



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
	Chair To Be Taken	Councillor Watton
1.	Apologies	Councillors McCaw, Schenning
2.	Declarations of Interest	Councillors MA McKillop, McMullan
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 15 th November 2022	Confirmed as a correct record
4.	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	to recommend that consideration is deferred; that Committee invite Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust representatives to present to Committee on its outcomes, work to date and in-year savings
5.	Tourism Events Schedule 23/24	to recommend that an options report is brought on including all events, but with specific reference to Halloween and Christmas events; that the Air Show does proceed in accordance with the recommendation
6.	In Year Review of Grant Funding Policy	to recommend that Council approve the inclusion of "Provision of Disabled

		Toilets” into Council’s Grant Funding Policy
7.	Greenlane Museum	to recommend that Council approve the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum by Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers under the terms of the Key Holder Agreement with support from Council for overheads and lease
8.	Drumaheglis Marina Dredging	to recommend that, in line with Council’s Capital Project Management Process, Council approve the advancement of this project to Stage 2, and in doing so, further the partnership arrangement with Waterways Ireland to jointly procure specialist services for the design and execution of dredging services at Drumaheglis Marina;
9.	Outdoor Recreation Strategy Terms of Reference	to recommend that Council approve the procurement of suitably qualified individuals/companies to assist the Tourism and Recreation team to deliver on a strategic approach for Outdoor Recreation, as detailed in the attached Terms of Reference
10.	Community Centre Fees and Charges	to recommend that Council approve Option 1, apply the proposed standardisation of charges from 1 April 2023 (September 2023 for Play groups), in line with Council Owned Community Managed Centres and do not increase the charge in

		<i>Mosside Community Centre until it has been brought up to a standard similar to those in the rest of the Borough</i>
11.	Sports Grants Programme	<i>to recommend that Council note the above and approve Causeway Coast and Glens Sports Grant Programme (Option 2), subject to Section 75 / Rural Needs assessment processes as set out</i>
12.	Ballymoney Environmental Improvement Scheme	<i>to recommend that Council approve the final concept designs for Ballymoney EIS to progress to construction phase - subject to Business Case approval and available funding from DfC.</i>
	For Information (Items 13-18 inclusive)	
13.	Leisure & Development 6-month Performance Review	<i>Information</i>
14.	Warm Welcome Spaces	<i>Information</i>
15.	Asylum Seeker Briefing	<i>Information</i>
16.	Correspondence	<i>Information</i>
17.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>None</i>
18.	Consultations	<i>Information</i>
19.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman A McQuillan, seconded by Councillor McAuley (50 th Anniversary Garvagh Bombing)	<i>Support The Notice of Motion</i>
20.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor McMullan, seconded by Councillor Peacock (CAP Single Farm Payments)	<i>Support The Notice of Motion</i>
	'IN COMMITTEE' (Items 21-26 inclusive)	

21.	Leisure and Development Financial Position Period 7 and Period 8	Information
22.	Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme	to recommend that Council approve Option 3, negotiate the terms of the licence agreement with Forest Service for both Ballycarton and Downhill North proposed projects, which limit council's responsibilities and cost to operational area of interest/benefit
23.	2023 Visitor Guide	to recommend that Council approve the appointment of Kubrix for the design and print of the 2023 Visitor Guide at a total cost of £24,364 from the 2022/23 Destination Marketing budget
24.	Mountsandel Project	to recommend that Council do not accept the findings of an independent cost report into the installation of a pedestrian bridge across the River Bann to the Mountsandel Mesolithic site; and do not approve the previous recommendation made to Committee and remove the Mountsandel project from the Growth Deal programme; until Council has obtained the second cost estimate for a pedestrian bridge across the River Bann, as originally ratified by Council
25.	Small Settlement Regeneration Programme	to recommend that Council approve Consideration of the requirement for Net

		Zero within the Small Settlement Regeneration Programme
26.	Cushendall Changing Places	to recommend that Council approve the advancement of Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Capital Works Process (to include full design and procurement) for renovation works at Cushendall Holiday and Leisure Park/Harbour carpark, to provide a dedicated 'Changing Places' facility
	'IN PUBLIC' (Item 27)	
27.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	
(i)	Admittance Fees Council's Leisure Facilities (Alderman Duddy)	Information
(ii)	Coleraine Town City Bid (Alderman Duddy)	Information
(iii)	Garvagh MUGA (Alderman McQuillan)	Information
(iv)	Enterprise Zone (Alderman Duddy)	Information

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Watton (C)

Members Present: Alderman Baird (R), Duddy (C), Hillis (C),
Knight McQuillan (R), A McQuillan (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), Callan (R), Holmes (C),
McAuley (C), McGurk (R), MA McKillop (R), McMullan (R),
Peacock (R)

**Non Committee
Members present:** Alderman S McKillop (R), Councillor Bateson (R),
Councillor Wallace (R)

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member
Services Officer (C)

In Attendance: C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)
A Lennox, Mobile Operation Officer (C)
J Winfield, ICT Operations Manager (R)

Public 3 no. (R)
Press 1 no. (R)

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

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

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

CHAIR TO BE TAKEN

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, and in line with Standing Order 6 (3), the Director of Leisure and Development invited proposals for the Chair.

Proposed by Alderman McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

AGREED – that Councillor Watton be nominated as Chair.

Councillor Watton assumed the Chair.

A recess was held for five minutes.

* **The meeting reconvened at 7.09pm.**

The Director of Leisure and Development presented the reports, previously circulated.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillors McCaw and Schenning.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were declared by Councillor MA McKillop in Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, as a Director of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust. Councillor MA McKillop did not participate in the Item, nor vote.

Declarations of Interest were declared by Councillor McMullan in Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust as, a Director of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust. Councillor McMullan did not participate in the Item, nor vote.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022

Summary, previously circulated.

AGREED – to recommend that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 15 November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST

* **Having declared an Interest Councillors MA McKillop and McMullan did not participate nor vote on the Item.**

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on the work of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) that has taken place for the financial period 2021-2022 and seek approval for the support of the ongoing work of CCGHT during the current financial year 2022-2023.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council funded Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) for the period of 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022. The total amount of funding awarded was £35,000. This was awarded subject to the delivery of four key activity areas:

- Delivering opportunities to experience the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area's unique outdoor and heritage through public events.

- Administration of AONB Management Plans for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, Binevenagh AONB and Causeway Coast AONB.
- Administration of the Giant's Causeway & Causeway Coast World Heritage Site Steering Group and Action Plan and assessing the feasibility of the development of a Geopark.
- Support Council with the delivery and promotion of biodiversity and outdoor recreation related projects, engagement with landowners and establishing a volunteer programme.

The outputs from the 2021/22 work plan (contained in Annex B (circulated)) were reviewed by the Council's Funding Unit and the Coast and Countryside Team. It has been confirmed that these outputs were completed as agreed, except for one requested activity relating to a review of the Causeway Coast Way Walking Experience. This activity is currently being delivered upon. Council Officers are recommending that this should be approved into any further funding arrangement.

The focus of CCGHT continues to be based around the development and implementation of a number of environmental and landscape management plans including the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); Binevenagh, the Causeway Coast and the Antrim Coast and Glens. CCGHT also has a role working on a regional basis to develop awareness of environmental management and to promote sustainable tourism.

Council's Coast and Countryside remit continues to be complimented by the activities provided by CCGHT. In addition, any financial transaction will be based on a single tender action for services that only the CCGHT can provide as specialists in this area of work. These services were listed within the report circulated.

