



**LEISURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2024**

No	Item	Summary of key Recommendations
1.	Apologies	<i>Alderman Callan Councillor Wisener</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>None</i>
3.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18 June 2024	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
4.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Schenning, seconded by Councillor MA McKillop (Abbrev. Right to Food Motion)	<i>To recommend that Council support the Notice of Motion.</i>
5.	Equality Impact Assessment for Draft Memorial Policy	<i>To recommend that Council accept the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment report, including the mitigation that the policy and associated application be made accessible for those who may not communicate in written English or may have literacy problems more generally, extending to those of different ethnicity, age or disability status and subsequently approves the draft Council Memorials Policy on this basis.</i>

6.	DfC Social Supermarket Fund	<i>To recommend to Council that approval is sought for the following: Allocate the DfC Social Supermarket Support Programme funding of £97,028 to Vineyard Compassion, Limavady Community Development Initiative and St Vincent DePaul Cushendall as outlined in Annex A and hold a portion of the allocation for the Ballycastle area pending the outcome of the discussions with the organisations that submitted an Expression of Interest.</i>
7.	Taste Causeway Request for Support	<i>To recommend that Council do not provide Taste Causeway with financial support, but provide support to Taste Causeway to try and obtain funding from alternative sources.</i>
8.	Lands at Churchtown Road, Garvagh	<i>To recommend to Council to agree to Option 2 - Advise the Department Council wishes to engage directly with successor in title to establish if they wish to sell lands to Council.</i>
9.	Permissive Path Agreement	<i>To recommend to Council the approval of the Addendum to the Permissive Path Agreement between Council and Dundarave Properties Ltd, relating to the agreed lands on the Causeway Coast Way, for the period of 25 years.</i>

10.	PCSP Annual Report	To recommend that Council NOTE the report
11.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Communities & Place Commission 2024-25	To recommend that Council NOTE the report
12.	Capital Project Prioritisation Update	To recommend that Council NOTE the report
13.	Correspondence	To recommend that Council NOTE the report
14.	Matters Reporting to the Partnership Panel	Nil
15.	Consultations	Nil
16.	Any other relevant business notified in accordance with Standing Order 12. (o)	
16.1	Growth Deal (Councillor McCully)	Information
16.2	Growth Deal (Alderman John McAuley)	Information
16.3	Skateboarding - Station Square, Portrush (Councillor McCully)	Information
	Confidential Consideration (Items 17 – 20 inclusive)	
17.	Advice Contract Variations	To recommend to Council to vary the Generalist Advice Contract to add on Neighbourhood Renewal Limavady Advice, Welfare Reform Face to Face Advice and Tribunal representation and a 5% non-recurrent funding uplift as directed by the Department for Communities.

18.	2025 Visitor Guide Tender Report	<p><i>To recommend to Council approval for the appointment of Kubrix Design for the design and print of 55,000 copies of the 2025 Visitor Guide at a total cost of £25,340. Based on the tender document the contract will be renewed for year 2 on the basis of satisfactory performance in year 1, renewal for year 3 will be based on satisfactory performance in year 2.</i></p>
19.	Sport and Wellbeing Tender Reports	<p><i>To recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex A, for the resurfacing of Kilrea & Windyhall MUGAs and retrospectively approve the contract award to Sports Ground Specialists at a cost of £73,000.</i></p> <p><i>To further recommend that Council note the tender process in Annex B, for metal fencing around Windyhall Football Pitch and Glenullin Playpark and retrospectively approve the contract award to NK Fencing Ltd at a cost of £40,370.</i></p>
20.	Fitness Equipment Warranty Extension	<p><i>To recommend that Council note the detail of the report and recommend approval of the extension the 'Manufacturers Defect Warranty' for fitness equipment and associated service contract until 31st August 2028, at a total cost of</i></p>

		<i>£116,000 and award of Contract to Pulse Fitness Ltd.</i>
--	--	--

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEISURE AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.03PM**

In the Chair: Councillor McGurk (C)

Members Present: Alderman John McAuley (C), S McKillop (C), Stewart (C).
Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (C), Bateson
(R), Holmes (C), Kennedy (C), Kyle (R), McCully (C),
McShane (R), Schenning (R), Stirling (C), Watson (R),
Wilson (C).

