

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026**

| <b>No</b> | <b>Item</b>                                                                                  | <b>Summary of key<br/>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Estimated<br/>Timescale for<br/>completion</b> |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | Apologies                                                                                    | <b>Councillor Bateson</b>                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>N/A</b>                                        |
| <b>2.</b> | Declarations of Interest                                                                     | <b>None</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>N/A</b>                                        |
| <b>3.</b> | Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 | <b>Confirmed as a correct record</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>N/A</b>                                        |
| <b>4.</b> | Presentation from representatives of Coleraine Connect                                       | <b>Received</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>-</b>                                          |
| <b>5.</b> | Presentation from the Head of Prosperity and Place                                           | <b>Received</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>-</b>                                          |
| <b>6.</b> | Leisure and Development Committee terms of Reference                                         | <b>To recommend that Council approve the updated Leisure and Development Committee Terms of Reference</b>                                                                                               | <b>-</b>                                          |
| <b>7.</b> | Electrical Repairs Cushendun and Cushendall HALP                                             | <b>To recommend to Council Option 2 is advanced and Stages 1 &amp; 2 of the Capital Works Process are completed on for required electrical infrastructure works at Cushendall and Cushendun Holiday</b> | <b>Q4 – 2026/27</b>                               |

|           |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                   |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
|           |                                                                                                 | <b>and Leisure Parks.<br/>(Estimated cost<br/>£120,000).</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                   |
| <b>8.</b> | Support for Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme | <p><b><i>To recommend Option 2<br/>- that Council agrees to enter into a one-year agreement with Causeway Coast &amp; Glens Heritage Trust to deliver on the agreed actions within Annex A and develop a longer-term plan for delivery on actions relating to protected landscape management which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed;</i></b></p> <p><b><i>To recommend Option 4<br/>- that Council agrees to the request to provide £30,000 match funding for 2026/2027 for Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme contributing to the completion of the project works at Downhill Forest and the WWII Trainer Dome in Limavady subject to staged approval</i></b></p> | <b>March 2027</b> |
| <b>9.</b> | Pitch and Play Strategic Action Plans                                                           | <b><i>To recommend that Council progress work to Stage 1 of the Capital Project framework – Scoping, Feasibility &amp; OBC, for increased</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>-</b>          |

|            |                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |   |
|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
|            |                                    | <b>synthetic pitch provision<br/>at Riada Playing Fields<br/>in Ballymoney</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |   |
| <b>10.</b> | Grant Funding Programme<br>2027-28 | <p><b>Recommendation 1:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend that Council approve the Annual Grant Programmes 1–26 for the 2027/28 period, as detailed in Table 3 and Annex A, including the associated assessment/scoring criteria;</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 2:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend that Council continue with the £20,000 budget for the Volunteering Small Grant Programme without specifying any split between community, voluntary and sporting organisations.</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 3:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend that Council contribution to the Social Connections Fund by an additional £12,500, taking the overall budget to £37,500.</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 4:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend that Council increase the Culture, Arts, heritage Grants budget to £30,000;</b></p> | - |

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|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  | <p><b>Recommendation 5:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend to Council Option 4 - Implement a 3-year grant Fund for the Tourism Large Events Fund only with the Tourism Growth Event Fund remaining open for annual applications. Allocate a total combined budget of £540,000 with a 10% uplift each year;</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 6:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend to Council Option 3 - Where planning permission is required, a planning application must have been submitted prior to submission of the Capital Grant application.</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 7:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend to Council Option 2 - Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £700,000;</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation 8:</b></p> <p><b>To recommend that Council split the Capital Grant Programme into a Large Capital Grant and a Minor Capital Grant to facilitate a simpler process for smaller scale projects;</b></p> |  |
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|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|            |                               | <p><b><i>That ring-fenced fund of 20% in the first year as a trial for smaller sporting organisations.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Recommendation 9:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>To recommend to Council Option 2 - Retain the one award per sporting code rule across the Capital Grant Programme.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Recommendation 10:-</i></b></p> <p><b><i>To recommend to Council that The Local Economic Partnership will fund the Green Support Scheme for the 2026/27 and the 2027/28 Financial years, raising the maximum award amounts from £5,000 to £15,000 per project.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Recommendation 11:-</i></b></p> <p><b><i>To recommend that Council increase Annual Sports Grant and Bursary Budget from £40,000 to £50,000</i></b></p> |                             |
|            |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                             |
| <b>11.</b> | PEACEPLUS Ronan's Way Project | <b><i>Noted</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><i>March 2027</i></b>    |
|            |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                             |
| <b>12.</b> | Notice of Motion Updates      | <b><i>Noted</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><i>-</i></b>             |
|            |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                             |
| <b>13.</b> | PCSP Annual Report            | <b><i>Noted</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><i>-</i></b>             |
|            |                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                             |
| <b>14.</b> | Enterprise Fund               | <b><i>Noted</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b><i>31 March 2027</i></b> |

|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
| <b>15.</b>  | Coleraine Future Town Fund                                                                                                                                   | <b>Noted</b>                    | <b>2035</b>       |
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
| <b>16.</b>  | Consultations                                                                                                                                                | <b>None</b>                     | <b>-</b>          |
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
| <b>17.</b>  | Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Anderson and Seconded by Councillor Huggins (abbrev: Hosting National Armed Forces Day 2028)                         | <b>Support Notice of Motion</b> |                   |
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
| <b>18.</b>  | Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor McShane and seconded by Councillor Watson (abbrev: Ballycastle to Ballintoy Coastal Path)                            | <b>Support Notice of Motion</b> |                   |
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
| <b>19.</b>  | Request for Financial Support COAST                                                                                                                          | <b>Noted</b>                    | <b>March 2027</b> |
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
| <b>20.</b>  | Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)                                                                               |                                 |                   |
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |
| <b>20.1</b> | <i>Ballymoney Spring Fair and the reinstatement of the traditional cavalcade, Request for a paper to be brought to L&amp;D Sept 2026 (Councillor Wilson)</i> | <b>Information</b>              |                   |
|             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |                   |

