

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>Alderman John McAuley, Councillors Holmes, Kyle</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17th September 2024	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
4.	Ballycastle Environmental Improvement Scheme	<i>to recommend that Council approve the final concept designs for Ballycastle EIS (Annex A) to progress to construction phase - subject to Business Case approval and available funding from DfC and Council; that Council approve option 3.</i>
5.	Benbradagh Masterplan	<i>to recommend that Council approve the 10-year Benbradagh Masterplan. Further update reports will be brought to Committee at key milestones in the delivery of the Masterplan.</i>
6.	Small Settlement Regeneration Programme Update	<i>to recommend that Council approve option 2, to remove Gortnaghey from the SSRP and divert the funds to a new project at Clyde Park, Garvagh and to reinstate the Dungiven</i>

		<i>Priority Project. This will ensure all the SSRP funds are fully utilised.</i>
7.	Memorial Policy Working Group	<i>to recommend to Council that a) A Council Memorial Advisory Group Panel is established, based upon the principles outlined in this report and as such members are therefore requested to nominate one representative per party to participate in Council's Memorial Advisory Group. b) The draft Terms of Reference is recommended for council approval.</i>
8.	Destination Management Strategy	<i>to recommend to Council that: • Officers initiate the process for the preparation and development of a Destination Management Strategy for the period 2025-2035. • As detailed in Annex A, to proceed with procurement for specialist resource to assist in the development of the Destination Management Strategy. Appointment will be subject to the 2025/2026 rates setting process.</i>
9.	Sperrins Partnership Project	<i>Noted</i>
10.	Leisure & Development 6 Month Performance Update	<i>Noted</i>
11.	Correspondence	<i>to recommend to Council to agree to host the Pipe Band Championships in August</i>

		2025 and a report brought back with how Council can support the Pipe Band Championships, pending further discussions.
12.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	As detailed at Item 4 – Ballycastle Environmental Improvement Scheme - There should not be a one size fits all to Councils, in terms of this scheme, that given Councils like Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council who are less affluent, there should be a sliding scale in terms of costs applied onto Councils.
13.	Consultations	Nil
	Confidential Consideration (Items 14 – 17 inclusive)	
14.	Growth Deal Executive Programme Board Minutes	Noted
15.	Ballycastle Museum Project	to recommend that Council provides approval for officers to further investigate the feasibility of pursuing option C to restore the existing museum building, purchase the neighbouring building at no.57 Castle Street and extend the museum on this basis.
16.	Ballyreagh Golf Project	to recommend that Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the high-level project vision and objectives as set out in the prospectus at Annex A. • Agree that officers progress a business case for

		<p>the capital works options to potentially include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new club house • a new grounds maintenance facility; and • course improvements, to include the items detailed above. • Agree the reallocation of budget to this project development work as follows: 2024/25 £50k 2025/26 £50k (subject to 2025/26 budget approval)
17.	Strand Road Portstewart – Status Investigation Update	<p>to recommend that Council agree to Option 2 - attempts to seek further evidence to address the inconclusive nature of the evidence gathered to date. If such evidence is forthcoming this will be assessed in an effort to clarify the position with respect to the status of the route.</p>
18.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	
18.1	DfE Sub Regional Economic Plan for council and review of the current Economic Advisory Group (Alderman Callan)	Information
18.2	The Open 2025 (Alderman Callan)	Information
18.3	Ulster University Campus Strategy (Alderman Callan)	Information
18.4	Hall hire at J.D.L.C. (Councillor Jonathan McAuley)	Information
18.5	Thrive initiative (Councillor Jonathan McAuley)	Information

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON TUESDAY 15
OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McGurk (C)

Members Present: Alderman Callan (C), Stewart (C);
Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (C), Bateson (R),
Huggins (C), Kennedy (C), Jonathan McAuley (C),
McCully (C), McShane (R), Schenning (R), Stirling (C),
Watson (C), Wilson (C), Wisener (C)

Officers Present: P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (C)
R Gillen, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
N Harkness, SIB Project Officer (R)
Dr N Wright, Museum Services Community Engagement Officer (R)
K McGonigle, Destination Manager (R)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

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

Substitutions: Councillor Huggins substituted for Alderman John McAuley.
Councillor Jonathan McAuley substituted for Councillor Kyle.
Councillor Wilson substituted for Councillor Holmes.

