

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	None
2.	Declarations of Interest	None
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 21 November 2023	Signed as a correct record
4.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Holmes, seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan, Councillor C Archibald, Councillor Bateson and Councillor Huggin <i>Garvagh Development Trust (abbrev)</i>	Withdrawn
5.	Tourism Events Programme 2024 – 25	<p>To recommend to Council:-</p> <p><i>The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 (above) and Annexes A & B (previously circulated), at a cost of £970,670;</i></p> <p><i>Subject to approval of the event schedule as detailed in Table 1 and Annex B, Elected Members are also asked to give consideration to the adjustment of the event space for the proposed 2024 Air Show;</i></p> <p><i>Defer decision on the Air Show's budget until Full Council meeting on 9th January 2024;</i></p>

		<i>Agree to work in partnership with Red Bull to deliver on a Red Bull Cliff Diving event in Ballycastle on 18, 19 & 20 July 2024.</i>
6.	Community Development Strategy	<i>To recommend that Council approve the Draft Community Development Strategy 2023-26</i>
7.	Leisure and Development 6-month Performance Review	<i>Noted</i>
8.	Correspondence	
8.1	Department for the Economy regarding NI Business Start-up Programme Performance 2023/24 (Dated 07 December 2023)	<i>Noted</i>
9.	Matters for Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>None</i>
10.	Consultations	<i>None</i>
11.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor McQuillan, Seconded by Councillor Peacock (abbrev Grant Programme)	<i>To recommend that Council Support The Notice of Motion, as amended</i>
	For Confidential Consideration (Items 12-15 inclusive)	
12.	Cloughmills Pitch Project	<i>To recommend that Council: Revisit the OBC to re-examine all options fully, including the potential scale and phasing, to ensure the best value for money project is progressed; Continue with the original Stag 1 approved project and land acquisition negotiations with</i>

		approval to make the increased hope value [REDACTED]
13.	Jim Watt Sports Centre	To recommend that Council approve Officers implementing the programme of activities as per Table 1, in 3.0 of this report. • The expenditure as detailed in the first page of this report under 'cost of proposal'
14.	Ballymoney's Accessible Heritage Journey Project Tender	To recommend that Council approves 3D Surveying Ltd.'s quote of £16,700 as it offers the best value for money for Council to deliver the project
15.	Ballymoney EI Tender	To recommend that Council approve the appointment of the preferred contractor, CivCo Ltd at a cost of £1,208,708.35 (Ex. VAT), for Ballymoney EIS to progress to construction phase
16.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	None

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023**

In the Chair: Councillor Bateson (C)

Members Present: Alderman Callan (R), McAuley (C), Stewart (C)
Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (R), Holmes (C),
Kennedy (C), Kyle (C), McCully (C), McGurk (R),
McShane (C), Stirling (R), Watson (C), Wisener (C)

Officers Present: D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (C)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)
J Beggs, SIB Project Officer (R)
G Fall, Events Manager (C)
S Calvin, Museum Services Development Manager (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
K McGonigle, Destination Manager (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

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

Press 1 no. (R)

Public 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 Chief Executive undertook a roll call of committee members present.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023**

Summary previously circulated.

AGREED – to recommend that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 21 November 2023 were signed as a correct record.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR HOLMES, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN KNIGHT-MCQUILLAN, COUNCILLOR C ARCHIBALD, COUNCILLOR BATESON AND COUNCILLOR HUGGINS

Garvagh Development Trust was established in 1997 as a registered charity and owns and runs the B1 listed GADDA building at 85 Main Street, Garvagh. The building acts as a community hub, directly employing 8 people and a total of 33 people work in the various businesses located within the premises and 400 people use the building weekly. Recently GDT ran the successful Forestry School.

GDT now find themselves in a critical financial situation due to loss in funding sources, grant income and rising costs, particularly in relation to power, oil and insurance.

The business model needs to be urgently reviewed but to give them the space to do this they need a cash injection.

This motion requests a £20,000 loan be provided to GDT and delegates authority to officers to agree interest rate, repayment terms and security. A business recovery plan should be presented to officers and councillors within 3 months of this council meeting

The Chair advised that Councillor Holmes wished to address the committee.

Councillor Holmes advised that he wished to withdraw the Notice of Motion under Standing Order 18.3 confirming he had sought agreement with those who had seconded the Notice of Motion.

Having no dissent the Chair ruled that the Notice of Motion would not be considered and would be withdrawn from the Agenda.

