



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021 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, P Michael and J Smyth
- Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Cooper,
H Cushinan, P Dunlop, G Finlay, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour
M Goodman, P Hamill, L Irwin, N Kelly, A M Logue, R Lynch,
A McAuley, N McClelland, T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Magill,
N Ramsay, V Robinson, S Ross, L Smyth, M Stewart, B Webb
and R Wilson
- 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 ICT – G Smyth
Head of Arts and Culture – U Fay
Head of Corporate Recovery – L Johnston
ICT Helpdesk Officer – C Bell
Member Services Manager – V Lisk
- In Attendance** : Simon Hope, Director of Communications and Customers (Interim)

In order to protect public health during the current COVID-19 emergency it was not possible to allow the public or the press to physically attend the meeting. The public and the press can access those parts of the meeting which they are entitled to attend via live stream (a link to which is on the Council website). The meeting minutes and audio recording will 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 meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor.

Councillors Cushman, Finlay, Goodman, Kelly, Logue, McAuley and McGrann joined the meeting.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor and a Member paid tribute to PSNI Officers, particularly those who had come under attack during recent events.

Moved by Councillor Finlay
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to the PSNI District Commander offering support to the local officers and thanking them for their service.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

2 APOLOGIES

Alderman McGrath
Councillors – Kinnear and Swann

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 7.7 – The Mayor
Item 7.2– Alderman J Smyth and Councillors Dunlop and Foster
Items 7.25 and 9.9 – Alderman Cosgrove

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 29 March 2021 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Moved by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council of Monday 12 April 2021 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 19 April 2021 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.

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 Monday 19 April 2021 Part 2 be approved and adopted.

Alderman Agnew joined the meeting during the next item.

7. ITEMS FOR DECISION

7.1 ED/080/VOL3 COUNCIL EVENTS 2021 UPDATE

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the January Council meeting that the Council Events Plan for 2021 be implemented and kept under review. At the March Council meeting an updated events plan was approved and it was agreed that regular updates on the events programme be presented to the Council.

A further update on the Council Events for 2021 was presented below:

Council Events Update 2021

Month/Date Normal	Event	Budget	Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations & Branding
May			
Mon 3 rd	NI Centenary lighting of 2 beacons and the opening of 2 Centenary Woods	Included in Centenary Budget	Invitation only to elected members and members of NI Centenary Working Group.
Sat 8 th	Darkness into Light	£2,000	Confirmed as virtual.
25-29 th	May Fair	£25,000	This event will not take place this year.
Sat 29 th & Sun 30 th	Antrim Live	£15,000	Incorporated into One Giant Weekend.
July to August	Summer Sunday Music	£9,000	Sunday concerts to be delivered on Sundays in JLSP and ACG and other locations across the Borough.
June			

Sat 19 th – Sun 20 th	Garden Show Ireland	£35,000	Garden Show Ireland 2022 promotional element incorporated into One Giant Weekend on 4 September.
Sat 19 th	Antrim and Newtownabbey Pipe Band Championship	£15,000 plus £5,000 in kind support	RSPBNI have requested the event becomes a Pipe Band Festival and is rescheduled to 24 July with a reduced budget of £8,000.
Fri 25 th	Schools Out for summer	£5,000	V36 at The Valley. Event delivered in its traditional format or rescheduled if restrictions in place.
July			
Fridays in July and August 2 nd July to 27 th August	Brighter Nights	£18,600	Lillian Bland Community Park Glengormley Event delivered in its traditional format, Friday evenings 6pm to 8pm, of family fun depending upon restrictions in place with Covid secure measures.
W'ends end July to end August	Theatre Ticketed Shows	Theatre budget income to cover cost	Civic Square at Mossley Mill and Parterre Garden Antrim Castle Gardens. Streaming and screening options to be included if possible.
August			
7 th	Party in the Park	£20,000	Antrim Castle Gardens Event to be rescheduled for Sunday 1 August and combined with Antrim Festival Family Sunday.
28 th and 29 th	Shoreline Festival	£31,000	Jordanstown Loughshore Park. To be included as part of One Giant Weekend 3 to 5 September in V36 at The Valley subject to consultation with Whiteabbey traders. Combined branding to include The Centenary.
September			
3 rd to 5 th	One Giant Evening One Giant Picnic	£50,000	Main Centenary events with Garden Show Ireland promotional element, Antrim Live and Shoreline Festival to be included. Combined branding to include The Centenary.
5 th	Spinning Yarns	£10,000	Mossley Mill – To be held on Sunday 5 September Combined branding to include The Centenary.
October			
30 Oct	2 x Halloween events	£38,000	V36 at The Valley The Junction, Antrim – To be confirmed.
December			
TBC	Enchanted Winter Garden	£46,000	Antrim Castle Gardens over multiple evenings in December. A decision on whether this event can proceed is needed by June to allow sufficient time for planning.
TBC	7 DEA Christmas Lights Switch On Events	£74,000	Live or Virtual depending on Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

In terms of additional animation, a proposal from a Big Wheel operator to place this outdoor attraction in Market Square Antrim from 30 April to 27 June was agreed at the March meeting. Following the Executive announcement of reopening dates on 15 April the Wheel operator requested to bring the start dates forward to 24 April, which was agreed by the Mayor and Party Group Leaders and retrospective approval was sought.

In addition to Council led events, an update on community and other events was reported to the March Council meeting with a further update below:

- May Day Steam Rally – Organisers had announced that the event planned for Sunday 2 and Monday 3 May 2021 is cancelled but had confirmed their intention to run the event on the last weekend in August subject to COVID-19 regulations at that time. This would be kept under review.
- The Irish Game Fair and Food Festival is scheduled for 26 and 27 June in Shanes Castle and is being supported by Council funding of £15,000 from the Economic Development budget.
- ISPS Handa World Golf Invitational 2021 – Event promoters were progressing planning to deliver the event from 27 July to 1 August 2021 with sponsorship support from the Council approved. Officers were engaging with organisers to support delivery.
- Statscup Supercup NI – Organisers had now confirmed that this event will not be held in 2021 but they are considering alternative activity to maintain awareness of Statscup Supercup NI throughout 2021 for which they may request Council support in future.
- Antrim Festival Group – The Group had revised plans and would now like to combine their Festival Family Sunday with Party in The Park on Sunday 1 August in Antrim Castle Gardens and deliver a second family event on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend. Both events will aim to raise funds for a new ambulance for the St John Ambulance Group.
- Radox Antrim Agricultural Show, scheduled for Saturday 24 July in Shanes Castle, had now been cancelled for 2021.
- V Fest at V36 at The Valley – A Dance Music Festival is being planned by NACN for Saturday 14 August 2021 with an application for funding of £5000 submitted by the Group to the Community Festival Fund. The Council would provide support to the organisers of this community event.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the updated events plan be approved with further updates on the events programme to be presented to the Council;**
- (b) the operation of the Big Wheel in Market Square Antrim from 24 April be retrospectively approved;**
- (c) any additional budgets from events that do not proceed or are delivered at a reduced cost be directed to the Town Centre and Villages Recovery programme.**

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

7.2 CP/CD/389 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/2022

Members were advised that the closing date for receipt of applications under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for 2021/22 was Friday 11 December 2020. To support applications to this grant aid programme, Officers delivered 2 grant workshops via Zoom and offered one-to-one support to all groups.

Members were aware that a pass threshold of 50% applies to applications under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme and that groups are not required to demonstrate match funding, however where a group evidences match funding this would be reflected in the scoring.

The total budget available for the 2021/22 Community Development Grant Aid Programme was £240,000 as provided for in the estimates, of which £50,428.20 (similar to the amount awarded in 2020/21) was expected from the Department for Communities (DfC) under its Community Support Programme for 2021/22. Notification of the 2021/22 award was expected from DfC in April 2021 and would be reported to Council in May 2021.

As a result of the current COVID-19 restrictions many Community/Voluntary Groups had been unable to deliver their annual programme of work and it was likely that this will continue into the earlier part of the new financial year therefore only premises grant applications had been assessed by Officers at this time with the intention that all other Community Development Grants would be brought to Committee for approval in May 2021.

In total 2 new applications for a Premises Grant for 2021/22 were received and assessed by Officers. The total amount requested from the 2 applications was £9,880.

One of the applications, (Muckamore Parish Development Association) successfully achieved the 50% pass threshold requesting £5,000 however the application was submitted a week late due to personal circumstances. In addition, 42 premises grant recipients, who were successful in achieving 3 year funding in 2019 and 2020, submitted expenditure profiles for 2021/22 and had requested financial assistance totalling £194,068.92.

The total amount of financial assistance requested for Premises Grants, including the application submitted late, under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for 2021/22 was £199,068.92.

A list of awards was circulated for Members' consideration and a financial summary was provided in the table below:

Summary of Community Development Premises Grant Aid 2021/22

Grant Stream	Number of Applications	Successful Applications (Scored 50% and above in 2021/22)	Total Requested	Total Awarded
Premises (New)	2	1	£9,880.00	£5,000.00
Premises (Year 3)	28	N/A	£132,235.00	£132,235.00
Premises (Year 2)	14	N/A	£ 61,833.92	£ 61,833.92
Total	44	1	£203,948.92	£199,068.92

In relation to the two applications submitted under year 1 from Mallusk and District Community Support and Muckamore Parish Development Association both these groups took on the responsibility of running their own premises during the 2020/21 financial year and were therefore applying for a premises grant for the first time.

As there are still funds available under this category it was proposed that the late application from Muckamore Parish Development Association be approved and that Council Officers work with Mallusk and District Community support to improve their application for further consideration at the Community Planning Committee in May 2021.

Members were also advised that proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of financial assistance will be withdrawn.

