

**THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2024**

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<b>No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<b>1.</b>	Apologies	<b><i>Alderman Stewart Councillors Bateson, Kennedy, Peacock</i></b>
<b>2.</b>	The Mayors' Business	<b><i>Received</i></b>
<b>3.</b>	Declaration of Members' Interests	<b><i>None</i></b>
<b>4.</b>	Minutes of Council Meeting held Thursday 27 June 2024	<b><i>Confirmed as a correct record</i></b>
<b>5.</b>	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Reports	
<b>5.1</b>	Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024	<b><i>That Council notes the approval of Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 which became operational on 25th June 2024; and further  That meetings of the full Council be held in person, with provision for remote attendance by Council staff and external consultants, and that Committees meetings be hybrid.</i></b>
<b>5.2</b>	Section 75 Annual Progress Report to Equality Commission for NI	<b><i>That Council approve the adoption of the draft</i></b>

		<b>Annual Progress Report for 2023/24.</b>
<b>6.</b>	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NI Water Economic Constraints in respect of its impact on constituents and housing provision.</b></li> <li>• <b>Men's Shed funding</b></li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	Conferences	<b>Noted</b>
<b>8.</b>	Correspondence	
<b>(i)</b>	Ron Bailey, Electrical Safety First and Researcher for Lord Foster, dated 28th June 2024	<b>Noted</b>
<b>(ii)</b>	Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive, dated 28th June 2024	<b>Noted</b>
<b>(iii)</b>	Councillor Lilian Seenoi Barr, Mayor, Derry City and Strabane District Council, 15th July 2024	<b><i>That Council support this call pledging to facilitate and support the development of the business case and action plan for autism assessments.</i></b>
<b>(iv)</b>	Martina Moore, Department of Health, ICS NI – Request for local Government representatives to be members of Area Integrated Partnership Boards, 29th July 2024	<b><i>That Council use the rolling D'Hondt list for external appointments to allocate the picks for membership of the Northern Area Integrated Partnership Board and the Western Area Integrated Partnership Board.</i></b>
<b>(v)</b>	Gary Curran, Director Engineering & Sustainability, NI Water, 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b><i>That Council write to the Infrastructure Minister and the Communities Minister to ask what action is being taken in respect of the NI Water Economic Constraints to ensure that</i></b>

		<p><b>constituents' needs are met.</b></p> <p><b>That Council bring the matter of NI Water Economic Constraints to the next meeting of the Partnership Panel in respect of its impact on constituents and housing provision.</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	Consultation Schedule	<b>Noted</b>
<b>10.</b>	Seal Documents	
<b>(i)</b>	Grave Registry Certificates, No's 5813 to 5829 inclusive	<b>Seal Affixed (Items i-ii)</b>
<b>(ii)</b>	Licence Agreement For temporary use of Council lands and premises In connection with Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series – Ballycastle 2024 – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Red Bull GMBH (Ref L&P SC240605/CP&R 240625/CM 240627) (Retrospective)	
<b>11.</b>	The Future of the Men's Sheds	<p><b>That Council facilitate a meeting between key staff in Council and representatives of all Men's Sheds and equivalent groups in the Borough to discuss funding options, and that Council bring the issue of Men's Shed funding to the Partnership Panel.</b></p>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2024  
AT 7.00PM**

**In the Chair** : The Mayor, Councillor McQuillan

**Present** : Alderman Boyle, Callan, Coyle, Fielding, Hunter,  
Knight-McQuillan, John McAuley, S McKillop, Scott

Councillors Anderson, C Archibald, N Archibald, Callaghan,  
Chivers, Holmes, Huggins, Kane, Kyle, Mairs, Jonathan  
McAuley, McCully, McGlinchey, McGurk, MA McKillop,  
McMullan, McShane, Nicholl, Schenning, Stirling, Storey,  
Wallace, Watson, Watton, Wisener

**Officers Present** : D Jackson, Chief Executive  
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services  
M Jones, Council Solicitor  
P Donaghy, Democratic Services Manager  
U Harper, Committee and Member Services Officer  
I Owens, Committee and Member Services Officer (R)

**In attendance** : A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer  
J Winfield, ICT Operations Manager

Press, 2 no. (R), Public 1 no. (R)

**Key** – (R) = Attended Remotely

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Stewart, Councillor Bateson, Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Peacock.