Press 4 no. (R)

Public 1 no. (R)

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

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman John McAuley, Councillor Holmes, Councillor Kyle.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

Summary previously circulated.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 September 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. BALLYCASTLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to move to Stage Two of Ballycastle Environmental Improvement Scheme (EIS).

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background
- Scheme Design
- Public Consultation
- Costs

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the final concept designs for Ballycastle EIS (Annex A) to progress to construction phase - subject to Business Case approval and available funding from DfC and Council.

In response to questions from Councillor Kennedy the Head of Prosperity and Place confirmed there are a variety of options about what materials are used throughout the scheme and Council will ensure the material used will be adopted by the Department for Infrastructure. The Head of Prosperity and Place clarified the budget for the road surfacing is the responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure.

Councillor Kennedy stated he was happy to propose Option 3 – that Council continue with that. Alderman Callan seconded Councillor Kennedy's proposal.

In response to questions from Alderman Callan the Head of Prosperity and Place advised there is an anomaly on the front page of the report where it states 100% of the funding will be provided by the Department for Communities. The Head of Prosperity and Place explained the report was written at the beginning of September when it was anticipated the Department for Communities would provide all the funding but he has subsequently been told that Council will have to provide a contribution of between 5% - 20%. The Head of Prosperity and Place advised he does not know the amount Council will be expected to contribute, he will advise Elected Members once this information has been provided and there will not be any progress made without Elected Member approval. The Head of Prosperity and Place advised that a strong case is being made to show what Council has already committed to this scheme, in terms of time, staff effort and resources and financial contributions towards Stage 1. The Head of Prosperity and Place advised Council has not been provided with a timeframe of when it will be told how much Council will have to contribute.

Alderman Callan stated this is a matter for the Partnership Panel, that there should not be a *one size fits all* to Councils in terms of this scheme, that given Councils like Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council who are less affluent, there should be a sliding scale in terms of costs applied onto Councils, especially east of the Bann. Alderman Callan advised that it should be the same as the Rates Support Grant and be an argument that Council need to make when it comes to any capital money or cuts that are coming down the line.

Councillor McShane welcomed this scheme being progressed in Ballycastle. Councillor McShane commented on the road closures due to the poor state of repair of the Antrim Arms and the potential to impact on public safety and stated that it needed to be made clear this building is in private ownership. Councillor McShane queried if The Diamond area is being future proofed to be an event space, the model used for vehicular access and if further consultation is going to occur.

In response to questions, the Head of Prosperity and Place confirmed the cobble stone and the flow of traffic were the two main areas of concern for a certain demographic within the area. He advised this has been addressed by introducing granite stone in The Diamond area and the cobbled stones are a feature that will be seen in the seating and tree planted area. The Head of Prosperity and Place advised that, in terms of the proposed option 3, the size of The Diamond is now 40% bigger and is set up for providing an event space. In terms of vehicular access there were various models used which included the prospect of larger vehicles going in both directions. The Head of Prosperity and Place advised that the current consultation process was now complete and MAG have signed off on it, content that Council have gone above and beyond what was expected. The next form of consultation will be through the Planning process, members of the public

and businesses will have further opportunity for input. The Head of Prosperity and Place advised the materials used will be similar to what was used in Kerr Street, Portrush, the materials have been through a series of tests for durability, cleanliness and slip hazards and the materials have come out top in these tests in terms of Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure approvals.

Proposed by Councillor Kennedy
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the final concept designs for Ballycastle EIS (Annex A) to progress to construction phase - subject to Business Case approval and available funding from DfC and Council; that Council approve option 3.

5. BENBRADAGH MASTERPLAN

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for the new 10-year Benbradagh Masterplan.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background

Recommendations

It is recommended that Leisure and Development Committee approve the 10-year Benbradagh Masterplan.

Further update reports will be brought to Committee at key milestones in the delivery of the Masterplan.

