

**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 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 19 th January 2021	<i>Confirmed</i>
4.	Presentation from Seán Ó Murchadha and Conchúr Ó Muadaigh representing Conradh na Gaeilge.	<i>Received</i>
5.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Boyle, seconded by Councillor McCaw, referred from the 2 February 2021 Council Meeting. <i>I, Alderman Boyle, wish to propose that a blue plaque, in recognition of Hercules Mulligan, be erected in his birthplace of Coleraine and that Council make a subsequent application to the Ulster History Circle for this and that Council pay for the erection of the plaque.</i>	<i>Council does not initiate a Blue Plaque, instead the Tourism and Culture Department recognise Mr Hercules Mulligan through a Heritage Trails / project, in the future.</i>
6.	Sperrins Future Search Partnership	<i>That Council nominates Councillors Scott and Councillor Holmes to sit on the Sperrins Partnership Project;</i>

		<i>That Council approves the change of name from Sperrins Future Search to Sperrins' Partnership Project.</i>
7.	SWB Required Maintenance	<i>That Council approves the expenditure of £99k for the projects listed in this report.</i>
8.	Workforce Development Forum	<i>That Council supports the proposed 'Causeway Up' Programme in line with Action 33 of the Community Plan.</i>
	For Information (Items 9-12 inclusive)	
9.	SWB Minor Works Update	<i>Information</i>
10.	Causeway Coast and Glens Gift Card	<i>Information</i>
11.	Prosperity and Place Progress Report	<i>Information</i>
12.	DfC Funding Update	<i>Information</i>
13.	Correspondence	<i>Nil</i>
14.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>Nil</i>
15.	Consultations	<i>Nil</i>
	'In Committee' Items 16-21 inclusive)	
16.	Holiday and Leisure Parks VAT	<i>By retaining the gross amount charged, Council avails of the reduced rate of VAT (20% to 5%), designed to provide financial support for the tourism and leisure sectors which includes Council's Holiday and Leisure Park service.</i>

17.	Public Rights of Way Update	Information
18.	Limavady Accessible Play Park Tender Report	Approve the award of contracts in line with the recommendations from the attached Tender Reports at a total cost of £481,700, with the Fencing and Ball stops contract being subject to Planning Approval being granted. As noted above, this constitutes the Final Investment Decision and will allow the project to proceed into Stage 3 – Construction, with plans in place for further community engagement and promotion.
19.	Alchemy Tender Report	Information
20.	Town Centre Perception Surveys	That the project be awarded to the CARD Group for the contract sum of £14,500 +VAT, from the existing in-year budgets of TVM and Planning as stated at outset.
21.	Generalist Advice Services Tender	That Council award the tender for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Provision of Generalist Advice Services for the Borough from 1st April 2021 to 31st

		<p>March 2022, with the possibility of extension for 2 further periods of one year each, subject to satisfactory delivery of service, to Community Advice Causeway as Lead Partner for Causeway and Glens Advice Services Consortium at a maximum total annual cost of £220,492.00, exclusive of VAT and subject to the necessary funds being made available through the Department for Communities and Council.</p>
22.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	Nil

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF
THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON
TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7:00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Nicholl (C)

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

Non Committee Members in Attendance Alderman Boyle (C) (Item 4), Duddy (R) Robinson (R);
Councillor Scott (R) and 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)
J Welsh, Head of Community & Culture (R)
J Elliott, Town & Countryside Manager (R)
J Beggs, SIB Capital Projects (R)
P O'Brien, Funding Manager (R)
R Gillen, Coast and Countryside Manager (R)
N McGurk, Strategic Projects Manager (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services
Officer (C)
J Keen, Corporate Support Assistant (C)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (R)

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

S Ó Murchadha }
C Ó Muadaigh } (Item 4) Conradh Na Gaeilge

Press (4 no) (R)

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

SUBSTITUTION

Councillor McQuillan substituted for Councillor Wallace.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies recorded.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2021

Summary, previously circulated.

IT WAS AGREED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 19th January 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

* **Councillor McQuillan left the meeting.**

* **Councillor Watton left the meeting.**

4. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM SEÁN Ó MURCHADHA AND CONCHÚR Ó MUADAIGH REPRESENTING CONRADH NA GAEILGE.

C Ó Muadaigh presented via PowerPoint presentation on Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Obligations and The Irish Language: A Framework for Compliance. S Ó Murchadha was in attendance.

The Chair thanked the Presenters and invited questions from Committee.

Councillor Schenning advised she was involved in Irish Language through the PEACE Programme and commented on the passion from both sides to keep languages alive and welcomed changes to Policy.

Councillor C McShane stated resources could not be held up as an issue under the Charter and enquired as to what Council were going to do, as a result of the Presentation.

Councillor Bateson stated the Irish language did not infringe on identity. He encouraged more progressive Council Policies to give Irish Language equality and status.

Councillor Holmes stated it was unfortunate the language was used to divide; that from a Unionist perspective it would take a long time to shake off associated history.

The Head of Community and Culture outlined Council's previous decision not to extend a contract for an Irish Language Officer; there was

currently no staff resource dedicated to take forward developing Policy responsibility, if that was the will of Council; that it was provided for in the Good Relations Act and Arts and Cultural Strategy, along with a bursary Scheme for young people.

The Chair summarised, he would be following up the issue.

- * **Councillor McQuillan re-joined the meeting at 7.48pm.**
- * **Councillor Watton re-joined the meeting at 7.48pm.**
- * **Councillor Anderson arrived at the meeting at 7.48pm.**

5. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN BOYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCCAW, REFERRED FROM THE 2 FEBRUARY 2021 COUNCIL MEETING.

I, Alderman Boyle, wish to propose that a blue plaque, in recognition of Hercules Mulligan, be erected in his birthplace of Coleraine and that Council make a subsequent application to the Ulster History Circle for this and that Council pay for the erection of the plaque.

Alderman Boyle amended her original submission and presented via PowerPoint.

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor McCaw

- I, Alderman Boyle, wish to propose that a blue or similar commemorative plaque in recognition of Hercules Mulligan, be erected in his birthplace of Coleraine. I propose that the Council make a subsequent application to the Ulster History Circle for this, as appropriate, or, if this is not feasible, arrange to erect one themselves at Coleraine Town Hall, and that Council pay for the erection of the plaque.

