



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2020 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor J Montgomery)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – F Agnew, P Brett, T Burns, T Campbell, L Clarke
M Cosgrove, M Girvan, D Kinahan, J McGrath and J Smyth
- Councillors – J Archibald, A Bennington, M Cooper,
H Cushinan, P Dunlop, G Finlay, S Flanagan, R Foster,
J Gilmour, M Goodman, P Hamill, L Irwin, R Kinnear,
AM Logue, R Lynch, T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Magill, V
Robinson, S Ross, L Smyth, M Stewart, R Swann, and B Webb
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon
Director of Economic Development and Planning – M McAlister
Director of Operations – G Girvan
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
Director of Community Planning – N Harkness
Director of Organisation Development – A McCooke
Head of IT – G Smyth
Head of Communications – J Hart
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
Solicitor – E Keenan
Systems Support Officer – C Bell
ICT Projects Officer – J Higginson
Mayor and Member Services Manager – V Lisk

In order to protect public health during the current COVID-19 emergency it was not possible to allow the public or the press to attend the Council meeting. The Council minutes and audio recording would be published on the Council's website.

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting, and advised Members of the audio recording procedures.

The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride conveyed his condolences to former Alderman, Mr Billy deCourcy and his family following the death of his wife Betty. The Mayor thanked Rev Dr McBride and he left the meeting.

Councillors Goodman, Kinnear and McGrann joined the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Councillors Kelly, McClelland and Wilson

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Alderman Campbell raised a concern in relation to the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors

Proposed by Alderman Campbell

Seconded by Councillor Foster that "Counsel" advice be sought as to whether or not it amounts to a conflict of interest for someone who is an employee of an organisation to remain in a meeting when decisions are being made and that organisation is making representations to the Council.

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Goodman

Seconded by Councillor Logue that advice be sought on Members' associations with outside organisations and how that relates to complex conflicts of interest.

On the amendment being put to the meeting 7 Members voted in favour, 28 against and 0 abstentions and the amendment was declared not carried.

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting and, a recorded vote having been requested by Councillor Goodman, Members voted as follows:

In favour of the Motion Members viz 14	Against the Motion Members viz 6	Abstentions Member viz 15
Aldermen – Agnew, Campbell, Cosgrove, Kinahan, McGrath Councillors – Finlay, Foster, Gilmour, McWilliam, Montgomery, L Smyth, Stewart, Swann, Webb	Alderman Burns Councillors - Cushinan, Goodman, Kinnear, Logue, McGrann	Aldermen – Brett, Clarke and J Smyth Councillors – Archibald, Bennington, Clarke, Cooper, Dunlop, Flanagan, Hamill, Irwin, Lynch, Magill, Robinson, Ross

RESOLVED – that "Counsel" advice be sought as to whether or not it amounts to a conflict of interest for someone who is an employee of an organisation to remain in a meeting when decisions are being made and that organisation is making representations to the Council.

ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services

Item 7.7 - Aldermen McGrath and Smyth, Councillors Cooper, Dunlop and Montgomery.

Item 9.10 - Alderman McGrath

Item 8.1 - Alderman Kinahan

4 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 27 July 2020 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councillor Magill
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 27 July be taken as read and signed as correct.

6(a) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 1

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 17 August 2020 Part 1 be approved and adopted.

6(b) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 2

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of on Monday 17 August 2020 Part 2 be taken as read and signed as correct.

7. ITEMS FOR DECISION

7.1 CP/CC/011 COMMUNITY CENTRES – FACILITATING GROUPS REQUIRING INCREASED SPACE AND/OR TIME FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING COMPLIANCE

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting on 27 July 2020 it was agreed to bring a further report detailing how best to facilitate groups using Community Centres who may need additional space or time to satisfy social

distancing. This was to ensure there was no additional financial burden placed upon groups as a result of complying with social distancing requirements.

Community Centres started to open on a needs basis from Monday 3 August 2020. However, most regular bookers will likely not return until September at the earliest.

Some regular bookers who previously booked a specific space may now need to book a larger space or a longer duration and run multiple sessions in order to comply with social distancing for their participants. This would normally result in groups having to incur additional costs.

It was anticipated that this will only impact a small number of bookers and as restrictions ease further, the need for this proposed option may reduce.

Increased Space:

- At the Council meeting on 27 July 2020 playgroups were approved to use Main Halls on a short term basis at no additional cost if their current space could not accommodate their intake for September. Muckamore Playgroup have already indicated that they will likely require this to satisfy social distancing requirements for their September intake of children. Muckamore Playgroup have expressed their gratitude to the Council for agreeing to this request.
- Where possible, it was proposed to offer groups, who have previously used spaces that no longer satisfy social distancing, a larger space if required at no additional cost. This would be applicable to Community Centres that have multiple spaces. An assessment of this need could be carried out by the Community Facilities Co-ordinator. This would only apply to regular bookings and not new bookings.

Increased Time:

- If moving a booking to a larger space within the same centre or an alternative centre is not feasible, it was proposed to offer the booker additional time instead. Many groups who use Community Centres have equipment stored within specific centres for their activity and therefore relocation is not practical. It was proposed to offer these groups the option of additional time at no additional expense to the booker. This time would be limited to what is necessary to facilitate social distancing and would be based upon their previous bookings. An assessment of this need could be carried out by the Community Facilities Coordinator.

The options of both additional space and additional time would incur a minimal additional staff cost to facilitate the booking. It was noted that some of the groups who may benefit from this would not be able to return or offer the same level of service to the Community if this request cannot be facilitated.

The Council considered that Officers were approved to offer regular Community Centre users the option of additional space or additional time at no increased cost to the user to facilitate social distancing of their activities.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED – that authority be delegated to Officers to offer regular Community Centre users the option of additional space or additional time at no increased cost to facilitate social distancing of their activities

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facility Co-ordinator

7.2 ED/ED/159 GILBERT SISTER CITIES STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2021

Members were reminded that the 2020 Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme was approved by Council in August 2019. The programme provides two students from Antrim and Newtownabbey and two from Gilbert, Arizona with an opportunity to develop an understanding of a different country, its culture, and its people through a family living experience. The programme lasts approximately six weeks during the summer with half the time spent in Gilbert and half in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

The 2020 Antrim and Newtownabbey and Gilbert Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme was cancelled due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Officers had recently received a request from programme organisers in Gilbert to consider arrangements to run the programme in the summer of 2021.

If conditions permit, Gilbert would intend to offer the opportunity to the two students selected for the 2020 programme in the first instance. It would therefore be the intention to offer Antrim and Newtownabbey's initial students from the 2020 recruitment drive the same opportunity. If they were unable to commit then the offer would be made to the reserve candidates. If the reserve candidates were unable to participate then a new recruitment process would be initiated at the opportune time.

If necessary, financial provision for the 2021 Gilbert Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme could be made within the Economic Development 2021/22 budget at a cost of £3,500.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and

RESOLVED – that the process outlined be approved.

ACTION BY: Carly Long, Economic Development Project Officer

7.3 EVENTS FUNDING REQUESTS
ED/TOU/062 CIRCUIT OF IRELAND RALLY/ED/ED/080 VOL 4 MAY DAY STEAM
RALLY/ED/TOU/062 ISPS HANDA WORLD INVITATIONAL/ED/TOU/062
STATSPORTS SUPERCUP NI/ED/ED/080 VOL 4 IRISH GAME FAIR

Members recalled that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, funding had been approved for the events outlined below which had all been postponed until 2021.

TABLE 1

Event	Date of Event	Funding Agreed	Request For Alternative Support
Circuit of Ireland Rally	9-11 Apr 2020	£25,000 – Dec 2019	N/A
May Day Steam Rally	9-10 May 2020	£15,000 – Jan 2020	N/A
ISPS Handa World Invitational	5-9 Aug 2020	£37,500 – Jan 2020	Contribution towards outlay for 2020 - £10,000
Statsports Supercup NI	2-7 Aug 2020	£30,000 – Jan 2020	£10,000
Irish Game Fair	27-28 Jun 2020	£15,000 – February 2020	Requested £2,500 for virtual event in 2020
NI Open	2-6 Sep 2020	£nil	£9,000

Letters of Offer had not been issued to any Event Organiser prior to COVID-19 and the event organisers have all confirmed that their events have been postponed until 2021.

Three of the Event Organisers had approached the Council to request support for alternative delivery arrangements in 20/21 via virtual events and towards costs already incurred to promote their 2021 event.

