



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2022**

Table of Recommendations

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>Alderman Duddy, Councillors Bateson, MA McKillop, McQuillan</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Councillor Schenning</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 17 May 2022	<i>Signed as a correct record</i>
4.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Boyle, seconded by Alderman Baird (<i>abbrev: bursaries for the John Hewitt International Summer School</i>)	<i>To recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion, as amended.</i>
5.	Ballycastle Museum including presentation	<i>To recommend that Council Proceed with Option B as contained within the report to submit the development phase application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to progress the Ballycastle Museum scheme with a current overall estimated cost of circa £1.432 million including a commitment from council (subject to a successful bid) of circa £144,000 towards the capital scheme.</i>

6.	Fuel Poverty Support Scheme	<i>To recommend that Council deliver a Fuel Poverty Support Scheme using uncommitted Department for Communities (DfC) Covid related funding to the value of £24,337.</i>
7.	Development of Energy Strategy	<i>To recommend that Council approve the procurement of suitably qualified energy specialists to assist the Prosperity & Place team to deliver an Energy Strategy (including Action Plan) for the Borough, to achieve key outputs as detailed in the attached Terms of Reference</i>
8.	Elite Athlete Scheme	<i>To recommend that Council note the above and recommend for approval the Causeway Coast and Glens Elite Athlete Scheme</i>
9.	Labour Market Partnership	<i>Information</i>
10.	Agrifood Sector	<i>Information</i>
11.	Growth Deal EPB Minutes	<i>Information</i>
12.	Leisure Facility Project Board Minutes	<i>Information</i>
13.	Correspondence	<i>To recommend that Council write a letter of support for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' application to the Levelling Up Fund for volunteer</i>
(i)	Correspondence from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. (Received 17 June 2022)	

		accommodation on Rathlin Island
14.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	Nil
15.	Consultations	Nil
	IN COMMITTEE (Item 16)	
16.	Coleraine Football Club Partnership	To recommend that Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding and LUF Proforma 3 at Annex A (circulated) and grant approval for signing
17.	Any Other Relevant Business Notified In Accordance With Standing Order 12. (O)	
(i)	Update in relation to councils plans and proposals for motorhome provision in the council area (Councillor Nicholl)	Information

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McCaw (C)

Members Present: Alderman Baird (R), Hillis (C), Knight McQuillan (R)
Councillors Anderson (R), Callan (R), Holmes (C),
McAuley (C), C McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Schenning (R),
Watton (C)

Officers Present: R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
M Smyth, Director of Finance (Interim) (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)
J Elliott, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity and Place (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
S Carson, Museum Services Development Manager (R)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

**Non-Committee
Members in
attendance:** Alderman Boyle (R) (Item 5)

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

E Girvan, Design Consultant, G2 Design (Item 5) (R)

Press 1 (no) (R)

Public 1 (no) (R)

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

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that Agenda Item 15, Any Other Relevant Business (notified in accordance with Standing Order 12(o)), would be considered at the beginning of the meeting as Alderman Boyle was not a member of the Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Duddy, Councillors Bateson, MA McKillop, McQuillan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Schenning declared an interest in Fuel Poverty Support Scheme, having declared an interest Councillor Schenning did not participate in the item.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 MAY 2022

Summary minute, previously circulated.

The Chair advised the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 17 May 2022 were presented for noting and confirmed as a correct record.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN BOYLE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BAIRD

That Causeway Coast and Glens Council offer bursaries for the John Hewitt International Summer School for the last week of July 2022 (w/c 25.7.22). In the past Legacy Councils granted bursaries for up to 4 people. Unfortunately, none were granted in the early years of this Council. Last year a bursary was made possible through voluntary Councillor donations and a donation from the Mayor's Charity Account. John Hewitt's links with this area have been well documented – his archive in the University of Ulster at Coleraine, and his time spent in the Glens of Antrim, an influence on his writing during his career. All Legacy Councils areas, except Moyle, have had bursary recipients in the past. We therefore propose 4 bursaries @ £500 each (total £2000) to facilitate an application from each area.