Council's financial support continues to play a vital role in sustaining CCGHT. Council's commitment will be subject to funding made available from NIEA, Tourism NI and Mid and East Antrim, who have all made an allowance for financial contribution for agreed services as in previous years.

Update on proposals was detailed within the report.

Options

As work progresses on the delivery of the 2022/23 work plan, staff from Coast & Countryside are discussing potential actions and programming for the 2023/2024 work plan. This allows for actions to be included in CCGHT's operational plan and to ensure continued complementarity of work which Council wishes to be undertaken.

This work plan will be brought to committee for members' consideration early in 2023 with a view to providing sustained financial support to CCGHT and the actions it delivers on behalf of Council for the period 2023/2024.

Officers would suggest that the CCGHT is invited to Council to present on ongoing and proposed work, that is being completed on behalf of, and in partnership with Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council approval of funding to CCGHT for services being undertaken within the work plan at Annex A (22/23 Financial Year) (circulated) which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed.

Alderman Baird stated Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust undertook very valuable work within the Borough's AONB's and ASSI's and thanked the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust for their highly skilled work for Council and proposed supporting the recommendation.

Alderman Hillis supported Alderman Baird's comments, he advised the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust undertake specialised work, Council are one of a number of partners and Council get more out of it than they put in.

Alderman McQuillan stated he did not hear from the Group, until they request funding from Council. He requested outside bodies also undertake savings for Council and a report be brought back.

Alderman Duddy questioned the annual payment, he referred to detailed costs within the report, for which he required further information, whilst not disputing what they achieve. Alderman Duddy requested that Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust present to Committee.

Proposed by Alderman Baird
Seconded by Alderman Hillis

- to recommend that Council approve the funding to CCGHT for services being undertaken within the work plan at Annex A (22/23 Financial Year) (circulated) which will be subject to a staged approval and satisfactory delivery of the outputs detailed.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Duddy

- to recommend that consideration is deferred; that Council invite Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust representatives to present to Committee on its outcomes, work to date and in-year savings.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote.

5 Members voted For, 3 Members voted Against, 4 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

5. TOURISM EVENTS SCHEDULE 23/24

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Members with proposals for a Council-led event programme for 2023/24, including consideration of the 2024 Air Show.

Outline details of dates and budgetary requirements are provided for Elected Members consideration in advance of budget finalisation.

Background

The Council's 10-year strategic approach for the Tourism Event Remit recommends that the Council need to provide a balanced approach to event development, facilitation and delivery. With an increasing number of external event providers, the role of Council is more important than ever in terms of being supportive and allowing other event providers to develop the sector. The strategic approach recognises that Council will still be an event provider but recommends that to achieve a balance, Council delivered events should be fewer, better resourced and promoted more effectively.

In May 2021 Council approved a new Tourism Events Organisational design. Officers from Tourism and Recreation, in conjunction with HR colleagues, are working through completion of the structure. The Tourism Events Manager has been appointed and interviews / Matching are taking place in the early New Year.

The Tourism Events team will continue to work with key stakeholders, including Elected Members to assess the viability of Council's current portfolio of tourism events and agree opportunities for adjustment, growth and the introduction of new projects that fit with current market demand, whilst reflecting the key characteristics of our area. In advance of the rates setting process, the Council's Tourism Events budget has been calculated and this report details the events that are proposed to be delivered by Council in 2023/24.

During the 2022/23 year the Council's Tourism Events team has delivered on all of the scheduled event programme and continue to support and liaise with other event providers, including the administration of the Tourism Event Funding Programme.

Air show 2024

In January 2021 Council approved a Notice of Motion to develop a new International Air show for 2022 (marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee) and explore holding the event every 2 years thereafter:

'That this Council would develop a new International Airshow for 2022 to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and explore holding the event every 2 years from 2022. We should make this a key regional event not just for the Borough but for Northern Ireland and therefore explore working in partnership with key partners like the Northern Ireland Office, Ministry of Defence, Department for the Economy, Invest NI and Tourism NI. A project Board involving elected

members of no more of 6 by d'hondt should be set up to shape and develop this event along with experts and other key stakeholders'

Council is requested to consider the above motion accordingly.

For the September 2024 scheduled air show to occur, planning would need to start early in 2023, and in line with the existing model for planning and delivery, the Tourism Event team would require additional specialist resources.

This includes the procurement of the Air Display Director (and associated services) and the employment of a Sponsorship / STEM / Industry Liaison Consultant. Both positions are for a fixed period and are not permanent appointments. Without these event specific specialists, the Air Show is not viable. Subject to approval, this activity has been scheduled into the Tourism Events planning process for 2023/24.

Table one allows for a £50,000 expenditure allocation within the 2023/2024 financial year to allow for costs associated for the preparation of this event taking place in September 2024.

Annex A (circulated) details the projected income and expenditure summary for the 2022 Air Show which would be the basis for budget planning in 2024.

Delivery of Council Events in 2023/24

Table 1 – Tourism Events schedule detailing summarised costs was circulated within the report.

The above table (circulated) does not include the additional cost of the partnership with the Coleraine and District Motor Club in which Council resources the NW200 Course Build and provides dedicated office accommodation (subject to conditions).

Implications for Planning Council-led Event Programme were circulated within the report.

Consultation and Assessment of Event Delivery Options was circulated within the report.

Budgetary Position

In advance of the 2023 rate setting process, the Leisure and Development Committee is asked to consider the budget allocation for the delivery of Council Managed events (as detailed in Table 1) (circulated).

Recommendation

1. **It is recommended** that the Leisure and Development Committee considers the proposals detailed within this report for the delivery of Council-led events in 2023 as depicted in Table 1.
2. The Committee is also asked to consider the 'notice of motion' from January 2021 and if the Air Show is to proceed, approve the additional expenditure of £50,000, in the 2023/2024 financial year for preparatory works for the 2024 Air Show.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified revised dates for Ballymoney Spring Fair, 21/22 April 2023.

Councillor Holmes stated an omission was an event in Coleraine. Councillor Holmes felt the Air Shows had been a fantastic event, that it had ran its course, there were problems with sponsorship and income, they had tried to tie in with the manufacturing industry that Council does not have on the North Coast. Councillor Holmes felt the cost of £400,00 would be better towards other events, for example, the Food Festival, Bushmills, where there were jobs in this industry.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Alderman Hillis

– to recommend that Council

- 1) approve the proposals detailed within this report for the delivery of Council-led events in 2023 as depicted in Table 1.
2. That Council do not proceed with the Air Show next year.

Alderman Duddy advised an omission was an event in Coleraine, and not acceptable for the largest town. Alderman Duddy referred to the high cost of 2-day events that he did not see where the money had been spent, as opposed to benefitting the local economy. He queried that if Council lose events such as the Air Show, what would be left to draw crowds.

Councillor McAuley suggested rotating, for example, seasonal Halloween events around the four main towns, 25% of the cost to Council; to provide a Christmas Switch On for the four main towns and everyone else a Christmas Tree and Fund for the community. Councillor McAuley suggested looking at holding the Air Show in conjunction with other Air Shows, to reduce costs, that the local economy does benefit from it.

Alderman McQuillan stated Kilrea and Garvagh only have a Christmas Switch on and nothing else, a community grant would be required to be more than £250, he suggested not holding the smaller events in order that the Air Show is held, he advised it supports the economy and sectors late in the Season.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Alderman McQuillan

- to recommend that an options report is brought on including all events, but with specific reference to Halloween and Christmas events; that the Air Show does proceed in accordance with the recommendation.