The Chair welcomed the document and stated the consultation in Dungiven was well attended.

Proposed by Councillor N Archibald
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the 10-year Benbradagh Masterplan.

Further update reports will be brought to Committee at key milestones in the delivery of the Masterplan.

6. SMALL SETTLEMENT REGENERATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme (SSRP) progress to date, and to seek approval for the reallocation of funds.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background
- Small Settlements Regeneration Programme Progress
- Current Position
- Programme Costs

Options

Options for Members consideration are as follows:

Option 1 – Do nothing - Continue to pursue the Licence Agreements in Gortnaghey albeit with the risk of having to return circa £238,000 of unspent SSRP funding to the Department for Infrastructure should the Licence Agreements not be forthcoming.

Option 2 – Approve the Steering Group recommendation to remove Gortnaghey from SSRP and divert the funding into the Dungiven Priory Path (£125,000) and Garvagh Clyde Park Stage 2 (£113,000) projects. This would ensure that £238,000 SSRP funds would not be returned to Department for Infrastructure.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approve option 2, to remove Gortnaghey from the SSRP and divert the funds to a new project at Clyde Park, Garvagh and to reinstate the Dungiven Priory Project. This will ensure all the SSRP funds are fully utilised.

Alderman Callan stated that it was good to see the project on the capital projects list and that it is prudent to go with Option 2.

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Huggins and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve option 2, to remove Gortnaghey from the SSRP and divert the funds to a new project at Clyde Park, Garvagh and to reinstate the Dungiven Priory Project. This will ensure all the SSRP funds are fully utilised.

7. MEMORIAL POLICY WORKING GROUP

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

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to request that a Memorial Advisory Group is established as a result of Council's ratification of the Memorial Policy and that the draft Terms of Reference contained within the report is recommended to full Council for approval.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Project Background

Proposal

All applications for assistance relating to both public memorials and commemorative name changes will be scored against the agreed criteria contained within the policy.

Support to fund the erection of a public memorial on Council property by a third party,

- Support to third parties to utilise council land to erect/site a public memorial.
- Support to fund a public memorial in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area on land not in Council's ownership.
- Request for Council to lead on and fund a public memorial.
- Request for a public commemorative name (change) on a property owned by council.

In terms of implementing the Policy, it is necessary to establish a Council Memorial Advisory Group. The Policy states that Council will form a group which will consist of cross-party Elected Members & senior management which will follow the process as set out within Annex A (circulated).

The role of the Advisory Group will be to assess reports prepared by appropriate lead officer(s) against the agreed criteria and make recommendations which will be subject to approval by the Council through the relevant committee. The Group will ensure that the process used to assess applications is fair, objective and equitable, aligned to the Council's wider strategic and corporate objectives.

A draft Terms of Reference for the advisory group are attached in Annex B for consideration (circulated).

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- a) A Council Memorial Advisory Group Panel is established, based upon the principles outlined in this report and as such members are therefore requested

to nominate one representative per party to participate in Council's Memorial Advisory Group.

b) The draft Terms of Reference is recommended for council approval.

In response to questions, the Head of Community and Culture advised that submissions for a memorial that have already been received will be considered under the policy and in order to provide consistency.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Councillor Huggins and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve that

a) A Council Memorial Advisory Group Panel is established, based upon the principles outlined in this report and as such members are therefore requested to nominate one representative per party to participate in Council's Memorial Advisory Group; and

b) The draft Terms of Reference is recommended for council approval.

8. DESTINATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek Elected Members approval to initiate work on the development of a 10 year Destination Management Strategy for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. The Report also seeks Council approval to procure external expertise to assist Council Officers in the preparation of the Strategy.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background
- Remit/Scope
- Need for Destination Management Strategy
- Management Plan Expectations/Outputs
- Next Steps
- Budget

Recommendation

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

- Officers initiate the process for the preparation and development of a Destination Management Strategy for the period 2025-2035.

- As detailed in Annex A, to proceed with procurement for specialist resource to assist in the development of the Destination Management Strategy. Appointment will be subject to the 2025/2026 rates setting process.