Alderman Boyle amended the Notice of Motion, in agreement with the seconder, Alderman Baird, to change the dates and added that the bursaries would be considered for subsequent years:

That Causeway Coast and Glens Council offer bursaries for the John Hewitt International Summer School for the last week of July 2023 (w/c 24/07/2023) and in subsequent years. In the past Legacy Councils granted bursaries for up to 4 people. Unfortunately, none were granted in the early years of this Council. Last year a bursary was made possible through voluntary Councillor donations and a donation from the Mayor's Charity Account. John Hewitt's links with this area have been well documented – his archive in the University of Ulster at Coleraine, and his time spent in the Glens of Antrim, an influence on his writing during his career. All Legacy Councils areas, except Moyle, have had bursary recipients in the past. We therefore propose 4 bursaries @ £500 each (total £2000) to facilitate an application from each area.

* **Councillor Anderson joined the meeting at 7:16pm.**

Alderman Boyle presented the Notice of Motion providing detail regarding John Hewitt, his work and links to this area and the John Hewitt International Summer School. Alderman Boyle highlighted the benefits of the Arts sector for health, wellbeing, community and economic development and the importance of this sector, as we come out of lockdown. Alderman Boyle stated how this has been supported in the past by legacy Councils. Alderman Boyle noted the efforts of the Council's Culture and Community Department in supporting creative writing and the Arts.

Alderman Baird, as seconder, spoke to support the Notice of Motion. Alderman Baird stated the John Hewitt legacy spoke for itself and that one should be proud of the connection. She advised it was fundamental to understand one's own culture as it helps to move forward and build a better community for everyone.

During debate support for the Motion was stated through highlighting the positive impact these bursaries could have on individuals and the local community and the positive image this could have for Council. Committee Members also raised concerns that it would be a small number of individuals who would benefit from the bursaries; that the bursaries would run for several years and the effect this would have on the new Council term and those elected next year.

In response to questions, the Director of Leisure and Development confirmed the procedure for the Annual Grant Programmes available through the Council. He confirmed this was a decision for Council and did not necessarily set a precedent there.

The Chair put the Notice of Motion to the Committee to vote.
7 Members voted For; 3 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.
The Chair declared the Notice of Motion carried.

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

5. BALLYCASTLE MUSEUM INCLUDING PRESENTATION

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek permission to proceed with the submission of National Lottery Heritage Fund development phase application for Ballycastle Museum.

Background

The Cultural Strategy 2016-21 identified a requirement to carry out an analysis of need and options appraisal for museums facility provision within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. In 2017, Council appointed Blueprint Development Consultancy and Associates to carry out this work.

The appraisal identified a range of issues and challenges in relation to Ballycastle Museum, specifically highlighting the poor state of the existing museum building/site and cited that investment decisions were required by council in order to sustain the collection, while considering the merits of investing in the 300 year old listed museum building itself.

A report with recommendations was brought to Council in May 2018 and subsequently approved. Recommendations included an agreement to complete an Outline Business Case for the Ballycastle museum to establish the feasibility of restoring the listed building, providing interpretative fit out, public toilets and a lift to ensure accessibility within the building.

Council subsequently appointed McGarry Consulting to prepare the Outline Business Case. This was completed and presented, alongside a series of recommendations to committee in November 2019. The business case report concluded that there is a need to preserve and promote local heritage, increase the tourist offering of Ballycastle and regenerate the town (address vacant and underused sites), in particular on Castle Street. The report affirmed that there was also a need to carry out works to ensure there was no further deterioration of the listed building, examine the sustainability, storage and marketing of Council's museums and place any potential development in the context of possible future civic or recreation investments in the town.

In December 2019, council agreed to proceed with option 2 with outline costs of circa £1,012,459 (costs have been updated, Annex E (circulated)) as outlined in the business case. This included the development of the existing site with a two-storey block, disabled friendly toilets, a lift and additional storage, compliant with legislation surrounding listed buildings, and that officers bring further reports to Council for consideration in relation to the additional steps contained within the report recommendations prior to proceeding to stage 2 of Council's capital programme.

Following this decision, officers commenced exploring funding options including the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). NLHF have reopened their Main Grants Programme, closed due to the pandemic, in March 2021. Officers initially met with NLHF Public Engagement Team prior to developing the Expression of Interest. The stages and information required for Main Grants is included in Annex A (circulated).