Alderman Hillis stated his Party would like to see an event similar to Armed Forces Day, the Red Arrows could perform for one day, that the Air Show had cost too much.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised a new event would require significant investment and liaison, the infrastructure for any Air Show would be significant, he stated a single Fly Past was a low-cost option, subject to RAF assessment of the significance of the event, and their attendance.

Alderman Baird stated she did not agree to cut back on Christmas and Halloween events that were especially attractive to children and Schools.

Alderman Duddy requested a Recorded Vote.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.

7 Members voted For, 7 Members voted Against.

The Chair applied his Casting Vote For.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

Recorded Vote Table

For (7)	Alderman Duddy, Knight-McQuillan, A McQuillan Councillors Anderson, Callan, McAuley, Watton
Against (7)	Alderman Baird, Hillis Councillors Holmes, McGurk, MA McKillop, McMullan, Peacock
Casting Vote For	Chair, Councillor Watton

6. IN YEAR REVIEW OF GRANT FUNDING POLICY

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of an in year review of Council's Grant Funding Policy and to recommend a change to the policy for the incoming year. The policy is attached at Annex A (circulated).

Background

Council is committed to distributing available grants fairly, efficiently and effectively. The purpose of Council's Grant Funding Policy is to outline the agreed approach to Grant Funding in relation to resourcing external bodies to assist in the delivery of its strategic objectives and priorities.

Council annually review and approve the Grant Funding Policy for the distribution of grants. The policy was reviewed and agreed in October 2016, November 2017, October 2018, October 2019, September 2020, October 2021 and October 2022.

Grant Funding Policy

The policy sets out a framework for the processing of grants. The overall aim of the funding process outlined in the policy is:

“To have a consistent, customer focused process with relevant assessment and evaluation procedures with appropriate appeal and monitoring systems in place”.

Principles were listed within the report circulated.

Grant Funding Policy Changes / Amendments

A desktop review of the policy has been carried out by Council’s Funding Unit and the following change is recommended.

A new section will be inserted as follows:

Provision of Disabled Toilets

Organisers of large-scale public events in receipt of grant funding from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, must include disabled toilets to Changing Places Toilet standard. This access to dignified toileting provision may be in the form of a mobile/portable facility or a permanent Changing Places Toilet (CPT) facility. The criteria for this standard, and locations of existing CPT facilities can be found at www.changingplaces.org

The Mae Murray Foundation which is a Lived- experience led charity may be able to offer further advice on locations or provision. Advice can be sought by contacting alix@maemurrayfoundation.org or by telephone 03006001166. (Large scale events are those with visitor numbers in excess of 3,000).

This policy will be reviewed in 12 months’ time.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council the inclusion of “Provision of Disabled Toilets” into Council’s Grant Funding Policy.

Councillor McGurk sought clarification Council were helping to provide Changing Places facilities at smaller events.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Council were continually applying for Grant Funding from the Department for Communities, Accessible and Inclusion Grant and investing in Changing Places Facilities, these were around Portrush, Ballycastle and Limavady accessible Play Parks. He clarified Council are in the process of purchasing mobiloo’s and will made available to event organisers for small and large events.

Alderman Duddy stated concern the funding specification would be used at the detriment of an event and sought affirmation the mobiloos would be given out to community groups, before supporting.

Alderman McQuillan suggested adding the Item to Council’s Policy, where community groups can avail of support, for example, barriers, via Environmental Services Department.

The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to check the principle of the previous decision of Council and come back to confirm at the Council Meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the inclusion of “Provision of Disabled Toilets” into Council’s Grant Funding Policy.

7. GREENLANE MUSEUM

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers to undertake the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum with support from Museum Services.

Background

Green Lane Museum’s collection first came into being in the early/mid 1980s when the Environment and Heritage Service (now known as DAERA) opened Green Lane Museum in Roe Valley Country Park.

In 1997, Green Lane Museum’s collection came under the ownership of Limavady Borough Council.

The lease was agreed in 2008 which runs from October 2007 until 2032 and stipulated that the building must be maintained as a museum. DAERA will consider a sublease if appropriate to the original purpose.

In 2021 DAERA were approached regarding the council’s intention to seek expressions of interest from local community groups to voluntarily operate the Museum, and they were open to this idea. In 2021 several community groups in the local area displayed an interest in opening Green Lane Museum with curatorial support from the Museum Service. The intention being to put in place an agreement similar to that in place with the Friends of Ballycastle Museum. They feel strongly that the historic building and its significant collection should be accessible to visitors.

In January 2022, Council recommended that Museum Services seek community group assistance to operate Green Lane Museum with support from Council for overheads and lease. Following an expression of interest application process, which was advertised in the *Chronicle* and *Northern Constitution*, on social media and emailed out to our community mailing list as well as all known interested parties. Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers were the only group to submit an application form and have met all the requirements of the application.

A key holder agreement was drafted by the council’s Legal Services which was submitted to DAERA in October 2022 and subsequently approved in December 2022. Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers have agreed to the terms of the Key

Holder Agreement in principle, pending ratification by Council. See Annex A (circulated) for keyholder agreement.

Need was detailed within the report, circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members approve the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum by Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers under the terms of the Key Holder Agreement with support from Council for overheads and lease.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the voluntary operation of Green Lane Museum by Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers under the terms of the Key Holder Agreement with support from Council for overheads and lease.

8. DRUMAHEGLIS MARINA DREDGING

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Elected Members to proceed to complete on scoping, design for tender and procurement for dredging services at the Drumaheglis Public Marina, operated by Council's Holiday and Leisure Parks (HALPs) remit (Stage 2 Capital Works process).

Background

In December 2021, Council Officials presented on the requirement to invest in dredging operations at the Marina Facility at Drumaheglis. This is a popular facility with 32 berths, associated services and a slipway. The channel around the pontoons and berthing areas has, over the last number of years, suffered from river silting and significant vegetative growth, causing difficulties with boat movements around the Marina and on occasions 'grounding' and 'snagging' propeller shafts. The Marina has not been dredged since 2014.

Project Proposal

Council's Tourism and Recreation team, in conjunction with the Infrastructure Team have been looking at the most cost-effective way of securing dredging services at this site. The nature of the work requires specialist consultants and contractors, and pre-procurement work for contractors will require site investigations, material classification, application preparation and submission of environmental permissions.

To reduce costs, it is proposed to partner with Waterways Ireland and secure economies of scale by sharing costs apportioned with dredging services that are required elsewhere on the Lower Bann by Waterways Ireland (the statutory body responsible for navigation on the Lower Bann).

To advance the project, Officers would like to enter into an agreement with Waterways Ireland and complete on the following:

9. OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGY TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the development of a bespoke Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan for future management and implementation, through the Council's Coast and Countryside team and other stakeholders.

Background

Outdoor Recreation is one of four service areas delivered through the Coast & Countryside Team.

Defined as any recreational activity undertaken in a natural setting; it does not include pitch or facility based activity. The interest and participation in outdoor recreation has grown significantly in recent years with an emphasis on the physical and mental well-being benefits available through participation. Outdoor recreation is considered physical activity for life.

The Borough lends itself well to outdoor recreation with the high-quality landscape and seascape providing the venue for activities. The unique combination of land, water and air-based activities within the area has proved to be a visitor attraction providing opportunity to be outdoors throughout the year.

There has been a considerable amount of strategic work undertaken in the past ten years with respect to outdoor recreation. The opportunity now presents to develop a strategic approach which is tailored to the unique aspects of the Borough and responds to the public demand for the outdoors.

