



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 30 OCTOBER 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor M Cooper)
- Members Present (In Person)** : Aldermen – L Boyle, L Clarke, M Cosgrove, M Magill, J McGrath, P Michael, S Ross and J Smyth
- Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Brady, J Burbank, S Cosgrove, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour, M Goodman, N Kelly, R Kinnear, A Logue, R Lynch, H Magill, B Mallon, T McGrann, E McLaughlin, V McWilliam, L O'Hagan, L Smyth, M Stewart, S Ward, B Webb and S Wilson
- Members Present (Remote)** : Alderman P Bradley
Councillor A O'Lone
- In Attendance (In person)** : Mo Baines, Chief Executive, APSE
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon
Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development and Planning - M McAlister
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
Director of Sustainability – M Lavery
Director of Parks and Leisure Operations – M McDowell
Director of Organisation Development – J Close
Director of Corporate Strategy – H Hall
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston
Deputy Director of Investment and Business Development – M McKenna
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
Head of Corporate Affairs – J McIntyre
Council Lawyer – A McDowell
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
ICT Helpdesk Officer – D Mason
Member Services Officer – S Boyd
PA to Mayor and Deputy Mayor – S Fisher

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

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

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Pastor George McKim.

Alderman Boyle and Councillors Burbank, Cushinan, Goodman, Logue, Kelly, Kinnear, McLaughlin, McGrann, and O'Hagan joined the meeting.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor congratulated Officers and staff at both Ballyearl and Valley Leisure Centres for being nominated as finalists in the Regional Centres of the Year UKActive Awards, with Ballyearl going on to win both the Regional and National Centre of the Year award categories. The Mayor further congratulated Ellen Boyd and all the team on being a finalist in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion award category.

2 APOLOGIES

Councillors McAuley and Ní Chonghaile

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 9 – Chief Executive, J Dixon
Item 11.4 – Councillor T McGrann
Item 15.1 – Alderman McGrath

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor McGrann

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 25 September 2023 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Burbank
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 2 October 2023 be approved and adopted.

6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Stewart and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 3 October 2023 be approved and adopted.

7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 9 October 2023 be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Cushinan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 16 October 2023 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.

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

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Cushinan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 16 October 2023 Part 2 be approved and adopted.

Having declared an interest in Item 9 the Chief Executive left the Chamber at this point of the meeting.

9 NOTICE OF MOTION

Moved by: Alderman Magill, Councillor Goodman, Councillor Webb and Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by: Councillors Lynch, Stewart and Ward

'In recognition of her outstanding service to the Council, and her special contribution to the development of Antrim & Newtownabbey, the Council confers the Freedom of the Borough on its Chief Executive Mrs Jacqui Dixon MBE.'

The Motion was declared unanimously carried.

The Chief Executive returned to the Chamber.

The Mayor advised the Chief Executive that the Freedom of the Borough had been conferred upon her in recognition of her outstanding service to the Council and her special contribution to the development of Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Group Leaders, on behalf of their Parties, along with Councillor Lynch and Councillor Stewart spoke in support of the Motion, paying tribute to and thanking Mrs Dixon for her service to both the Council and Local Government.

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

10 PRESENTATION

10.1 CE/GEN/030 APSE PRESENTATION OF VAN COULTER AWARD TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MRS JACQUI DIXON

The Chief Executive of APSE, Mo Baines, presented the Chief Executive, Mrs Jacqui Dixon MBE the APSE Van Coulter Lifetime Achievement Award for exceptional leadership and for her contribution to the Local Government sector.

NO ACTION

Councillor Kelly left the Chamber during Item 11.1.

11 ITEMS FOR DECISION

11.1 EL/211 APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE - THE BOAT HOUSE, 74 LOUGH ROAD, ANTRIM, BT41 4DG

An application had been received for the provisional grant of an Entertainments Licence for the following area.

| Licensee | Location of Premises | Where entertainment will be held | Type(s)and hours of entertainment |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Sean McLaughlin | 74 Lough Road, Antrim, BT41 4DG | Indoor | Singing, Music, Dancing or Entertainment of a like kind Annual Licence Monday to Sunday 9:30am to 11:30pm |

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council could decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence;
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions;
- iii. Refuse the licence;
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council made a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then Members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Moved by Councillor Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Logue and

RESOLVED: that an Entertainments Licence (Annual Licence) be granted to the applicant, Sean McLaughlin, The Boat House, 74 Lough Road, Antrim, BT41 4DG with the following conditions;

- that all relevant licensing requirements are met;
- that statutory consultees have no objections to approval;

OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Sunday 9:30am to 11:30pm

ACTION BY: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Mallon left the Chamber during Item 11.2.