The Expression of Interest prepared by Museum Services and submitted with support from Funding Unit in September 2021 as stage one of the application process has resulted in an invitation from NLHF to submit a Development Phase application.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Application – Project Deliverables

The application, based on outcome of the outline business case, coupled with additional stakeholder engagement and discussions with the funder are proposing the following:

a. Improved Visitor Experience

Detailed with in the report, circulated.

b. Greater Offering for the Local Community

Detailed with in the report, circulated.

c. Extended Opening Hours

Detailed with in the report, circulated.

d. Increased Visitor Numbers

Detailed with in the report, circulated.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Main Grants Programme Application Update

Officers met with NLHF on site to progress with the stage 2 or development phase application. With Council's approval to proceed, it is anticipated that this application will be submitted in August 2022.

A key part of NLHF feedback was to increase the level of Activity Planning during the Development (stage 2) and Delivery (stage 3) Phases of the Project to engage with new audiences and to include new project staff costs to deliver same. Their key funding criteria is to engage more people with their heritage. The expression of interest (stage one application) allowed for approx. 10% of a total estimated project cost of £1.432 million.

Staff have prepared all work for the Development Phase application including the following actions to date:

- a. Digital Marketing strategy commissioned. Annex B (circulated).
- b. Interpretative designers have completed a concept interpretative design Annex C (circulated).
- c. Development Phase Activity Plan and interpretative plan.
- d. Key Collections Report completed.
- e. Key storylines identified through survey and Friends of Ballycastle Museum.
- f. Outline Conservation Management Plan has been completed through Capital Works team and Hamilton Architects.
- g. Capital works for listed building and interpretative fit-out prepared to RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design Annex D (circulated).
- h. Briefs or Terms of Reference for Services have been prepared including: interpretative design team; research elements; job description for Project Officer; facilitators/artists for delivery of Action Plan.
- i. Refined/updated construction costs and schedule for all elements of the Development Phase are required: capital works for listed building to

- tender ready stage, capital works for interpretative fit-out to tender ready stage and activity plan. Annex E (circulated).
- j. Outline costs and schedule for all elements of the Delivery Phase are required: implementation of capital works for listed building, capital works for interpretative fit-out and activity plan. Annex E (circulated).

Estimated costs to Council

Detailed estimated costs are provided in Annex E (circulated), however in summary:

- Construction, interpretive fit out & development costs associated with both development & delivery phase for scheme £1,431,870 (gross).
- Anticipated council net contribution to the overall capital scheme costs above £144,000.
- Additional annual revenue costs to council post construction phase (including increased energy costs, staffing and programming) £48,900 pa. The current revenue budget attributed to the museum is £14,700, therefore the total estimated revenue costs attributed to the implement services post construction would be £63,600.

Affordability – Finance Director’s Comments

Members imposed a self-approved debt limit of £80M on Council. The Capital Finance Requirement (CFR) is the calculation used to accurately reflect Councils debt as CFR includes internally borrowed money, and therefore includes money that would have been borrowed on the external market if Council was unable to internally fund projects. Members are also reminded that Council may in the future need to seek external funding to cover future obligations, but our CFR position will allow for this.

Ballycastle Museum is included on the Finance Capital Expenditure plan at £144k council funded project (10% of £1.432M) and is forecasted to have the

Affordability Analysis	2022/23 £'m	2023/24 £'m	2024/25 £'m	2025/26 £'m	2026/27 £'m
Closing CFR - includes non-committed projects	71.5	71.6	79.5	68.6	65.6
Maximun £80M Council Approved Debt Limit	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
Headroom	8.50	8.40	0.47	11.39	14.45

main costs spread over 2025/26 and 2026/27. There are risks attached to the affordability of this project as Council is close to the £80M debt limit as indicated in the table.

Taking into consideration the associated risks, the above CFR forecast and £80M debt limit, the Ballycastle Museum project is affordable based on the current data that is available to Finance.

Options

At this point the following 3 options have been identified:

- a. Do nothing – Museum remains as is.