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON  
TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.00PM**

**In the Chair:** Councillor McCully (C)

**Members Present:** Alderman Brown Stewart (C), Callan (C), McKillop (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (C), Elder (C),  
Holmes (C), Kennedy (C), Kyle (C), McGurk (R),  
McShane (C), Schenning (C), Watson (R), Wisener (C),  
Wilson (C)

**Officers Present:** P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (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)  
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)  
P O'Brien, Head of Funding Unit (C)  
R Gillan, Coast and Countryside Manager (C)  
U Harper, Senior Democratic Services Officer (C)  
I Owens, Democratic Services Officer (C)

**In Attendance:** A Lennox, ICT Manager (Interim) (C)  
C McTaggart, ICT Operations Officer (C)  
L Boyd, ICT Operations Officer (C)  
R Finlay, ICT Operations Officer (C)  
  
J Fielding, BID Chair, Coleraine Connect (C)  
A Sid, BID Manager, Coleraine Connect (C)

**Substitutions:** Councillor Wilson substituted for Alderman McAuley

Public 1 no. (C)

**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**

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Bateson.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026**

Summary, previously circulated.

**AGREED** - That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 were confirmed as a correct record.

## **4. PRESENTATION FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF COLERAINE CONNECT**

The Chair invited the representatives from Coleraine Connect to address the Committee.

The BID Chair thanked Council for the opportunity to present and referred to the information previously circulated to Elected Members.

The BID Chair gave an overview of Coleraine Connect incorporating the purpose and aspirations of key individuals involved in the new board and the direction of travel. The BID Chair said having had a business in Coleraine for 10 years he understood the importance of supporting businesses and of the enormous potential for Coleraine town centre as well as the pressures faced by businesses including energy costs, cost of living crisis, changing consumer habits and continued growth of online shopping. The BID Chair referred to some of the key features in Coleraine including the River Bann, the beautiful historic buildings and features and generational businesses.

The BID Chair said that the objective of Coleraine Connect was not simply to administer the BID levy but to champion Coleraine, completely change communication via enhanced social media activity, invested video and photography, working with press, radio, newsletter, website and speakers systems in tandem with meetings with a range of stakeholders.

Some of the events to enhance visitors numbers this year included:-

- Football celebrations;
- Classic mini-show;
- K-pop event;

- The Big Bark Show;
- Thunder Action Sports;
- Jurassic Core Rain;
- Ticket shows for Christmas.

Three key projects achievable with support and the correct investment:

- Coleraine River Fest;
- Christmas market in 2027;
- Opening of Market Yard.

The BID Chair said that Council brings experience, infrastructure and facilities and asked Council to unlock the funding and investment required.

In response to Councillor Holmes, the BID Chair said that there was increased footfall on Saturdays with positive feedback from traders following some of the key events which have taken place and that the ask of Council was backing and support and he referred to the cessation of financial assistance from Council.

**\* Councillor Archibald joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.25 pm**

Councillor Anderson welcomed efforts to bring more events to the town Centre including revitalising the Market Yard.

Alderman Callan asked about the status of the annual reporting and business plan. The BID Manager advised that there would be annual reports being released with a business plan at an early stage which will be subject to change.

Councillor Elder said that Coleraine Connect had breathed new life into the town centre and referred to the brilliant and successful events delivered.

At the request of Councillor Archibald, Bid Chair confirmed that there was collaboration around nighttime economy given the NRC and UU geographic connection and that the BID Manager had a productive meeting with NRC with the intention of promoting fresher events etc.

Councillor Wisener spoke of increased footfall during some of the recent key events in the town centre.

The BID Chair provided assurances to Alderman Brown Stewart that the speaker system would be pre-set going forward to avoid conflict with events on the ground or connected with St Patrick's Church.

The BID Chair said he would happily present a business plan to Elected Members if they so wished and thanked Council for the opportunity to present.

## **5. PRESENTATION FROM THE HEAD OF PROSPERITY AND PLACE**

The Chair invited the Head of Prosperity and Place to address the Committee.

The Head of Prosperity and Place presented via PowerPoint as follows:-

Strategic Objectives:-

### **Regeneration**

- Limavady Revitalise Scheme
- Coleraine Future Town Fund
- Ballycastle EIS.

### **Business Development**

- 2025/26 Financial Impact
- Business Engagement and Communications
- Digital Transformation Flexible Fund
- Enterprise Fund
- Go Succeed
- Female Entrepreneurship
- Rural Business Grant – DAERA.

### **Labour Market Partnership**

- 2025/26 Financial Impact
- Programmes/Activities to form and successfully deliver the functions; improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally; to promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision either regionally or locally.

### **Town and Village Management**

- 2025/26 Financial Impact
- Programmes/Activities include Partnership and Engagement; Evidence-based, shared Goals and Vision; Delivering Place Management/Town Renewal; Monitoring and Maintaining.