**2. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

The Mayor stated:

*"First, I would like to congratulate Hannah Scott on her historic win, bringing a gold medal back to Coleraine. Not only is she a homegrown hero; she is a true inspiration to our young athletes, especially young female athletes. We wish her all the success with her career, and we all cannot wait to welcome her home.*

*Today I was coming here to talk about the incredible events that have happened across the Council area over the past month, but I believe it is an urgent matter to*

*call out what has happened in Belfast over the past few days. All of us have constituents from diverse backgrounds; all of us have residents who come from a different ethnic community to ourselves; all of us have university students who might live in accommodation near University Street and the Lower Ormeau Road. As elected leaders, we must call out racism and hatred. There is no place for racism, hatred, discrimination or intimidation anywhere in society. Therefore, it is important that this Council works with all Councils, Government Departments, the Executive and the police to oppose racism and deliver a shared, peaceful and inclusive society.”*

The Mayor advised that, under Standing Order 4.3, he would allow a debate on the future of the Men’s Sheds to take place at the end of the agenda, given the urgency of the matter.

### **3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **4. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2024**

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Callaghan  
Seconded by Councillor McGlinchey and

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Thursday 27 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **5. CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **5.1 Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

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

The purpose of the report is to inform Council of the approval by the NI Assembly of the Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 (The Regulations) which were brought forward by the Minister for Communities using the powers in the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021 and to establish how and when the Council wishes to hold its meetings.

##### **Background**

The Council previously responded to a Call for Evidence from the Department for Communities (the Department) indicating that it supported proposals to have legislation put in place which would allow remote/hybrid meetings to be held on a permanent basis. Over the last few months the Department has been developing regulations to provide councils with the flexibility to hold meetings by remote or hybrid means. Following publication of the draft Regulations in March, correspondence has now been received from the Department advising that The Regulations have now been made and became operational from 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The letter is attached at Appendix A and The Regulations are attached at Appendix B.

The legislation is intended to be permissive and empowers councils to establish their own rule in relation to how and when meetings can be held remotely or in hybrid version. To allow remote meetings to take place, Council must put in place standing orders governing remote attendance at meetings.

When the previous Regulations allowing remote/hybrid meetings were made under the Coronavirus Act 2020, Council amended its Standing Orders at Standing Order 2 Time and Place of Meetings to state, *'The Annual Meeting and other meetings of the Council shall normally be held at 7pm in the Council Chamber, or in remote or hybrid format, except where otherwise fixed by statute or by special summons.'* In 2020 the Council adopted a Remote Meetings Protocol. A draft revised version is attached for consideration at Appendix C. With the expiration of the previous Regulations earlier this year Council was required to hold its meetings in person.

The approval of the Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 in June now allows Council to consider how it wishes to hold its meetings, in person, remotely or in hybrid format. Standing Order 2 in its current format permits the holding of meetings in person, remotely or in hybrid format and the Remote Meetings protocol sets out the governance arrangements for remote and hybrid meetings.

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council notes the approval of Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 which became operational on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024; and

Further recommends that the Council reviews Standing Order 2 Time and Place of Meetings in relation to how and when meetings can be held remotely or in hybrid version and consequentially if required that Council reviews its Protocol for the holding of Remote Meetings.

Councillor Holmes proposed that meetings of the full Council should be held in person and Committees meetings be hybrid. This was seconded by Councillor Schenning.

Councillor McGurk supported this proposal but suggested that provision be made for Council staff or external consultants to attend full Council meetings remotely. Councillor Holmes and Councillor Schenning agreed that they were content that this be added to their proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes  
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

**RESOLVED** – That Council notes the approval of Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 which became operational on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024; and further

**RESOLVED** – That meetings of the full Council be held in person, with provision for remote attendance by Council staff and external consultants, and that Committees meetings be hybrid.

## **5.2 Section 75 Annual Progress Report to Equality Commission for NI**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

- \* **Alderman Hunter joined the meeting at 7.09pm during consideration of this item.**

### **Introduction**

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (and included as a commitment in the Council's Equality Scheme) is a requirement that the Council provide an annual report to the Equality Commission for NI on progress in meeting our obligations under the equality and good relations duties.

The report also requires the Council to report on how it is fulfilling its statutory duties under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 by reporting on progress made on the commitments included in the Council's Disability Action Plan.

### **Annual Progress Report 2023/24**

A copy of the draft Annual Progress Report for 2023/24 is attached for your information.