Councillor Holmes said he wished to extend his thanks to relevant Council Officers and Elected Members for their help and support in recent days for Garvagh Development Trust to date. Councillor Holmes said that he expected that Officers would bring a paper for Elected Member's consideration which would alleviate some of the issues experienced by GADDA. The Chair concurred with these remarks saying he hoped GADDA can be sustained sufficiently going forward.

5. TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2024 - 2025

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation who advised that the Events Manager was also in attendance to answer Elected Member's questions.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Members with proposals for the Council-led event programme for 2024/25.

Outline details of dates and budgetary requirements are provided for Elected Members' consideration, in advance of budget finalisation, as part of the rates setting process.

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.

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, Council's Tourism Events budget has been calculated and this report details the events that are proposed to be delivered by Council in 2024/25. This Report also details Officers' recommendation for an adjustment in the event space required for the September 2024 International Air Show. In addition, it details a proposal from Red Bull to work in partnership with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and deliver an international diving event in July 2024.

During the 2023/24 year the Council's Tourism Events team has delivered on all of the scheduled event programme and continues to support and liaise with other event providers, including the administration of the Tourism Event Funding Programme.

Proposed Council Events for 2024/2025

A summary of the costs and the dates for each of the Council-led events proposed by the Tourism and Recreation service, based on the events schedule agreed in previous years by Elected Members, is shown in Table 1 below. Further detail on each of the events is provided in Annex A, previously circulated.

Officers have made an assessment of the costs based on the requirements to deliver these events in 2023 with an uplift for 2024/25 due to the impact of inflationary pressures.

- Where there are no proposals for additional development expenditure, the budget requirement has been uplifted for 2024/25 by 6%.
- Additional costs proposed over and above the 6% are detailed in the final column.

			Table 1
Events 2024	Date(s)	Budget Requirement 2024/2025 (includes 6% for inflationary pressures) plus any additional costs detailed in adjacent Column	Rationale for additional expenditure over 6% uplift
Ballymoney Spring Fair	Fri 19 th & Sat 20 th April	£25,440	
NW200 Race Week Festival	Mon 6 th - Sat 11 th May	£33,279	
Rathlin Sound Festival	May – June (festival up to 10 days, commencing in Rathlin and finishing in Ballycastle)	£48,990	Includes an additional £5,000 for proposals detailed in Appendix A
Seasonal Summer Programme (Summer Theatre Programme) RNLI 200yrs anniversary	Mon 15 th July - Fri 23 rd August (exact dates TBC).	£15,862	Includes an additional £500 for expected rise in fireworks costs (pending new procurement). Also includes £5,000 for additional activities (RNLI 200yrs)
Summer Fireworks Evening Portstewart (Finale of Red Sails)	Sat 27 th July	£13,178	Includes an additional £500 for expected rise in fireworks costs (pending new procurement).
Summer Entertainment & Fireworks	Sat 10 th August (exact date TBC)	£11,593	Includes an additional £500 for expected rise in fireworks costs

Evening Portrush			(pending new procurement).
Ould Lammas Fair	Sat 24 th - Tues 27 th August	£152,640	
N.I. International Air Show	Fri 6 th – Sun 8 th September	£440,000 <i>In 2022 this expenditure was allocated to Council Reserves.</i>	Includes an additional £16,000 increase to allow for expected increase in air asset and associated licence costs.
Bushmills Salmon and Whiskey Festival	Fri 4 th - Sun 6 th October (exact date TBC)	£55,968	
Seasonal Halloween Events x 4	Ballymoney - Saturday 26 th October Limavady - Monday 28 th October Ballycastle - Tuesday 29 th October Coleraine –Thursday 31 st October	£82,390	Includes an additional £500 per venue (x4) for expected rise in fireworks costs (pending new procurement).
Atlantic Sessions	Thurs 14 th Nov – Sun 17 th November	£27,730	
Seasonal Christmas Light Switch On's	Ballymoney Thursday 21 st November Limavady Saturday 23 rd November Ballycastle Thursday 28 th November Coleraine Friday 29 th November	£63,600	
Total Request		£970,670	

International Air Show 7 & 8 September 2024

In January 2021 Council approved a Notice of Motion to develop a new International Air Show for 2022 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'*.

At the February 2023 Leisure and Development Committee meeting, Council was asked to consider the above motion and approval was sought to initiate preparations for an Air Show to take place in September 2024. The Tourism Events Team have started the planning process and have detailed the proposed model for planning and delivery in Annex B, previously circulated. Procurement for the Air Display Director and the employment of a Sponsorship / STEM / Industry liaison consultant has taken place. (£50,000 has been budgeted for within the 2023/24 financial year). Annex B, previously circulated also details the projected income and expenditure summary for the 2024 Air Show.