11.2 EL/139 APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE - STEEPLE INN, ANTRIM, BT41 4AX

An application had been received for the provisional grant of an Entertainments Licence for the following area.

| Licensee | Location of Premises | Where entertainment will be held | Type(s)and hours of entertainment |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Richard Stewart | 11 High Street, Antrim, BT41 4AX | Indoor | Singing, Music, Dancing or Entertainment of a like kind Annual Licence Monday to Thursday 11:30am to 10:30pm Friday 11:30am to 12 midnight Saturday 11:30am to 01:00am |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| | | | Sunday 12:30pm to 10:30pm |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council could decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence;
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions;
- iii. Refuse the licence;
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council made a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then Members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Moved by Councillor Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Logue and

RESOLVED: that an Entertainments Licence (Annual Licence) be granted to the applicant, Richard Stewart, Steeple Inn, 11 High Street, Antrim, BT41 4AX with the following conditions;

- that all relevant licensing requirements are met;
- that statutory consultees have no objections to approval;

OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Thursday

11:30am to 10:30pm

Friday

11:30am to 12 midnight

Saturday

11:30am to 01:00am

Sunday

12:30pm to 10:30pm

ACTION BY: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

11.3 G/MSMO/17 VOL 3 NORTHERN IRELAND WATER – PRESENTATION REQUEST

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from Steve Blockwell, Head of Investment Management, Northern Ireland Water, requesting attendance at a future Council Meeting to update Members on what Northern Ireland Water is doing in the Borough for customers in terms of health, environment and economy matters.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED: that the request be accepted and Northern Ireland Water be invited to attend a future Council meeting.

ACTION BY: Member Services

Having declared an interest in Item 11.4. Councillor McGrann left the Chamber at this point of the meeting.

Alderman Cosgrove left the Chamber during Item 11.4.

11.4 CCS/EDP/025 DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGN APPLICATION UPDATE

Members were advised that in line with the Dual Language Street Sign Policy adopted by Council on the 30 May 2022 the following update was presented which details the current status of applications received to date.

Application Status

Stage 1: Petition Verification

Three applications had been received at Stage 1.
Requesting signage to be erected in Irish for the following areas:

1. BAWNMORE GROVE, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 7BP
2. BAWNMORE PLACE, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 7BW
3. NEWTON GARDENS, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 7BX

The occupiers signing the petitions had been evidenced by their listing on the current Electoral Register and met the one third threshold as required within the approved Policy.

In addition, three further applications had been received and as per Council policy a maximum of three applications per month are processed on a first come basis.

Stage 2: Residents Canvass

No applications at Stage 2.

Stage 3: Street Sign Installation

No applications at Stage 3.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that a canvass of the residents of the respective streets; Bawnmore Grove, Bawnmore Place and Newton Gardens be approved.

ACTION BY: Ellen Boyd, Accessibility and Inclusion Officer

Alderman Cosgrove and Councillors McGrann, Mallon, Kelly returned to the Chamber at this point of the meeting.

11.5 CP/GR/162 INVITATION TO THE EUROPEAN MAYORS SUMMIT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

Members were advised that correspondence had been received on 20 September 2023 (circulated) from the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) inviting the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Dortmund in partnership with CAM and the Centre for Jewish Impact to the 2023 European Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism on 29 November to 1 December 2023 in Dortmund, Germany.

Organisers had confirmed that travel and accommodation expenses would be covered for the Mayor and accommodation costs only would be covered for an Officer to accompany the Mayor.

It was proposed that the Mayor accept the invitation to attend the 2023 European Mayors Summit and was accompanied by the Director of Community Planning at an approximate cost of £300 for the Director's travel expenses.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and

RESOLVED: that the attendance of the Mayor and the Director of Community Planning at the 2023 European Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Dortmund, Germany on 29 November to 1 December 2023 at an approximate cost of £300 be approved; and that a report be brought back by Officers sharing learnings from the summit.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning/Member Services

12 ITEMS FOR NOTING

12.1 L/LEI/AF/013 ANTRIM FORUM SWIMMING POOL WORKS

Members were reminded that in April 2023, the Council approved a leisure centre refurbishment programme including work to the four centres, Valley Ballyearl, Sixmile and Antrim Forum, totalling £3.35 million. Work had commenced at Antrim Forum with the recent completion of the roof refurbishment. Essential works on the swimming pool lining and balance tanks was due to start early November, with village changing and toilet refurbishment also taking place during this time. Officers had specified the works be conducted at these times as it is historically a time of year which sees a reduction in usage across the leisure centres.

To facilitate the works, the swimming pool at the Antrim Forum would be closed to the public from November 6. While the refurbishment of the village changing would continue until February, Officers had developed a process providing access to the swimming pool from early January.