1 Irish Game Fair Virtual Event

The Irish Game Fair was postponed until 26-27 June 2021. The organisers were planning to hold a Virtual Game Fair which would open on 28th August 2020 and would be active throughout the year to attract tourists to the Borough. The Virtual Game Fair was organised in pavilions similar to the traditional fair and would feature virtual competitions and streaming of some live events. The organisers had offered the Council a sponsorship opportunity of £2,500 to sponsor the Tourism Pavilion, featuring up to 4 attractions and 8 accommodation providers in the Borough and a one page advert in the Autumn Magazine.

2 ISPS Handa World Invitational

The ISPS Handa World Invitational had been postponed until 29 July - 1 August 2021. The organisers had requested a funding contribution towards £62,000 of expenditure incurred to date for the 2020 event. These costs were attributed

to NI Open Golf Limited (IOLG) the not-for-profit company with legal responsibility for the tournament. In line with the event's elevation to a co-sanctioned European Tour and LPGA Tour tournament, early planning required expenditure to be incurred in relation to media, branding and site infrastructure. Based on the other requests contained in this report a contribution of £10,000 seemed appropriate.

3 Statsport SuperCupNI

The Statsport SuperCupNI was postponed until 25-30 July 2021. Focus would be on the home and near to home markets and 80+ clubs will compete, including the women's section. The tournament was taking a business approach to managing its planning through the current crisis and had developed a business recovery strategy which has 2 main elements – maintaining a positive media presence over the next 6 months to reflect and celebrating its success, whilst enabling the continuation of detailed event planning for the new tournament format in 2021. Organisers had indicated that they require a budget of £132,664 for this financial year. As this was to be the first year partnership with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, organisers had requested £10,000 from the Council to cover areas including event and tournament planning, consultancy and business planning, social media, advertising and promotion media monitoring, administration, insurance and legal fees. Financial support had been confirmed from Tourism Ireland, Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid and East Antrim Councils. A sales strategy and approach to tickets and programme sales was planned to commence in September 2020.

4 Northern Ireland Open 2-6 September 2020 at Galgorm Castle

Members were advised that the NI Open was to be hosted at Galgorm Castle, Ballymena in September 2020. The tournament would be supported by the R&A Covid19 Support Fund, a £7million package to help golf deal with the impact of the global pandemic. The R&A's fund was providing an additional £300,000 in support of the Challenge Tour in 2020 on top of its existing annual grant.

Due to COVID restrictions the tournament would be different from previous years, with likely no spectators. The players would come mainly from Europe with a few from further afield. All must pass a COVID test before travelling and will be tested on arrival. They must follow strict guidelines and protocols throughout their stay in NI to ensure they are no risk to the public or our health services. The NI Open would also be used as preparation for the course, facilities and selection of suitable accommodation for the players etc. for the Irish Open, which would take place during the 3rd week in September.

The core benefits of partnering the NI Open were stated as follows:-

1. Significant bed nights in your Borough from players, support staff and TV crews. Approximately between 700 - 900 room nights in your Borough.
2. On-course branding that will be seen on the TV highlights production to a potential 350 million TV audience worldwide.
3. Listed as a Tournament partner.
4. Opportunities for PR activations pre, during and post tournament. These opportunities should be activated by the Council, as our event team is focusing on delivering the tournament, due to the short event lead-in time.

Due to the COVID restrictions of a behind closed doors tournament and safety bubbles, the Council could not have any representatives on site during the week. However there may be pre-arranged photo opportunities and a VIP guest programme during the week.

The request was therefore to support the tournament with funding of £9,000 to help offset the various operational costs by managing the COVID safety protocols.

The total cost of supporting these requests was £31,500.

Moved by Councillor Bennington

Seconded by Councillor Goodman that the support requested is not provided.

On the Motion being put to the meeting 9 Members voted in favour, 21 against and 5 abstentions and the Motion was declared not carried.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove

Seconded by Alderman Brett that the support requested be provided.

On the Motion being put to the meeting 22 Members voted in favour, 5 against and 7 abstentions and the Motion was declared carried and it was

RESOLVED – that the support requested be provided.

ACTION BY: Karen Steele, Tourism, Town Centre and Regeneration Manager

7.4 ED/ED/173 EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 24 AUGUST 2020

Members were reminded that a number of programmes are being delivered under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which attracts 60% funding from the European Union, 20% from Invest NI and 20% match funding is provided from Council. To date, Council has successfully secured funding to deliver the Go for It programme, OPTIMAL business mentoring Programme and a Small Business Procurement Programme. Two additional programmes under this funding scheme are being proposed:

1 Joint Council Business Recovery Programme

Members are aware of the significant and ongoing collaboration between Councils, Invest NI, Central Government and other stakeholders to assist businesses to recover in the wake of COVID-19. Correspondence has been received from the Department for the Economy (DfE) a copy of which was circulated.

The initiative proposed by Invest NI is to allow Council's to bring forward a joint scheme to help alleviate the impact of the pandemic on small and micro businesses across Local Council areas. The initiative will be funded through the current underspend in the (LED) Scheme with up to £1.1 million available (£660,000 ERDF, £220,000 each from Council's and Invest NI) and will ideally be delivered on a joint basis similar to the NI Business Start-Up Programme. The new programme will not have to comply with the £1,000 cost per job restriction which will offer greater flexibility for recruitment and participation. It is anticipated that the initiative would complete by December 2022, and would focus on a form of mentoring/expert support to businesses.

In broad terms the details of the funding were summarised as follows:

1. A new application is required.
2. All Councils should ideally be involved.
3. It can focus on job retention rather than creation.
4. It is a revenue funding programme – no capital available.
5. The application will be subject to the same application process as previous submissions to Invest NI: however the appraisal will be done internally.
6. The main focus is on supporting business recovery.
7. The types of eligible activities are likely to include mentoring and other businesses support activity.
8. The application will need to have a lead Council.
9. Certain sectors that may have been exempt previously – retail, tourism, etc will be eligible for support.

Economic Development Teams across the Councils were now engaging with Invest NI in relation to the parameters of what may be eligible with a view to bringing forward an application at the earliest opportunity. Given the level of funding involved, the appraisal can be completed by Invest NI internally, which should expedite the process however, it was still likely to be a number of months before approval will be granted and the programme becomes operational.

2 Business Mentoring Programme

The OPTIMAL Business Mentoring Programme is due to complete December 2020. For service continuity the Council previously approved a new funding application to Invest NI to deliver a programme seamlessly from January 2021 through to December 2022. Approval for the application was granted by the Council in August 2019.

The proposed programme was in the final stages of appraisal by Invest NI and intends to support 220 businesses over 3 years, creating 155 new jobs and sustaining 50 existing jobs.

The overall value of the programme over the 3 years is £333,371, with 80% (£266,696) being funded by EU and Invest NI. The remaining 20% funding of £66,674 was required from Council across 3 financial years. The project application was still being appraised but the indicative annual contributions were:-

- £5,000 (Jan 2021 – March 2021),
- £33,000 (April 2021 – March 2022)
- £28,674 (April 2021 – Dec 2022)

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that the Council

- i. applies to Invest NI for additional funding as part of a collaborative bid under the Joint Council Business Recovery theme and makes provision for the revised match funding of approximately £20,000 over the next 3 financial years;**
- ii. approves match funding totalling £66,674 from January 2020 to December 2022 as match funding towards a Business Mentoring Programme worth £333,371;**
- iii. Council accepts and seals any Letter of Offer received for funding for the business programmes.**

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

7.5 E/EHS/LR/010 NEW STREET TRADING DESIGNATIONS

Members were aware that under the provisions of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, street trading from stationary pitches is prohibited, except at prescribed locations within streets which have been designated by a resolution of the Council and under the authority of a Stationary Trader's Licence.

A request had been received to consider the suitability of a lay by area at the A51 Templepatrick Road, between Ballymartin Park and Ride and Ballyhartfield Road. A map of the location was circulated.

In determining the suitability of an area for street trading, the following aspects were considered:

- The safety of the public and any risks which may arise
- Any future development plans for the location

- The appropriateness and suitability of the site and commodities in relation to the location and to the potential adverse impact it may have on the character and appearance of the area in question
- The proximity of existing street traders and retail outlets, trading in similar goods
- The amount of interference or inconvenience to persons or vehicles using the street and/or footpath
- The potential environmental effects arising from the location at the proposed designated site such as litter, cleansing requirements, noise, odour and the possibility of increasing anti-social activities
- Any statutory grounds which it would be appropriate to consider
- Complaints arising from or about the current trading location
- Any relevant Planning Policy

Prior to passing a designation relating to street trading within the Borough, the Council must consult with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Department for Infrastructure, Roads. This is to ensure full consideration of potential undue nuisance, interference or inconvenience to persons and vehicles.