Subject to Council approval, Officers propose to confirm the dates for the 2024 Air Show as 7 & 8 September and start marketing and promotion from mid-January 2024 as part of the planning process for this event. Elected Members are requested to consider approval for an investment decision of £440,000 (net contribution as detailed in Annex B, previously circulated).

Elected Members should note that in 2022 the budget for the International Air Show was approved and allocated to Council reserves and not the Tourism Events revenue budget.

Proposed Spatial Adjustments to the Event Area for the International Air Show

At the September 2021 Leisure and Development Committee meeting, approval was given to relocate the planned air show to the coastal lands between Portrush and Portstewart (spanning Westwards from Ballyreagh Golf Course to the Rinagree Coastal Park and Northwest 200 Paddock area). Analysis by the Tourism and Recreation team and consultation with stakeholders found that the proposed layout for the 2022 was spatially disconnected. The area between the western end of Ballyreagh Golf Course (main viewing area) and the Paddock area does not allow for a seamless event space, with approx. a 1300 metre separation.

Officers are recommending adjustment to this space, whereby the event area starts at Westbay Promenade (Portrush) and finishes at Ballyreagh Golf Course. By adjusting the event space westwards, better connectivity can be achieved,

with a shorter distance of disconnect between the Blackhill end of Westbay and the 'pitch and put' area at Ballyreagh. This proposed new event space reduces the amount of 'broken' areas where air show activities cannot take place. Further details can be found in Annex B, previously circulated.

Proposed Large Scale Event for 2024

Council Officers have been in negotiations with Red Bull management representatives, to assess the potential of holding a major event on 18, 19 & 20 July 2024. This proposal is for a cliff diving event, and after consideration of a number of potential locations, including Portrush and Portstewart, the preferred venue has been identified as Ballycastle. This is in line with the Councils Strategic Review for Tourism Events, whereby the Tourism Events team seek large-scale international events that take place within the Borough. The investment required for this event will be met by Red Bull, and the Tourism and Recreation team will, subject to Council approval, provide a facilitation and enabling role that will include operational planning assistance for the event management process. The Tourism and Recreation team will also assist with the Land and Property/legal process and coordinate with other Council departments including the Harbours and Marinas service.

Consultation and Assessment of Event Delivery Options

Officers have continued to liaise and seek advice from various agencies in relation to the potential planning opportunities for Council Managed events in 2024. This includes the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), St John Ambulance and the Council led Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

For each event, Officers will continue to look at the type of delivery which is possible based on information, advice and timings, while considering both internal and external risks.

Budgetary Position

In advance of the 2024 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).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee gives consideration to the detail provided in the report:

1. The approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 and Annexes A & B, at a cost of £970,670.
2. Subject to approval of the event schedule as detailed in Table 1 and Annex B, Elected Members are also asked to give consideration to the adjustment of the event space for the proposed 2024 Air Show.
3. Subject to approval of the event schedule as detailed in Table 1 and Annex B, Elected Members are asked to consider whether the Air Show's budget

should be allocated from reserves or factored for within the rates setting process for 2024/25.

4. Agree to work in partnership with Red Bull to deliver on a Red Bull Cliff Diving event in Ballycastle on 18, 19 & 20 July 2024.

The Chair advised that once Elected Members had spoken he would be taking proposals for Recommendations 1 – 4 individually.

At the request of Councillor Holmes the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that the number of spectators expected at the large scale event in conjunction with Red Bull would be in the region of 20,000.

Councillor McShane welcomed the Cliff Diving event being run in Ballycastle saying it encouraged tourism in the area and thanked Officers for their work.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED - to recommend to Council the approach outlined for the delivery of Council led events as detailed in Table 1 (above) and Annexes A & B (previously circulated), at a cost of £970,670.

At the request of Councillor Kennedy the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that the full cost of the Air Show would be £581,585,00 from the 2024/2025 financial year with a commitment of £50,000 from preparatory work from the 2023/2024 financial year. Given there is an expected income of £150,000 the net cost for the 2024/2025 financial year is £440,000.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Holmes

-to recommend that Recommendation 2, 3 and 4 to be approved together.

Councillor McCully said he believed that Recommendation 3 required a decision and the Chair sought clarity from Alderman Callan who confirmed that he wished the Air Show's budget to be allocated from reserves.

Councillor McCully said that his preferred option was to defer Option 3 to Full Council for consideration given the considerable amount of money involved and to allow for input from all Elected Members.

Alderman Callan said he was happy to amend his proposal as suggested as a way forward if that was the mood of the Chamber.