Communication had been sent to all users which included local schools, swim school, and leisure members, advising of access to Council's other two swimming pools at Sixmile and the Valley Leisure Centres

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

Alderman Michael left the Chamber during Item 12.2.

12.2 PK/GEN/207 CORONATION GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Members were aware that the Coronation Garden opened to the public in May 2023 and to date had seen over 120,000 visitors. In preparation for the winter season there was a requirement to conduct maintenance works in the Garden, which included various horticultural tasks such as shaping of hedging and trees, cutting back of the wildflower meadow, and spring planting. It was also intended to complete additional required drainage works, and complete final work on the pavilion which included installing a canopy to weather proof the ground floor of the structure, allowing for programming and events to take place without possible disruption due to inclement weather.

Due to the disruptive nature of some of these works, the Garden would be closed to the general public from Monday 30 October to Sunday 12 November inclusive.

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

12.3 G/MSMO/024 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES AND PARADES

Members were advised that a schedule had been compiled of the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Services and Parades taking place in the Borough (circulated).

Robes could be worn by those who wished to do so and these were available from the Robing Room in Mossley Mill. On request, Member Services would transport these to Antrim Civic Centre for collection.

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

12.4 ED/ED/183 REQUEST FOR EXTENDED CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

Correspondence had been received (circulated) from Marks and Spencer requesting an extension to store trading hours on Sunday 24 December 2023, beyond the current 1pm-6pm.

As outlined in the letter (circulated), the company felt that opening earlier on Christmas Eve would allow shoppers more time in a less congested and pressured environment. It also highlighted positive benefits in relation to easing traffic congestion and stress on employees, as well as the overtime opportunities generated during the current cost of living crisis.

The request was for the store to open from 9am – 6pm on Sunday 24 December 2023.

Members were advised that the current legislation in Northern Ireland did not permit such an extended trading period as that requested. Under the provisions of Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, extended times for Sunday trading are only permitted where the Borough has been designated as a holiday resort and even in this case, the designation was limited to the summer months.

Members were advised that similar requests had been received from Lidl and the Abbey Centre.

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and retailers advised that current legislation does not permit extended trading hours beyond 1pm-6pm on Sunday 24 December 2023.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development and Planning

12.5 AC/TOU/006 LOUGH NEAGH

At the September Council meeting, Members requested that the Chief Executive write to DAERA requesting a presentation to the Council on the environmental situation in Lough Neagh as a result of blue green algae blooms (copy circulated).

Correspondence had now been received from DAERA (circulated). The Department has established an Operational Task Team as well as a Water Quality Steering Group (WQSG) comprising of senior officials from DAERA, NIEA and DfI. They also stated that the process of developing an action plan was ongoing and they would therefore be in touch in due course to offer a briefing session.

Members also recalled that a motion was also passed at the September

meeting calling on NILGA to establish a working group made up of DAERA and its respective agencies including NIEA, Inland Fisheries and others, along with representatives from the 4 Councils that border Lough Neagh, and other relevant agencies including NI Water and the Public Health Agency and Food Standards Agency in order to hold the department(s) and agencies accountable for the development of a time bound targeted strategy to address the poor water quality and in particular the impact of toxic blue green algae affecting Lough Neagh, and its impact on the environment, the loughs residents, businesses and recreational users. The motion went on to request that NILGA convenes (and acts as the independent oversight) for the working Group and strategy to address the issue.

A response had now been received from NILGA, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information. NILGA officials had committed to writing to the four Councils surrounding Lough Neagh with proposed next steps once they had met both DAERA and NIEA to understand the status of the working group which had already been established and the action that both organisations have in progress.

Moved by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

Alderman Michael returned to the Chamber during Item 13.

Aldermen Boyle and Magill, and Councillors Ward and Logue left and returned to the Chamber during Item 13.

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor McGrann

“That this council notes with concern that the ongoing cost of living crisis and British Government imposed cuts is exacerbating poverty and financial pain on people in the community;

believes that targeting objective need is fundamental to tackling poverty and inequality;

further believes what is required is a living wage economy and a fair social security system that targets resources where they are most needed and ensures people have a minimum essential standard of living;

recognises that the current social security system, particularly Universal Credit, is not fit for purpose, not properly funded and is failing people;

further recognises that those who rely on Universal Credit are incredibly

vulnerable to changing circumstances often beyond their control, such as loss of employment, illness, increased caring responsibilities; and family breakdown;

endorses the Guarantee our Essentials campaign which seeks to ensure everyone can afford the essentials in hard times;

and calls on the British Government to introduce an Essentials Guarantee which would ensure, at a minimum, Universal Credit/legacy benefits, would protect people from going without essentials".

AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Burbank

Seconded by Alderman Boyle that the Motion includes *"This council reiterates it's previously stated support for a pilot basic income programme and supports the efforts of the NI All Party Group on UBI to deliver a trial and seek Westminster funding."*

Councillors Goodman and McGrann accepted that this additional text be added to the Motion.

On the proposal being put to the meeting, 17 Members voted in favour, 0 against and 20 abstentions and it was

RESOLVED: that the amendment be accepted and the Motion be declared carried.

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

Alderman Ross and Councillors Burbank, Cushinan, Magill, O'Hagan and McGrann left and returned to the Chamber during Item 14.

14 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Aldermen Magill, Ross, Cosgrove and Councillor Smyth and Seconded by Aldermen Bradley, Clarke, Michael, Smyth and Councillors Archibald-Brown, Bennington, Brady, Cooper, Cosgrove, Dunlop, Flanagan, Foster, Magill, Mallon, McWilliam and Wilson

"That this Council condemns the horrific acts of terrorism perpetrated by Hamas against the State of Israel and its people on 7 October 2023 and deplores the subsequent loss of innocent life on all sides as a result of this unprovoked attack. We recognise that the actions of Hamas have placed innocent Palestinians in harm's way as Israel defends itself. We urge Israel to use all reasonable measures to avoid civilian casualties as they respond to these acts of terrorism.

We propose that this Council writes to the Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom sending our deepest sympathy on their loss and our prayerful

support and desire for peace."

AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Goodman "that *this Council condemns all attacks and suffering inflicted against civilians in the Middle East. We recognise that there is no justification for the killing of civilians or the taking of civilian hostages who must be urgently released. All acts of violence must end immediately.*

I propose that this Council condemns the killing that has taken place on all sides, and that we call for a full and immediate ceasefire, the opening of a humanitarian corridor into Gaza; and, full adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law; an international intervention with leadership brought to bear in securing dialogue, a lasting peace, and a long-term solution that ends this crisis."

The Chief Executive provided clarity to Members that as per Standing Orders the proposal was not an amendment but a new proposal. Taking on board this feedback, the Mayor did not view the proposal as an amendment and therefore did not allow the proposed amendment.

A further Amendment was then put to the meeting

Moved by Councillor Webb "that this Council condemns the horrific acts of terrorism perpetrated by Hamas against the State of Israel and its people on 7 October 2023 and deplores the subsequent loss of innocent life on all sides as a result of this unprovoked attack. We recognise that the actions of Hamas have placed innocent Palestinians in harm's way as Israel defends itself."
"Whilst this Council recognises Israel's right to self-defence, we express deep concern at the disproportionate response, and the breaches of international humanitarian law.

We mourn the loss of every innocent Israeli and Palestinian killed.

We echo the UN calls for an urgent ceasefire, for all hostages to be released, for an immediate end to the siege of Gaza, and for international humanitarian law to be upheld."

The Mayor sought clarity from the Chief Executive and the Borough Lawyer as to whether this was deemed to be an amendment. Thereafter the Mayor declared that he would not allow the proposed amendment.

The Mayor declared that a vote would be taken on the original Motion.

On the original Motion being put to the meeting, 20 Members voted in favour, 9 against and 8 abstentions and it was

RESOLVED: that the Motion be declared carried.

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

The Mayor left the Chamber at this point of the meeting and the Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor Foster

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

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

Councillors Brady and Smyth left the Chamber during Item 15.1

15 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

15.1 IN CONFIDENCE HR/GEN/004 CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

Members were reminded that, historically, legacy Newtownabbey Borough Council staff were awarded a half day for Christmas Eve. When Christmas Eve fell on a Saturday or Sunday, the half day was taken on the preceding Friday. Where it was not possible to close the service early, a half day leave in lieu was awarded, to be taken by agreement at a later date.

Since 2015, Members had approved the half day Christmas Eve arrangement for all Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Members may wish to consider granting the same arrangement this year (to be taken, where service allows), on Friday 22 December 2023 as a further token of appreciation for continued staff achievements.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED: that Council approves a half day leave for all staff for Christmas Eve, to be taken, where service allows, on Friday 22 December 2023.

ACTION BY: Jennifer Close, Director of Organisation Development

15.2 IN CONFIDENCE WM/RC/001 BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF WASTE COMPACTORS AT THE HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Council operates 24no of waste compactors at the Household Recycling Centre's in the Borough. The units allow for the compression of the waste into containers increasing the site capacity and improving the efficiency of onward transportation. Many of the compactors are over 10 years old and are resulting in increased maintenance costs.

