

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>Nil</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 15 December 2020	
	Matters Arising	
	3.1 Portrush Harbour Public Realm (Item 13)	<i>Director to follow up on cleaning programme</i>
	3.2 Minutes	<i>Confirmed</i>
	For Decision (Item 4-7 inclusive)	
4.	Cushendall Cliff Path – Public Path Agreement	Recommend to Council that the Tourism and Recreation team, in conjunction with the Council’s Legal Services, advance the Public Path Creation Agreement with the landowner of the Cushendall Cliff Path (Layd Path)
5.	Ballykelly Community Facility	Recommend that Council approve Option 3: Enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Ballykelly Residents Association for operation of the portacabin at Kings Lane Playing Fields & complete essential works and energy

		<p>saving measures as detailed in Condition Report of September 2020 at a cost of £21,500 from existing 2020/21 & proposed 2021/22 maintenance budgets.</p>
6.	Northern Ireland Centenary Branding and Outcomes	<p>Recommended that Council approve programme outcomes and associated branding as detailed within the report for Council's NI 2021 Centenary Programme and that the inclusion of Northern Ireland Coat of Arms (Watermark) in the branding, which is referred to the Working Group</p>
7.	Northern Ireland Centenary – Stage 1 Projects	<p>Recommended that Council progress the first phase of Council's Centenary Programme with the associated budget, subject to council's rates setting process. The Working Group will be involved in the grant funding process; branding incorporated on all NI21 Centenary correspondence</p>
	For Information (Items 8)	

8.	Digital Projects Update	Noted
9.	Correspondence	<i>Nil</i>
10.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>Nil</i>
11.	Consultations	<i>Nil</i>
	'In Committee' (Items 12-16 inclusive)	
12	Facility Management Agreement – Pitches and Associated Facilities	Recommend that Council approve the development of a Facility Management Agreement potentially to be trialled with Dunloy FC and Portstewart FC. Officers will bring back to Committee a Business Case which will present options to allow Council to decide how best to proceed.
13.	Bridge Street, Coleraine, Gap site	Recommend that Council defer confirmation that the licence is no longer in force and that Council complete Pt 15 of the licence agreement pending the next Coleraine Town Team meeting in February.
14.	Northern Ireland Centenary – Stage 1 Projects (Staffing)	<i>Noted</i>
15.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12.(o)	

	15 (i) To check on the status of furloughed Agency Leisure Centre staff	<i>Noted</i>
16.	Update on Council's participation in the Vaccination programme across the Borough.	<i>Verbal update provided by Director of Leisure and Development</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON
TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2021 AT 7:00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Nicholl (C)

Members Present: Alderman Baird (R), Hillis (C)
Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Callan (R),
Holmes (C), MA McKillop (R) Knight-McQuillan (R),
McAuley (C), McCaw (R), C McShane (R),
Schenning (R), Watton (C)

**Non Committee Member
In Attendance:** Alderman S McKillop (R), Robinson (R)
Councillor McLaughlin (R), Peacock (R), Scott (R),
Wilson (R)

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing (R)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism & Recreation (R)
P Beattie, Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)
P Donaghy, Democratic and Central Services
Manager (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
B Tohill, Sport and Wellbeing General Manager of
Facilities (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Manager (R)
N McGurk, Strategics Project Manager (R)
J Elliott, Town and Village Manager ()
A McCloskey, Community Dev Facilities Officer (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer
(R)

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

Substitutions: Councillor McQuillan (C) substituted for Councillor
Wallace
Alderman Duddy (C) substituted for Alderman
McCorkell

Press (4 no) (R)
Public (2 no.) (R)

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

The Chair confirmed that Agenda Item 5 (Facility Management Agreement) would be dealt with 'in committee'

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2021

Matters Arising

3.1 Portrush Harbour Public Realm (Item 13)

Councillor Anderson ask if progress had been made regarding having the stains on the ground removed from areas recently developed and asked if specialised cleaning machine had been secured to carried out work. The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to follow up on agreement to clean areas referred to at last meeting and sourcing specialised cleaning machine.

3.2 Confirmation of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 15 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. CUSHENDALL CLIFF PATH – PUBLIC PATH AGREEMENT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to formalise public access arrangements on the Cushendall Cliff Path (known as the Layd Path) with the landowner, and to utilise funding secured to carry out infrastructure improvements.

Background

The Cushendall Cliff Path was asserted as a Public Right Of Way (PROW) on 14 March 1988 through agreement with the landowner and Moyle District Council. This path is a popular coastal walking route and is enjoyed by the local population around Cushendall and visitors alike. With its exposed cliff top location it requires periodic maintenance and the provision of health and safety measures.

An informal arrangement has been in place since 1998 whereby Moyle District Council carried out the construction of the pathway, associated infrastructure, maintenance and assumed public liability insurance.

After an occasion where works were carried out by Council to realign the pathway, without the landowner's permission and without prior notice, the landowner contacted Council and stated that no further works were to be carried out on his lands without prior agreement. Moyle District Council considered the landowner's request and agreed that no further maintenance would be carried out without the landowner's permission.