It was imperative that all community/voluntary groups ensure compliance with all relevant and applicable COVID-19 Government and Public Health Guidance and Regulations relating to their premises in the 2021/22 financial year.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – that

- I. Year 2 and Year 3 Premises Grants totalling £194,068.92 be approved;**
- II. the late application submitted by Muckamore Parish Development Association for £5,000, which achieved the required 50% pass threshold for funding, be approved; and**
- III. Mallusk and District Community Support be permitted to resubmit a revised Premises Grant Application for approval at the Community Planning Committee in May 2021.**

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

7.3 CP/P4/047 PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Members were reminded of the previous correspondence from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) outlining six thematic areas for the PEACE PLUS Programme:

- **Thematic Area 1:** Building Peaceful & Thriving Communities;
- **Thematic Area 2:** Delivering Economic Regeneration & Transformation;
- **Thematic Area 3:** Empowering & Investing in our Young People;
- **Thematic Area 4:** Healthy & Inclusive Communities;
- **Thematic Area 5:** Supporting A Sustainable Future;
- **Thematic Area 6:** Building & Embedding Partnership & Collaboration.

Members were advised that a public consultation on the PEACE PLUS Programme was launched by SEUPB on 10 March 2021, which closes on 12 May 2021.

The consultation is supported by a range of documents, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>.

The documents propose that Thematic Area 1: €90m, is dedicated to: "enable and empower local community partnerships, led by the local authorities, to select and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis, which will result in shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation."

While the other five thematic areas do not preclude applications from local authorities, thematic area one appears to be the one most focused on local authority delivery. Thematic area one proposed that clusters of PEACE PLUS Local Community Partnerships are developed on a sum-local authority area basis (possibly by DEA). It was further proposed that each Local Community PEACE PLUS Partnership will be resourced to prepare a PEACE PLUS Action Plan and the amalgamation of these would constitute the PEACE PLUS Action Plan for the whole of the local authority. The plans would be centered on three core themes:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation
2. Thriving and peaceful communities; and
3. Building respect for all cultural identities

The Consultation Information Document explained the proposed budget allocation, sub-theme investment areas and types of actions to be supported under each thematic area.

A draft Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council response to the PEACE PLUS Programme Public Consultation was circulated for Members' consideration.

The Special EU Programmes Body wrote to councils in early March (letter circulated) setting out their plans for PEACE PLUS Action Plan developmental resources. In the letter the SEUPB confirmed that it has initiated a process to

appoint consultants to support Councils in the Co-design of Local Community PEACE Action Plans. In addition, SEUPB had confirmed a budget for each of the 17 Councils of up to €100k in 2021 for expenditure on resourcing the development of the plan. This expenditure would need to be incurred up front by each council and claimed back retrospectively.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED – that the draft response to the PEACE PLUS Programme Public Consultation be approved.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

7.4 CP/GR/118 GOOD RELATIONS AUDIT AND STRATEGY

Members were aware that Sector 3 Solutions were appointed to deliver the Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2020-25, and associated Action Plan 2021-22.

The strategy developed through this process would reflect the Government's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. It outlines how Government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:

1. Our Children and Young People
2. Our Shared Community
3. Our Safe Community
4. Our Cultural Expression

A series of engagements were held through online surveys, focus groups and engagement with Elected Members, Council Officer, Key Stakeholders, and individuals across each of the 7 DEA's. The draft Audit and Strategy 2020-25 circulated, 2021/22 Action Plan circulated for Members' approval along with S75 screening form circulated and Rural Needs Impact Assessment form circulated.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED – that the Good Relations 2020-25 Audit and Strategy, 2021/22 Action Plan, S75 screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment be approved.

ACTION BY: Jen Cole, Good Relations Officer

7.5 CP/P4/010 PEACE IV, AMENDMENT TO LETTER OF OFFER SHARED SPACES AND SERVICES THEME (PIV 4063)

Members were reminded of the update provided on 8 March 2021 regarding Antrim and Newtownabbey Peace IV Partnership Shared Spaces and Services theme. Correspondence circulated had been received from the

Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) approving the request for modifications to the Peace IV Local Action Plan Shared Spaces and Services theme.

The modifications now meant that the existing letter of offer, at a grant intervention rate of 41.52%, would be amended to cover all expenditure up to 29 February 2020. SEUPB would issue a new Letter of Offer for Shared Spaces and Services to cover the period 1 March 2020 until 31 March 2022 permitting Council to use uncommitted funding on the remaining Shared Spaces and Services projects at an intervention rate of up to 100%.

The total grant funding for the Shared Spaces and Services theme would remain at £1,211,448.70 / €1,429,509.46. There remained an uncommitted SEUPB Grant contribution of around £835,000 that was available to fund the projects listed below.

The SEUPB approval of the modification request submitted by Council would reduce the Council's contribution to the projects listed below:

Project	Location	Original Project Contributions	Anticipated Project costs	Anticipated Council Contribution
V36 Urban Sports Park	Adjacent to Valley LC	£145,882.00 – PIV £300,000 – ANBC	£750,000 (post-tender cost)	£0
<i>The following projects are at cost estimate stage with full procurement to begin shortly</i>				
Community Garden Accessibility Project	Monkstown	£8,281.25 - PIV	TBC	TBC
New access to Health and Wellbeing Community Garden and Arts and Craft Hub at Monkstown	Monkstown	£17,675 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Reimaging (Whiteabbey CC)	Whiteabbey Community Centre	£24,689.60 – PIV	TBC	TBC
Hearts and Voices of Glengormley Village	Glengormley Town	£13,280 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Ballyclare River Snake, Townhall Civic Art Project	Ballyclare Town Centre	£20,800 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Community garden and cookery hub	Crumlin United Football Club	£27,800 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Conservatory at Toomebridge Lock Keepers Cottage	Adjacent to Toome Canal	£21,200 – PIV £25,600 - TBC	TBC	TBC
The Viaduct Reclaimed – for Community Gain	Randalstown Viaduct	£14,750 – PIV £8,500 - TBC	TBC	TBC

The issue of the new letter of offer was subject to the condition that: "Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will confirm, in writing, that any cost overruns relating to the approved Shared Spaces and Services Local Action Plan will be covered by Council. SEUPB had requested this response by 30 April 2021".

V36 Skate Park

The V36 Urban Sports Park project was on the Council's Capital Projects Priority List, approved at the March 2021 Council meeting.

Council had three tender returns for the project, but given the very recent approval from SEUPB, Officers had not yet had the opportunity to evaluate these to make a tender award recommendation. It was estimated that the project would take 5 months to complete on site and, given the need to avoid laying the concrete surface in poor weather conditions, it was recommended to expedite the appointment of the contractor and to begin work on site as soon as possible to avoid construction over the winter. In order to achieve this the Members wished to delegate authority for the appointment of the contractor to the Chief Executive as this would reduce the time required for Committee and Council approvals.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED – that

- 1. Members accept the new letter of offer at a grant intervention rate of up to 100% and confirm that any project cost overruns are the responsibility of the Council;**
- 2. Members approve the V36 Urban Sports Park Project to proceed and give the Chief Executive delegated authority in the procurement process.**

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager/Reggie Hillen, Head of Capital Development

7.6 AC/EV/022 KEYWORKER APPRECIATION

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting on 29 June 2020 a motion by Alderman Kinahan and seconded by Councillor Smyth was unanimously carried. The Motion being that

"This Council congratulates all those frontline workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the Covid 19 pandemic on all our behalf's often at great risk to themselves and calls on Council to organise an 'Event of Appreciation' to be held at some suitable future date so that we can show our gratitude and thanks for all that they have done"

An all-party Working Group was established to take this forward with Group Leaders nominating Councillors Dunlop, Smyth, Finlay, Goodman and McClelland to the Group. At its first meeting in March 2021 Cllr Smyth was appointed as Chair. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group were circulated for Members' approval.

At the meeting on 30 March 2021 the Group were advised that there is a UK wide NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day planned for Monday 5 July

2021. This date marking the day that the NHS was established in 1948. The detailed programme for the day was circulated for Members' information with full detail on this initiative available online using the link <https://www.nhsfrontlineday.org>. Having considered the proposed plan, the Group agreed that the Council show its appreciation for our NHS, Social Care and Frontline workers by participating in, promoting and supporting the UK day on 5 July 2021 as follows:

1. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenant raise a specially commissioned NHS flag at 10am at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre and Ballyclare Town Hall. An image of this flag was circulated for Members' information.
2. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor outside Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre lead the Borough in a two-minute silence at 11am, which is broadcast on Council's social media channels with the Last post and Reveille played.
3. The Council leads the Borough in participating in A Nations Toast, which will take place across the UK at 1pm with Captain Katy Connor leading Northern Ireland's toast from the top of Slieve Donard. Brass Bands England have written a special anthem to coincide with the Nation's Toast as their personal tribute to all those who give so much 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Council will organise for local bands to play this music in each of the main 5 town centres at 1pm on 5 July with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Elected Members in attendance to make a toast at their preferred location.
4. The Council's parks and open spaces to be decorated with NHS banners (similar in design to the flag) and people encouraged to come together (within COVID-19 guidelines) at 1pm for picnics in the park but also encouraged to participate at home in their gardens or come together as local communities for street parties at this time with all activities dependent upon COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.
5. Two open air afternoon teas to be held on either side of the Borough at 4pm as point 4 above with the community also encouraged to participate at home or in local areas.
6. All churches in the Borough with bells will be invited to take part in UK wide Bell Ringing at 8pm. The Council's social media channels will be used to invite all residents to participate in Clapping Our Heroes at 8pm led by The Mayor and Deputy Mayor outside Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre with this broadcast on Council's social media channels.

The Group also agreed that the Council support those who wish to participate in this UK wide initiative by sharing of the UK programme and information on participation which encourages local groups to upload their own events to the UK web site. Groups can be signposted to the site to purchase their own NHS flag at a cost of approximately £35, so that as many facilities as possible fly the flag to show support for the NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers. £5 from each flag purchased is going to the NHS Charities Together and National Care Association.

In addition, it was agreed that the Council provide support for those who wish to participate at home or in their local communities through supply of

resources such as arts worksheets about how to make rainbow decoration, bunting and other engaging ways to get involved.

The Group noted that given where we are in the ongoing Pandemic this UK wide day of reflection and measured celebration was appropriate at this time and an Event of Appreciation for Borough NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers could be further considered at a date in the future.