- b. Approval to proceed with the submission of the NLHF development phase application to progress the scheme to the next phase. The current overall estimated cost for the capital scheme is £1.432 million, including a commitment from council (subject to securing funding bid submitted) of circa £144,000. Additionally, subject to securing the necessary funding to complete the scheme, the allowance of an ongoing commitment of additional revenue funding post completion of circa £48,900 p.a. for Ballycastle museum. The current annual revenue budget for the museum is £14,700.
- c. Closure of the Museum.

Table circulated detailing the benefits and detriments of each option.

Recommendation

Proceed with Option B as contained within the report to submit the development phase application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to progress the Ballycastle Museum scheme with a current overall estimated cost of circa £1.432 million including a commitment from council (subject to a successful bid) of circa £144,000 towards the capital scheme.

Additionally, in principle and subject to securing the necessary external funding and completing the capital scheme, approval for commitment of additional annual revenue budget post completion of circa £48,900 for operation of Ballycastle museum.

The Head of Community and Culture invited the Design Consultant from G2 Design to present.

The Design Consultant provided detail on the aims and themes of the museum. While outlining the architectural plans, the Design Consultant provided detail of two sections of the museum to provide an example of the layout. He further outlined the elements of importance to be able to submit a claim to the Heritage Lottery Funding. The Design Consultant provided reassurance there would be an opportunity to change the plans for the museum at a future point and advised this was an opportunity to present to the Lottery Heritage Fund to illustrate what Council has.

Councillor C McShane referred to other history projects within the area and spoke of the history of the building which houses the Museum. She stated her support of the recommendation and proposed accordingly.

Alderman Baird spoke in favour of the proposed plans and commended the work completed by Council staff and the Friends of Ballycastle Museum. Alderman Baird referred to the building which houses the Museum highlighting its significance in the area.

Proposed by Councillor C McShane
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

AGREED – to recommend that Council Proceed with Option B as contained within the report to submit the development phase application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to progress the Ballycastle Museum scheme with a current overall estimated cost of circa £1.432 million including a commitment from council (subject to a successful bid) of circa £144,000 towards the capital scheme.

- * **Councillor Callan joined the meeting at 7:56pm.**
- * **E Girvan left the meeting at 7:57pm.**

6. FUEL POVERTY SUPPORT SCHEME

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Leisure & Development Committee to deliver a Fuel Poverty Support Scheme using uncommitted Department for Communities (DfC) Covid fuel poverty related funding.

Background

During 2020-21 Council received a series of Covid emergency response funds in relation to access to food, connectivity and support for people who were adversely affected financially by the pandemic, including fuel support. The monies delivered through small grant programmes were initially all committed in a series of grant awards to community and voluntary organisations, however some of these organisations did not claim their grants in full, or in several instances they later returned the funding offer as the needs in their communities or their capability to deliver the projects changed. In addition, some of the Food and Essential Supplies Transition Fund and Warm Well and Connected Fund had not yet been committed.

DfC advised that “any amounts not expended during 2020/21 should be transferred to a usable reserve and ring-fenced for the purposes allocated.” There was no date stipulated for expenditure of any of the 2020/21 unspent grants.

In April 2022 Council agreed to reprofile an amount of £61,946 of uncommitted 2020-21 DfC funding, specifically related to access to food, to support the foodbanks to meet the increasing demand for their services. This was in line with the objectives of the DfC funding, and with the Action Plan developed by the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group facilitated by Council.

There is a further amount of uncommitted funding through the DfC Warm Well and Connected Fund, to tackle fuel poverty, and underspend in the second and third strand of the Covid Community Support Fund in the amount of £24,337.

In January 2022 Council approved a recommendation from the Leisure and Development Committee to set up a Fuel Support Scheme utilising 2021-22 funding from the Department for Communities for Covid recovery to support vulnerable households experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.

The Fuel Support Scheme operated through process of referral to the local advice centres by foodbanks and other support organisations or by self-referral at the advice centre. The advice centres carried out an assessment of need and the household was provided with immediate fuel relief in the form of electric or gas meter top ups to the value of £50 or direct oil delivery of an amount of 200l or 300l depending on household size. Discretion was applied in relation to individual circumstances to allow both electric and oil support.