In August 2019 the landowner gave permission for essential repair works to take place, subject to a formal legal agreement being put in place between the Council and the landowner. Council Officers have engaged with the landowner and sought specialist legal advice that allows for an arrangement to exist that protects public access to the Cushendall Cliff Path.

It should be noted that a section of the existing asserted Public Right Of Way has been lost due to cliff top erosion. It was for this reason that some of the Council works in the past were carried out to allow for realignment of the path onto new sections of the landowner's property.

Proposal

Whilst the existing assertion of the Public Right of Way from March 1988 remains unaffected, to allow for improved and controlled management and necessary safety measures, Officers propose that a Public Path Creation Agreement with the landowner is set up. The Public Path Creation Agreement will agree conditions including liability and maintenance and as such these conditions will be in law. This Public Path Creation Agreement allows Council to formalise the existing informal legacy agreement and defines responsibilities and liabilities.

With this agreement the Council would continue to provide public liability insurance and maintain the walking and safety infrastructure associated with the Cushendall Cliff Path. The Public Path Creation Agreement formalises this arrangement.

Improvements to the Walking Experience

The formalisation of this Agreement would allow Council to make improvements to the walking and visitor experience. The Cliff Path would be promoted as a spur of the International Appalachian Way and funding is in place to supply and install seating and an interpretation point.

Maintenance Implications

The Public Path Creation Agreement allows Council to have in place the agreement to maintain the path and viewpoint. It is estimated that, after recent works and the proposed seating and interpretation elements with a viewpoint, little maintenance will be required in the next

five years (with the exception of potential vandalism incidents). Thereafter it is estimated that £1,000 per annum should be factored for within the Coast and Countryside budget for path maintenance and repair.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee approve that the Tourism and Recreation team, in conjunction with the Council's Legal Services, advance the Public Path Creation Agreement with the landowner of the Cushendall Cliff Path (Layd Path).

Councillor MA McKillop welcomed the development of this project and said it was a fantastic walk and scenery enjoyed by locals and tourists. Councillor MA McKillop asked if the grant element would provide the cement seats also and enquired if the £1,000 for maintenance would be payable to The Conservation Volunteers. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that the agreed works did not include the cement seats and the maintenance could be undertaken by The Conservation Volunteers.

Councillor C McShane concurred with the remarks made by Councillor MA McKillop and thanked the Head of Recreation and Tourism and his team for their hard work.

Alderman Baird enquired if the car park at this location could be upgraded and discussion ensued regarding the ownership of the car park. The Director of Leisure and Development agreed to provide members with clarity regarding the ownership of the car park.

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop
Seconded by Councillor C McShane and

AGREED – to recommend to Council that the Tourism and Recreation team, in conjunction with the Council's Legal Services, advance the Public Path Creation Agreement with the landowner of the Cushendall Cliff Path (Layd Path).

All members in attendance were in agreement.

5. BALLYKELLY COMMUNITY FACILITY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is present a Strategic Outline Case in relation to the community portacabin located on Council owned land in Ballykelly.

Previous Reports

In August 2020 an Information Report was presented to Elected Members to provide information about the current situation with the

community portacabin located on Council owned land in Ballykelly. As advised and in line with Council's procedures for assessing need for community facilities a Strategic Outline Case has now been completed.

Background

Council is the freehold owner of the lands which form park of Kings Lane Playing Fields. The portacabin was gifted by the Ministry of Defence for community benefit.

The land was leased to Ballykelly Youth and Community Association Limited for a period of 99 years on 15 November 2003. In January 2017, having failed to return appropriate paperwork to Companies House the lessee became a dissolved Company and the remaining term of lease and leasehold interest reverted to the Crown. Council's legal team wrote to the Crown to seek Crown disclaimer of the lease to allow the leasehold interest of land (including portacabin) to merge and be re-incorporated into Council's freehold folio. The Crown has disclaimed their interest in the lease and the leasehold folio will now be merged into Council's freehold folio at the Land Registry in order to release Councils' freehold folio from the burden of the lease.

A new group, Ballykelly Residents Association formed in early 2020, has expressed an interest in taking on responsibility for the portacabin. The new group has retained the key and continued to use the portacabin as a follow on arrangement from the previous Ballykelly Youth and Community Association and has building and contents insurance in place for the portacabin, although their use of the portacabin has been curtailed due to Covid-19.

Strategic Outline Case

A Strategic Outline Case attached at Annex A (previously circulated) has been prepared which details the current position and gives initial consideration of the options to allow Council to decide on how best to proceed.

A full Fire Risk Assessment has been carried out along with a Building Condition Report. The Condition Report containing a Budget Estimate of Costs is attached at Annex B. (previously circulated)

The Options considered in the Strategic Outline Case were previously circulated:

The benefits and risks of the options are considered in the SOC and in summary:

- Ballykelly Residents Association has been operational for approximately one year with an active committee of volunteers and has delivered a range of services both prior to and during the pandemic. These include a Youth Club (with up to 50 children and young people attending on a weekly basis), a Ladies Group and a Parent and Toddler group.

