

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 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>Councillor Holmes and Schenning</b>
<b>3.</b>	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2021 (business transacted)	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>4.</b>	Any Other Relevant Business Notified In accordance with Standing Order 12 (o)	
<b>4.1</b>	Waterfoot (Councillor McMullan)	<b>Update from Head of Tourism and Recreation</b>
<b>4.2</b>	Waterfoot (Councillor MA McKillop)	<b>Update from Head of Tourism and Recreation</b>
<b>4.3</b>	Ulster University (Councillor C McCaw)	<b>Update from Head of Community and Culture</b>
<b>5.</b>	Community & Culture Grants Programme	<b>Approve awards for funding through the sustainable Food &amp; Essential Grant Programme and Community Festivals Fund as detailed</b>
<b>6.</b>	Town Centre Experience Fund	<b>Approve award Town Centre Experience Funding to the applicants listed for the maximum grant of £4000 each totalling £24,000</b>

7.	Scroggy Road Maintenance Works	<b>Approve the expenditure of £15k to replace the existing gas boilers at Scroggy Road Changing Facilities in Limavady.</b>
8.	Age Friendly Alliance	<b>Recommend Option 2 to allocate 5 members to the Age-Friendly Alliance through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee.</b>
9.	Leisure & Development 6-month Performance Review	<b>Information</b>
10.	Correspondence	<b>None</b>
11.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<b>Write to the Department of Communities to ask why the Community Festivals Fund Grant monies were not available earlier in the year.</b>
12.	Consultations	
12.1	DAERA Consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland	<b>Noted</b>
	<b>'IN COMMITTEE' (Items 13-15)</b>	
13.	Covid Recovery Small Settlement Programme	<b>Approve Projects Themes A, B and C</b>
14.	Growth Deal Business Case Consultants Tender Report	<b>Approve the appointment of the Business Case Consultants Call-Off Contract list (section 4.0) to service the needs of the Growth Deal Programme</b>

<b>15.</b>	Leisure and Development 2022/23 Estimates	<b><i>Information</i></b>

UNCONFIRMED

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE HELD  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 18  
JANUARY 2022 AT 9.45 PM FOLLOWING THE RECONVENED LEISURE  
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING (ADJOURNED FROM 21  
DECEMBER 2021)**

- In the Chair:** Councillor McAuley (C)
- Members Present:** Alderman Baird (R), Duddy (C), Hillis (C),  
Knight McQuillan (R), Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson  
(R), Callan (R), Holmes (C), McCaw (R), MA McKillop  
(R), McQuillan (C), C McShane (R), Nicholl (R),  
Schenning (R), Watton (C)
- Officers Present:** R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)  
M Smyth, Director of Finance (Interim) (R)  
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)  
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)  
J Elliott, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)  
N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)  
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)  
P O'Brien, Unit Funding Manager (R)  
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R)  
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)  
S Duggan, Civic Support and Committee & Member  
Services Officer (R)  
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
- Non Committee  
Members  
In Attendance:** Alderman Boyle Item 4 (R), Councillors McMullan (R),  
McGurk (R), Wallace (R)
- In Attendance** A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (C)  
C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)
- Press 3 (no) (R)  
Public 1 (no) (R)
- Key:** (C) Attended in the Chamber  
(R) Attended Remotely

The Chair read the remote meetings protocol at the beginning of the meeting:

*Welcome to the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.*

*All those in attendance should be aware that the meeting will be audio recorded.*

*This includes when the meeting is in committee. The public session of the audio recording will be published on Council's website within 2 days of the meeting.*

*Elected Members are reminded that they are personally responsible for any comments that they make at the meeting.*

*Members of the press and public will be required to leave when the meeting goes into committee.*

*If anyone loses connection, please call the number which was sent to you by Democratic Services. The number can be found in the email with the meeting link sent yesterday.*

*Members, please use the chat facility if you wish to speak. For those in the Chamber, please wait until your microphone is switched on before speaking.*

*I would also remind all in attendance that the taking of photographs of proceedings or the recording of proceedings, other than by authorised officers, is prohibited.*

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

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that to facilitate a non-committee member wishing to speak that he would take Any Other Relevant Business as the first agenda item.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies recorded.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Holmes declared an interest in Item 6 – Town Centre Experience Fund.