Moved by Councillor Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

RESOLVED – that the Council's participation, promotion and support of the UK Wide NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day on 5 July 2021 as outlined be approved.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Having declared an interest in the next item, the Mayor asked the Chief Executive to take the Chair.

7.7 AC/GEN/068 FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS; REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Members were reminded that a request from For Your Freedom and Ours, to install a stone memorial on the Ballybogey Road Polish air crash site and an interpretation panel in Carnmoney Cemetery near the grave of a Polish airman, as part of the Polish Wings Heritage Trail, at an approximate cost of £1,500 was agreed at the December 2020 Committee.

The project was established by the For Our Freedom and Yours CIC with support from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in NI and the NI War Memorial Museum in 2020 to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 2020.

For Your Freedom and Ours CIC was established with support from the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, to promote historical links between Northern Irish and Polish communities. The Group aims to demonstrate historical events combined with a modern learning approach to gain a wider understanding of shared history can promote positive relations between communities.

For Your Freedom and Ours CIC was now hoping to welcome the Polish Heritage Flight to Northern Ireland on a two-day tour in August 2021. The Polish Heritage Flight is a part of the Historic Aircraft Collection based at the Imperial War Museum Duxford and is formed by the Hawker Hurricane G-HURI and Supermarine Spitfire BM597, both in the Polish Air Force markings used by Polish Airmen in the Second World War, including the Battle of Britain.

As part of the visit there would be an organised flypast over locations related to the history of the Polish Air Force in Northern Ireland, including Glengormley, Belfast, Lisburn, Ards and Ballyhalbert. There were also plans for an open day at the Newtownards Airfield for spectators who would like to see the Polish

Heritage Flight from a closer distance.

The Mayor had accepted an invitation from the Group to be part of a steering committee to deliver the project to commemorate the history of the Polish Air Force in Northern Ireland in the Centenary year.

The project was estimated to cost £12,000 and the Group had requested that the Council consider a contribution of £1,000 toward this cost. A similar sum would be requested from the other partner Councils of Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED – that the request from For Your Freedom and Ours CIC for £1,000 toward the cost of the Polish Heritage Flight two-day visit to Northern Ireland in August 2021, be approved

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

The Mayor resumed the Chair.

7.8 FI/FIN/046 CALL FOR EVIDENCE - DAMAGES (RETURN ON INVESTMENT) BILL

Members were advised that correspondence had been received circulated from the Northern Ireland Assembly in relation to the Damages (Return on Investment) Bill which was introduced into the Assembly on 1 March 2021. The Bill passed Second Stage on 9 March 2021 and the Committee Stage commenced on 10 March 2021.

The Committee for Justice would welcome views/comments on the content of the Bill.

Written submissions should be structured to address specific Clauses or the Schedule of the Bill. If appropriate, it should include any amendments you wish to propose to the text of the Bill.

Information regarding the Bill could be obtained from the Assembly's website <http://nia1.me/4gr> or could be provided on request by emailing the Committee at damagebill@niassembly.gov.uk

The closing date for written submissions was **Friday 30 April 2021.**

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and

RESOLVED – that Members respond on a party political or individual basis.

ACTION BY: Denise Lynn, PA to Finance & Governance

Alderman Brett left the Chamber during the next item.

7.9 HR/ER/002 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION DISSOLUTION

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) in relation to the dissolution of the Commission. A copy of the correspondence was circulated for Members' information.

The Department for Communities had informed the Commission that they had no new information in relation to the Dissolution Order to wind up the Commission and on this basis it would be necessary for the Commission to determine a financial scheme up to 31 March 2022.

In accordance with the 2021/23 Management and Dissolution Plan, the Commission had estimated its total financial requirement to be £459,002 for the year ahead. Income from ongoing operations, which was offset against this figure, was estimated at £40,000, leaving an amount of £419,002 to be raised.

By virtue of the apportionment arrangements, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was required to pay £26,137 by 30 April 2021.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – that a payment of £26,137 be made to the Local Government Staff Commission and the Chief Executive write to the Minister for Communities encouraging early dissolution and to request a timescale for this.

ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke, Director of Organisation Development

7.10 L/LEI/SD/015 YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CLUB

Your School Your Club (YSYC) is a three year rolling capital funding programme offered by the Department of Communities and administered by Sport Northern Ireland (Sport N.I.) The programme aims to promote sports club and community use of school sports facilities, recognising that the opening of the school's sports estate for community and club use would have a major impact on the provision of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland.

Council, in partnership with Ballyclare High School was recently awarded £7,500 from the programme to install automated access control system at Foundry Lane synthetic pitch. Subsequently, Officers were contacted by Ballyclare High School regarding assistance to upgrade the cricket facilities at the school. Due to the cricket facilities also being used by Templepatrick Cricket Club, the proposed project would meet the criteria for the YSYC funding programme. While not directly involved, Sport N.I. was seeking Council to support the application to ensure it was aligned with any wider strategic objectives Council may have. The project costs were as follows:

Project title	Project cost	Amount requested from Sport NI	Funding covered by Ballyclare High School
Upgrade to cricket wicket and 2 practice bays	£28,986	£20,986	£8,000

A letter of support from Templepatrick Cricket Club was circulated.

Moved by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED – that Council supports the application to the Your School Your Club funding programme made by Ballyclare High School.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programme Manager/Deaglan O’Hagan, Commercial Programming Manager

7.11 EH/EHS/FC/008 PUBLIC ANALYST APPOINTMENT

Members were advised that Article 27 of the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991 requires that the Council appoint one or more persons to act as Public Analyst(s) within the district of the Council. Belfast City Council had recently completed its tendering process on behalf of the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland for interested parties to provide the Public Analyst Service.

The contract to provide Public Analyst Services for the 11 Councils had been awarded to Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd (EFTI) who are a subsidiary of Eurofins (award letter was circulated).

Eurofins is an international group which provides a range of analytical testing services. The contract period is for 2 years up to 31 March 2023 with the option to renew for a further 2 years.

The qualifications required by Analysts are set out in the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) Regulations (NI) 2013. The following persons, employed by Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd, fulfil the legal requirements for appointment as Public Analysts on behalf of the Council.

Public Analysts

Duncan Kenelm Arthur BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Nigel Kenneth Payne MSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Joanne Hubbard BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Lilian Emma Jane Downie MChem, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Michelle Evans BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Donna Hanks BSc, MChemA, MRSC

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED – that the above persons be appointed as Public Analysts to the Council under Article 27 (1) of the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991.

ACTION BY: Colin Kelly, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

7.12 PK/GEN/150 DAERA CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISION OF ACCESS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND (NI LOCAL COUNCILS)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) had issued a Key Stakeholder Consultation, The Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland, circulated. The consultation document sought the views of key stakeholders on the current outdoor recreation legislation with regards to enabling public access to the natural environment, while protecting that environment and ensuring landowners' rights. An extension had been provided by the Department to allow for councils to work together.

A wider public consultation was expected later in the year. This Key Stakeholder Consultation was one of the key actions, in Sport Northern Ireland's Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland in 2014, *Our-Great-Outdoors-The-Outdoor-Recreation-Action-Plan-for-Northern-Ireland_SportNI-2014.pdf*. It does not include consideration of an overall 'Right to Roam', nor the development of National Parks.

Public access to land in Northern Ireland is more restricted than other parts of the United Kingdom. Land ownership in Northern Ireland is significantly different from the rest of the United Kingdom as most farms are of a much smaller scale, with a proportionately higher number of the population with land owning interests.

Although some areas of the countryside may have been used freely for recreation for many years, the public have no general rights to wander over open land, mountains, moorland, woodlands, the foreshore, etc. However, many landowners tolerate access to their land without a formalised agreement. The physical and mental health benefits of spending more free time outdoors during the COVID-19 restrictions had been significant and highlighted the importance and timeliness of this Consultation.

Quality recreational access was restricted to public rights of way, permissive paths and areas of public land that people are invited to use (6% of total land area) – managed by Forest Service, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Department for Communities, Councils, Loughs Agency, Northern Ireland Water and Waterways Ireland.

Working alongside the Northern Ireland Outdoor Recreation Forum (NORF)*, Officers had developed an in-depth response to this consultation which was circulated for consideration.

**NORF was established as an action from The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland and sits outside Government.*

In summary, the draft response included:

1. A lack of sufficient public access to the natural environment in Northern Ireland.
2. Public Rights of Way should not be the focus of any new legislation.
3. Key challenges in establishing and managing public access - primarily irresponsible behaviour and concerns relating to occupier's liability.
4. Proposals to provide incentives to landowners to facilitate access and to address fears over occupier's liability.
5. Proposals to provide further access to public land for outdoor recreation.
6. The opportunity and need for a new Outdoor Recreation Bill.
7. The approach and benefits of Community Trail Plans.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
 Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – that Council approves the draft response to DAERA's Consultation on the Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland, subject to any agreed amendments.

ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer

7.13 WM/WM/040 WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS

Members were reminded that in 2019 a report was considered by the operations Committee relating to 4 consultation documents, including the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Further formal consultation documents had now been issued in relation to both.

As the proposed legislation would have significant impact on Council waste collection services it was proposed that attendance is considered at a virtual seminar which will provide an opportunity for discussion on the far-reaching implications of the consultations. A seminar (Resources and Waste Strategy Revisited) was scheduled to take place virtually on 12 May 2021 delivered by Let's Recycle (the UK's leading independent dedicated website for businesses, local authorities and community groups involved in recycling and waste management). The cost was £99 per local authority delegate. As the consultation documents were around 200 pages each, such discussions will be crucial in informing the response from Council. The potential legislation would have significant impact on the Waste Management service once implemented and therefore Member and Officer attendance was proposed.

For Members' convenience, a short synopsis of the consultations was set out below. More detailed summaries of the key issues would be provided for the May meeting of the Operations Committee and draft responses were being developed for consideration at May Council in order to meet the deadline for submission.