- The group recently carried out a community consultation exercise; a luncheon club and weekly bingo for seniors were the two most popular activities requested. They have also had a significant number of enquiries in relation to birthday parties and family events, all of which they would hope to accommodate post Covid-19.
- While there are some other community facilities in the Ballykelly area, there is a clearly identified need for this facility in its location next to a large housing area that can accommodate a range of activities for a range of people, in a neutral, affordable setting.
- In its current condition it is likely that the facility will decline rapidly within 3-5 years, however with the necessary works completed, the lifespan of the portacabin could be approximately 15 years.
- Essential works and energy saving measures at a one-off cost of £21,500 as detailed in the Condition Report of September 2020 could be undertaken from existing 2020/21 & proposed 2021/22 maintenance budgets with circa £2,000 being created in a facility budget for minor repairs, insurance and legionella checks etc.
- Ballykelly Residents Association has expressed a strong preference to enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Council for the facility.

The Shared Management Agreement is the current operating model for the five community operated Council community centres in Greysteel, Magilligan, Rasharkin, Stranocum and Ballybogey. The Agreements between the community groups and Council are for a period of 10 years with an allowance for periodic reviews at the request of either party. Council is responsible for maintaining the internal and external structure and fabric of the facility, providing building insurance and ensuring that statutory maintenance requirements are met as well as carrying out regular maintenance inspections. The community group is responsible for taking bookings, opening and closing the facility, ensuring that all Council policies and procedures are followed, and that appropriate risk assessments and weekly health and safety checks are carried out.

The group would continue to work with Councils Sport & Wellbeing Facilities Manager and Community Facilities Development Officer to develop their capacity in operating the facility and in providing opportunities for the community to meet, stay active, learn new skills and volunteer.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve Option 3: Enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Ballykelly Residents Association for operation of the portacabin at Kings Lane Playing Fields & complete essential works and energy saving measures as detailed in Condition Report of September 2020 at a cost of £21,500 from existing 2020/21 & proposed 2021/22 maintenance budgets.

Councillor Callan welcomed the initiative taken by the new group. Councillor Schenning said she had worked closely with the group involved since inception and commended them on their hard work.

Alderman Duddy expressed concern about the lifespan of the Portacabin even with proposed works being undertaken and hoped that at some stage the group could secure a permanent structure.

Councillor Nicholl said the building would be invaluable for young people in the Ballykelly area.

Proposed by Councillor Callan

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED to recommend that Council approve Option 3: Enter into a Shared Management Agreement with Ballykelly Residents Association for operation of the portacabin at Kings Lane Playing Fields & complete essential works and energy saving measures as detailed in Condition Report of September 2020 at a cost of £21,500 from existing 2020/21 & proposed 2021/22 maintenance budgets.

All members in attendance were in agreement.

6. NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY BRANDING AND OUTCOMES

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on Council's NI 100 Centenary Working Group and to seek approval from Members for the overall programme outcomes and associated branding.

Background

At the November 2018 Corporate Resource & Policy committee meeting a Notice of Motion was carried and subsequently agreed at the Council meeting held in the same month, stating:

'That this Council establish a working group, consisting of 6 members by d'Hondt, to explore a programme of events and activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Northern Ireland in 2021.'

The Terms of reference agreed by Council in July 2020 and have been meeting regularly to progress a draft programme and associated branding.

Progress to date

Terms of reference for group agreed and adopted in July 2020 by council.

Programme themes have been developed by the working group and agreed by council in July 2020. These include:

- Heritage and Culture,
- Great Northern Ireland Minds and Innovation,
- Sport & Wellbeing and Community Development
- Food, Drink and Entertainment

Draft programme outcomes have been agreed by the working group for council's approval and include:

- a) Promoting the Borough as an attractive place to visit, invest and do business, utilising the centenary to celebrate our people, places and products by showcasing the rich sporting, cultural, entrepreneurial and academic talent which exists therein
- b) Building a shared understanding of our collective history in a way that can build good relations and reconciliation within and between communities by facilitating opportunities that both reflect on our past as well as build for our future
- c) Recognising and building awareness of this significant anniversary, locally, nationally and internationally, supporting expression of the diverse identities and culture that exist within the Borough.

Options for a brand were presented to the working group. The branding has been agreed by the working group and is presented for council's approval which includes the following proposed strapline "*Glance Back, Look Forward*", with the following logo to be incorporated into projects associated with the council's programme of events for the centenary, previously circulated.

External expertise

The working group agreed a terms of reference to facilitate the invitation of an historical advisor (pro bono) to advise and inform the Working Group in meeting its aims and objectives, including the provision of advice on relevant projects developed and have identified a suitable candidate to undertake such a role. The group also agreed that this advisor should be supported by a panel of local historians with local knowledge and expertise, to be nominated by the 6 working group members. This panel is now in place and have met to support Museums services in the development of their projects.

The notes of the working group meetings for October and November are attached for information in Annex A, previously circulated.

Recommendation

Approval is sought from the L&D Committee regarding the programme outcomes and associated branding as detailed within the report for Council's NI 2021 Centenary Programme.

