

THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2026

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3.	Deputation – NI Housing Executive: D Moore, Director of Corporate Services, M Alexander, Area Housing Manager, C Coulter, Head of Place Shaping North	<i>Received</i>
4.	Declaration of Members' Interests	<i>Received</i>
5.	Minutes of The Council Meeting held Tuesday 1 September 2026	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
6.	Minutes of The Special Council Meeting (Freedom of the Borough) held Thursday 17 September 2026	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
7.	Minutes of The Special Council Meeting (Annual Accounts) held Monday 21 September 2026	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
8.	Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 26 August 2026	<i>Received and noted</i>
9.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 September 2026	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>

10.	Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 10 September 2026	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
11.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 15 September 2026	
	<i>Matters Arising</i>	
11.1	PEACEPLUS Ronan's Way Project	<i>Information</i>
11.2	Presentation from the Head of Prosperity and Place	<i>That attracting high value jobs to the Borough is made a KPI, with a report to be brought to the Leisure and Development Committee on a bimonthly basis.</i>
11.3	Adoption of the Minutes	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved, including Amendment at Item 11.2</i>
12.	Minutes of Audit Committee meeting held Wednesday 16 September 2026	<i>To be heard In Committee</i>
13.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee held Tuesday 22 September 2026	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
14.	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>That Council writes to the Partnership Panel, copying in OFMDFM, to express concern at the growing level of misogynistic abuse, threats and intimidation directed at women in public life, that is highlighted most recently by the abuse directed at Carla Lockhart MP.</i>
15.	Conferences	<i>Noted</i>
16.	Correspondence	<i>Noted</i>
17.	Consultation Schedule	<i>Noted</i>

18.	Seal Documents	<i>Seal affixed (i-ix)</i>
19.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor McQuillan, Seconded by Councillor Peacock (Safeguarding Local Digital Designers and Artists from AI Displacement)	<i>Referred to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee</i>
20.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Kyle, Seconded by Councillor McAuley (HMO applications)	<i>Referred to Environmental Services Committee</i>
	In Committee (Items 21 – 21.2 inclusive)	
21.	Minutes of Audit Committee meeting held Wednesday 16 September 2026 'In Committee'	
	<i>Matters Arising</i>	
21.1	Direct Award Contracts (Item 5)	<i>Information</i>
21.2	Adoption of the Minutes	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.00 PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Huggins

Members Present : Alderman Boyle, Brown Stewart, Callan, Coyle,
Fielding, Hunter, Knight-McQuillan, John McAuley,
Scott

Councillors Anderson, C Archibald, N Archibald,
Bateson, Callaghan, Chivers, Elder, Holmes, Kane,
Kennedy, Kyle, Mairs, Jonathan McAuley, McCully,
McGlinchey, McGurk, MA McKillop, McMullan,
McQuillan, McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Schenning,
Storey, Wallace, Watson, Watton, Wilson, Wisener

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services
P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer
J Mills, Acting Senior Council Solicitor
J Richardson, Head of Capital Works, Energy & Infrastructure (R)
A Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager
U Harper, Senior Democratic Services Officer
H Campbell, Democratic Services Officer

In Attendance: D Moore, Director of Corporate Services, NIHE
M Alexander, Area Housing Manager, NIHE
C Coulter, Head of Place Shaping North, NIHE
N Bolton, Assistant Director Project Delivery, NIHE (R)

A Lennox, Acting ICT Manager
L Boyd, ICT Officer
C Taggart, ICT Officer

Press: (1 No) (C)

Key – **R** = Attended Remotely

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded.

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor stated that she has had another busy month with receptions, celebrations, centenaries, and visiting across the Borough. She thanked all involved in the Salmon and Whiskey Festival Giant's Table event. She stated that Coleraine Connect is doing a sterling job, noted their upcoming Lego event, and encouraged all Members to support it.