1. **Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging** – this will require packaging producers to pay the full costs of dealing with the

waste they produce. Council would be able to recover the full costs of recycling and waste collections services, associated treatment and disposal fees, and education/awareness programmes related to this packaging. This was expected to cost UK producers in the region of £2.7bn in the first full year of implementation.

The full document could be found at:

https://consult.defra.gov.uk/extended-producer-responsibility/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging/supporting_documents/23.03.21%20EPR%20Consultation.pdf

2. **Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland** – this would require consumers to pay a 20p deposit on each glass, can or plastic container purchased, which would then be reimbursed when the empty container was returned. This consultation relates solely to deposit return schemes (for drinks containers explicitly) and not a reward and return scheme. It was a system whereby you pay an upfront deposit which requires you to return the container to redeem.

The consultation document could be found at:

https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs/supporting_documents/DRS%20Consultation.pdf

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that attendance at the virtual seminar, Resources and Waste Strategy Revisited, on 12 May 2021 be approved for the Chair of Operations, or his nominee, and the Council's representatives on arc21 as an approved duty, and at least one officer, at a cost of £99 per person.

ACTION BY: Michael Lavery, Head of Waste Management/Member Services

Alderman Brett returned to the Chamber during the next item.

7.14 PK/BIO/011 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS – SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN IRELAND

Correspondence had been received from Sustainable Northern Ireland (circulated) requesting a financial contribution of £5,000 for the incoming financial year. Members were reminded that Council has provided support to Sustainable NI for a number of years.

Sustainable NI works with a range of stakeholders, including local councils, with the aim of a sustainable low carbon future. Council had also nominated two Members to sit on the All Party Group for Sustainable Development, Councillors Lynch and Webb.

Sustainable NI provides valuable access to information which is useful to the Climate Change Working Group.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED - that a contribution of £5,000 is made to Sustainable Northern Ireland for financial support for 2021/2022.

ACTION BY: Vicki Kyles, Executive Assistant to the Director of Operations

7.15 AC/EV/66 CENTENARY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

A meeting of the NI Centenary Working Group was held on 23 March 2021 and the minutes of this meeting were circulated for Council approval, having been approved at its meeting on 22 April 2021.

Since the March meeting Councillor Ross had requested that the civic buildings be lit red to mark the Centenary on 3 May 2021. This request cannot be considered under the current Council Light Up Civic Buildings Policy and Council approval was required.

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Foster that the minutes of the NI Centenary Working Group meeting of 23 March 2021 and the light up of civic buildings red on Monday 3 May be approved.

AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Kelly that the play park in Rathcoole be named The Centenary Play Park and that Item 11 of the minutes be amended to show that there is an established protocol in the Mayor's Office to deal with unavailability of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

On the amendment being put to the meeting, 15 Members voted in favour, 21 against and 1 abstention, and it was declared not carried.

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting, 21 Members voted in favour, 15 against and 1 abstention and it was

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the NI Centenary Working Group meeting of 23 March 2021 and the light up of civic buildings red on Monday 3 May be approved.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

7.16 AC/GEN/072 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLANS

Members were reminded that Action Plans for each of the five main towns of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown (circulated) were approved at the March Council meeting.

Masterplans were also being developed for each Town and will be brought to the Council in due course for approval. As part of this process site visits to each of the towns for DEA Elected Members had been taking place with appropriate Directors and Officers in attendance and a further report would be brought to the Council in May regarding appropriate structures to engage with stakeholders at a local level.

Since the announcement by the Executive of the easing of further restrictions, Officers had put in place a range of measures to support the safe re-opening of retail and close contact services with 250 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) packs being distributed across the Borough. From Friday 30 April, Covid Aware Ambassadors would be present across our town centres as a visible reminder to the public to maintain social distancing and to promote the wearing of face coverings. Council staff would also be undertaking door to door business visits to promote the Council's Covid Aware Scheme. Through the scheme the Council aimed to promote consumer confidence by recognising various controls being in place by the business to mitigate the COVID-19 risk. Participating business were provided with a certificate and marketing materials to promote themselves as being Covid Aware. In anticipation of the re-opening of retail at the end of April, Officers were preparing animation events within town centres such as music and street entertainment starting on Saturday 1 May. Stencils were being applied to the pavements as markers to remind the public to maintain social distancing.

Awnings continued to be provided in Town Centres and further consideration would be given to an extension of the scheme to other areas, subject to funding. A further 25 hand sanitisation stations were also being purchased for use by businesses in local villages.

In summary, the action plans focused on the creation of connected clean and vibrant spaces across the Borough which will be attractive and welcoming spaces for both residents and visitors and encourage increased footfall and dwell in our towns and therefore support economic recovery of all sectors. The various COVID-related support measures outlined above would also ensure that the Council is providing the required support to traders, residents and visitors as the economy opens up again.

Moved by Alderman Michael
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and

RESOLVED - that the updated Town Centre Action Plans be approved and that monthly updates continue to be provided to the Council.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture/Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

7.17 WM/WM/40 CALL FOR EVIDENCE – COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Correspondence, circulated, had been received from the Committee for Infrastructure regarding an inquiry into the ambition to decarbonise road transport in Northern Ireland. The Committee was interested in Northern

Ireland's readiness to meet the Government's plans to prohibit the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030 and plug-in hybrids from 2035 and exploring the future pathway to decarbonising road transport in Northern Ireland, by:

- Identifying Northern Ireland's current transport policy for the transition to a carbon neutral system, what can be improved and what can be learned from elsewhere;
- Identifying potential barriers to Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) adoption; and
- Exploring the role of public transport, walking, cycling and reduced demand for travel in decarbonising road transport.

The Committee had established an online survey to gather the views of the public and was also seeking the views of stakeholders involved in road transport such as public transport operators, road haulage operators and public sector fleet managers and the 11 Councils. Council had been asked its views on the move to electric and/or hydrogen vehicles by answering the following questions:

- What are the main challenges to the uptake of ULEV?
- What are the main benefits to the uptake of ULEV?
- What support to assist a move to ULEV would you like to see from the NI Executive?
- Do you believe there should be official targets for your sector and have you any views on the potential timescale this could take?
- Have you begun to plan for decarbonising your fleet and if so could you provide some detail on this?
- Have you estimated the cost of decarbonising your fleet?

A draft response had been prepared and was circulated for consideration.

In summary, the points made include the need for advice and guidance regarding the best types of low carbon vehicles by type, need for consistency cost of replacement of fleet and the benefits of moving to a ULEV fleet for reducing Council's carbon footprint.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that approval is given for the response to the Committee for Infrastructure's Call for Evidence, subject to any agreed changes.

ACTION BY: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

7.18 G-LEG-COVID REMOTE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 were introduced to enable Councils to hold meetings remotely. These Regulations are due to expire on 7 May 2021.

The Department for Communities had advised that there would be a short time lapse between 7 May 2021 and the extension to these Regulations.

Members noted that the Council Chamber in Mossley Mill could accommodate 12 Members including the Mayor/ Committee Chair whilst complying with Social Distancing. Members were advised that the risk of any potential challenge to Council decision making during the interim period could be minimised if there is a quorum of Members present in the Chamber and that this can be achieved in line with the workplace exemptions contained within the COVID-19 Regulations.

In the interim period it was proposed that Council and Committee Meetings, with the exception of the Planning Committee, continue to be held remotely and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to implement the decisions made by the Council.

It was also proposed that meetings of the Planning Committee be held "in person" with appropriate social distancing measures in place and with the public attending remotely and/or in a separate part of Mossley Mill.

The Annual Meeting would be held in the Theatre at the Mill to accommodate all Members and a limited number of invited guests, subject to social distancing requirements.

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED - that the proposed interim arrangements be put in place to facilitate decision making by the Council during the period when remote meetings cannot be held.

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

7.19 AC/GEN/073 RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING COVID -9

Members were reminded that at the February Council meeting the following Council Motion was unanimously carried.

*Proposed by Councillors Leah Smyth and Robert Foster
Seconded by Councillors Jeannie Archibald-Brown and Glenn Finlay*

'Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council recognises the difficulties and challenges all people have gone through during periods of lockdowns and restrictions. In particular, we recognise the challenges faced by those children in primary and secondary level education in facing these challenges and commend them for how they have addressed such fundamental changes to life and learning. We would ask if officers could provide recommendations as to how we, as a Council, can show recognition of their bravery, determination, and resilience during this difficult time.'

Officers had developed recommendations to recognise this which were circulated.

Moved by Councillor Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that the proposals to recognise the bravery, determination and resilience of school children during the COVID-19 pandemic be approved at a cost of £20,000.

Some Members enquired on arrangements for school children living within the Borough who attend schools outside the Borough.

Moved by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to neighbouring Councils, advising of this initiative and requesting that they replicate this within their areas.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture/Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.20 ED/ED/185 FREEPORTS PROPOSAL NI - UPDATE

The UK Government, through the 2020 Spending Review, had committed to establishing 10 Freeports throughout the UK, and intended to have the first in England operational before the end of 2021. It indicated that it was working constructively and collaboratively with the devolved administrations to seek to establish at least one Freeport in each nation of the UK.

The policy model is geographically flexible, permitting multiple customs sites and allowing multiple ports to collaborate where a clear economic rationale to do so exists. A bidding process was launched in England in November 2020.

The locations of Freeports in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland would be determined collectively by the UK Government and devolved administrations. An early presentation of INI thinking was circulated which suggested that NI as an entity could be considered as a Freeport.

The Council had been involved in high level early discussions with Invest NI officials regarding the proposals.

Key Issues

1. The Government concept for Freeports includes simplified customs procedures, streamlined planning and a package of tax reliefs. The aim is to create a competitive environment which attracts investment and creates jobs. This has to be balanced against risk of displacement across Council boundaries should there be favourable tax reliefs in specific areas as well as the Council's rates base.