The Chair invited Alderman Boyle to present her motion, Alderman Boyle read from a prepared statement and illustrated via PowerPoint presentation:

“Hercules Mulligan was born in Coleraine in 1740. He left as a young child with his family and moved to America. He became a tailor in New York and was a friend and supporter of Andrew Hamilton. He was active in the American Revolutionary War and is known as one of the American Founding Fathers. These were turbulent times and British taxes were unpopular. A charismatic and well liked figure, he is said, through his activities as a spy, to have saved George Washington’s life twice. He was also active in a group working towards the abolition of slavery.

I would like to thank Alan McClarty for approaching me about recognising Hercules Mulligan in this his home area. Alan is the son of the late David McClarty, MLA and Coleraine Borough Councillor and my former

colleague. Both men are known for their roles in musical theatre. Alan informed me that Mulligan is portrayed in the 2015 hit music Hamilton. This award winning musical is noted for its diverse cast of black, Asian and mixed race actors portraying the Founding Fathers. At a time when many ethnic minority actors are not portrayed in line with their talent or their numbers within the population, the producers said they wanted to make the show contemporary and dynamic. It was a critical and commercial success.

To honour Mulligan here the motion mentions either a blue plaque at his birthplace or other equivalent plaque, perhaps in the Coleraine Old Town Hall. If agreed, I trust that the application can be funded via the NI Centenary Group's American Links Project and, if not, then through other Council funds. I understand that the costings may be several hundred pounds.

In the future this plaque would be a focus of historical interest for residents and visitors both local and international. It could be a catalyst for a whole variety of projects both cultural and historical, linked to other local developments, celebrating our area's links to the United States of America.

In conclusion, Hercules Mulligan is a son of Coleraine and the Causeway Coast area. He was an American Founding Father. He has been portrayed in an award winning musical in New York and London. A man of ingenuity and talent who contributed to world affairs. It is time for us to claim and celebrate him as our own here".

Councillor McCaw spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

Alderman McCorkell stated concern, a Blue Plaque was not within the responsibility of Council and was more expensive than that stated; he considered it should be led by the Community.

The Head of Community and Culture clarified she had been in discussion with a representative volunteer from the Ulster History Circle; that the process was closing for a two-year period, due to a significant backlog of nominations arising from the pandemic.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman McCorkell

Seconded by Councillor McQuillan

- to recommend that Council does not set up Blue Plaques.

The Chair put the Amendment to the Committee to vote.

8 Members voted For; 8 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair applied his Casting vote Against;

The Chair declared the motion lost.

Further Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Alderman Hillis

- Council does not initiate a Blue Plaque, instead the Tourism and Culture Department recognise Mr Hercules Mulligan through a Heritage Trails / project, in the future.

Alderman Boyle stated her support for the amended motion.

The Chair put the further Amendment to the Committee to vote.

14 Members voted For; 2 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the Amendment carried.

- * **Alderman Boyle left the meeting.**

6. SPERRINS FUTURE SEARCH PARTNERSHIP

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation, to provide Members with an update on the Sperrins Future Search initiative, to seek approval to nominate two Elected Members to sit on the Management Board and to seek support for a suggested project name change.

Background

At the December 2018 Leisure and Development meeting, Elected Members agreed to make a contribution to Sperrins Future Search for staffing costs. This contribution was equally divided between the five Councils' that make up the Sperrins Future Search project. The funding was originally intended to be for the financial period 2019/2020 but due to delays in recruiting staff this support was not apportioned until the financial year 2020/2021.

The Sperrins Future Search project was initiated in 2017 after a conference entitled 'The Sperrins – Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential' was held. The event brought together a group of key stakeholders to draft and agree an action plan for the future development of the Sperrins area, with a focus on the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Each council was delegated the responsibility to co-ordinate a thematic group as detailed below.

Thematic Group	Lead Council
Environment & Heritage	Mid Ulster
Infrastructure	Fermanagh & Omagh
Brand & Tourism	Causeway Coast & Glens
Community	Derry & Strabane
Management Structures	Mid Ulster

The five thematic working groups agreed their short and long-term action plans and the final plan has since been produced.

It had been hoped to officially launch the project late last year, but it was paused to allow for the recruitment process of Officers to conclude and was further delayed due to the current COVID-19 crisis. The introduction of further COVID-19 Government restrictions has meant the official launch of the project has been pushed back until spring/early summer 2021.

Progress to date

A Sperrins Future Search Project Officer and part time Administrative Support have now been appointed and took up their respective roles on 12 October 2020, initially for a period of one year.

The Project Officer will aim to progress this project and a key action will be to update the Future Search Action Plans established through five thematic groups. These updated action plans will assist with the delivery of the project.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is acting as the lead in the coordination of the thematic grouping 'Brand and Tourism'. The other thematic working groups will also be convening to review and advance action plans.

The initial working title of Sperrins Future Search Project was used as it evolved from the Future Search process (a principle based on task focused, planning process to help develop actions and cooperation). It is proposed that the original working name is now changed to the Sperrins Partnership Project.

Early Opportunities for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Officers are keen to exploit the benefits from working in partnership with the Sperrins region. Part of the Council area is within the Sperrins AONB, and of particular interest, is the ability to advance common opportunities within the tourism economy. One collaborative project which links the partnership area is the improvements to the International Appalachian Trail. The delivery of this project is already well under way. The Ulster - Ireland Chapter of the International Appalachian Trail was established in 2011. The trail is in the province of Ulster and runs from west Donegal in the Republic of Ireland to Larne, Co. Antrim. The route starts at the spectacular Slieve League Mountain and passes through the Blue Stack Mountains in Co Donegal then crosses into Northern Ireland where it picks up the Ulster Way. As it passes through the Borough it connects the North Sperrins Way, Causeway Coast Way and Moyle Way.