The Mayor reminded Members of the static cycle event outside Coleraine Town Hall on 17 October in aid of Chest, Heart and Stroke, to raise funds in memory of all lost lives. She encouraged Members to spare 15 minutes to join in the event and expressed her appreciation for all support.

The Mayor wished Alderman Sharon McKillop a speedy recovery and congratulated Councillor Anderson on becoming a grandfather.

The Mayor passed on Council's deepest sympathies to the family of Alan Kennedy, caretaker at the Warren, following his passing.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman S McKillop.

- * Councillor Holmes and Alderman McAuley joined the meeting at 7.10pm during consideration of the following item**
- * Councillor Bateson joined the meeting at 7.22pm during consideration of the following item.**

3. DEPUTATION – NI HOUSING EXECUTIVE: D MOORE, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES, M ALEXANDER, AREA HOUSING MANAGER, C. COULTER, HEAD OF PLACE SHAPING NORTH

The Mayor welcomed D Moore, Director of Corporate Services, M Alexander, Area Housing Manager, and C Coulter, Head of Place Shaping North, from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and invited them to present to Council.

The NIHE Director of Corporate Services presented to Council via PowerPoint presentation, the key points of which were:

- Housing Tenure Breakdown: Causeway Coast and Glens – 57,578 households, 6,422 homes.

- Over 5,900 additional homes will be needed in Causeway Coast and Glens by 2035. This includes: 3,630 market, 930 intermediate and 1,390 social homes.
- Housing will be needed across both urban and rural communities.
- Meeting this need requires a joined-up approach between planning, infrastructure, housing providers and local government.
- The Housing Executive uses this evidence to inform housing investment, land requirements and future housing supply.
- High demand for social housing continues across the Borough, reflected in sustained waiting list, housing stress and homelessness levels. Current annual social housing allocation rates equate to approximately 15% of households in housing stress.
- 2026/29 SHDP: 604 (gross) new social housing units programmed, including 484 urban units and 120 rural units.
- 5-Year SHDP Performance (2021/22 – 2025/26) - Strategic Guidelines target for Causeway Coast and Glens during this period = 487 starts (342 urban and 145 rural). 713 starts (599 urban and 114 rural) were achieved against the target. Resulting in 226 additional starts (+257 urban and -31 rural).
- At March 2026: 1,102 applicants on social housing waiting list for rural areas, with 721 deemed to be in housing stress. 543 Full Duty (Homeless) Applicants.
- 74 allocations of social homes in rural areas in-year (April 2025 – March 2026).
- Five-year projected social housing need (2025-30) of 318 units for rural areas, 24% of total need for the Borough.
- Key Housing Challenges for Causeway Coast and Glens:
 - o Budget expenditure requirements and funding shortfalls.
 - o Uncertainty around long-term funding for Housing Executive stock maintenance and modernisation.
 - o Consistent level of social waiting list applicants and housing stress.
 - o Levels of homelessness remain high and ongoing demand for temporary and emergency accommodation.
 - o Wastewater infrastructure constraints and the impact on new housing development.
 - o Impact of housing challenges on health and wellbeing of households.
- Housing Executive Expenditure in 2025/26 for Causeway Coast and Glens = £32.08m
- In 2025/26 £34.86m invested in new build social housing (public and Housing Association investment) 149 new social homes completed. 472 new social homes under construction at end of March 2026. 604 units included on SHDP 2026-29.
- In 2025/26 £9.68m was invested in the maintenance and improvement of 3,061 of our homes across Causeway Coast and Glens.
- Key Housing Opportunities

Members thanked the NIHE representatives for their presentation and for their work across the year. Councillor McMullan thanked the Housing Executive representative for the updates to PCSP meetings.

Members raised the issue of a lack of housing in rural areas and highlighted the knock-on effect on services such as schools and sports clubs. The NIHE Director of Corporate Services advised that NIHE has a dedicated rural strategy and that NIHE would like to work with Council on rural needs testing and to establish latent demand.