In response to questions, the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that engaging with Ulster University is in the plan, the budget is the estimate required to complete the project and will not be used entirely in engaging private consultants, that a lot can be completed within Council. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised the timeframe for delivery realistically is 2026, assuming that work starts in the next couple of months. The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised there are several mechanisms that can be used to monitor success. Oversight will sit with Tourism and Recreation, stakeholders and statutory organisations will be involved, there will be annual review meetings and governance mechanisms in place.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve that:

- Officers initiate the process for the preparation and development of a Destination Management Strategy for the period 2025-2035.
- As detailed in Annex A, to proceed with procurement for specialist resource to assist in the development of the Destination Management Strategy. Appointment will be subject to the 2025/2026 rates setting process.

9. SPERRINS PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Elected Members that the Sperrins AONB consultation report, findings and next steps are due for publication on 14 November 2024.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background
- Sperrin AONB Consultation – Report Findings and Next Steps

Members will be kept updated on the next steps and progressing the development of the Sperrin AONB Management Plan.

Members are asked to note the content of this report. The AONB Consultation Report will be forwarded to all Elected Members for information after the 14 November 2024.

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report

10. LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT 6 MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the 6 month progress review of the 2024/2025 Leisure and Development Business Plans.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background
- The Purpose of the Plans
- Financial Position at Period 5
- Service Area Budgets
- 6 Month Business Plan Review
- Infographics showing achievements over the last 6 months

Leisure and Development Committee NOTED the report.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

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

The following items are listed:

Correspondence from the The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Northern Ireland Branch (Dated 22 July 2024)

Extract

On behalf of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Northern Ireland Branch (RSPBANI), I wish to confirm our intentions for a Pipe Band & Drum Majors Championship returning to Portrush in 2025.

After having a site meeting and viewing potential spaces, it was agreed the most suitable venue for a Pipe Band Championship is the West Strand, Portrush.

The RSPBANI would like to set a date of Saturday 2 August 2025 and potentially going forward with the first Saturday in August in future years.

The RSPBANI would like to work in partnership with the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council through a sponsorship agreement, to setup, host and manage

this prestigious event.

Members are asked to note the contents of the correspondence

Alderman Callan spoke in support of the Pipe Band Championship returning to Portrush and the intention to return in future years.

Alderman Stewart stated the Pipe Band Championships are one of the biggest events in Portrush and its return will be welcomed by local businesses.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

AGREED – to recommend that Council host the Pipe Band Championships in August 2025 and a report brought back with how Council can support the Championships pending further discussions.

12. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

A matter to report to the Partnership Panel was raised under Minute Item 4 – *Ballycastle Environmental Improvement Scheme.*

13. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Watson and

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

* **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 7:50pm**

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

14. GROWTH DEAL EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME BOARD MINUTES

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

The notes were confidential by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Committee noted the Growth Deal Executive Programme Board Minutes.

15. BALLYCASTLE MUSEUM PROJECT

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

The report was confidential by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Ballycastle Museum project, and options for council to consider in order to progress the scheme.

Options

Option A

Existing building restoration and new build rear extension.

Option B

Existing building restoration only.

Option C

Existing building restoration and extension into adjoining building.

Recommendation

That council provides approval for officers to further investigate the feasibility of pursuing option C to restore the existing museum building, purchase the neighbouring building at no.57 Castle Street and extend the museum on this basis.

Councillor Kennedy stated that when the ramifications are considered it makes sense to go with Option 3 and proposed that Council proceed with Option 3. It will also provide wider street frontage which would be beneficial.

Alderman Callan seconded the proposal and spoke in support of developing the museum and stated it would be good to see a museum in Coleraine.

Councillor McShane spoke in support of developing the museum, that it was great in the context of the estates strategy in Ballycastle and commented on the possibility of having a civic presence in the museum.

In response to comments the Director of Leisure and Development advised that the Chief Executive is looking at what staff is in each civic building and a report will be presented to Elected Members in due course.