### **Local Economic Partnership**

- 2025/26 Financial Impact
- Live Programmes/Activities include Global Gateway; Innovate 360; Thrive Causeway; FutureProof.

### **Growth Deal/Strategic Projects**

- £129m Growth Deal signed to unlock investment across nine key strategic projects;
- Successful delivery of the £100k Pilot Green Support Scheme targeting 48 businesses;
- Review and revision of the Causeway Coast and Glens Digital Strategy and Action Plan.

### **Prosperity and Place Budget**

In addition to the annual budget of £1.6m, the team are responsible for the delivery of c£158m of external funding.

### **Prosperity and Place Priorities**

Our priorities focus on boosting productivity, securing funding and engaging diverse communities for a thriving landscape.

The Chair thanked the Head of Prosperity and Place for the presentation and invited questions from Elected Members.

### **\* The representatives of Coleraine Connect left the Chamber at 7.45 pm.**

Councillor Anderson spoke of the level of funding and business drive element undertaken by the team. At the request of Councillor Anderson the Head of Prosperity and Place said that the low level of wage for this area was based largely on a large percentage of small businesses with efforts to attract larger employers continuing.

Councillor Schenning thanked the team for their excellent work, in particular help to new businesses.

At the request of Alderman Callan the Head of Prosperity and Place said that it was considered the next economic strategy would be delivered inhouse with the enhanced SIB resource. The Head of Prosperity and Place also confirmed at Alderman Callan's request that there were ambitious plans for Atlantic Link having been acquired by a private international software development company.

## **6. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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

### **Purpose of Report**

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

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Updated Terms of Reference.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that approval is granted for the updated Leisure and Development Committee Terms of Reference

Proposed by Alderman Brown Stewart  
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council approve the updated Leisure and Development Committee Terms of Reference.

## **7. ELECTRICAL REPAIRS CUSHENDUN AND CUSHENDALL HALP**

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

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to carry out essential works to the electrical supply infrastructure at both Cushendall and Cushendun HALPs. Approval is sought to complete on both stages 1 and 2 of the Capital Works Process, allowing for scheduling of the works and completion, prior to mid-March 2027.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Works Required
- Proposals
- Options
- Next Steps.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council that Option 2 is advanced and Stages 1 & 2 of the Capital Works Process are completed on for required electrical infrastructure works at Cushendall and Cushendun Holiday and Leisure Parks. (Estimated cost £120,000).

Stage 3 approval will be sought from Council on completion of the procurement process.

In response to Councillor Holmes, the Head of Tourism and Recreation explained that while there was visible erosion it was likely that there was not widespread erosion elsewhere.

Proposed by Councillor McShane  
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council Option 2 is advanced and Stages 1 & 2 of the Capital Works Process are completed on for required electrical infrastructure works at Cushendall and Cushendun Holiday and Leisure Parks. (Estimated cost £120,000).

## **8. SUPPORT FOR CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST AND BINEVENAGH LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation who advised that the Coast and Countryside Manager was also in attendance.

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the recent activities undertaken by Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) of behalf of Council and seek approval for support of the ongoing work for the current financial year 2026/2027.

Approval is also sought for further financial support for the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS), hosted by CCGHT, for the current financial year 2026/2027.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Proposals for CCGHT
- Background for Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Proposals for LPS
- Options.

### **Options**

#### **Support for CCGHT**

**Option 1** – Council does not enter into a new agreement with Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust. Council would have to source alternative means to complete on these activities or agree to pause on the actions.

**Option 2** – Council agrees to enter into a one-year agreement with Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust to deliver on the agreed actions within **Annex A** (previously

circulated) and develop a longer-term plan for delivery on actions relating to protected landscape management which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed.

### **Support for Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme**

**Option 3** – Council does not agree to the request to provide £30,000 match funding for 2026/2027 for Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme. The completion of the identified LPS projects would not be possible.

**Option 4** – Council agrees to the request to provide £30,000 match funding for 2026/2027 for Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme contributing to the completion of the project works at Downhill Forest and the WWII Trainer Dome in Limavady subject to staged approval.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Leisure & Development Committee considers the options provided and makes a recommendation for the preferred option either Option 1 or Option 2 in relation to a one-year agreement with Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust to deliver on the agreed actions within Annex B and develop a longer-term plan for delivery on actions relating to protected landscape management which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed.

It is recommended that Leisure & Development Committee considers the options provided and makes a recommendation for the preferred option, either Option 3 or Option 4, in relation to providing £30,000 match funding for 2026/2027 for Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme contributing to the completion of the project works at Downhill Forest and the WWII Trainer Dome in Limavady subject to staged approval.

Alderman Callan stated that it would have been fitting for Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust to be in attendance given their request for funding and questioned the one-year agreement aspect within the recommendation. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that Officers had previously represented this organisation at Committee meetings when requesting funding and the Director of Leisure and Development advised that a deputation had already been scheduled at this meeting for Coleraine Connect.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation said that they had been subject to a change to Officers and needed a period of time to develop a longer term business case. At the request of Alderman Callan the Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that the outworkings of Option 2 were timebound.

Regarding the Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme Alderman Callan was given clarification on Heritage and Lottery Funding Sources and associated timelines by the Coast and Countryside Manager.

Councillor Wilson said that he was mindful of Councillors being the custodians of the public purse.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Wilson

- To recommend that Council defer funding decision for Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust pending presentation from the group.