A notice stating the Council's intention to pass a resolution for a trading site must also be published in two local newspapers on two consecutive weeks, and a designating resolution cannot come in to effect until at least one month after the date of passing the resolution.

Not less than 28 days after the first publication of the notice in the paper, the Council will consider all written representations.

Having considered all representations made, the Council is empowered to proceed to pass the resolution, or equally after hearing all the views submitted, may decide that the proposed resolution should not be passed. The final decision in respect of a designating resolution rests with the Council. Members were advised that following consultation, both the PSNI and DFI Roads have confirmed that they have no objections to trading from the proposed location.

A notice had been placed in two local papers as required (week commencing 24 August 2020) and representations can be made up to and including 23 September 2020. In the absence of any representations, and if approved, the area outlined will be designated for street trading. Where representations are made, these will be brought back to a future meeting of Council for Members to consider.

A designating resolution, if granted can be reviewed annually and can be varied or rescinded should any problems arise. All licenced trading pitches are monitored by Environmental Health Licensing Officers during trading hours to ensure early detection of any traffic or nuisance issues.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Archibald and

RESOLVED – that, subject to no representations being received within 28 days of publication, a designating resolution permitting street trading at the lay by area at the A51 Templepatrick Road, between Ballymartin Park and Ride and Ballyhartfield Road be approved.

ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

7.6 G/MSMO/7/VOL 3 REQUEST TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL – NORTHERN IRELAND WATER

Members were advised that a request has been received from Northern Ireland Water requesting an opportunity to make a presentation.

The request advises that NI Water would like to outline the significant risks to the infrastructure in the Council area as a result of what it has termed Government underfunding.

NI Water expects to have sight of the level of funding being recommended by the Utility Regulator for the 2021-2027 period in September and would then like to present an update on how this will deliver on infrastructure investment plans in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough area.

Moved by Councillor Hamill
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED: that NI Water be invited to make a presentation to a future meeting of Council.

ACTION BY: Member Services

The Mayor, Aldermen McGrath and Smyth and Councillors Cooper and Dunlop left the Chamber/meeting having declared an interest in the next item. The Chief Executive took the Chair.

7.7 CP/CD/350 AREAS AT RISK PROGRAMME

Members were reminded that the Areas at Risk Programme (AAR) was previously delivered across six Super Output Areas in Antrim and Newtownabbey. Historically the Newtownabbey AAR Programme was part funded by DfC and Council, whilst the Antrim AAR Programme was fully funded by Council. A summary of the 2019/20 breakdown of the funding was outlined below:

	DfC contribution	Council Contribution	Totals
Newtownabbey AAR	£66,750	£60,170	£126,920
Antrim AAR	£0	£111,210	£111,210
Totals	£66,750	£171,380	£238,130

Council contributions to Areas at Risk funding were deferred due to COVID-19. The Newtownabbey Projects still have the external funding of £66,750 from DfC which normally attract a contribution of £60,170 from the Council. The Antrim Projects normally attract £111,210 from the Council.

The relaxation of the restrictions imposed by the NI Executive, allows groups to recommence activities from September 2020 with adaptations, online alternatives, social distancing and COVID-19 risk assessments in place as relevant.

The normal allocation of funding was detailed in the tables below:-

NEWTOWNABBEY

Organisation	ANBC Contribution £ (Amount based on 19/20)	DfC Contribution £ (Amounts confirmed for 20/21)	Total Costs for 2020/21 (Pre Covid-19)
Monkstown Community Association	15,500	9,500	25,000
Monkstown Community Forum	12,650	4,750	17,400
Monkstown Boxing Club	10,200	4,750	14,950
Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown	1,000	5,000	6,000
Hollybank Primary School, Monkstown	13,820	4,750	18,570
Hollybank Pre-school, Monkstown	2,500	2,500	5,000
Carmoney Presbyterian Church	2,500	22,500	25,000
New Mossley Presbyterian Church Youth Club (DAM Project)	2,000	13,000	15,000

ANTRIM

Organisation	ANBC Contribution £ (Amount based on 19/20)
St Joseph's Nursery School (includes Steeple NS link)	16,500
Antrim Enterprise Agency	6,000
St Joseph's Primary School	12,980
Ballycraig Primary School	16,000
Parkhall Primary School	14,420
Muckamore Parish Development Association	14,810
Rathenraw Youth Scheme	8,500
Antrim Grammar School	6,500
Inter Estate Partnership	10,500
Farranshane Community Trust	5,000

Moved by Councillor Magill
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED – that the funding be approved as laid out in the report and that a review of the method of allocating funding be carried out for the next financial year.

ACTION BY: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

The Mayor, Aldermen McGrath and Smyth and Councillors Cooper and Dunlop returned to the Chamber/meeting.

The Mayor resumed the Chair.

7.8 CP/CD/345 BALLYDUFF COMMUNITY CENTRE - NEWTOWNABBEY CAPACITY BUILDING CONSORTIUM

Members were advised that Newtownabbey Capacity Building Consortium were granted permission at the Community Planning Committee on 10 February 2020 for the tenancy of the front office within Ballyduff Community Centre. This was initially for a 6 month period from 2 March 2020 to 1 September 2020 with review at the end of the period.

The group have been highly involved with the COVID-19 relief work and their base at Ballyduff Community Centre has worked well with supporting the local Community. The group would like to continue their tenancy.

Members were asked to consider extending their tenancy for an additional 6 month period from 2 September 2020. The same tenancy rate would be applied of £104 sq. metre per annum. This would generate £1,378 income per annum. The group currently have signed up to the keyholder policy which has worked well for their out of hours and weekend needs.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - to extend the tenancy of the front office in Ballyduff Community Centre to Newtownabbey Capacity Building Consortium for 6 months from 2 September 2020.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facility Co-ordinator

7.9 CP/GEN/034 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS 2020/2021 SECOND CALL

Members were reminded of the Council decision taken in February 2020 to reopen the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for a second Call.

To support groups prior to the submission deadline Officers delivered grant information seminars in Antrim Civic Centre on Wednesday 11 March 2020

and Mossley Mill on Thursday 12 March 2020 and offered one-to-one support to all groups in attendance.

The closing date for the submission of completed applications was Friday 27 March 2020 however due to the COVID-19 pandemic this remained open.

During the month of August one application in respect of a Premises Grant had been received and assessed by Officers and a summary of the application and the score awarded was detailed below for Members' consideration.

Organisation	Category/Project Brief	% Scored	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Ballyclare Men's Shed	Premises Grant	84	£5,000	£5,000
TOTAL			£5,000	£5,000

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

RESOLVED - that

- I. the application outlined above having exceeded the 50% minimum scoring threshold be approved for funding at a total cost of £5,000;
- II. the Second Call for applications to the Community Development Grant Aid Programme (apart from Small Grants) be closed on Monday 31 August 2020 in advance of the new call for applications for 2021/22 being made on Monday 12 October 2020.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

7.10 CP/CD/289 DUNANNEY CENTRE – TENANCY AGREEMENT FOR ASSURE HEALTHCARE

Members were reminded that in August 2016 the Rathcoole Community Churches Group gifted the Dunanney Centre to the Council and the Council took ownership of the Dunanney Centre in February 2018.

Members are reminded that there are a number of offices in the Dunanney Centre and rental was approved at a cost of £104 per square metre per annum. The current occupancy rate of the building is 100%.

A request by Assure Healthcare (formerly Domus Home Care Ltd) was approved at the Council meeting on 27 August 2019 for the rental of room 22 until 31 August 2020.

Assure Healthcare would like to continue with the rental of this office from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 with an annual rental of £1,414.40. In line with other tenants in Dunanney Centre, a keyholder option would also be offered to the tenant.

Moved by Councillor Hamill
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that a new tenancy agreement and keyholder option be approved for Assure Healthcare from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facility Co-ordinator

7.11 FI/PRO/TEN/303 INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF FESTIVE LIGHTING

Members were aware that on 27 August 2019 the Council approved a contract for the installation, maintenance and removal of festive lighting for the Christmas period 2019 with an option to extend for the Christmas period 2020. The option to extend had not yet been implemented. The contract had a value of approximately £245,550 over the two years with some in built flexibility. Later that year Members agreed:

"That officers are also authorised to extend the relevant contract for installation [of Christmas lighting] to include Crumlin"... and ...

"Authorise the appropriate officers to take all necessary steps to ensure that Crumlin is included ... as part of 2020's Christmas event."