In Attendance: Councillor MA McKillop (R) (Item 4)

Officers Present: P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development (C)
P O'Brien, Funding Unit Manager (C)
P Thompson, Head of Tourism and Recreation (C)
N McGurk, Head of Prosperity and Place (C)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)
W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R)
P Harkin, Good Relations Manager (R)
L Scullion, Community Development Manager (R)
K McGonigle, Destination Manager (R)
U Harper, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

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

Substitutions: Alderman S McKillop substituted for Alderman Callan.
Councillor Wilson substituted for Councillor Wisener.

Press 3 no. (R)
Public 3 no. (R) 1 no. (C)

Key: (R) Attended Remotely

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised Members that the Notice of Motion by Councillor Schenning and Councillor McKillop would be brought forward to item 4, and the AORB items would be heard before the meeting goes into Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Callan and Councillor Wisener.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2024

Summary previously circulated.

AGREED – the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR SCHENNING, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MA MCKILLOP

Right to Food Motion

This council recognises the impact the scourge of food poverty is having on families right across this area, made worse by the cost of living emergency, and gives its formal backing to the Right To Food campaign, joining cities like Belfast, Derry and Liverpool in becoming a Right To Food Council.

We believe that this Executive and the British Government must prioritise food poverty, implementing a range of new measures including universal free school meals, support for community kitchens and enshrining the Right To Food for all through legislation.

This council will also write to the Minister for Communities, calling for immediate action on the implementation of an anti-poverty strategy.

Councillor Schenning stated:

“This motion focuses squarely on the crisis of food poverty being experienced by many, many citizens right across our communities right now sadly, and asks for the formal backing of the right to food campaign, and for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to join Belfast, Derry, and Newry and Down in becoming a Right to Food Council.

I believe that poverty isn't inevitable, poverty is a political choice and I am asking members of this Council tonight to support this motion in recognising

that access to food should be a basic human right for all in this area and that we, as a collective, as a Council, will continue to strive to respond to the hunger that exists in our communities, while calling on government to tackle the issue head on. The Right to Food campaign believes that this is achievable by formulating policies and implementing measures such as universal free school meals, support for community kitchens and, importantly, calling upon government to enshrine the Right to Food for all through proper legislation.

Members will know that the situation in each of our areas is worsening day by day - food banks, charities and community organisations are the forefront now of what is sadly looking increasingly like a humanitarian response. They aren't just there providing food, but are providing a wrap around service with advice and support and generally being there for people when they need it most. I want to pay tribute tonight to those groups who are continually stepping up for people here and do so with dignity at the forefront of all they do."

- * **Councillor Watson joined the meeting remotely at 7.09pm during consideration of this item.**

Councillor MA McKillop stated:

"In 2024, no one should be forced to rely on food banks to feed themselves and their children. Yet many more are, and many more sadly will. I have talked to organisations and volunteered with Ballycastle food bank, and I have seen, first-hand, the issues that individuals and families face right now. It is unacceptable that 1 in 5 children are experiencing poverty here. It is unacceptable that a large percentage of households are unable to afford the basic items. Enough is enough. As a Council, we have a responsibility to tackle poverty and to hold the Executive account for failing to implement an anti-poverty strategy that would pull so many out of hardship and place the Right to Food as a priority for all.

I ask this Council tonight to send a powerful message of solidarity to the many people of Causeway Coast and Glens living in crisis and hardship by becoming a right to food borough and recognising that access to food should be a human right enshrined in law for all. As such, I second this motion."