Councillor Wilson stated that he supported taking this project forward initially but cannot support the proposal made tonight nor would he make an amendment due to the support the proposal has received. Councillor Wilson expressed concern about the cost of the project and stated that Option 2 would be the more viable option and suspects this is the option the Lottery Heritage Fund would sign up to.

Alderman Callan stated Option 3 is the most beneficial option going forward, there is lower Council input, includes National Lottery input and addresses the storage issue.

Councillor McShane stated that Officers have done a brilliant job getting things to where they are now in relation to this project. There should be no surprise to Elected Members regarding the Sheskburn site everyone is in agreement to the Causeway Connections Growth Deal project. The estates strategy needs to be discussed.

Councillor Wilson felt he explained himself well and reiterated his concern regarding this project not working out and the Lottery Heritage Fund not agreeing to further funding.

Proposed by Councillor Kennedy
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council provides approval for officers to further investigate the feasibility of pursuing option C to restore the existing museum building, purchase the neighbouring building at no.57 Castle Street and extend the museum on this basis.

16. BALLYREAGH GOLF PROJECT

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

The report was confidential by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to request Members approval for expenditure of c. £100k on the appointment of suitable technical experts to support the development of a business case for the redevelopment of Ballyreagh Golf Course.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

Approve the high-level project vision and objectives as set out in the prospectus at Annex A.

Agree that officers progress a business case for the capital works options to potentially include:

- a new club house
- a new grounds maintenance facility; and
- course improvements, to include the items detailed above.
- Agree the reallocation of budget to this project development work as follows:

2024/25	£50k
2025/26	£50k (subject to 2025/26 budget approval)

In response to questions, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised there is a R&A Legacy Fund in place, she is keen to promote the potential for Ballyreagh Golf Club and permission is required to present to R&A. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed the income and expenditure for Ballyreagh Golf Club.

In response to questions, the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that Council are considering options for Benone and will come back to Committee with detail on the progress.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that Council

- Approve the high-level project vision and objectives as set out in the prospectus at Annex A.
- Agree that officers progress a business case for the capital works options to potentially include:
 - a new club house
 - a new grounds maintenance facility; and
 - course improvements, to include the items detailed above.
 - Agree the reallocation of budget to this project development work as follows:

2024/25	£50k
2025/26	£50k (subject to 2025/26 budget approval)

17. STRAND ROAD PORTSTEWART – STATUS INVESTIGATION UPDATE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the findings of the Status Investigation Report completed as part of the investigation into the existence of an alleged Public Right of Way between Strand Road and the coastal path, Portstewart.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Background
- Status Investigation Report

Options

Option 1 - Council does not progress the investigation further as the completed Status Investigation Report satisfies the statutory obligation to investigate. The evidence provided to date is considered inconclusive and therefore Council is not in a position to assert a Public Right of Way.

Option 2 – Council attempts to seek further evidence to address the inconclusive nature of the evidence gathered to date. If such evidence is forthcoming this will be assessed in an effort to clarify the position with respect to the status of the route.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to agree to Option 2 - Council attempts to seek further evidence to address the inconclusive nature of the evidence gathered to date. If such evidence is forthcoming this will be assessed in an effort to clarify the position with respect to the status of the route.

Councillor McCully expressed disappointment in the legal opinion and proposed that Option 2 is approved.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council agree to Option 2 - attempts to seek further evidence to address the inconclusive nature of the evidence gathered to date. If such evidence is forthcoming this will be assessed in an effort to clarify the position with respect to the status of the route.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Watson
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

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

The meeting moved '*In Public*' at 8:38pm

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

18.1 DfE Sub Regional Economic Plan for council and review of the current Economic Advisory Group (Alderman Callan)

Can the Director give an outline of the impact of the DfE Sub Regional Economic Plan for council and review of the current Economic Advisory Group to meet the requirements for this plan

The Director of Leisure and Development advised she has an extensive response from the Head of Prosperity and Place that she would forward to Alderman Callan. The Director of Leisure and Development advised she attended a joint Department for the Economy (DfE) and Invest NI workshop in relation to the codesign of the response to DfE Subregional Plan which has been launched by the Minister of DfE. Each of the 11 Councils are being asked to form a local economic partnership and will be paid to provide a secretariat service, part of that process will be working with local stakeholders and partner organisations to develop priorities for delivery over the 3 year period. DfE has agreed there will be £45m set aside over the 3 year period for the development of this. The Director of Leisure and Development stated Council are advanced in meeting the requirements, Council has been working with the Economic Advisory Group to develop Councils key priorities for this area, these will be presented again to DfE and Invest NI. The Director of Leisure and Development stated there will be guidelines developed by DfE for the partnership and advised she did not envisage any obstacles for what is already in place.