Councillor Schenning declared an interest in Item 5 – Community and Culture Grants Programme.

Having declared an interest, members did not participate in the discussion or vote.

## 3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2021

Summary minute, previously circulated.

**AGREED** – to recommend that the minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, business transacted were confirmed as a correct record.

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

### 4.1 Waterfoot (Councillor McMullan)

*Could I have the serious erosion of the sand dunes on Waterfoot beach discussed?*

Councillor McMullan sent photos to the Director of Leisure and Development who agreed to share with Elected Members after the meeting. Councillor McMullan referred to urgent action which was required at the top part of the beach.

### 4.2 Waterfoot (Councillor MA McKillop)

*Could we action the Estates team to take immediate action to reinstate the chestnut palling and plant marron grass at the sand dunes at Waterfoot?*

Councillor MA McKillop referred to extensive damage which she had pointed out to the Coast and Countryside Officer.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop  
Seconded by Councillor C McShane and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council address issues as a matter of urgency.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation informed committee he had been in contact with the Coast and Countryside team last week and was aware of damage caused by high tides including damage to the caravan park. He stated meetings have taken place with Estates team and plans are in place to reinstate the pilings and replant the marron grass. At the request of Councillor McMullan the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised the timeline for this would be in the coming weeks.

#### **4.3 Ulster University (Councillor McCaw)**

*Who are Council Officers in contact with at the University of Ulster at Coleraine currently regarding the Riverside Theatre in order to progress this situation and receive information from the University Review at the end of January?*

As Alderman Boyle presented the item the Chair invited her to speak. Alderman Boyle provided background regarding her request stating that a delegation of Alliance party Councillors and MLA met with officials at Ulster University and had a useful meeting, however Ulster University declined her request of a further meeting involving Councillors from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. Alderman Boyle spoke of the importance of keeping lines of communication open and facilitating regular updates and asked whom the Council Officer was in terms of liaison.

Alderman Baird stated Ulster University was important to the borough and it was important for Council to support it.

The Head of Community and Culture advised the Arts Development Manager had attempted to set up meetings and was awaiting feedback; that she had been in communication with Gary Clarke regarding the non acceptance of Council grant and was waiting on a reply.

Councillor McQuillan asked why Council Officers were progressing the matter. The Head of Community and Culture advised that at the request of Council she had written to Ulster University and await a reply.

#### **5. COMMUNITY AND CULTURE GRANTS 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 two following grant programmes:

- i. Sustainable Food & Essential Supplies Grant Programme Round 2.
- ii. Community Festivals Fund Round 3.
- iii. And to provide recommendations in relation to grant awards to be made through the two programmes.

## Background

### Sustainable Food & Essential Supplies Grant Programme

The Sustainable Food & Essential Supplies Grant Programme, which was set up with DfC additional funding to support a more sustainable approach to addressing food poverty, opened for applications in September and £54,491 was awarded to 24 successful applicants. Since the budget hadn't been fully allocated Council agreed to open for a second round of applications. The grant programme was reopened for applications on 17<sup>th</sup> November with a closing date of 8<sup>th</sup> December and was promoted through Councils corporate social media and a mailout to all community and voluntary sector organisations on Councils register.

### Community Festivals Fund

The Community Festivals Fund was opened for two previous rounds of applications and an amount of £28,460 was awarded to 20 successful applicants by Leisure & Development Committee at meetings in September and November. Since the budget hadn't been fully allocated Council agreed to open for a third round of applications. The grant programme was reopened for applications on 25<sup>th</sup> November with a closing date of 10<sup>th</sup> December and was promoted through the usual channels.