230 households were supported through the scheme during the period that it operated from January to March 2022 and beneficiaries were also able to access wraparound advice, such as benefits checks, debt advice and budgeting support.

Current position

Given the stark rise in households struggling with the cost of living increase particularly in relation to energy costs, as reported by the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group partners, it is now proposed that Council utilise the £24,337 remaining from 2020-21 DfC Covid related funds to roll out the Fuel Support Scheme again. DfC has advised that the funding can be used for this purpose.

It is proposed that the scheme will follow the same model as that which was delivered between January to March 2022 with assessments of need being carried out by Community Advice Causeway through their existing contracted Generalist Advice Service. The operation of arranging the energy top ups and oil deliveries will be procured according to Councils Procurement Policy.

Recommendation

That the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the delivery of a Fuel Poverty Support Scheme using uncommitted Department for Communities (DfC) Covid related funding to the value of £24,337.

Councillor Nicholl welcomed this report and the recommendation contained within. He reflected on how rising costs were affecting people in society; how Council and Community and Voluntary Organisations have worked to support the community through the pandemic and are continuing to do so.

Councillor Watton reflected on the rising energy costs and stated how this scheme would provide some financial relief for those who need it most.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

AGREED – to recommend that Council deliver a Fuel Poverty Support Scheme using uncommitted Department for Communities (DfC) Covid related funding to the value of £24,337.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY STRATEGY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for procurement of appropriate energy specialists to develop a new Energy Strategy (including Action Plan), that will provide direction to Council on initiatives which should improve energy efficiencies throughout the Borough.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have an ambitious vision for the Borough; to make the Local Authority one of the UK's most sustainable regions by 2030. By improving the lifestyles and opportunities for residents and businesses, Causeway Coast and Glen's will cultivate an image as a leader in sustainable living, ensuring that sustainability and the development of a vibrant and growing economy go hand-in-hand.

Council has identified that climate change and the need for energy security will drive a shift towards cleaner and renewable energy sources for the Borough, requiring a massive investment in new energy infrastructure in order to shift towards a low carbon economy. This creates both the impetus and opportunity for transformational change.

The way the UK generates and uses energy is entering a critical period at both the national and local level. At a time when the trend is for energy consumption to increase rather than fall, it is acknowledged by the Government that we require a sustained commitment and investment in a new range of skills and technologies. It is not, however, enough to address only these risks. There are significant benefits to be gained from improving energy efficiency of both domestic and commercial premises and increasing local generation where communities are the primary beneficiaries. Delivering these benefits will be central to our new Energy Strategy.

Following the adoption of the Path to Net Zero strategy and its supporting Action Plan by the Northern Ireland Executive, Council is now in a position to fully realise the energy opportunities that exist in our Borough. The Council, residents and businesses alike have all adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and we can see that some of these adaptations also reduce carbon emissions. As we emerge, Council will maintain and build on that resilience.

There are numerous regulators for specific parts of the energy sector, however much of the market is regulated by Ofgem. At this time, most of the market is now privatised; generation and supply are competitive, and transportation through networks is regulated as the operators are monopolies. UK electricity and gas prices have soared this spring after Ofgem revised its energy price cap. The cap, which sets the maximum amount a utility company can charge an average customer in the UK per year, increased dramatically by 54% from £1,277 to as much as £1,971. It is critical that as a Council we start looking into how we can address these soaring energy costs for both our residents and businesses.

It is through using this foundation that Council wants to develop a Borough specific Energy Strategy which can exploit the natural opportunities that our region has to offer. It is also hoped that Council can attract and support innovative energy-led businesses into the Borough's growing economy. In addition, Council acknowledges a need for a sustained commitment and investment in a range of new skills and technologies to enable our energy transformation.

Terms of Reference

Key outputs from our Energy Strategy will include:

- A comprehensive overview of the opportunities and challenges across the Borough.
- Establishing long-term ambitions, aims and objectives for Council.
- Development of sector specific carbon reduction proposals.
- Development of a clear 'action plan' for the implementation of the strategy.
- Development of a framework to effectively monitor progress against the strategy; and
- Strong engagement with key stakeholders.