Alderman Callan stated that Elected Members need to be engaged with the Economic Advisory Group going forward in order to fit in with the Minister of Economy's Sub Regional Plan.

18.2 The Open 2025 (Alderman Callan)

Update on the proposed programme of work for the 2025 Open

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Council continue to work with key stakeholders and key work streams have been initiated including the business engagement and development working group, town animation and branding, the contingency sub group and the traffic and transport work stream. She advised Local communications, PR and town presentation are still to be initiated. The Director of Leisure and Development advised Councils key focus is what happens “outside the ropes”, as it is the responsibility of R&A in terms of what happens on the course, Environmental Services will also be involved inside the ropes. Council Officers are engaging with the multi agency Gold and Silver groups. Key roles for Council are to ensure it is overall a positive experience for everyone involved, to create significant economic impact, reinforce the principle that the area can host major events and to reinforce the perception that the area is a good place to work, live, visit and invest in and to showcase sport as a means to stimulate an active lifestyle. The Director of Leisure and Development stated Council Officers will be bringing forward a report towards the end of the year to provide more detail on the plans for The Open 2025.

18.3 Ulster University Campus Strategy

Can the Director provide an update on engagement with Ulster University on the campus strategy for Coleraine

The Director of Leisure and Development advised the Vice Chancellor, Ulster University Coleraine Campus will present at the Council meeting in January 2025 to provide an update on plans for the University site going forward. The Director of Leisure and Development suggested to a member of the Senior Management Team that Elected Members are invited for a tour of the University campus. Ulster University are part of the Economic Advisory Group and are aware of Elected Members concern about numbers of students at the university.

Alderman Callan stated it would be good to see a report come forward in relation to The Open in 2025 and to have this is a standing item on the Agenda and the Engagement Officer can provide regular updates.

In relation to Ulster University, Alderman Callan stated that Council need to be strong on what Council feels is important for the Coleraine campus, to see plans to increase student numbers and the future plans for the campus. Ulster University is an employer and a huge ratepayer and Council need to see them thriving, there needs to be an ongoing engagement with the University.

18.4 Hall Hire at JDLC (Councillor Jonathan McAuley)

I would like to know why people need insurance and a risk assessment for hiring the main hall at the JDLC for sports activities when a birthday party group does not need this

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that standard bookings such as birthday parties do not require risk assessments or insurance but some activities being delivered by an external body may require additional documentation due to the nature of the activity.

Councillor McAuley provided further detail regarding a community group wishing to use the hall for football to bring young people off the street.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that for football, insurance and risk assessment would not be needed and asked Councillor McAuley to provide contact details for the community group to follow up.

18.5 Thrive Initiative

With regards to the thrive initiative can we look at including children who are from the one family but reside at a different address due to marriage break ups etc.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that any adaptation to Thrive scheme could be considered to take account of family circumstances. Any changes that may occur need to be brought to Elected Members for consideration and be part of 2025/26 Rate Setting process.

Councillor McAuley expressed concern regarding the cost of the current arrangements regarding family memberships.

Discussion ensued around the number of children who could be included in the family membership.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing stated there is need to confirm the number of children in the household and asked Councillor McAuley to pass on detail to look into and stated there needs to be evidence the child resides within the house.

The Director of Leisure and Development stated Council are taking a more commercial approach to membership in the Leisure Centres and this needs to be kept in mind for the future. The Director of Leisure and Development clarified that consideration can be given to the policy on memberships to give consideration to differing family circumstances.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8:56pm.

Chair

UNCONFIRMED