Councillor Holmes said that the Committee should be mindful of the changes which have taken place at the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and felt that it would be more prudent to agree to the one-year funding request and invite the group to bring their request to Council at the beginning of their next three-year programme.

Councillor McGurk concurred with Councillor Holmes, referring to a change in governance.

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to vote

5 Members voted For; 9 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained

The Chair declared the Motion Lost.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk

Seconded by Councillor Holmes

- That the Committee recommends to Council Option 2 – Council agrees to enter into a one-year agreement with Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust to deliver on the agreed actions within Annex A and develop a longer-term plan for delivery on actions relating to protected landscape management which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed.

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to vote

11 Members voted For; 3 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained

The Chair declared the Motion Carried

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council **Option 2** - agree to enter into a one-year agreement with Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust to deliver on the agreed actions within Annex A and develop a longer-term plan for delivery on actions relating to protected landscape management which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council **Option 4** – Council agrees to the request to provide £30,000 match funding for 2026/2027 for Binevenagh Landscape Partnership Scheme contributing to the completion of the project works at Downhill Forest and the WWII Trainer Dome in Limavady subject to staged approval.

\* **The Coast and Countryside Manager left the Chamber at 8.40pm.**

## **9. PITCH AND PLAY STRATEGIC ACTION PLANS**

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

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to ask Council approval to progress to Stage 1 of the Capital Project framework – Scoping, Feasibility & OBC, for an increased synthetic pitch provision at Riada Playing Fields in Ballymoney.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Next Steps
- Options
- Affordability
- Recommendation.

Alderman Brown Stewart asked for details of consultation undertaken in relation to this proposal. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that, following a decision, consultation would follow. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing said there was evidence from non-users who have been unable to secure bookings for training.

At the request of Councillor Wilson the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised of the affordability of a second pitch project, referred to capital projects list and the significant financial pressures. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that the matter of a second pitch would be for consideration by Elected Members.

Councillor McGurk questioned the rationale for the proposal being in Ballymoney and said she understood the pressures that are on that site at this time but wished to consider if scoring or prioritisation had been undertaken for pitches across the entire Council area.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that based on Council's current synthetic provision it was expected to be able to meet the demand in other areas.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing further advised that there are other projects across the borough included in the long priority list which Officers with support from Funding Unit are considering.

Councillor McGurk asked for the current status in alignment with the pitch strategy review document and the Head of Sport advised of the focus on upkeep and repair and referred to a number of works undertaken.

At the request of Councillor McGurk the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised of the level of consultation with users.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council progress work to Stage 1 of the Capital Project framework – Scoping, Feasibility & OBC, for increased synthetic pitch provision at Riada Playing Fields in Ballymoney.

**\*The Chair declared a recess at 8.50pm**

**\*The meeting resumed at 8.55pm**

## **10. GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMME 2027-2028**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of the Funding Unit.

### **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 2027-2028 period.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background - Breakdown of Grants awarded 2016/17 – Present
- Current Year's Grant Programmes
- Proposed Grant Funding Programmes 2027-28
  - Volunteering Small Grant Programme
  - Social Connections Grant
  - Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Programme
  - Tourism Events Grant Programme
  - Capital Grant Programme
  - Local Economic Partnership Funding
  - Summary of Proposed Budget Increases.

### **Recommendations**

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

**Recommendation 1**

Approve the Annual Grant Programmes 1–26 for the 2027/28 period, as detailed in Table 3 and Annex A, including the associated assessment/scoring criteria.

**Recommendation 2**

Continue with the £20,000 budget for the Volunteering Small Grant Programme without specifying any split between community, voluntary and sporting organisations.

**Recommendation 3**

Increase Council contribution to the Social Connections Fund by an additional £12,500, taking the overall budget to £37,500.

**Recommendation 4**

Increase the Culture, Arts, heritage Grants budget to £30,000.

**Recommendation 5**

**Tourism Events funding:**

**Option 1:** Make no change to the Tourism Events Fund & Budget.

**Option 2:** Increase Tourism Events fund budget from £400,000 to £540,000 for 2027/28.

**Option 3:** Implement a 3-year Grant Fund for the Tourism Large Events and Tourism Growth Events Fund with a budget of £540,000 in the first year and a 10% uplift each year.

**Option 4:** Implement a 3-year grant Fund for the Tourism Large Events Fund only with the Tourism Growth Event Fund remaining open for annual applications. Allocate a total combined budget of £540,000 with a 10% uplift each year.

**Recommendation 6**

**Council Capital Grants - Eligibility Criteria:**

**Option 1:** No change.

**Option 2:** Where planning permission is required, planning permission must be in place prior to submission of the Capital Grant application.

**Option 3:** Where planning permission is required, a planning application must have been submitted prior to submission of the Capital Grant application.

**Recommendation 7**

**Capital Grants Budget:**

**Option 1:** No change to the annual Capital Grant budget of £600,000.

**Option 2:** Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £700,000.

**Option 3:** Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £750,000.

**Option 4:** Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £800,000.

#### **Recommendation 8**

Split the Capital Grant Programme into a Large Capital Grant and a Minor Capital Grant to facilitate a simpler process for smaller scale projects.

#### **Recommendation 9**

**Option 1:** Remove the one award per sporting code rule for the Minor Capital Grant programme.

**Option 2:** Retain the one award per sporting code rule across the Capital Grant Programme.

#### **Recommendation 10**

The Local Economic Partnership will fund the Green Support Scheme for the 2026/27 and the 2027/28 Financial years, raising the maximum award amounts from £5,000 to £15,000 per project.