Council is determined that the implementation of this strategy will help deliver major investment; create long-term jobs, reduce fuel poverty; support the development of a new clean energy sector in the Borough; create new revenue streams for the public sector and communities, improve air quality; and help regenerate communities.

The draft Terms of Reference for the Energy Strategy (including Action Plan) are attached as Annex A (circulated).

Recommendation

The Leisure and Development Committee is asked to approve the procurement of suitably qualified energy specialists to assist the Prosperity & Place team to deliver an Energy Strategy (including Action Plan) for the Borough, to achieve key outputs as detailed in the attached Terms of Reference.

In response to questions, the Interim Head of Prosperity and Place, N McGurk, advised that costs for the Energy Strategy were lower than other regions in the UK due to the work already undertaken by Council. The policy and strategic

prospective was that the Northern Ireland Executive has produced its path to net zero strategy which is the regional strategy; Local Authorities are required to have plans and proposals in place. Council require this strategy to be in place to provide direction on initiatives and align these initiatives to.

Councillor Holmes expressed concern regarding the cost of the report and not having the legislative power to implement the required changes.

Councillor Nicholl stated the need to have something in place as a Council, in order to address energy efficiencies.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl
Seconded by Councillor C McShane and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the procurement of suitably qualified energy specialists to assist the Prosperity & Place team to deliver an Energy Strategy (including Action Plan) for the Borough, to achieve key outputs as detailed in the attached Terms of Reference

8. ELITE ATHLETE SCHEME

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Head of Sport and Wellbeing.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the proposed Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Elite Athlete Scheme (application pack and guidance notes attached at Annex A (circulated)). This proposed new scheme will support amateur athletes (involved in a sport recognised by Sport Northern Ireland) who are over the age of 16 and competing at Provincial, National, or International level, which may or may not include a top 10 ranking*.

*Where the previously mentioned competition levels are not selected in particular sports, applicants who currently compete at the highest standard of their sport may be considered.

Background

To date, Council has been scoring Elite Athlete applications against pre-existent legacy schemes prior to the Review of Public Administration (based on the applicants place of residence within the Borough). Although these schemes were quite similar, a preliminary review noted the potential for inconsistencies. Therefore, relevant Sport & Wellbeing Officers' were tasked with researching and developing a specific 'fit-for-purpose' Causeway Coast and Glens Elite Athlete Scheme. Development Officers aimed to create a consistent approach which would support local athletes who would be competing at an elite level of excellence in their chosen sport. The officers reviewed and benchmarked against neighbouring Councils prior to developing a draft scheme. The draft scheme was then consulted on internally across all sport and wellbeing functions and amendments made as necessary.

Following this, it was deemed essential to determine if the draft supported equality and would meet the needs of future scheme recipients via an external consultation process.

The external consultation asked respondents to review the scheme indicating their opinion on its impact, required amendments and to construct suggestions for improvement. In addition, respondents were asked to review the scheme under the Section 75 equality headings and to detail any inequalities or potential for discrimination the officers had not identified (in the initial equality screening). The subsequent consultation process began on 31 January 2022 and ran for 12 weeks until 26 April 2022.

Options

The options were:

- (1) No Scheme.
- (2) Maintain the Legacy Schemes currently in operation.
- (3) Create a single new Borough-wide Scheme.

Not having an Elite Athlete Scheme for local athletes was not feasible and as alluded to earlier in this report, maintaining Legacy Schemes has proven problematic and potentially open to discrimination. Therefore, the only realistic option was to devise a stand-alone Causeway wide Scheme.

Consequently, a Causeway Coast and Glens scheme was drafted following (i) a baseline review of the legacy schemes in operation and (ii) those currently in use within neighbouring council areas to create a consistent cross-Council approach.

Upon completion the draft Elite Athlete Scheme was Equality Screened and Rural Needs Assessed prior to consultation. As part of the consultation process Officers ensured that leisure centre users and members of the public were informed about the consultation at various stages throughout the consultation process via Facebook, Twitter, Council's consultation page and other Council public relations formats. In addition, the officers targeted specific relevant groupings identified by all Sport and Wellbeing Officers, such as Leisure Centre members, Sports Centre Clubs & Associations, local Sports Advisory Committees, and Governing Bodies & Associated Clubs who work alongside Council's sports development section. This was to ensure the consultation had the greatest reach and remained visible throughout the full consultation period.