The format of the report is based on a template provided by the Equality Commission and the report always covers the previous financial year. The period of time this report deals with therefore is from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Part A of the report relates to the Section 75 Equality and Good Relations duties and covers outcomes, impacts and good practice in relation to these areas of work, along with progress on the Council's Equality Action Plan, consultations undertaken,

screening and Equality Impact Assessments undertaken, monitoring arrangements, training and complaints made in relation to equality and good relations issues.

Part B outlines actions achieved, partially achieved or not achieved in relation to the Council's Disability Action Plan.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Council approve the adoption of the draft Annual Progress Report for 2023/24.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that this report must be submitted to the Equality Commission by the end of August, which is why it had been brought directly to Council. She further advised Members of a change to the report under question 15, with the number of policies revised now 19 rather than 18, due to a late submission in relation to one of the screenings.

Councillor McShane noted a typo on p.14 in relation to the EQIA on the Memorial Policy for Council: "which will was subject to an EQIA." She asked that this be rectified to confirm that an EQIA was carried out.

Proposed by Councillor McShane  
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

**RESOLVED** – That Council approve the adoption of the draft Annual Progress Report for 2023/24.

## **6. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

The Chief Executive advised that the next meeting of the Partnership Panel is scheduled for 18 September.

Members subsequently agreed to bring two items to the Partnership Panel:

- NI Water Economic Constraints in respect of its impact on constituents and housing provision.
- Men's Shed funding.

## **7. CONFERENCES**

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

### **Purpose of report**

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



The following is listed:

## 7.1 Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2024

Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Venue: Riddell Hall, Belfast

Delegate Fee: Tickets cost £95 (ex. vat) for members of Homeless Connect and £145 (ex. vat) for non-members

Homeless Connect is hosting an NI Homelessness Conference on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The Conference will be held in Riddell Hall, Belfast.

*‘With unprecedented need for homelessness services, increased use of private “non-standard” accommodation and recognition that we need a different approach, this one-day conference will focus on unlocking solutions to homelessness through collaboration.*

*Delegates will be provided with invaluable insights into the strategic operating environment and the challenges faced by funders, service providers and people living in supported accommodation. During the day, we will have excellent contributions from leaders and innovators from across these islands – UK and Ireland, who will share their experiences and learning on how they overcame barriers to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.’*

For further information regarding the event and how to book tickets please see the following link.

- [NI Homelessness Conference - Homeless Connect](#)

Elected Members should contact Democratic Services to register interest.

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council consider the Conference report.

Council NOTED the report.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Executive.

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

The following correspondence has been received:

**i) Ron Bailey, Electrical Safety First and Researcher for Lord Foster, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Extract**

*... Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First, with cross-party support, are promoting the attached Bill [see Appendix 1] to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries. They aim to get it into law as soon as possible when parliament reconvenes.*

*As the attached logos show, we have the support of many national organisations, including the National Fire Chiefs Council, most County Fire and Rescue Services, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, and the Royal Society for Public Health. In addition, two coroners have called for the law to be tightened to ensure greater safety.*

*We are now contacting local authorities, and it would be a great boost if your council supported this campaign.*

**Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council consider the correspondence.

Council NOTED the Correspondence Item (i).

**ii) Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Extract**

*I can confirm that I will be attending the meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 3 December 2024, along with Mark Alexander, Causeway Area Manager to present our annual Housing Investment Plan and to discuss the matters raised at your meeting.*

*In the interim, please be assured that we do recognise the growing pressures on temporary accommodation within the Borough. ...*

*In the last 6 months (1 December 2023 – 31 May 2024) the local Housing Solutions team have made 82 temporary accommodation placements within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough.*

*You can have my assurance that we are actively attempting to increase the temporary accommodation stock within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough and this work will continue.*

*I look forward to meeting the full Council on 3 December 2024 to discuss these issues, and am at your convenience in advance of that date.*

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council consider the correspondence.

Council NOTED the Correspondence Item (ii).

iii) **Councillor Lilian Seenoi Barr, Mayor, Derry City and Strabane District Council, 15th July 2024**

The letter referred to correspondence sent on 9 May 2024, to which the Council awaits a response.