## Applications Received

### Sustainable Food & Essential Supplies Grant Programme

Fifteen applications were received, and an assessment panel of Council Officers assessed the applications 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. Of the applications received, twelve scored in excess of the threshold and are recommended for funding as attached at Annex A, previously circulated.

### Community Festivals Fund

Three applications were received to the Community Festivals Fund and an assessment panel of Council Officers assessed the applications against the criteria. Of the three applications received, one scored in excess of the threshold and is recommended for funding as attached at Annex B, previously circulated.

Feedback will be provided by Council Officers to the unsuccessful applicants as well as any support required.



### Recommendation

Approve awards for funding through the Sustainable Food & Essential Supplies Grant Programme and Community Festivals Fund as detailed in Annex A and B, previously circulated.

Alderman Duddy expressed disappointed that some money had to be returned to Department for Communities and questioned why the money had not become earlier in the year, that it was unfortunate that two groups had been unsuccessful in obtaining grant funding.

At the request of Councillor Bateson the Head of Community and Culture provided an update on a specific grant application.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy  
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council approve awards for funding through the sustainable Food & Essential Grant Programme and Community Festivals Fund as detailed.

## **6. TOWN CENTRE EXPERIENCE FUND**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the level of applications and the outcome of the assessment panel decisions in respect of the Town Centre Experience Fund Pilot Programme 2021, and to seek Council's approval to issue letters of offer.

### Background:

The Town Centre Experience Fund was open for grants, up to a maximum of £4,000. The total Pilot Programme fund is £40,000. Groups of traders/town centre stakeholders were encouraged to work together to introduce new experiences, activities, marketing or event development for their respective town centre.

The Town Centre Experience Fund opened on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and closed at noon on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021, with expenditure to be completed and claimed by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This was promoted through Council's corporate social media and a mailout to all town centre organisations.

Initial Eligibility Criteria as follows:

- All applicants must be based within the town centres of Coleraine, Limavady, Ballymoney, Portrush, Portstewart. or, Ballycastle, or the village centres of Ballykelly, Bushmills, Cushendall, Dungiven, Garvagh or Kilrea.
- They must be actively trading commercially or a constituted organisation.

- The lead applicant must have a business bank (or other financial institution) account for the sole purpose of their business/organisation – i.e., separate from personal finances.
- Businesses / organisations may only make one or be involved in one application per year.

#### Pre-Application Support:

Guidelines were made available to all interested businesses and included full details in respect of levels of award, exclusions and assessment and scoring processes. (Annex A, previously circulated).

A named contact was also provided to potential applicants wishing to discuss their idea pre-application.

#### Applications Received

7 applications were received at closing time 12 noon, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Following eligibility checks through the funding unit, an assessment panel of Council Officers assessed the applications received against the criteria as stated in the Guidance Notes on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

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.

A summary of the assessment of the applications was previously circulated.

A list of the applications received, the assessment scores and the grant amount recommended were previously circulated.

The unsuccessful applicant will receive feedback from the Town & Village management team to support future successful applications to the Fund.

#### Recommendation

That Council agrees to award Town Centre Experience Funding to the applicants listed for the maximum grant of £4000 each totalling £24,000.

Councillor McQuillan enquired regarding applications that had not been successful, the Director of Leisure and Development agreed to update the members outside of the meeting.

At the request of Councillor Anderson the Interim Head of Prosperity and Place advised that the normal procedures were followed for auditing of paperwork.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop  
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council agree to award Town Centre Experience Funding to the applicants listed for the maximum grant of £4,000 each totalling £24,000.

## **7. SCROGGY ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval for spend of circa £15,000 to replace the existing gas boilers at Scroggy Road Changing Facilities in Limavady.