Currently the scope of the contract included:

- The dressing of Christmas Trees in nine locations (does not include any costs of purchasing and transporting trees, installation of tree pits or electrical supplies where alternative locations are chosen).
 1. Airport DEA – Crumlin Community Centre
 2. Antrim Town DEA – Antrim Town Centre
 3. Ballyclare DEA – Ballyclare Town Centre
 4. Glengormley DEA – Glengormley Town Centre
 5. Dunsilly DEA – Randalstown Town Centre
 6. Macedon DEA – Dunanney Centre
 7. Threemilewater DEA – Mossley Pavilion (2019)
 8. Antrim Civic Centre
 9. Mossley Mill Civic Centre

- The installation of town centre festive lighting in five locations:
 1. Antrim
 2. Ballyclare
 3. Crumlin
 4. Glengormley
 5. Randalstown

If the Council proceeded with festive lighting in 2020, Property Services Officers would be required to undertake preparatory works, including submitting applications to NIE and Transport NI, along with the contractor

testing, inspection and repair as required for both equipment and fixings. These works needed to commence in early September 2020, along with the extension of Council's 2019 Festive Lighting Contract to include Christmas 2020 at the tendered rates.

The total cost of providing festive lighting in 2020 was a maximum of £165,000.

Moved by Councillor Logue

Seconded by Councillor Goodman that the installation of Christmas lights be approved.

On the Motion being put to the meeting 24 Members voted in favour, 10 against and 1 abstention. The Motion was declared carried and it was

RESOLVED - that the installation of Christmas lights be approved.

Councillor Ross requested that his objection to the decision be noted.

ACTION BY: Bronagh Doonan, HOS - Building and Property Services

7.12 ED/GEN/015 & ED/GEN/016 WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Members were advised that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council has established two forums to strengthen two of the sectors most heavily impacted by COVID-19. The Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team and Tourism COVID-19 Recovery Team will focus on collaborative working between local businesses from across the Borough, the Council and Central Government Partners.

The forums are informing joint recovery plans aimed at building consumer confidence, driving footfall and delivering best practice in accordance with Central Government guidance. Representation on each Team consists of Party Group Leaders, business, shopping centres, central government and stakeholder organisations. The Teams are supported by Council Officials from Economic Development, Environmental Health and Health and Safety.

A copy of the minutes of the Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Group held on 12 August 2020 were circulated for Members' consideration.

A copy of the minutes of the Tourism COVID-19 Recovery Team held on 13 August 2020 were circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that

- (i) the minutes of the Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Group dated 12 August 2020 be approved;**

(ii) the minutes of the Tourism COVID-19 Recovery team dated 13 August 2020 be approved.

ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

7.13 ED/ED/173 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOVERY UPDATE

Members were reminded that in December 2019, the Council approved the Economic Development Action Plan update (copy circulated at Appendix 1) update and that provision for the projects contained with the Action Plan were subsequently made in 20/21 Estimates.

Since then, the Council's Economic Development Plan has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the exception of the following projects which were already in contract or for which the Council has a statutory duty to deliver. Further detail on each project was circulated at Appendix 2. Also included were the budgets approved by the Council in July 2020 in relation to the Retail & Town Centre and the Tourism Recovery Plans.

<i>Programme Description</i>	<i>Net Cost to Council</i>
Contribution to DFC Antrim Town Shopfront Improvement Scheme - Revitalise Revenue only	2,500
Integrated Development Framework DfC commitment	30,000
Workspace Development facilitation by Norman Apsley	3,000
Illumination scheme DfC Commitment	5,000
Optimal ERDF current commitment plus Optimal 2 ERDF programme	28,000
Bid 2 Win ERDF current commitment	6,000
FFNI Revenue commitment	25,000
LGV Academy remaining commitment	4,105
Sensee	8,000
NI Business Start Programme (Go For It) and Go for it+ contract in place - Council only	60,100
Social Enterprise Development - statutory	30,000
Women's enterprise challenge	6,160
Cork near market visit – defer to last quarter	11,000
Grow South Antrim – contribution to management & administration costs	17,300
Glengormley Public Realm Scheme – Design stage – Total £375,000 with £40,000 anticipated in 2020/21	£40,000
Glengormley PSNI Station; Business Case & Concept Design	20,000
Tourism Recovery – Marketing & Communication	62,000
Tourism recovery – Attraction & Product Development	20,000
DFC/DAERA Town Centre & Villages Recovery Programme – External funding of £510,000	Nil cost
TOTAL COST	£378,165

Members noted that the total cost of these projects was £378,165. Members were aware that the Council currently receives £196,890 towards the cost of

the programmes which it had utilised to deliver the Social Economy Project and the Business Start Programme.

When the Council agreed the Estimates it was anticipated that net spend on Economic Development and Tourism would be £1,711,228 including staff costs and overheads. Should the Council decide not to deliver any other projects other than those specified then the projected net costs of Economic Development delivery until the end of March 2021 would be approximately £850,000 including staff costs and overheads.

Further to the projects/programmes which the Council had already committed to as outlined above, there were a number of previously agreed projects which Members considered taking forward as follows;

1 ASK and LEAN

The Council provides tailored mentoring to businesses through the ASK programme which was suspended in early April due to the pandemic. During the last financial year 63 businesses were offered mentoring, ranging from financial planning and business sustainability support to social media marketing and sales opportunities.

In order to promote networking and share best practice amongst businesses the Council also hosts the LEAN network. All LEAN initiatives with a cost implication have been suspended however some pro gratis support has been provided. This included 10 webinars available to watch via the Councils website and 3 virtual business support workshops benefitting 11 participants. Officers are now working with the recently appointed Digital Commissioner for Belfast, Ms Jayne Brady to deliver a further event aimed at helping fledgling businesses to innovate. The budget ring-fenced for LEAN could be utilised to extend and enhance this support.

The budget required to continue this type of support until March 2021 was £20,000.

2 ESF funded projects (ED/ED/102)

The Council issued Letters of Offer to 6 ESF projects for a 4-year period with annual funding being subject to satisfactory performance and the council budget process. These ESF projects are designed to support training and employment opportunities to those individuals who experience difficulties accessing the labour market including people with disabilities. Appendix 3 circulated provided an overview of the projects supported and the results which had been delivered to date.

The total value of the awards in this financial year was approximately £60,000 and the current year represents Year 3 of delivery.

A breakdown of the project costs and funding was noted below:

Organisation	Project	Total Project Cost	Total ANBC Match funding (over 4 years)	Year 3 ANBC Funding
Workforce Online	Path 2 Employment	966,144	25,400	6,350
Network Personnel	Jobmatch	3,181,360	41,328	10,332
NOW Group	Verve Project	3,994,000	50,000	12,500
USEL	Stride Project	3,703,391	47,942	12,500
Enterprise NI	Exploring Enterprise	2,069,931	31,617	9,156
GEMS NI Limited	Co-Ment Project	1,321,890	31,606	7,902
TOTAL			270,369	58,740

Should the Council decide not to fund these projects in the current financial year then Officers would advise that from a legal perspective the Council may therefore wish to consider reducing the funding or committing to a shorter time period. A number of funding options were also included within Appendix 4 for consideration.

3 Town Teams

Members were aware that the recently formed Retail and Town Centre Forum is acting as the main conduit for delivery of recovery actions at this time and will make recommendations in relation to the £510,000 funding to be received from DFC and DAERA. Subject to the level of need/demand which arises from businesses, Members considered allocating some of this budget at a later stage in the year. Members also recalled that it was agreed that areas outside the town centres should be considered for similar support including Whiteabbey and Templepatrick. It was suggested that an initial sum of £50,000 be allocated for this purpose and a further report be presented to the Council in due course.

4 Partnerships (ED/ED/055 V3, ED/ED/040 V2, ED/TOU/045, ED/TOU/042)

The Council contributes to a range of external bodies which support local businesses and promote the Borough. All of these organisations were contacted and asked to indicate the minimum level of support which they required during the 2020/21 year, in light of Covid-19.

The following contributions have been requested with further details provided in Appendix 4 circulated:

(a) Lough Neagh Partnership	£22,000
(b) Lough Neagh Rescue	£12,000
(c) NI Tourism Alliance	£5,000
(d) Visit Belfast	£20,000
(e) NI Chamber of Commerce	£2,500
(f) SENI	£500
TOTAL	£62,000

In light of the benefits to the Borough, Members considered continuing this support in the current financial year.

5 GROW (Match Funding)

4 proposed Village Renewal projects had not been progressed due to COVID-19. The total cost of the projects is £170,514 with £42,629 requested from Council as follows:

Killead Environmental Scheme	£8,348.43
Toomebridge Community Garden	£10,346.38
Creggan Community Space	£10,769.26
Moneyglass Parking & Outdoor Space	<u>£13,164.46</u>
TOTAL	*£42,629.00

*Part of the Council match funding would be 'in kind' through professional fees already incurred in the design of the project, so the cash requirement to complete all 4 projects is approximately £35,000.