### **Extract**

*At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 24 April 2024, the following Motion was passed:*

*That this Council acknowledges the unacceptable waiting times for autism assessments in the North of Ireland, causing significant hardship and developmental delays.*

*Council recognises that early intervention is critical for developing key skills in children with autism, yet the backlog hinders timely support, impacting individual potential and straining educational and healthcare services.*

*Council resolve to formally write to the Minister of Education and the Minister for Health to urgently develop and present a comprehensive business case outlining specific, actionable strategies to address and resolve this backlog including a detailed analysis of its impacts, clear reduction targets, proposed measures for ongoing assessments, and the necessary financial and staffing resources.*

*This plan should involve and support families throughout the process.*

*Council demands immediate action and insists on a collaborative effort among the Minister for Health, Minister for Education, and Minister for Finance, together with key stakeholders to develop a detailed report on the business case and action plan, including a clear implementation timeline, within this mandate period to immediately address and resolve the existing backlog.*

*Council will seek collaboration from ALL NI councils to support this call pledging to facilitate and support the development of the business case and action plan.*

*I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.*

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council consider the correspondence.

Councillor Schenning proposed that Council support this call pledging to facilitate and support the development of the business case and action plan for autism assessments.

Alderman Fielding stated that the waiting times for autism assessments in Northern Ireland are unacceptable but that he takes exception to this jurisdiction constantly being referred to as “the North of Ireland”.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

**RESOLVED** – That Council support this call pledging to facilitate and support the development of the business case and action plan for autism assessments.

iv) **Martina Moore, Department of Health, ICS NI – Request for local Government representatives to be members of Area Integrated Partnership Boards, 29th July 2024**

**Extract**

*You will be aware of the work underway on the development and implementation of the Integrated Care System for Northern Ireland (ICS NI).*

*As outlined in our correspondence of 28 June, it has been agreed that council representation on AIPBs will be undertaken by local councillors. I am therefore writing to advise that the Department of Health is now seeking to secure one local government representative from each relevant council within each shadow AIPB area. This process is being undertaken to identify local councillors for all five shadow AIPB areas, regardless of the phased timing of their establishment. The Department is seeking a single councillor nomination from each relevant Council in the AIPB area, as shown below:*

**Belfast AIPB** – Belfast City Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

**Northern AIPB** – Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Causeway Coast and Glens District Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council.

**South Eastern AIPB** – Ards and North Down Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

**Southern AIPB** – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

**Western AIPB** – Causeway Coast and Glens District Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

*The attached information pack provides further detail for prospective applicants on the expression of interest process, and applications can be completed online via the following link: ICS NI - Area Integrated Partnership Boards - Local Government representative - Expression of Interest - NI Direct - Citizen Space.*

*Hard copies of the application form and equality monitoring form can be provided on request by contacting [aipb@hscni.net](mailto:aipb@hscni.net)*

*Applications must be submitted by 5pm on 23 August 2024 and will be considered by a panel consisting of representation from the Department, NILGA, and an independent lay person.*

*I would be grateful if you could arrange for the attached information to be circulated amongst your Council members.*

*Thank you for your assistance in this matter and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council consider the correspondence.

The Chief Executive advised Members that because this Council straddles two Health Trusts, an elected member is sought for the Northern Area Integrated Partnership Board (AIPB) and another for the Western AIPB. He further advised that applications are required to be completed for these appointments, and that the deadline for applications has been pushed back to 8 September.

The Chief Executive advised that the procedure previously used for external appointments has been rolling D'Hondt and that Councillors should advise if this is the method that they wish to use. He noted that, under this procedure, the next pick would be the Democratic Unionist Party, and the following pick would be Sinn Féin.

Alderman Fielding stated that he was pleased that elected representatives were going on these boards to increase accountability.

Proposed by Alderman Fielding  
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

**RESOLVED** – That Council use the rolling D'Hondt list for external appointments to allocate the picks for membership of the Northern Area Integrated Partnership Board and the Western Area Integrated Partnership Board.

The Chief Executive advised that Democratic Services would follow up with the two Parties to get their nominations.

### **v) Gary Curran, Director Engineering & Sustainability, NI Water, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

#### **Extract**

*Re: NI Water Economic Constraints*

*We are writing to inform you that NI Water has received its budget allocation for the 2024/25 financial year, together with an indication of a likely capital budget*

*through to 2026/27 and beyond. The current budget allocation means there is limited ability to increase capacity to accommodate new connections in areas that are currently constrained by a lack of wastewater capacity.*

*Based upon enquiries from customers and discussions with stakeholders, NI Water are aware of approximately 37,000 units across Northern Ireland that may want to connect to the wastewater system over the next number of years. We have completed an assessment of the 37,000 units and estimate that approaching 18,000 units may still be able to connect to the wastewater system, with the majority requiring a developer funded zero detriment solution such as storm water offsetting, as long as this option remains viable.*