Moving Forward

The Project Management Board is due to be convened in the Spring of 2021, with meetings scheduled quarterly. In addition to this, Officers are meeting twice monthly to progress this project. The Sperrins Partnership Project Board is asking for representation from two Elected Members of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Recommendation(s)

The Leisure & Development Committee is asked to make a recommendation for the following;

- 1. That Council agree to the change of name from Sperrins Future Search to Sperrins' Partnership Project.**
- 2. That Council nominates two Elected Members to sit on the Sperrins Partnership Project.**

Motion 1

Proposed by Alderman McCorkell

Seconded by Councillor McQuillan

- To recommend that Council nominate Councillor Scott to sit on the Sperrins Partnership Project.

Motion 2

Proposed by Alderman Hillis

Seconded by Councillor Anderson

- To recommend that Council nominate Councillor Holmes to sit on the Sperrins Partnership Project.

Motion 3

Proposed by Councillor Bateson

Seconded by Councillor C McShane

- To recommend that Council nominate Councillor McGurk to sit on the Sperrins Partnership Project.

Councillor Bateson supported the name change to Sperrins' Partnership Project.

Councillor MA McKillop proposed Councillor Schenning; Councillor Schenning indicated she would not consider a nomination and supported the name change to Sperrins' Partnership Project.

The Chair put the 3 motions to the Committee to vote.

The Chair put Motion 1, proposed by Alderman McCorkell, seconded by Councillor McQuillan to the Committee to vote. 13 Members voted For; 3 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair put Motion 2, proposed by Alderman Hillis, seconded by Councillor Anderson to the Committee to vote. 12 Members voted For; 3 members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair put Motion 3, proposed by Councillor Bateson, seconded by Councillor C McShane to the Committee to vote. 6 Members voted For; 9 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the motion to nominate Councillor McGurk lost.

The Chair declared the motion to nominate Councillor Scott carried.

The Chair declared the motion to nominate Councillor Holmes carried.

IT WAS AGREED – to recommend that Council agree to the change of name from Sperrins Future Search to Sperrins' Partnership Project.

7. SWB REQUIRED MAINTENANCE

Report, previously circulated, presented by The Head of Sport and Wellbeing to update Members on priority works / maintenance / repair required at Sport & Wellbeing Facilities and seek approval for expenditure of more than £10k at a number of sites / facilities.

Background

To ensure that the Leisure and Development Directorate remained within budget for the financial year 2019 / 2020, maintenance works were limited to what was deemed essential only. In October 2021, Member's approved priority works / maintenance / repair projects which had been identified as requiring prompt action in order to enhance or restore facilities for the health and wellbeing benefit of Council's citizens.

Priority Projects as at February 2021

Council Officers have since identified a number of further priority projects which require action. The projects which exceed the threshold of authorised spend and are summarised as follows:

Serial	Project	Estimated Cost
1	Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre – Replacement of Swimming Pool Filter Media.	£18k
2	Coleraine Leisure Centre - Replacement of Swimming Pool Filter Media.	£18k*

3	Roe Valley Leisure Centre - Replacement of Swimming Pool Filter Media.	£18k*
4	Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Replacement of Swimming Pool Covers.	£11k
5	Coleraine Leisure Centre – Replacement of Swimming Pool Covers	£12k
6	Stranocum Community Centre – MUGA Lighting	£22k
Total Estimated Cost		£99k

*Note that projects 2 and 3 are listed with project 1 as the three projects may be tendered as a single package to secure the most competitive price for the works which are generally similar at the three sites.

Project Details

The Priority Projects which exceed the threshold for authorised spend of £10k are detailed below;

1 Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre – Replacement of Swimming Pool Filter Media

Swimming Pool Filters play an integral role in ensuring that the water within swimming pools remains clear and clean. They remove dirt, algae, organic matter and bacteria introduced by bathers. The filters are large vessels, which hold filter media in the form of sand or glass. It is recommended by the 'Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG)' that this filter media is removed and replaced every 6-7 years. The filter media was last removed and replaced at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre in January 2012. A recent inspection, by industry specialists raise immediate concerns around the quantity of media remaining in the filters and the need to remove the remaining filter media and replace with new more efficient Eco-Glass media. The associated costs of the works are circa £18,000. As these works have been identified as a priority, they will be progressed as a matter of urgency.

2 Coleraine Leisure Centre - Replacement of Swimming Pool Filter Media & Roe Valley Leisure Centre - Replacement of Swimming Pool Filter Media.

Whilst the swimming pool filter media at both Roe Valley Leisure Centre and Coleraine Leisure Centre's are not currently presenting any immediate cause for concern, the PWTAG recommended intervals for removing and replacing the filter media has passed. It is likely that works described above for Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre will need to be replicated at both Roe Valley and Coleraine Leisure Centre's within the next 12 – 18 months. The associated costs of

the works are circa £18,000 per site and will be profiled against the budget when the works are complete.

3 Roe Valley Leisure Centre – Replacement of Swimming Pool Covers & Coleraine Leisure Centre – Replacement of Swimming Pool Covers

Swimming Pools generally operate between temperatures of 28 – 31 degrees centigrade. During the closure hours of the facilities Swimming Pool blankets are used to cover the pools to reduce the evaporation rates of the water in the pools thus reducing the associated energy loss as a result of this evaporation. The normal usage life of a typical pool blanket is 6-8 years, the pool blankets in both Roe Valley Leisure Centre and Coleraine Leisure Centre have been in operation for approximately 10 years. The blankets have been showing increasing signs of deterioration over the last number of years. Annual Inspections of the blankets have highlighted concerns around the structural integrity of the blankets which can contribute to water retention and prominent odours; their effectiveness as an isolator and potential risks to contamination of the pool water itself. The associated costs of replacement of the blankets are circa £11,000 to £12,000 per site. If the pool blankets were not present, it is likely that the energy costs at the facilities will increase. For demonstration purposes, the expected energy savings for Roe Valley Leisure Centre with the installation of efficient blankets, as opposed to no blankets would amount to £11,695.

