Funding Unit Manager left the meeting at 8.04pm.**

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. SPORT AND WELLBEING CENTRE OPENING HOURS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the work to date on the review of the operational opening hours of Council's Major Leisure Facilities and to seek Members approval on the preferred option.

Further information is provided in the report, including a range of Options for Members' consideration.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and make a recommendation on which option they wish to adopt from those detailed in the report.

Members discussed the various options and the effects of changing opening times. Members were advised that the majority of demand is for extended weekend opening. At the request of Alderman McAuley, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised Members that she would provide data from the trial of later opening hours at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre. Alderman McAuley suggested that opening hours could be varied to meet seasonal demand. He proposed that a decision be deferred until full Council, to allow Members time to consider the usage data from the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre opening hours trial. Members agreed with this proposal.

AGREED - To defer a decision on the operational opening hours of Council's Major Leisure Facilities until the next full Council meeting.

15. MINUTES OF THE COLERAINE FUTURE TOWN BOARD HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2025

Minutes, previously circulated, were presented as read.

Committee NOTED the Minutes.

16. MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER AND 16TH DECEMBER 2025

Minutes, previously circulated, were presented as read.

Alderman Callan requested that a presentation is made to full Council on the Local Economic Partnership so that Members can be advised of the full plans and the opportunities it presents. The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to follow up on that.

Committee NOTED the Minutes.

17. GROWTH DEAL – COLERAINE LEISURE & WELLBEING CENTRE

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request Members approval to underwrite the current funding deficit (after Growth Deal funding) for the proposed Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre of £29m while other external funding sources are being pursued. This approval will allow the Outline Business Case, recently submitted to the Department for Communities, to progress through the approval process and bring forward the Growth Deal Signing to 29th April 2026.

Further information is provided in the report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to give approval to underwrite the current funding deficit (after Growth Deal funding) for the proposed Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre of £29m while other external funding sources are being pursued.

Members are asked to note that an opportunity to revisit budget allocations and overall affordability for the final Deal Document will be brought back for decision in March/April to facilitate Deal signing by 29th April 2026. As noted above, the final investment decision to progress all projects to Stage 3: Construction and appointment of contractor will be subject to final Council agreement and confirmation of capital affordability at that time.

In response to a query from Councillor McGurk, the Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that a decision to underwrite the current funding deficit would not constitute a commitment to progress the project to the next stage.

Proposed by Councillor Wisener
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – To recommend that Council give approval to underwrite the current funding deficit (after Growth Deal funding) for the proposed Coleraine Leisure & Wellbeing Centre of £29m while other external funding sources are being pursued.

* **Councillor Kennedy joined the meeting remotely at 8.31pm.**

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

18.1 Jim Watt Centre (Councillor Holmes)

Please provide an update on progress with the ongoing legal situation with the Jim Watt centre. Parties were to meet in January.

Members discussed the situation in respect of the Jim Watt centre and the Director of Leisure and Development agreed to provide an update once received from legal counsel.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

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

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

18.2 20 years of the Causeway Speciality Market (Councillor Elder)

20 years of the Causeway Speciality Market in Coleraine I would ask that officers consider options for appropriate Council recognition and support.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that Officers are finalising a draft programme of events to mark the 20th anniversary of the speciality market for 2026-27, which will be presented to the March Leisure and Development Committee meeting. She advised that the Mayor will attend the anniversary market on 11th April 2026 and will participate in activities including photography and a cake cutting ceremony, for which Members will receive a save-the-date notification. There will be a series of trader-focused promotional videos and the programme will include a special event to recognise the long-serving traders involved in the speciality market.

Councillor Elder welcomed the update and stated that she has requested a reception to celebrate the alumni of traders.

18.3 Station Square Portrush (Alderman Brown Stewart)

To ask the Director to give an update on when delivery and installation is expected for the new ramps at Station Square and to seek clarity around what maintenance is being carried out at Station Square.

18.4 Station Square Portrush (Councillor Holmes)

Please provide an update on issues with a clean-up at the Station Square skateboard area.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated that installation of the new equipment is on track for March, pending confirmation from the supplier. When confirmed, Officers will meet the Station Square Working Group to discuss next steps, such as when the existing ramps need to be removed. She stated that the working group are planning a clean-up of their materials on the site at the end of February, so that will leave only the existing ramps to be removed once there is an agreed installation date.

In respect of maintenance of the site, and in response to the AORB from Councillor Holmes, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that there are daily checks and bin emptying in the area, and there is a process whereby any additional cleaning requests are submitted through a WhatsApp group with Officers from the Estates team. She stated that Officers are not aware of any additional requests currently, but asked that if there are any issues, to please make Officers aware.

Alderman Brown Stewart stated that he has twice had to clean up Station Square himself due to broken glass. He stated that he requested about a year ago that the drains around Station Square be emptied, but that has not yet happened. He stated that it is important to ensure the area is safe for the young people using it and requested an on-site meeting with the relevant Officer in charge of cleaning the site to further discuss the matter. Councillor Holmes agreed that this would be useful. The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to arrange this.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.43pm.

Chair