The Business Case (circulated) had been completed with a number of replacement options considered. It had been assessed that the most advantageous option was the replacement of 12no compactors in the next

24 months with potential savings of £18,000 compared to the Do Nothing option over the 5-year assessment period.

The replacement of the compactors would also improve customer experience at the Recycling Centre's with less queuing times as a result of machinery downtime, with each of the Centre's receiving new waste compactors.

The cost of the compactors, approximately £[REDACTED], would be capitalised over a ten-year period, with an annual MRP of £[REDACTED] and purchased from a Council approved call-off tender from Gradeall. The funds would be used from the existing Fleet and Plant Capital Replacement Programme.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED: that Council approve the Business Case for the Replacement of Waste Compactors at the Household Recycling Centres.

ACTION BY: Darren Purdy, Head of Waste Operations

The Mayor returned to the Chamber during Item 15.3.

15.3 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/532 PROVISION OF ACCREDITED CLASSROOM ASSISTANT TRAINING

This programme was funded by Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership which aimed to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally and regionally. The core funding for the Partnership was provided by the Department for Communities.

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 29th September 2023. Three tender responses were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 13th October 2023 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tenders were evaluated on a two stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderers' professional conduct, economic and financial standing, management systems and practices, previous relevant experience, timescales, GDPR, and declarations and form of tender. The tenders met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. The tenders met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Sub-Stage 2 – Quality & Commercial Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on the understanding of the brief (10%), successful delivery of the training programme (25%), contract management and performance monitoring (15%) and cost (50%). One tenderer failed to meet the quality thresholds and did not proceed further. The recommendation was as follows:

| Rank | Supplier | Quality Assessment (Out of 50%) | Cost Assessment (out of 50%) | Total % Score | Total Estimated Cost (£) (Excl. VAT) |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Northern Regional College | 43% | 50% | 93% | £ [REDACTED] |

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that having achieved a score of 93%, Northern Regional College be appointed for the Provision of Accredited Classroom Assistant Training at the tendered rates.

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Principal Procurement Officer

*Councillor Brady returned to the Chamber during Item 15.4.
The Mayor resumed the Chair at this point of the meeting.*

15.4 **IN CONFIDENCE** FI/PRO/TEN/488 TENDER FOR MONKSTOWN 3G TRAINING PITCH

Members were reminded that Council in September 2022 approved the development of a 3G pitch and floodlighting at Cloyne Crescent in Monkstown.

This report presented the recent tender exercise to appoint the contractor for the scheme and to update Members on the tendered budget requirements.

PROJECT SCOPE

Project Scope would include the following elements:

- 3G artificial grass pitch for football training (59m x 36m)
- Replacement of existing flood lighting
- Ball stop fencing (5m high) and perimeter paladin fencing (2.4m high) to the training pitch
- New paladin perimeter (with vehicle & pedestrian gates) fencing to the Main Pitch (approximately 450m)
- Installation of new ball stop netting to main pitch and training Pitch
- Installation of new drainage system.

PROCUREMENT

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 28 April 2023. Thirteen completed Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) were received on 19 May 2023 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The PQQ responses were evaluated using the criteria of general information, past performance, economic and financial standing, professional conduct, health and safety, declarations and technical ability. Six contractor PQQ responses were assessed as a 'Pass' and were selected for Invitation to Tender (ITT).

Invitation to Tender (ITT) documents were issued to six contractors on the 8 September 2023. Four tenders were received by the closing date of 29 September 2023.

TENDER ANALYSIS

The four returned tenders were forwarded to the Council's appointed Consultants for this project, arithmetically checked, and evaluated based on tender assessment total price only. One contractor subsequently withdrew from the competition. E Quinn Civils Ltd submitted the lowest acceptable tender assessment total price submission as detailed below:

| Contractor | Tendered Total of the Prices (excl. VAT) | Model Compensation Event Total* (excl. VAT) | Tender Assessment Total Price (excl. VAT) |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| E Quinn Civils Ltd | | | |

**The model compensation event was included in the evaluation exercise to assess the cost impact of change resulting from potential future compensation events (variations due to unforeseen items). It includes costs for people, materials and equipment.*

The tendered total of the prices of £ from E Quinn Civils Ltd had been checked and was deemed value for money and competitive in today's market. The price was 1% above the pre tender estimate cost. The contractor had confirmed that they have priced the project specification as included in the Tender Package.

PROGRAMME AND METHOD OF WORKING

Following the appointment of the contractor, works were anticipated to commence on site in November 2023, with planned completion in May 2024.