The Head of Funding Unit advised of a further Recommendation not included in report, previously circulated, in relation to the Annual Sports Grant and Bursary Budget which had been oversubscribed leading to the application window being closed in July due to huge popularity.

#### **Recommendation 11**

Increase Annual Sports Grant and Bursary Budget from £40,000 to £50,000.

The Chair advised that the Head of Funding Unit would put each recommendation to the Committee for consideration.

The Head of Funding Unit put each recommendation and range of options to the Committee.

#### **Recommendation 1**

Proposed by Councillor Wisener

Seconded by Alderman Callan and

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council approve the Annual Grant Programmes 1–26 for the 2027/28 period, as detailed in Table 3 and Annex A, including the associated assessment/scoring criteria.

## **Recommendation 2**

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Alderman Brown-Stewart and

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council continue with the £20,000 budget for the Volunteering Small Grant Programme without specifying any split between community, voluntary and sporting organisations.

## **Recommendation 3**

Proposed by Alderman Callan  
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council contribution to the Social Connections Fund by an additional £12,500, taking the overall budget to £37,500.

## **Recommendation 4**

Proposed by Councillor Archibald  
Seconded by Alderman Brown-Stewart and

**AGREED** - To recommend that Council increase the Culture, Arts, heritage Grants budget to £30,000.

## **Recommendation 5**

### **Tourism Events funding:**

**Option 1:** Make no change to the Tourism Events Fund & Budget.

**Option 2:** Increase Tourism Events fund budget from £400,000 to £540,000 for 2027/28.

**Option 3:** Implement a 3-year Grant Fund for the Tourism Large Events and Tourism Growth Events Fund with a budget of £540,000 in the first year and a 10% uplift each year.

**Option 4:** Implement a 3-year grant Fund for the Tourism Large Events Fund only with the Tourism Growth Event Fund remaining open for annual applications. Allocate a total combined budget of £540,000 with a 10% uplift each year.

In relation to Option 4 - The Head of Funding Unit provided clarity to Councillor Holmes on events which received Tourism NI funding.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes  
Seconded by Alderman Brown-Stewart and

**AGREED** - To recommend to Council **Option 4** - Implement a 3-year grant Fund for the Tourism Large Events Fund only with the Tourism Growth Event Fund

remaining open for annual applications. Allocate a total combined budget of £540,000 with a 10% uplift each year.

## **Recommendation 6**

### **Council Capital Grants - Eligibility Criteria:**

**Option 1:** No change.

**Option 2:** Where planning permission is required, planning permission must be in place prior to submission of the Capital Grant application.

**Option 3:** Where planning permission is required, a planning application must have been submitted prior to submission of the Capital Grant application.

At the request of Councillor Holmes the Head of Funding Unit confirmed that Option 3 required full planning permission.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk  
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council **Option 3** - Where planning permission is required, a planning application must have been submitted prior to submission of the Capital Grant application.

## **Recommendation 7**

### **Capital Grants Budget:**

**Option 1:** No change to the annual Capital Grant budget of £600,000.

**Option 2:** Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £700,000.

**Option 3:** Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £750,000.

**Option 4:** Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £800,000.

### **Recommendation**

Proposed by Councillor McGurk  
Seconded by Councillor Archibald

- To recommend to Council **Option 4** - Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £800,000.

At the request of Councillor Wilson the Chair declared a recess before taking the vote.

\* **The Chair declared a recess at 9.10pm**

\* **The meeting resumed at 9.15pm**

### **Amendment**

Proposed by Councillor Kyle

Seconded by Councillor Anderson

-To recommend to Council **Option 2** - Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £700,000.

The Chair put the amendment to the Committee to vote

8 Members voted For; 7 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained

The Chair declared the Motion Carried.

**AGREED** - To recommend to Council **Option 2** - Increase the annual Capital Grant budget from £600,000 to £700,000.

### **Recommendation 8**

Split the Capital Grant Programme into a Large Capital Grant and a Minor Capital Grant to facilitate a simpler process for smaller scale projects.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council:-

Split the Capital Grant Programme into a Large Capital Grant and a Minor Capital Grant to facilitate a simpler process for smaller scale projects;

That ring-fenced fund of 20% in the first year as a trial for smaller sporting organisations.

### **Recommendation 9**

**Option 1:** Remove the one award per sporting code rule for the Minor Capital Grant programme.

**Option 2:** Retain the one award per sporting code rule across the Capital Grant Programme.

### **Proposal**

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Wisener

-**Option 2** - Retain the one award per sporting code rule across the Capital Grant Programme.

### **Amendment**

Proposed by Councillor Schenning

Seconded by Councillor Archibald

**-Option 1** - Remove the one award per sporting code rule for the Minor Capital Grant programme.

At the request of Councillor Wilson the Head of the Funding Unit provided an explanation of the code rule in that only one application could be made for each sporting code per year if affiliated with a governing body recognised by Sport NI.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote  
7 Members voted For; 8 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained  
The Chair declared the Amendment Lost.

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council **Option 2** - Retain the one award per sporting code rule across the Capital Grant Programme.

### **Recommendation 10**

The Local Economic Partnership will fund the Green Support Scheme for the 2026/27 and the 2027/28 Financial years, raising the maximum award amounts from £5,000 to £15,000 per project.

Proposed by Alderman Callan  
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council that The Local Economic Partnership will fund the Green Support Scheme for the 2026/27 and the 2027/28 Financial years, raising the maximum award amounts from £5,000 to £15,000 per project.