### Background

The facilities at Scroggy Road Playing Fields Limavady include a full size floodlight 3G pitch and a grass intermediate standard soccer pitch, with associated changing at the pavilion on site. The facility is used Monday to Saturday by clubs for both training and matches. The pavilion was upgraded in 2011/12 by Limavady Borough Council. Within the pavilion there are 6 changing rooms and two referee rooms, as well as some staff accommodation. When the facility was upgraded in 2011/2012, two gas fired boilers were fitted to provide heat and hot water for users. During the last 12 months the boilers have been problematic, these problems include total and partial failure. In an attempt to provide diagnostics with a view to fixing the issues, Council Officer's sought the opinions of two specialist contractors. Both contractors confirmed that unfortunately the boilers are beyond economical repair. Internal components have corroded causing leaks, which is why they have been unreliable in running. Council Staff have been trying to manage the continued operation of the boilers, however final boiler failure is imminent.

### Project Details

The project will involve stripping out the existing boilers and associated pipework and flues. Once strip out is complete two new gas boilers and associated flues will be supplied, installed and commissioned. Council's estates department have requested quotations from three companies to complete the works, these quotations have been received, assessed and are deemed satisfactory. Subject to Council approval, instruction will be issued to the successful contractor to commence works. Given the volatile pricing market at present within the construction sector, a contingency sum has been included within the total costings of £15k.

### Budget

The budget from which the cost will be allocated is the 'Estates Life Cycle Budget', which is the Estates' annual budget set aside for capital expenditure for the upgrade works of Council facilities.

### Next Steps

Subject to Council's agreement, Sport and Wellbeing and Council's Estates department will aim to complete the works within a 2 month period of Council's decision.

#### Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the expenditure of £15k to replace the existing gas boilers at Scroggy Road Changing Facilities in Limavady.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy

Seconded by Councillor Watton and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council approve the expenditure of £15k to replace the existing gas boilers at Scroggy Road Changing Facilities in Limavady.

### **8. AGE FRIENDLY ALLIANCE**

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

#### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the allocation of Members to the Age-Friendly Alliance in Causeway Coast and Glens.

#### Background

In June 2020, Council agreed to accept the offer of funding of £90K from the Public Health Agency to recruit and host an Age Friendly Co-Ordinator for Causeway Coast and Glens for a two-year period (01 April 2020 – 31 March 2022) as part of a regional initiative.

Following on from the development of an Age-Friendly Charter for the Causeway Coast and Glens area (Annex A, previously circulated) an Age Friendly Forum and Alliance was established. The purpose of the Forum & Alliance is to create the optimal environment where issues for older people are identified and strategic planning is undertaken to embed these key issues. The Age Friendly Alliance & Age Friendly Forum will place older people, and the interests of older people, at the heart of decision-making to develop an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan, utilising a co-production approach that engages a range of stakeholders and utilises the eight WHO themes for age friendly cities and communities.

Year one of the Age Friendly Forum and Alliance will be utilised for planning. During this year the Age Friendly Forum and Age Friendly Alliance will act to purposefully drive forward the development and implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. Year two onward, will be utilised for implementation of agreed strategic aims and actions.

#### Current position

To facilitate the establishment of the Alliance, the Age-Friendly Coordinator has developed a proposed structure (Annex B, previously circulated). The Age Friendly Alliance will consist of representatives of statutory organisations who will have a remit for implementation of agreed strategic aims and key actions, thus enabling a direct link between representatives of older people in the Borough with those responsible for strategic planning for older people.

#### Age Friendly Alliance Membership

The Alliance will comprise of representatives from Elected Members, Senior Council staff, Age NI, Police Service Northern Ireland, Western Health & Social Care Trust, Northern Health & Social Care Trust, Translink NI, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Causeway Chamber, Libraries NI, Ulster University / Regional Colleges, Linking generations NI, Chairperson, Age Friendly Forum (list not exhaustive).

Roles & Responsibilities (Full terms of Reference attached as Annex C, previously circulated.