The Head of Place Shaping North send her best wishes to Alderman McKillop and noted that they have been working on piloting a new way of doing rural needs testing in respect of the Causeway DEA. The Head of Place Shaping North invited other Elected Members to look into requesting rural needs testing if it has not been carried out within the past three years and emphasised the need to provide evidence to allow NIHE to make recommendations. Members welcome the fact that the mechanism for rural needs testing is being reviewed.

The Head of Place Shaping North referred to the site in Ballyvoy that has been given planning approval and noted that while NIHE does not normally support sites outside the development limits, the Ballyvoy site will be considered as an exception.

Several Members noted that the NIHE report states a need for 5,900 units required to 2035 whereas the Ulster University report commissioned by Council indicated a significantly higher figure. It was agreed that the LDP team will share the report with the NIHE to discuss the different methodologies used.

Members discussed the stock condition and the financial situation facing NIHE. The NIHE Director of Corporate Services welcomed the consensus across political parties regarding the need for the revitalisations of the Housing Executive and discussed the options in respect of funding sources.

Members welcomed the social housing scheme recently opened in Rathlin Island. Alderman Hunter stated that it was a privilege to attend this as Deputy Mayor.

The Area Housing Manager stated that he will provide Councillor MA McKillop with an update in respect of allocations of the 34-unit social housing development in Cushendall.

In respect of the provision of temporary accommodation by Mears Group, the Area Housing Manager stated that NIHE has not noticed an impact on its temporary accommodation portfolio and that although there had been some

impact during covid, temporary accommodation that becomes available is used for placements from Causeway Coast and Glens.

Councillor Peacock requested an update on the stalled housing development in Rasharkin. The Head of Place Shaping North advised that the NIHE's Executive team have just agreed a new policy that will allow NIHE to issue an expression of interest to housing associations in general and establish their capacity to undertake a scheme before appointment. She committed to keep Councillor Peacock updated on the Rasharkin development.

Councillor Watton requested up-to-date figures on the social housing allocation for Causeway Coast and Glens compared to the other Councils areas and expressed frustration at not being able to obtain these figures. He asked that Causeway Coast and Glens gets its fair share of social housing. The Area Housing Manager advised that comprehensive replies have been issued.

Councillor McShane noted the positive work that has been done in respect of unoccupied housing.

Alderman McAuley queried the rationale for building social housing to such a high standard given the level of demand and suggested that more could be provided if the standard were lowered. The NIHE Director of Corporate Services stated that the housing associations must work to certain standards and further advised that these standards are being reviewed.

- * **The representatives of Northern Ireland Housing Executive left the Chamber at 8.07pm**

4. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Alderman Hunter and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 1 September 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH) HELD THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

Councillor Kane stated that he had submitted apologies for Alderman Brown Stewart and Councillor McCully for this meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of Special Council Meeting (Freedom of the Borough) held Thursday 17 September 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

7. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (ANNUAL ACCOUNTS) HELD MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

Proposed by Alderman Scott
Seconded by Councillor Mairs and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of Special Council Meeting (Annual Accounts) held Monday 21 September 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

8. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26 AUGUST 2026

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 26 August 2026 are received and noted.

9. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 8 September 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

10. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 10 September 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

11. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Leisure and Development Committee.

Matters Arising

11.1 PEACEPLUS Ronan's Way Project

Councillor MA McKillop stated that while she welcomes the decision to reinstate Ronan's Way and the PEACEPLUS capital project, she is disappointed with the way it was handled. She stated that the project would have been scrapped had she not raised it in the Chamber and been supported by other Councillors. She stated that the standard of reply to the Freedom of Information was wholly inadequate and unprofessional and a total embarrassment to our Council.

11.2 Presentation from the Head of Prosperity and Place

Councillor Anderson stated that this presentation highlighted the fact that the average salary in Causeway Coast and Glens is £5,000 below the median salary. He proposed that attracting high value jobs to the Borough is made a KPI, with a report to be brought to the Leisure and Development Committee on a bimonthly basis. He suggested that Council work with Invest NI, enterprise agencies and Stormont to have a coordinated approach.