2. A Freeport in Northern Ireland could look at how a more attractive business environment can be created particularly for those firms who might benefit from NI's unique position regarding both the EU and UK's customs territory.
3. Freeports are a component of the UK Government's investment strategy post Brexit. The aim is to attract investment from around the world which ignites private sector growth, helping to level up the country and reducing pressure on public finances.
4. Maximising the innovation potential of a Freeport there may be opportunity to:
 - Drive NI's relative competitive advantage in key sectors
 - Support critical sectors to address global techno-economic challenges such as net zero carbon adoption
 - Stimulate new high value sectors- wrap around provisions for new SMEs and FDI
5. The table below outlines a list of potential incentives with holding Freeport status that have featured in consultations to date:
 - i. Stamp Duty exemption
 - ii. VAT & Excise facilitation solutions
 - iii. Employers NIC relief
 - iv. Competitive Corporation Tax rate
 - v. Enhanced Capital Allowances for new fixed assets
 - vi. Business Rates relief
 - vii. Enhanced Tax relief for Skills Partnerships
 - viii. Enhanced Entrepreneurs relief for Micro & SME's
 - ix. Enhanced Tax relief on R&D Investments
 - x. Rates exemption for zero carbon capital investment
 - xi. Investment loan for zero carbon and climate resilient infrastructure
 - xii. Planning - Permitted Development Rights legislative reform
 - xiii. Planning - Development Orders
 - xiv. Planning - Simplified Planning Zones
 - xv. Planning - Enterprise Zones
 - xvi. Planning – National Policy Statement for Ports (NI version)
 - xvii. Enhanced rail networks and infrastructure to grow opportunities for freight travel into/from ROI and beyond
 - xviii. Rail network – passing loops
 - xix. Rail network – new halts and improvements to halts
 - xx. Legislation to declassify Trust Ports
 - xxi. Increased R&D public funding (UK levelling up agenda) Challenge Funds
 - xxii. City Deal Innovation Projects – Tapered Revenue Guarantee

6. The next stage of work planned by Invest NI would see a full appraisal being developed to outline and analyse the options for a Freeport in NI.
7. A survey was circulated which was issued to Council officers as a potential 'Straw man' approach, however no return had been submitted to date given the uncertainty involved and the political decision making required to take a position on the Freeport concept.

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that

- i. **the ongoing development of the proposal for a Freeport in Northern Ireland and the Council approach to feeding into this be noted;**
- ii. **Officers participate in discussions, as appropriate, regarding the development of a proposal for a Freeport or Freeports in Northern Ireland;**
- iii. **Members advise Officers of any priority areas they feel should be included in the discussions.**

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

7.21 ED/ED/186 ERDF COLLABORATIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Members were reminded that it was agreed in January 2021, that the Council would lead the development of a collaborative bid with the other 10 Councils to secure an underspend in the Local Economic Development (LED) budget from Invest NI. This bid had been successful with a Letter of Offer for £866,520 issued to the Council as the lead partner.

The timeframe for programme delivery is up to March 2023 with a target of 198 businesses benefitting from 1-1 mentoring support. Members were reminded that the broad programme aims are as follows:-

- 1 To drive 'digital inclination' amongst the target market aligned to an innovation roadmap (for each SME/micro-business).
- 2 To 'demystify' various advanced digital technologies /tools through high quality ideation support, exposure to and sharing of good practice, and active experimentation.
- 3 To put in place a digital acceleration plan for each, to route participating businesses onto more intensive supports in the 'digital innovation ecosystem' (e.g. via Digital Catapult, impending digital offers in various City/Growth Deals, Invest NI supports etc).

In order to advance the procurement exercise, it was proposed that Stephanie Morrow, who assisted with the concept development be appointed to draft the tender specification. The cost of which will be shared by the participating Councils.

Given the tight timeframe for delivery Officers were currently investigating the potential to use an IT framework referred to as 5Cloud which could expedite the procurement process significantly. Should this approach be acceptable to Invest NI and it is possible to progress speedily, it was anticipated the implementation could commence by September 2021.

Finally, Members were also aware that work is underway to prepare a bid under the Complementary Fund to provide a small capital grant to businesses engaged in digital transformation. It was intended that the funding could cover aspects such as equipment, software etc. This intervention would provide a natural follow on to the Digital Transformation Programme and vital funding to enact their transformation plans.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED - that

- i. the Letter of Offer for £866,520 be accepted on behalf of the 11 Councils;**
- ii. a draft tender specification be advanced through assistance from Stephanie Morrow;**
- iii. 'in principle' approval be granted to progress the procurement exercise through the 5Cloud framework.**

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

7.22 ED/ED/173 OUR PROSPERITY OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUP MINUTES

The Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group met on the 25 March 2021 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 23 March 2021 was circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Councillor Hamill
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group of 23 March 2021 be approved.

ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

7.23 G/GEN/017 CORPORATE RECOVERY PLAN

Members were advised that Officers had prepared a Corporate Recovery Plan for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2023 (copy circulated).

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that the Corporate Recovery Plan is approved subject to consultation.

ACTION BY: Liz Johnston, Head of Corporate Recovery

7.24 AC/GEN/068 THE JOYCE TORPEDO RETRIEVAL BOAT

Members were reminded that the offer to acquire The Joyce, as part of The Gateway Visitor Centre exhibition, was approved in principle at the February Council Meeting. The Joyce was an Admiralty Torpedo Retrieval Boat used as a recovery boat during test firing of torpedoes on Lough Neagh during World War 2. The Torpedo Platform still exists and is visible from The Gateway. The vessel was sold out of service in 1960 and bought by the present owner who restored and maintained The Joyce in its original condition. Silvery Light Sailing, a local maritime heritage charity, had been asked by the owner to explore the return of the vessel to its original home at Lough Neagh where she served during the war.

As part of the process of trying to ascertain full cost of the acquisition, an 'in water' condition survey has been completed by a local specialist marine surveyor (copy circulated).

The survey should be considered in the context of the Council's desire to acquire the vessel as a part of the Borough's Second World War story, Lough Neagh history and as a heritage artefact and not a working vessel.

Silvery Light Sailing, who approached the Council about this opportunity, had updated officers that the owner is still committed to progressing this, however is in the process of settling their affairs and has advised that they need to release The Joyce at the earliest opportunity. Whilst their preference is to see the boat return home they have reminded Silvery Light of another interested party in England willing to take the 'gift' of the vessel who is in a position to confirm.

Given that the Council intends to acquire a part of Borough history for exhibition purposes only, it was proposed that The Joyce should be returned to Northern Ireland at an approximate cost of £4,000, 25% of which will be funded by Lough Neagh Partnership. Once in the Council's ownership, an accurate estimate of total costs to realise The Joyce as an exhibit either moored in the Lough or on land to enhance the Lough Neagh Story exhibition in The Gateway can be more easily obtained.

Alternatively, the Council can decline the offer at this stage having made no financial commitment. The story of The Joyce will feature in the Gateway exhibition in photos and narrative whether or not the Council purchase the vessel.

It was worth noting that The Heritage Lottery Fund has a funding category specifically for projects associated with industrial, maritime and transport heritage. Having reviewed the funding criteria, it was anticipated that an application for the additional costs associated with putting The Joyce on display at Lough Neagh would be successful. Any application can only be made once an accurate cost estimate is obtained and it was intended that such an application be submitted if the Council agree to progressing this project.

Moved by Alderman Michael
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED – that the Council proceed with the purchase of the Joyce Torpedo Boat.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Having declared an interest in the next item, Alderman Cosgrove left the Chamber.

7.25 ED/ED/195 & ED/ED/196 LEVELLING UP FUND AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

LEVELLING UP FUND

As part of the budget announcement made on 4 March 2021, the UK Government announced a series of new investment funds as part of its commitment to the 'levelling up' of economic prosperity across all regions of the UK and to 'strengthen the union' post Brexit. The UK Government had stated its intentions to work directly with local partners and communities in the disbursement of the funds. The total fund for Northern Ireland was £144 million over the 4 year period from 2020/21 with an indicative allocation of £24 million in the first round.

It would be important that Local Councils and their partners develop an approach to access this investment so that it best supports local economic growth and aligns with regeneration, infrastructure and community development priorities.

There were 3 main funds being introduced;

- Levelling Up Fund
- Community Renewal Fund
- Community Ownership Fund

(A) LEVELLING UP FUND

This is a key capital fund to invest in local infrastructure. Key themes for the first three rounds of the fund are;

- Transport Investments
- Regeneration and Town Centre investment
- Cultural investment

Net Zero Carbon commitments and the wider climate emergency and environmental ambitions are a cross cutting strand which will be an important consideration. The approach to the Fund is different in Northern Ireland to the other regions and will reflect 'the specific local government landscape in the region', to this end bids at the most local level from a range of applicants will be accepted.

Key Points & Criteria:

- First round bids must be submitted by 18 June 2021 and delivery on the ground must commence in this financial year therefore only shovel ready projects were likely to be successful
- Capacity funds for technical assistance such as business plans, designs etc would be provided to each Council although it was not clear yet how much or when or whether this will be available to the Council before 18 June 2021
- 90% of costs could be provided by the Fund although if the private sector was involved the business case must also demonstrate their contribution to the project/s
- Allocations of up to £20 million were available
- Bids could be for a single project or a package (these should be inter-related projects within the same geographic area)
- After award, no cost overruns would be met from the Fund

Proposed bids for submission

After careful consideration 2 projects had been identified for submission under Round One as outlined below:

1. Glengormley Town Centre Regeneration

- Demolition, meanwhile use and comprehensive redevelopment of the former Police Station site to create 2,202 square metres of office and workspace over 3 floors with associated car parking. The scheme is interlinked with the Council's public realm scheme which was now proposed will extend to incorporate the frontage of the site and extend up the Glenwell Road just beyond the entrance to the

- site and to the Glenwell Road on the other side of the road. The potential for Civil Service Hub on this site was currently being explored.
- In order to achieve the full regeneration benefits which were possible in this area of Glengormley the second element of the bid would be the redevelopment of the access road and car parking arrangements in Glenwell Road and Farmley car park to achieve a safer and more efficient environment for both car users and pedestrians.
- The bid would also include the frontage of the BT Exchange building which is located beside the former Police Station and the vacant site just beyond this to provide space for ancillary services such as car-parking so that the main site can be maximised for offices/workspace or alternatively as a Phase 2 of the main scheme.