There were 3 responses to the online survey (the age range of the individuals willing to share personal information was 35 - 54). All 3 respondents felt the draft policy was fair and equal to all Section 75 categories. There were no suggestions for improvement or amendment, regardless of the respondent's disability status, community background/religious belief, political opinion, race, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or caring status (analysis report circulated).

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the above and recommend for approval the Causeway Coast and Glens Elite Athlete Scheme.

This scheme will be reviewed after the first year to ensure there have been no implementation issues and to support the inclusion of any additional sports categorised at the required level. Thereafter a review will occur every two years or earlier if new sport categorisations are received or equivalencies change.

In response to questions, the Head of Sport and Wellbeing confirmed what the Elite Athlete Scheme entailed and provided detail of the role of the Sports Advisory Committee's within the Borough, including their budgets.

Further discussion ensued surrounding the need to financially support young athletes within the Borough to assist them to reach their potential, with reference being made to specific individuals.

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the above and recommend for approval the Causeway Coast and Glens Elite Athlete Scheme

9. LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the 2022-23 Causeway Coast and Glens Labour Market Partnership Strategy & Action Plan.

Background

Action 29 of the Causeway Community Plan aims to:

'Support in developing of the Causeway Workforce Development Forum supporting educational and skills initiatives within the Causeway Coast and Glens Area'.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic the Causeway Coast and Glen's labour market had been recording strong growth and improvement across a range of indicators. Since the beginning of lockdown restrictions in March 2020, the economy has suffered significant impacts. Today, Causeway Coast and Glens records the fourth highest rate of economic inactivity in NI at 30% of the working age population. This is also 3% higher than the NI average. Employability NI is DfC's new approach to providing support services for unemployed individuals seeking to get back into to work. Rather than a stand-alone programme, it is a series of interventions that will evolve over time, as legacy programmes (such as Steps to Success and Access to Work) end. It has been designed in order to:

- Deliver a reduction in economic inactivity and long-term unemployment to bring NI closer in line with UK rates.
- Provide increased support for those with health conditions (esp. mental health) and disabilities; and
- Create a mechanism for government to collaborate with Councils and other Departments to offer local solutions.

One of the key elements of the programme design was the proposal to create “Local Labour Market Partnerships” in each council area. They intend to:

- Provide leadership and lead on the integration of services.
- Develop local area plans including setting targets for performance.
- Manage devolved funding and its delivery; and
- Manage arrangements for the evaluation of local interventions.

Proposal

As lead authority for Causeway Coast and Glen’s economic growth, it is important that we play a convening role which brings partners together and drives a LMP with purpose. The delivery of the LMP is 100% funded by DfC (i.e. £466k); with the Department for the Economy providing a contribution of £50k. This will cover the cost of 2.5 staff i.e. LMP Manager; LMP Officer; and part-time Business Support staff for this financial year.

In light of this fast-changing labour market support context, the purpose of this LMP Action Plan will be to support NI initiatives; ensure that local knowledge and insights are ‘surfaced’; and develop solutions based on local context.

The three key strategic priorities of our LMP this year are:

1. To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area - Development and effective delivery of the local LMP Action Plan to meet priority needs, by reviewing available statistical information and engaging key stakeholders.
2. To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally - Programmes to be developed and delivered providing employability support for the following: -
 - The economically inactive/long term unemployed.
 - Those recently made redundant caused by the covid pandemic; and
 - Skills deficit identified across all sectors.
3. To support delivery of Employability NI - promotion of regional projects/initiatives and building confidence through locality-based engagement

Further detail within each respective strategic priority can be found in Annex A (circulated). Further update reports will be brought to Leisure and Development Committee at key milestones.

10. AGRIFOOD SECTOR

Report, previously circulated, presented as read.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to members the report on the sub regional wider economic outlook into the agri-food sector, which details the specific context for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Background

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council in partnership with Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council in January 2022 directed a tender to undertake research at a sub-regional level into the wider economic outlook of the agri-food sector, to identify possible economic interventions to aid economic recovery and inclusive regional balanced growth. This action arose as part of an 11 councils' discussion on the Economic Recovery Action Plan. The report was funded through the Economic Recovery Sub Regional Grant and led by Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council.