- Year 1: Oversight of Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan development.
- Meet Quarterly. (Inaugural meeting to be held following member allocation).
- Year 2: Oversight of Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan implementation.
- Participating in project specific subgroups.

This structure together with associated memberships / roles & responsibilities has been discussed with and approved by the funding body (PHA).

#### Member Allocation to Alliance

Options are presented below for the allocation of members the Age-Friendly Alliance:

##### Option 1:

Option 1 is to allocate 2 x members to the Age-Friendly Alliance through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee. This option would result in the following allocation:

1	DUP
2	SF

##### Option 2:

Option 2 is to allocate 5 x members to the Age-Friendly Alliance through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee. This option would result in the following allocation:

1	DUP
2	SF
3	UU
4	DUP
5	SDLP

### Recommendations

1. To adopt the Age-Friendly Alliance Terms of Reference contained within the report.
2. To choose and approve a method of member allocation to the Age-Friendly Alliance.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning  
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

**AGREED** to recommend Option 2 to allocate 5 members to the Age-Friendly Alliance through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee.

Alderman Duddy enquired what the outcome was of the response to the survey conducted. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that it was conducted during the pandemic and some were reluctant to participate online. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing agreed to provide the information to the member.

## **9. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT 6-MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

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

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the 6 month progress review of the 2021/2022 Leisure and Development Business Plans.

### Background

Council previously approved the 2021/2022 Business Plans in May 2021.

The plans for each of the service areas within the Directorate are developed based upon:

- The emerging actions from the Community Planning Process.
- The Council's exiting Corporate Plan.
- Endorsed service area strategies.
- Relevant Central government strategies and policies.

- Council decisions and direction from the 20/21 period.

#### The Purpose of the Plans

The purpose of the annual business plans is to:

- Give a clear sense of what the service is for and the challenges it faces.
- Show how it is supporting Council's priorities.
- Show how it is contributing to the efficiency drive and transformation of service delivery.
- Show how it is aligning its resources to meet the challenges ahead.
- Help us to hold ourselves to account and ensure we deliver for Council and its residents.
- Bring key information together in one place about the service, which Members, staff and stakeholders can understand.

#### 6 Month Business Plan Review

Members are asked to note the 6 Month Reviews for each of the service areas found in Annexes A – D, previously circulated. Tourism and Recreation will be presented at February Committee.

Annex A – Community & Culture

Annex B – Sport & Wellbeing

Annex C – Funding Unit

Annex D – Prosperity & Place

Alderman Duddy enquired regarding the status of the pitch at Bushmills and the Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that this was noted as a priority project and any adaptations were hampered by space limitations. The Head of Sport and Wellbeing referred to a MUGA in the vicinity which was fit for purpose. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that work was progressing with the floodlights and associated works which had been agreed by Council.

### **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

### **11. MATTERS REPORTING TO PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

Alderman Duddy expressed disappointment that some money had to be returned to Department for Communities with regard to Agenda Item 5 – Community and Culture Grants Programme.

**AGREED** - to write to the Department for Communities to ask why the money was not available earlier in the year given that activities normally take place during summer months.

## 12. CONSULTATIONS

The following consultation was listed:-

### 12.1 DAERA Consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland – submission by 15 February 2022.

Views are being sought on the range of associated policy proposals that are being developed to achieve its four key outcomes of increased productivity, environmental sustainability, improved resilience and on effective functioning supply chain.

Contact details previously circulated.

#### **MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’**

Proposed by Councillor Anderson  
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

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

- \* **Press and Public were disconnected from the meeting at 10.35 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.*

## 13. COVID RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Interim Head of Prosperity and Place, J Elliott.



## Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme Implementation Plan Proposal submitted to the funders for progression to Letter of Offer.

## Background

In December 2021 Council officers presented a proposal for a three strand approach for the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme.

The Small Settlements Regeneration Programme is made up of combined funding from the Department for Communities [DfC], the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs [DAERA] and the Department for Infrastructure [DfI]:

The Funding criteria for each Department is detailed in Annex B, previously circulated.