4 Stranocum Community Centre – MUGA Lighting

Due to the lack of floodlighting at Stranocum MUGA, usage opportunities are restricted to day light hours only. The facility will be greatly enhanced by the provision of suitable lighting which will greatly enhance the sports participation opportunities in the area. The MUGA itself is in close proximity to existing housing, so the lighting scheme has been carefully designed to ensure lighting is targeted onto the MUGA thus reducing the impact on neighbouring housing. Officers will seek to progress with planning permission for the lights, with a likely approval stipulation being that the lights will not operate beyond 11pm. Officers have ensured through lighting design, that efficient low energy bulbs will be used to reduce operational costs. Some further work is required around the most effective options to manage the switching on and off of the lights with, timers and or tokens being considered as potential outcomes. The associated cost of the MUGA lighting scheme is circa £22,000.

Budget

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

Next Steps

Subject to Council's agreement, Sport and Wellbeing and Council's Estates department will aim to complete the works within a 3 month period of Council's decision.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the expenditure of £99k for the projects listed in this report.

In response to Councillor MA McKillop, the Chair advised, 'subject to Planning'.

IT WAS AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the expenditure of £99k for the projects listed in this report.

8. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

To request approval for Causeway Workforce Development Forum (CWDF) to support the 'Causeway Up' Programme - a bespoke 26-week pilot skills programme targeting the hardest to reach unemployed in the Causeway area. The 'Causeway Up' Programme has been developed and proposed by Roe Valley Community Education Forum (Limavady); West Bann Community (Coleraine); and BCW Training (Ballycastle).

Background

Action 33 of the Causeway Community Plan aims to:

'Co-ordinate actions to increase skills within Causeway Coast and Glens area. It is envisaged that this will be in the form of the development of a learning partnership which will take forward a range of specific targeted actions to meet the local industry needs'.

The overarching purpose of the CWDF is to see more people working in better and sustainable jobs with less inequality in terms of poverty and deprivation. It will support the achievement of the Council's strategic aspirations and economic priorities as set out in the Community Plan supported by the new Employability and Skills Framework and the Local Works agenda within the draft Programme for Government.

An expression of interest for the 'Causeway Up' Programme was received by CWDF following an open call for financial support towards COVID-19 education and skills initiatives. No other expressions of interest were received within Q3.

Proposal

The 'Causeway Up' Programme is designed as a pilot initiative to run for 26-weeks to provide flexible community based personal development and upskilling; bolstered by a recognised NVQ Level 2 qualification. The initiative does not displace any similar community-based training programmes in the Borough. Its uniqueness is reflected in the role on role off, blended learning approach to the provision of the training, along with the supportive mentor relationship which will identify and address the client's core personal and career development issues, and barriers to employment.

The aim of the 'Causeway UP Programme' is:

1. *To combat poverty and enhance social inclusion to benefit people who are unemployed, underemployed, long term unemployed and/or economically inactive;*
2. *To deliver direct employability skills and NVQ Level 2 training qualifications across the Causeway Borough to empower and benefit people including those unemployed and/or economically inactive;*
3. *To provide personal development soft skills tutoring and supportive mentoring to build the confidence of people who have been out of work for more than two years;*
4. *To offer actual live work placements in the thematic area pursued by the client to build their CV and gain valuable work experience (within Covid-19 restrictions); and*
5. *To reduce economic inactivity, increase skills base and offer an increased motivation moving towards a working future for participants.*

The 'Causeway Up' Programme is a follow-on programme to the European Structural Funds (ESF) 'Causeway Learn to Earn' initiative. People who have completed this initiative gained a NVQ Level 1. The intention with the 'Causeway Up' Programme is to build upon the 'Causeway Learn to Earn' Programme, by delivering a recognised sector specific Level 2 Qualification in the following areas:

- City & Guilds Essential Skills Level 2;
- Literacy;
- Numeracy;
- ICT;
- OCN NI Customer Services; and
- OCN NI Childcare.

Each of these sector specific skills have been identified through consultation with industry and these skills have been identified by industry as key skills shortages. The Customer Services qualification is an important qualification for several sectors, especially in terms of both Tourism and Hospitality and Retail.

The 'Causeway Up' pilot programme will be delivered to 30 participants borough wide. Participants will be supported through blended learning during any ongoing lockdown restrictions by their personal mentor and their experienced, subject tutor. When normal working resumes this will revert to classroom attendance where possible, however the intention is to support participants on a one-to-one basis and look at each student's need individually.

The 'Causeway Up' Programme requests 50% funding (i.e., £12,450) support for tutoring, registration, certification, mentoring and marketing costs. The individual organisations delivering the Programme will also be contributing 50% of the costs.

It is recommended that members agree to support the proposed 'Causeway Up' Programme in line with Action 33 of the Community Plan.

- * **The Chair declared a recess at 8.47PM due to technical difficulties.**

The meeting reconvened at 8.57PM.

Strategic Projects Manager responded to Councillor Holmes on placements associated with the work.

Councillor Watton stated he would like to see the participant rate double.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend that Council support the proposed 'Causeway Up' Programme in line with Action 33 of the Community Plan.

The Chair advised of the Information reports, taken as read.

9. SWB MINOR WORKS UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress to date of priority works / maintenance / repair required at Sport & Wellbeing Facilities.

Priority Projects as at October 2020

In October 2020, Members approved the below listed maintenance projects which required prompt action, in order to enhance or restore facilities for the health and wellbeing benefit of Council's citizens.

Serial	Project	Estimated Cost
1	Additional Lighting at Rasharkin Community Centre.	£14k
2	Tennis Courts at Anderson Park Coleraine.	£11k
3	Quay Road Playing Fields, Ballycastle.	£20k
4	Hockey Pitch at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.	£5k*
5	Tennis Courts @ Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre	£8k*
6	Ballycastle Synthetic Tennis Courts	£30k

Total Estimated Cost	£85k
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Project Updates

The project updates or progress to date are now detailed as follows;

Additional Lighting at Rasharkin Community Centre

This project is now complete, with potential for additional lighting at the play area.

Tennis Courts at Andersons Park Coleraine

Specification of required materials to re-paint the tennis courts are now complete with quotations expected by the end of February, completion of works on site, dependant on weather conditions.

Quay Road Playing Fields Ballycastle

Tender process complete and contractor appointed. Works due to commence on site.

Hockey Pitch and Tennis Courts at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre

Quotations are currently being sought for works with returns expected by the end of February.