Councillor McQuillan thanked the officers for the work undertaken. Discussion ensued regarding incorporating the Northern Ireland Coat of Arms in the branding and clarity sought on the colour scheme to be used. The Head of Community and Culture clarified that there were various colour options available.

Councillor Bateson suggested that only one section of the community will benefit as a result of the proposed programme and felt that the desired outcomes would not be met. Councillor C McShane asked for copies of Section 75 screening documents to be circulated to members including the terms of reference and outcomes. The Head of

Community and Culture confirmed that the draft programme had been equality screened and further screening would take place as programme rolled out.

At the request of Councillor McQuillan the Head of Community and Culture clarified that everyone was welcome to avail of grant opportunities.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

Recommended that Council approve programme outcomes and associated branding as detailed within the report for Council's NI 2021 Centenary Programme and that the inclusion of Northern Ireland Watermark in the branding be referred to Working Group for further Consideration.

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to vote.
11 Members voted For; 5 Members voted Against, 0 Abstainers
The Chair declared the Motion carried.

7. NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY – STAGE 1 PROJECTS

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this additional report is to seek approval from Members for the initial draft programme for Council's NI100 Programme.

Background

This additional report, on the instruction of Council's NI 100 Working Group following their January meeting, provides an initial programme of activities in terms of projects that are either already focussing on Centenary related topics or can be branded as such for the NI 100 Council programme. All projects fall into one of the four themes as agreed by council and related to the three proposed outcomes of the overall programme. An initial equality screening process has been undertaken for the overall programme which will be reviewed on an ongoing process as the programme is implemented.

As detailed in previous reports, these proposed projects have been subject to an initial feasibility screening process against the following criteria:

- a) Strategic fit aligned to outcomes.
- b) Technical capability - availability of technical capability/skills or access to such, including ability to adapt methodology due to cost or COVID.
- c) Financial feasibility and access to finances to deliver – funding and affordability (subject to external funding and/or council budget).
- d) Managerial capacity and operational implications for teams.

- e) Cultural & social impacts – section 75 implications, community ‘buy in’.
- f) Scheduling (timing/timetabling).
- g) Health & Safety, particularly Covid 19 - including potential to deliver in alternative formats.

Proposal

The initial programme is comprised of a range of projects that fall within 3 broad categories as follows:

a) *Projects already commenced in 20/21 period*

These projects have already been included within the 20/21 business plans for service areas and have already commenced. It is proposed that these projects will be branded, subject to council agreement, within council’s NI 100 programme.

b) *Proposed (phase 1) projects for 21/22 period*

These projects have been included within a range of council’s draft business plans, specifically targeted as NI100 projects or that can be branded as such and are fully costed within service area business plans for 21/22 period. Some of these are also part funded by The Executive Office through the Good Relations Programme (subject to final approval of the funder) or subject of an application to external funders, principally the National Heritage Lottery’s Shared History Fund. These projects have been deemed to be deliverable in terms of affordability and have sufficient resources (in house) to proceed, subject to service business plan budget approvals for 2021/22 and external funding being secured.

c) *Projects that have been agreed and funded through the Mayoral programme* and do not provide budget approval, however have been provided within the report for completeness.

There are a number of additional potential projects that have not been

provided within this report and may form a proposed phase two of the programme, subject to further development, funding and consideration by the working group and officers and which would require additional funding (either internally or externally).

First Phase Projects

The total number of projects proposed is 28, detailed at Annex A (previously circulated).

19 x projects highlighted in pink are costed within the service area business plans for 20/21 and 21/22 estimates:

- Ethnical and Shared remembering Good Relations programme.
- Partition – What did it do for us?
- Hide or Seek
- Partition in Ireland: Partition of Ulster exhibition.

- Partition in Ireland: Partition of Ulster Good Relations Workshop programme
- Our Famous sons and daughters -Community engagement and exhibition programme (phase 1 &2).
- Booklet commissioned to celebrate 100 years of NI
- Centenary Art Exhibition.
- PR & Branding
- Centenary Flowerbeds.
- University of Ulster Media students graphic novel project for NI100.
- University of Ulster Media students interactive video projects for NI100
- NI 100 Innovation Grant.
- Support for Causeway Chamber of Commerce.
- Shared Spaces Art Project
- Freedom of the Borough for Royal Portrush Golf Club.
- Primary School's Heritage Games.
- Post Primary School's Mary Peters Centenary Games.
- Celebration of local agriculture, producers, agri-food and suppliers.
- 3 x projects highlighted in red are deemed a priority by the working group and will require additional budget from Council.
- Community Grant Programme.
- Centenary Stain Glass Window.
- Centenary Tree Planting.

3 x projects highlighted in yellow are subject to external funding applications which have been deemed eligible for current or forthcoming funding programmes. At the time of writing this report, Council's funding applications are being considered by the funders:

- American Research Project.
- London Event in association with the Hon Irish Society.
- Connecting Threads - 100 years of sharing our histories.

In addition, the following 3 projects are mayoral funded/sponsored, but are not costed within the report, do not require committee approval and have been included for completeness.