Outdoor recreation has several cross-cutting themes:

1. Community – beneficial to local population.
2. Health and lifestyle – benefit physical and mental well-being. Outdoor recreation is physical activity for life.
3. Economy – a growing sector in terms of commercial activity provision and/or equipment plus ancillary services, especially hospitality sector.
4. Environment – Our landscape and seascape are the playground.
5. Sustainability – Sustainability of activities and suitability at sites
6. Safety – The safety of the public in the outdoors is the highest priority. The increase in commercial provision and practitioners requires careful management.
7. Year-round provision – No longer a seasonal consideration.

Key Outputs of the Terms of Reference were circulated within the report, circulated.

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference is attached at Annex A (circulated).

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the procurement of suitably qualified individuals/companies to assist the Tourism and Recreation team to deliver on a strategic approach for Outdoor Recreation, as detailed in the attached Terms of Reference.

Councillor McGurk welcomed the report, to provide an extra level of resources for potential sites around the Council area.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the procurement of suitably qualified individuals/companies to assist the Tourism and Recreation team to deliver on a strategic approach for Outdoor Recreation, as detailed in the attached Terms of Reference.

10. COMMUNITY CENTRE FEES AND CHARGES

Purpose of Report

To agree the principles of pricing and standardisation of charges for use of Council owned and operated Community Centres in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Background

The purpose of this report is to set out the overarching principles of pricing for hire of Council's community centres that it operates directly, with the aims of:

- a) Ensuring a consistent, transparent, and fair approach to all Community Centre pricing within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council through agreement on a single pricing structure.
- b) Providing Value for Money for money to all seeking to use Council Community Centres.
- c) Reducing the level of subsidy that Council provides to Council operated Community Centres.
- d) Highlighting mitigation measures and support opportunities that are in place for community organisations using council facilities.
- e) Ensuring pricing is comparable with other Community Operated Centres providing similar facilities within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Council owns 18 community centres/portacabins in the Borough*, 6 of which are operated by community groups, and the remaining 12 are operated directly by Council. These centres are located in the legacy Council areas of Ballymoney, Coleraine and Moyle. (From research carried out by Blue Zebra Consulting in March 2015, there are at least a further 73 centres across the Borough of varying sizes operated by the Community Sector directly). In addition, there are an approximate 200+ church halls, sports clubs etc that provide facilities for community use in areas where there isn't a community centre, or in many cases in addition to community centres.

- * Shesburn Civic building hires rooms to local community groups however it is not part of the Sport & Wellbeing portfolio therefore is not included in the Community Centre category.

Community Facility Audit

An Audit of Community Centres and Halls carried out in March 2015 highlighted that there are disparities in pricing policies and in approaches in operating Council's community centres. Also, some centre users have long term agreements with Councils in regard of the charges to use the centres based on previous ownership issues. A recommendation of the audit report and Council's subsequent Community Development Strategy (2015-18) was that Council should review its charging policies for community centres and that it takes a more proactive developmental approach to support local communities increase usage of halls and widen the variety of activities and functions of Community Centres / Halls.

The centres vary in size and are in various states of repair with a range of utilisation rates.

The centres provide a vital role in the communities they are located in with a range of activities and services being offered in the centres including playgroups, older people's activities, youth clubs, recreation classes etc. Issues of rurality and levels of deprivation also varied greatly from centre to centre. Four centres are location in rural areas; three of the centres are located in Neighbourhood Renewal areas (i.e., top 10% of areas of multiple deprivation) Other than an approved inflationary increase (2022/23), the rates of hire for Council's community centres have not changed since the Council merger.

The net cost of operating Councils community centres has increased each year from £378,314 in 2015-16 to the current net budget position for 2022-23 of £506,837.

Current Position

The tables below set out the variation in charges across the Council operated facilities along with a comparison to similar facilities within and outside of the Borough.

Table 1 – Current Charges in Council Community Centres was circulated within the report.

Table 2 – Charges for Community Playgroups operating in Council Community Centres was circulated within the report.

Table 3 - Charges in Comparable Facilities across the Borough and Neighbouring Council Areas was circulated within the report.

Proposal

In order to meet the purpose of this report (as noted in 2.0 above) and to address issues raised in Council's Audit (2.1), it is proposed that charges in Council owned, and operated community centres are standardised as follows.

- a) Raise all main hall rates to Ballymoney level and then increase as per any Council approved annual inflationary increase.

	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Bushmills	Mosside *
Current rate	£10.60	£6.90	£7.60	£3.70
Proposed rate	£10.60	£10.60	£10.60	£10.60

* Mosside Community Centre 'barn' hall is being refurbished and as a result the standard of provision will be much improved.

- a) Remove off-peak variations from Bushmills CC (only centre where this was in place).
- b) Birthday party rate of £18 per hour introduced (min 2 hr booking).
- c) (Birthday parties are usually Saturday and Sundays where staffing costs are x1.5 or double time)
- d) All minor hall/ large room (50+ capacity) rates increase to £8 per hour.
- e) All committee room rates increase to £6 per hour.
- f) Kitchen use provided free of charge.
- g) Playgroups – raise to Coleraine level over 2 years, starting from 1st September 2023.
- h) Year 1 increase to £10 morning session and £5 afternoon session.
- i) Year 2 increase to Coleraine rate of £12.70 morning session and £6.40 afternoon session.
- j) Commercial charges applied as follows.
- Local – x 1.5 e.g., dance / aerobic type classes.
 - Regional – x 2 e.g., statutory agencies.
 - National x 3 e.g., national organisations.

Mitigation Measures

In acknowledging that the proposed charges may increase pressure on user groups in some locations if a blanket approach is taken, the following mitigation measures may be of value.

- Community Development Support Grant is available for Community Groups without their own premises in the amount of £1,250 and can be used towards premises rental.
- Social Inclusion Grant is available for single issue groups, e.g., older people's groups, women's groups and can be used towards premises rental.
- One to One Funding Support is available via Community Development Team to support groups to secure funding.
- Use a Freeze and Catch Up process to mitigate impact of price increase for community centres user groups and playgroups.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of this report and direct officers on how to proceed based on the following two options.

- **Option 1**
Approve and apply the proposed standardisation of charges from 1 April 2023 (September 2023 for Play groups).
- **Option 2**
Approve the proposed standardisation of charges with a “freeze and catch up” approach over a two year period to mitigate the impact for community centre user groups and playgroups.

Thereafter, and in line with Council decisions on inflationary increases, charges to increase on an annual basis.

Alderman Baird questioned the condition of some Community Centres, she advised there were some in better condition than others and whether that had been reflected in pricing eg Mossdale Community Centre was in very poor condition.

Councillor McGurk stated there were no associated costs and questioned the financial implication.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised through the Small Settlement Regeneration Programme Mossdale was receiving £200,000 investment in 2023. The Director of Leisure and Development advised he will bring the costs back for 2022. The Director of Leisure and Development clarified Community Centres were heavily subsidised, costs were greater than income and advised of the community management transfer /asset agreement with community organisations arrangements. He clarified the impact on rates was negligible.

Alderman Duddy stated he was disappointed the report on Millburn Community Centre, reducing energy costs, had not been brought back, that Council need to look at reducing costs. He advised Windyhall Community Centre was in need of repair and some community Centres did not provide basic first aid equipment and was required to be addressed and requested Community Centre Condition reports be undertaken.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve Option 1, apply the proposed standardisation of charges from 1 April 2023 (September 2023 for Play groups). in line with Council Owned Community Managed Centres and do not increase the charge in Mossdale Community Centre until it has been brought up to a standard similar to those in the rest of the Borough.