Ballycastle Synthetic Tennis Courts

Development of specification for works in progress, completion of works dependant on weather.

Next Steps

Sport and Wellbeing staff will continue to work with Council's Estates department to prioritise the listed projects with a view to all works being completed within a 2 month period.

10. CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS GIFT CARD

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Causeway Coast and Glens Gift Card Programme which promotes the 'Shop Eat Enjoy Local' message throughout the Borough and promotes our towns to both the local population and visitors to the Borough.

Background

Causeway Coast & Glens Gift Card was launched in late November 2019 as part of a five year contract with Miconex, who manage town gift card programmes across the UK & Ireland, of which there are now 64 town gift card programmes, an increase from 25 programmes when Council joined.

There are also now 5 Gift Card programmes in NI. In NI, three of the programmes are managed by BID's (Business Improvement District) and Antrim Town Gift Card is managed by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough

Council. Other local Councils have been in contact with TVM to discuss the implementation of a gift card programme in their areas.

The Causeway Coast & Glens gift card programme remains the only programme that has been introduced across an entire Council area, incorporating a number of towns and villages across a geography, within the UK. All other gift card programmes are town centre based.

This brings different financial and administrative challenges compared to those of a BID which focuses on one town centre with businesses they are involved with on a regular basis.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Gift Card offers flexibility and choice, while supporting the Borough's local business community and its town centres which are home to a high quality and varied retail offering. The benefits of the gift card are highlighted in Annex A (circulated).

The Gift Cards, which are redeemable across the Borough and not just in one specific town or outlet, are designed to help retain spend within Causeway Coast and Glens, and is part of the Town & Village Management's ongoing 'Shop Eat Enjoy Local' campaign.

The Gift Card can be used across a host of participating businesses within the Borough, including shops, wholesalers, hair and beauty salons, hotels, cafes, restaurants, and tourism experiences. There are currently 222 outlets, including local market traders, signed up to accept the Causeway Coast & Glens Gift Card. There is no charge to a business to be involved in this programme.

For Town & Village Management, the Gift Card programme is one of the main work streams within the Business Plan in enabling the team to:

- Increase spend and footfall in the local economy.
- Drive additional spend to local businesses by locking spend locally and providing an alternative to national store gift cards.
- Create a network where the businesses can help each other.
- Create revenue which can be used to develop a marketing and training programme for the businesses.

The Gift Card can be bought online at www.causewaycoastandglensgiftcard.co.uk, a dedicated website for the Gift Card which lists all the participating businesses, or from one of the local Council Visitor Information Centres, although these have been closed for a large part of the year as part of the Covid-19 restrictions.

The card can be loaded with any amount from £10 and the recipient can choose to spend the balance in one transaction, or it can be used for multiple purchases in different outlets up to the value of the card.

Town & Village Management have access to an online management platform to monitor uptake and usage of the Gift Card across the Borough. This helps to give insight into where the Gift Cards are purchased and where they are being redeemed across the Borough.

Update

Position to 31 December 2020.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Gift Card launched at end November 2019 with the first sale on 2 December via Coleraine Visitor Centre.

Gift Cards have been purchased for staff Christmas gifts, teacher's gifts, student prizes, competition prizes, thank-you gifts and birthday & Christmas presents. Council departments have purchased 76 cards [value £3580] for prize draws, competitions, or marketing purposes.

Cards have been purchased from throughout Northern Ireland – Belfast, Newtownards, Lisburn, Cookstown, Ballymena and Londonderry, also Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne, Surrey, Oxford and as far as Australia! Gift cards can be posted to the purchaser or to the recipient with a message if requested.

A quarterly breakdown of Gift Card sales to 31 December 2020

Quarter ending	Cumulative sales of Gift Card	Cumulative No. of Gift Cards Purchased
31/12/2019	£3,040	81
31/03/2020	£3,140	83
30/06/2020	£3,940	104
30/09/2020	£4,380	112
31/12/2020	£22,540	574

Annual costs to date:

Year 1 2018/19 £8803.03

Year 2 2019/20 £10678.48

Plans to promote and develop the gift card in the Borough were negatively impacted by the economic restrictions as a result of Covid-19 crisis. Between March and December there were a number of Government imposed lockdowns and 'circuit breakers' affecting a wide range of businesses across the Borough. Promotion was undertaken from November 2020 for the Christmas market for gift card sales.

Various promotional activities were undertaken to promote and raise awareness of the gift card for the Christmas market. This included using social media channels – Facebook 'Shop Eat Enjoy Local' and Council Facebook posts, local radio adverts through Q Radio, Causeway Coast Blast 106 and FUSE FM Ballymoney and a range of adverts, editorials and digital editorial with local newspapers and magazines including Chronicle, Times, Newsletter, Local Women and the Council's Citizens Newsletter.

Causeway Coast & Glens Gift Card is also included in the Town & City Gift Card website, www.townandcitygiftcards.com

Feedback has been that all PR mediums worked as people responded to adverts in the newspapers (as these are also available in digital format so have a wider reach), the Citizens Newsletter and Facebook posts.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the Visitor Information Centres (VIC) across the Borough were largely closed during the year. Limavady VIC was the only VIC to reopen on 11 December with reduced opening hours of 2 days

per week. From 11 December to 23 December, £935 Gift Card sales were made in Limavady VIC. Several people were in contact looking for gift cards at short notice, but this could not be fulfilled due to no Visitor Information Centres being open. A number of sales were also made over the phone, but potential sales were also lost due to many people preferring to purchase in person.

The Gift Cards have been redeemed 170 times since Christmas 2019 to a total value of £4,161.11. They have been redeemed in a range of businesses including clothing, footwear, homewares, jewellery, butchers, supermarkets, off licences and cafes and have been accepted in outlets across the Borough (Ballymoney, Ballycastle, Coleraine, Garvagh, Limavady and Portrush).