Agri-Food specialists Birnie Consultancy were appointed to undertake the work and the full report is provided at Annex A (circulated).

The report will provide evidence for council going forward in relation to the agri-foods sector which was identified as a sector to sustain and grow within the Recovery & Renewal Economic Strategy for the Causeway Coast and Glens, pg. 53 [CCAGBC - Economic Development Strategy 2020 to 2035.pdf](#) (causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

Report Highlights

The Sub Regional Report considered underpinning strategies and policies and researched the current agri-foods sector across the 4 councils relevant to the key Agri-food Challenges, the economic value of Agri-food, Business interactions, current trends and existing support.

Analysis of the Causeway Coast and Glens area notes that 50% of registered food businesses are from farmers and growers. The food businesses also have an excellent hygiene rating with 1209 businesses receiving a 5* rating. The total economic output relative to Agri food detailed in the table circulated shows that Agricultural production equates to 12.8% of the total economic value for the region and Agri - food production 25.7%

Nine recommendations for future actions based on the feedback from stakeholders, examples of best practice have been detailed within the report by Birnie Consultancy and are listed below:

1. Create comprehensive, effective communication and record keeping within each council region.

2. Ensure joined up working between the council, Invest NI and other connected organisations.
3. Create a programme which supports all food businesses to collect and use data and to implement automation.
4. Create an aesthetically appealing environment for business.
5. Create space and services to accelerate food business growth.
6. Intentionally focus on the delivery of culture change in agriculture and agri-food business.
7. Provide advice and support to enable businesses to improve and market sustainability.
8. Create events and networks which promote local food production and attract visitors.
9. Engage with the Assembly on the delivery of the 10X Agri-Tech Cluster.

Each of these recommendations have accompanying actions to consider (pages 85-87 of the report in Annex A (circulated)).

Council officers will use this document to plan for future activity within Prosperity & Place to sustain and grow the agri-food sector as part of the Recovery and Renewal Economic Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens.

11. GROWTH DEAL EPB MINUTES

The Minutes of the Growth Deal Executive Programme Board meeting held 28 April 2022 were previously circulated, for noting.

12. LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT BOARD MINUTES

The Minutes of the Leisure Facilities Board meeting held 14 March 2022 were previously circulated, for noting.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Addendum report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

(i) Correspondence from Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. (Received 17 June 2022)

Correspondence has been received from the RSPB requesting a letter of support for their application to the Levelling Up fund for volunteer accommodation on Rathlin Island.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the correspondence.

Proposed by Alderman Hillis
Seconded by Alderman Baird and

AGREED – to recommend that Council write a letter of support for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds’ application to the Levelling Up Fund for volunteer accommodation on Rathlin Island.

14. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to report to the Partnership Panel.

15. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Watton
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – to recommend that Leisure and Development Committee move ‘*In Committee*’

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

* **Press and Public were disconnected from the meeting at 8:27pm**

16. COLERAINE FOOTBALL CLUB PARTNERSHIP

Confidential report, previously circulated, presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Members to sign a Memorandum of Understanding relating to partnership support for Coleraine Football Club’s application to the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the Memorandum of Understanding and LUF Proforma 3 at Annex A (circulated) and provide the required approval for signing.

Proposed by Councillor Callan
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding and LUF Proforma 3 at Annex A (circulated) and grant approval for signing

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Watton
Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

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

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

(i) Update in relation to councils plans and proposals for motorhome provision in the council area (Councillor Nicholl)

Could I have an update please in relation with councils plans and proposals for motorhome provision in the council area and how we plan for it to operate in relation with bookings, location and facilities provided for them during their stay as we know they are an integral part of our tourism community.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised there was a significant reduction in the number of bookings for motorhomes this year compared to last year and this would be monitored. The Director of Leisure and Development further advised the plan was to replicate the provision provided last year and provided detail of plans to further develop the facility at Ballyreagh. He provided assurance that Council was working to alleviate pressures.

Councillor Nicholl thanked the Director of Leisure and Development for the update and welcomed the work being completed to improve the area for tourism.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8:40pm

Chair