Councillor Wilson noted the work already being done by Council on this matter, working with food banks and community kitchens, and suggested that it would be useful to get a refresher on the work being done.

In response to a question from Councillor Holmes seeking clarification on what Council would be committing to, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that Council could invite a representative from the Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network or the Equality Commission to present to Council about the key asks for an anti-poverty strategy. She further advised that Council could endorse the recommended vision for the anti-poverty strategy, which is that Northern Ireland is an equal society where poverty and its impacts are eradicated, and that respects, protects, promotes and fulfils the rights of those at risk of poverty to ensure that they achieve their aspirations. She further advised that Council could increase the visibility of the Council's anti-poverty action plans and the resources that are currently available in the Council area for those experiencing poverty.

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to Vote.

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

The Chair declared the Proposal carried.

Proposed by Councillor Schenning

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and

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

* **Councillor MA McKillop left the meeting at 7.17pm.**

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR DRAFT MEMORIAL POLICY

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the Equality Impact Assessment report for Council's draft Memorials Policy and on the basis of the findings, approve the draft Memorials Policy itself.

Further information was provided in the report, under the following headings:

- Project Background
- The Policy
- The Equality Impact Assessment
- Consideration of available data and research
- Assessment of impacts
- Consideration of alternative policies and mitigating actions
- Consultation
- Written consultation responses

- Public online meetings
- Public survey
- Staff survey
- Conclusions
- Monitoring for adverse impact in the future

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council accept the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment report, including the mitigation that the policy and associated application be made accessible for those who may not communicate in written English or may have literacy problems more generally, extending to those of different ethnicity, age or disability status and subsequently approves the draft Council Memorials Policy on this basis.

In response to a question from Councillor McCully regarding the timeline for this policy, the Head of Community and Culture advised that the draft policy was approved by Council in October, it then went out to tender, with consultants appointed in February. The documents were then compiled, with a draft report and approach agreed with Council's Equality Officer and Policy Officer.

In response to Members' questions, the Head of Community and Culture advised that a report on the formation of the cross-party working group, which was devised as a mitigation due to the potential sensitivities of the applications that will be submitted, will be brought to the Leisure and Development Committee meeting, following approval of this proposal by Council. She noted that it will be for Council to decide when the system will open for applications, and that it has been designed as a rolling process, the detail of which is included in a flow chart in the supporting documents provided to Members.

- * **Alderman John McAuley joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.24pm during consideration of this item.**

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Alderman Stewart and

AGREED – to recommend that Council accept the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment report, including the mitigation that the policy and associated application be made accessible for those who may not communicate in written English or may have literacy problems more generally, extending to those of different ethnicity, age or disability status and subsequently approves the draft Council Memorials Policy on this basis.

- * **The Good Relations Manager left the meeting at 7.30pm**

6. DFC SOCIAL SUPERMARKET FUND

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for spend of Social Supermarket Support Fund monies received from the Department for Communities (DfC) for 2024-25.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Current Position

Recommendation

It is recommended that approval is sought for the following:

Allocate the DfC Social Supermarket Support Programme funding of £97,028 to Vineyard Compassion, Limavady Community Development Initiative and St Vincent DePaul Cushendall as outlined in Annex A (previously circulated) and hold a portion of the allocation for the Ballycastle area pending the outcome of the discussions with the organisations that submitted an Expression of Interest.

Councillor Wilson repeated that there is a lot of good work being done by Council and that it is important to promote this work, both to support and signpost people to services, and to highlight Council's good work.

Councillor Schenning noted the quality of the work being done and stated that it is refreshing to see a budget being increased.

The Head of Community and Culture noted that Council has a very successful campaign called "Where To Turn" that highlights where support is available. She advised that this campaign has had a lot of coverage but this will provide another opportunity to promote it.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED - to recommend to Council that approval is sought for the following:
Allocate the DfC Social Supermarket Support Programme funding of £97,028 to Vineyard Compassion, Limavady Community Development Initiative and St Vincent DePaul Cushendall as outlined in Annex A (previously circulated) and hold a portion of the allocation for the Ballycastle area pending the

outcome of the discussions with the organisations that submitted an Expression of Interest.