COST SUMMARY

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Tendered Total of the Prices | |
| Model Compensation Event Total | |
| Tender Assessment Total Price | |
| Predicted Professional & other fees | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Total predicted outturn project cost | |
|---|--|

Moved by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED:

- i. **The tendered total of the prices of £ [REDACTED] (excl. VAT) from E Quinn Civils Ltd be approved giving a tendered assessment total price of £ [REDACTED] (excl. VAT).**
- ii. **The total predicted outturn project cost (works & fees) of £ [REDACTED] be approved.**

ACTION BY: Reggie Hillen, Head of Capital Development/Melissa Kenning, Principal Procurement Officer

15.5 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/450 PROVISION OF PEST CONTROL SERVICES

CONTRACT PERIOD: 3 NOVEMBER 2023 – 31 OCTOBER 2024 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 12 MONTHS, SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 6 June 2023. Two tenders were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 28 June 2023 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tenders were evaluated on a two-stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderers' professional conduct, economic and financial compliance, management systems and practices, previous relevant experience and declarations and form of tender. One tender failed to meet the requirements of this stage and did not proceed further. The remaining tender met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. The tender met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Sub-Stage 2 - Quality/Commercial Assessment (30%/70%)

The tender was evaluated on the basis of demonstrating operative adherence to service frequencies (10%), management of the contract and customer focus (10%), demonstrating continuity of service (5%), reporting (5%) and cost (70%). The recommendation was as follows:

| Supplier | Quality Assessment (out of 30%) | Cost Assessment (out of 70%) | Total % Score | Total Estimated Annual Cost (£) (excl. VAT) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Vergo Pest Management Ltd | 24% | 70% | 94% | £ [REDACTED] |

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED: that having achieved the score of 94%, Vergo Pest Management Ltd be appointed for the period of 3 November 2023 – 31 October 2024 with the option to extend for up to a further 12 months at the tendered rates.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure/Melissa Kenning, Principal Procurement Officer

15.6 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/540 PROVISION OF A PATHWAY PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT

This programme was funded by Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership which aims to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally and regionally. The core funding for the Partnership was provided by the Department for Communities.

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 6 October 2023. One tender response was opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 20 October 2023 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tender was evaluated on a two stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderers' professional conduct, economic and financial standing, management systems and practices, previous relevant experience, timescales, GDPR, and declarations and form of tender. The tender met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. The tender met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Sub-Stage 2 – Quality & Commercial Assessment

The tender was evaluated on the understanding of the brief (10%), successful delivery of the training programme (30%), contract management and performance monitoring (10%) and cost (50%). The recommendation was as follows:

| Rank | Supplier | Quality Assessment (out of 50%) | Cost Assessment (out of 50%) | Total % Score | Total Estimated Cost (£) (Excl. VAT) |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | GROUNDWORK NORTHERN IRELAND | 50% | 50% | 100% | £[REDACTED] |

While there was only one tenderer, the costs are in line with the budget available and officers are satisfied that the costs represent value for money.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED: that having achieved a score of 100%, Groundwork Northern Ireland be appointed for the Provision of a Pathway Programme for Employability Support at the tendered rates.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development and Planning/Melissa Kenning, Principal Procurement Officer

15.7 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/469 GRANT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Members were reminded that it was reported to the Community Planning Committee in September that the current grant management platform and software package, used by a number of Departments, was being withdrawn from the market at the end of the current contract period on 31 March 2024.

Given the scale of grant funding administered by the Council an online grant management platform was essential and it was reported to the Committee that a procurement exercise would be carried out to find an alternative system.

Through the central government G-Cloud Framework Officers had investigated the market and identified Flexi-Grant as a system that meets the grant management needs of the Council. The Flexi-Grant system would also enable a scale up at later date for any additional or new funding programmes.

The estimated costs, (see detailed proposal circulated), for the installation of this grant management software including data migration and training was approximately £[REDACTED] in Year One with an annual fee of £[REDACTED] due thereafter.

The Flexi Grant system would provide a significantly improved software system through an all-in-one platform that can manage all of the Councils entire programme of grants from start to finish. The system can build, score, report and budget grant applications all in one cloud based secure platform. The system offers a high level of online security and a robust audit trail which provides an improved level of assurance and limited risk for the Council. Flexi Grant are Cyber Essentials Accredited and had been independently assessed

to the ISO9001 and ISO27001 information security standards.

A key advantage of this system was its ability to adapt and scale up for any future grant funding requirements as they might be developed without incurring any additional cost. The previous systems capability was fixed and any modifications or required updates incurred additional costs on each occasion.

The start-up and Year One cost of £[REDACTED] was made up of £[REDACTED] for project implementation, which included system design, data migration and full staff training as well as annual user licensing of £[REDACTED]. The annual service provision cost for years 2, 3 and 4 would be fixed at £[REDACTED] for license fees only. Implementation costs would be capitalised and annual licencing costs would be proportionally allocated across the relevant Departments involved in administering grant funding.

