

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2022**

**Table of Recommendations**

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary of key Recommendations</b>
<b>1.</b>	Apologies	<b>None</b>
<b>2.</b>	Declarations of Interest	<b>Alderman Duddy and Knight-McQuillan, Councillors Anderson, Bateson, McQuillan, MA McKillop and Schenning</b>
<b>3.</b>	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	<b>Taken as read and signed as correct.</b>
<b>4.</b>	Any Other Relevant Business Notified In accordance with Standing Order 12 (o)	
<b>4.1</b>	Benone Beach Seasonal Congestion (Alderman Robinson)	<b>Update from Head of Tourism and Recreation</b>
<b>4.2</b>	Bobby Greer Sports Complex Bushmills and Bushmills Football Club (Alderman Duddy)	<b>Update from Head of Sport and Wellbeing</b>
<b>4.3</b>	Master Plan for Site at Limavady Accessible Playpark (Councillor Chivers)	<b>Update from Director of Leisure and Development</b>
<b>4.4</b>	Sanctuary for Victims of Ukraine Conflict (Councillor C McShane)	<b>Update from Head of Community and Culture</b>
<b>5.</b>	Causeway Digital Infrastructure (including presentation)	<b>Presentation received</b>

6.	RNLI Beach Service (including presentation)	<b>Presentation received</b>
7.	Tourism Events Programme 2022	<b>To recommend that Council give consideration to the current situation and approve the schedule for the delivery of Council-led events in 2022 as detailed in Table 1</b>
8.	Tourism Events Growth Fund	<b>To recommend that Council approve the allocation of the Tourism Event Funding to successful Growth Fund applicants as detailed in Table 1</b>
9.	Rural Business Development Fund	<b>To recommend that Council accept the funding on offer from DAERA and agree to deliver the Rural Business Development Scheme in Causeway Coast and Glens in May 2022</b>
10.	Landfill Community Fund	<b>To recommend that Council:- Award funding to projects 1-5 totalling £74,021.25; Open a second call for the remaining £95,606.94 from the 2022-23 budget</b>
11.	Community Festivals Fund	<b>To recommend that Council: Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, subject to funding from DfC; In the event that confirmation of funding has</b>

		<p><b>not been received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April, issue letters of offer to the two applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May; to a value of £5,985; Consider re-opening the Community Festivals Fund in July for events taking place in the second half of 2022-23</b></p>
12.	Community Development Grant Fund	<p><b>To recommend that Council Approve awards for funding through Community Development Support Grant and Social Inclusion Grant for 2022-23 as detailed in Annex B &amp; C, subject to the necessary funding being available from DfC;</b></p> <p><b>In the event that confirmation of funding hasn't been received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, issue letters of offer at risk to successful applicants in order to ensure that community groups don't experience a delay in their funding for operating costs</b></p>
13.	Culture, Arts and Heritage Fund	<p><b>To recommend that Council Approve awards for funding through the Cultural Arts &amp; Heritage Fund as detailed In Annex B</b></p>

14.	Platinum Jubilee Programme	<b>To recommend that Council approve two additional activities as laid out within the report, subject to available resources to deliver same.</b>
15.	Harry Gregg Legacy Project	<b>To recommend to Council Option 2 - Provide no further financial support to the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation until the key concerns highlighted within the Preliminary Review are addressed</b>
16.	Coleraine and Ballycastle Leisure OBC	<b>Information</b>
17.	Grants Governance Panel Meeting Notes	<b>Information</b>
18.	Rural and Agriculture Working Group Meeting Notes	<b>Information</b>
19.	Correspondence	<b>Information</b>
20.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<b>None</b>
21.	Consultations	<b>None</b>
	<b>'IN COMMITTEE' (Items 22-24)</b>	
22.	<i>Woodland Project Tender</i>	<b>To recommended that Council accept the Scottish Woodland tender of £25,141.00.</b>
23.	<i>Variation to Generalist Advice Services</i>	<b>To recommend that Council extend the Generalist Advice</b>

		<p><b>contract with Community Advice Causeway, as contract lead, within the 2021-22 period, to provide amounts of:£5,129.17 for an uplift to salaries and improvements in terms and conditions including pay, pensions and sickness policies specifically for Welfare Reform Mitigations posts;</b></p> <p><b>£27,076.05 towards the cost of adhering to responsibilities as employers in relation to setting terms and conditions for staff delivering the Generalist Advice service contract</b></p>
<b>24.</b>	Any Other Relevant Business Notified In accordance with Standing Order 12(o)	
<b>24.1</b>	Brookgreen Ladies Bowling Club (Councillor Holmes)	<p><b>Update from Director of Leisure and Development and Head of Sport and Wellbeing</b></p>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO  
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

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

**Members Present:** Alderman Baird (R), Duddy (R), Hillis (R),  
Knight McQuillan (R), Councillors Anderson (R), Bateson  
(R), McMullan (R), Callan (R), Chivers (R) , Holmes (R),  
McCaw (R), MA McKillop (R), McQuillan (C), C McShane  
(R), Nicholl (R), Schenning (R), Watton (C)

**Non-Committee  
Members  
In Attendance:** Alderman Boyle (R) and Alderman Robinson (R)

**Officers Present:** R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)  
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)  
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)  
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)  
P Donaghy, Democratic and Central Services Manager (R)  
D Connolly, Arts Service Development Manager (R )  
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)  
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R )  
R Gillan, Coast and Countryside Manager (R )  
B McCaughan, Economic Development Officer (R)  
N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)  
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (R)  
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

**In Attendance** A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (C)  
C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)

T Forsythe, Project Stratum Project Manager, Department  
for the Economy (R) - Item 5

N Robbins – Broadband Project Director, Department for  
the Economy (R) – Item 5

M Thompson, Area Lifesaving Manager, RNLI (R) - Item 6

M Grocott, Business Manager, Ireland RNLI (R) - Item 6

Press 3 (no) (R)

Public 2 (no) (R)

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

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

The Chair reminded Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the 'In Committee' session was being audio recorded.

The Director of Leisure and Development undertook a roll call of committee members present.

The Chair advised of a change to the Order of Business with Any Other Relevant Business Notified In accordance with Standing Order 12 (o) being taken as Item 4.

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies recorded.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Anderson declared an interest in:-  
Item 11 - Community Festivals Fund

Councillor Anderson having declared an interest did not participate in the Item.

Councillor Bateson declared an interest in Item 10 - Landfill Community Fund and Item 11 - Community Festivals Fund. Councillor Bateson having declared an interest did not participate in the Items.

Alderman Duddy declared an interest in Item 10 - Landfill Community Fund; and Item 12 - Community Development Grant Fund. Alderman Duddy having declared an interest did not participate in the Items.

Councillor MA McKillop declared an interest in Item 12 - Community Development Grant Fund. Councillor McKillop having declared an interest did not participate in the Item.

Councillor McQuillan declared an interest in: Item 11 - Community Festivals Fund, Item 12 - Community Development Grant Fund, Item 13 - Culture, Arts and Heritage Fund and Item 14 - Platinum Jubilee Programme.

Councillor McQuillan having declared an interest did not participate in the Items.

Councillor Schenning declared an interest in Item 23 - Variation to Generalist Advice Services. Councillor Schenning, having declared an interest did not participate in the Item.

Alderman Knight-McQuillan declared an interest in Item 24.1 - Brookgreen Ladies Bowling Club. Alderman Knight-McQuillan, having declared an interest did not participate in the Item.

**3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

Summary minute, previously circulated.

The minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

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

\* **Councillor McCaw joined the meeting at 7.15 pm**

**4.1 Benone Beach Seasonal Congestion (Alderman Robinson)**

*What will hopefully be an extremely busy staycation season, can the Council indicate what plans they and DFI have to help ease the annual congestion problems at the entrance to Benone Beach.*

Alderman Robinson said that while he welcomed how popular this venue had become he had concern about the ability of the infrastructure to cope.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that through the Coast and Countryside Team, the entrance to Benone Strand is monitored throughout the year and that work is being completed by Department for Infrastructure in the next few days to clear a substantial amount of sand from Benone Avenue following the recent winter storms. He advised that when Council seasonal staff are present, the area around The Ark is sectioned off and the public are discouraged from parking on the road via double yellow lines but Council do not have any enforcement powers with respect to the public road right up until the beach entrance.



The beach approach and entrance does require a significant enhancement but cannot be carried out by Council in isolation, liaison will take place between Dfl, PSNI and Coast and Countryside Officer.

#### **4.2 Bobby Greer Sports Complex Bushmills and Bushmills Football Club**

(Alderman Duddy)

*I wish to raise the following matters in accordance with SO 12(o) in regards to Bobby Greer Sports Complex Bushmills, and Bushmills Football Club.*

- 1. Progress report on the floodlights for the MUGA.*
- 2. Progress report on the lettering for the re-naming of the changing rooms.*
- 3. Progress report on the outside storage for the football club.*
- 4. The club are requesting to have their logo attached to the outside of the changing rooms, is this feasible?*
- 5. The club are requesting floodlights for the football pitch, can this be put on the capital works schedule?*

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised as follows:-

1. Progress report on the floodlights for the MUGA

Still working to devise options to deal with proximity of MUGA to adjacent neighbours trees, however presence of bats and light spill are creating issues.