7. TASTE CAUSEWAY REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to facilitate further consideration of the request from Taste Causeway (presentation June L&D), who is seeking a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Council and a commitment to funding. Elected Members are asked to consider options on how Council can support the existence of Taste Causeway Community Interest Company (CIC) for the benefit of the wider tourism and hospitality sector, within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Who is Taste Causeway?
- How can Taste Causeway assist in the delivery of our Destination Management plans?
- Funding Policy
- Taste Causeway's Request for Financial Support and SLA
- Alternative suggested approach and SLA (October 2024 - March 2025)
- Proposals

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee considers the above options that include the request from Taste Causeway, at the June Leisure and Development Committee meeting, for financial support and the suggested alternative options as detailed in **ANNEX A** and **ANNEX B**.

Given that Taste Causeway are aiming to become financially self-sustaining, if either Option 1 or 2 are adopted by Council, then there should be no assumption that a Contract for Services will continue to be implemented after 31 March '26.

Councillor Holmes acknowledged the good work done by Taste Causeway to establish the north coast as a "foodie" destination. He noted that it is more difficult for a member organisation in the hospitality sector to become self-sustaining, as businesses tended to be smaller.

A discussion ensued, in which Councillors expressed concerns regarding the sustainability of Taste Causeway, its membership figures, a potential duplication

of services between Council and Taste Causeway, and concern that this expenditure had not been budgeted for.

Councillor Wilson raised a general concern regarding duplication of services, and emphasised that he was not singling out Taste Causeway. He further noted that Council has a duty of care to all food industry businesses paying rates in the Borough, not just Taste Causeway members.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that, if approved, the expenditure would come from different areas within Leisure and Development. He further acknowledged that there is a blurring of lines between the Destination Management Team but noted that Taste Causeway provides a specialist service in relation to expertise and quality around the food and drink sector specifically.

Alderman John McAuley asked whether consultation was undertaken, expressed concern about sustainability, and stated that more evidence was required to show the added value of the investment. He emphasised that any service must be fully inclusive of all businesses.

Councillor Anderson stated that a business plan and a list of Taste Causeway members should have been provided to Council.

Councillor McShane noted that this expenditure had not been factored into this year's budget, and expressed concern that providing this funding could set a poor precedent and leave Council open to complaints from other member-based organisations. She noted that some businesses had contacted Councillors after the June meeting to clarify that they were not members of Taste Causeway.

The Head of Tourism and Recreation advised Members that the supporting documents were compiled by Council officers rather than Taste Causeway. He further advised that Taste Causeway is working to identify other sources of funding and sponsorship. He stated that the match funding provided by Council to Taste Causeway until 2022 was circa £100,000.

Councillor Holmes proposed Option 2. This proposal was not seconded.

Councillor McCully stated that, with regret, he wished to propose Option 3, but that this be amended to state that Council provide support to Taste Causeway to obtain financial support from alternative sources. Councillor McShane seconded this proposal.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Councillor McShane

- to recommend that Council does not provide Taste Causeway with financial support, but provide support to Taste Causeway to obtain funding from alternative sources.

Alderman S McKillop stated that she wished to defer a decision for two months until further information, such as a business plan and detail on the consultation, is provided.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop

Seconded by Councillor Stirling

- to recommend that Council defer a decision on the provision of funding to Taste Causeway for two months, until further information is provided.

The Chair put the Amendment by Alderman S McKillop, seconded by Councillor Stirling, to the Committee to Vote.

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

The Chair declared the Amendment lost.

The Chair put the Proposal to the Committee to Vote.

12 Members voted For; 4 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained.

The Chair declared the Proposal carried.

AGREED – to recommend that Council does not provide Taste Causeway with financial support, but provide support to Taste Causeway to try and obtain funding from alternative sources.

8. LANDS AT CHURCHTOWN ROAD, GARVAGH

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

Background

At the Leisure and Development Committee meeting in October 2022, it was recommended that Council acquire the lands at Churchtown Road, Garvagh from Department for Infrastructure for consideration as an asset to be placed under the Tourism and Recreation remit to complement the adjacent Garvagh Forest Trails.

Upon completion of a valuation this proposal was approved by Council's Land & Property Subcommittee in June 2023 and subsequently by Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Update

The Department for Infrastructure contacted Council in June 2024 to advise that the Departmental Solicitor's Office had confirmed that the land was acquired by the department by way of a vesting order.

As with all surplus Government Land and Property, the disposal must be in accordance with the 'Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property in Northern Ireland' guidance as set out by Land & Property Services. Under the guidelines, this land is subject to the Land Clauses Consolidation Act 1845. The department is obliged to first offer the land to the person who has a pre-emptive right. Department for Infrastructure has confirmed that the individual with the pre-emptive right has expressed an interest in buying the land.

Subsequently Department for Infrastructure is withdrawing from the sale of this land to the Council.

The Department has indicated that if Council wishes to engage directly with the successor in title, they will ask for permission from the successor to pass on their contact details once sale is agreed.

Options

Option 1 - Accept the withdrawal from the sale of the land and discontinue with the proposal.

Option 2 – Advise the Department Council wishes to engage directly with successor in title to establish if they wish to sell lands to Council.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council to agree to Option 2 - Advise the Department Council wishes to engage directly with successor in title to establish if they wish to sell lands to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

AGREED – to recommend to Council to agree to Option 2 - Advise the Department Council wishes to engage directly with successor in title to establish if they wish to sell lands to Council.

9. PERMISSIVE PATH AGREEMENT

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to proceed with an Addendum to the current Permissive Path Agreement held between Council and Dundarave Properties Limited at the Causeway Coast Way, Bengore Head (coastal walking trail).

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Proposals

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of the Addendum to the Permissive Path Agreement between Council and Dundarave Properties Ltd, relating to the agreed lands on the Causeway Coast Way, for the period of 25 years.

Councillor McCully stated that he was pleased to see this being progressed and looked forward to the steps being repaired.

Alderman S McKillop stated that she will be glad to see the steps being repaired. She further stated that she felt that this item should have been taken in Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Alderman S McKillop and

AGREED – to recommend to Council the approval of the Addendum to the Permissive Path Agreement between Council and Dundarave Properties Ltd, relating to the agreed lands on the Causeway Coast Way, for the period of 25 years.

10. PCSP ANNUAL REPORT

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the PCSP Annual Report 2023-24 for information.

Background

Under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, a Joint Committee was established to oversee the work of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

It consists of representatives of the Department of Justice and Northern Ireland Policing Board. The committee provides strategic direction to PCSPs.

As per legislative requirement, all PCSPs must submit an Annual Report to the Joint Committee not later than 3 months after the end of the financial year i.e. by 01 July each year and submit the report to Council for information.

The report, **ANNEX A** (previously circulated), covers both the work of the Policing Committee and the wider PCSP and must contain specific information as to how the PCSP has carried out its functions on engagement and enhancing community safety.

This report contains general information on the exercise of functions, both in terms of policing and community safety.

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

AGREED – to recommend that Council NOTE the report.

11. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: COMMUNITIES & PLACE COMMISSION 2024-25

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members that DHLUC, as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has made an indicative allocation of funding totalling £733,367.00 to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council under the Communities and Place Commission 2024-25.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Proposals
- Options

Recommendation

Given the need to submit an application before 19 September 2024, along with the requirement to spend £733,367 before the end of March 2025, it is recommended that Officers proceed with an application based on Option 2.

The Director of Leisure and Development noted that the report should not have listed the above as a recommendation, as it was for information purposes only, due to the application deadline.

The Funding Unit Manager briefed the Committee and advised that Red Bay Pier has been identified as a suitable project for this funding opportunity. She advised that the Community and Place Commission have indicated that they will

allow Councils to submit applications for projects that are already underway, provided that Councils give a commitment that the capital investment will be made in projects that would satisfy the interventions that they had listed. She advised that the application is due to be submitted by Thursday and that this was the only suitable project that could commit to completing the spend by 31 March 2025.

AGREED – to recommend that Council NOTE the report.

* **Councillor Watson left the meeting at 8.36pm.**

12. CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITISATION UPDATE

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the outcome of the Capital Projects workshop on 05 September and share the agreed long-list of proposed capital projects.

Further information was provided in the report under the following headings:

- Background
- Update
- Next Steps

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council note the contents of this report and the attached long list of agreed capital projects and assessment criteria.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised Members that the capital projects long list should not include Killyrammer community centre improvement project.

* **The Head of Prosperity and Place left the meeting at 8.39pm.**

Councillor Holmes noted that there are items on the list that have been waiting for a long time, and that it would be good to get timelines for when these projects will be undertaken. He suggested that the list be cleaned up in light of the decision on the Growth Deal. The Director of Leisure and Development advised that the idea of the list is that when opportunities arise, there is a list of approved projects ready to go.

Alderman S McKillop noted that it is good to see Bushmills 3G pitch on the list.

AGREED – to recommend that Council NOTE the report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Information report, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair.

Purpose of Report

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

The following item is listed:

Correspondence from the Head of Entrepreneurship Branch at the Department for the Economy on the NI Business Start-up Programme (Dated 05 September 2024)

Performance letters were issued to Councils for the first 6 months of 23/24 which concluded the 'Go For It' programme. With the delay in the launch of the new 'Go Succeed' programme there is to be no performance analysis for the final six months.

The target for 24/25 has been set with the CCGBC job creation target of 128.

Members are asked to note the contents of the correspondence.

AGREED – to recommend that Council NOTE the report.

14. MATTERS REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters to report to the Partnership Panel.

15. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

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

The Director of Leisure and Development briefed Members regarding the announcement that the Growth Deal projects were on pause. She advised that Council's plans for Growth Deal projects have all been put on hold until further direction is received. She further advised that Council officers are working with the Department of Finance and the Northern Ireland Executive to try to get the decision reversed.

16.1 Growth Deal (Councillor McCully)

Following the announcement from the UK Government that Growth Deal funding is to be paused, what is: (i) the impact of this announcement on Council's plans and (ii) what will Council's response be.

Councillor McCully stated that he was dismayed and angered by the Growth Deal announcement – both the content of the announcement and the manner in which it was made. He stated that there was no rationale given for why the Belfast and Derry City and Strabane decisions were reversed, but not for Causeway Coast and Glens. He thanked Council officers for their work to try to get the deal back on track, and noted that it was good to see all parties aligned on the matter.

16.2 Growth Deal (Alderman John McAuley)

That this Council writes to the NI Secretary of State, Chancellor and Prime Minister outlining the work done to date with the Causeway Growth Deal and the impact not proceeding would have for our economy and region. Council officers are to create a report on the costs occurred to date in the preparation of the growth deal.

Alderman John McAuley stated that it was sad to see the Labour Government renege on promises across the UK and that it exposed their pre-election rhetoric as a myth. He stated that he was unsure how other Councils got the decision on their deals overturned so quickly and that Council should ask how this happened. He thanked Council officers for their work to try to get the decision reversed.

Councillor N Archibald stated that she is hugely disappointed that the Growth Deals have been paused and that the British Government should reverse their decision for all the deals. She stated that the Finance Minister is working on the Councils' behalf to get the decision overturned.