It was proposed to enter into a contract with Flexi-Grant for the provision of a Grant Management Platform at a Year One cost of £[REDACTED], to include start up and project implementation, plus recurring annual cost of £[REDACTED] for a four-year term to 31 March 2028.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

RESOLVED: that the implementation of 'Flexi-Grant' grant management platform, through the G-Cloud Framework, at an estimated cost of £[REDACTED] in Year One, plus recurring annual cost of £[REDACTED] for a four-year term to 31 March 2028, be approved.

ACTION BY: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Councillor Smyth returned to the Chamber during Item 15.8.

15.8 IN CONFIDENCE G-LEG-14-352 & ED/ED/148 ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT AT THREEMILEWATER PARK

Members recalled that in August 2018 the Council agreed that the Threemilewater playing fields site could be considered as a potential site for the proposed new school to be built to replace Abbey Community College.

Subsequently the Education Authority (EA) received confirmation from the Department of Finance that approval had been granted for this site and it was agreed that negotiations with the Council regarding the sale of the land and the potential for community use should be progressed. Planning permission for the new school (Reference LA03/2022/0356/F) was granted in June 2023.

In August 2023, Land & Property Services (LPS) was appointed by the EA to act as the Honest Broker in the matter of the purchase of land at Threemilewater Park for the new Abbey College development (map circulated highlighting the land in question).

Subsequently on 1 September, correspondence was received indicating that the value of the land at [REDACTED] was considered fair and reasonable to both parties.

The EA had been made aware of the valuation and instructed LPS to proceed to forward the offer to the Council for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

RESOLVED: that the offer of £[REDACTED] by the Education Authority be accepted subject to all legal considerations.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development and Planning

15.9 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/173 OUR PROSPERITY OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUP MINUTES

The Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group met on the 12 October 2023 to review progress on strategic economic development and tourism matters and to consider priorities as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact. A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 12 October 2023 was circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Councillor Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group of 12 October 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development and Planning

15.10 IN CONFIDENCE CD/PM/164 ANTRIM TOWN BOARDWALK EXTENSION STATUS REPORT

BACKGROUND

The scheme for the extension of the Antrim boardwalk initially received planning approval (Submitted by Antrim Town Development Company (ATDC)) on 16 October 2018 with the subsequent expiry on 16 October 2023.

In November 2022 the Council approved the consultant design team to take the scheme forward.

PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the scheme was to continue the boardwalk from where the existing boardwalk ends at Bridge Street and extend it further along the Six Mile Water River to Riverside. The total length is approximately 110m. The current approved budget for the scheme was £[REDACTED] with

anticipated funding from LUF of £[REDACTED], DFC of £[REDACTED], £[REDACTED] from the Antrim Town Development Company and the remainder from the Council. The bid submitted to the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) included a package of project elements namely: Riverfront Access, Offices/Workspace and the Boardwalk extension. The subsequent funding award from LUF of £[REDACTED] was based on this package, with any requests for adjustments to be raised through a formal Project Adjustment Request (PAR) process.

PROJECT UPDATE

Following the appointment of the Council's consultant design team a review of the initial design (provided by ATDC) was undertaken and through detailed investigation a range of issues were identified which are summarised as follows:

Legal – Upon review of the original planning application and design (developed by ATDC) several properties that back onto the river, own land to the edge of the river bank. The original approved design straddled the riverbank and therefore would require agreement from these landowners if it were to be progressed. In addition, it was also identified that the link area between the boardwalk and the triangular land opposite Ulster Bar Corner was also privately owned and forms part of resident properties, which in turn prevents the two areas being linked together. Legal agreements would be required to overcome both of these issues.

NI Water – Following investigations from service maps and surveys it had been established that a large NI Water sewer runs along the river bank within the scheme which had secured planning approval. Site investigations also highlighted 'made' ground to a depth of 2m and adjacent walls with cracks being visible. Construction of the boardwalk in this location would create an unacceptably high risk of damage to the public sewer. To mitigate this risk, the boardwalk would have to be moved out from the river bank, i.e. not attached to it but rather secured into the riverbed.

DFI Rivers – In order to carry out the required works in the river or on the river bank a Schedule 6 agreement was required from DFI Rivers. Despite the boardwalk levels being confirmed in the original approved planning application, DFI Rivers were now indicating that the height must be compliant with the 1 in 100 year flood event plus a freeboard of 600mm. This would in effect raise the boardwalk by 2 metres above the current approved level. This would create issues as access under the bridge would not be achievable and the height of the 'raised' boardwalk in relation to residents' gardens particularly at Riverside could be problematic.