2. Antrim Town Centre Regeneration

- Development and fit out of 16,000 square foot office and workspace on the High Street in Antrim currently owned by the KARL group. This building is centrally located and easily accessible and the development of the first floor which is currently a shell would drive footfall back into the town centre. Antrim Enterprise Agency who had been hoping to expand for some time now would wish to work in partnership with the Karl Group and the Council to bring this scheme forward.
- to complement the office & workspace development and link to the regeneration plans for the town a further element proposed was a Riverfront development project which would see the back of the building opened up to create both a direct link on to the Boardwalk but also a linkage for pedestrians through to High Street.
- the final element to complete the project was the refurbishment and extension of the existing Boardwalk to provide a high quality, attractive link from the Antrim Castle Gardens to the town with the River acting as the centrepiece.

Round Two

Members were advised that there will be a Round Two call for bids in the Autumn therefore Officers will proceed to develop proposals for Ballyclare, Randalstown and Crumlin to avail of this funding opportunity.

Next Steps

The Council had already appointed LMK Consultancy to develop a business case and concept plan for the former police station site and it was proposed that given the time restrictions in place, this contract be extended to include the wider aspects of the Levelling Up Fund bid for Glengormley. In addition, it

would also be necessary to appoint a consultant to develop the business case for the Antrim town centre bid at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the submission date of 18 June can be met.

(B) COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

The second fund which would be available to Northern Ireland is the Community Renewal Fund with a budget of £11 million available. Projects under Community Renewal may avail of 90% revenue and 10% capital from the Fund but must be completed by 31 March 2022. Successful projects were likely to be delivered over an 8-month period and were being viewed as forerunners to the new Shared Prosperity Fund. The key themes were;

- Investment in skills
- Investment in local businesses
- Investment in communities and place and/or
- Supporting people into employment

Applicants were encouraged to maximise impact through developing larger proposals around £500,000. The Government would consider projects which had already launched or are a development of an existing pilot project.

To this end, Officers had been engaging with colleagues in other Councils and in the City Deal consortium to identify initiatives that may address the criteria including public sector apprenticeship pilot projects, digital capability within communities, reskilling and re-entry opportunities for those made redundant etc.

At a local level it was proposed that a pre-entry to the labour market programme be developed focussed particularly on young people and those furthest from the labour market. This would include elements of personal development, group activity and preparation for employment. Each pathway for the young person participating would be tailored to their individual needs and supported by local community organisations, educational providers and employers.

Next Steps

It was proposed that working collaboratively with other Councils, Officers bring forward a bid focussed on skills and employability. In addition, a local bid at a pre-entry level be developed for young people from the borough as outlined.

(C) COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

Limited information was available on the Community Ownership Fund and no specific details regarding implementation in N Ireland had yet been released. The summary below reflected the guidance for the rest of the UK.

- On 3rd March 2021, the UK Government launched the £150 million Community Ownership Fund (UKCOF) to ensure that communities can

support and continue benefiting from local facilities, community assets and amenities that are most important to them. The UKCOF aims to ensure that important parts of the social fabric can continue to play a central role in communities, many of which are fragile. It is a key component of the UK Government's levelling up agenda.

- Community groups can bid for up to £250,000 matched funding from Summer 2021 to help them buy or take over local assets. In exceptional cases, up to £1m matched funding will be available. The first bidding round will open by June 2021 and a full bidding prospectus will be published. The fund will run for four years.
- Bids will be accepted from all communities across the UK and in most circumstances should be made from community and voluntary organisations with formal governance in place. **Local authorities including Parish councils will not be eligible.**
- There will not be a list of prescribed eligible assets; this will allow communities to decide what matters most to them. It could include sports clubs, cinemas, music venues, galleries, etc. Projects should be focused on place-based assets or amenities. There will be an emphasis on ensuring the asset can be sustained in community ownership.

In line with the Council's Corporate Recovery Plan, Officers would seek to identify projects that assist our Community Centres to contribute to community life and are managed in an economical way that maximises community involvement.

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and

RESOLVED - that

- i. **the bids as outlined be progressed for submission under Round One and that the necessary consultancy support be secured;**
- ii. **Round Two bids be developed for Ballyclare, Randalstown and Crumlin;**
- iii. **Further information be sought in relation to the Community Ownership Fund and relevant projects be identified and support provided to bring these forward.**

ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Alderman Cosgrove returned to the Chamber.

8. ITEMS FOR NOTING

8.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland

Housing Council's April 2021 monthly bulletin was circulated for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 11 March 2021 was also circulated.

Correspondence advising on Councillor attendance at Housing Council and Committee meetings from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 was also circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

8.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL – HOLIDAY HUNGER

Members were advised that correspondence has been received from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council.

A copy of the correspondence and letter were circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

RESOLVED - that the correspondence from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council be noted.

NO ACTION

8.3 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – MARCH 2021 – Period 12

A budget report for March 2021 – Period 12 was circulated for Members' information.

The budget report for Period 12 did not include final adjustments required to arrive at the final financial position of the Council for the 2020/21 financial year. These adjustments include final accruals of expenditure incurred and grants and debts invoiced after 31 March 2021, contributions to reserves, and prepayments of expenditure and income.

Any adjustments made as a result of the above shall be reflected in the Statement of Accounts presented to the Audit Committee.

Officers would continue to keep the financial position of Council under review into 2021/22 financial year. There still remained a number of areas of uncertainty that will impact on Council finances:

1. **Furlough**

Furlough arrangements were currently planned to continue until the end of September 2021. However, staff would be brought back as services open up, eg Leisure staff at the end of April 2021 and/or to assist to deliver other Corporate priorities.

2. **Rates Relief**

Minister Murphy announced that he was providing £150M of rates relief for businesses in 2021/22. It was still unclear how this will impact on non-domestic rates income in the Borough.

3. **Earned Income**

It was anticipated that income streams will not recover to pre-covid levels for some time eg Leisure, Arts and Culture, Planning and Building Control. Support received from DfC was expected to assist in compensating for this loss of income, however, income received will be reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team on a monthly basis.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

8.4 **HR/HR/032 LATERAL FLOW TESTING**

Members were advised that Lateral Flow Testing would be made available to staff and Members.

A testing centre would be established and staffed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 7.15 am and 11.15 am, at Mossley Mill (Theatre at the Mill) and Antrim Civic Centre (Whinstone Suite). No appointments would be required as the testing centre would operate using a drop in service. Demand for this service would be reviewed and changed accordingly.

The test centre would be set up as soon as the registration process was complete and test kits had arrived which was currently anticipated before the end of May.

Lateral flow tests are used for those **without COVID symptoms**. The purpose of the testing is to try to establish those who may have no symptoms but are infectious.

Lateral Flow Antigen testing involves processing a nose and throat swab sample with a Lateral Flow Detector (LFD). The LFD detects a COVID-19 antigen that is produced when a person is infected with COVID-19. If this antigen is present, a strip on the LFD will appear to show a positive result.

Those tested, would;

- Self-administer a nose and throat swab under the supervision of testing staff,
- Receive a barcode, with a unique reference number (supplied separately to the test kits), which will be used to link those tested with their individual test sample.

The Lateral Flow Test is different from the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) Test that is carried out for the public at testing locations across the region. The PCR tests work differently as the swab kits are sent to the Laboratory for testing rather than onsite.

The PCR tests are better at finding very small amounts of the virus, especially early in infection, so these are used primarily in people who have symptoms and can be booked through the NHS website.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

The Mayor advised that the Motions would be taken at this point of the meeting.

10. MOTION

Moved by Councillor Leah Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Robert Foster

"This Council wishes to pass on our deepest sympathy to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the passing of HRH Duke of Edinburgh. Our Nation mourns with her. In recognition of his lifelong dedication to his Royal duties and commitments, as well as his service in the Navy during WW2, this Council wishes to place a permanent memorial to Prince Philip in our Borough as a mark of respect and Remembrance."

The Motion was declared unanimously carried and it was

RESOLVED – that a permanent statue be placed in Antrim Castle Gardens and that the creation of an annual bursary, to benefit the young people of the Borough, be explored and a Working Group be set up to develop these ideas.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive/Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

11. MOTION

Moved by Councillor Alison Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Vera McWilliam

"This Council recognises and celebrates the historic achievement of the Northern Ireland's Women Football Team in qualifying for Euro 2022, resolves to write to the Irish Football Association to congratulate the team on their fantastic achievement and engages with teams across the Borough on how women's football can be further developed. "

The Motion was declared unanimously carried.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive/Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

A Member requested that the live screening of the tournament be explored.

12. MOTION

Moved by Councillor Glenn Finlay
Seconded by Councillors Stephen Ross and Roisin Lynch

"In recognition of the consultation on Programme for Government, Investment Strategy and Budget, lobbying by NILGA and other stakeholders, we call on this council to write to The Executive Office and the Department for Communities to request the transfer of full regeneration powers and associated resources to local authorities as a matter of urgency."

The Motion was declared unanimously carried.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive/Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

The Mayor and some Members paid tribute to and thanked the Directors of Community Planning and Organisation Development for their service to the Council and ratepayers of the Borough and wished them well.

A proposal by Council Finlay, seconded by Alderman Campbell, to take In Confidence Item 9.2 Youth Empowerment Proposal at this point was withdrawn following clarification from the Chief Executive.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Finlay and

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.

Alderman Michael left the meeting.

9. ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

9.1 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/357 TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF DOG POUND FACILITIES AND RELATED SERVICES

CONTRACT PERIOD: 1 MAY 2021 TO 30 APRIL 2022 (WITH AN OPTION, BY THE COUNCIL, TO EXTEND FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF UP TO 12 MONTHS (SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE))

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on Monday 7 December 2020. Two tenders for the provision of dog pound facilities and related services were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on Monday 11 January 2021 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 mandatory exclusion and financial compliance, economic and financial standing, previous relevant experience (organisation), management systems and practices, GDPR and declarations and form of tender. Both tenders met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for confirmation that the proposed offer meets the specification in full. Both tenders met the essential requirement and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Stage 2 - Quality/Commercial Assessment (45%/55%)

The tenders were evaluated on the basis of re-homing service (25%), record keeping requirements (20%) and cost (55%) and the recommendation was as follows:

Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 45%)	Cost Assessment (out of 55%)	Total % Score	Total Cost (per annum) for 20 kennels (£) (Excl. VAT)	Total Cost for single kennel (in addition to 20 kennels) for emergencies (£) (Excl. VAT)

Animal Ark	█%	█%	█%	£ █	£ █
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Moved by Councillor Foster
 Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED – that having achieved a score of █%, Animal Ark be appointed for the provision of dog pound facilities and related services for the contract period.

ACTION BY: Julia Clarke, Procurement Officer and Mark Sloan, Principal EHO (Licensing & Enforcement)

9.2 IN CONFIDENCE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROPOSAL

Members were advised that a proposal (circulated) had been received from the Impact Network NI, which is a locally based charity, and has a track record of engaging with marginalised young people. Given the networks already in place, current challenges and circumstances in the Borough, and the immediacy of the work required and the importance to the local community, it was proposed to proceed with this project outside of the Council's normal procurement procedures.

The costs included in the proposal had been benchmarked against similar assignments and Officers were content that they were consistent with normal market rates and represented good value for money.

Having met with the organisation, the Chief Executive was content that there was sufficient experience and capacity available to carry out this assignment.

The Chief Executive responded to requests for clarification from Members.

Moved by Aldermen Brett
 Seconded by Councillor Foster that Impact Network NI is awarded a contract to deliver a Youth Empowerment Program at a maximum cost of £█ and that Council in principle agree to fund a similar scheme subject to Council approval.

On the proposal being put to the meeting, 29 Members voted in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention. The proposal was declared carried and it was

RESOLVED – that Impact Network NI is awarded a contract to deliver a Youth Empowerment Program at a maximum cost of £█ and that Council in principle agree to fund a similar scheme subject to Council approval.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

9.3 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/386 TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CO2 FOR LEISURE CENTRES

CONTRACT PERIOD: 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2023 (with an option to extend for up to a maximum of 12 months, subject to review and performance)

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 25 February 2021. Two tenders for the supply and delivery of CO2 were opened via eSourcingNI on 19 March 2021 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 and declarations and form of tender. Both tenders met the requirements of Stage 1 and proceeded to Stage 2. The tenders were evaluated as follows:

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

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

Sub-Stage 2 – Commercial Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on the basis of implementation plan (10%), capacity to deliver (10%), contract management and performance monitoring (10%) and cost (70%) and the recommendation was as follows:

Rank	Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 30%)	Cost Assessment (out of 70%)	Total % Score	Total Estimated Cost Over 3 Years (£) (Excl. VAT)
1	Pipeline Solutions NI Ltd	██████%	██████%	██████%	£██████

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that having achieved a score of ██████%, Pipeline Solutions NI Ltd be appointed for the supply and delivery of CO2 for leisure centres for the period of 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2023 (with an option to extend for up to a maximum of 12 months, subject to review and performance).

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Officer

9.4 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/337 TENDER FOR CATERING SERVICES AT THE ANTRIM FORUM

CONTRACT PERIOD: 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2023 (with an option to extend for up to a maximum of 12 months, subject to review and performance)

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 3 March 2021. Two tenders for the provision of catering services at the Antrim Forum were opened via eSourcingNI on 24 March 2021 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 and declarations and form of tender. Both tenders met the requirements of Stage 1 and proceeded to Stage 2. The tenders were evaluated as follows:

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for menu provision. Both tenderers met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Sub-Stage 2 – Commercial Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on the basis of implementation plan (30%), quality of service (30%), contract management and performance monitoring (10%) and cost (30%) and the recommendation is as follows:

Rank	Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 70%)	Cost Assessment (out of 30%)	Total % Score	Total Franchise Fee Over 3 Years (£) (Excl. VAT)
1	Loughshore Restaurant	█████%	█████%	█████%	£█████

Allen Park

Members were advised that one submission was received for catering services at Allen Park, from Loughshore Restaurant. The Panel also assessed this submission and were satisfied that it met the required standard. As the value does not exceed the threshold, this update was for noting.

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

RESOLVED – that having achieved the highest score of [REDACTED]%, Loughshore Restaurant be appointed for the provision of catering services at the Antrim Forum for the period of 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2023 (with an option to extend for up to a maximum of 12 months, subject to review and performance) and that the appointment of Loughshore Restaurant to provide catering services at Allen Park be noted.

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Officer

9.5 G/MSMO/111 IN CONFIDENCE MEMORIAL PLAN

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from March for Change in relation to the Covid Memorial Campaign. The Campaign has the support of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Coronavirus, a group of cross-party MPs and Peers and is calling for a Covid Memorial Day to be held on the anniversary of the first UK lockdown, 23 March, every year from 2022, in order to:

Remember the lives lost and the lives changed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Formalise our gratitude and recognition to all frontline and key workers, researchers and scientists who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. Ensure future generations and leaders benefit from the lessons learned from our experience and that pandemic preparedness is never again treated as an afterthought. Recognise that the pandemic response was led by communities, local councils, and devolved administrations, and as such they should lead on local and national memorialisation initiatives.

It suggested that the Covid Memorial Day should include:
Recognition that the pandemic response was led by communities, local councils, and devolved administrations, and as such they should lead on local and national memorialisation initiatives. A minute's silence to be held at noon in schools, workplaces and all public venues across the country. A physical memorial to be placed on Whitehall in Westminster where wreaths can be laid and tributes paid as well as in devolved nations and local council authorities, where these are supported by the respective authorities.

A copy of the Covid Memorial Day Outline was circulated and March for Change had asked for support for the Campaign.

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and appropriate proposals be brought to a future Council meeting in relation to this.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture/Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

9.6 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/357 TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CROWD MANAGEMENT & EVENT STEWARDING SERVICES FRAMEWORK

CONTRACT PERIOD: FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS (FROM DATE OF FIRST EVENT REQUIRING THESE SERVICES) (WITH AN OPTION, BY THE COUNCIL, TO EXTEND FOR UP TO TWO PERIODS OF 12 MONTHS, SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE)

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on Friday 26 February 2021. Four tenders for inclusion on this framework opportunity were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on Friday 26 March 2021 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 mandatory exclusion and financial compliance, economic and financial standing, previous relevant experience (organisation), management systems and practices, and declarations and form of tender. All four tenders met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for confirmation that the tender fully meets all the service requirements. All four tenders met the requirement and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Stage 2 - Quality/Commercial Assessment (60%/40%)

The tenders were evaluated on the basis of three sample events No. 1 Halloween Evening Event (20%), No. 2 Family Fun Day (Park) (20%), No. 3 Night Time Open Air Concert (near water) (20%) and cost (40%) (provision of manager, supervisor, SIA licensed steward, CCTV operative, welfare, steward plus dog (for dog patrols) and hire of radio for Council staff) and the recommendation was as follows:

Rank	Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 60%)	Cost Assessment (out of 40%)	Total % Score	Total Cost Hourly Rates (as above) (£) (Excl. VAT)
Principal Service Provider	Eventsec Limited	█%	█%	█%	£█
Reserve Service Provider	SecuriGroup Limited	█%	█%	█%	£█

When Council requires crowd management and/or event stewarding services, the principal service provider would be contacted in the first instance. In the event that the principal service provider was unable to meet the full requirement, the reserve service provider would be contacted.

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED – that the two highest scoring tenderers, Eventsec Limited and SecuriGroup Limited, be appointed to the framework for the provision of crowd management and event stewarding services for the contract period.

ACTION BY: Julia Clarke, Procurement Officer and Elaine Girvan, Corporate Health and Safety Manager

9.7 IN CONFIDENCE HR/ER/010 STAFFING MATTERS

REDEPLOYMENT PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Members were reminded that as part of the package of measures to reduce expenditure in relation to staffing costs, a number of practical actions were approved to achieve the reductions required.

The purpose of this report was to provide a final update to Members about the completion of the related work programme, outlined below.

Summary of Staffing Reduction

In November, to support the staffing reduction required whilst at the same time avoid potential redundancies, the Council agreed that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to approve any voluntary severance applications.

In total, voluntary applications had supported the reduction of 43.37 FTE because all applications met the business case in line with the Redundancy Procedure.

A total of 11.07 FTE staff had been successfully redeployed into alternative and suitable essential posts. It was anticipated that, by the end of April, the remaining 4.5 FTE staff for whom current vacancies were not suitable, would be redeployed into other corporate priority work areas, eg climate change, that have been identified as a result of the pandemic and the wider strategic needs of the Borough.

A reduction of 36.77 FTE had been achieved through not filling non essential posts and 4.64 FTE through resignations and retirements.

Following the completion of the staff reduction exercise, overall the staffing headcount had reduced by 96.21 FTE.

It was estimated that the Council would achieve a saving of approximately £2.5M per annum, at a cost of £1.6M and payback period of 0.64 years. Members were reminded that permission had been requested from the Department for Communities to capitalise this cost as this will enable the cost to be written off over the next 4 years.

Members were advised that since the completion of the redeployment programme was imminent, recruitment would soon commence to fill any outstanding vacancies.

Moved by Alderman Brett
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke, Head of Organisation Development

9.8 IN CONFIDENCE CE/STC/88 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

A report relating to organisation structures was tabled at the meeting.

Members were advised that a number of changes were proposed at a senior level, across the relevant staffing structures, in response to some recent changes.

Community Planning & Organisation Development

This included interim arrangements arising from the Directors for Community Planning and Organisation Development roles becoming vacant. The structures note the interim arrangements in place related to each Directorate, effective from 1 May 2021. Members were advised that the structural changes were within existing salary budget and headcount.