Alderman S McKillop stated that she cannot understand why the Labour Government would want to prevent anything that would bring economic and social benefits to our area. She stated that the Bushmills Regeneration, Portrush to Bushmills Greenways, and Connected Causeway Car Park and Transport would have accelerated economic growth. She also referred to the project focusing on Life and Health Sciences, the Centre for Food and Drug Discovery project, and the opportunities these would have presented. She further referred to the societal issues in the area, including drug use and high suicide rates, and stated that these projects should have been a stepping

stone to help us deal with health inequalities and become a more sustainable place.

Councillor Holmes echoed other Members' comments and noted that the Growth Deal would have been a game-changer by funding projects that would have brought employment and prosperity.

Councillor McShane noted that approximately £1 million has already been spent on the Growth Deal projects and a huge amount of work done by Council officers, and that it is a false economy to cancel the deal. She noted that the decision on the Growth Deals exacerbates the rural/urban poverty gap.

In response to a query from Alderman S McKillop, the Director of Leisure and Development stated that the Department of Finance was instructed by the Exchequer to cease all expenditure. She noted that the disparity in treatments between urban and rural areas has been raised as a key issue in the argument to get the decision overturned.

* **Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 8.58pm.**

16.3 Skateboarding - Station Square, Portrush (Councillor McCully)

Can officers please provide an update on the arrangements for skateboarders at Station Square, Portrush.

Councillor McCully thanked the Director of Leisure and Development and the Head of Sport and Wellbeing for the meeting with Causeway Association of Urban Sports (CAUS) held in June, but noted that he had not seen much progress since. He advised that Council needs to keep up the momentum as there is a lot of frustration around the issue.

The Director of Leisure and Development advised that the Head of Sport and Wellbeing is attempting to establish a meeting with the working group for the first week of October, and that once established, Council will commit to regular meetings. She further noted that the Metropole skatepark is now listed on the capital projects long-list.

Councillor McCully requested that Causeway DEA Members be invited to the working group meetings.

Councillor Holmes noted that it has taken a significant period to replace a broken barrier, that a bin that was removed at the start of the summer has still

not been replaced, and that there is confusion regarding who is responsible for cleaning the area. He also asked why the safety audit was not shared with CAUS.

The Head of Sport and Wellbeing advised that Operations have been asked to replace the bin and she would follow that up. She advised that the health and safety audit is an internal document that is not normally shared externally, but that the issues arising from it have been communicated with the individual enquiring about it. She further advised that there is an issue regarding land ownership in an area at Station Square at the site of two catering vans, and that an internal meeting is due to take place on 30 September to clarify who is responsible for cleaning the area. She advised that the health and safety report recommend that all of the ramps be replaced as they are not fully compliant with British standards, and she intends to present a draft option to the working group on this. She advised that as the existing ramps were not provided by Council, Council will not maintain them, but that all other aspects of the designated zone will be maintained by Council. She stated that all broken barriers should now be replaced.

In response to a query about what will happen during The Open, the Head of Tourism and Recreation advised that a group has been set up with Tourism NI to look at event activities in the area. He noted that Station Square may be required to accommodate an annual band parade that happens on the same week as The Open, but he anticipated that other events will happen at other locations in the town.

Alderman John McAuley expressed frustration regarding the amount of discussion involved in arranging the replacement of one bin. He stated that the Council is a totally reactive organisation, that the mindset needs to change, and that there needs to be some way of streamlining decisions to tackle basic issues. The Director of Leisure and Development advised that she would bring this back to senior management.

Alderman S McKillop raised an issue around “Big Belly” bins that had been bought by Moyle Council that are not being maintained and asked if this could also be raised with the senior management team.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Alderman Stewart
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

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

- * **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 9.15pm.**

The Chair advised that the meeting would take a short recess.

- * **Councillor Schenning left the meeting at 9.17pm.**

The meeting resumed at 9.22pm.

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.