## Project Proposals

The following project proposals were submitted to the funders 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 for consideration. The total estimated cost for the projects £2,228,768 which is in excess of the programme fund of £1,911,000.

Members are asked to consider the following list and to prioritise proposals.

## Continuation of the Village Renewal Schemes – Circa £1.61M

Targeting Village Renewal projects that are currently on the council's capital list.

Substantial research has already been conducted in relation to the Village Renewal Plans developed under the Rural Development Programme and will address the programme principles.

The 10 settlement projects listed in Project A, previously circulated, will be subject to councillor prioritisation and approval. Members will need to be mindful of the criteria from each of the Departments [Annex B, previously circulated] and prioritise projects accordingly to the available budgets.

Removal of the Gortnaghey project due to the land ownership issues will bring Project A costs down to £1,438,000.

Currently 3 settlement projects are in line with the criteria for population. [The population stat is based on 2011 census figures.] All the projects listed have been extensively researched through the Village Renewal Plans and are listed on the Council Capital project list. 9 of the 10 projects have been identified as achievable within the timeframe and meet the objectives of this programme.

### Village Restoration and Reactivation Fund – Circa £500k.

Grant based to address current or imminent dereliction, restore the vernacular appearance of villages, and improve village life by improving facilities for community use.

<b>Project Theme B</b> <b>Restore and Reactivate</b>	<b>Proposed Fund allocation</b>
Fund to address current or imminent dereliction, restore the vernacular appearance of villages, and improve village life by improving facilities for community use.	£500,000

Officers will develop criteria for application to the fund and present the proposals to a future meeting for Member's approval.

- Settlements 1,000 - 4,999 population. [settlements slightly under threshold may be considered]
- Projects must be within a 1-mile radius of village/settlement centre.
- Projects over £30k will be subject to CPD requirements as dictated by the funders.
- Projects must be deliverable within the spend deadline.

There are currently 11 settlements within Causeway Coast and Glens that will be eligible to take part in Project B. Dungiven, Kilrea, Ballykelly, Greysteele, Bushmills, Cushendall. Garvagh, Castlerock, Dunloy, Rasharkin, Armoy.

### Active Travel and Electric Charging Points

<b>Project Theme C</b> <b>Active travel infrastructure scheme [if budget allows]</b>	<b>Proposed Fund allocation</b>
Installation of additional active travel infrastructure such as charge points, cycle stands or cycle maintenance points	£250,768

Officers will submit more detailed plans for Member's approval prior to any financial commitments.

### Key Milestones:

- High-level Investment Plan submitted to DfC by 22nd December 2021 [Annex A, previously circulated].
- Indicative Letter of Offer issued end January 2022.
- Fully agree a costed Programme Plan with the Departments before March 2022.
- Funds spent by March 2023.
- Post Project Evaluation to be conducted.

### Next Steps

Await confirmation of Letter of Offer form the Departments based on the Implementation plan presented [Annex A, previously circulated]

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve Projects Themes A, B and C

Councillor Nicholl welcomed the outcome of the Gortnaghey project.

Councillor Schenning and Councillor MA McKillop welcomed the report and the Interim Head of Prosperity and Place, J Elliott agreed to provide an update regarding Mosside and Armoys projects to Councillor MA McKillop.

The Interim Head of Prosperity and Place, J Elliott advised she was awaiting reporting back from the funding source and was hopeful the above would be successful.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council approve Projects Themes A, B and C.

## **14. GROWTH DEAL BUSINESS CASE CONSULTANTS TENDER REPORT**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the SIB Projects Officer.

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to request Members approval for the appointment of a Business Case Consultants Call-Off Contract to service the needs of the Growth Deal Programme. This appointment will ensure the independent and timely production of Strategic Outline Cases, Outline Business Cases and Full Business Cases for prioritised capital projects in line with Government Guidance and external funding requirements.