- NI Centenary Civic Week- Church Service
- NI Centenary Civic Week- Armed Forces Day Civic Event
- Civic -100th Birthday Gifts

Estimated Costs

In summary the project costs split over two financial years are as follows:

NI 100 Summary of Programme Costs	A	B	C	D
Theme	Total Projected Cost	Potential Contribution from Service Area Budget	Additional Net Cost to Council	Possible External Funder
Heritage & Culture (14 projects)	235,900.00	27,025.00	111,000.00	97,875.00
Great Northern Ireland Minds and Innovation (2 projects)	77,000.00	77,000.00	0.00	0.00
Sport & Wellbeing and Community Development (3 projects)	7,865.87	7,415.87	0.00	450.00
Food, Drink and Entertainment (1 project)	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
Overall Total Cost	<u>330,765.87</u>	<u>121,440.87</u>	<u>111,000.00</u>	<u>98,325.00</u>

The above table illustrates that beyond services area projects to be branded NI100 (Column B), the estimated additional cost to Council is estimated at £111k (Column C).

Recommendation

Approval is sought from the L&D Committee to progress the first phase of Council's Centenary Programme with the associated budget, subject to council's rates setting process.

Councillor Callan suggested that a number of programmes could progress at this stage as communities were keen, engaged and looking forward to being able to apply for funding. Councillor Callan felt that the centenary tree planting, installation of the stain glass window and progression of the grant programme capped at £2,000 per group could progress at this stage.

Councillor MA McKillop queried the cost of trees and felt that trees should be sourced from the Woodland Trust. The Head of Community and Culture confirmed that the cost of trees depended on size and that smaller trees required more maintenance so larger trees were recommended and further confirmed that this project was being developed in conjunction with the Environmental Services section.

The Head of Community and Culture further advised that it was intended to plant 4 groups of 100 trees, possibly at schools or Council land in conjunction with Officers and supported by education project biodiversity team.

Councillor MA McKillop felt that the Community Grant Programme fund should be reduced to £25,000 and individual grants capped at £500. Councillor Schenning concurred with Councillor MA McKillop's remarks

suggesting that £2,000 was too much for one project and that groups had the opportunity to avail of partnership with another community groups

Councillor McCaw concurred with the remarks made by Councillor MA McKillop and Councillor Schenning and thanked the officers and working group for the programme developed. Councillor McCaw further commented that there was potential for positive outcomes, student innovation and inclusivity which would be welcome.

Alderman Baird expressed disappointed that matters discussed at working group were being re-considered unnecessarily. Councillor Bateson said that budget setting should be fair and equitable and that to add to budgets to fund the London event and Stain Glass Window was not acceptable, referring also to the fact that planning permission may be required and the fact that many of these events would not be able to proceed due to pandemic.

The Head of Community and Culture explained that the London event was expected to be hosted by The Honorable Irish and that although there was an elected member on this group the event would not be a Council event. The Head of Community and Culture further confirmed that many of the Phase 1 events could still be progressed as many were online and virtual, although the Good Relations projects were subject to approval and that some projects were subject to the re-opening of schools.

Alderman Duddy suggested that branding/logo be incorporated in the correspondence for every project undertaken so that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council input and the work of officers is acknowledged.

Councillor C McShane asked for confirmation that the desktop Equality Impact Assessment undertaken would lead to full EQUI, if the Tree Planting and Stain Glass Window projects had been Equality Screened and if the pro-forma had been signed off by a Director regarding Equality Impact.

The Head of Community and Culture confirmed that initial Equality Screening had been undertook and that further exercises would be undertook as projects rolled out.

Councillor Watton felt that members of Sinn Fein would not be in favour of anything which was proposed to mark the Northern Ireland Centenary.

Proposal

Proposed by Councillor Callan

Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

Recommended that Council progress the first phase of Council's Centenary Programme with the associated budget, subject to council's rates setting process; the Working Group assess all applications; branding incorporated on all NI21 Centenary correspondence.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor MA McKillop

Seconded by Councillor Schenning

Recommended that budget for the Community Grant Programme fund should be reduced to £25,000 with individual grants capped at £500; that Council enter into discussion with Woodland Trust to reduce cost of Tree Planting Project.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote.
3 Members voted For; 13 Members voted Against; 0 Abstained
The Chair declared the motion Lost.

Alderman Hillis requested a Recorded Vote.

Recorded vote table.

For (3)	Councillor McCaw, MA Mckillop, Schenning
Against (13)	Alderman Baird, Hillis, Duddy
	Councillor Anderson, Bateson, Callan, Holmes, Knight-McQuillan, McAuley, McShane, McQuillan, Nicholl, Watton

The Chair put the Substantive Proposal to the Committee to vote.
11 Members voted For; 5 Members voted Against, 0 Abstained
The Chair declared the Motion Carried.

Alderman Hillis requested a Recorded Vote.

Recorded vote table.

For (11)	Alderman Baird, Hillis, Duddy
	Councillor Anderson, Callan, Holmes, Knight-McQuillan, McAuley, McCaw, McQuillan, Watton
Against (5)	Councillor Bateson, MA McKillop, C McShane, Nicholl, Schenning

8. DIGITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Elected Members in relation to key digital projects currently being 'rolled-out' across the Borough.

Background

In a rapidly evolving digital landscape e.g., superfast broadband; 4G/5G, etc. it is critical that CC&G develops and evolves its current digital infrastructure to ensure it meets the needs of the Borough.

Although existing digital infrastructure in the Borough is relatively weak compared to other areas of the UK, key strategic developments are starting to deliver significant change. **The Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) and Project Stratum** have just started deployment within our Borough and will hopefully turn our area from one of the poorest connected areas in the UK, to one of the best connected in Europe.

Ensuring that people and businesses in Causeway Coast and Glens adapt to this change and make the most of the opportunity available to them is the critical challenge of both Causeway's new **Digital Strategy and Growth Deal**.

Project Updates

A summary update in relation to each of these key digital strategic projects are set out below.

Project Stratum Update

Project Stratum represents an investment of £150m by the Department for the Economy (DfE) and £15m by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The £165m broadband improvement contract has been awarded to Fibrus Networks Ltd. This means that we are one step closer to bringing next generation broadband services to those businesses and people who need it most within our Borough.

Within the Causeway area, a total of 6,268 premises will be improved through Project Stratum. A full fibre solution, capable of offering speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second to almost 97% of premises in the target intervention area will be delivered.

The public investment of £165 million combined with Fibrus' substantial investment in network build costs, will help transform the broadband connectivity landscape for many of our citizens and businesses, primarily across rural areas.

Deployment by Fibrus of the new infrastructure commenced in November 2020 with the Ballycastle area one of the first locations in NI to be upgraded. The deployment will run until March 2024; with parts of Ballymoney and the Coleraine area to be upgraded in 2021. Please click on the following link for further details in relation to Project Stratum updates, coverage, roll-out dates and locations. <https://hyperfastni.com/>

Full Fibre NI Update

In January 2021, Council approved the award of the contract to Fibrus Networks Ltd to deliver full fibre broadband infrastructure as part of the Full Fibre Network NI (FFNI) consortium project.

This consortium of 10 Councils that has received funding of £15 million from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The funding will be used to install gigabit capable fibre 'direct to the premises' of

Council owned buildings by September 2021 that will in turn increase the broadband infrastructure in the surrounding vicinity.

Within Causeway Coast and Glens, we hope to connect approximately 91 public sector buildings with Ultrafast 1000gb connections. Deadlines for project completion are March 2021 for Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) sites and September 2021 for FFNI sites.

For the Council's geographical area, the funding is expected to deliver fibre connectivity to 56 of the Council's own sites, and 35 Business Services Organisation (BSO) sites. The BSO sites will use the grant funding to connect Health (Doctors' surgeries for example), Fire and Ambulance sites.

Officers will continue to work with Fibrus Networks Limited to confirm the proposed interventions for each Phase and Officers will determine the effect that the orders would have on the Council's own network plans and calculate the cost implications of the orders.

Digital Strategy

In December 2020 L&D Committee endorsed Council's new Digital Strategy for the Borough. The new Digital Strategy provides a clear vision within the digital sector to drive, accelerate and sustain economic and social development throughout the Borough. It will also help support any potential digital initiatives emerging as part of the Causeway Growth Deal.

The digital strategy was developed in parallel with, and is informed by, the new Economic Development Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens and takes into account a range of digital strategies, initiatives and developments from the UK and beyond that establish the context for development in the Borough.

The Digital Strategy specifically focuses on three key areas i.e.:

- a) **Digital Infrastructure** – To ensure current and emerging digital technologies are available and accessible to all.
- b) **Digital Sector (including businesses)** – To support digital transformation of key economic sectors to ensure their sustainability and growth.
- c) **Digital Skills** – To establish a digital skills ecosystem for the Borough – both directly within the Borough, and as a conduit for skills regionally and beyond.

The Digital Strategy was approved by Council in January 21 and is currently subject to equality screening and consultation

Growth Deal

CC&G is set to receive £72m capital funding for a Growth Deal after the NI Executive agreed to match fund the UK Government's Growth Deal allocation. The Growth Deal capital fund will be used to support digital

and innovation projects. The Executive investment will focus additional funding on supporting Infrastructure, tourism, and regeneration along with employability and skills.

In line with Growth Deal criteria, it is critical that Council prioritises key catalyst projects over the next 10-years to help shape and grow our local economy.

Following members commitment to a Growth Deal in October 2019, Council established a Growth Deal Working Group to deliver upon each of the key priorities identified above. The Growth Deal Working Group have identified six key themes/ sectors to help grow our local economy in line with Growth Deal criteria, and Digital Connectivity is a key pillar within the proposed Growth Deal going forward.

AGREED that members note the contents of the report.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

10. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

11. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Alderman Duddy

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

* **Members of the Press / Public left the meeting at 8.40 pm.**

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

12. FACILITY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT –PITCHES AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

Report, previously circulated, was presented by Head of Sport and Well-Being.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to progress the potential development of a Facility Management Agreement for outdoor sports pitches, to be utilised in the event that Council is approached by a Borough based Sports Club or Community Association to take on

responsibility for the management and maintenance of a Council pitch and associated changing pavilion.

Background

Council's Sports & Leisure Facilities (2015) highlights the potential benefits of working collaboratively with others in the provision of accessible and quality facilities which operate in an effective and efficient manner.

The strategy highlights several "wider considerations" which help in considering how services can be delivered including;

- The Council is not the sole 'supplier'; clubs, sports associations and community groups will play an increasingly important part.
- Revenue savings need to be delivered to help fund investment.
- More effective and 'joined up' programming and management of all facilities can help meet demand.

The Sport and Leisure Facilities Strategy provided a backdrop to the subsequent development of Council's Pitch Strategy and Investment Plan (2020) which offers further options for the development of the pitch infrastructure in the Borough in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision and recognises the value in providing services in collaboration with the community it serves.

Current situation

Council has been approached by two local Football teams and asked to consider the 'ownership' arrangements at two sites across the borough – McCamphill Park / Dunloy FC and Mullaghacall / Portstewart FC.

The correspondence from the two clubs is attached at Annexes A & B. (previously circulated)

Currently McCamphill Park is managed by Council and booked primarily by Dunloy FC for home matches in their local Football League. Council has responsibility for the full cost of facility maintenance, insurance and provides a caretaker for all bookings.

Dunloy FC wish to progress as a Club and continue to compete in the Ballymena and Provincial League and as such is likely to be subject new regulations regarding ground specification as set out by the NI Football League/IFA. These new regulations will require a level of investment in ground(s) which at this stage Council is not in a position to be able to complete within the timeframe proposed by the IFA for implementation of the new standards. In an attempt to ensure they are not dropped out of Intermediate Football, Dunloy FC have proposed that they make the required investment and in return take on responsibility for the management and upkeep of the site.

Mullaghacall is currently leased to Portstewart FC and they are responsible for all maintenance and insurance at the site and operate the pavilion / clubhouse without any input or support from Council. Included within the lease is a £2000 p/a charge.

Portstewart FC also compete in the Intermediate Football League and are well established at that level. However, as a Club they struggle to maintain all aspects of the current lease agreement and have approached Council to request a review of that arrangement to see whether a more effective system can assist the club to maintain their current standard of football and remain sustainable as a thriving local community Club which contributes much to the local community in terms of sporting participation and community activity.

Next Steps

Officers plan to progress these two requests and investigate the options available within the context of a Facility Management Agreement (including the legal and financial considerations).

The business case will consider;

- A more extensive review of key strategic documents.
- Local authority 'best practice'.
- Financial and legal considerations.
- Potential for such an agreement to be trialled with Dunloy FC and Portstewart FC and used as a model of best practice for consideration of any future requests and/or opportunities for working in partnership with local sports / community organisations in the provision of sports facilities.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the development of a Facility Management Agreement potentially to be trialled with Dunloy FC and Portstewart FC.

Officers will bring back to Committee a Business Case which will define the current situation and present options to allow Council to decide how best to proceed.

Discussion ensued regarding the agreements being proposed including the definition of a 'trial period' and the Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed that stringent criteria would be set in advance of Council entering into a management agreement.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing assured members that any agreements entered into could be rescinded by any or both parties and that proposals would safeguard Council and ratepayers whilst considering the request of the named clubs.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

AGREED to recommend that Council approve the development of a Facility Management Agreement potentially to be trialled with Dunloy FC and Portstewart FC. Officers will bring back to Committee a Business Case which will define the current situation and present options to allow Council to decide how best to proceed.

All those in attendance were in agreement.

12. BRIDGE STREET, COLERAINE, GAP SITE

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to update Council on the end of licence for the Gap Site at Bridge St, Coleraine and inform that the space to be returned to the property owner as per licence agreement.

Background

The Gap Site at Bridge St, Coleraine was licenced to the then Coleraine Borough Council as part of the first Revitalise Programme which took place in Waterside and Bridge St in Coleraine 2013/2014.

Part of the programme was to reimagine a derelict site on Bridge St to become a temporary park until a commercial interest was established for the site.

A licence agreement was drawn up at the time and the end date was specified as March 2019 (Annex A) (previously circulated)

Temporary Pocket Park was used over the last years by members of the public as a place to sit as picnic tables, benches and wastebins, are located in the space. Ground level lighting had to be removed over the last few years due to vandalism. Initially small events took place and museum department currently has a community art project in situ on the fencing. The area is due for a revamp as the artificial grass, street furniture is tired looking and not inviting as a space for dwell time.

Update

Position to date – the licence has expired in March 2019.

The Town & Village Management and Coleraine Town Team were informed in October that there is now commercial interest in the site. This was discussed at the November meeting of the Coleraine Town Team. The consensus was that Council return the site to the owner and in doing so, support the commercial opportunity.

Future action

The Town & Village Management Manager will liaise with estates on schedule and cost in relation of removal the pocket park and return to original condition as per the licence agreement.

Target date for return of the site to the property owner by end of financial year depending on work schedule of estates department.