The Chief Executive advised that the Chief Finance Officer will advise Elected Members at Full Council in this regard to facilitate a decision to be reached. The Chief Executive advised that at some stage Financial Regulations may stipulate that as the event is bi-annual it may have to be funded through the rates setting process.

Councillor McShane said she felt it was a big decision to make and should be deferred to Full Council given the significant amount of money at stake and the mood which she sensed in the Chamber.

At the request of the Chair the seconder Councillor Holmes said he was in agreement to amend the Proposal to Recommendation 1 and 3 with Recommendation 2 deferred to Full Council.

Proposed by Alderman Callan
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – to recommend to Council

- Subject to approval of the event schedule as detailed in Table 1 and Annex B, Elected Members are also asked to give consideration to the adjustment of the event space for the proposed 2024 Air Show;
- Defer decision on the Air Show's budget until Full Council meeting on 9th January 2024;
- Agree to work in partnership with Red Bull to deliver on a Red Bull Cliff Diving event in Ballycastle on 18, 19 & 20 July 2024.

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present a Draft Community Development Strategy for the period 2023-26 for approval.

Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) provides annual funding to District Councils through a Community Support Programme (CSP) 'to strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services'.

The CSP funding can be utilised for staff, grants, capacity building and generalist advice, and is matched by a Council contribution. The DfC contribution towards community support equates to approximately 36% of spend.

The Community Development function within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is delivered by a staff team comprising of a Community Development Manager, two area based Community Development Officers, a Community Facilities Development Officer and an area based Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator.

In March 2020 Council approved a Community Development Strategy which shaped the direction of this area of work for a 3 year period from 2020-2023.

Officers have carried out a refresh of the Strategy to review how the actions undertaken contributed towards achieving the strategic outcomes and to make any necessary updates to reflect the changing environment and guide how Council provides community development support during the 3-year period from 2023-2026.

Community development enables people to work collectively to bring about social change in the communities in which they live or are a part of. Community can be defined by geography, identity or interest and it is this broad definition of community that this Strategy relates to.

The Draft Strategy sets high level strategic outcomes for the next 3 years and projects that the Community Development service area will undertake to achieve these outcomes. An interim Action Plan was developed for 2023-24 to guide the work of the service area, and this Action Plan will be reviewed and adapted annually.

The Strategy

Officers reviewed the activities undertaken through the previous 3-year Strategy and engaged with a range of stakeholders to refresh the Strategy and develop an action plan for the next 3 years. The following approaches were taken:

- Structured interviews with 14 community groups currently in receipt of Council grants.
- Reflection sessions – 2 sessions with recipient of Community Festivals Fund.
- Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and Sustainable Food Programme.
- Log of issues and support needs from ongoing engagement with community groups.
- Funding Needs Survey – 50 respondents.
- Survey of Community Facility Providers – 38 respondents.
- Review of Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2023 findings.
- Review of PeacePlus DEA consultation.

3.1 Key Engagement Findings Summary

Issues that the sector is addressing in our communities:

- o Loneliness and social isolation.
- o Cost of living crisis, fuel poverty, financial worries.
- o Increased housing costs severe lack of social housing.
- o Mental health and wellbeing.
- o Physical health and wellbeing.
- o Youth provision.
- o Creating welcoming communities for new arrivals, refugees and people seeking asylum.
- o Apathy and lack of engagement in community activity.

Challenges that the sector is facing:

- Rising operating costs and funding not increasing in line.
- Increased pressure – more people needing services.
- Volunteer and staff burn out.
- Succession planning - reliance on one or two key committee members.
- Gate keeping on committees – difficult to create space for new people and ideas.
- Still not back to full capacity since Covid.
- Risk of losing experienced staff due to insecurity of funding; wages for those working in the sector not reflective of the roles; underpaid compared to other sectors.
- Don't feel as if they have an influence on decision making locally.
- Disconnect between local groups operating within their own community.

What should Council be doing to support the sector?

- supporting the community infrastructure to do the work on the ground & be responsive to emerging needs.
- Continue to fund running costs- increase in line with cost of living increases.
- Succession planning for volunteers.
- Build links between groups and Council – who does what in Council.
- More funding to enable groups to provide social well-being activities.
- Continue crucial one to one support for groups from officers.
- More networking and connecting opportunities for support and learning.
- Support the development of intra community relationships and area based collaborations.
- Seeding grant for new groups.
- Local people having an influence and voice in decision making and civic life.