Expressions of Interest were also previously submitted for Ballynure, Creggan, Doagh, Templepatrick and Toome however Members noted that these projects will not be progressed as DAERA has recently confirmed that there was no additional funding for Village Renewal projects at present.

6 Town Centre Regeneration

6.1 Public Realm Scheme - Glengormley & Antrim (ED/REG/092 & CD/PM/087)

With respect to Town Centre regeneration only the design of the Glengormley Public Realm scheme at an estimated cost of £375,000 (which can be capitalised as part of the overall scheme and it was estimated that £40,000 will be incurred in the current financial year) and the completion of the Antrim Public Realm scheme would be progressed at this time. A further report on this matter would be presented to the Council in due course.

6.2 Former Glengormley Police Station (ED/REG/037)

Ground Surveys and Concept design work were underway on the former Glengormley Police Station.

As previously agreed, a Business Case for office and workspace development was currently under development and a progress report would be provided to the Council in due course. The Department for Communities had indicated that the funding ring-fenced for the Glenwell Road scheme which had not progressed may be re-allocated to the demolition of the police station building and to introduce a 'meanwhile' use on the site subject to a successful application and appraisal. This offer may be restricted to the current financial year and Officers were working with Departmental Officials to progress this opportunity. A further report on this matter would be presented to the Council in due course.

The following table demonstrated the cumulative impact of proceeding with the above projects.

Projects Approved/Under Consideration	Economic Development <i>Financial</i> Commitment – Running Total
All contracted and previously approved schemes	£850,000
ASK and LEAN	£20,000
ESF funded projects	£60,000
Town Teams – Recovery of Whiteabbey, Templepatrick and other commercial areas agreed by the Council	£50,000
Partnerships	£62,000
GROW (Match Funding from Council) for Village Renewal Projects	£35,000
Town Centre Regeneration – Glengormley Public Realm Scheme design costs of £375,000 can be capitalised as part of the overall scheme when approved - £40,000 anticipated to be incurred in 20/21	£40,000
TOTAL	£1,117,000
 Projects which are the subject of separate reports for August Council meeting:	
Joint Council Business Recovery ERDF Funded Programme	£15,000
OPTIMAL II Business Mentoring Programme See agenda item 7.4	
External Tourism Events – See agenda item 7.3	£31,500
Assumes £10,000 for ISPS Handa incurred costs, £2,500 for virtual Game Fair and £10,000 for Statsport SuperCupNI	
TOTAL if these additional projects are approved	£1,163,500

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and

RESOLVED: that

- i. the projects outlined are all funded;**
- ii. an application to DfC for the demolition of the former Police Station and the introduction of an appropriate 'meanwhile use' on the site be progressed.**

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

Alderman Brett left the Chamber during the next item.

7.14 P/PLAN/055 PLANNING SERVICE RECOVERY REPORT

Members were aware that the Planning Service normally receives around 760 applications annually. A breakdown of the application numbers and income was circulated.

Members noted the reduced number of applications and projected income for the current financial year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in particular the reduction in 'Major' applications received year to date.

1. Planning Applications

There were currently 5 Major and 235 Local applications under consideration. Whilst the Section normally processes on average 12 Majors and 750 Local applications annually, based on applications received year to date, it was anticipated that we will process approximately 530 local and some 8-10 major applications during this current financial year.

The Planning Section would normally have some 27 FTE staff in place (excluding the Head of Service and 2 Principal Planning Officers), however during Furlough this has been significantly reduced as shown in the table below. In order to efficiently process the anticipated volume of applications outlined it was proposed to amend the furlough arrangements as follows:

	Development Management	Enforcement	Forward Plan Team	Admin	Total
Staff Complement at work in March	9.2 FTE	3.4 FTE	6 FTE	7.6 FTE	26.8 FTE
Staff Complement during Furlough (typical week)	4.6 FTE	1.8 FTE	2 FTE	5 FTE	13.4 FTE
Proposed Changes to Furlough	+3.1 FTE			+0.4 FTE	+3.5 FTE
Revised Staff Complement September	7.7 FTE	1.8 FTE	2 FTE	5.4 FTE	16.9 FTE

Notes

- (1) 1 FT Planning Asst. post available in March is now vacant following the recent resignation of a Temp Planning Asst. that takes effect at the end of August.
- (2) In the Admin Section the 1 FT Exec Officer in post in March is now on secondment to Dfl, whilst a 0.6 FTE Admin has retired and a further 0.6 FTE Admin has gone on Maternity leave.
- (3) Both the Senior Planner and 1 FTE Planning Officer in the Enforcement section have been engaged predominantly on planning application work since May due to the overall reduced staff resource available at this time.

Members noted that following engagement with a key developer, Officers were anticipating the submission of a number of Major development applications which would require a timely turnaround. It was therefore proposed, as part of the proposed amendments to the furlough arrangements, that the Temporary Senior Planning Officer post previously introduced to process such applications be reinstated at a cost of approximately £1,500 per month.

The financial implication of removing the 4 members of staff (3 FTE) from furlough and reinstating the Temporary Senior Planning post as proposed was a cost of £8,450 per month.

2. Enforcement

There were 150 live enforcement investigations currently in the system including some 65 new cases only recently registered as enforcement work has largely been put on hold, with only priority breaches being progressed during the pandemic period. As noted previously the enforcement team had only been dealing with priority enforcement breaches in order to assist with the processing of planning applications during the period of the pandemic. However, it was proposed that the team would now revert to its normal enforcement workload.

3. Local Development Plan Revised Timetable

Members were reminded that the Council published a revised Local Development Plan (LDP) Timetable in July 2018. The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require the Council to keep under review the published Timetable for the preparation and adoption of its LDP. In addition, the Planning Act requires the Council's Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan to be prepared in accordance with its published Timetable. The Timetable must set out indicative dates for each stage of the preparation of the LDP.

The Council had published its draft Plan Strategy in accordance with the Revised 2018 Timetable, taking into account the Chief Planner's update No. 4 (published in November 2019) which provided three months' flexibility to published timetables.

In May 2020, the Chief Planner's update No 6 gave further flexibility to existing agreed LDP Timetables providing a further 3 months' flexibility from that already permitted in the November 2019 update. This was in response to the impact of COVID-19.

The next stage of the LDP process is the submission of the draft Plan Strategy to the Department for Infrastructure to cause an Independent Examination. Taking into account the flexibility granted by the Chief Planner, the submission to DfI to progress to the Soundness Based Independent Examination was scheduled to take place at the end of September 2020. However, preparation of the LDP continued to be impacted upon due to the on-going COVID -19 pandemic and for this reason it was recommended that the

Council updates its LDP Timetable for the submission of the draft Plan Strategy to DfI in the 3rd quarter of 2020/2021 (September- December 2020). A new 2020 Timetable was circulated.

Since the publication of the 2018 Timetable, the Department had also clarified that it will take 8 weeks to assess the LDP once submitted. The Planning Appeals Commission had advised that the IE will take 9–12 months. These matters had been factored into the Revised 2020 Timetable.

In line with legislative requirements, the Council must consult the Planning Appeals Commission and such other consultation bodies as the Council considers appropriate. The Council must also submit the draft Timetable to the Department for Infrastructure for approval.

The Department has four weeks to respond unless it asks the Council for an extension. If no response is received after four weeks the Timetable is deemed to be agreed at the end of that period. An update report would be brought back to Committee regarding consultation with the Department and PAC. Following the agreement of this, the new Timetable would be made publicly available.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

RESOLVED - that

- i. an Admin Officer (0.4 FTE) be returned to work from furlough at a cost of £750 per month;**
- ii. 3 Planning Assistants (2.6 FTE) in Development Management be returned to work from furlough at a cost of some £6,200 per month;**
- iii. the temporary Senior Planning Officer post be reinstated at a cost of approximately £1,500 per month;**
- iv. the Enforcement Officers assisting to date with planning applications revert to their normal enforcement caseload;**
- v. the Revised 2020 LDP Timetable be approved and submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission and Department for Infrastructure.**

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 CE/OA/012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PANEL MEETING

A Local Government Partnership Panel Meeting will be held on 16 September 2020 hosted via Zoom by the Communities Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín.

The Local Government Partnership Panel provides a structured, political

relationship between central and local government to discuss strategic policy and operational matters of mutual interest and concern. This will be the first meeting of the Partnership Panel since October 2016.