As a greater value of gift cards were purchased for Christmas 2020, the spend on these has been limited as a lockdown was introduced on 26 December for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Future Plans

A detailed marketing plan for 2021/22, involving social media and printed adverts, will be put in place to implement a number of marketing campaigns around key events, such as Mother's/Father's Days, end of school term and Christmas. It will also be promoted throughout the year as a great gift idea for those hard-to-buy-for people or other occasions such as a leaving work gift, weddings, and birthdays. It is anticipated that the gift cards would become a popular birthday present or a simple way to say 'thank you' for a good turn and especially popular for Christmas, with all the registered businesses benefitting.

An awareness campaign will also be developed for local businesses in the Borough to make them aware of the benefits and opportunities of being involved in the Gift Card Programme. Also promoting to businesses how they could use the Gift Card as an incentive or reward for employees such as long-service achievements, whilst at the same time supporting the local economy. The aim is to have all town retail businesses participating.

The initial premise of a town gift card programme was to increase footfall in local towns as the person had to be present to swipe a gift card as payment.

However, due to the current situation regarding Covid19 and the many restrictions which have impacted on many of the businesses, resulting in an increase in online business to help them to remain sustainable.

This has been an issue across the UK and Miconex have introduced a new gift card design that can be used online and in store. A plan for 2021/22 would be to change the current Gift Card to the new 'chip & pin' card, which will appeal to a greater customer base as it can be used online and in-store giving the recipient more flexibility. This will also allow more businesses to join the programme as many of our local businesses operate with a mobile card reader which does not accept a 'swipe card' therefore they are unable to be part of the current programme.

By being part of the Town & City Gift Card website, Miconex undertake UK and international promotion for all gift card programmes, promoting the gift cards as a great gift for people who live elsewhere but have relatives or

friends at 'home'. They will be able to go online, order the Causeway Gift Card and have it sent to a local address.

Councillor Holmes queried how the initiative would break-even.

The Head of Prosperity and Place outlined initiatives to move forward with promotions. A report would be brought back in due course to decide whether it has worked or not.

The Town and Village Manager advised of website costs per business, met by Council, she outlined future adaptations for chip and pin and stated it was vital to spend local.

Councillor C McShane stated her support for the Scheme.

The Chair encouraged engagement with businesses throughout the area.

11. PROSPERITY AND PLACE PROGRESS REPORT

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

This report reflects the main activities carried out by Prosperity and Place from 1 April to 30 November 2020. This was obviously a period in which the team had to reshape their activities, while still attempting to remain "on course" across several ongoing projects.

Service Area Summaries

A summary for each Service Area is listed below with full details at Annex A (circulated).

Business Development

- 223 FT & 29 PT jobs created to date (target for year 125 jobs).
- 1755 businesses engaged with to date (target for year 1000) – virtual and one-to-one contact.
- 108 business e-zines issued to date. Significant increase due to Covid-19 pandemic and the need to get info to businesses about restrictions & government financial assistance. In April alone, 28 e-zines were issued.
- Alchemy (figures only up to Sept). 3.5 yr programme ahead of target by 6 months. Completion likely Dec 2020 rather than June 2021. On top of the 59 businesses mentored through Alchemy Growth and 12 mentored through Alchemy Lite, 287 businesses received a call back within 24 hours for advice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Plus 71 businesses previously registered on the programme also received additional support due to the pandemic.
- Business Start - 75 jobs created via business plan approvals. Numbers were dramatically hit in April & May due to the pandemic, but there has been strong recovery since June. All programme delivery is virtual.

- Exploring Enterprise - Due to pandemic there was a delay in commencing the programme; most will be completed in the last quarter of the financial year.
- Rural Business Development Grant Scheme (DAERA monies) - 159 applications received. Significant increase on last year. This year DAERA permitted businesses to apply for Covid related materials for their business. 46 applications successful. DAERA increased budget from £62,000 to £158,021.27 to enable all successful applicants to receive funding.
- Enterprise Fund - 39 applications received & scored – 12 applicants agreed in December's meeting.
- Taste Causeway - due to the pandemic it was identified additional crisis support was required for members and the wider hospitality/tourism sector who didn't qualify for Taste Causeway membership. Support was in the form of 1 to 1 mentoring (to approximately 67 businesses), dissemination of information on grants etc., signposting, liaising with relevant stakeholders, increase the activity on Taste Causeway e-shop, dedicated What's App group for hospitality sector (approximately 97 members). Positives from the pandemic: Taste Causeway membership increased, businesses set up successful online & delivery services, new orders & partnerships secured, businesses seeing uplift through Taste Causeway e-shop sales.
- The Business Support Team are not holding face to face business events due to Covid-19 restrictions, however, targets are still being met as events have been moved online. Specific content and presentations were developed and presented through YouTube and other media.
- Assisted DfE carry out business checks when required on businesses in the borough who had applied for Covid-19 related grants.
- New economic development strategy complete – currently undertaking equality and rural assessment.

Town & Village Management

- Town & Village Management staff along with the Regeneration staff rolled out tranche 1 of the DfC & DAERA Town/Village Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Grant Programme. Successfully completed. 548 applications were received from businesses in total, of which 487 received a letter of offer of a grant. Total letter of offers issued was £447,374.25.
- Causeway Speciality Market - 5 markets held to date. 4 markets cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions and 3 cancelled due to weather conditions. New trader requests continue to grow despite the pandemic.
- Coleraine BID project continuing to operate although their town events have been affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

- Town centre promotion work to mainly support events across the borough has been impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. Instead concentrated on promoting the 'Shop. East & Enjoy Local' brand which developed.
- Dungiven lamp post banner project complete. Ballymoney & Coleraine delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- No face to face meetings being held with stakeholders, all moved online where possible.
- All training, workshops for traders suspended due to Covid-19 restriction but communicating online any relevant issues and signposting.
- Causeway Coast & Glens Gift Card - increasing promotion to shop local and purchase as a Christmas gift – cross refer to Card report which is being presented in January.

Strategic Projects

- Growth Deal - work ongoing. 6 Growth Deal themes & approximately 30 projects identified. Next stage is to agree shortlisting and scoring criteria.
- Workforce Development Forum - the priority has been to specifically support DfE & DfC led Covid-19 employment support packages. Some funding was transferred towards additional advice services – update to be brought in March.
- Roll out of full fibre network implementation across NI by preferred bidder Fibrus. Council's rural and urban sites to be upgraded in the next financial year.
- Atlantic Link Enterprise Campus - due to unstable market conditions due to Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, the development brief deadline for prospective tenants is now open ended.
- Draft Digital Strategy completed in November – currently under equality and rural assessments.
- Progressing sale of Dunluce Centre. 6 proposals received and being considered.
- Girona project at phase 2 of Invest NI's Collaborative Growth Programme. Now seeking applicants within Coleraine are to participate in its trial.