Members are asked to note that this appointment does not constitute an expenditure decision for the total estimated value of the contract of £187k over the initial three year period and that individual assignments will be progressed as and when the need emerges and in line with Council's delegated limits of authority.

### Background to Growth Deal Programme

Causeway Coast and Glens is set to receive £72m capital funding for a Growth Deal after the NI Executive agreed to match fund the UK Government's Growth Deal allocation. The Growth Deal capital fund will be used to support digital and innovation projects. The Executive investment will focus additional funding on supporting infrastructure, tourism, and regeneration along with employability and skills.

### Conclusions

**Value for Money** – the contract is awarded on the basis of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender. The Evaluation Panel are content that the Call-Off Contract list above represents best value in terms of the lead consultant, team experience, proposed methodology and the indicative costs for completion of SOC, OBC and FBCs. Project specific terms of reference and robust contract management arrangements will ensure best value for money.

**Affordability** – the estimated value of the contract of £187k over the three years is affordable and SOC will be initially revenue funded through Council's Growth Programme Management Office revenue budget and a range of external funding in place including Levelling Up Fund, Department for Infrastructure Greenways Fund and SIB Enabling Support. If projects progress from SOC to OBC (with a preferred option identified) consultancy costs will then be capitalised as part of the overall project cost (as professional fees) and funded through the capital grants and loan borrowings. A detailed affordability analysis of development costs will be brought to the Growth Deal Executive Programme Board in April 2022 when the number of capital projects to be progressed and promoter funding arrangements are clearer.

**Contract Management** – robust contract management is critical to achieving value for money and tenderers were required to detail their monitoring systems and procedures which was also scored by the Evaluation Panel as part of the Award Criteria. In addition, the Specification detailed the Required Service Levels and contained an appendix 'Commercial Conditions of Contract for Services' to ensure effective contract monitoring and performance management procedures to remove or suspend a contractor in the event of performance issues.

#### Recommendation & Next Steps

Members are requested to approve the appointment of the Business Case Consultants Call-Off Contract list (section 4.0) to service the needs of the Growth Deal Programme. This appointment will ensure the independent and timely production of Strategic Outline Cases, Outline Business Cases and Full Business Cases for prioritised capital projects in line with Government Guidance and external funding requirements.

Members are asked to note that this appointment does not constitute an expenditure decision for the total estimated value of the contract of £187k over the initial three year period and that individual assignments will be progressed as and when the need emerges and in line with Council's delegated limits of authority.

Subject to Council approval in February 2022, Council will be able to award this contract and commence the commissioning of Strategic Outline Cases for completion in 2022/23.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson  
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

**AGREED** to recommend that Council approve the appointment of the Business Case Consultants Call-Off Contract list (section 4.0) to service the needs of the

Growth Deal Programme. This appointment will ensure the independent and timely production of Strategic Outline Cases, Outline Business Cases and Full Business Cases for prioritised capital projects in line with Government Guidance and external funding requirements.

Alderman Duddy asked when the work would commence. The Director of Leisure and Development advised there were currently 14 projects and a report would be brought to the February Leisure and Development Committee with a view to reducing the list to meet with available funding requirements. The Director of Leisure and Development further advised that once funding had been agreed it was likely that some projects would be expediated quicker than others ie Bushmills and Dungiven regeneration projects with the Greenway project requiring negotiations with land owners.

The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to provide an email to Councillor C McShane with a summary of the funding source.

## **15. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT 22/23 ESTIMATES**

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

Councillor C McShane questioned the report being marked 'For Decision' and the Director advised this was an error and should have been marked 'For Information'.

The Chair asked for an update on rate setting workshops date. The Director of Leisure and Development advised the Finance Director had a rates setting/schedule planned.

### **MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'**

Proposed by Alderman Duddy  
Seconded by Councillor Schenning 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 11.00 pm

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Chair