### **Recommendation 11**

Increase Annual Sports Grant and Bursary Budget from £40,000 to £50,000

Proposed by Councillor Anderson  
Seconded by Councillor Elder and

**AGREED** - To recommend that Council increase Annual Sports Grant and Bursary budget from £40,000 to £50,000.

## **11. PEACEPLUS RONAN'S WAY PROJECT**

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

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of the PEACEPLUS Cushendall Trails Capital Project - "Ronan's Way"

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Updated Position.

### **Recommendation**

Members are requested to note the paper.

Councillor Watson welcomed the project and thanked the relevant officers for delivering a solution to the issue given the concern that it caused for Ronan's family and how content they are with the outcome.

Councillor Wisener concurred with Councillor Watson's remarks congratulating the Peace Plus team and representatives.

Committee NOTED the report.

## **12. NOTICES OF MOTION UPDATES**

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

### **Purpose of Report**

This report provides Members with an update on the status of Notices of Motion approved by the Leisure and Development Committee during the current Council term.

Further background information was provided in the report previously circulated.

### **Recommendation**

Members are requested to note the paper.

Committee NOTED the report.

## **13. PCSP ANNUAL REPORT**

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

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present the PCSP Annual Report 2025-26 for information.

Further background information was provided in the report previously circulated.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Draft PCSP Annual Report 2025-26 attached at Annex A, previously circulated, is noted for information.

Committee NOTED the report.

#### **14. ENTERPRISE FUND**

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

##### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the outcome of the Enterprise Fund Grant Programme 2026/27.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- The Process
- Outcome.

##### **Recommendation**

Members are requested to note the paper.

Councillor Holmes referred to the high number of ineligible applications and the Head of Funding Unit advised that most of these did not pass the eligibility criteria in terms of how long they were trading. The Head of Funding Unit also advised that this was a hugely popular fund, slightly oversubscribed, but the eligibility rules enable management of the programme and the budget. She further advised that there are other grant programmes that those who are deemed ineligible can apply for, such as Go Succeed and other programmes if they have been operating for less than the defined period.

The Head of Funding Unit agreed to provide Councillor Holmes with further financial details outside of the meeting.

Committee NOTED the report.

#### **15. COLERAINE FUTURE TOWN FUND UPDATE**

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

##### **Purpose of Report**

The Purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the key milestones achieved in relation to the Coleraine Future Town Fund (CFTF) programme and its transition to delivery phase. This includes an update on the submission of the CFTF 10 Year Vision and Regeneration Plan and

Memorandum of Understanding from the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG).

Members will recall that this project sits as Priority 16 of the Causeway Community Plan and as such reports into council via the Community Planning Partnership.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Recap on Coleraine Future Town Fund (CFTF)
- CFTF Update.

At the request of Alderman Callan, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that there were 21 proposals with various elements, due for consideration at a planned workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> September for all Board Members which would be followed by a 2 to 3 week public consultation and an assessment panel process similar to grant funding methods with those scoring the required 65% or above going forward for prioritisation.

Alderman Callan asked what input Elected Members could have and the Director of Leisure and Development advised that an overview could be provided but it was the Future Town Fund Board which incorporates relevant District Electoral Area elected representatives that undertakes the assessment process with Council ultimately signing off before the end of the calendar year 2026.

Committee NOTED the report.

## **16. CONSULTATIONS**

There were no consultations.

## **17. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR HUGGINS**

*Following on from the tremendous success of the Regional Armed Forces Day 2026, that this Council explores the opportunity to host National Armed Forces Day 2028 and submits a bid to the relevant authorities.*

The Chair invited Councillor Anderson to speak as proposer of the Notice of Motion:-

Councillor Anderson stated:-

*"Following the tremendous success of the Armed Forces Day in Coleraine I ask Council to seek the opportunity to host the National Armed Forces Day 2028.*

*If successful, this would be the first time the event would be hosted outside of England. While this would bring challenges, our Events team have already proven that they can host world-class events. A week after the Coleraine event, Deputy Veterans Champion, Councillor Wisener and myself attended an Army Covenant Conference in Portsmouth, where Calvin Bailey, the Minister of Veterans and People for the United Kingdom, spoke with great admiration about his visit to Coleraine to witness a spectacular event first-hand. This is how far that we are reaching with this event, the success that we had in Coleraine that day.*

*The three-day event would bring substantial economic, social and community benefits. The occasion would act as a massive tourism driver, attracting thousands of regional and international visitors with free, inclusive family entertainment with high-calibre public attractions, increased revenue for local traders, hospitality businesses and hotels. This event will also reinforce the connection and close bond between the armed forces and the local communities they serve with pride. As Veterans Champion, it would be a great honour for Coleraine to reinforce Northern Ireland's regional connection to the wider UK armed forces network."*

The Chair invited Councillor Wilson to speak on the Mayor's behalf, as seconder of the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Wilson stated:

*"I would like to second this very worthwhile notice of motion. I echo the comments of my colleague. We knew it would be a great event, but it turned into an absolutely magnificent event with record-breaking crowds for Coleraine and it was just a spectacle for people from within the borough and equally importantly people from outside the borough visiting. We would like to build on that success and to remember those who have fought and died in the armed forces, current members and future members of our armed forces as well. It is a celebration that everyone could enjoy."*

Councillor Kyle said he was happy to support and endorse the Notice of Motion and referred to the great day held in Coleraine for Armed Forces Day.