Councillor Watton stated disagreement. Councillor McGurk supported Councillor Watton. The Chair advised the vote had been taken. Councillor McGurk was content with this.

11. SPORTS GRANTS PROGRAMME

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the standardisation of a Sports Grant Programme for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Background

Council has in the past facilitated two schemes whereby individuals and clubs can access sports facilities and funding support for the betterment of their individual / collective participation in sport at a competitive and local level.

- Elite Athlete Scheme - Support for local athletes who would be competing at an elite level of excellence in their chosen sport. Providing Free access to Leisure / Sports facilities for the purpose of advancing the individual's training requirements for high level competition. Scheme restricted to qualification criteria and eligibility assessed annually.
- Sports Grants – Funding support for sporting organisations / individuals for the development of a sporting club or an individual's participation in high level competition. Funding administered via a separately constituted Sports Advisory Committee (SAC) in each legacy borough area.

In June 2022 Council approved officers' request to standardise the Elite Athlete scheme with one application process for the whole Borough as opposed to the pre-existing legacy application format. Although the legacy schemes were quite similar, a preliminary review noted the potential for inconsistencies. The proposed change was designed to create a consistent approach which would support local athletes competing at an elite level of excellence in their chosen sport.

To date the availability of funding for sporting participation and club development across the Borough has continued to follow the pre-existing legacy Council schemes whereby Clubs / Individuals affiliated to Local SAC's can apply for funding for a range of support categories, listed within the report, circulated.

Local SAC's are constituted organisations separate from Council, but which were in receipt of funding from the legacy Councils on an annual basis. This money was then utilised for the purpose of each Sports Advisory Committee's support programme. This money continues to be provided by Council on an annual basis.

As per the situation with the legacy Elite Athlete scheme, whilst there are similarities in the approach of the SAC's to funding support, the potential for inconsistencies is noted. There is also an opportunity for individual sports persons to apply for funding on multiple occasions if they are members of different clubs in two or more legacy areas. Eligibility to apply is dependent on a sporting club being affiliated to the Local SAC's thereby exposing each committee to questions over the equal accessibility to support across the whole borough.

Current position was circulated within the report.

Next Steps

Whilst Officers would prefer a full consensus in terms of how to move forward, it is considered unsustainable to continue with the current method of delivering funds to local sports clubs and individuals. Having reached a majority decision, it is deemed appropriate to progress with Option 2, following standard screening processes for Section 75 and Rural Need.

There is agreement on the continued value of an Annual Sports Awards which CCG has hosted to recognise local sporting achievements. Previously nominations would have been received from each of the Local SAC's, following their own Local Awards Ceremonies. Officers will devise a nomination system suitable for the Borough wide format which will be promoted across the Borough in advance of a November 2023 Awards Evening.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the above and recommend for approval the Causeway Coast and Glens Sports Grant Programme (Option 2), subject to Section 75 / Rural Needs assessment processes.

- The grant programme will be reviewed after the first year to ensure there have been no implementation issues and reports to Council will be via the standard Funding Unit report mechanism.
- Officers will work towards the establishment of a CCG Sports Forum with a further report to come back to Committee for consideration.

Proposed by Alderman McQuillan

Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the above and approve Causeway Coast and Glens Sports Grant Programme (Option 2), subject to Section 75 / Rural Needs assessment processes.

- The grant programme will be reviewed after the first year to ensure there have been no implementation issues and reports to Council will be via the standard Funding Unit report mechanism.
- Officers will work towards the establishment of a CCG Sports Forum with a further report to come back to Committee for consideration.

12. BALLYMONEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to move to Stage Two of the Capital Project Management Process for the Ballymoney Environmental Improvement Scheme (EIS).

Stage One of the Capital Works Project Management process was approved by Leisure and Development on the 15th February 2022. Stage One was 100% funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) at a value of £129,843 and

will take the project to Outline Business Case stage; full scheme design (including cost estimates); planning approval (where applicable), and preparation of the tender for construction works.

Background

Following a review of the existing Ballymoney Town Centre Masterplan in December 2020, the Department for Communities (DfC) identified the need for:

‘Comprehensive public realm improvements focused on Main Street, High Street, Charlotte Street and Church Street. Interventions are required to address road safety concerns on Charlotte Street as well as improving movement and linkages between Main Street and western and eastern quarters, creating a safe and welcoming environment for pedestrians’.

This review supports the outcomes of meetings between Council officers and local Councillors in 2016 and 2017 where it was recommended that the scope of any public realm project should include the High Street area of the town centre together with adjacent streets.

DfC officers have advised that there will be funding assistance of 100% of eligible costs subject to a positive Business Case, a satisfactory consultation process and approval for the scheme from Council. In the unlikely event of an overspend on the scheme Council will have to contribute to this cost but both a realistic optimism bias and strong project management of the scheme will mitigate against this risk.

Scheme Design

Final concept designs for Ballymoney EIS can be seen at Annex A (circulated). The design involves environmental improvements largely to High Street and includes Linenhall Service Yard. Improvements will include the widening of pathways, resurfacing, and updated lighting and street furniture. (Please see attached Concept Design for further detail).

Public Consultation was circulated within the report.

Costs

The project is 100% funded by DfC with an estimated cost of £1.75m. If the bid for funding is successful, Council will move to re-engage the ICT to commence the procurement process to appoint the IST (contractor) and provide project management through the construction phase of the project.

In order to meet DfC funding restrictions, it is vital that the contractor is appointed no later than October 2023 to ensure that works can be commenced and completed by May 2024.

Recommendation

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

Councillor McAuley welcomed the Scheme that had both local and community input.

Alderman Baird urged caution for extra traffic from Charlotte Street.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley

Seconded by Alderman A McQuillan

and

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

13. LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT 6-MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the 6 month progress review of the 2022/2023 Leisure and Development Business Plans.

Background

Council previously approved the 2022/2023 Business Plans in May 2022. 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 22/23 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 – E.

Annex A – Community & Culture

Annex B – Sport & Wellbeing

Annex C – Funding Unit

Annex D – Prosperity & Place

Annex E – Tourism & Recreation

Councillor McGurk requested a standardised report moving forward, to assist measuring the service areas against each other.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified all service area reports would be presented on OBA (Outcomes Based Approach), standardisation, presentation going forward including RAG (Red, Amber, Green) process.

14. WARM WELCOME SPACES

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Elected Members on a Warm Welcome Spaces campaign that Council is undertaking along with partners on the Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group and the community and voluntary sector, as part of its wider initiatives to alleviate the cost of living pressures.

Introduction

In light of the cost of living pressures facing many residents, Council is working with community, voluntary and statutory sector partners, building on the response to the pandemic, to create a network of warm and welcome spaces across Causeway Coast and Glens where residents can attend activities or just drop in for a cuppa and some company. These include libraries, community centres, church halls, sports clubs and other places promising a warm welcome over the winter months.

The Council's intention is to create a directory of all the spaces available and to ensure this information is clearly available so everyone knows where they can go to connect, enjoy some company and keep active, all the while keeping warm. Support will be provided to organisations that wish to create a warm space or to extend their existing activities.

Background

Energy bills have increased dramatically, and record levels of inflation are making essentials like food and fuel unaffordable. The situation only looks likely to get worse in the coming months. New research predicts that by April 2023, 72.4% of households in Northern Ireland will be living in fuel poverty ie. spending more than 10% of their net income on fuel after housing costs. The households most likely to be in fuel poverty will be larger families with children and lone-parent families with two or more children. While government proposals for assistance for those struggling to pay energy bills are still to be realised, the stark reality is that many homes in Causeway Coast and Glens will not be able to afford food or fuel this winter.