17. ADVICE CONTRACT VARIATIONS

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

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this Report is to secure approval from Council to vary the contract for Generalist Advice Provision as a result of additional funding received from the Department for Communities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee recommends to Council to vary the Generalist Advice Contract to add on Neighbourhood Renewal Limavady Advice, Welfare Reform Face to Face Advice and Tribunal representation and a 5% non-recurrent funding uplift as directed by the Department for Communities.

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley

Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

AGREED – to recommend to Council to vary the Generalist Advice Contract to add on Neighbourhood Renewal Limavady Advice, Welfare Reform Face to Face Advice and Tribunal representation and a 5% non-recurrent funding uplift as directed by the Department for Communities.

- * **The Community Development Manager left the meeting at 9.26pm.**

18. 2025 VISITOR GUIDE TENDER REPORT

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Tourism and Recreation.

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members' approval to procure services for the design and printing of the Council's Visitor Guide for the 2025 season for the purpose of marketing the destination.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends approval for the appointment of Kubrix Design for the design and print of 55,000 copies of the 2025 Visitor Guide at a total cost of £25,340.

Based on the tender document the contract will be renewed for year 2 on the basis of satisfactory performance in year 1, renewal for year 3 will be based on satisfactory performance in year 2.

Proposed by Alderman John McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend to Council approval for the appointment of Kubrix Design for the design and print 55,000 copies of the 2025 Visitor Guide at a total cost of £25,340.

Based on the tender document the contract will be renewed for year 2 on the basis of satisfactory performance in year 1, renewal for year 3 will be based on satisfactory performance in year 2.

* **The Destination Manager left the meeting at 9.30pm.**

19. SPORT AND WELLBEING TENDER REPORTS

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport & Wellbeing.

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date on a number of Sport & Wellbeing Maintenance Projects and to seek retrospective approval

to award the contracts to Sports Ground Specialists and NK Fencing at a cost of £73,000 and £40,370 respectively.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the tender process in ANNEX A, for the resurfacing of Kilrea & Windyhall MUGAs and retrospectively approve the Contract award to Sports Ground Specialists at a cost of £73,000.

Members are asked to note the tender process in ANNEX B, for metal fencing around Windyhall Football Pitch and Glenullin Playpark and retrospectively approve the Contract award to NK Fencing Ltd at a cost of £40,370.

Councillor McCully stated that retrospective approval is less than ideal, and that the Chamber should have had the final say on this expenditure. He asked that, for future papers, the original estimate be included alongside the final cost.

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Alderman John McAuley and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the tender process in ANNEX A, for the resurfacing of Kilrea & Windyhall MUGAs and retrospectively approve the Contract award to Sports Ground Specialists at a cost of £73,000.

To further recommend that Council note the tender process in ANNEX B, for metal fencing around Windyhall Football Pitch and Glenullin Playpark and retrospectively approve the Contract award to NK Fencing Ltd at a cost of £40,370.

20. FITNESS EQUIPMENT WARRANTY EXTENSION

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Head of Sport & Wellbeing.

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

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Member approval to extend the Manufacturers Defect Warranty for the fitness equipment within Council's Leisure Facilities, with associated Service Contract until 31st August 2028 at a total cost of £116,000 and contract award to Pulse Fitness Ltd.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the detail of the report and recommend approval of the extension the 'Manufacturers Defect Warranty' for fitness equipment and

associated service contract until 31st August 2028, at a total cost of £116,000 and award of Contract to Pulse Fitness Ltd.

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop
Seconded by Councillor Stirling and

AGREED – to recommend that Council note the detail of the report and recommend approval of the extension the ‘Manufacturers Defect Warranty’ for fitness equipment and associated service contract until 31st August 2028, at a total cost of £116,000 and award of Contract to Pulse Fitness Ltd.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop
Seconded by Councillor N Archibald and

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

The meeting moved ‘*In Public*’ at 9.35pm

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

Chair