3.2 Outcomes

While there have been many emerging issues over the past 3 years, not least the impact of the Covid pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis, the broad outcomes of Council's Community Development Strategy remain as relevant as ever and the focus is on how we best support the community and voluntary sector to effectively respond to emerging and existing community needs in an ever more challenging environment. Feedback on the 3 outcomes from the 2020-23 Community Development Strategy (A Skilled and Confident Community, A Connected Community, A Fair and Inclusive Community) indicated that they were generally still relevant. One change was made to the first outcome to replace 'Skilled' and Confident Communities with 'Resourced' and Confident Communities; resources referring to skills, people and finances. It is proposed that the 3 Outcomes are as follows:

1. Resourced and Confident Communities.
2. Connected Communities.

3. Fair & Inclusive Communities.

3.3 Workstreams

The following work streams have been identified to achieve the outcomes and contribute towards the delivery of Council's priorities.

1. Resourced & Confident Communities

- i. Developmental support to new and existing organisations and promotion of good practice.
- ii. Financial assistance towards core costs of community development organisations.
- iii. Funding guidance and support to develop fundraising strategies.
- iv. Promotion of Council community centres as hubs for connecting and participation to promote health and well-being.
- v. Promotion of good practice in community operated centres.
- vi. Promotion of volunteering and support for succession planning.

2. Connected Communities

- i. Communication and sharing of information and opportunities to support and promote the community and voluntary sector.
- ii. Communities connecting and sharing good practice and learning.
- iii. Connecting Communities to Council and promoting good community engagement in Council.
- iv. Addressing Loneliness and promoting Social Connections.
- v. Supporting Community Festivals and Events.

3. Fair & Inclusive Communities

- i. Provision of Generalist Advice Service
- ii. Area based approaches to tackling disadvantage and social and economic inequality through Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships
- iii. Co-ordination of Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group and delivery of Action Plan
- iv. Social Supermarket Support Programme
- v. Promotion of community participation and active citizenship, including participatory budgeting
- vi. Building capacity for advocacy and lobbying

3.3 Budget

The budget for Community Development delivery in 2023-24 is broken down as follows:

Area of expenditure	Council Contribution	DfC Contribution	Total
Community Support Staff	£177,506.87	£60,256.13	£237,763.00
Grants to voluntary groups	£121,295.00	£55,886.00	£177,181.00
Capacity building and training	£5,275.00	£5,000.00	£10,275.00
Generalist Advice Provision	£135,244.00	£111,719.19	£246,963.19
Advice - Neighbourhood Renewal Limavady		£18,139.98	£18,139.98
Advice - Welfare Reform Extension Face to Face		£62,257.74	£62,257.74
Advice - Welfare Reform Extension Tribunal Representation		£25,600.00	£25,600.00
Social Supermarket Funding		£59,072.98	£59,072.98
Total	£439,320.87	£397,932.02	£837,252.89

Following Council approval, the Draft Strategy will be issued for a period of public consultation of 8 weeks and a final Strategy will then be brought back to Council for approval. The Draft Community Development Strategy 2023-26 is attached at Annex A, previously circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of the Draft Community Development Strategy 2023-26

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve the Draft Community Development Strategy 2023-26.

7. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT 6-MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the 6 month progress review of the

2023/2024 Leisure and Development Business Plans.

Background

Council previously approved the 2023/2024 Business Plans in June 2023.

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

upon:

- The emerging actions from the Community Planning Process.