Recommendation

To confirm that the licence is no longer in force and that Council complete Pt 15 of the licence agreement that the lands be placed back in its original condition by removal of all materials – artificial grass, benches, tables, lighting, utility works placed in the site as part of the pocket park and replace the hoarding as per image in Annex A. (previously circulated)

Alderman Duddy thanked the officer and suggested deferring decision until the outworkings of next meeting of Coleraine Town Team and to determine how the landlord wishes the area to be handed over in terms of hoarding and suggested there may be alternative purpose for the gap site yet to be explored.

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED to recommend that Council defer confirmation that the licence is no longer in force and that Council complete Pt 15 of the licence agreement pending the next Coleraine Town Team meeting in February.

All those in attendance were in agreement.

*Councillor McCaw left the meeting before discussion of this item at 9.20 pm

14. NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY – STAGE 1 PROJECTS (STAFFING)

Councillor Bateson raised the issue of staff being uncomfortable with being asked to work on NI100 Centenary Projects.

The Director of Leisure and Development assured members that issues, should they arise, in this regard would be dealt with on a case by case basis and would be treated in a reasonable and sympathetic manner in line with Management and Human Resource policies. He confirmed that in the first instance concerns should be raised with the individuals line manager.

Councillor C McShane referred to an anonymous letter which she asked the Director of Leisure and Development had he seen. He confirmed he had seen the letter.

Councillor Schenning suggested that staff be advised in writing to let their line manager know if they felt uncomfortable with undertaking work in conjunction with the NI100 Centenary Project. The Director said he could not commit to undertake this. The matter would be raised with the Chief Executive and other Directors.

Alderman Duddy felt it was not appropriate for staff to choose which aspects of their role they would and would not undertake as in line with their terms and conditions they had been employed to fulfil a role.

Councillor C McShane felt that staff members with concerns should be signposted to trade union representatives and the Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that employees were welcome use that forum to raise issues should they wish.

Councillor C McShane highlighted and questioned gestures made by The Director of Leisure and Development to a Councillor in the Chamber.

The Director of Leisure and Development wished it to put on record that Councillor C McShane had mis-lead the Committee by her comments.

The Chair gave the director the opportunity to confirm that the Committee and Members Services Officer was seeking reassurance during the debate. The director gestured to her and her alone to provide reassurance.

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

In accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Bateson submitted the following Item on behalf of Councillor McGurk and outlined the issue:

“To check on the status of furloughed Agency Leisure Centre staff - I was told a few days before Christmas that the Leisure staff who work through an agency in Roe Valley Leisure Centre were not being furloughed with pay through the agency this time, so essentially they were going without pay for however long this lockdown lasts for. The staff in question are all long term staff so there shouldn't be any issue over eligibility.

The Director of Leisure and Development explained that the Agency staff were not employed by Council but employed by the recruitment agency, Staffline who have confirmed that alternative options of employment are available for staff. The Director of Leisure and Development further explained that if facility was closed the associated work ceased.

The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that Council were regularly engaging with Staffline to discuss this specific issue.

Councillor Holmes felt it had been useful during the pandemic for Council to have been enabled to reduce running costs by standing agency staff down.

Alderman Baird asked for clarity on the number of agency staff affected by the pandemic specifically requesting details of:-

Aged and gender profile; location of facility; whether period referred to current or previous lockdown period and length of service.

The Director of Leisure and Development explained that agency staff had been stood down since 19 March 2020 with the agency taking the decision not to furlough from October 2020. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that Full and Part-time members of Council staff had also been furloughed.

Alderman Duddy felt that role of agency staff was important but sought clarity from the Director regarding savings made by standing down agency staff during pandemic. The Director confirmed that in the Leisure and Development Directorate this had equated to over £1 m.

Discussion ensued regarding the re-instatement of agency staff post lock-down. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that APSE has predicted a real reduction in the use of indoor facilities following. Consequently, the staffing structure will be aligned to use / need post-covid. Agency contracts would be renewed on that basis.

Councillor Watton felt it was unfair for some agency staff who had been employed by Council for many years still not to be on a permanent contract.

16. UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME ACROSS THE BOROUGH

The Director of Leisure and Development gave an update on the Council's participation in the vaccination programme across the borough.

The Director advised that this information was for internal purposes only, as there is no need for Council to promote the vaccination programme to any wider audience.

Commencing tomorrow (Wednesday 20th January) Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre will be used as a vaccination site for a number of GP Health Centres in the Ballymoney and Coleraine area.

Commencing Thursday 21st January Roe Valley Leisure Centre will be used as a vaccination site for a number of GP Health Centres in the Limavady area.

All details for residents invited to attend will be distributed by the GP Practices themselves in letters to each resident / patient. Council has no involvement in the timetabling of the vaccination programme.

Any enquiries about the letter/vaccine must be directed back to the individual's GP Practice as noted in their letter (contact details in each letter will be specific to the person's GP).

At present the sites will be used 1 / 2 days per week but as the availability of the vaccine increases it is expected that the number of days will increase.

Any Members queries relating to the GP Vaccination Programme and the use of Council's facilities are to be addressed to either the Director of Leisure and Development Services or the Head of Sport and Well Being.

It was **AGREED** that members note the verbal update.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor McAuley

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 10.10PM.

Chair