Council facilitates an Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (APSSG) which brings together voluntary organisations that are directly addressing poverty including the 4 main established foodbanks, Community Advice Causeway, St Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, Coleraine and Limavady Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board representatives along with relevant statutory

bodies. The APSSG has developed an action plan and delivered several initiatives including a 'Where to Turn' campaign to promote awareness of support services that are available for people who find themselves struggling financially. An information hub has been created on Councils website with details of foodbanks, advice centres, fuel support, energy efficiency, social supermarkets, community cupboards and fridges, wellbeing support and regional organisations.

The concept of Warm Space has gathered momentum with local authorities across the UK as efforts are made to put in place a raft of measures to support people through the winter months. Warm Spaces are places where people can gather for free in a warm, safe, welcoming place and enjoy a hot drink and some company and maybe participate in activities and access advice and other services.

Warm spaces are of course not a remedy for fuel poverty, not everyone will be able to get to warm spaces, not everyone will want to access them, and people will still need to heat their homes, but they are still a measure that can help in some way to support people, particularly those most vulnerable, over the winter months. Council will continue to engage through the APSSG with local partners to promote the range of other services that are available.

Warm Spaces in Causeway Coast and Glens was circulated within the report.

Support for Warm Welcome Spaces was circulated within the report.

Alderman A McQuillan welcomed the Warm Spaces bringing Groups together that may not have been keen to get together, people were getting together in Ballerin which was working with Moneydig and Garvagh, a welcome step forward and was good for Council. He requested the funding be opened up as soon as possible.

15. ASYLUM SEEKER BRIEFING

Purpose of Report

To provide information in relation to the increase in the dispersal of asylum seekers across Northern Ireland, including the CC&G Borough.

On the request of the NI Executive Office, support the establishment of networks for assistance and integration with local communities.

Background /Context

Members will be aware that the number of people arriving in the United Kingdom to seek asylum has increased significantly over recent years and the arrival rate continues to be high.

Anyone seeking asylum in the UK is engaging in a legal process which they are entitled to do. As a result, they may or may not be granted leave to remain via several options: refugee status, humanitarian protection and discretionary

leave. The timeframe for decisions is uncertain given rights of appeal and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asylum seekers fear returning to their country of origin and apply for international protection as a refugee (or under the rules regarding humanitarian protection).

To be recognised as a refugee under the Refugee Convention, they must have left their country and be unable to go back because they have a well-founded fear of persecution, based on one or more of the following reasons:- Race, religion, nationality, political opinion or anything else that puts them at risk because of the social, cultural, religious or political situation in their country for example gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Government Responsibilities and Approach was circulated within the report.

Process for Asylum Seekers was circulated within the report.

Housing Challenges and the Local 'As Is' Position was circulated within the report.

NI Executive Office Requests of Councils

- **Council Engagement Group** -Officers have been asked to participate in the engagement group, in the first instance, for those Councils where accommodation is being provided by Home Office under the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract.
- **Funding bid/proposal** - the dispersal programme for asylum seekers brings associated funding from the Home Office, some of which will be provided to councils to allow them to establish and/or build upon the necessary networks and infrastructure for integrating asylum seekers following full dispersal. Councils are expected to submit proposals with associated, projected costing for this purpose, which may include costs for co-design work in advance of services going live.

Challenges were circulated within the report.

Proposed/Draft Indicative Actions for TEO Funding Bid

These proposed/draft actions seek to embed and promote collaborative efforts at a local level while providing a range of activities which ensure appropriate support is available to asylum seekers located within the Borough.

- a) **Establishing the as is position to plan effective interventions** -There is an absence of information/data available on existing infrastructure/networks both regionally and locally, coupled with the lack of (known)needs assessment for the asylum seekers themselves at the point of writing this report, resources available from key service providers and identifiable gaps. It is necessary in the first instance, to carry out the necessary scoping and needs analysis, engaging both providers and service users in a co-design process to develop framework, delivery plan and associated governance structures compatible with need and demand.

- b) **Providing interim activities to support wellbeing and build community connections** – these activities provide opportunities for initial engagement with asylum seekers, while building connections with local community support available. It is anticipated that these activities will operate concurrently to the scoping/planning project with a view to encourage confidence to participate in a co design process by creating connections, building relationships and enhancing skills/capacity to participate in community life.

Due to the short notice to submit funding proposals these activities and associated costs are subject to in house resources to deliver same, levels of engagement from the asylum seekers themselves. Costs are estimated and therefore subject to changes.

Planning Assumptions were circulated within the report.

Project Details

Research/Scoping, Needs Analysis and development of Collaborative Based Action Plan

As Causeway Coast and Glens have recently welcomed a number of asylum seekers, Council has recognised that there is a need to build a shared understanding of needs, existing resources and gaps and as a result, build collaborative action between key stakeholders/service providers to meet these needs effectively.

As a response, council would propose that a third party is engaged to carry out research which will act as both the 'context' and baseline to develop a local action plan and facilitate the establishment of a key stakeholder reference group/ forum to both develop and manage a local plan and joined u service for asylum seekers.

The facilitation of a key stakeholder group/forum including representation from both relevant statutory and community service provision would be set up to encourage:

- Engagement,
- Commitment,
- Collaboration from all relevant statutory and community agencies,

with the aim of developing a local agreed approach supporting asylum seekers within the CC&GBC area.

Participation within the group/forum would require the long term support/commitment and leadership at all levels to help drive such an initiative forward and will assist in meeting the outcomes which to be agreed by the Home Office and The Executive Office, NI.

Community Planning colleagues will be integral to the successful facilitation of partnership working, utilising the Community Planning framework and partnership members to progress this forum/group.

Process

The process includes the following components:

- a) Steps in the development of an agreed plan to deal with such challenges would involve:
- b) Identification, recruitment and formation of a working/ steering group involving all key stakeholders to actively participate and contribute to the development of an area based strategy and *structure* which supports addressing need within the Borough area. This will include development of a terms of reference for the group and facilitation of at least 8 meetings in order to effectively establish it.
- c) Analysis of the functions of the key agencies and service providers in relation to the various range of Asylum seeker support.
- d) Collective analysis and agreement of what the key issues and concerns are by all stakeholders. This element requires the inclusion of *engagement processes* appropriate to the range of agencies and service providers to reach agreement. The brief will include the facilitation of these discussions.
- e) Identification of the resources (expertise and financial, physical resources) available at present and the gaps therein to deal with priority issues.
- f) Devise and agree an area based action plan for the CC&GB council area. This plan requires commitment and participation from all stakeholders and result in a SMART plan which is complementary to existing and emerging Government policy/strategy.
- g) Participating stakeholder groups should be required to demonstrate an *ongoing commitment* in engaging and participating in a structure to oversee the implementation of such a plan.
- h) Present plan to TEO and Council for consideration and to establish sources of longer term resourcing and governance arrangements of the plan.

Costs Consultant research x facilitation of cross sectoral group (inc AS representation?) = £5,000 desk based research (£500 p day x 10 days) plus facilitation of 8 sessions @£500 p day = £4000.

Meetings costs x 8 meetings = £500.

Total research/development and facilitation costs= £9,500.

Community Integration Activities were circulated within the report.

January – March 2023 were circulated within the report.

Administration and Overhead Costs (Council) were circulated within the report.