Councillor Peacock stated that she agrees with the sentiment of the proposal but noted that this is reported in the LEP on a monthly basis and is in the LEP strategic plan. Councillor Anderson clarified that additional information is being requested.

Councillor Wilson seconded the proposal and stated that more detailed information can help to inform lobbying and identify where Council can work in partnership.

The Chief Executive stated that an increase in high value jobs is needed. He noted that the frequency of reporting will depend on the availability of the statistics. He suggested that a report is brought back to look at the means of delivering this information.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson

Seconded by Councillor Wilson

- That attracting high value jobs is made a KPI, with a report to be brought to the Leisure and Development Committee on a bimonthly basis.

RESOLVED - That attracting high value jobs to the Borough is made a KPI, with a report to be brought to the Leisure and Development Committee on a bimonthly basis.

11.3 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor McCully

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 15 September 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved, including amendment at Item 11.2.

12. MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Mayor advised that this Item would be heard In Committee to allow the Director of Leisure and Development to brief on Item 5 - Direct Award Contracts.

13. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Proposed by Alderman Fielding

Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 22 September 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

14. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Councillor Wilson proposed that Council writes to the Partnership Panel, copying in OFMDFM, to express concern at the growing level of misogynistic abuse, threats and intimidation directed at women in public life, that is highlighted most recently by the abuse directed at Carla Lockhart MP. He stated that there must be wholesale and unequivocal condemnation of misogynistic abuse, threats and intimidation wherever they occur and regardless of any political affiliation. He called for clear leadership and a coordinated response from our central government, policing, and relevant agencies to identify what further action can be taken to challenge such behaviour and support those targeted.

Councillor Kyle seconded this proposal, stating that there is no place in society for abuse of elected representatives and that these incidents once again highlight the importance of our violence against women and girls strategy.

Members echoed these comments and expressed their support for the proposal. It was noted that such abuse is experienced across the political spectrum, and is also experienced by men, and that it is unacceptable in any instance.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

RESOLVED – that Council writes to the Partnership Panel, copying in OFMDFM, to express concern at the growing level of misogynistic abuse, threats and intimidation directed at women in public life, that is highlighted most recently by the abuse directed at Carla Lockhart MP.

15. CONFERENCES

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to inform Elected Members of conferences and courses they may wish to attend.

The following is listed:

agendaNi, Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2026 (email received 14 September 2026)

Date: Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 9:00am – 5:00pm
Location: Titanic Hotel Belfast, Queen's Road, Titanic Quarter, Belfast.
BT3 9DT
Cost: Discounted rate for voluntary/community/councils £195 + VAT @
20% = £234

The Northern Ireland Economic Conference, now in its 31st year, is Northern Ireland's premier forum for economic analysis and debate. As the only event dedicated to providing a strategic, high-level assessment of the performance and future prospects of the Northern Ireland economy, it has become firmly established as the annual autumn summit for the region's economic community, bringing together policymakers, business leaders, academics and other key stakeholders.

Creating good jobs, promoting regional balance, raising productivity and reducing carbon emissions

The Northern Ireland economy continues to face significant challenges. Fiscal pressures have constrained public spending at a time when the region must address long-standing issues, including persistently low productivity and high levels of economic inactivity among the working-age population. Against this backdrop, Economy Minister Caoimhe Archibald MLA has set out an economic vision centred on four strategic priorities: creating good jobs, promoting regional balance, raising productivity, and achieving a net zero carbon economy by 2050. Underpinning these ambitions is a refocused skills agenda, supported by a range of policy interventions designed to equip people, businesses and communities with the capabilities needed to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

<https://www.nieconomic.agendani.com/>

Members wishing to attend this event should contact Democratic Services.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the Conference report.