Alderman Brown Stewart said he was very happy to speak in support of this motion on behalf of the Alliance Party, that he had attended the Armed Forces Day in Coleraine and it was fantastic to see the town so busy. Alderman Brown Stewart said that this Council have shown they can deliver fantastic

international events and would encourage Officers to take the necessary steps to develop a strong bid.

Councillor Holmes concurred with previous remarks and said it would be great to see the event coming back in 2028 for National Armed Forces Day and referred to the potential logistic challenge of such an event in the town.

Councillor McGurk said that the last Armed Forces Day saw the cost skyrocket from the initial proposal and referred to a National Armed Forces Day costs of more than half a million. Councillor McGurk said that at a time when local households are struggling with energy, food and housing costs for local rates to fund a massive military event is a gross misuse of public funds and places a huge unnecessary burden on our rates payers. Councillor McGurk also referred to the overstretched Events team who run our very successful and extensive Council calendar of events and stated that Council do not have the capacity to introduce such a large scale event without detracting from our own annual events and this event would not reflect the entire population of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and would alienate a large section of our ratepayers who do not align with the views of the British military.

Councillor McShane said she was assuming that there would be a full EQIA undertaken in respect of this proposal and asked the Director of Leisure and Development for clarity.

The Director of Leisure and Development invited the Head of Community and Culture to address the Committee. The Head of Community and Culture said while she was not the Equality Officer it was her understanding that if Council implemented new projects, policies or directives, equality screening was required and that the outcome of that would determine whether a full equality impact assessment is required.

Councillor McShane said this was good practice and particularly given the significant sum of ratepayer money involved.

The Chair put the proposal to the Committee to vote  
10 Members voted For; 5 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained  
The Chair declared the Motion Carried.

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council Support the Notice of Motion

**18. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCSHANE AND  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WATSON**

*Ballycastle to Ballintoy Coastal Path*

*This Council recognises the significant tourism, economic, health and wellbeing benefits that an off-road coastal walking route between Ballycastle and Ballintoy (including Carrick-a-Rede and Kinbane) could deliver for residents and visitors alike.*

*Council notes that the development of this section of the Causeway Coast Way is identified as a strategic priority within the Causeway Coast Way Blueprint and welcomes the initial positive engagement undertaken with landowners regarding the principle of an off-road coastal route.*

*Further to this, the Council agrees to:*

*Support the progression of the proposed Ballycastle to Ballintoy coastal path as a strategic tourism and active travel priority.*

*Request that officers develop an Outline Business Case to establish the strategic, economic, environmental and social case for the project, including route options, landowner engagement, indicative costs, funding opportunities and potential delivery models.*

*Explore opportunities to work collaboratively with key partners, including the Executive, Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland, DAERA and other local authorities with experience of delivering major walking trails.*

*Seek external funding opportunities to progress the project and report back to the Leisure and Development Committee on the proposed next steps.*

The Chair invited Councillor McShane to speak as proposer of the Notice of Motion.

Councillor McShane stated:

*"Essentially what this motion is asking for is about taking the next practical step towards a long-standing aspiration to build a safe off-road route connecting Ballintoy to Ballycastle, including Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge and Kinbane Castle. It's about completing a missing section of a much wider coastal network. I am asking Council to establish the evidence, options and costs through an outline business case so that we are ready to pursue external funding when those opportunities arise.*

*This vision itself is not new. It has been discussed for many, many years and enjoys strong local support because of the benefits it could bring for residents, visitors, active travel, tourism and community connectivity. Since I placed this motion on the agenda, it has attracted significant attention across social media and the local press. That level of interest demonstrates and reflects the strong public appetite for exploring the continuation of this coastal path and access along the iconic stretch of coastline on the North Antrim on the North Antrim coast. I am asking Council to support the development of an outline business*

*case that would allow us to further develop this aspiration and make it into a deliverable project. Importantly it would ensure that we are investment ready when funding opportunities arise.*

*Potential future sources could include, for example, the Shared Island Fund, alongside other government tourism and active travel funding programmes. However, without the groundwork completed, we risk missing out on those opportunities. I would be keen to hear the Head of Tourism and Recreation's views on this notice of motion. This route, I believe, has the potential to become a signature asset for the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. An outlined business case is simply the first step in understanding how we can make this ambition a reality."*

The Chair invited Councillor Watson to speak as seconder of the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Watson stated:

*"The development of a coastal path between Ballintoy and Ballycastle would be a major investment in the economic health and social well-being of our local communities. This is about more than creating a walking route; it is about unlocking the potential of our coastline and ensuring the local people and businesses benefit from one of our greatest natural assets. A high quality accessible coastal path would encourage sustainable tourism, increase visitor numbers and create opportunities for local businesses, hospitality providers and outdoor recreation. It would also provide residents with a safe and attractive space to walk, exercise and connect with nature, supporting both physical and mental well-being. Connecting Ballintoy and Ballycastle would strengthen our tourism offering, support local economic growth, improve connectivity between communities, and create a lasting legacy for future generations. Investment in active travel and our natural environment is investment in the health, prosperity, and future of our communities."*

Councillor Wilson said that this was a great Notice of Motion and said that the path from Ballintoy to Ballycastle is the most striking coastline, and including Cushendal and Cushendun is probably one of the best coastlines in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe. Councillor Wilson referred to the level of bureaucracy involved at department level, a dereliction of duty by the Department of Infrastructure and said it was a shame this had to be brought to the attention of the department via a Notice of Motion and commended the Elected Members who brought it forward.