Physical Regeneration

- Staff assisted Town & Village Management staff with the roll out of the DfE & DAERA Town & Village Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Grant Programme.
- Revitalise Shop Front Scheme - projects currently paused due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Village Renewal Projects – as of January, only a handful of projects remain for completion in terms of handover; a search for funding is ongoing for the final Drumsurn Community Centre project.

- Bushmills Branding Project - project ongoing. Some delays due to Covid-19 pandemic but anticipate completion by end of financial year

12. DFC FUNDING UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a monthly update on the additional funding received from the Department for Communities (DfC) to support the voluntary and community sector as it continues to recover and help citizens to get through the COVID-19 pandemic and on the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group and Action Plan.

Background

The Department for Communities has made a series of additional funds available to Councils through the Community Support Programme in order to support efforts of the community and voluntary sector and help alleviate the social and economic impact of the pandemic. The Leisure & Development Committee requested that this item remain on the agenda for regular updating to the Committee.

The following funds have been made available to Councils to date:

- Covid 19 Community Support Fund (2 Tranches) (Apr & Sept '20).
- Covid 19 Access to Food Fund (Nov '20).
- Covid 19 Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund (Nov '20).

Update on funding received in Dec '20 and Jan '21

The NI Executive agreed in October monitoring round an additional COVID allocation of £6.5m to DfC to allow the Department through its partners to address ongoing and newly emerging emotional and material needs faced by our communities' over the Christmas and New Year period up to March 2021. Regionally £3m of the additional funds was allocated to Councils in their role as key delivery partners using the Community Support Programme (CSP) mechanism, through the following 3 funds for which a letter of variance was received on 10th December:

- Food and Essential Supplies Fund.
- Warm, Well and Connected Fund.
- Volunteering Support Fund.

Further additional funding was received in a letter of variance on 11th January Council in the form of:

- 3rd Tranche of the Covid-19 Community Support Fund.

1. Food & Essential Supplies Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to support the most vulnerable in our society to access food and other essential items through a range of immediate and medium term interventions to address the significant

dual challenges of Christmas/New Year and Brexit, both of which will exacerbate food poverty and insecurity between now and the end of March 2021.

A grant programme was opened on 15th December with a budget of £100,000 – grants of up to £2,000 are available for provision of food and other essentials. The Fund has now been fully allocated with 53 organisations receiving funding.

In addition, an allocation from this fund will support the established food bank partners as part of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group in order to ensure sufficient stocks of food and essential items for the Jan-Mar period.

2. Warm Well and Connected Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to support initiatives that address fuel poverty, tackle loneliness and isolation or promote good mental health and well-being. The Fund is targeted at areas of highest deprivation including Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, Areas at Risk and Small Pockets of Deprivation.

A grant programme was opened on 4th January for community and voluntary organisations with a budget of £42,664 – grants of up to £2,000 will be available for projects that support residents in the eligible areas.

- DfC Neighbourhood Renewal Areas: Coleraine East (Millburn, Ballysally); Coleraine Churchlands; Limavady.
- DfC Areas at Risk: Harpurs Hill (Cross Glebe); Portrush - Hopefield 1 Super Output Area (SOA).
- DfC Small Pockets of Deprivation: Ballymoney - Carnany, Castle & Glebeside.

As of 28th January 14 applications have been successful with an amount of £28,000 awarded.

3. Volunteering Support Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to provide vital support for volunteering in recognition of the crucial role that volunteers have played in the crisis to date and will help deliver ongoing food need until March 2021. The Fund will assist with reimbursement of volunteer expenses and support for building volunteer capacity. In line with Department's direction that Volunteer Centres are connected into local planned responses, the 2 local Volunteers Centres in CCG ie. Causeway Volunteer Centre and Limavady Volunteer Centre were contracted to roll out a Volunteering small grant (Grant of up to £500) and other volunteering supports. A call for applications was opened on 13th January and 74 organisations have been successful in their applications for funding for volunteer expenses.

4. Covid-19 Community Support Fund - 3rd Tranche

A grant programme was opened on 18th January with grants of up to £4,000. The rationale for offering an uplift in the maximum award was twofold:

1. Following consultation with a number of local community groups engaged in providing COVID 19 response projects, it became evident that there was a growing demand and need for the provision of digital/ICT support to individuals, particularly older people, and families with children who were suffering social isolation or who were struggling with providing remote home schooling due to lack of adequate personal resources.
2. The overall additional funding provided to council in this tranche had significantly increased, by 49% and was time bound, needing to be expended by 31st March.

Grants are available for activities that supported:

- Food - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need.
- Financial - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress.
- Connectivity - to those living alone or isolated that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.

A budget of £187,737 is available and the programme is a rolling one and will remain open until the Fund has been allocated.

Overall Progress Report Summary

Project	DfC funding provided	Update
Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 1	£80,700	Open grant programme for community and voluntary organisations – 50 grants of upto £2,000 awarded (April 2020) for activities that supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need. • Financial - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress. • Connectivity - to those living alone or isolated that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services.
Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 2	£126,227	Open grant programme for community and voluntary organisations – 47 grants of upto £3,000 awarded (Sep 2020) for activities similar to Tranche 1.