The Agenda was expected to focus on the following areas:

- Critical sustainability and regional issues – Local Government Finances
- Empowered Local Government – Implementation of outstanding legislation from RPA
- Councillors Code of Conduct
- Review of Community Plans

Correspondence and associated papers were circulated for Members' information.

Alderman Mark Cosgrove is Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's nominated representative on the Panel and the Chief Executive will be attending in her role as Chair of Solace.

Members were invited to advise of any specific areas of importance which they felt should be raised at the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

Alderman Brett returned to the Chamber.

8.2 PK/BIO/019/VOL3 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DfI REGARDING BLUE/GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure, in July requested details of any greenway projects that Councils were ready to take forward to construction.

Officers responded by both confirming the status of the Doagh to Larne Greenway proposal and also referring to interest from a number of Members in the development of new walking and cycle routes. A copy of the response was circulated.

A report will be brought to the Operations Committee in September setting out the specific requests from Members.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted and Officers consider including Antrim Boardwalk as a potential opportunity.

ACTION BY: Geraldine, Girvan, Director of Operations

8.3 CP/GR/116 GOOD RELATIONS WEEK 2020

Members were advised that Good Relations Week 2020 will take place from 14 - 21 September 2020. The initiative is co-ordinated regionally by the Community Relations Council and supported by the Northern Ireland Executive's, Together Building a United Community Strategy. Due to measures in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic Good Relations Week 2020 will be delivered entirely online using digital content.

The theme is 'Celebrating Our Journey, Embracing Our Future.' celebrating the efforts of people and communities in tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity in Northern Ireland.

The Council's Good Relations Team is hosting the following digital content available on the Council Website:

- Grant Aid 2020 Showcase
 - A demonstration of how Good Relations Grant Aid has been utilised across the Borough with examples from BEAM Creative Network's 'Our Island Project', and Monkstown Amateur Boxing Club's 'Newtown Good Relations Project'.
- Clotworthy House Showcase
 - A demonstration of the history of Clotworthy House and current examples of its use.
- Sentry Hill Showcase
 - A demonstration of the history of Sentry Hill and current examples of its use.
- Good Relations Diversity Colouring Book
 - The production of a bespoke children's colouring book for distribution and download from the Council Website, with images reflective of locations across the Borough, Council events, and services.
 - A limited supply of Multicultural colouring pencils will be available for distribution to encourage children to consider including different skins tones when colouring.

Members were reminded that provision has been made for the above events in the estimates as part of the Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21.

Further information about all the activities planned for Good Relations Week can be found at www.goodrelationsweek.com.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

8.4 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members were advised that correspondence has been received from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council requesting Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's support.

A copy of the letter was circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council be noted.

NO ACTION

8.5 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's August 2020 monthly bulletin was circulated for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 11 June 2020 was circulated.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Kinahan and

RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct the following business 'In Committee'.

Members were advised that the livestream and audio recording would cease at this point.

9. ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

Alderman Brett left the Chamber during the next item.

9.1 IN CONFIDENCE G-LEG-14-166 GRANGE LANE BRIDGE

Members were reminded that funding of £120,000 was made available in November 2014 for the replacement bridge at Grange Lane, Mallusk by the three departments: The Department for Infrastructure (DfI), the Department of

Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Communities (DfC).

In May 2017 Members agreed that the Council would contribute to the shortfall in funding of approximately £80,000 along with appropriate legal arrangements. At that time Members agreed that legal and novation agreements be signed by the residents as this would protect the Council's interests and transfer both maintenance and contractual obligations to the residents following the end of the defects period.

The Council procured the replacement bridge works and the bridge was completed in October 2017. The reason for the delay in assigning the bridge to the residents is that under the construction contract Officers had to allow for one year after the completion of construction to allow for the defects period.

The Council is now in a position to assign the legal title and responsibility of the bridge to the owners of the properties who benefit from the use of the bridge.

Officers have recently been informed that a mature beech tree close to the bridge and a property is dead. There is concern that the tree may fall and cause damage to power lines, property, the bridge and potentially personal injuries.

The cost to remove the tree is dependent on whether or not the work can be undertaken without lowering the adjacent NIE cable. The total cost of removing the tree (including NIE costs) is estimated at £[REDACTED].

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED - that the works to remove the tree be carried out subject to the relevant property owners signing the bridge transfer documents and that information on the history relevant to this be sent to all Members.

ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services

Alderman Brett returned to the Chamber during the next item.

9.2 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/008 RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT CORRESPONDENCE

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update for Members.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

RESOLVED – that the Chief Executive write to the arc21 Councils and the arc21 Joint Committee detailing the Council's concerns about the project.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

9.3 IN CONFIDENCE ED/TOU/050 GAME OF THRONES, WINTERFELL CASTLE, MONEYGLASS

At the Council Meeting held on 27 January 2020, the Council agreed to contribute towards a Business Case for the HBO Winterfell Castle Moneyglass Visitor experience. Officers have been engaging with Teliporter, HBO's appointed operator for the project to complete this assignment. The first stage Feasibility Study has been completed which is a key step towards the full Business Case which will be a requirement for the City Deal programme or any other public funding. A copy of the study was circulated for Members' information, however this document is strictly confidential at this stage.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A future update will be presented to the Council in due course.

Moved by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

9.4 IN CONFIDENCE WM/WM/047 RESPONSE TO NOARC21 CORRESPONDENCE

Following correspondence from noarc21 received by Members, on 29 May 2020 in relation to the proposed Residual Waste Treatment project, arc21 was asked to respond. Correspondence has been received from arc21 and it was together with the original email.

Moved by Councillor Magill
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that the correspondence be noted.

NO ACTION

9.5 IN CONFIDENCE CD/PM/152 REPAIRS TO MARKET SQUARE PUBLIC REALM, ANTRIM

BACKGROUND

The original public realm scheme in Antrim was completed in January 2014 by BSG Civil Engineering Ltd. The total cost for the scheme was £1.7 million.

Over recent years defects have developed on the Market Square element of the works. These defects have created localised areas of cracked jointing creating loose paving which is a health and safety hazard.

Capital Development commissioned a defects report in April 2019. Whilst it was not possible to be definitive, the pattern of failure suggests the defects are a mix of bonding failures at the bedding interfaces and granite joints. It is advisable that repairs are undertaken to prevent a larger area of defects developing.

LIABILITY ASSESSMENT

Liability for this issue and associated repair works has been considered by the Capital Development Team. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As an alternative Capital Development Officers have met with the [REDACTED] to establish their attitude to apportion the repair cost between all parties. [REDACTED].

It was considered that as the Fountain Street Public Realm Works Contractor (John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd.) was still under contract a cost would be obtained from them for the repair works.

COSTS

A cost of £[REDACTED] was estimated which includes the following primary elements of work:

- Lift existing Caithness paving and store for re-use
- Remove existing bedding material and replace with new
- Seal expansion/construction joints
- Installation of bollards at the vehicle entrance

The installation of the bollards will provide for a layer of protection to Market Square and prevent the unauthorised use of the area by HGV.

The cost above is the maximum cost anticipated and includes £ [REDACTED] for provision of new Caithness paving which may/may not be required. The Council's Consultant AECOM has confirmed the cost estimated is fair and reasonable given the nature of the work, resources required and anticipated duration of the works.

PROPOSED STAKEHOLDER CONTRIBUTION

Following detailed discussion/negotiation with all stakeholders the following has been agreed:

[REDACTED]: will undertake all design and contract administration at no cost to Council.

[REDACTED]: will contribute repair costs in the sum £ [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]: will contribute repair costs up to a maximum of £ [REDACTED].

On the basis of the above negotiations Council will contribute a maximum of £ [REDACTED]. Should the existing Caithness paving be suitable for re-use contract savings of £ [REDACTED] are achievable split between [REDACTED] and Council. This would give a reduced [REDACTED] contribution of £ [REDACTED] and a reduced Council contribution of £ [REDACTED].

Please note all costs are estimates.

BUDGET

No budget has been allocated for these works. It is proposed to fund the Council's contribution from the 'Repairs & Renewals' budget.

PROCUREMENT

Due to the urgency to complete the works and to avoid further deterioration and inconvenience it is proposed John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd are instructed to undertake the works as they are still under contract for the Fountain Street Public Realm works.

PROGRAMME

Based on the proposal to instruct the works through the Fountain Street Contract an indicative programme subject to final discussions with the Contractor John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| - Council Approval | August 2020 |
| - Proceed with Contractor instruction | September 2020 |
| - Works commence on site | September 2020 |
| - Works complete (6 week programme) | October 2020 |

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and

RESOLVED – that

- **John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd be appointed under the Fountain Street Public Realm Contract to carry out the repairs to Market Square Public Realm at the estimated maximum cost of £[REDACTED] be approved;**
- **the total contribution from Council in the range £[REDACTED] (minimum) to £[REDACTED] (maximum) funded from the Repairs and Renewals budget be approved.**

ACTION BY: Reggie Hillen, Head of Capital Development

9.6 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/107 THE GATEWAY CATERING LEASE

Members were advised that The Boathouse Restaurant has been operating at The Gateway Visitor Centre since December 2019 having been leased to Greig MacAfee.