Council NOTED the report.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

The following correspondence has been received:

16.1 Steve Blockwell, Northern Ireland Water (letter dated 28 August 2026, copy of letter attached)

Extract

Over recent years, NI Water has welcomed the opportunity to engage with Councils across Northern Ireland to discuss the water and wastewater services that support our communities, protect public health and the environment, and enable economic development. We have valued these engagements and trust they have provided useful insight into the challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

As we develop our next Business Plan for the Price Control period PC28 (2028 to 2033), we would like to invite your Council to receive an updated briefing from NI Water on the vital role that water and wastewater infrastructure plays in supporting housing, economic growth and environmental improvement within your Council area and across Northern Ireland.

The briefing will include:

- An update on NI Water's investment programme and key projects within your Council area.*
- The importance of water and wastewater infrastructure as a key enabler of housing growth, economic development and environmental protection.*
- Current wastewater capacity constraints and the implications these may have for future development opportunities within your Council area.*
- An overview of NI Water's emerging PC28 Business Plan and the level of investment required to maintain services, improve resilience and support future growth.*
- How investment in water and wastewater infrastructure can help unlock sustainable development and support the ambitions of local communities.*

The briefing will also outline the practical consequences of investment not keeping pace with identified needs, including impacts on environmental improvement objectives and wastewater network capacity, with potential implications for housing delivery, economic growth, and the resilience of essential services across Council areas and Northern Ireland.

Given the importance of these issues to local communities, housing delivery and economic development, we believe this briefing will provide elected

members and officials with valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges facing our region's essential infrastructure over the coming years.

We plan to continue delivering presentations virtually through Microsoft Teams wherever possible. However, should your Council prefer an in-person presentation, we would be happy to discuss suitable arrangements.

I would be grateful if you could provide potential dates for a presentation to your Council via email to Steve.Blockwell@niwater.com and Michael.Rainey@niwater.com

NI Water values its relationship with local authorities and recognises the important role Councils play in shaping the future of Northern Ireland's communities. We look forward to continuing our engagement with you and your members over the coming months.

16.2 Christopher Andrews, Department of Agriculture, Environment and (letter dated 30 September 2026, copy of letter attached)

Extract

Proposed Animal Health Law Statutory Instrument – Registration, Approval, Traceability and Movements

I am writing to provide you with an overview of a proposed new Statutory Instrument (SI), entitled The Animal Health Law (Registration, Approval, Traceability and Movements) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2027, which is expected to be laid next year. This SI is under the direction and control of the Defra Secretary of State and is being progressed in Westminster.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence.

Council NOTED the report.

17. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

The following Consultation Documents were listed:

- Northern Ireland Assembly – Committee for the Economy Regional Balance Bill – Call for Evidence submission by 22 September 2026
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Consultation on Potential Wildlife Intervention Options as part of the Bovine Tuberculosis in Northern Ireland: Blueprint for Eradication submission by 9 October 2026

- Department of Health Consultation on Restricting Promotions of Products High in Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) submission by 21 October 2026
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032 submission by 27 October 2026
- Department of Education Public Consultation on Measures to Support Mobile Phone-Free Schools in Northern Ireland submission by 19 November 2026

Available to view

- Department of Finance Department of Finance Land Registration Fees Orders Consultation

Council NOTED the Consultation Schedule.

18. SEAL DOCUMENTS

Members were advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met.

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, Nos 6247 to 6265 inclusive;
- (ii) 2026/27 Addendum to the Collaboration Agreement for NI Enterprise Support Service (Go Succeed) (L&D 260421) (CM260505)
- (iii) Memorandum of Sale, Part of the lands at Somerset Tree Belt adjacent to 6 Wimslow Manor, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Robert Kane and Elizabeth Joan Kane (L&PSA-SC 260902) (CPR 260922) (CM261006).
- (iv) Deed of Assignment, Part of the lands at Somerset Tree Belt adjacent to 6 Wimslow Manor, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Robert Kane and Elizabeth Joan Kane (L&PSA-SC 260902) (CPR 260922) (CM261006).
- (v) Management Agreement and Schedule of Maintenance Operations, Stranocum Community Centre – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Stranocum District Development Group (L&PSA-SC 250604) (CPR250624) (CM250626)
- (vi) Deed of Variation, Lands at Bayhead Road, Portballintrae – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Ross Seymour Sweeney (L&PSA-SC260603) (CPR260623) (CM260630)
- (vii) Deed of Variations, Lands at Seaport Avenue, Portballintrae – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Ross Seymour Sweeney (L&PSA-SC 260603) (CPR260623) (CM260630)