Invasive Species - The riverbank was currently being treated for invasive species. Any works along the riverbank would require further removal and management strategies to be implemented before works could take place in the areas where these have been identified.

CONCLUSION

Since initiation, this project had encountered a complex range of issues, including stakeholder buy in, land ownership, technical design, construction methods and ecology issues. In light of the planning expiry date of 16

October 2023 an enabling works package was developed which proposed two options;

- an entry point and initial works below Riverside
- an entry point to the rear of 3 High Street Antrim (John Knox Carpets) in order to create a new egress onto High Street opposite Ulster Bar Corner.

Taking into account the wider issues identified with the achievement of the overall scheme, namely that the current planning approval cannot be implemented and that a detailed redesign is unlikely to achieve a workable solution and would also be the subject of a fresh planning application, this enabling work was not progressed.

A preliminary discussion had taken place with representatives from LUF to explore de-scoping this element of the Antrim LUF scheme which was due to be completed in March 2024 and any implications that this may have on the approved funding award. It had been agreed that a Project Adjustment Request (PAR) be submitted at the end of the November with an anticipated decision 20 days thereafter.

A Member requested that neighbours next to the development be notified.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

RESOLVED: that the Antrim boardwalk extension project is not progressed at this time and that it is de-scoped from the Antrim LUF project via a Project Adjustment Request.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development and Planning

15.11 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/162 FUTURE BUSINESS START PROVISION UPDATE OCTOBER 2023

Background

Members were reminded that the Council had a statutory target for business start-up in the Borough. In order to continue our statutory responsibility for enterprise development following the end of European funding, an all-Council bid, led by Belfast City Council, had been prepared to secure £17 million from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This would resource the delivery of a Council-led 'Enterprise Support Service' (ESS) for an initial 2-year period.

The ESS would take the form of one Council (Belfast City Council) acting as lead on behalf of all 11 NI-Councils and a series of collaborative agreements and governance requirements to be put in place to enable delivery. The aim of the ESS was to offer flexibility to meet individual Council needs, with options to tailor support based on sectors, geography and specialisms. Given the breadth of support required, the 11 Councils had put in place three ESS

'Frameworks' to provide the full continuum of support for potential entrepreneurs and businesses across Northern Ireland.

Framework A

Procurement for the delivery of the Engage and Foundation (Start-Up) components was now complete, and the successful supplier is **Enterprise Northern Ireland**.

Members recalled from a previous update that the Council was paired with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for the Growth and Scaling components of the service. Procurement for the delivery of Growth and Scaling was now also complete and the successful supplier, **Mallusk Enterprise Park and Deirdre Fitzpatrick & Associates**, have been notified.

Belfast City Council had now received and signed a Memorandum of Understanding and grant determination letter for Shared Prosperity Funding from DLUHC. This significant progress allows for the new Service to be live from **1 November 2023**.

A regional launch event was being scheduled during Global Entrepreneurship Week in mid-November. The Council would be undertaking its own local-launch event in November, to which all Members would be invited once arrangements were finalised.

Contracts for marketing services and enquiry handling could now be issued and project initiation meetings held. A regional CRM was currently being developed by Belfast City Council Digital Services team to support and manage the participant journey through the NIESS elements.

Successful supplier for the Marketing & Website activities had been confirmed as **Ardmore** and for Enquiry Handling services it is **Like Us NE**.
Framework B & C

Frameworks B and C relate to subject and sector specialists and procurement for these opened on 21 September and closed on 23 October, with assessment scheduled thereafter.

Next Steps

The Council was previously part of a Collaboration Agreement with all other Councils for the Northern Ireland Business Start Up (Go For It) Programme, and would need to enter into another Collaboration Agreement for the Engage & Foundation elements of the new Service, with a 2-year delivery duration, prior to a Letter of Offer being issued by DLUHC.

A draft Collaboration Agreement, with relevant targets and costings updated to reflect the new application for funding was being prepared by Belfast City Council. This agreement would be reviewed by Council Officers and Legal team and would be brought to a future Council meeting.

Given the proposed timeline for delivery as set out above Officers were requesting delegated authority to proceed with the anticipated

collaboration agreement subject to a full review by the Legal services section.

The Council had previously agreed to match-fund the Programme estimated at £[REDACTED] in 2023-24 and £[REDACTED] in 2024-25, provision for which had been made in the Economic Development budget.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the Council enters into a new Collaboration Agreement for a Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service to run from 1 November 2023 – March 2025 with all other Councils, authority for which is delegated to the Director of Economic Development and Planning.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development and Planning

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

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

Members were advised that the audio recording would restart at this point.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 8.32 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.