Since opening, the demand for a separate coffee shop service has been significant and in response the lease holder was given a temporary lease to operate a 'pop up' coffee and dessert shop from the Activity Space. The Slipway Coffee and Desserts commenced trading from this area on 27 January 2020 providing both sit in and takeaway services.

Since reopening post COVID, trade at both The Boathouse and The Slipway has been very healthy, providing a full hospitality offer to visitors including a takeaway service. Correspondence has been received from the lease holder requesting that the Council grant permission for the following:

- Fit out of the activity space and adjoining store to create a 38 seat coffee shop with full counter provision inside and a counter also facing externally to deliver a takeaway offer.
- Permission to access the exhibition space for additional restaurant seating on a short term basis to assist with social distancing in the restaurant which is restricting usual capacity.
- Permission to convert the balcony off The Boathouse restaurant to an indoor/outdoor dining space with modifications to the balcony height.

A concept drawing for the Slipway and mood board were circulated.

Members are advised that the current restaurant lease gives the lease holder exclusive catering rights to the Lough Shore area so there is no opportunity to test the market for additional catering provision at The Gateway.

Officers from Capital Projects, Environmental Health, Legal and Building Control have all been consulted about the proposals and have indicated that there is nothing of concern at this stage which would prevent the Council considering these requests.

It is proposed to grant permission to The Boathouse lease holder to proceed with plans for the Slipway Coffee Shop, temporary access to the Exhibition Space and plans for the Boathouse balcony on the following basis:

- All plans to be submitted to the appropriate Council sections for their review and approval prior to the commencement of any works.
- All required statutory approvals to be in place prior to commencement/operation of any works/trading.
- All costs to be covered by the lease holder.
- A long term lease to be entered into for The Activity Space and adjoining store, which will end at the same date as the restaurant lease.
- A short term one month rolling lease for the exhibition space to be entered into and vacated as soon as the Council are ready to install an exhibition in this area.
- A minimal rent of £[REDACTED] per year per m² (93m² for activity space and store) will be applied, based on advice from Land and Property Services (LPS) and the franchisee will be responsible for all utility costs.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that

(a) The Boathouse restaurant lease holder be granted permission to:

- **make temporary use of the exhibition space for additional restaurant seating;**
- **develop the restaurant balcony into an internal/external dining area.**

(b) development of the Activity Space and adjoining store at The Gateway into a 38 seat coffee shop, kitchen and take away offer be deferred subject to a comprehensive report on the commercial issues raised.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

9.7 IN CONFIDENCE AC/GEN/068 THE GATEWAY VISITOR CENTRE INTERPRETATION/EXHIBITION SPACE

The Gateway Visitor Centre opened in December 2019 with the anchor tenant the Boathouse restaurant in operation since this time and Lough Neagh Rescue taking up their accommodation in early 2020. As a key visitor destination, the Loughshore is very popular with local residents and visitors from outside the borough alike. The development of the new facilities at The Gateway is intended to boost these visitor numbers by offering a unique experience which is linked to the wider tourism offer including the prestigious Antrim Castle Gardens and beyond.

The Council secured funding of £[REDACTED] from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) towards the Centre which has been paid out and verified. A further £[REDACTED] has been secured from the Heritage

Lottery Fund (HLF) through the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership towards the interpretation/exhibition space which has been matched by £[REDACTED] from the Council providing a budget for implementation of £[REDACTED] excluding VAT.

The development of the interpretation/exhibition space will be progressed over a number of years with this assignment, Phase 1, being delivered by the end of December 2020 to meet the relevant funding deadline. A copy of the draft specification was circulated for Members' consideration.

To complement the new Visitor Centre a contemporary sculpture, 'The Protector of the Lough' is being designed and installed by Solart Studio Design at the Lough Shore. It is anticipated that installation will take place in mid-December. A summary narrative of the artistic expression of the piece was circulated alongside a computer generated image of the final piece. The cost of the sculpture is as budgeted at £[REDACTED]. The successful tender did not include the cost of installing lights on the artwork although the artist did include it in their representation of the piece as an option. Upon engagement with the artist, officers have now explored the cost of this potential addition and it is estimated at £[REDACTED].

Bat surveys have been commissioned and a planning application will be submitted for the lighting in due course, subject to approval.

Tourism NI - 'Embrace a Giant Spirit'

In order to position The Gateway within the Northern Ireland tourism offer it will be important to develop appropriate linkages with campaigns promoted by Tourism NI.

Members will be aware that in 2019 Tourism NI unveiled its 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' brand which both they and Tourism Ireland are using to promote Northern Ireland across Ireland and internationally with the aim of increasing visitor numbers and ensuring economic impact across all regions of NI.

The Lough Neagh offer is a potential 'giant' in terms of the tourism offer of the Borough not least because of the association with Finn Mc Cool and his connections to the Giants Causeway and the fact that Lough Neagh is the largest lake in the British Isles, covering 153 square miles (396 square km), with a catchment area of 2,200 square miles (5,700 square km).

Through this assignment, the Council will seek to maximise the synergy of The Gateway Interpretation/Exhibition with the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' brand and ensure inclusion of the Lough Neagh offer in Tourism NI promotions.

Tourism NI have been consulted about the proposal and have indicated they are supportive of this approach and see the many benefits of the development of a tourism offer at Lough Neagh reflective of their Giant Spirit brand.

The Interpretation assignment – Phase 1

The building includes a multi-functional exhibition space which hosted a variety of meetings in January and February and a visitor information service to support visitors to the Lough and provide local tourist information.

The interpretative area within the building is designed to enhance the visitor experience to The Gateway, providing interpretation of Lough Neagh and the heritage of the local area including the Myths and Legends (Folklore) relevant to this part of the Borough and will creatively link to other built heritage and attractions.

The interpretation area should appeal to the family market both domestic and international whilst engaging with the unique strands of the Lough Neagh story. Research to date has highlighted the key themes of interest in the following order of priority:

- (i) Myths and Legends (Folklore) relevant to this part of the Borough
- (ii) Nature – the exceptional bio diversity and ecosystem of the Lough and it's surrounding hinterland
- (iii) People & Industry – The Canals, Fishing Industry including Eels, World War II history and Leisure pursuits on the Lough
- (iv) Heritage – Legends of the Lough, Poetry & Writing and other linkages
- (v) Connections – Lough Neagh is intrinsically linked to key locations including Antrim Castle Gardens, Shanes Castle, Rams Island, Randalstown Forest, Cranfield Church & Holy Well and local Game of Thrones sites.

A key element of assignment is engagement with Elected Members to discuss and agree the priority themes to be included in Phase 1 of this development.

Next Steps

Following approval of the draft specification officers will progress the procurement of the services required. A potential opportunity has been identified to utilise the services of the Tourism NI nominated design company who have created the TNI branding as this appointment was market tested and included the scope for partner organisations to access the services. Officers will explore this avenue of delivery with the external funder however, it may be necessary to procure through the Council's normal procurement procedure, in which case this will be advanced at the earliest opportunity due to the current deadline of December 2020 for completion.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

RESOLVED - that

- i. the draft specification for Phase 1 of The Gateway Interpretation/Exhibition Space as outlined be approved;**
- ii. the opportunity to access the services of the Tourism NI nominated design company be explored and if not feasible the assignment be progressed through the Council's normal procurement procedure;**
- iii. installation of lighting to illuminate 'The Protector of the Lough' be included as part of the sculpture commission at a budget of £[REDACTED].**

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

9.8 IN CONFIDENCE CD/PM/121 V36 SKATE PARK

Members recalled that at the Council meeting held in April 2020 the skate park project was one of a number of projects on the Capital Programme which was deferred.

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) had initially agreed to fund the project in the sum of £[REDACTED] with the additional sum of £[REDACTED] to be funded by the Council. Officers have engaged with SEUPB to determine whether other Peace 4 funds which cannot be spent within the current deadline of December 2021 can be allocated to the project.

The skate park project is the only Council project at a sufficiently advanced stage to utilise any available funding from SEUPB. A formal application to utilise any additional funding was currently with SEUPB who had indicated a response may not be available until November 2020.

To meet the funding deadline for project completion by December 2021 it was proposed to go to tender now.