Table April 2023 – March 2024 - should funding be available was circulated within the report.

Alderman Baird welcomed the report and would be moved on quickly due to the short window.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

17. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to report to the Partnership Panel.

18. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN A MCQUILLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCAULEY

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor McAuley

'As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Garvagh bombing, it is felt that this would be an appropriate time to pause, remember and pay tribute. I call upon this council to place a fitting and permanent memorial on or near the Garvagh War memorial to all who served and to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. 24 Platoon E company (Garvagh Detachment), 5th County Londonderry Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment (Conspicuous Gallantry Cross) 1970 — 1992 and a plaque at bridge street Garvagh the site of the bombing.

Alderman A McQuillan presented the Notice of Motion.

"On 23rd of July 1974 at 3.45am this is a time and day that a lot of people will not forget about in Garvagh. This was when the curds of terrorists slipped in and left a 300lb car bomb on Bridge Street. Just a few hours before that the good people of Garvagh had been lifting money for Cancer research.

The Garvagh townscape was changed forever, it wrecked businesses and people's homes that had been there for years. However, it had a greater effect on the wife and three young children of Corporal John Conley, a 43-year-old creamery worker and part-time member of the UDR who lost his life while he was trying to evacuate people from their homes on Bridge Street. I was told a story of one family with 3 young children who had to be evacuated to Lyttlesdale and they lost everything they owned. Mr Conley was the man that helped them to safety, and he had tried to get their neighbour out as well but couldn't get him wakened, he went back a second time to try and get the man out of his house but, unknown to Mr Conley, the bomb was to explode, wrecking Bridge Street and killing Mr Conley and injuring one more UDR soldier and three civilians in the process.

I was told by a former member of the UDR that Mr Conley wasn't even supposed to be on duty that night but had swapped with him to let him help out at Garvagh Cancer Research. I was also told by members of the public that they were out at Station Road when the bomb went off and parts of the car went as far out as there that night. I hope this Memorial will serve two purposes; one of remembrance and one that reminds us that we never want to go back to the dark days of the Troubles”.

The Chair put the Notice of Motion to the Committee to vote.
Committee voted unanimously in Favour.
The Chair declared the Notice of Motion carried.

AGREED – to recommend that Council Support The Notice of Motion.

**20. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR McMULLAN,
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PEACOCK**

Proposed by Councillor McMullan
Seconded by Councillor Peacock

This council recognises the significant investment in rural communities and businesses, and the wider economy derived from the Single Farm Payment under the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); agrees that CAP Single Farm Payments were critical to farm profitability, particularly for small family farms; is concerned with the significant uncertainty facing our farming community with the loss of CAP Single Farm Payments as a result of Brexit and the end of the replacement Basic Payment Scheme, worth £300m a year, beyond 2025; and calls on the British Government and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to set out urgently what replacement funds will be put in place to support our farmers and the wider agricultural sector.

Councillor McMullan presented his Notice of Motion.

“Since Brexit, the Single Farm Payment has been in jeopardy, farmers do not know what is going to happen next year, whether they will have the same income. We were told the Government would pay the same money as Europe has been paying, but this has changed, told there would be changes, but do not know what the changes will be. Farmers need certainty as to what their income is going to be, without that certainty of income coming in, it affects expansion on the farm to make them more viable. It also affects young farmers, how many young people are we going to get to stay on the farm, to be the farmers of tomorrow. If this money does not come in, the farms are not profitable young people are not going to stay on the farms, they are going to move out and take jobs elsewhere. The Hill Farmer - The Hill subsidy was done away with and now we are going to cut the Single Farm Payment to hill farmer, its going to drive farmers completely out of the business.

My Motion is we send a letter to the British Government and with the absence of a Minister, send a letter to the Permanent Secretary at the Department and ask them what replacement funds will be put in place to support our Farmers. Because we have a responsibility as a Council to speak for our Farmers, at the very least we can do is find out what money is going to be there, even after this year, but they say after 2025. The uncertainty is making the Farming industry nearly unsustainable at the minute for quite a lot of farmers especially the young farmer who wants to go into the Business, can't do it because they can't be sure of profitability and a wage at the end of the week".

Councillor McMullan clarified in the absence of a Minister, that Council send a Letter to the Permanent Secretary.

Councillor McAuley stated he was not against support for farmers, there had been a u turn from Sinn Féin, they abandoned Farmers with their stance on the Climate Change Bill.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.
Committee voted unanimously in Favour.
The Chair declared the Notice of Motion carried.

AGREED – to recommend that Council Support The Notice of Motion.

* **The Chair declared a recess at 9.02pm.**

The meeting reconvened at 9.12pm.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

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

* **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 9.12pm.**

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

21. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL POSITION and LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION P8

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report to provide Members with a financial summary of the 2022/23 in-year position at Period 7 and 8.

The Director of Leisure and Development detailed a fluctuating position due to three areas influencing - employee costs, the current Pay Award, energy, utilities and electricity; repair and maintenance.

Alderman Duddy referred to the essential maintenance issues, he advised that to allow the estate to deteriorate would cost more in the long term. Alderman Duddy queried what had been the increase in staff numbers from 2015-2023; and the number of Agency staff who had been successful at Interview.

Councillor McAuley queried whether Council need all the staff on every level, stated he struggled with the difference between the private and public sector, the mindset was needed to change.

The Director of Leisure and Development provided an update on populating the structures Council had approved, he agreed to get back to Councillor MA McKillop on the Biodiversity post and agreed to bring the staff comparison requested by Alderman Duddy.

22. BINEVENAGH & COASTAL LOWLANDS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present an update to Members on the Binevenagh & Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS), and ask Members to consider options regarding possible future involvement for maintenance, management, and repair of 'estate' at Downhill Forest and Ballycarton/Binevenagh Forest. (Forest Service properties)

Options

At present the options are as follows:

1. Do nothing.
2. Agree to a licence agreement for Downhill North and Ballycarton based on the new terms from FS.
3. Negotiate the terms of the licence agreement with Forest Service for both Ballycarton and Downhill North proposed projects, which limit council's responsibilities and cost to operational area of interest/benefit.

Recommendation

Member are requested to consider the three options above, however Officers believe that Option 3 is in the best interest of Council in order to limit responsibilities to the operational area and cost.

Councillor McMullan proposed a similar report be brought back on Glenariffe Forest park in order that the public can use it and bring money into The Glens. The Chair confirmed the Director of Leisure and Development had taken this on board.

Alderman A McQuillan stated the Forest Service were difficult to operate with, and proposed Option 3, that Council look after what is uses.

Alderman Hillis supported entering negotiations and take on responsibility for the area Council are using.

Alderman Baird sought clarification why Garvagh differentiated from Binevenagh. She congratulated Leisure and Development for their support for the B&B By The Sea programme which had showcased the area and complimented the Heritage Trust and Council's Tourism department.

Alderman Baird stated dissatisfaction with subsidising the Forest Service and proposed that in addition to the recommendation, Council write to the Secretary of State.

Councillor McGurk stated she did not disagree with the principle of Option 3, with two parties involved, was worried Council were going to lock itself out of projects, as Council had lost out on Projects to date.

Councillor MA McKillop supported Option 3.

During debate, the Director of Leisure and Development responded to questions, he detailed the capital grant funded investment over the entirety of Garvagh Forest, the licence agreement responsible for recreation and activities in the forest. He advised what was being proposed at Ballycastle and Downhill was a small investment, that Officers believe Council should be responsible for the area the investment has been made only.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified Council had written to the previous DAERA Minister highlighting the scenario and suggested the correspondence was issued to the Permanent Secretary. The Director of Leisure and Development recommended escalating the matter through MLA's.