Covid 19 Access to Food	£63,113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding support of £20,000 provided to bolster infrastructure of established foodbanks
Covid 19 Financial Inclusion Partnership	£58,147	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group established with terms of reference agreed. • Engagement survey and focus group undertaken and 18-month Anti-Poverty Action Plan at initial draft stage. • One to one wraparound support service for people experiencing poverty to improve financial wellbeing has been procured – LCDI will lead a consortium of advice organisations and food banks to deliver this service between Jan-Mar 21. • Awareness raising campaign 'Where To Turn' underway with dedicated webpage, social media campaign and information leaflets being developed. • Other projects to be identified within Anti-poverty Action Plan
Food and Essential Supplies Fund	£168,186	<p>Open grant programme for community and voluntary organisations –grants of up to £2,000 for activities that provide food and other essentials prior to Christmas and the New Year and medium-term projects that support people in food poverty leading up to March 2021. Opened 15th December; Fund now fully allocated; 53 organisations have received funding.</p> <p>Direct award of £60,000 to 4 established foodbanks to ensure sufficient stocks of food for Jan-Mar period.</p>
Warm, Well and Connected Fund	£42,664	<p>Open grant programme for community and voluntary organisations –grants of up to £2,000 for activities that address fuel poverty, tackle loneliness and isolation or promote good mental health and well-being in eligible areas of deprivation. Opened 4th January; rolling programme</p>
Volunteering Support Fund	£42,046	<p>2 local Volunteer Centres rolled out a Volunteering small grant and other volunteering supports. A call for applications was opened on 13th January and 74 organisations have been successful in their applications for funding for volunteer expenses.</p>

Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 3 (Strand 5)	£187,737	Open grant programme of up to £4,000 available for activities that support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food - access to food (whether due to cost or availability) for those most in need. • Financial - to those on low income and at risk due to financial stress. • Connectivity - to those living alone or isolated that are likely to experience greater challenges in accessing services. Opened 18 th January; Rolling programme.
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13. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

14. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to submit to the Partnership Panel.

15. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultation documents.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

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

- * **Press were disconnected from the meeting at 9.19PM.**
- * **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.**

16. HOLIDAY AND LEISURE PARKS VAT

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Leisure and Development, to update Elected Members on the position of the UK Government HMRC VAT regulations and how this relates to Council's Holiday and Leisure Park (HALP) fees and charges for 2021/22.

Recommendation

Council avails of the temporary 5% reduced rate of VAT, designed to provide financial support for the tourism and leisure sectors which includes Council's Holiday and Leisure Park service. The benefit from this reduction is applicable for all seasonal and static licence agreements, invoiced prior to 31 March 2021 and will have a positive financial impact for the Council (£287,827).

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – By maintaining the gross amount charged, Council avails of the temporary 5% reduced rate of VAT, designed to provide financial support for the tourism and leisure sectors which includes Council's Holiday and Leisure Park service. The benefit from this reduction is applicable for all seasonal and static licence agreements, invoiced prior to 31 March 2021 and will have a positive financial impact for the Council (£287,827).

17. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE

Confidential Information report, previously circulated.

The purpose of this report is to present an update to Members with respect to ongoing and potential Public Right of Way cases which may require investigation.

18. LIMAVADY ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK TENDER REPORT

Confidential report, previously circulated.

The purpose of the paper is to update Members on progress to date with the development of an Accessible Play Park in Limavady; and to request approval to appoint contractors for the development of the Accessible Play Park and the installation of security fencing and ball stops at a total cost of £481,700.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the award of contracts in line with the recommendations from the attached Tender Reports at a total cost of £481,700, with the Fencing and Ball stops contract being subject to Planning Approval being granted.

As noted above, this constitutes the Final Investment Decision and will allow the project to proceed into Stage 3 – Construction, with plans in place for further community engagement and promotion.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing drew Committee's attention to the project timeline.

Proposed by Alderman McCorkell

Seconded by Councillor Callan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the award of contracts in line with the recommendations from the attached Tender Reports at a total cost of £481,700, with the Fencing and Ball stops contract being subject to Planning Approval being granted.

As noted above, this constitutes the Final Investment Decision and will allow the project to proceed into Stage 3 – Construction, with plans in place for further community engagement and promotion.

Alderman McCorkell welcomed the report.

Councillor McQuillan welcomed the report and the recent report on Larchfield, he queried a response to correspondence from Kilrea Enterprise Centre.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised he would look into the matter raised.

19. ALCHEMY TENDER REPORT

Confidential Information report, previously circulated.

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the appointed contractor for the next phase of the Alchemy Business Support Programme.

Background and procurement of Contractor information was detailed within the confidential report.

20. TOWN CENTRE PERCEPTION SURVEYS

Confidential report, previously circulated.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to award the contract to undertake Perception and Opinion Surveys of 12 town centres as designated within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. This project is undertaken between Prosperity & Place and Planning, with funding coming from current Town & Village Management [£9,500] and Planning Department [£5,000] budgets.

It is recommended that the project be awarded to the CARD Group for the contract sum of £14,500 +VAT, from the existing in-year budgets of TVM and Planning as stated at outset.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend that the project be awarded to the CARD Group for the contract sum of £14,500 +VAT, from the existing in-year budgets of TVM and Planning as stated at outset.

The Head of Prosperity and Place agreed to circulate the methodology document to Councillor Holmes.

21. GENERALIST ADVICE SERVICES TENDER

Confidential report, previously circulated.

The purpose of this Report is to present the outcome of the public procurement exercise to secure a provider for a Generalist Advice Service for the Borough from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 (with the possibility of extension for 2 further periods of one year each), and to seek Council approval to appoint the successful bidder.

It is recommended that Council award the tender for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Provision of Generalist Advice Services for the Borough from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, with the possibility of extension for 2 further periods of one year each, subject to satisfactory delivery of service, to Community Advice Causeway as Lead Partner for Causeway and Glens Advice Services Consortium at a maximum total annual cost of £220,492.00, exclusive of VAT and subject to the necessary funds being made available through the Department for Communities and Council.

Councillor Schenning stated she would not be declaring an Interest as she was involved in only one project out of 17.

Proposed by Councillor Watton
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend that Council award the tender for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Provision of Generalist Advice Services for the Borough from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, with the possibility of extension for 2 further periods of one year each, subject to satisfactory delivery of service, to Community Advice Causeway as Lead Partner for Causeway and Glens Advice Services Consortium at a maximum total annual cost of £220,492.00, exclusive of VAT and subject to the necessary funds being made available through the Department for Communities and Council.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

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

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

The Chair and Committee expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Head of Prosperity and Place for his work over the years and wished him well with his new post.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.44PM.

Chair

Unconfirmed