2. Progress report on the lettering for the re-naming of the changing rooms.

Draft option for positioning at the gable end of the pavilion which can be agreed with the Club / Councillors once all external painting of the Pavilion has been completed.

3. Progress report on the outside storage for the football club.

The location for the concrete base has been agreed and when that work is completed, Estates can organise a container to be delivered to the site. A 4,000 container with lighting provision is likely to be recommended.

4. The club are requesting to have their logo attached to the outside of the changing rooms, is this feasible?

Could set a precedent and may require a consider Equality Impact Assessment and create a perception of a facility becoming associated with one side of the community. Activities at the site (or any Pavilion across the Borough) is not always limited to football. Might not be an issue in Bushmills but could be elsewhere.

Councillor C McShane and Councillor Nicholl raised concern about aligning the location to a particular group and the Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed any such moves would require an Equality Impact Assessment.

5. The club are requesting floodlights for the football pitch, can this be put on the capital works schedule?

This was discussed with the Club previously – the site is severely restricted in size and floodlights may not be possible. They also would provide little value for the pitch as training cannot take place on grass pitches during the football season. Currently there is no requirement for night time matches and unlikely to be in the future.

#### **4.3 Master Plan for Site at Limavady Accessible Playpark (Councillor Chivers)**

*Would Council consider a development of a Master Plan for the site at Limavady accessible playpark to ensure that all future development is carried with a consistent phased approach rather than ad-hoc. This should encourage more efficient and cost effective use of council resources and rate payers money. This plan should be carried out in consultation with the community and Councillors?*

Councillor Chivers referred to the good facility and her desire for the provision to be enhanced as she had been lobbied by ratepayers and those in the community and voluntary sector.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that discussions had taken place after the successful construction and opening of the Accessible Play Park which included potentially further developing the Roe Mill site. He advised there were challenges associated with capital programme funding but suggested that as a first step Limavady District Area Elected Councillors meet with the Head of Sport and Wellbeing and the Director of Leisure and Development to understand aspirations.

Councillor Callan concurred with these remarks and welcomed the opportunity for further engagement regarding potential development of the area; that site was widely used and that anti-social behaviour had decreased at this site in recent times.

#### **4.4 Sanctuary for Victims of Ukraine Conflict (Councillor C McShane)**

*To ask how Causeway Coast and Glens Council can be an area of sanctuary for those caught in the Ukraine conflict and to discuss what ways we can offer support.*

Councillor C McShane said she and other Elected Members had been lobbied by individuals and groups wishing to get involved given that refugees may arrive in Northern Ireland. Councillor C McShane felt that it would be useful to have dedicated space on the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council website for signposting and easy access to users.

The Head of Community and Culture advised her team were working with the Community & Voluntary sector to identify community resources and infrastructure to support new arrivals including working with established programmes which support minority groups and new arrivals. The Head of Community and Culture advised that work was ongoing collectively on short

and medium term interventions which support integration needs such as language, accessing and signposting to local services; working with local community groups to encourage social cohesion activity.

The Head of Community and Culture advised Council would continue to work collaboratively with Council's partners within our Anti Poverty working group to ensure access to local advice, welfare and other services.

Regarding ongoing medium and longer term activity, the Head of Community and Culture advised of the following initiatives:-

- Education activities which highlight the stories of forced migration; Understanding culture etc – to encourage sustained good relations, engagement, empathy (museum services and good relations);
- Arts based activities which promote and encourage understanding of cultural diversity while promoting opportunities for social inclusion and wellbeing activities for newcomers;
- Through PCSP services would be offered which target fear of crime and other services are proactively seeking to support individuals and families;
- Through Peace Plus programmes are being designed that work with indigenous communities and newcomers to support engagement and inclusion - as we envisage they will be here for longer than 6 months.

Councillor McQuillan paid tribute to the work undertaken by individuals and agencies and sympathised with those who have been displaced.

## **5. CAUSEWAY DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by Head of Prosperity and Place Interim.

### Purpose of Report/ Background

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a progress update in relation to the rollout of two major digital infrastructure projects within our Borough in 2021/22 i.e. Project Stratum and Full Fibre NI (FFNI).

### Project Stratum Background

Project Stratum represents the largest ever public investment in telecommunications infrastructure in Northern Ireland, with the project aiming to close a broadband connectivity gap that exists regionally compared with other parts of the UK.

Project Stratum signifies an investment of £150m by the Department for the Economy (DfE) and £15m by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The £165m broadband improvement contract was awarded to Fibrus Networks Ltd in November 2020. This public investment, combined with Fibrus' substantial investment in network build costs totalling

£350m, will help transform the broadband connectivity landscape for many of our citizens and businesses, primarily across rural areas.

Within the initial plans for the Causeway area, a total of 6,268 premises will be improved through the delivery of Project Stratum, providing a full fibre solution capable of offering speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second to premises in the target intervention area. By the end of 2021, more than 22,000 premises across NI will have had the new infrastructure delivered.

Following a review by independent specialist telecommunications consultants, an additional 8,500 premises were brought into the scope of the project in December 2021, with additional public funding of £32m being secured. Of the £32m, contributions of £22m came from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and £4.85m each from DfE and DAERA. Fibrus has also increased its investment in network build by an additional £48m.

Additional premises were considered for connection during the Project Stratum network rollout if the infrastructure was passing close by and it was considered by the contractor to be commercially viable.

The roll-out of the new full fibre network to reach all 85,000 premises, including the additional 8,500 premises being brought into scope, will continue across four extended quarters of network build, with Fibrus Networks Ltd expected to complete full deployment by March 2025. Further information related to the timing of deployment across all build phases can be accessed via [www.hyperfastni.com](http://www.hyperfastni.com).

#### Project Stratum Progress/Update

Deployment by Fibrus of the new infrastructure commenced in November 2020 with the Ballycastle area being one of the first locations in Northern Ireland to be upgraded. The deployment will run until March 2025; with parts of Ballymoney and the Coleraine area upgraded in 2021. An overview of Fibrus' current deployment plan is available in Annex A, previously circulated.

In addition to the original 6,268 premises, DfE have identified 711 additional premises which will now be included in the Project Stratum rollout, as illustrated in Annex B, previously circulated. Table 1 below highlights the anticipated timescales of delivery for these additional premises within the Borough:

OLT Area	Anticipated Delivery Timescales	
	Original Planned Premises	Additional Premises
Portstewart	Autumn 2021	Summer 2024
Ballycastle	Autumn 2021	Summer 2024
Ballymoney	Winter 2021	Summer 2024
Castlerock	Winter 2021	Summer 2024
Garvagh	Autumn/Winter 2022	Autumn 2024
Cushendall	Winter 2022/Spring 2023	Winter 2024
Limavady	Spring/Summer 2023	Winter 2024

Cloughmills	Spring/Summer 2024	Spring 2025
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PLEASE NOTE: Dates shown reflect the current forecast for the build plan. This will be subject to change as the programme progresses.

### Project Stratum Moving Forward

Fibrus are currently conducting site surveys to address 37 premises surrounded by bodies of water, this includes 28 premises on Rathlin Island.

DfE are continuing their engagement as the State Aid Under Review process for premises served by Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs) is likely to introduce more premises eligible for intervention. Table 2 below indicates the number of premises across NI currently under review with Causeway Coast & Glens Borough recording the highest number of premises currently under review i.e. 2,655. The common goal among all is to ensure that the NI broadband connectivity landscape is transformed for everyone.

### FFNI Project Background

The FFNI Consortium is made up of the 10 rural councils outside of Belfast and another central government public body, the Business Services Organisation. The project is hosted by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

The Consortium made a successful collective bid for £24m to support digital infrastructure development across Northern Ireland from two funding programmes managed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). FFNI secured £15m of funding in February 2019 under the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund, and in September 2019 the project made a further successful application for £9m of funding under the Rural Gigabit Capable (RGC) programme.

The LFFN and RGC projects will connect approximately 969 public sector buildings, ensuring that almost all Council, Health, Fire and Rescue sites in Northern Ireland have access to future-proofed fibre connectivity. The commercial model offers FFNI partners the opportunities for improved digital transformation, service improvements and network cost savings through its design for each partner.

Unlike Project Stratum, which is a state aid project and fixes a major rural problem using government funding directly, FFNI uses these public sector sites as hubs to further improve, accelerate and stimulate full fibre rollout by increasing the locations in scope for commercial fibre investment.

The FFNI projects (LFFN & RGC) form a key part of a larger £52m intervention that will introduce ultrafast connections to members' sites and will provide fibre connectivity to an estimated 368,594 premises across Northern Ireland.