The proposed programme for Tender is as follows:

- Tender Period 1 September 2020 – 2 October 2020
- Tender Evaluation 2 October 2020 – 30 October 2020
- Tender Report to Council 30 November 2020

The above programme would be achievable with the SEUPB funding decision timetable of November 2020.

Construction of in-situ concrete skate parks is a highly specialised trade and the supply chain normally requires a long lead in period prior to commencing and favourable weather to complete the work. Awarding the contract in early December 2020 would give the opportunity of a 3 month lead-in to the specialist skate park contractor with the view to commence works in March 2021. This could facilitate completed by October 2021 to avoid completing high quality concrete finishing work in the winter months.

There was no risk to the Council in tendering and the Council reserves the right not to award following tender.

Moved by Councillor Hamill
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that the Skate Park Works Contract is released for tender competition and a future report be brought back to the Council in due course.

ACTION BY: Reggie Hillen, Head of Capital Development

9.9 IN CONFIDENCE AC/GEN/038 CATERING CONTRACTS

MANN'S CATERING

Members were advised that there are a number of contracts for provision of catering services in place across the Arts and Culture and Leisure services including a contract for provision of catering at the Old Courthouse Antrim, which is held by CBC Catering trading as Mann's Café Bar. This contract is due to end on 31 May 2021 with the option to extend for a further two periods of twelve months. This contract had been in place since 1 June 2018 for an initial three-year term. In addition, Mann's Catering hold the contract for provision of catering services at Antrim Civic Centre which is due to end on 31 March 2021. This contract had been in place since 1 April 2016 for an initial three-year term to end March 2019 which had been extended for two twelve month periods to end of March 2020 and end of March 2021 permissible within original contract terms.

Correspondence had been received from the company requesting that the Council consider rent reduction for the remainder of the financial year in relation to The Old Courthouse Catering Contract. The contractor resumed trading at The Old Courthouse on a restricted basis on 18 June offering a takeaway service and then resumed full service from 3 July 2020 in line with further relaxation of hospitality restrictions announced by the Executive. However, they were requesting consideration of a reduction in rent as social distancing compliance, ongoing closure of The Old Courthouse Theatre, and lack of events would continue to adversely impact upon their business. The annual contract fee was £■■■■ payable in monthly instalments of £■■■■ with payments up to date until the end of February 2020.

They had also requested that the Council consider a twelve-month extension to the Antrim Civic Centre contract. The catering service at Antrim Civic Centre remains closed at present with a date for recovery of this service yet to be agreed.

At the Council meeting on 27 July 2020, in response to a similar request from Big Occasions Catering who have the Clotworthy House Catering Contract, it was agreed that they be offered a three month rent free period at Clotworthy House, and the situation be reviewed again after three months. It was also agreed to offer them a twelve month extension to the catering contract having been advised by the Council Lawyer it was considered that

the current unprecedented events do justify a twelve month extension to such contracts.

It was proposed to offer Mann's Café a three month rent free period for the Old Courthouse Catering Contract and a twelve month extension to Mann's Catering for the Antrim Civic Centre Catering contract.

SINNAMON AT ANTRIM FORUM AND VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Further to agreement at July Council that a three month rent free period would be available at both sites, Council had been informed that the franchisee now intends to delay re-opening both cafes until more suitable market conditions are in place. It may be appropriate to consider offering the three month rent free period until the business can re-open.

Claims for loss of income will be submitted to the Department for Communities.

Moved by Councillor Magill
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and

RESOLVED - that the Council

- i. approves a three month rent free period for Mann's Café at the Old Courthouse, Antrim and that the situation be reviewed after three months;**
- ii. approves a twelve month extension to the Mann's Catering contract for catering at Antrim Civic Centre;**
- iii. notes the deferred opening of cafés at Antrim Forum and Valley Leisure Centre and agrees to delay the three month rent free period accordingly.**

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Aldermen McGrath left the Chamber having declared an interest in the next item.

9.10 IN CONFIDENCE FI/FIN/043 EMERGENCY FINANCIAL PLAN

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting held on Monday 9 July 2020 it was agreed that:

- (1) the review of resources to reduce costs be implemented and that an update report be provided to the Council at the end of August following consultation with staff and trade unions (copy circulated);**
- (2) given the Council's financial challenges, Option (b) relating to the basis of the redundancy payment and Option 1(b) in relation to making an enhanced termination payment be approved;**

(3) the Chief Executive continues to engage with the Department for Communities and the Department of Finance to determine what support may be available to the Council.

Members were advised that every effort continues to be made to identify opportunities for staff cost reductions including recruitment freezes (allowing recruitment for only essential posts), minimising the use of agency staff, and reducing overtime expenditure.

To realise the required level of staff cost reductions, the Council had proposed to reduce the current workforce by approximately 68 FTE's. This proposed reduction, along with the other mentioned staff cost reductions, would realise an annual saving of approximately £3.3M.

As the Council decided to propose a reduction in the size of its workforce to address the substantial budgetary pressure it faces, it was required to enter into a formal consultation period of 30 days, in accordance with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (TULRCA), which implements the European Collective Redundancies Directive and in Northern Ireland is incorporated at Article 215 of the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.

The formal consultation commenced on 10 July 2020 and was to conclude on 8 August 2020, however the Trade Union side asked for this to be extended, and therefore an extension to the 17 August 2020 was agreed.

A meeting record was circulated which detailed the numerous meetings held during the collective consultation period with Trade Unions.

To mitigate any compulsory redundancies, invitations had been sought from across the Council for voluntary severance and 59 applications had been received. Of these, 26 are employed in roles potentially at risk of redundancy and it was proposed that these be approved, along with any further voluntary severance applications that mitigate compulsory redundancies being approved, in principle, subject to the Chief Executive approving the business case.

Members were reminded that the Council currently has 33 vacant posts that are being held as potential suitable alternative employment options, if required.

Feedback from the Trade Unions was circulated, together with the management responses.

Draft Redundancy Procedure

The process to reduce the workforce would be managed through the proposed Draft Redundancy Procedure (copy circulated). This Procedure was subject to Trade Union consultation and a number of minor amendments had been made, following feedback. The main issues raised were as follows:

Redundancy Enhancement

A higher multiplier of 1.7 had been requested. The Trade Union side believed that this would make it more attractive for more staff to apply for voluntary severance, thus further reducing the need for compulsory redundancies. The estimated costed options up to a multiplier of 1.7 were as follows:

- 1.2 Multiplier = £ [REDACTED] (this was the proposed multiplier)
- 1.5 Multiplier = £ [REDACTED]
- 1.7 Multiplier = £ [REDACTED]

(Note: pension costs have been factored into these estimates and these may be subject to change depending on staff that are confirmed to leave under voluntary/compulsory redundancy).

Redundancy Payment

The Trade Unions had requested that the Council makes redundancy payments to those with less than 2 years' service (the statutory requirement is that we make payment to only those with 2yrs+ service). This request could be accommodated as it is likely to have limited practical application, and the associated costs would be low.

Conciliation Agreement

Trade Unions had requested that the wording in relation to the waiving of rights to Tribunal claims against the Council on signing the required Conciliation agreement is amended.

The Trade Union side had requested that this would exclude any staff who have a current claim, as at 1 July 2020. Members were advised that this request could be accommodated as Officers were content that the inclusion of this clause will have no implications.

Collective Consultation

The Trade Union side sought a further extension to the collective consultation process, beyond the extension up to 17 August. Officers were satisfied that the statutory legal requirements in relation to collective consultation had been met and would assure Members that regular and meaningful engagement with the Trade Unions to explore any reasonable steps that can be taken to avoid compulsory redundancies will continue for as long as is necessary.

Members were also advised that the Chief Executive had engaged with the Department for Communities and the Department for Finance to stress the financial pressures being faced by the Council. A request was made for capitalisation and additional financial support to increase the enhancement payment proposed within the Redundancy Procedure.

Correspondence had been recently received from the Department for Communities (circulated) to confirm that a draft business case had been prepared by the Department for Finance to amend current policy so that capitalisation thresholds may be amended. This would allow severance costs to be spread over 4 years.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that

- a) **the Redundancy Procedure be approved and that the Council's Discretion Policy Statement be updated accordingly;**
- b) **the wording in the conciliation agreement be amended to exclude any staff who currently have a claim, as at 1 July 2020;**
- c) **redundancy payments be extended, if relevant, to those employees with less than 2 years' service;**
- d) **a multiplier of 1.7 be used for enhanced redundancy payment.**

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

Alderman Burns and Councillor Lynch's abstentions from this item were noted.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct any remaining business 'In Public'.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 8.25 pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice