

COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023

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No.	Item	Decision
1.	The Mayors' Business	Received
2.	Apologies	Councillors Huggins and Storey
3.	Declarations of Interest	Alderman S McKillop
4.	Deputation – Northern Ireland Housing Executive Investment Plans	Received
5.	Minutes of Council Meeting held Tuesday 3 October 2023	Confirmed and signed as a correct record
6.	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held Wednesday 18 October 2023	Confirmed and signed as a correct record
7.	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held Monday 30 October 2023	Withdrawn
8.	Minutes of Planning committee meeting held Wednesday 27 September 2023	Received and Noted
9.	Minutes of Environmental Services committee meeting held Tuesday 10 October 2023	
	Matters Arising	
9.1	The Environment Directorate's Sustainable Maintenance and Upkeep Plan for the Tourist Village of Bushmills and Details of any contribution from the Leisure and Development Directorate (Alderman S McKillop) (Ref Minute Item 19.2)	Information
9.2	Regularisation of Concessionary Trading Sites (Ref Minute Item 14)	That Council grant officers permission to make the CLEUD applications to the planning service to ensure regularisation is

		<p>assessed to complete this determination and to grant the applications expenditure;</p> <p>That Council requests that the Environmental Services Committee reviews the goods that can be traded at each Concessionary trading site for the next licencing period of 3 years (1st April 2024-31st March 2027)</p>
9.3	Signage to mark Ballymoney's Win of High Street of The Year in The Retail NI Awards (Councillor Wallace) (Ref Minute Item 19.1)	That Council installs signage to recognise Ballymoney as 2023 High Street of the Year and to recognise Coleraine's wins at Ulster in Bloom and Britain in Bloom
9.4	Strategic Selection and / or Progression of Major Capital Project - Red Bay Pier, Cushendall (Ref Minute Item 15)	To be discussed 'In Committee'
9.5	Adoption of the Minutes	That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 10 October 2023, are adopted and recommendations therein approved including Amendment at 9.2 and Amendment at 9.3, excluding Item 9.4 considered 'In Committee' at the end of the meeting
10.	Minutes of Finance committee meeting held Thursday 12 October 2023	
	Matters Arising	
10.1	Procurement Policy (Ref Minute Item 6)	That Council approve the Procurement Policy and increase the authorisation limit for senior officers to £15,000, to be reviewed after 12 months, with

		other authorisation limits to be adjusted proportionally
10.2	Adoption of the Minutes	That the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held Tuesday 12 October 2023, are adopted and recommendations therein approved including the resolution at Item 10.1 above
11.	Minutes of Leisure and Development committee meeting held Tuesday 17 October 2023	
	Matters Arising	
11.1	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor C Archibald, Seconded by Councillor McShane (Ref Minute Item 19)	That Council conducts a full equality impact assessment before it agrees to support Pride parade/festival and holds a workshop on the implications for Council's events team
11.2	Adoption of the Minutes	That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 October 2023, are adopted and recommendations therein approved including amendment at Item 11.1 above
12.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources committee meeting held Tuesday 24 October 2023	
	Matters Arising	
12.1	Minutes of the Land and Property Sub Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 4 October 2023 (Ref Minute Item 14)	To be discussed 'In Committee'
12.2	Adoption of the Minutes	That the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 24 October 2023, are adopted and

		recommendations therein approved, excluding Item 12.1 considered 'In Committee' at the end of the meeting
13.	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	None
14.	Conferences	Nil
15.	Correspondence	None
16.	Consultation Schedule	That Council noted the Consultation Schedule and agreed to bring the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland Trans Equality Policy to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
17.	Seal Documents	Seal Affixed
18.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Stirling, seconded by Councillor Huggins	Referred to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
19.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Watton, seconded by Councillor Kyle	Referred to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
20.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Peacock, seconded by Councillor Bateson	Referred to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
21.	Removal of Interim Measures – Roles and Responsibilities within Land & Property	That Council approves the removal of the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation which was put in place as an interim measure to grant delegated authority to the Director of Environmental Services in respect of

		<p>paragraphs 4.6- 4.10 and removes temporary responsibility for Asset Management – Land and Property roles and responsibilities to the Director of Environmental Services; and</p> <p>Council Officers named within the Extraordinary Report should now reassume responsibility for Asset Management – Land and Property Services roles in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and the appropriate granted delegated authority; and</p> <p>Progress with the implementation of the suite of recommendations from the Land and Property Review as part of the comprehensive Transformation Programme, which will ensure the Council adopts Best Practice in its structures, procedures and operations and improves its relationship with the Department for Communities.</p>
22.	Draft Finance committee correspondence re. rating of second homes	That Council issues the correspondence as drafted

23.	Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme Update Report	<i>That Council accept the proposed additional budget requirement of £111,733.66 within this report to allow the Mosside project to be successfully implemented.</i>
24.	Minutes of Environmental Services committee meeting held Tuesday 10 October 2023 <i>'In Committee'</i>	
	Matters Arising	
24.1	Strategic Selection and / or Progression of Major Capital Project - Red Bay Pier, Cushendall (Ref Minute Item 15)	<i>That Council grant officers permission to engage in a contract with Messrs. Charles Brand Limited at a tendered figure of £1, 645, 995.00 + VAT to progress the repair of Red Bay Pier (Stage 3 of the Capital Procurement Gateway)</i>
25.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources committee meeting held Tuesday 24 October 2023 <i>'In Committee'</i>	
	Matters Arising	
25.1	Minutes of the Land and Property Sub Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 4 October 2023 - Portballintrae – Bayhead Road and Seaport Avenue – Extension to Existing Leases (Ref 01/23/P and 02/23/P) Heads of Terms (Ref Minute Item 6.1)	<i>That Council refer Item 6.1 - Portballintrae – Bayhead Road and Seaport Avenue – Extension to Existing Leases (Ref 01/23/P and 02/23/P) Heads of Terms – back to the Land and Property Sub Committee</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Callaghan (C)

Present : Alderman Boyle (C), Callan (R), Coyle (C), Fielding (C),
Hunter (R), Knight-McQuillan (R), John McAuley (C), S
McKillop (C), Scott (R), Stewart (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), C Archibald (C), N Archibald
(C), Chivers (R), Holmes (C), Kane (C), Kennedy (C),
Kyle (C), Mairs (C), Jonathan McAuley (C), McCully (C),
McGlinchey (R), McGurk (R), MA McKillop (C), McMullan
(C), McQuillan (C), McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock
(C), Schenning (C), Stirling (C), Wallace (C), Watson (C),
Watton (C), Wilson (R), Wisener (C)

Officers Present : M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (C)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (C)
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (R)
J Richardson, Head of Capital Works, Energy and
Infrastructure (R)
J Morton, Harbour Master (R)
J Elliott, Town & Village Manager (R)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
W Hall, Capital Projects Manager (R)
J Mills, Land and Property Solicitor (R)
P Donaghey, Democratic & Central Services Manager (R)
P Kydd, Procurement Officer (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)
P O'Brien, Head of Funding (R)
S Gamble, Corporate Communications & PR Manager (R)
U Harper, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (R)

In attendance : G Long – NIHE Chief Executive (C)
F O'Connor – NIHE North Regional Manager (C)
M Alexander – NIHE Causeway Area Manager (C)
L Clarke – NIHE Head of Place Shaping North (R)

B Cassidy – NIHE (R)
A Mawhinney – NIHE (R)
C O'Carroll – NIHE (R)
E Stubbs – NIHE (R)
L Vincent – NIHE (R)

A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Press (1 No) (R)
Public (1 No) (R)

Key – **C** = Attended in the Chamber
 R = Attended Remotely

The Director of Corporate Services undertook a roll call.

The Mayor opened the meeting and extended a welcome to members of the press and public in attendance and provided guidance in relation to Council's Remote Meetings Protocol and audio recordings.

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor provided a summary of his key engagements and highlights since last Council Meeting as follows:

"I would like to congratulate Jonathan McFadden, the Council's Sports Development Manager and his team – Sandra Anderson, Clare Galway, and Selina Ramsey – who not only beat off stiff competition to win the "partnership, working in public health" category at the advancing healthcare awards dinner at the Stormont Hotel on 12th October for their programme 'Causeway Healthy Kids', but went on to collect the crown for the overall project of the year. This is a fantastic achievement.

I would like to pay tribute to the Council's estate service for the work they have put in to keep our town's floral displays in pristine condition over the spring and summer. Their work resulted in Ballymoney being awarded third place in the town section of the Ulster in Bloom competition, with Coleraine winning first place in the large town section. Everyone connected with these displays is to be commended.

It was a real pleasure for me to attend the Britain in Bloom awards in London with Noel Davoren and Damien Guy from Estates Services. We were hopeful that the Council would pick up something for Coleraine in the large town section. We were overwhelmed when Coleraine was awarded the gold medal. We were also awarded a certificate of achievement in horticultural excellence and the 'Best in Britain' in the horticultural excellence section against some stiff opposition in the UK. A massive thanks to everyone involved in the upkeep of the fantastic displays. The Causeway Coast and Glens Council staff were also awarded a certificate of achievement for sustainable gardening at this awards ceremony.

I would like to pay tribute to the Council staff and the events team for the hard work they put in to the Bushmills Salmon and Whiskey festival. There was a great turnout of visitors on the Saturday and Sunday. The event ran smoothly, with great feedback from the traders. I met with tourists from Australia,

Canada, the UK and Ireland, as well as local people who all enjoyed the experience. Well done to everyone concerned.

I would like to thank everyone from the Council who was involved with the Halloween events in Coleraine and Ballymoney. The event at the university in Coleraine was a remarkable event with the spooky trail being a fantastic addition. Both events were well organised and very well supported. Again, this was helped by the hard work of the council staff and events team.

Although it wasn't a council event, the council staff helped build the course and helped with the Portrush beach races. This was another fantastic event. There were several thousand people on the East strand on both days watching this event. This extended our tourist season with local restaurants and businesses commenting on an increase in trading. Well done to the council staff involved.

I would like to congratulate Stephen McCartney, Sports Development Manager, and Wendy McCullough and their team for the fantastic event to mark the Causeway Coast and Glens Sports Awards dinner. Congratulations to all the finalists and winners.

Since the last council meeting, I have represented the Council at 48 events. I would again thank my Deputy, Margaret Ann McKillop, for her support during this period."

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Huggins and Councillor Storey.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Declarations of Interest were recorded for:

Alderman S McKillop declared an Interest on Agenda Item 23, Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme Update Report. Having declared an interest, Alderman S McKillop left the Chamber and did not participate in the Item.

4. DEPUTATION – NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE INVESTMENT PLANS.

The Mayor welcomed the representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

The NIHE Chief Executive thanked the Council and its officers for working well with NIHE, particularly on its "Better Future Together" plan.

The NIHE Chief Executive delivered a presentation regarding NIHE's work in the Causeway Coast and Glens borough. Some of the key points raised included the following:

- NIHE manages 6,490 social houses in this Council area.

- Last year, NIHE spent just over £31 million on housing benefit payments; £13 million on new build social housing; almost £5 million on supporting people; just over £5 million on planned maintenance; just over £6 million on response maintenance.
- For this financial year, it is anticipated to spend about £31 million on housing benefit; just under £7 million on planned maintenance and £7 million on response maintenance. The figure for new build social housing is not currently available.
- Under the 'Affordable Warmth' scheme, last year, there were 550 measures implemented across 330 properties.
- The Housing Executive is now taking responsibility for the entirety of the 'Affordable Warmth' scheme, as per a Department for Communities decision earlier this year.
- There will be no further funding for the 'boiler replacement' scheme; applications submitted up to 21 September 2023 will be honoured but there will be no further funding this year.
- The level of housing stress (people with more than 30 points) continues to grow – it has grown from 54% to 57%.
- There is significant additional demand for temporary accommodation. Most of the growth in demand comes from households whose informal sharing arrangements have broken down. In this borough, NIHE is currently using around 88 units for this.
- In respect of the five-year Social Housing Development Programme target, 368 new build starts were achieved against the target of 385.
- With regard to new builds, there is a need to focus on rural accommodation. The availability of land with planning permission is critical for meeting targets.
- With regard to discretionary housing payments, rents have continued to rise, which has created significant gaps. NIHE has chosen to reduce the amount in overall rewards per household in order to help as many households as possible.
- NIHE has identified a need for just over 1,500 new builds.
- NIHE carried out more than 1,300 retrofits across Northern Ireland.
- NIHE is hoping to be able to borrow in order to invest in more stock.

The Mayor thanked the representatives of NIHE for their well-prepared and comprehensive presentation.

*** Councillor McGlinchey joined the meeting remotely at 7:15pm.**

Councillor MA McKillop thanked the NIHE representatives for their presentation, and expressed thanks to Frankie McBride and Noleen for all their help over the last year. Councillor MA McKillop asked whether there is a date for work to start on the new builds in the Glens. She also expressed concern regarding the points system, particularly in relation to intimidation points. She asked how it can be ensured that locals get the new houses.

The NIHE Chief Executive stated that there is a high bar in relation to intimidation points. She stated that of the 45,000 households on the waiting

list, less than 1% of these have intimidation points. She advised that the points system does not reflect where someone is from; each household will make its own choice.

The NIHE North Regional Manager stated that NIHE has supported two rural housing projects in Cushendall, comprising 39 units. He advised that it is up to the relevant housing association to do all of the planning related works and develop these. He advised that he is not optimistic that the schemes will start before the end of this financial year.

Councillor McMullan stated that it is good to see the difference between urban and rural areas being acknowledged, as the gap in provision is widening. He stated that an applicant can get more points living in an urban area than a rural one, and asked what can be done to address this.

The NIHE Chief Executive acknowledged the need for social housing in rural areas. She advised that if anyone knows of an area needing housing, they should come forward with that information, so that a latent demand test for that area can be carried out. She advised that NIHE's role is to advise councils and housing associations regarding housing need; its role is to commission rather than undertake building works. She advised that NIHE's powers are limited, so it is important for them to work in partnership.

Councillor McMullan stated that the current system for signing on to the housing list is putting people off applying, compared to the previous system.

The NIHE North Regional Manager advised that while temporary measures were put in place due to covid, very little is now done over the phone.

Councillor Watton stated that the most recent figures that he had seen showed that 23% of the social housing budget was spent in the Derry and Strabane council area, compared with 3% in the Causeway Coast and Glens borough, which is indefensible. He stated that he hears about housing issues every day and that a review of the points system is long overdue. He stated that local residents feel that they are not being looked after, and are concerned that people with no connection to the borough are getting houses here.

The NIHE Chief Executive stated that the 'fundamental review of allocation' is under way, with phase one having been completed at the end of January 2023, which widened the areas of choice. There will be a range of other measures implemented, with the review anticipated to continue until 2025. She stated that the NIHE is active in all DEAs in this borough. She stated that the capital budget for the programme has been cut by 25%. She emphasised that households in need must make themselves known to NIHE, and that needs assessment is done on a Northern Ireland-wide basis.

Alderman Hunter thanked the NIHE representatives for their presentation and thanked Frankie McBride, Noeleen Connolly and Mark Alexander for their assistance. She enquired about the Bushmills external maintenance programme.

The NIHE Causeway Area Manager advised that the appendices in the plan have all the information, but he would contact Alderman Hunter directly to clarify.

Councillor Peacock thanked Mark, Noeleen and Frankie for all their assistance. She stated that there is a major issue with how demand is measured as it excludes several groups, and that the demand figures are dramatically too low. She asked what the Housing Executive is doing to promote affordable housing and stated that there is a need for a dynamic system to provide this.

The NIHE Chief Executive stated that there is a need for a dynamic system for affordable housing. She stated that the Department for Communities is responsible for bringing forward new products and is currently developing an intermediate rent product, but it will not be available for at least a couple more years. She advised that she will follow up with Councillor Peacock to further discuss issues related to demand testing.

Councillor Peacock asked for an update on insulation issues, and whether new stock can be released now that a new contractor has been appointed.

The NIHE North Regional Manager advised that the original contractor went out of business, but a new contractor has now been appointed. He advised that he would follow up with detailed timings. He advised that there are two projects under way looking at new technology for heating and insulation.

The NIHE Chief Executive advised that NIHE undertook a review following the recent ruling in England regarding the death of a child due to the condition of a property. She advised that if anyone has a concern, they should contact the NIHE, so staff can first look at whether there is a systemic issue with the fabric of the building. With regard to insulation, she distinguished between defective insulation as opposed to insulation that is not up to modern standards, and that it will take longer to address the latter.

The NIHE Causeway Area Manager advised that Tony Dignan, author of the Strategic Housing Market Analysis Reports, will attend the upcoming Council workshop on 7 December and will be able to address queries regarding housing demand.

The NIHE Head of Place Shaping North stated that NIHE worked with community planning partners to encourage people to put their name on the list, and two schemes – in Kilrea and Garvagh – are coming forward as a result.

Councillor Peacock stated that this Council has refused to sign off on the Local Development Plan as they are not content with the figures contained within it. She asked whether the 'Affordable Warmth' referrals made by Council officers be seamlessly transferred to the new system and whether the same number of referrals would be made each month.

The NIHE Chief Executive stated that the intention is that the transfer will be seamless for applicants already in the system, and that she is not aware of any issues with transition.

Councillor Nicholl expressed his thanks to the NIHE representatives for their presentation and to Frankie McBride for his continued assistance. He stated that securing adjustments to properties is a major issue and that there is too much bureaucracy involved.

The NIHE Chief Executive advised that the Housing Community Network is reviewing the process. She stated that the rules are set by the Department for Communities and that the HE role is to implement them. She stated that the customer has to drive the process, which is not always helpful.

The NIHE North Regional Manager advised that there had been delays to minor adaptations due to covid and industrial action, but the HE is now coming out of that. He stated that securing major adaptations is a complicated process due to the range of expertise and approvals required. He stated that the process has been under review for eight years, and that although there are delays, adjustments are getting done.

Councillor McCully thanked the HE staff for their presentation. He asked about the impact of the large number of second homes in the area on housing demand.

The NIHE North Regional Manager stated that they do not see a connection between second homes and their waiting list. He advised that it is a different housing market, as second homes tend to be concentrated in confined areas and are sites that NIHE would not be in a position to buy.

The NIHE Head of Place Shaping North advised that NIHE has not found a significant correlation between second homes and an impact on the wider housing market, but that this matter can be covered in the upcoming workshop. She advised that the Local Development Plan team is considering additional research on the volume and impact of second homes at a local level.

Alderman S McKillop thanked NIHE staff for their work and assistance. She stated that the situation regarding second homes is changing, as people are now starting to buy them in housing estates. She asked for an update on the long-overdue bathroom and kitchen schemes. She also asked how often areas are assessed for a general clean-up, citing the Dundarave estate and the rural area of Liscolman in Bushmills as needing refreshed.

The NIHE Chief Executive advised that the workshop will be useful in identifying local need.

The NIHE Causeway Area Manager advised that the programme for the external cyclical maintenance (ECM) scheme is detailed in the plan, and that he will follow up directly with Alderman S McKillop.

The Mayor thanked the NIHE representatives for their presentation and answers to Members' questions, and noted that some matters are to be followed up.

- * **The representatives of NIHE left the Chamber/left the meeting remotely at 8:16pm.**

5. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock
Seconded by Councillor Kane and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 5 October 2023, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Mairs
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Council meeting held Wednesday 18 October 2023, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

7. MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY 30 OCTOBER 2023 - WITHDRAWN

The Director of Corporate Services advised the meeting that Item 7 had been withdrawn.

8. MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor McMullan
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held Wednesday 27 September 2023 are received and noted.

9. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Matters Arising

9.1 The Environment Directorate's Sustainable Maintenance and Upkeep Plan for the Tourist Village of Bushmills and Details of any contribution from the Leisure and Development Directorate (Alderman S McKillop) (Ref Minute Item 19.2)

Alderman S McKillop asked the Director of Environmental Services to follow up with the information requested under AORB.

9.2 Regularisation of Concessionary Trading Sites (Ref Minute Item 14)

Alderman John McAuley stated that the table detailing concessionary trading arrangements has further complicated the issue rather than providing clarity. He stated that the Riverside Park in Ballymoney is a good example of trading arrangements, where there is one trader, one site, they can sell hot and cold food and hot and cold drinks and they are not competing with anyone. He proposed that the arrangement should be that where there is one site, a trader should be allowed to sell hot and cold food and hot and cold drinks. He said that where there is a multi-site, they should not be allowed to compete with each other, except in an example such as Lansdowne, where there is sufficient demand.

Alderman John McAuley proposed that the concessionary trading arrangements be brought back to the Environmental Services Committee, with the list reviewed and simplified.

The Director of Environmental Services stated that the proposals in the table came from discussions held by the Trading Working Group.

Councillor Anderson seconded Alderman John McAuley's proposal.

Councillor Holmes stated that any trader should be allowed to sell hot and cold drinks. He cited the example of Castlerock. He stated that he was happy for the matter to go back to Committee.

Councillor Wilson stated that he wished to echo Alderman John McAuley's comments. He stated that it is critical to get this right, that everything should be abundantly clear before a single bid is made at auction, and that Councillors must back officers if enforcement is needed, but the trading arrangements must first be fine-tuned. He stated that the Council may need to be more generic regarding what can be sold at each concession, and this should be clear to potential traders at the outset.

Members agreed that they were content for this Item to go back to Committee.

The Director of Environmental Services clarified whether Members were content for the CLEUD applications to proceed as Agreed.

Members agreed that they were content for the CLEUD applications to proceed as Agreed.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Anderson

- That Council grant officers permission to make the CLEUD applications to the planning service to ensure regularisation is assessed to complete this determination and to grant the applications expenditure;

And that Council requests that the Environmental Services Committee reviews the goods that can be traded at each Concessionary trading site for the next licencing period of 3 years (1st April 2024- 31st March 2027)

RESOLVED – That Council grant officers permission to make the CLEUD applications to the planning service to ensure regularisation is assessed to complete this determination and to grant the applications expenditure;

And that Council requests that the Environmental Services Committee reviews the goods that can be traded at each Concessionary trading site for the next licencing period of 3 years (1st April 2024- 31st March 2027)

9.3 Signage to mark Ballymoney's Win of High Street of The Year in The Retail NI Awards (Councillor Wallace) (Ref Minute Item 19.1)

Alderman Boyle stated that she welcomed the proposal for signage for Ballymoney and asked if Coleraine could also receive signage in recognition of its first place win in the 'large town' category at Ulster in Bloom and its gold medal from Britain in Bloom.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor Watton

-That Council installs signage to recognise Ballymoney as 2023 High Street of the Year and to recognise Coleraine's wins at Ulster in Bloom and Britain in Bloom.

RESOLVED – that Council installs signage to recognise Ballymoney as 2023 High Street of the Year and to recognise Coleraine's wins at Ulster in Bloom and Britain in Bloom.

9.4 STRATEGIC SELECTION AND / OR PROGRESSION OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT - RED BAY PIER, CUSHENDALL (Ref Minute Item 15)

It was agreed to postpone discussion of this Item until the meeting was In Committee.

9.5 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Alderman Fielding
Seconded by Alderman S McKillop and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 10 October 2023, are adopted and recommendations therein approved including Amendment at 9.2 and Amendment at 9.3, excluding Item 9.4 considered *'In Committee'* at the end of the meeting.

10. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Matters Arising

10.1 Procurement Policy (Ref Minute Item 6)

The Chief Finance Officer advised that Item 6 in these minutes referred to authorisation limits for officers for procurement. He highlighted that the proposal was for an increase from £10,000 to £30,000 for Senior Officers, in line with Central Procurement Directorate guidance and best practice.

Councillor Peacock stated that the view in Committee was to keep the limit at £10,000.

Alderman Boyle indicated that she wished to second this proposal.

Councillor Watton queried how long the £10,000 limit has been in place. He stated that due to inflation, £10,000 is no longer as significant a sum as it once was.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that the limit had originally been £30,000 when the Councils merged and was reduced to £10,000 around 2018 or 2019.

Alderman John McAuley acknowledged Councillor Watton's point regarding the value of £10,000 in the current climate, but also stated that £10,000 to £30,000 is a massive jump.

Alderman John McAuley proposed that the limit for senior officers be increased to £15,000, with a review after 12 months.

Councillor Peacock stated that she was content with that proposal.

Councillor Anderson seconded the proposal.

The Chief Finance Officer asked whether Members were content for the lower authorisation limits to be adjusted proportionally.

Members stated that they were content for the lower spending limits to be adjusted proportionally.

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

RESOLVED – that Council approve the Procurement Policy and increase the authorisation limit for senior officers to £15,000, to be reviewed after 12 months, with other authorisation limits to be adjusted proportionally.

10.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Peacock
Seconded by Councillor McQuillan and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held Tuesday 12 October 2023, are adopted and recommendations therein approved including the resolution at Item 10.1 above.

11. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Matters Arising

11.1 Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor C Archibald, Seconded by Councillor McShane (Ref Minute Item 19)

Alderman Fielding stated that he was aware that an amendment to this notice of motion had fallen and that a similar amendment could not be brought, but that, having read the minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee, he agreed with what Alderman Callan and Councillor Kyle had said.

Alderman Fielding stated that the Pride movement is contentious and has a political agenda. He stated that it does not always show respect for those with an alternative viewpoint, and that not all gay and lesbian people support the Pride movement. He stated that further evidence that Pride is a political movement with a political agenda was the presence of the Causeway Pride banner, front and centre, at the recent Palestine solidarity protest rally held in Portrush on 28 October. He stated that these rallies, held across the UK recently, have contributed to the increase in antisemitism. He stated that it would be wrong for Council to agree to organise the Causeway Pride parade, as it would set a dangerous precedent for Council and open it to challenges from other groups that host parades and similar events.

Alderman Fielding proposed that the Council seeks a full equality impact assessment (EQIA) before Council agrees to proceed with Pride parade/festival, and a workshop on the implications for Council's events team.

Councillor Jonathan McAuley queried whether the notice of motion was about equality or supremacy. He stated that equality would be to back Alderman's Fielding's amendment, to say that all are equally welcome in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough, whereas putting one section about others is supremacy. He seconded Alderman Fielding's amendment.

Councillor Peacock clarified that the intention is not that the Council organises the Pride event, rather that it supports and offers assistance to those organising it.

Councillor Watton stated that Sinn Féin will support any interest going. He stated that staff have told him that they would not be happy to work on it. He indicated support for Alderman Fielding's proposal.

Councillor Wilson questioned the motive behind the notice of motion. He stated that mechanisms for support are available, and all groups will be treated equitably. He stated that he abstained from the original vote as he did not wish to support something with an egregious motive.

Councillor Nicholl stated that there was hypocrisy from some elements in the Chamber, given that staff have to work on Armed Forces days and Air Shows. He stated that staff come from all sections of the community.

Councillor Niamh Archibald stated that the motion is about showing that people's lives are equal; this applies both to people in the Chamber and people outside it. She stated that there are no ulterior motives.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Fielding

Seconded by Councillor Jonathan McAuley

- That Council conducts a full equality impact assessment before it agrees to support Pride parade/festival and holds a workshop on the implications for Council's events team.

The Mayor put the Amendment by Alderman Fielding, seconded by Councillor Jonathan McAuley to the Council to Vote.

21 Members voted For; 12 Members voted Against; 2 Members Abstained.
The Mayor declared the Amendment passed.

RESOLVED - That Council conducts a full equality impact assessment before it agrees to support Pride parade/festival and holds a workshop on the implications for Council's events team.

11.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor N Archibald

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 October 2023, are adopted and recommendations therein approved including amendment at Item 11.1 above.

12. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023

Copy, previously circulated.

Matters Arising

12.1 MINUTES OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2023 (Ref Minute Item 14)

The Director of Environmental Services advised that there had been a request from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) to review Item 14 (Item 6.1 of the Land and Property Sub Committee meeting). NIAO has had queries brought to its attention regarding this Item, which relates to a lease extension for two plots of leased property in Portballintrae. He advised that the Item could be discussed in more detail when the meeting moved *In Committee*.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the item had first been discussed in the Land and Property Sub Committee meeting and was then recommended for approval through the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

Alderman Knight-McQuillan stated that she was happy to propose to defer the Item back to the Land and Property Sub Committee.

It was agreed that the Item be further discussed during the '*In Committee*' section of the meeting.

12.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl
Seconded by Alderman Coyle and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 24 October 2023, are adopted and recommendations therein approved, excluding Item 12.1 considered '*In Committee*' at the end of the meeting.

13. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to report to the Partnership Panel

14. CONFERENCES

There were no conferences.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

16. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Consultation schedule, previously circulated, presented as read.

- (i) Department for Communities and Mid & East Antrim Borough Council on St Patrick's Regeneration: Public Consultation 2023, submission by 25 October 2023 (expired)
- (ii) Department for the Economy on Approach to 10x Technologies and Clusters, submission by 24 November 2023
- (iii) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on Consultation on the proposed ban of the manufacture supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic, submission by 25 November 2023
- (iv) Department for Communities on Consultation on Private Tenancies Act 2022 Section 8 Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarms, submission by 6 December 2023
- (v) Department for Communities on Consultation on Private Tenancies Act 2022 Section 10 Electrical Safety Standards, submission by 6 December 2023
- (vi) Department for Communities on Consultation on the Pensions (Extension of Automatic Enrolment) Bill, submission by 11 December 2023
- (vii) The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland on Trans Equality Policy, submission by 19 January 2024
- (viii) Ulster University on Equality screening of Ulster University's new and revised policies, submission by 5 February 2024

Available to View

- (i) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions Consultation responses and way forward
- (ii) Northern Ireland Civil Service, Guide for Allies
- (iii) Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Implementation of mandatory digital waste tracking
- (iv) NIE Networks and SONI, NI Over Install Decision Paper
- (v) Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company and Translink, Equality Impact Assessments and Screening Outcome Report July – September 2023

Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- Department of Finance, Consultation on a review of energy efficiency requirements and related areas of Building Regulations - submission by 15 November 2023
- Choice, Consultation on Choice's Draft Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan – submission by 17 November 2023
- Department of Health, Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services - Initial Consultation on the recommendations – submission by 1 December 2023

- Department for Communities, Consultation on the Pensions (Extension of Automatic Enrolment) Bill – submission by 11 December 2023

Councillor Holmes drew attention to the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland on Trans Equality Policy. He suggested that this item be brought to Committee as the consequences could be very far-reaching.

The Director of Corporate Services suggested that the Item be brought to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED – that Council noted the Consultation Schedule and agreed to bring the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland Trans Equality Policy to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

17. SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, No's 5663 to 5678;
- (ii) Extinguishment Order – Blackburn Path – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Blackburn Path Extinguishment Order 2003 (L&D – 230919 CM – 231003)
- (iii) Co-operation Agreement – Provision of Legal Services – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council (CP&R – 230926 CM – 231003)
- (iv) Agreement Relating to Advance for Purchase of Car - Ref. 210-5115

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor C Archibald and

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

18. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR STIRLING, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR HUGGINS

I call upon this council to submit an application to host Armed Forces Day 2026. This significant event is a great opportunity to show our support and give thanks to our military personnel and families both past and present including our veterans and cadets.

This event will attract thousands of visitors to our Beautiful Borough, supporting our local traders and tourism providers.

The Mayor referred the Notice of Motion, without discussion, to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR WATTON, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR KYLE

That this Council reinstate the previous policy of full cross party and Independents' attendance at Group Leaders meetings.

The Mayor referred the Notice of Motion, without discussion, to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

20. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR PEACOCK, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BATESON

This council condemns all attacks and suffering inflicted against civilians in the Middle East. We recognise that there is no justification for the killing of civilians or the taking of civilian hostages who must be urgently released. All acts of violence must end immediately.

I propose that this council condemns the killing that has taken place on all sides, and that we call for a full and immediate ceasefires, the opening of a humanitarian corridor into Gaza; and, full adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law; an international intervention with leadership brought to bear in securing dialogue, a lasting peace, and a long-term solution that ends this crisis.

The Mayor referred the Notice of Motion, without discussion, to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

RESOLVED – that Council move 'In Committee'.

- * **Press were disconnected from the meeting at 9.05pm.**
- * **Public were disconnected from the meeting at 9.05pm.**

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.

21. REMOVAL OF INTERIM MEASURES – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN LAND & PROPERTY

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Environmental Services.

Purpose of Report

For Council to consider removal of interim measures in terms of roles and responsibilities in relation to land and property and asset management.

Recommendation(s)

That Council approves the removal of the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation which was put in place as an interim measure to grant delegated authority to the Director of Environmental Services in respect of paragraphs 4.6- 4.10 and removes temporary responsibility for Asset Management – Land and Property roles and responsibilities to the Director of Environmental Services; and

Council Officers named within the Extraordinary Report should now reassume responsibility for Asset Management – Land and Property Services roles in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and the appropriate granted delegated authority; and

Progress with the implementation of the suite of recommendations from the Land and Property Review as part of the comprehensive Transformation Programme, which will ensure the Council adopts Best Practice in its structures, procedures and operations and improves its relationship with the Department of Communities.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

RESOLVED – that Council approves the removal of the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation which was put in place as an interim measure to grant delegated authority to the Director of Environmental Services in respect of paragraphs 4.6- 4.10 and removes temporary responsibility for Asset Management – Land and Property roles and responsibilities to the Director of Environmental Services; and

Council Officers named within the Extraordinary Report should now reassume responsibility for Asset Management – Land and Property Services roles in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and the appropriate granted delegated authority; and

Progress with the implementation of the suite of recommendations from the Land and Property Review as part of the comprehensive Transformation Programme, which will ensure the Council adopts Best Practice in its structures, procedures and operations and improves its relationship with the Department for Communities.

* **Councillor McGlinchey left the meeting remotely at 9:11pm.**

22. DRAFT FINANCE COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE RE. RATING OF SECOND HOMES

Confidential draft correspondence, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that the letter had been drafted following agreement by the Finance Committee. He advised that it could be sent from the Committee Chair or the Mayor.

Councillor Watton queried how many homes this might apply to and the potential revenue from it. He stated that he was happy to support the letter.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that that information is held by LPS, as the rating authority, rather than the Council.

Councillor Peacock stated that the letter is timely given the changes to the rates system being considered, and that LPS may be able to provide the information requested by Councillor Watton.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that he had received a notice of the consultation on rating policy issues and that it would be brought to the December meeting of the Finance Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock
Seconded by Alderman Coyle and

RESOLVED – that Council issues the correspondence as drafted.

* **Alderman S McKillop having declared an interest, left the Chamber at 9:16pm.**

23. COVID RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme [SSRP] and to seek additional match funds required for a Compensation Event (CE) on the Mossie project.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members accept the proposed additional budget requirement of £111,733.66 within this report to allow the Mossie project to be successfully implemented.

Alderman John McAuley queried how the issue with the roof had only just been identified, given how much consultation had been involved with this project.

The Head of Prosperity and Place advised that although surveys had been taken in advance, the issue had only become apparent when the contractor removed parts of the roof that were not previously possible to survey due to restricted access.

Alderman John McAuley expressed frustration at the level of expenditure involved in the project. He stated that it was an inexcusable waste of public money. He stated that he would propose the recommendation because it was so far down the line that it needed to go ahead, but that lessons need to be learned, as this is public money.

Alderman John McAuley queried the status of the Dervock project.

The Head of Prosperity and Place stated that he would contact Alderman John McAuley directly to provide an update on the Dervock project.

Alderman Hunter stated that the Mosside building is a community building that had been left behind for years.

Councillor McMullan queried whether the Council had used the surveyors previously, and why the roof was not included in the original survey.

The Head of Prosperity and Place advised that he would provide full details to Members.

Councillor Anderson queried how many more elements of this programme are still to be completed and what the ultimate cost to Council might be.

The Town and Village Manager advised that the programme was nearly all procured and that the funders had provided additional funding to contribute to additional construction costs, but that Council will need to approve expenditure to cover any shortfall.

In response to Member's queries, the total cost of the project was confirmed, with the additional £111,733.66 being required to replace the existing roof.

Alderman John McAuley expressed frustration that the information in the report was not clear. He emphasised that reports to Councillors must be accurate.

Councillor Peacock agreed that the detail should have been included in the report, so that Councillors would be in a position to understand the issues at hand and what they are being asked to support.

Councillor Peacock also requested that Members be provided with a copy of the Minutes of Sub Committee meetings when the Council meeting agendas are issued.

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

RESOLVED – that Council accept the proposed additional budget requirement of £111,733.66 within this report to allow the Mosside project to be successfully implemented.

* **Alderman S McKillop returned to the Chamber at 9:42pm.**

24. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023

24.1 Strategic Selection and / or Progression of Major Capital Project - Red Bay Pier, Cushendall (Ref Minute Item 15) 'In Committee'

The Director of Environmental Services reminded Members of the options that had been presented at Committee. He advised that the workshop on the matter had been completed.

Councillor MA McKillop proposed option 4, to repair the pier, stating that it was the only option that would protect local businesses and their employees.

Alderman Hunter thanked the Director of Environmental Services and his team for the workshop. She stated that Red Bay Pier is an asset and it makes sense to keep it in good condition. She seconded Councillor MA McKillop's proposal of option 4.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that since the workshop, Council officials had met with representatives from the two affected businesses and the outcome of the discussions was circulated to Members.

* **The Mayor declared a recess at 9.50pm.**

* **The meeting resumed at 10pm following a comfort break.**

Councillor McMullan stated that he wished to support option 4, as there was a lot of interest in the retention of the pier.

Alderman Coyle noted that when a service is removed, it is more expensive to reinstated, and expressed his support for option 4.

Councillor Kane stated that the remedial works represent a significant spend in the current economic climate and suggested that other options be considered to safeguard the affected businesses.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Alderman Hunter

- to grant officers permission to engage in a contract with Messrs. Charles Brand Limited at a tendered figure of £1, 645, 995.00 + VAT to progress the repair of Red Bay Pier (Stage 3 of the Capital Procurement Gateway).

Councillor McMullan requested a Recorded Vote.

The Mayor put the Proposal to the Council to Vote.
18 Members voted For; 17 Members voted Against.
The Mayor declared the Proposal carried.

RESOLVED - to grant officers permission to engage in a contract with Messrs. Charles Brand Limited at a tendered figure of £1, 645, 995.00 + VAT to

progress the repair of Red Bay Pier (Stage 3 of the Capital Procurement Gateway).

Recorded Vote Table

For (18)	Alderman Coyle, Hunter
	Councillors C Archibald, N Archibald, Chivers, Holmes, Kennedy, Kyle, McGurk, MA McKillop, McMullan, McQuillan, Nicholl, Peacock, Schenning, Watson, Wilson, Wisener
Against (17)	Alderman Boyle, Callan, Fielding, Knight-McQuillan, John McAuley, S McKillop, Scott, Stewart
	Councillors Anderson, Callaghan, Kane, Mairs, Jonathan McAuley, McCully, Stirling, Wallace, Watton

25. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023 (Ref Minute Item 14) 'IN COMMITTEE'

25.1 Minutes of The Land and Property Sub Committee Meeting held Wednesday 4 October 2023 - Portballintrae – Bayhead Road and Seaport Avenue – Extension to Existing Leases (Ref 01/23/P and 02/23/P) Heads of Terms (Ref Minute Item 6.1)

The Director of Environmental Services advised Elected Members that Council had been contacted by the Northern Ireland Audit Office with queries related to the extension of a lease at lands at Portballintrae.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that it is proposed to defer the matter, and return it to the Land and Property Sub Committee. Officers would then bring back queries from NIAO and advise how these were addressed.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Watton

Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan

- That Council refer Item 6.1 - Portballintrae – Bayhead Road and Seaport Avenue – Extension to Existing Leases (Ref 01/23/P and 02/23/P) Heads of Terms – back to the Land and Property Sub Committee.

RESOLVED – That Council refer Item 6.1 - Portballintrae – Bayhead Road and Seaport Avenue – Extension to Existing Leases (Ref 01/23/P and 02/23/P) Heads of Terms – back to the Land and Property Sub Committee.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Kane

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

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

Alderman Boyle expressed disappointment that Alderman Fielding linked the issue of the Pride march to Israel and Palestine.

Alderman Fielding stated that he was referring to the Causeway Pride banner being displayed at the Palestine solidarity protest.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 10.23pm.

Mayor

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