Within Causeway Coast and Glens, the aim is to connect approximately 85 public sector buildings with ultrafast 1000Gb connections. Delivery of all sites is expected by 31st March 2022.

For the Council's geographical area, the funding is expected to deliver fibre connectivity to 51 Council owned sites, and 35 Business Services Organisation

(BSO) sites. The BSO sites will use the grant funding to connect Health (Doctors' surgeries for example), Fire and Ambulance sites.

### FFNI Progress/Update

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council was one of the first Councils to commence delivery of the FFNI project in December 2020. Throughout 2021, Council Officers supported Fibrus and Openreach (sub-contractor) to facilitate smooth delivery of each install.

See Annex C, previously circulated, for a detailed map of FFNI Council Owned Locations.

Within Causeway Coast and Glens, the following Openreach Commercial Rollout sites are scheduled to be connected before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022:

- Cloughmills BIO Park/Old Mill;
- Cushendall – Cottage Wood Site;
- Cushendall – Legg Green;
- Kilrea Town Hall; and
- Roe Valley Leisure Centre.

### FFNI Moving Forward

The FFNI Consortium partners will begin the process of migration (moving services from pre-existing copper cables to new full fibre offering). This process must be completed by December 2022, in line with programme delivery targets. In addition, all Consortium members will undertake a benefits realisation exercise. Anticipated early benefits of the FFNI programme to date are:

- Improved Economic Performance
- Improved individual wellbeing & community cohesion: by enabling better and more digitally connected individuals, communities and society at large.
- Improved Public Sector service efficiency and delivery: by enabling Causeway Coast and Glens to work more efficiently and cost effectively, confident in the knowledge that Council has enough bandwidth to support delivery, and citizens have enough bandwidth to receive services.
- Greater environmental benefit

### Next Steps

Further update reports will be brought to Leisure and Development Committee at key milestones throughout the 2022/23 financial year.

The Chair invited Project Stratum Project Manager from Department of Economy to present to Committee.

The Project Stratum Project Manager informed Elected Members that the key aim of Project was to aim to reach as many homes as possible to provide high

speed broadband. Project Stratum Project Manager provided details of additional 8.5k premises now in scope and measures in place to bring further premises into scope including specific Stratum Deployment Plans in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and spoke of moves to explore solutions for 27 premises including Rathlin Island.

The Project Stratum Project Manager advised that Fibre Ambassadors were acting as the channel to resolve issues communities may have with the rollout and proactively communicating with communities and elected representatives.

The Chair invited questions from Elected Members.

Councillor McQuillan raised concern regarding affordability as he said he had been led to believe that prices may rise. The Project Stratum Project Manager advised that pricing was on a par with UK prices, was bound by a code of conduct and that Fibrus do not raise prices in contract.

Alderman Baird expressed disappointment in customer service when trying to engage with Fibrus and queries issues regarding the Pointer system which she believed could lead to individuals being disadvantaged.

The Broadband Project Director advised that Fibrus placed great importance on their ability to communicate and methods of engagement and the Project Stratum Project Manager reminded Elected Members that neither speakers were speaking on behalf of Fibrus but represented Department of Economy only.

The Project Stratum Project Manager responded to queries from Alderman Baird regarding the 'under review' status and 'voucher scheme' and both individuals agreed to provide contact details to Alderman Baird by way of an email contact to address further her queries. The Project Stratum Project Manager advised that the Department for Economy website had useful information regarding the voucher scheme which he would provide to Alderman Baird.

The Head of Prosperity and Place Interim advised he would ensure information from the speakers would be shared with all Elected Members. He stated promotion of schemes had been ongoing with very low update from residential and business sector and meetings had been held with operators and in conclusion pointed out that responsibilities for marketing lay with providers and not Council.

\* **Councillor McCaw left the meeting at 8.25 pm**

- \* **Project Stratum Project Manager and Broadband Project Director left the meeting at 8.40 pm**

## **6. RNLI BEACH SERVICE**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed with the renewal of the contract with RNLI to provide beach lifeguarding services for a five-year period.

### Background

The RNLI initially delivered beach lifeguard services on behalf of Council in 2010. This was for Coleraine Borough Council and Limavady Borough Council. In December 2015 Council approved a new agreement between Causeway Coast & Glens Council and RNLI for the following beaches:

- Benone Strand
- Downhill Strand
- Castlerock
- Portrush West
- Portrush East
- Whiterocks
- Ballycastle

A renewal of the agreement is now required between Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and RNLI.

### Service Provision

As part of the agreement RNLI is responsible for the following elements;

1. Recruitment, selection and training of lifeguards.
2. Provision of Beach Lifeguard Units and associated shore works.
3. Provision of all surf rescue equipment including vehicles and watercraft.
4. Undertaking of beach risk assessments for lifeguard service provision.

In addition, the service also provides;

- Advice and support to Council with respect to beach and coastal events, beach safety signage and public rescue equipment.
- Beach safety annual reviews for each site.
- Delivery of an education programme where possible.

The service is operational during;

- Easter (selected beaches only).
- Weekends and Bank Holidays in May and June (All beaches).



- Daily from late June – early September (All beaches).

At the request of Council Officers RNLI is assessing the logistics of beach lifeguard provision at Ballycastle at Easter. This will be dependent on the availability of qualified beach lifeguards at this stage of the year. There will be a cost to make this provision.

In the past two years beaches have seen increasing numbers of visitors and a wider range of activities both on and off the water, especially during the summer months. The service provided by RNLI is invaluable in support of Council's ongoing approach to beach management to ensure the public are able to enjoy a safe environment and have a quality experience. As the RNLI is the only known provider of this type of service, Elected Members are asked to give consideration to award on the basis of a Direct Award Contract.

#### Recommendation

**It is recommended** that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of a contract with RNLI to provide beach lifeguarding services for a further five-year period from April 2022 through to March 2027. This is subject to an agreed contract for services and is based on a predicted increase per annum for the period of the contract capped at 2%. (Officers will revert to Council if there is a requirement to increase on 2%).

The Chair invited the Area Lifesaving Manager from RNLI to present to the Committee on Beach Life Saving Service.

The Area Lifesaving Manager advised the Committee that in recent years there has been an increase in beach activity and water sports and provided statistics of Lifeguard Incident and Incident Actions since 2011. The Area Lifesaving Manager explained that RNLI work with clubs as a means of preventing occurrences by providing education on keeping safe and also provide event assistance to Open Water Swims, Raft Race, Airwaves and work with Cancer Focus NI and Mae Murray Foundation.

The Chair invited questions from Elected Members.

Elected members applauded the work of RNLI. Alderman Baird referred to absence of lifeguards at Runkerry and the Area Lifesaving Manager advised that based on assessment of risk this area was not deemed suitable for swimmers and that attendance of a lifeguard could encourage bathing.

- \* **The Area Lifesaving Manager and Business Manager, Ireland left the Meeting at 9.10 pm**

## **7. TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2022**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Members with proposals for a Council-led event programme for 2022. The report references the uncertainties around legislation and advice pertaining to COVID19, and how this potentially may impact on event delivery. Outline details of dates and budgetary requirements are provided for Elected Members consideration in advance of budget finalisation.

### Background

The December 2021 Council meeting approved the adoption of a 10 year strategic approach for the Tourism Event remit. A key recommendation was that the Council need to provide a balanced approach to event development, facilitation and delivery. With an increasing number of external event providers, the role of Council is more important than ever in terms of being supportive and allowing other event providers to develop the sector. It is recognised that Council will still be an event provider but recommends that to achieve a balance, Council delivered events should be fewer, better resourced and promoted more effectively.

The Tourism Events team are now in a position to implement the 3 recommended steps; Reset, Revive and Restage. This year provides an opportunity to work with key stakeholders, including Elected Members to assess the viability of Council's current portfolio of tourism events and agree opportunities for adjustment, growth and the introduction of new projects that fit with current market demand, whilst reflecting the key characteristics of our area. Further to the rates setting process the Tourism Recreation service's budget has been agreed and this report details the events that are proposed to be delivered by Council in 2022.

In September 2021, Members approved a new venue location and flight line for a new NI International Airshow for 2022 to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Proposed dates of 10 and 11 September 2022 were ratified.

The past 20 months have been extremely challenging and have significantly impacted on both Council-led events and the support provided to the third sector.

As per 2020, the majority of Council managed events planned for 2021 were cancelled in the physical world. This was a direct result of Public Health Agency (PHA) guidance in relation to COVID 19, and in particular as a result of a government ban on events and 'mass gatherings'.

An easing of Covid restrictions by the NI Executive in recent months has permitted Council's Halloween and Christmas programme to be delivered in the physical world, with COVID mitigations in place.

After consultation with Elected Members, Officers were able to organise Halloween and Christmas events with a greater physical presence and interaction with the public.

## Delivery of Council Events in 2022

COVID 19 related regulations and guidance has been subject to many changes over the last 20 months. Legislative restrictions are currently removed, however current advice states that the event organiser is responsible for carrying out necessary risk assessments and taking all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus.

## Implications for Planning Council-led Event Programme

Many of the Council's managed events require significant lead-in time and committed resources. Event management, planning, outsourced suppliers, professional services, marketing activities and traffic management consultants need to be procured and contracts agreed months in advance of the event taking place. Safety Advisor Group (SAG) consultation for events such as the Ould Lamma Fair starts 7-8 months in advance, with tender documentation and pyrotechnic licences applied for several months in advance.

Whilst there has been a significant relaxation in Government legislation and advice on the COVID 19 pandemic, Officers are mindful that this could change at any point throughout the year. To facilitate this uncertainty, events will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis moving forward as to their appropriateness in respect of current legislation.

Over the last number of years, the Tourism and Recreation remit continues to experience an additional burden on resources coming from external influences. Greater scrutiny around Traffic Management and Health and Safety have impacted on the resources required to deliver events.

## Proposed Approach for Delivery of Council Event Programme 2022

Officers have made an assumption that for 2022 the Tourism Events schedule will take place in its preferred format.

In addition to the schedule of events detailed in Table 1, a number of additional events for the spring of 2022 have been planned. Delivered by the Destination Management team with support from the Tourism Events Team, these events include:

- The Causeway Coast and Glens Walking Festival - Weekends from 5 March to 27 March.
- The Great Outdoors Festival at Benone - Saturday 26 March and Sunday 27 March.

These events have been 100% funded through TNI's Market Led Development programme.

## Consultation and Assessment of Event Delivery Options

Officers have continued to liaise and seek advice from various agencies in relation to the potential planning opportunities for Council Managed events in 2022. This includes the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), St Johns Ambulance and the Council led Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The Tourism Events Team also continue to

attend regular meetings with colleagues from other Local Authorities to benchmark event planning in respect of Covid 19.

For each event, Officers will continue to look at the type of delivery which is possible based on information, advice, Government restrictions and timings, while considering both internal and external risks.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee gives consideration to the current situation and approves the schedule for the delivery of Council-led events in 2022 as detailed in Table 1 within the report.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan  
Seconded by Councillor Watton

-to recommend that Council gives consideration to the current situation and approves the schedule for the delivery of Council-led events in 2022 as detailed in Table 1 within the report, previously circulated.

Councillor C McShane said that this this was the first occasion when the associated costs were not aligned to each event in the schedule and it was not acceptable to ask Elected Members to support the recommendation without costings. Councillor C McShane also referred to pressure on Events Team in terms of deliverability and enquired what outsourcing was currently being undertaken to deliver events including signature events.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that this information had been made available during the Rates Setting process and reminded Elected Members the Events Structure had been deferred until after the budget setting process and would be brought to the April Leisure and Development Committee for consideration.

In terms of outsourcing the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised of possible hybrid format for delivering the Salmon and Whiskey Festival due to the number of events taking place around the same time ie Ould Lammas Fair and Air Show. He stated the Salmon and Whiskey Festival dates had been changed in consultation with local businesses and the community to fit in with harvest time and Tourism NI initiatives.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation offered to verbally provide the budget for any of the events which have been fully costed.

### Amendment

Proposed by C McShane  
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl

-to recommend that a decision be deferred to Full Council to allow Elected Members to consider the costs associated with each event in the schedule.

Councillor Nicholl felt that information should have been forthcoming and not required to be requested at this stage in the meeting.

Councillor Holmes concurred with Councillor C McShane, he would have liked the figures to be provided with the events schedule for consideration at this meeting.

Councillor Holmes asked for confirmation as to the nature of the Christmas Events in 2022 given the changes which were welcomed in 2021. The Head of Tourism and Recreation said that it was proposed in 2022 to replicate 2021 activities with animation to improve on the events programme for 2021. He advised the revised Christmas Events had been received well and provision of this had been allowed for within the costings for 2022.

Councillor Holmes referred to budgets further down the line for the events on offer. The Head of Tourism and Recreation explained there would be a review and reset with a critical analysis of each event in terms of life cycle and reminded Elected Members the Events Team had become a facilitator and supporting mechanism for third party events.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised the general direction was that Council would deliver fewer higher quality events with more substantial investment and that in this regard direction would be sought from Elected Members.

Councillor Holmes applauded the hard work of the events team given the pressure on resources at present.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that sponsorship had been agreed for the Air Show 2022. Councillor C McShane asked for an update on Tourism NI application for the Air Show and whether the sponsorship would potentially offset other funding sources. The Director of Leisure and Development advised the application was within the parameters of Tourism NI Funding requirement and a decision had not yet been reached.

Alderman Baird raised concern that events may not take place if the report is deferred to Full Council, and the Director of Leisure and Development advised this was not the case, that the recommendation within the report was endorsement of dates as scheduled and not the budget which was already agreed as part of the rates setting process.

At the request of Councillor McShane, the Head of Tourism and Recreation verbally provided figures associated with each budgeted event.

The Chair ruled the Proposal and Amendment were direct negatives and he would proceed to take the Substantive Proposal.

Councillor C McShane requested a recorded vote.

The Chair put the Proposal by Councillor McQuillan, seconded by Councillor Watton to the Committee to vote.

11 Members voted For; 3 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained  
The Chair declared the Motion Carried.

#### Recorded vote table

For (11)	Alderman Duddy, Hillis, Knight-McQuillan
	Councillors Callan, McQuillan, Anderson, McAuley, Holmes, Schenning, MA McKillop, Watton
Against (3)	Councillors Bateson, Nicholl, C McShane

## **8. TOURISM EVENTS GROWTH FUND**

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

#### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the assessment process for the Tourism Event Funding Programme – Growth Fund 2022-2023.

#### Background

The Tourism Event Fund is administered as a competitive process via the Council's online funding hub. The fund was established for the purpose of supporting new and existing event organisers with outputs that align with the broad aims and objectives of the Council's Destination Management Strategy.

At the October 2021 Leisure and Development Committee Meeting Members approved the administration of the Tourism Event Funding Programme – Growth Fund. This programme is a transition for smaller grant applicants who benefited from the Tourism Event Recovery Fund 2021/2022. New event applicants who met the criteria could also apply to this fund as it returned to an 'Open Call' for funding.

The Growth Fund for 2022-2023 still retains some of the relaxed parameters set out in the Tourism Event Recovery Fund but is fundamentally a return to the pre-COVID event funding programme. For 2022-2023 the Growth Fund process is being administered separately from the Large Tourism Event Fund (assessment report due April 2022).

### 2022 - 2023 Application Process

The application process opened on 25 January 2022 with the following key dates and deadlines:

- Mandatory Training Workshop for Applicants was held on 31 January 2022 to outline the changes to the fund criteria.
- One to One sessions with Council's Events Development Officer were held between 3 –10 February 2022.
- Applications closed on 22 February 2022.

### Event Funding Eligibility 2022-2023

The outline criteria for this fund is listed below for information, with a relaxation of parameters around visitor numbers, return on investment and target market.

#### Tourism Events Growth Fund

- Events with an overall budget of between £10,000 and £30,000 which attract more than 600 visitors to the Borough (previously 1,000).
- Events which take place over a minimum of 2 days (minimum of 5 hours on each day) and encourages overnight stays.
- Applicants must demonstrate how they will promote the Borough as a tourism destination through branding and marketing activities.
- In addition, applicants must demonstrate economic support / benefit from hosting the event (in previous years an economic return of 3:1 was expected), and how they will promote the area to the domestic market.

The level of grant award available is up to 50% of total project costs, up to a maximum grant award of £15,000.

#### Assessment Process

The assessment panel made up of Officers from the Tourism Events Team and the Funding Unit met on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and applications were assessed on a number of criteria, including full event details and delivery (including event management plan), event sustainability and skills retention, economic support / benefit, media and marketing impact (including marketing plan), options for further event development and enhancing the visitor experience connected with the event.

Each criteria within the scoring matrix is weighted and minimum threshold pass rate is applied at 65% as per Council policy. Successful applicants must attend a project initiation meeting and are offered feedback on their application, the scores awarded and areas that could be improved on in the future. Unsuccessful applicants are offered an opportunity for feedback on improvement if they wish to apply in the future.

#### Summary of Applications

A summary of the applications received with scoring is detailed in Table 1, previously circulated.

The total amount of grants requested through eligible and qualifying applications was £20,500.

After assessment both applicants were successful achieving a score on or above the minimum threshold.

#### Consultation

Officers from the Tourism Events Team have kept in regular contact with third party event organisers. Some of the events that previously qualified for the Tourism Event Growth Funding have decided not to make an application this year whilst others may make application to the Tourism Large Events Fund, which has experienced a delay and will now be assessed and brought for Elected Members consideration in April 2022.

#### Recommendation

Elected Members are asked to approve the allocation of the Tourism Event Funding to successful Growth Fund applicants as detailed in Table 1.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop  
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council approve the allocation of the Tourism Event Funding to successful Growth Fund applicants as detailed in Table 1.

### **9. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Economic Development Officer.

#### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on funding from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the roll-out of a fourth Rural Business Development Scheme for the financial year 2022-2023. This grant is delivered by all 11 councils concurrently.

#### Background

This is proposed as a further grant under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI). Its key aim is to assist in tackling poverty and social isolation within deprived rural areas. The Scheme's primary aims are to:

- Alleviate financial poverty by enhancing entrepreneurship and growth.
- Alleviate financial poverty by supporting micro businesses in rural areas.

This proposed fourth round of funding would be delivered to further support recovery and sustainability post-COVID.

#### Programme Criteria

- Micro businesses located in rural areas (*as per NISRA NINIS definition*).



- New businesses must be able to demonstrate they have commenced trading.
- Must demonstrate added value of proposal both to business and impact on recovery and sustainability.
- Must demonstrate ability to complete project and access grant by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.
- Minimum grant awarded £500 with maximum of £4,999.
- Must demonstrate they are ineligible to access similar support from elsewhere.

#### Funding Level

- Grants providing capital support up to a maximum of £4,999 or 50% of total costs.
- Match funding must be in the form of a 'cash' contribution. Labour or 'in-kind' contributions will not be accepted.
- The total cost of a project should not exceed £20,000.

#### 2021 Rural Business Development Scheme Outputs – Causeway Coast and Glens Council Area

- Total number of successful projects: 40
- Total value of grant aid awarded: £113,171.49

#### Level of Interest

- Number of Enquiries received for the application call: 127
- Number of applications received: 83

#### 2021 Grant Programme

Councils will complete an evaluation of the 2021 fund. DAERA has now requested a further collaborative business case to consider a fourth round of the Rural Business Development Scheme, based on the levels of uptake and feedback from the 2021 fund and specifically to further support recovery and sustainability of rural, micro-businesses post-COVID.

A Letter of Offer and Contract from DAERA are pending. It is anticipated that this grant would open in early May 2022 for a call of approx. one month duration, with a budget in the region of £125,000 with an additional technical assistance payment to council at 10% (£12,500) based on Letter of Offer value.

#### Recommendation

That Council accepts the funding on offer from DAERA and agrees to deliver the Rural Business Development Scheme in Causeway Coast and Glens in May 2022.

Members should note that, as with all funding from central government, the timeline and other details included above are indicative only.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan

Seconded by Councillor C Mc Shane and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council accept the funding on offer from DAERA and agree to deliver the Rural Business Development Scheme in Causeway Coast and Glens in May 2022.

- \* **The Chair declared a recess for a comfort break at 9.45 pm.**
- \* **The meeting reconvened at 10.00 pm.**

## **10 LANDFILL COMMUNITY FUND**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to recommend grant decisions and awards to the Landfill Regulator (ENTRUST) for projects to be supported under the Landfill Communities Fund for the 2022-23 period.

### Background

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is regulated by ENTRUST (Landfill Regulator) and managed by her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

The Landfill Communities Fund is an innovative tax credit scheme that enables Landfill Operators to use some of their landfill tax to directly fund projects that improve the lives of communities living within a 10 mile radius of the landfill sites. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council operate the Craighuller landfill site in Portrush and are able to claim a credit against their landfill tax liability, they then make this contribution to Ulster Wildlife, the registered Environmental Body who administers this fund on behalf of Council.

The Landfill Communities Fund budget available for the 2022-23 period is £169,628.19.

### Strategic Context

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council review and agree the Landfill Communities Fund Policy and programme on an annual basis.

The policy sets out a framework for the processing of Landfill Communities Fund applications. The overall aim of the process outlined in the policy is:

*"To ensure a consistent and transparent process with proper and accountable procedures is in place".*

To be eligible for an award, projects must be located within a 10 mile radius of a licensed landfill site in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. (Craighuller Landfill site, 45 Craighuller Road, Portrush BT56 8NN or Craigmore Landfill Site, Craigmore Road, Garvagh, Coleraine BT51 5HF)

Applications must be made under one of the following Objects set out in the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996:

- Object D: Public Parks and Amenity;

- Object DA: Conservation of Biodiversity; or
- Object E: Restoration of Religious Buildings or Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest.

In November 2021 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed the Landfill Communities Fund programme and criteria for 2022-23. (See Annexes A-C)

### Assessment Overview

The fund opened for applications on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 and closed on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022:

- Six applications were received with requests to the fund totalling £89,808.75.
- One application was ineligible and did not proceed to scoring and assessment.
- Five applications with requests totalling £74,808.75 were assessed and scored with all five scoring above the 65% threshold for funding.

### Stage 1: Eligibility Assessment

1 x application which applied under Object D: Public Parks and Amenity, failed to satisfy the eligibility criteria:

### Stage 2: Assessment & Scoring

5 x applications were assessed and scored against the full criteria. (Criteria detailed in Annex A-C, previously circulated).

All 5 scored above the 65% threshold for funding:

### Recommendations

As per Council's Landfill Communities Fund Policy, approval of projects is at the sole discretion of Council and will be dependent on the current available funds.

The current available funds available from the Landfill Community Fund are £169,628.19.

### Recommendation 1:

It is recommended that Council award funding to projects 1-5 totalling £74,021.25.

### Recommendation 2:

It is recommended that Council open a second call for the remaining £95,606.94 from the 2022-23 budget.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

**AGREED** to recommended that Council:-

Award funding to projects 1-5 totalling £74,021.25;

Open a second call for the remaining £95,606.94 from the 2022-23 budget.

## 11. COMMUNITY FESTIVALS FUND

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the assessment of applications received to the Community Festivals Fund for 2022-23 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme.

### Background

The Community Festivals Fund (CFF) was established by the Department for Communities (DfC) in recognition of the positive contribution that festivals can make to communities and to the local economy. A key priority of Department for Communities is 'to enable communities to enhance their quality of life through participation/engagement in culture, arts and leisure activities.' (Department for Communities Community Festivals Fund Revised Policy and Guidance Framework October 2015).

The CFF grant programme was opened for applications on 10th December 2021 with a closing date of 11th February 2022. The grant opening was publicly advertised as part of Council's annual grant programme. Online grants roadshows were held to provide potential applicants with details of the grant programmes.

Applications were received from 36 organisations. A panel of Council Officers assessed the applications received against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes for the programme. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be recommended for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy. The results were presented to the Grants Governance Panel at a meeting on 17th February.

An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant programme, detailing eligibility and assessment criteria, is attached at Annex A (previously circulated)

The applications that were ineligible either didn't meet the criteria for the Community Festivals Fund Programme in terms of the programme of activities, or they were ineligible organisations. A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and the grant amount recommended are listed in Annex B, previously circulated.

Detailed feedback will be provided to the unsuccessful applicants and developmental support will be offered where relevant to these applicants to source other appropriate funding.

Council may wish to re-open the Community Festivals Fund later in the year with the surplus budget of £13,071.75.

### Recommendations

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, previously circulated subject to funding from DfC.
- ii In the event that confirmation of funding has not been received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April, issue letters of offer to the two applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May, to a value of £5,985.
- iii Consider re-opening the Community Festivals Fund in July for events taking place in the second half of 2022-23

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop  
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council:-

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex B, previously circulated subject to funding from DfC.
- ii In the event that confirmation of funding has not been received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April, issue letters of offer to the two applicants whose festivals are due to take place in April and May, to a value of £5,985.
- iii Consider re-opening the Community Festivals Fund in July for events taking place in the second half of 2022-23

## **12. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAMME**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the assessment of the applications received to the following two Grant Programmes for 2022-23 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programmes:

- i. Community Development Support Grant.
- ii. Social Inclusion Grant.

### Background

The Department for Communities provides annual funding to Council through the Community Support Programme which contributes towards 50% of the Community Development Support Grant (CDSG) and Social Inclusion Grant (SIG) Programmes.

In September 2021 the Leisure & Development Committee recommended several changes to the CDSG and SIG as part of reducing bureaucracy in Council's grant making which were ratified by Full Council. These included:

- i. Reducing the number of questions in the application form;
- ii. Replacing scoring of application forms with pass or fail responses;
- iii. Providing funding for a 3 year term (subject to DfC funding).

The Community Development Team undertook an in-depth review of the CDSG for 2022-23, and several changes were recommended to the October Leisure & Development Committee and subsequently ratified by Full Council. In addition, Council agreed to an increase of £43,750 to the budget, providing a budget of £146,270 for the two programmes combined. For the purposes of decision making, the assumption is made that DfC allocations to Council will be at the same rate as 2021-22 amounts.

The grant programmes were opened for applications on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 with a closing date of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. An online workshop was delivered for potential applicants to explain the changes to the programmes and to provide guidance on how to apply to the programmes. This was well attended with representatives from 27 organisations attending.

Officers carried out eligibility checks and assessed the applications against the pass/fail criteria and the results were presented to the Grants Governance Panel on 17<sup>th</sup> February for consideration.

#### Community Development Support Grant

Purpose of Grant Programme: To contribute to the running costs/overhead costs incurred by core community development organisations.

#### Levels of Grant available:

The changes made to the programme for 2022-23 are as follows:

Three categories of awards were established to allow a differentiation between differing sized premises and differing scale of activities.

- i. Category 1: Community development groups directly providing a programme of activities. The group has its own premises including a hall/space adaptable for a range of activities with one or more meeting rooms, hired by at least two other groups on a regular (at least monthly) basis.
- ii. Category 2: Community development groups directly providing a programme of activities with premises for their own use, which isn't hired by two or more regular user groups.
- iii. Category 3: Community development groups that provide a programme of activities without their own premises.

The Grant level was increased to reflect increasing operating costs for community groups - an increase from £2,000 to £3,500 for Category 1 groups; an increase from £2,000 to £2,500 for category 2 groups; an increase from £1,000 to £1,250 for Category 3 groups. Community Development groups can apply for grants of up to 75% of costs to the relevant category level. An extract from the Guidance Notes for the grant programmes, detailing eligibility and assessment criteria, is attached at Annex A, previously circulated.

A list of the applications received, the assessment results and maximum eligible funding amount recommended are listed in Annex B, previously circulated.

Officers from the Community Development team will provide detailed feedback to the ineligible or unsuccessful applicant organisations and can offer support to develop projects and source other funding.

#### Social Inclusion Grant

Purpose of Programme: To provide small grants to local community and voluntary organisations that are involved in activities which encourage people within their community, particularly those that are socially isolated, to participate in social and recreational activities.

Levels of Grant: 85% of costs up to a maximum grant of £500.

\*Based on assumption that DfC allocations to Council will be at the same rate as 2021-22 amounts.

The total amount recommended for funding for CDSG and SIG combined is £1,836.52 above the amount budgeted for. Given that there tends to be a level of underclaiming of the CDSG as a result of groups not claiming their grant award in full, it is recommended that the levels of grant recommended are awarded in full and the small additional budget, if needed, be taken from the Community Development programme budget.

#### Recommendations

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Development Support Grant and Social Inclusion Grant for 2022-23 as detailed in Annex B & C, subject to the necessary funding being available from DfC.
- ii. In the event that confirmation of funding hasn't been received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, issue letters of offer at risk to successful applicants in order to ensure that community groups don't experience a delay in their funding for operating costs.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council:-

- i. Approve awards for funding through Community Development Support Grant and Social Inclusion Grant for 2022-23 as detailed in Annex B & C, subject to the necessary funding being available from DfC.
- ii. In the event that confirmation of funding hasn't been received from DfC by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, issue letters of offer at risk to successful applicants in order to ensure that community groups don't experience a delay in their funding for operating costs.

### **13. CULTURE ARTS AND HERITAGE FUND**

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

#### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the assessment of the applications received to the Culture, Arts & Heritage (CAH) Grant Programme for 2022-23 and to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the programme subject to the outcome of the budget process.

### Background

The Culture, Arts & Heritage grant programme forms part of Council's Cultural Strategy strategic priority 4 'To ensure increased access to, and participation in, culture, arts and heritage for marginalised and excluded groups' adopted by Council in 2016.

The primary objective of the cultural strategy is to ensure that both local ratepayers and visitors to the area have continuous access to high quality, accessible, inclusive and affordable cultural services, including arts, museums and heritage.

As a result, the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant programme was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 with a closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022 for receipt of completed applications. Virtual Information Roadshows were held in early December to provide potential applicants with detailed information and guidance regarding individual grant programmes.

A total of 25 applications were submitted by the closing date with two applications being subsequently withdrawn and one application ineligible. The grant assessment panel of relevant Council officers assessed the grant applications against the criteria as stated in the

Guidance Notes. Applicants were required to attain a score of at least 65% in order to be considered for funding, in line with Council's Grant Funding Policy.

### Applications Received:

A list of the applications received along with the assessment scores and maximum eligible funding amount is listed in Annex B, previously circulated

Detailed feedback will be provided to the unsuccessful applicants and developmental support will be offered where relevant to these applicants to source other appropriate funding.

### Recommendation

Approve awards for funding through the Cultural Arts & Heritage Fund as detailed In Annex B, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop

Seconded by Councillor Nicholl and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council Approve awards for funding through the Cultural Arts & Heritage Fund as detailed In Annex B, previously circulated.

## **14. PLATINUM JUBILEE PROGRAMME**



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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the addition of two further projects within Council's Queen's Jubilee Programme.

The report also provides members with a record of the agreed note from Council's NI100 Working Group meetings held in October 2021 and January 2022 respectively.

### Background

Following a report to Leisure & Development Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Council approved an amended Terms of Reference for the NI 100 Working Group to incorporate the Queen's Jubilee Programme in January 2022.

A programme of activities was subsequently presented to the Committee in January and approved by Council in February 2022, alongside a budget of £50,000 as a special event.

The working group, having met on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, requested the inclusion of two additional activities to be delivered within the existing budget available:

- A jubilee inspired food event - A food event with the theme of the Jubilee Pudding similar to the pudding competition being delivered through the official Queens Platinum Jubilee Programme.
- Beacons Lighting Ceremonies, one in each legacy area, delivered by suitable third party organisations. Council are in possession of four gas beacons which could be utilised for such activities.

Subject to Council's approval, the working group will scope out the details to ensure the deliverability of these activities with the support of relevant third parties and council service areas.

### Notes of Working Group

A copy of the notes from the working group meetings held in October and January are also attached in Annex A for information.

### Recommendations

The report recommends the approval of two additional activities as laid out within the report, subject to available resources to deliver same.

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan

Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council approve the two additional activities as laid out within the report, subject to available resources to deliver same.

Councillor McQuillan asked for clarity on changes to the mode of application for this fund on the online portal.

Alderman Duddy and Alderman Baird each concurred with Councillor McQuillan's remarks that the timeline for submitting applications was tight and had received complaints about the online application process.

The Funding Unit Manager advised that trialling of the online portal had been rolled out to the Platinum Jubilee Programme developed by Councils ICT department. The Funding Unit Manager advised that she was not aware of any complaints or issues with the system that the Funding Unit were happy to assist groups where possible. The Funding Unit Manager advised that at some stage all such applications will be applied for electronically and that if a group had uploaded their constitution previously they could indicate this on the application and would not be asked to re-submit.

## 15. HARRY GREGG LEGACY PROJECT

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Feasibility Study received from the Harry Gregg Foundation for the proposed development of a Youth Sports Zone in Coleraine and to provide options regarding the release of further financial support.

### Background

In May 2021, the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation (HGLF) made a presentation to Council's Leisure & Development Committee outlining a capital legacy project for the late Harry Gregg.

The initial paper proposes an indoor sports dome at the Ulster University Coleraine campus to include: 4G pitch, four court hall, gym, climbing wall and youth provision at a cost of c.£7m. The concept design is inspired and based on On-side Youth Zone model which is operated in various cities in England to offer highly subsidised services and meals to children and young people from marginalised communities.

The project was presented in 3 development stages:

Stage 1 – Feasibility Study

Stage 2 – Pre-Application Notification (PAN) process

Stage 3 – Formal Planning Application

In June 2021, Council agreed the following motion:

*Direct Strategic Investment of £15,000 in the Stage 1 feasibility study for the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation. Funding for Stages 2 & 3 (i.e. the Planning Process) being subject to Council's consideration of the outputs recommended by the feasibility study;*

Resulting in a Direct Strategic Investment of £15,000 in the Stage 1 feasibility study for the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation. Funding for Stages 2 & 3 (i.e. the Planning Process) being subject to Council's consideration of the outputs recommended by the Feasibility Study.

More recently at the Leisure & Development Committee meeting in February 2022, the HGLF presented the completed Feasibility Study and requested further financial support to progress the project.

#### Preliminary Review of the Feasibility Study

Officers conducted a detailed review of the Feasibility Study which was shared with the HGLF and Copious Consulting prior to their presentation to the Leisure & Development Committee.

In summary, this constructive critique of the analysis highlights the strong conceptual design of the On-side Youth Project, compelling Vision with stakeholder buy-in and potential benefits of targeted investment in bespoke community / sport facilities for many young people from deprived areas within the Coleraine catchment area.

However, the critique also highlights the need for further consultation with Ulster University, Sport NI, Coleraine FC and Council (particularly with reference to other capital development projects within Coleraine). It also points to the need for further consideration of options, potentially scaled back and developed on a phased basis in response to confirmed need and demand.

Despite the forecasted financial surpluses, of key concern is the financial viability of the project and the indication from On-side Youth that 'there is insufficient potential in the local private sector to sustain a Youth Zone in Coleraine using the On-side Financial Model'.

The critique concludes that it is not possible to be conclusive on the feasibility of project concept and raises questions over affordability and financial sustainability of the options presented. An Outline Business Case prepared in line with Better Business Cases NI guidance to explore a wider range of potentially lower scale options and robustly challenge the 'Economic Case' and 'Financial Case' would be worth considering prior to advancing the project through the Planning process and incurring significant cost in the process.

#### Recommendation & Next Steps

Members are asked to note this update and recommend one of three options:

Option 1 – Do nothing and provide no further financial support to the HGLF; or

Option 2 – Provide no further financial support to the HGLF until the key concerns highlighted within the Preliminary Review are addressed; or

Option 3 – Progress to Stage 2 and provide further financial support of £5k to the HGLF towards the development of an Outline Business Case that addresses the key concerns within the Preliminary Review. *This financial*

support is instead of and therefore replaces the original proposal of Stage 2: Pre-Application Notice support of £5k.

Subject to Council decision, and if required, a further paper can be brought back to the Leisure & Development Committee to consider the Outline Business Case prior to any decision on requested financial support of £22k towards 'Stage 3 – Formal Planning Application and Full Business Case'.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan  
Seconded by Councillor Schenning

-To recommend to Council Option 2 - Provide no further financial support to the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation until the key concerns highlighted within the Preliminary Review are addressed

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Watton  
Seconded by Councillor Callan

-To recommend to Council Option 3 - Progress to Stage 2 and provide further financial support of £5k to the Harry Gregg Legacy Foundation towards the development of an Outline Business Case that addresses the key concerns within the Preliminary Review. This financial support is instead of and therefore replaces the original proposal of Stage 2: Pre-Application Notice support of £5k.

Councillor Bateson referred to the Technical Assistance Grant which Elected Members had not agreed to at a recent meeting and asked if this could have been availed of by the Harry Gregg Legacy Project. The Director of Leisure and Development advised that this request would have been compatible with the Technical Assistance Grant.

Councillor Bateson suggested the project had good potential and could be losing out due to the short sightedness of some Elected Members.

Alderman Duddy referred to Councillor Bateson's comments as sectarian and he asked for clarification on the feasibility of the Harry Gregg Legacy Project.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised there were areas identified during review which he invited the SIB Project Officer to expand on. SIB Project Officer stated

- There was a Requirement for further consultation to ensure that planned Capital Projects in Coleraine do not result in displacement or unfair

competition between ie Coleraine Football Club and/or Coleraine Leisure Centre

- Consultation and high level conversation on potential loan for land acquisition would need firmed up
- Consultation With Sport NI was likely key given their role in sports development
- There was a Need to realise further funding and sustainability of the project
- Capital affordability was projected at a high level assuming central government was coming through with, however timing would need to be firmed up.
- Financial sustainability is based on English model – examples of good practice applicable to Northern Ireland world need tested and certainly on public sector grants and private sector donations.

In response to Alderman Duddy the SIB Project Officer confirmed there some risks associated with Option 3 at this time.

Councillor Bateson wished to raise a Point of Order 24.5 surrounding an earlier accusation he was offended by and wished the statement to be retracted. Councillor Bateson asked for his comments to be placed on record *“I do not understand what was sectarian about my remarks as I simply pointed out that I had spoken in support of the Harry Gregg Legacy Project receiving grants said that Technical Grant would have been compatible with this type of funding had it not been for the single mindedness of some Elected Members”* Councillor Bateson said *“ I deplore sectarianism and it needs rooted out of society and should be condemned from all sides”*.

Councillor Watton requested a recorded vote.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to Vote.  
 5 Members voted For; 9 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained  
 The Chair declared the Amendment Lost.

Recorded vote table

<b>For (5)</b>	Alderman Baird, Knight-McQuillan
	Councillors Callan, Holmes, Watton
<b>Against (9)</b>	Alderman Duddy
	Councillor McQuillan, Anderson, McAuley, Nicholl, C McShane, Bateson, Schenning, MA McKillop

The Chair put the motion proposed by Councillor McQuillan and seconded by Councillor Schenning to the Committee to Vote.  
11 Members voted For; 3 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained  
The Chair declared the Motion Carried.

## **16. COLERAINE AND BALLYCASTLE LEISURE OBC**

For information report, previously circulated.

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Outline Business Cases (OBCs) for the redevelopment of Coleraine Leisure Centre and Ballycastle Leisure Centre.

### Background

At the start of this year, the Leisure Facilities Project Board requested that previous work on business case development dating back to 2017/18 for the redevelopment of Coleraine Leisure Centre (CLC) and Ballycastle Leisure Centre (BLC) was revisited and presented to the Project Board prior to any decision to re-commence work being taken by the Leisure & Development Committee and Council.

At a full Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Members received an updated Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for investment in the redevelopment of Coleraine Leisure Centre and approval was given to commit the resources required to complete the development of an OBC in line with 'Better Business Cases NI' guidance on the new 'Five Case Model'.

At this meeting it was also agreed that the OBC for Ballycastle Leisure Provision (also referred to as Phase II) was to be progressed in parallel with Coleraine Leisure Centre and adopt the same process and approach.

Whilst there was initially an ambition to complete OBCs for both projects by December 2021, a delay in getting work started combined with a 6-month turnaround period resulted in a revised project delivery plan which indicated a more realistic target date of March 2022.

### Coleraine Leisure Centre - Outline Business Case

The 'Strategic Case' for investment has now been updated to reflect current needs and demands for leisure provision and changing trends since the Covid pandemic. This will refer to Facility Planning Models and Latent Demand Analysis within the catchment area. Officers have also re-engaged the local community in an ongoing consultation on the detailed design of the new centre as it evolves.

The 'Economic Case' considered a long list of potential development options and revised schematics for the position of the new centre on the Railway Road site to take account of technical feasibility, Planning requirements, service impact and scope for future development.

Following a presentation to Committee in January and the Council meeting in February 2022, two development options are currently being fully appraised against the base case 'Do Nothing' option:

Option 4B 'New leisure centre to the front of the existing site'; and

Option 4B+ reflect Council's decision *"that Council enlarge on the 4b Option to feature a larger water attraction to incorporate a separate learner pool and option for soft area"*.

The 'Financial Case' and affordability analysis will be reviewed with input from Finance on the Capital Programme and an external funding strategy is being developed. This may necessitate scheme enhancements to incorporate additional green energy and wider regeneration works that would improve the project's ability to avail of significant capital funding opportunities including LUF and NICS (to be announced in 2022/23) and to ensure complementarity with other potential capital projects in Coleraine town.

The 'Commercial Case' and 'Management Case' is being prepared to consider the procurement route that delivers best value, operational income strategy (In-house Transformed projections contained within the 'Shadow Bid'), marketing and sales plan and management/staffing structures for the new leisure centre.

### Ballycastle Leisure Provision - Outline Business Case

Shared Education Campus (Phase 1): Council previously approved a business case for a capital contribution to the sports facilities at the new shared school campus in Ballycastle. This investment, along with Council leisure management input, will secure community access to flood lit synthetic pitches for hockey, football and Gaelic sport as well as a four-court hall and associated changing and ancillary accommodation. The project secured a funding offer from the SEUPB Peace IV programme of £2.5m capital and £300k programme costs. The project has secured planning permission and is fully designed.

Recent construction hyperinflation has caused a number of public sector construction procurement exercises to fail, and this is one of the effected projects. This will cause a delay to the project of around 12 months and as a result it will miss the spend window for Peace IV projects. Officers have engaged with SEUPB officials and are hopeful that, with the loss of the Peace IV funding, an application to the new Peace Plus Programme would be 'well received'.

Ballycastle Leisure Centre (Phase 2): Since 2016, officers have been working with Elected Members in consultation with the local community to scope out a project that would address the remaining leisure needs in Ballycastle with particular regard to the lack of any wet facilities and the out-of-date facilities at Sheskburn house.

A previous option dated August 2018 was costed at £18.33m (£20.3 at 2024 costs) and was reduced to around £10.66m (£11.85M at 2024 costs) in September 2018. After direction from Council in September 2021 the options for both Coleraine and Ballycastle Leisure Centres were revised down by circa 25% in an effort to make the projects more affordable.

The 'Strategic Case' for investment is being updated to reflect current needs and demands for leisure provision and changing trends since the Covid pandemic. This will make reference to Facility Planning Models and Latent Demand Analysis within the catchment area.

The 'Economic Case' is being appraised with updated technical plans and costings for reduced scale options to take account of costs, benefits, and key risks including, technical feasibility, Planning, Service Impact and Scope for Future Development.

Officers convened a recent meeting with the DEA Members and fed back to the Steering Group with some proposals for the shortlisted options for further review. The Steering Group agreed the following shortlisted options for detailed review within the business case

Option 3	<b>Indoor</b> 4 lane x 25m pool Village changing only 180m <sup>2</sup> Studio plus storage and kitchen Civic offices Gym @ 175m <sup>2</sup> Café	£8.85m @ 2024 costs
Option 3+	Same as Option 3 plus relocated and accessible play park	£9.45m @ 2024 costs
Option 4	<b>Indoor</b> 4 lane x 25m pool and part floating floor for conversion to learner pool Modest wet play and spa Village changing only 180M <sup>2</sup> Studio plus storage and kitchen Gym @ 175m <sup>2</sup> Café Changing Places *Climbing wall, potential developed by UU in Coleraine undecided  <b>Outdoor</b> Perimeter lit running/walking track BMX/Pump track <b>Removed</b> Civic offices (under separate review) Soft play, being developed by private sector	£9.74m @ 2024 costs Plus £550k for climbing wall  Total: £10.29m
Option 4+	Same as Option 4 plus relocated and accessible play park	£10.89m @ 2024 costs

*\*Initially Members had understood UU had confirmed plans for a climbing wall at UUC*



Officers are now planning a public consultation to seek the public's views on the plans and the priorities of the proposed facility mix. The outcomes of this consultation will help inform the business case and any future planning application.

The 'Financial Case' and affordability analysis will be reviewed with the Finance Team's input on the Capital Programme and a new and emerging external funding strategy is being developed. This necessitates the addition of an Enhanced Scheme that considers additional green energy and wider regeneration works that would improve the projects ability to avail of significant capital funding opportunities including LUF and NICS (to be announced in 2022/23) and to ensure complementarity with other potential capital projects in Ballycastle (Phase I, Ballycastle Museum etc).

The 'Commercial Case' and 'Management Case' is being prepared to consider the procurement route that delivers best value, operational income strategy (In-house Transformed projections contained within the Shadow Bid), marketing and sales plan and management/staffing structures for a new leisure centre.

#### Project Delivery Timeframes

Subject to Council approvals, the indicative delivery timeframe to progress both projects through Council's four stage capital process is summarised as follows:

- Stage 0: Strategic Outline Case Update and Resources Approved – September 2021;
- Stage 1: Outline Business Cases Approved – April 2022;
- Stage 2: Full Business Cases (design/planning/procure) Approved – March 2023;
- Stage 3: Construction Completed (up to 24 mths) – March 2025; and
- Stage 4: Handover and Ready for Use - April 2025.

## **17. GRANTS GOVERNANCE PANEL MEETING NOTES**

For information, notes of Grants Governance Panel Working Group held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 6.00pm, were previously circulated.

## **18. RURAL AND AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES**

For information, notes of Rural and Agricultural Working Group held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 at 7.00pm, were previously circulated.

## **19. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **19.1 Correspondence from the Independent Review of Invest Northern**

## **Ireland**

Correspondence has been received to advised on the process of stakeholder engagement for the Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland. Views are being sought on how to best design the consultation programme.

Contact details previously circulated.

### **19.2 Correspondence from the Harry Gregg Foundation and Legacy Group.**

Correspondence has been received requesting additional support and inviting Members to attend the Saturday morning Small sided Games.

It is recommended that members consider the correspondence.

### **20. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

There were no matters for reporting to the partnership panel.

### **21. CONSULTATIONS**

There were no consultations.

#### **MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'**

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan

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

\* **Press and Public were disconnected from the meeting at 11.05 pm.**

***The information contained in the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014***

The Chair read the following statement:

*Members, I would remind you that this session is being audio recorded in line with Council's guidance. You are reminded that there should be no other persons present who are not entitled to be - either hearing or seeing consideration of such items, and/or recording the proceedings. Failure to*

*comply could be in breach of Code of Conduct responsibilities. You are reminded that you are personally responsible for any comments that you make.*

## **22. WOODLAND PROJECT TENDER**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed with the appointment of a contractor to supply and plant two areas of woodlands on Council land, as part of our Coast and Countryside and Biodiversity remit.

### Background

The Coast and Countryside team investigated the opportunity to improve on the area's biodiversity assets. Officers made an expression of interest application through DAERA after identifying two suitable sites within Council ownership:

Officers submitted an application and Council has been awarded grants:

The commitment period to retain the Woodlands is from 01/03/2022 - 28/02/2042.

### Funding

The Coast and Countryside team in conjunction with the Funding Unit have received a Letter of Offer at 100% funding, as detailed above, to allow this project to be implemented.

### Proposals

The Small Woodland Grant Scheme Woodland Creation Plan forms part of Councils agreement with DAERA and lists the blocks Council have applied for planting under your SWGS Application. Council must carry out the work to the requirements described in the Plan and follow the rules outlined in the Forestry Grant Scheme Terms and Conditions or penalties may be applied.

### Procurement

The Planting Programme was tendered through the Esourcing NI on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The tender period was from 26<sup>th</sup> January to noon on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The 4 firms who return the tender documents were previously circulated.

The most advantageous tender was from Scottish Woodland Ltd.

Officers have contacted DAERA and sought approval that this funding and the project can be celebrated as part of the Queens Green Canopy planting of trees (Queen's Platinum Jubilee).

### Recommendation

**It is recommended** that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council the acceptance of Scottish Woodland tender of £25,141.00.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan  
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

**AGREED** to recommend to Council the acceptance of Scottish Woodland tender of £25,141.00.

In response to Elected Members the Head of Tourism and Recreation. Advised a map showing the parcel of land referred to in the report would be provided by

Councillor Callan asked if this could be included and recognised in the Camus Queen's Green Canopy. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that planting would occur mid April and there would be press opportunity.

### **23. VARIATION TO GENERALIST ADVICE SERVICES**

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

#### Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to provide a Variation to the Generalist Advice contract to allocate additional funding from DfC for an uplift to salaries and improvements in Terms and Conditions of posts funded with DfC monies, based on the 'Fair Funding' initiative announced by the Minister in December.

#### Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) provides funding for Generalist Advice Provision through the DfC District Councils Community Support Programme (CSP) which contains a ringfenced amount for frontline advice provision which is then matched by Council.

#### Current Situation

In December 2021, the Department for Communities Minister announced plans to implement a 'Fair Funder' uplift to Neighbourhood Renewal, Welfare Reform and wider Voluntary and Community Sector posts funded directly by the Department enabling organisations to provide their staff with a fair wage and fair Terms and Conditions.

Subsequently further additional funding was secured to uplift the budget allocation for the Councils Community Support Programme (including Advice) to allow for similar improvements in terms and conditions for Voluntary and Community Sector posts financed through Councils with DfC monies.

Council received a Letter of Variance on 15<sup>th</sup> February for the following additions to the Community Support Programme to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022:

- i. An amount of £5,129.17 for disbursement directly to organisations funded for specific Welfare Reform Mitigations posts to provide an uplift in salaries and improvements in terms and conditions including pay, pensions and sickness policies.
- ii. An amount of £27,076.05 for organisations that receive financial contribution from DfC Community Support/ Generalist Advice Programme to adhere to responsibilities as employers in relation to setting terms and conditions.

It is proposed therefore that Council provide two Variations to the Generalist Advice Contract in order to pass on this funding from DfC to the contracted advice centres. The contract variations will be issued following approval of the Leisure & Development Committee meeting in order to allow the monies to be passed on to the advice centres prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### Recommendation

That the Committee recommends to Council to extend the Generalist Advice contract with Community Advice Causeway, as contract lead, within the 2021-22 period, to provide amounts of:

- i. £5,129.17 for an uplift to salaries and improvements in terms and conditions including pay, pensions and sickness policies specifically for Welfare Reform Mitigations posts.
- ii. £27,076.05 towards the cost of adhering to responsibilities as employers in relation to setting terms and conditions for staff delivering the Generalist Advice service contract.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy  
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council extend the Generalist Advice contract with Community Advice Causeway, as contract lead, within the 2021-22 period, to provide amounts of:

- i. £5,129.17 for an uplift to salaries and improvements in terms and conditions including pay, pensions and sickness policies specifically for Welfare Reform Mitigations posts.
- ii. £27,076.05 towards the cost of adhering to responsibilities as employers in relation to setting terms and conditions for staff delivering the Generalist Advice service contract.

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

\* **Councillor Callan left during consideration of this Item at 11.20 pm.**

## 24.1 Brookgreen Ladies Bowling Club (Councillor Holmes)

*Can you bring an update on the issues at Brookgreen ladies bowling club to the next Leisure and Development Committee meeting?*

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing explained that as a consequence of internal conflict within the “resident” Brookgreen Bowling Club during the 2021 Summer Season, officers carried out a review of the operational management of the site and met with the two parties in dispute to help resolve what was in effect an internal Club matter.

A report was produced and shared with the two parties – it provided commentary on actions taken to date and made recommendations for the future provision of bowls at the Brookgreen site.

The outcome of the report made clear that in order to sustain the provision of Bowling at the site Council would continue to work with the Brookgreen Bowling Club, under the governance of its General committee which has oversight of both the Mens and Ladies Teams.

Council Officers continue to liaise with the two parties on the issue in order to ensure no further disruption to the 2022 Summer Bowling season.

Elected Members, who had been lobbied, felt this matter required dealt with expediently and handled cautiously.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Elected Members were welcome to attend an open meeting during which discussions would take place between himself and the Head of Sport and Wellbeing, date and time yet to be agreed.

### **MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’**

Proposed by Councillor Watton

Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

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

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 11.45 pm