Proposed by Alderman A McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve Option 3, negotiate the terms of the licence agreement with Forest Service for both Ballycarton and Downhill North proposed projects, which limit council's responsibilities and cost to operational area of interest/benefit.

23. 2023 VISITOR GUIDE

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to procure services for the design and printing of the Council's Visitor Guide for the 2023 season for the purpose of marketing the Destination.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends the approval of the appointment of Kubrix for the design and print of the 2023 Visitor Guide at a total cost of £24,364 from the 2022/23 Destination Marketing budget.

Councillor Holmes put forward a suggestion the Tourist Trails maps on the website and brochure align; that Council target the market of Caravans, Family Holidays and events across the area.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Alderman Duddy

and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the appointment of Kubrix for the design and print of the 2023 Visitor Guide at a total cost of £24,364 from the 2022/23 Destination Marketing budget.

24. MOUNTSANDEL PROJECT

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on the findings of an independent cost report into the installation of a pedestrian bridge across the River Bann to the Mountsandel Mesolithic site; and to request approval of the previous recommendation to remove the Mountsandel project from the Growth Deal programme.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the findings of an independent cost report into the installation of a pedestrian bridge across the River Bann to the Mountsandel Mesolithic site; and to approve the previous recommendation made to Committee and remove the Mountsandel project from the Growth Deal programme.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised he had spoken with the representatives of Mountsandel Working group, who reluctantly accepted the report, but they will work with Council to obtain grant funding for the project.

Committee stated dissatisfaction with the report, that one quotation had been received, the Council decision from November was that two quotes be received. Committee considered elements of the Project could be undertaken. Committee considered it did not have all the information in order to make a decision. Members who had spoken with Mountsandel Working Group stated the Group did not agree with the contents of the report and had referenced a second quotation from Charles Brand.

Alderman Knight-McQuillan stated disappointment the Scheme was not included, she advised the net cost of Growth Deal was £6.5M and the Scheme not affordable for this fund, which may be putting other projects at risk.

The Director of Leisure and Development responded on the request for the email correspondence that he had been forwarded, from Charles Brand Group. He clarified it was a figure he could not stand over, as it had not been procured by Council and no Terms of Reference supplied. The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the Cutts structures could not take a downward force and they were historic structures.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – to recommend that Council do not accept the findings of an independent cost report into the installation of a pedestrian bridge across the River Bann to the Mountsandel Mesolithic site; and do not approve the previous recommendation made to Committee and remove the Mountsandel project from the Growth Deal programme; until Council has obtained the second cost estimate for a pedestrian bridge across the River Bann, as originally ratified by Council.

The Chair put the motion to the Committee to vote.
12 Members voted For; 0 Members voted Against, 1 Member Abstained.
The Chair declared the motion carried.

25. **SMALL SETTLEMENT REGENERATION PROGRAMME**

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the impact of the Net Zero requirement and inflationary costs on the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme [SSRP] and to request that Members consider the requirement for Net Zero standard for this programme.

Recommendation

Consideration of the requirement for Net Zero within the Small Settlement Regeneration Programme.

The Director of Leisure and Development responded to Councillor McAuley on the variances between the projects, due to size and ground conditions. He advised he would bring information back on whether floodlights were included in Dervock MUGA and agreed to inform Committee of any delays.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the requirement for Net Zero within the Small Settlement Regeneration Programme.

26. CUSHENDALL CHANGING PLACES

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to progress with a proposal to renovate the public toilet facility at Cushendall Holiday and Leisure Park/Harbour carpark facilities, to provide a dedicated 'Changing Places' facility for the village.

In order to avail of funding from The Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme and to meet deadlines for expenditures, Members approval is sought to progress to both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Capital Works process (business case and procurement), prior to coming back to Council in March 2023 for an investment decision.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee approves the advancement of Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Capital Works Process (to include full design and procurement) for renovation works at Cushendall Holiday and Leisure Park/Harbour carpark, to provide a dedicated 'Changing Places' facility.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Alderman A McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the advancement of Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Capital Works Process (to include full design and procurement) for renovation works at Cushendall Holiday and Leisure Park/Harbour carpark, to provide a dedicated 'Changing Places' facility.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Alderman A McQuillan and

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

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

(i) **Admittance Fees Council's Leisure Facilities (Alderman Duddy)**

Admittance fees for pensioners (those in receipt of the old age pension) to Council's leisure facilities, and in particular annual membership fees?

The Director of Leisure and Development responded, Pensioners (65years+) can avail of a 33% discount on the day ticket price (pay as you go) for gym use, classes and exercise classes. To apply a 33% discount to the annual membership fees for pensioners would result in a £26,700 revenue loss, based upon current membership numbers.

Alderman Duddy requested a report was brought back exploring an annual rate for Pensioners.

(ii) Coleraine Town City Bid (Alderman Duddy)

What initiatives or plans have council been involved in to improve Coleraine Town after Council's endorsement of the bid for the town to become a City?

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified the initiative had been led through Corporate Services and the Chief Executive, and he would come back on information from the Bid Team and Town Team.

Alderman Duddy advised there was widespread support for the City Bid, that Council are required to encourage inward investment and improvement in Coleraine Town to give it the opportunity to become a City in the future, that Leisure and Development do have a responsibility.

(iii) Garvagh MUGA (Alderman McQuillan)

Could I have a time schedule for the repairs to be carried out at Garvagh MUGA please.

The Director of Leisure and Development clarified that, as a result of flooding, the synthetic carpet had been ruined beyond repair, it will be removed within the next two weeks. Council is concurrently seeking confirmation from Insurers whether they will cover the cost of repairs. The removal of the carpet will allow the tarmacadam surface to be used for recreational activity. It is the intention to replace the carpet, with a new fit for purpose carpet.

(iv) Enterprise Zone (Alderman Duddy)

An update on the Enterprise Zone, including costs to Council?

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Council continue to work with the Department for the Economy to secure quality development for the Atlantic Link Enterprise Zone. He advised the Campus had experienced a number of challenges in the last five years, Council were fortunate to secure the Anchor tenant.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised progress to date included progressing £10m Business Incubation and Innovation Hub Growth Deal SOC for the site;

- Project Board now consumed into the Growth Deal Project Board.
- Appointment of a new Professional Property Agent;
- Ongoing engagement with DfE regards the following key issues:
 - Consideration of a lower corporation tax; and
 - Extension of the enhanced capital allowances;
 - Appointment of a planning consultant to investigate planning designations on the site;

- In terms of costs to date:
- Income invoiced since Sept 2018 totals £215k; and
- Capital costs incurred since 2015 total £3.1m (includes £2.1m land purchase and £1m enabling works).

Alderman Duddy stated dissatisfaction that from 2018-2023 there was only one business, which was disappointing, and he did not accept Brexit as an excuse. He advised Council had different opportunities and it was a white elephant. Alderman Duddy queried the likelihood of the Innovation Park occurring.

The Director of Leisure and Development further confirmed there were interested parties based upon the Growth Deal funding, to become the operator as a major business incubation site, which will complement other work for example, the Enterprise Agency is undertaking. An indicative figure in the Growth Deal programme of £10M, there were twelve acres of useable land left within the site to develop, the SOC (Strategic Outline Case) to be completed by March 2023, and then in the hands of Northern Ireland Executive and London.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 11.18pm.

Chair