Councillor Holmes said he agreed wholeheartedly with the principle of the motion saying it would be a beautiful walk around that coast but referred to the practicalities, not least is the terrain including rocks, the associated cost of an

outline business case and the issue of landowners. Councillor Holmes referred to previous consideration being given to a pathway from Ballymoney to Ballycastle which posed issues with private land and said it would be prudent to explore this aspect in the first instance.

The Chair permitted Councillor McShane to speak in closing as the proposer of the Notice of Motion.

Councillor McShane thanked those who supported the notice of motion and stated:

*"Local government tends to be at the coal face of many such issues. Active travel has been consulted on widely, with plans published earlier this year. The outworkings of this Notice of Motion has been a long-held aspiration, to continue on the coastal path. Council has a crucial role in being that anchor to pull all of the partners together because it doesn't sit neatly within the department or with tourism. We can build on relationships and bring forward an outline business case and be the lead for this project. I think Shared Island might be one of those potential funding sources to realise this project. I have absolutely no doubt that there will be difficulties, but I am also very conscious that this has been a long-held aspiration and there has been some groundwork done over the years with talking and engaging with landowners on the sections of this route. This is about bringing this all together neatly so that there is an outline business case for funding, once it becomes available."*

The Chair invited the Head of Tourism and Recreation to address the Committee.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation said that around 2018, Officers presented the blueprint document to Council and requested support for strategic direction for the Causeway Coast Way, which runs from Portstewart and is designated to Ballycastle, but unfortunately from Ballintoy to Ballycastle, you cannot walk off-road on that particular section, and it has always been an aspiration of the team to achieve that. The 2020 rural development programme which ended in 2020 included such aspirations however the funding never came to fruition. The Head of Tourism and Recreation referred to previously funded projects and to surveys undertaken by Tourist NI and Fáilte Ireland which placed aspirations for a coastal walk no.4 of the top 10 reasons to visit.

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council the Notice of Motion.

The Chair advised that as the following confidential item was for information it was not required to move In Committee.

## **19. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT COAST**

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on a financial agreement with Community Planning Partners to support the continued delivery of Causeway Older Active Strategic Team (COAST) core services for the remainder of the 2026/27 financial year.

Further information is provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Next steps.

Members are asked to note the content of this report with a further update due in October for decision as to how the future services might be delivered should any agreement not be reached.

Committee NOTED the report.

## **20. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 12. (O)**

### **20.1 *Ballymoney Spring Fair and the reinstatement of the traditional cavalcade, request for a paper to be brought to L&D Sept 2026:***

- *a comprehensive evaluation of the 2026 Ballymoney Spring Fair;*
- *a full, itemised breakdown of all event expenditure and associated costs;*
- *detailed reasons why the traditional truck, tractor and classic-car cavalcade has not been delivered in its former format in recent years;*
- *details of all health and safety, insurance, traffic-management and operational issues involved;*
- *a fully costed options appraisal setting out what would be required to safely reinstate the traditional cavalcade at a future Spring Fair.*

*The options appraisal should include routes, road closures, assembly areas, stewarding, insurance, vehicle and driver registration, safety checks, agency consultation, potential external delivery partners, required preparation time and a full estimate of additional costs.*

*The report should also identify any practical partnership or lower-cost delivery models involving local vehicle clubs, haulage businesses, agricultural organisations or other experienced stakeholders.(Councillor Wilson)*

The Chair invited Councillor Wilson to speak.

Councillor Wilson stated:

*"14 years ago, I was quite proud to be an integral part in returning the Mayor's show, which has in turn been rebranded the Spring Fair back to Ballymoney. And over the first number of years that the event took place, it was met with awe. Our overstretched Events team did a fantastic job pulling together the stakeholders to deliver an absolutely fantastic event. Over the last number of years, the feedback has become increasingly negative towards the event and there is a perception that the event has been diluted from what it originally was. Obviously, that car, truck and tractor cavalcade was a huge part, the main part of Ballymoney Spring Fair. It would be prudent of us going forward to explore options of delivering what we had before and having additional health and safety or whatever it took to be in place to help deliver that."*

The Head of Tourism and Recreation said that he believed there was nothing contained within the request which could not be provided and asked if there was anything specific which Councillor Wilson wished to discuss at this stage.

Councillor Wilson stated his disappointment that a report was not available given the timeline of the submission. The Director of Leisure and Development said that this was an oversight on her part and that there were issues around protocol; she had intended to bring a report the October Leisure and Development Committee. She said that she had an outstanding desire for a workshop with members to review all event delivery, not just in terms of the Ballymoney Spring Fair for delivery in 2027 in line with draft tourism strategy. The proposed date for the workshop is 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm – this would be a forum to look at what has worked in 2026 and what Councillors might want to change in 2027.

Councillor Wilson said he will await the report at October Leisure and Development Committee and said a workshop was not his preference.

Councillor Holmes said the trucks were a huge draw and given the number of haulage companies around Ballymoney in particular, it would be a really useful thing to see coming back in. Councillor Holmes asked that in advance of the workshop for next month Officers consider the possibilities of bringing that back.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that a report will be brought to the October Leisure and Development Committee and an evaluation will be undertaken with Ballymoney stakeholders as well as costings and details of rationale which led to this no longer being delivered.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting concluded at 10.10pm.

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Chair

UNCONFIRMED