*The remaining 19,000 units are constrained by existing NI Water assets that are currently high polluting. These units are also currently outside the scope of developer funded solutions and would require a full capital upgrade before further new connections can be made to the wastewater system. These units include homes in private and social ownership schemes, commercial and public buildings. The current budget allocation means that at present, NI Water will not be able to make the necessary investments to enable connections for these units. In a scenario where NI Water's PC21 programme was fully funded, it would still only be possible to address 4,500 of these 19,000 units, as the solution to the capacity constraints will take several fully funded Price Control periods to resolve.*

*Northern Ireland Water is a trademark of Northern Ireland Water Limited, incorporated in Northern Ireland, Registered Number: NI054463, Registered Office: Westland House, Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE. I appreciate this information will be unwelcome, and NI Water are aware that this may have implications not only for planning applications that are currently within the system but may also impact the Council aspirations within your Local Development Plan.*

*However, we would like to take this opportunity to inform the Council of the communications that are taking place. Currently Senior Managers within NI Water Developer Services are engaging with the top 20 key developers whose development proposals will be most impacted by these constraints and the communications will shortly be rolled out to smaller developers as well as developers' agents.*

*We will continue to work closely with the Council Planning and LDP teams to provide the Council with as much information as possible regarding these constraints and the effect on proposed investments.*

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council consider the correspondence.

Councillor Storey stated that he was alarmed by this item of correspondence, as housing provision is an issue in this Borough and he is concerned that the letter from

NI Water means that no houses will be built. He stated that there is a crisis in how NI Water operates and that Council needs to tell the Executive to get their priorities right, so that they can address the needs of our rural and urban communities in respect of infrastructure. He proposed that Council write to the Infrastructure Minister and the Communities Minister to ask what action is being taken in respect of this situation to ensure that constituents' needs are met.

The Chief Executive noted that, if agreed, the correspondence would also go to the Planning Committee. He advised that Council had replied at official level, highlighting extreme concerns around the impact of this.

Proposed by Councillor Storey  
Seconded by Alderman John McAuley and

**RESOLVED** – That Council write to the Infrastructure Minister and the Communities Minister to ask what action is being taken in respect of the NI Water Economic Constraints to ensure that constituents' needs are met.

Councillor McShane proposed that this matter be brought to the 18 September meeting of the Partnership Panel, as she noted that these infrastructure issues impact on all Council areas and are slowing down housing development and causing issues in respect of securing mortgages.

The Chief Executive advised that NILGA, who provide the administration for the Partnership Panel, are due to have a meeting of their Executive in Cloonavin on Friday, and that if Council were to agree this proposal, he could take that opportunity to advise them that it will be brought to the September meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McShane  
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

**RESOLVED** – That Council bring the matter of NI Water Economic Constraints to the next meeting of the Partnership Panel in respect of its impact on constituents and housing provision.

## 9. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Consultation schedule, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chief Executive.

### Open Consultations

- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Consultation on proposals to revise marine licensing fees submission date 3 September 2024

- Foras Na Gaeilge Strategic Direction – Consultation process submission date 6 September 2024
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Review of the list of bodies and persons set out in the Schedule to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 submission date 13 September 2024
- Department for Infrastructure Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) Consultation – Changing the exhaust emissions test for light vehicles with a modern diesel engine submission date 18 September 2024
- The Executive Office Consultation on proposals to inform the legislation to establish a statutory Inquiry and Redress Scheme for those affected by Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries, Workhouses and their pathways and practices submission date 19 September 2024
- Department of Education School Uniform Consultation submission date 27 September 2024
- Department for the Economy Consultation on Domestic Abuse Safe Leave submission date 27 September 2024
- The Department of Health Policy Proposals to inform the development of a new Public Health Bill for Northern Ireland submission date 27 September 2024
- Department for Communities Consultation on changes to Child Maintenance enforcement and collection submission date 29 September 2024
- Department for the Economy The `Good Jobs` Employment Rights Bill submission date 30 September 2024
- Department for Communities Consultation on The Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 submission date 30 September 2024
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive Consultation on NIHE Draft Community Safety Strategy 2025-2030 submission date 30 September 2024
- Department for the Economy Proposal to integrate additional disability support within our programmes at Entry Level and Level 1 submission date 11 October 2024
- Department of Health Introduction of Safe and Effective Staffing legislation for Northern Ireland submission date 14 October 2024

Available to View -

- Department of Finance Equality Screening form completed in respect of the Civil Service Pensions Systems Project
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council We Asked, You Said, We Did Feedback on Equality & Disability Action Plans (2024-2027)
- Department for Communities Section 75 Screening Report - 01 April - 30 June 2024
- Department of Finance Equality Screening - AO Competitions - prerecorded interviews



**RESOLVED** – that Council note the Consultation Schedule.

## 10. SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, No's 5813 to 5829 inclusive;
- (ii) Licence Agreement For temporary use of Council lands and premises In connection with Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series – Ballycastle 2024 – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Red Bull GMBH (Ref L&P SC240605/CP&R 240625/CM 240627) (Retrospective)

Proposed by Alderman Hunter  
Seconded by Councillor Kane and

**RESOLVED** – that the Sealing of documents, as listed, be approved (Items i-ii).

## 11. THE FUTURE OF THE MEN'S SHEDS

Councillor McGurk noted that Members from the Limavady and Benbradagh District Electoral Areas (DEAs) will have received correspondence from Catherine Taylor of the 'Be Safe Be Well' Men's Shed. She advised that the National Lottery had rejected the group's funding application, which has resulted in a major gap in their funding. She stated that the project runs five Men's Sheds across the Limavady and Benbradagh DEAs, with 178 members currently. The groups are involved in social prescribing and supporting people with mental health issues, as they provide a safe space for men to get social contact and support. She noted that the groups do a lot of important work that cannot be facilitated by the health service currently. Losing funding at short notice has meant the groups have not had a chance to research alternative funding sources. She noted that the group had requested a short-term loan from Council, but that Council could not facilitate that, due to its own financial situation and concern that it may create a precedent.

Councillor McGurk asked that Council support the group to identify short-term funding sources, which would allow them to find long-term funding for the project. She asked that Council facilitate a meeting between the 'Be Safe Be Well' Men's Shed team and key members of Council staff, including the Chief Executive, the Funding Manager and the Community Planning manager, to try to identify short-term funding to cover core costs.

The Chief Executive stated that he would be happy to facilitate that meeting if it were agreed by Members, and suggested that the Community Development Head of Service also be invited. He noted that Community Finance Ireland can provide short-term loans.

Councillor Kane stated that he agreed with Councillor McGurk and recognised the great work of the Men's Sheds. He noted that a lack of funding is an issue across the wider community and voluntary sector. He stated that Council should have a more strategic think, particularly going into the Rates setting process for next year, regarding how it is supporting the community and voluntary sector across the Borough.

Alderman Coyle declared an interest in the Ballykelly Men's Shed. He stated that he is happy to support the proposal, and acknowledged the importance of the work of Men's Sheds in respect of supporting men who struggle with mental health issues. He noted that while the work of the 'Be Safe Be Well' Men's Shed is important, other Men's Shed and similar groups should be included in the meeting.

Alderman Scott suggested that this matter should be brought to the Partnership Panel. He stated that if the Department of Health refers people to the Men's Sheds, it should provide finance to support the service. The proposer and seconder indicated that they were content to include this in their proposal.

Councillor McShane stated that there are a number of Men's Sheds and similar groups across the Borough. She said that it is a false economy to cut their funding, given the benefits of the service. She agreed that the matter should be raised at the Partnership Panel. She stated that she had recently attended an event at Limepark in Armoynagh which demonstrated the benefits of these services.

Councillor Storey agreed with Councillor Coyle that the meeting should include representatives from all groups in the Borough that fall within the same remit as the Men's Shed. He noted that this matter relates to the invitation to participate in the Area Integrated Partnership Boards, as integration should involve being listened to when decisions are being made.

Councillor Callaghan noted that there is fantastic work being done by the Armoynagh group, the Portstewart group and other groups such as 'Ashes to Gold'. He stated that this proposal should not open the door to Council handing out money, but he hoped that funding could be found for the group.

Councillor Watton stated that the Men's Sheds mean a lot to their service users and are a lifesaver for some.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk

Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

**RESOLVED** – That Council facilitate a meeting between key staff in Council and representatives of all Men’s Sheds and equivalent groups in the Borough to discuss funding options, and that Council bring the issue of Men’s Shed funding to the Partnership Panel.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.36 PM.

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Mayor

UNCONFIRMED