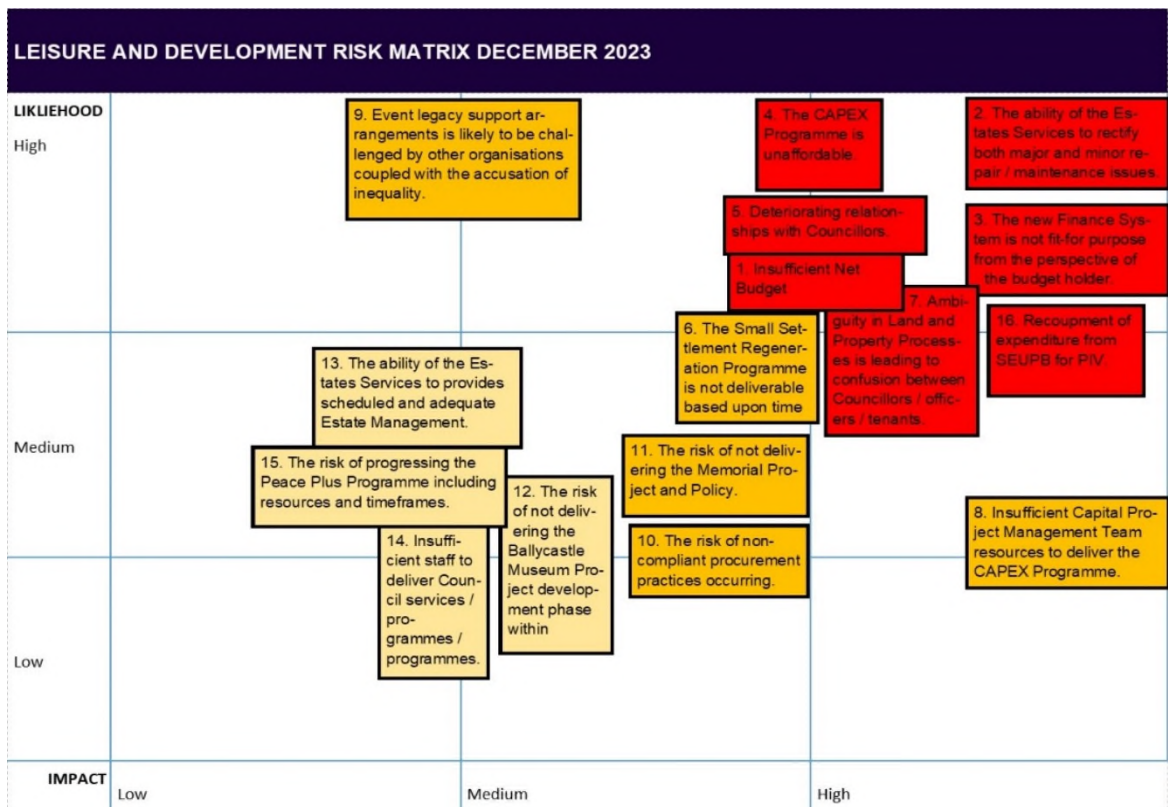
- The Council’s exiting Corporate Plan.
- Endorsed service area strategies.
- Relevant Central government strategies and polices.
- Council decisions and direction from the 23/24 period.

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.

Risk Matrix



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, previously circulated

Annex A – Community & Culture, previously circulated

Annex B – Sport & Wellbeing, previously circulated

Annex C – Funding Unit, previously circulated

Annex D – Prosperity & Place, previously circulated

Annex E – Tourism & Recreation, previously circulated

Councillor Holmes referred to the comprehensive report which he said would be pleasing to the newly appointed Director of Leisure and Development. Councillor Holmes also wished his thanks to be passed on to staff and pointed out that the negative reporting was mostly down to outside influences.

The Chief Executive said at the last Audit Committee meeting that the Audit Office had given Council a clean bill of health in relation to performance reporting alongside recommendations and opportunities for improvement. The Chief Executive said this was a step forward and agreed to pass on thanks to staff involved.

Committee NOTED the report.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Correspondence from the Department for the Economy regarding NI Business Start-up Programme Performance 2023/24 (Dated 07 December 2023)

The Department for the Economy has responsibility for monitoring performance in relation to the NI Business Start-Up Programme against statutory targets. The GoForIT programme has now ceased with the new 'Go Succeed' service launched in November 2023. The Department is therefore only monitoring the Council GoForIT performance up until 30 September 2023.

Confirmation of the audited performance for the first 6 months of 2023/24, which represents the last 6 months of the GoForIT programme has been provided.

DfE will engage with councils on how the new Go Succeed Service, is to be monitored under the 2015 Order, with effect from 13th November 2023.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the correspondence

Committee NOTED the report.

9. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to Partnership Panel.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Department for the Economy Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland – 10 Year Plan – submission by 12 January 2024

The Department for the Economy has launched a consultation for a draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland which outlines a 10 Year Plan to increase the value of tourism.

The draft strategy sets out a vision that seeks to establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core.

It will be a key enabler of the Department of Economy's 10x Economic Vision to help position the region internationally as an attractive place to visit, making our visitors feel welcome whilst at the same time helping to make the lives better for all who live here.

It is based on five themes (previously circulated) and seeks to strive for a new and ambitious growth trajectory.

The document identifies the key challenges and opportunities for growth. This is an opportunity to help shape the final strategy and next steps.

Link to consultation previously circulated.

Committee NOTED the report.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCQUILLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PEACOCK

I propose a motion that in line with sport and wellbeing that a grant programme is created to encourage and facilitate local sporting organisations to specifically help the mental health and wellbeing in the causeway coast and glens area. I propose the grant and funding unit look into the expense of the creation of this grant. Already partnering with the trust on various mental health projects this would broaden our outreach.

The Chair invited Councillor McQuillan, as proposer to address the Committee.