- (viii) Licence to use Lands for the Erection of a Pedestrian Footbridge, Runkerry Burn, Runkerry Beach, Portballintrae – Ross Seymour Sweeney and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (L&D 220517) (CM 220607)
- (ix) Permissive Path Agreement, Runkerry Head – Ross Seymour Sweeney and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (L&D 220517) (CM220607)

Alderman Hunter welcomed the documents in relation to Portballintrae and the permissive path agreement at Runkerry and stated that she hopes that the footbridge will now be installed at Runkerry Beach.

Proposed by Alderman Brown Stewart

Seconded by Councillor Kane and

RESOLVED – That the sealing of documents, as listed, are approved (Items i-ix).

**19. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCQUILLAN,
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PEACOCK**

Motion: Safeguarding Local Digital Designers and Artists from AI Displacement

That this Council recognises the vital contribution of digital designers, artists, and creative professionals to the cultural, economic, and community life of the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

This Council further notes growing concerns within the creative sector regarding the rapid and unregulated use of artificial intelligence in design, illustration, branding, and digital content production, which risks undermining local employment, devaluing creative skills, and eroding opportunities for emerging artists.

Therefore, this Council commits to:

- *Prioritising the use of locally produced human created digital design and artwork in all Council communications, branding, promotional materials, and commissioned projects.*
- *Developing guidance to ensure AI generated content does not replace professional designers or artists within Council procurement processes.*
- *Engaging with local creative practitioners to understand the challenges posed by AI and to support sustainable, fair employment within the sector.*

- *Advocating for ethical, transparent, and responsible use of AI technologies across the council area, ensuring they complement rather than replace human creativity.*

The Mayor referred to the Notice of Motion, without discussion, to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

20. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR KYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCAULEY

With the upsurge in HMO applications particularly within BT52 & BT55, I hereby move that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, noting the statement of Minister Gordon Lyons on Tuesday 21st October, resolves to:

(a) write to the Minister for Communities seeking consultation on extra regulatory powers under section 12 of the Houses in Multiple Occupation (Northern Ireland) Act 2016;

(b) Invites Belfast City Council (as the agency equipped) to conduct within our Borough a compliance check of properties currently listed as HMOs and carry out a full and thorough investigation into properties believed to be operating in an unregulated manner;

(c) Calls on the relevant Stormont departments to develop a robust policy for the management of HMOs across this Borough while ensuring adequate accommodation provision to support the university population.

And furthermore

(d) provide elected members an updated number of HMOs broke down into Council DEAs.

(e) request from Belfast City Council as to how many HMOs in Causeway Coast and Glens that inspections have already been carried out on.

The Mayor referred to the Notice of Motion, without discussion, to the Environmental Services Committee.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Kyle

Seconded by Councillor Elder and

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

* ***Press and Public left the meeting at 8:31pm***

21. MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read.

Matters Arising

21.1 Direct Award Contracts

The Director of Leisure and Development provided an update in respect of a Direct Award Contract for Leisure and Development and the context of the DAC. She advised that no expenditure has been incurred to date.

Several Members expressed the view that Elected Members should have been consulted before this DAC was awarded.

It was agreed that the Director of Leisure and Development would bring a report back to the October Leisure and Development Committee meeting.

21.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Storey

Seconded by Councillor Kane and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held Wednesday 16 September 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Wisener

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

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

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9:05pm.

Mayor