'I propose a motion that in line with sport and wellbeing that a grant programme is created to encourage and facilitate local sporting organisations to specifically help the mental health and wellbeing in the causeway coast and glens area. I propose the grant and funding unit look into the expense of the creation of this grant. Already partnering with the trust on various mental health projects this would broadening our outreach.

In terms of poor mental health there is growing concern as it affects 1 in 5 adults. Particularly in rural areas there is the old tradition of not speaking out or seeking help. I want to develop a culture within sporting channels for people to get help and urge members to support this Notice of Motion'

The Chair invited Councillor Peacock, as seconder to address the Committee.

'I wish to reiterate what has been said by my colleague. Council currently partner with public agency and health trusts in relation to gym activities and providing 1-1 assistance in providing mental health and well being to our constituents. No-one in room deny how the local area has been touched extensively by suicide in recent months and years. It is important to try to get into the heart of the community to make sure joined up approach with central and local government and the community and voluntary sector to tackle issue and ensure accessibility to help.'

At the request of Councillor Anderson the Chief Executive explained that if there was a decision to support the Notice of Motion Officers would look at expenses and bring a paper back to the Leisure and Development Committee as no work has been done prior to consideration of the Motion.

Councillor Anderson said he wished financial assistance to be split equally amongst sporting organisations and the Chair suggested this could be incorporated into the Motion subject to agreement.

The proposer, Councillor McQuillan and seconder, Councillor Peacock agreed to include that 'financial assistance to be split equally amongst sporting organisations'

Councillor Peacock said it was her desire for mental health support to be far reaching, accessible and impactful as possible within the community and hoped that the Funding Unit would be able to source external funding and seek partnership working in this regard.

Councillor Archibald spoke of the benefits of sport itself to mental health and that to add this type of support is a natural progression.

Alderman Callan spoke of the importance of mental health and felt it may be worthwhile for discussion at a workshop or an established sub committee where there would be an opportunity to work up and look at options to see what is achievable. Alderman Callan referred to work being undertaken by others locally and nationally including Ulster Rugby initiatives and suggested a joined up approach with health trusts, education bodies to maximises the outcome for the borough.

Alderman Callan asked referred to tying in with Community Planning outcomes in relation to improving physical health and mental health well being.

The Chief Executive referred to the workshop which had taken place in advance of this meeting and suggested that due process would be that one Notice of Motion was ratified at Full Council meeting on 9th January 2024, subject to call

in discussions could commence at a workshop in advance of the January Leisure and Development Committee meeting which will provide further political sounding before decision making at Leisure and Development Committee meeting.

Councillor McShane referred to workshop fatigue and felt that Officers had the necessary expertise, demonstrated by their track record to be able to secure funding in respect of this Notice of Motion. Councillor McShane said she was content for a paper to be brought to the Leisure and Development by officers.

Councillor Wisener asked if the Community Development Strategy could contribute to mental health and well being. The Head of Community and Culture advised that in the past through social connections grants DfC provided funding through Health Trust match funding via social inclusion but this was for community groups not sporting groups and was wide ranging.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

AGREED – to recommend that Council support The Notice of Motion, as amended.

I propose a motion that in line with sport and wellbeing that a grant programme is created to encourage and facilitate local sporting organisations to specifically help the mental health and wellbeing in the causeway coast and glens area. I propose the grant and funding unit look into the expense of the creation of this grant. Already partnering with the trust on various mental health projects this would broaden our outreach. Financial assistance to be split equally amongst sporting organisations.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

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

* **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 7:45pm.**

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.

12. CLOUGHMILLS PITCH PROJECT

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

Confidential report, previously circulated was presented by J Beggs, SIB Project Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on progress to date with the development of the Cloughmills Sports Pitch Project and request direction on the best course of action prior to progressing to Stage 2 of Council's four step capital project management approval process.

Background:

Project Update

- Design brief
- Accommodation to include
- Requirement

Key Issues for Consideration

- Business Case
- Land Acquisition
- Affordability
- Planning

Given the key issues noted above and increased project costs, Members have a number of options with regard to the best course of action, including:

1. Do nothing and take the project off Council's prioritised list of capital projects;
2. Revisit the OBC to reexamine all options fully, including the potential scale and phasing, to ensure the best value for money project is progressed;
3. Continue with the original Stage 1 approved project and land acquisition negotiations with approval to make the increased hope value offer of [REDACTED]
4. Any other option proposed by Members.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note progress to date with the development of the Cloughmills Sports Pitch Project and approve the best course of action from the options listed in 4.0 above prior to progressing to Stage 2 of Council's four step capital project management approval process.

Alderman McAuley thanked Officers for their work on this project to date, welcomed the progression but raised concerns that land acquirement was a key factor.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Anderson

-to recommend that Council:

Revisit the OBC to re-examine all options fully, including the potential scale and phasing, to ensure the best value for money project is progressed;

Continue with the original Stage 1 approved project and land acquisition negotiations with approval to make the increased hope value offer of [REDACTED]

Alderman McAuley said he would like to see the project being in the middle of Cloughmills village.

The Chief Executive invited J Beggs, SIB Project Officer to confirm if the proposal from Alderman McAuley was viable and he said that alongside acquiring land a business case could be worked up in parallel with options being brought back for members to consider.

Councillor McGurk and Councillor McShane felt that some of the prioritised capital projects had been identified from before the last mandate and spoke of the need for projects to be evidence led and justified by need.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor McShane

Seconded by Councillor McGurk

-to recommend that Council:

Revisit the OBC to reexamine all options fully, including the potential scale and phasing, to ensure the best value for money project is progressed.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote.

5 Members voted For; 9 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the Amendment Lost.

The Chair declared the Substantive Proposal Carried.

13. JIM WATT SPORTS CENTRE

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Executive in the absence of the Head of Sport and Well-being.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this Report is to;-

- Provide an overview of defective block wall installations at various portions within the centre, and in particular, the Main Sports Hall and external envelope walls, including investigations conducted on-site,
- Provide an overview on the pro-active legal approach taken to date, (below procurement threshold), in pursuance of the parties,
- Request consideration and approval from Elected Members on the legal pursuance strategy as outlined in 3.0 in respect of the main professional and construction parties associated with the delivery of the original contract in 2010, and professional construction programme procurement activities

to be undertaken, specifically relating to the defective block wall installations.

Background

Previously circulated.

Proposal & Legal Programme Pursuance

It is proposed to implement the following programme of activities as per Table 1, previously circulated.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members consider and approve;

- Officers implementing the programme of activities as per Table 1, in 3.0 of this report.
- The expenditure as detailed in the first page of this report under '*cost of proposal*'.

At the request of Elected Members the Chief Executive confirmed that the business named within the report (previously circulated) was still in operation with the same legal entity as determined by provisional checks.

At the request of Councillor Holmes the Chief Executive confirmed details of the cost of repairs and the legal options available.

Proposed by Councillor McGurk
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve:
Officers implementing the programme of activities as per Table 1, in 3.0 of this report.

- The expenditure as detailed in the first page of this report under '*cost of proposal*'.

14. BALLYMONEY'S ACCESSIBLE HERITAGE JOURNEY PROJECT TENDER

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

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to proceed with the outcome of a tender process to engage a company to produce 3D models of objects from Ballymoney Museum's Collection.

Background

Previously circulated.

Procurement Process

Previously circulated.

Scope of Works

Details can be found at Annex A, previously circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves 3D Surveying Ltd.'s quote of £16,700 as it offers the best value for money for Council to deliver the project.

Proposed by Councillor McShane
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approves 3D Surveying Ltd.'s quote of £16,700 as it offers the best value for money for Council to deliver the project

15. BALLYMONEY EI TENDER

Confidential minute, by virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the appointment of the preferred contract for Ballymoney Environmental Improvement Scheme (EIS).

Background

Previously circulated.

Tender

Previously circulated.

Costs

Previously circulated.

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the appointment of the preferred contractor, CivCo Ltd at a cost of £1,208,708.35 (Ex. VAT), for Ballymoney EIS to progress to construction phase.

Alderman McAuley sought guarantees that the surface finish would be stainproof and that lessons had been learned from issues raised regarding a Portrush Town Centre scheme and the Head of Prosperity and Place advised this had been considered and factored in. Alderman McAuley welcomed the project and looked forward to continued funding for further development.

Councillor McShane raised concern that huge amounts of public money had been invested in town centres and then 2 or 3 years later other bodies have

had to undertake improvement or other works and asked if there could be forward planning and collaborative working to avoid this.

The Head of Prosperity and Place said that there had been communications with utility operators in terms of upgrading and working around plans but that there was no way of guaranteeing that such works would not be undertaken. The Head of Prosperity and Place said that there was a reaching out at a very early stage regarding plan of work.

Proposed by Alderman McAuley
Seconded by Councillor McShane and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the appointment of the preferred contractor, CivCo Ltd at a cost of £1,208,708.35 (Ex. VAT), for Ballymoney EIS to progress to construction phase.

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

There were no items of Any Other Relevant Business.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Kyle
Seconded by Councillor Wisener

AGREED - to recommend that Council move ‘*In Public*’.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

Chair