Operations

A review had been completed to use existing capacity within the Operations Department which had led to the structure changes, effective from 1 June 2021. This included the consideration of a voluntary severance application from the Head of Parks.

Members were advised these structural changes were within existing budget and headcount.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

RESOLVED – that the interim and permanent structure changes be noted, subject to consultation with Trade Unions and staff on the permanent changes.

ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke, Director of Organisation Development

9.9 IN CONFIDENCE ED/EUP/012 BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAMME PROCUREMENT

Members recalled that the Council had been offered grant assistance of £266,696 at a rate of 80% from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Invest Northern Ireland (INI) towards the delivery of the 'Business Growth Programme', a one-to-one business mentoring and support programme. This programme would run until the end of the NI European Regional Development Fund on 31 March 2023. It is a continuation of the success of the former Optimal Programme which supported 207 businesses and delivered 4,250 mentor hours of support by 31 March 2021, and was scheduled to create 165 jobs by September 2022. A full evaluation of the programme would be completed by 31 December 2022 as the majority of the contractual targets were to be achieved by this date.

The new programme would support 220 businesses across the Council area, providing specialist mentoring support under six distinct themes – Digital, Export, Social Enterprise, Sales, General and Sustainability. Businesses on the programme would be supported to sustain existing employment and/or have the potential to create additional employment. The programme would also provide a minimum of 12 workshop events to encourage business learning and provide networking opportunities.

The programme was due to commence in May 2021 and be completed by 31 March 2023. It aimed to create at least 155 jobs and sustain at least 50 jobs by 30 December 2023. In addition, the Programme must refer at least 18 businesses to INI that were capable of accessing financial support from Invest NI by 31 March 2023.

The total estimated cost of the Programme was £333,370 of which £266,696 was being contributed by the EU and INI. The match funding of £66,674 would be met by Council across two financial years and provision for this had been made in the Economic Development budget. The procurement process for external contractors was published through the EU Journal and five tender submissions were received by the closing date of 23 March 2021.

Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) facilitated the procurement process on behalf of the Council. Five bids were received via eTendersNI on 23 March 2021 and referred to the panel for assessment. The tenders were evaluated as outlined below.

STAGE 1 – AWARD STAGE

Quality/Price Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on the basis of quality (80%) and price (20%). Any tender scoring a 2, 1, or 0 in any of the quality criteria was deemed to have failed to meet the specification and was eliminated from the competition. Two tenders failed to meet the required quality threshold and therefore did not proceed further in the evaluation.

The remaining three tenders proceeded to the next stage of the evaluation and the recommendation is as follows:

Rank	Tender	Quality (out of 80%)	Price (out of 20%)	Total Score (out of 100%)	Total Contract Price (£) (excl. VAT)
1	Mallusk Enterprise Park (in partnership with Antrim Enterprise Agency and LEDCOM)	████	████	████	£████

Moved by Alderman Brett
 Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – that having achieved the highest score of █████%, Mallusk Enterprise Park be appointed to deliver the mentoring services under the ‘Business Growth Programme’ for the period 10 May 2021 to 31 March 2023 at a total contract price of £████ (excl. VAT).

ACTION BY: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

9.10 **IN CONFIDENCE** AC/MU/005 **LEASE OF THE WHITE HOUSE**

Members were advised that the Dalaradia Group is a Men’s Community Group based in Rathcoole who wish to make a positive commitment to conflict transformation. The Group wished to explore a proposal to make use of The White House heritage building.

Currently they operated from a small office in Rathcoole, however, they were expressing an interest in a long term lease of the White House on the following terms:

1. They pay a nominal monthly rent of up to £████ plus running costs associated with utilities. The Council to retain responsibility for maintenance and repair of the building.
2. They would mainly occupy the upper floor of the building using the meeting facility to deliver a range of training services including TNI World Host Programme and other job vocational training to support return to employment.
3. To compensate the Council for reducing the normal rent charges the Group has proposed that they would operate the White House as a visitor attraction with the Group providing guiding and visitor services. As part of this the Group would like to enhance the fixed exhibition with hosting of temporary exhibitions throughout the year and complimentary events.
4. The Group is anticipating that it will receive International Fund for Ireland funding from summer 2021 to enable it to operate as outlined above.

The Council agreed rental rate for a community venue is £████ per m2 per annum. The White House is 186 m2 over two floors (129.8 m2 of exhibition space on the ground floor and 56.2 m2 of meeting and office space on the

first floor). An annual rent of £[REDACTED] would be expected if this were applied to the entire building, however the ground floor exhibition space would be retained as a fixed exhibition and was not accessible for practical use by the Group given its fixed nature. An annual rent for the upper floor meeting and office space only would be £[REDACTED]. The Council normally incurred staff costs of £[REDACTED] annually to open the White House to the general public at weekends from June to September with additional costs throughout the year for any additional use. Acceptance of this proposal for an annual rent of £[REDACTED] would achieve some cost savings for the Council as well as increased use of the building without compromising current visitor services.

Moved by Councillor Webb

Seconded by Councillor Kelly that this item be deferred for assessment of the traffic impact and to explore the options for parking provision.

On the proposal being put to the meeting 15 Members voted in favour, 19 against and 1 abstention and it was declared not carried.

Moved by Alderman Brett

Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED – that the proposal from the Dalaradia Group to rent The White House at £[REDACTED] per annum for an initial 12-month period be approved with the Group providing public access to the venue as per current arrangements as a minimum.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

9.11 IN CONFIDENCE UPDATE ON REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PLANNING APPLICATION – KELLS SOLAR FARM (REFERENCE LA03/2015/0234/F) – IN CONFIDENCE

Members were aware that the Department for Infrastructure was currently processing the following regionally significant planning application and that the proposed development site straddles the Council's boundary with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council with the larger portion of the site lying within the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area.

Application Reference: LA03/2015/0234/F
Proposal: 50MW Solar Farm
Location: Lands located East and West of Whappstown Road and to the North of Doagh Road, Northwest of Kells, Co Antrim.
Applicant: Elgin Energy

Full details of the application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal www.planningni.gov.uk

Background

Members recalled that a report was brought to the August 2019 meeting of the Planning Committee advising that the Department for Infrastructure had issued a Notice of Opinion (NOP) proposing that planning permission should be approved subject to conditions to a revised scheme at this site.

Instructions were sought as to whether the Council wished to request an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Planning Appeals Commission on the application. Such a hearing is provided for in Section 26(11) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Following discussion at the August 2019 meeting of full Council, Members resolved that a request should be made to the Department to appear before and be heard by the Planning Appeals Commission and a written request to this effect was subsequently made at the start of September.

The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) subsequently wrote to the Council to advise that it had set a date of 12 May 2020 for the hearing requested by the Council and Mid and East Antrim Council to discuss the Department for Infrastructure's Notice of Opinion (NOP) proposing that planning permission should be granted.

In February 2020 the PAC requested submission of a Statement of Case by the Council and Members resolved at that time to advise the Commission that the Council would not be taking a stance on the proposal, rather that the hearing had been requested by the Council to afford the local community opposed to the scheme the opportunity to represent their views before the Commission to help inform the final decision to be taken by the Minister for Infrastructure. This position was subsequently conveyed to the PAC and it further advised that the Council wished to attend the hearing as an observer.

Unfortunately, due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic the original May 2020 date scheduled for the hearing on this application was postponed by the PAC, although a new date of 31 March 2021 was subsequently scheduled.

Current position

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) wrote to the Council on 19 March 2021, less than two weeks before the rescheduled date for the PAC hearing on this application, to advise that both DfI and the PAC considered that the PAC did not have jurisdiction to proceed with the hearing scheduled for 31 March in light of the position adopted by both this Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, namely that both Councils did not intend to directly participate in the hearing. The letter made reference to earlier correspondence between the Department and the PAC which the Council had not been copied in on.

Ostensibly the Department's letter sought confirmation of the Council's position and originally sought a response within 1 working day. However, following Officer correspondence with the Department, it has since accepted that Officers needed some time both to (a) fully consider the implications of the position outlined and (b) appraise Members in order to provide a corporate Council response. In the interim the hearing that was scheduled

for 31 March did not proceed and has been postponed pending DfI consideration of the positions of both this Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

A copy of the correspondence between the Department and the Council on this matter since 19 March, including the correspondence between DfI and the PAC, was circulated.

Consideration

Officers advised Members that following discussion between the Planning Section and Legal Services, and liaison with Officials in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Planning Section, that they do not agree with the position advocated by both the Department and the PAC regarding the legislative provisions set out in Section 26 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 where a hearing is requested by a Councils on a Regionally Significant planning application.

In summary, the position put forward by the Department is that because both Councils in this case, having sought a hearing, subsequently advised that they did not intend taking a stance and simply wished to afford local residents the opportunity to represent their views before the PAC, this did not meet the intent behind the current legislative position. Furthermore, the Department refers to the fact that both councils wished to attend as neutral observers.

However, the position of Officers was that the legislation makes clear provision for the Council to seek such a hearing and appear and be heard before this. Nowhere in the legislation (nor in any advice prepared by the Department or the PAC) does it preclude the approach that was being taken by both this Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. In addition, at no time did Officers indicate they did not wish to appear or be heard, however to be helpful in advance of the hearing Officers from each Council had made clear to the PAC that neither Council was advocating either for or against the scheme. As such a detailed Statement of Case was not deemed to be warranted.

It was also unclear from the Department's recent correspondence whether it is now advocating a position that only the Council(s) would be afforded a hearing before the PAC should it provide its stance on the proposal and that even in such a case, whether third parties i.e. the local residents objecting to the scheme would not be allowed to participate in any hearing.

Way forward

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

RESOLVED – [REDACTED]

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

9.12 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/QUO/688 THE RIGHT TO SELL FOODSTUFFS AND HOT/SOFT DRINKS IN COUNCIL PARKS

Contract Period 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022 (with an option, by the Council, to extend for a further period of 12 months, subject to review and performance)

As agreed at the March meeting of Council, opportunities were advertised for catering vendors in a number of Council parks where no permanent catering facilities exist, as well as existing catering franchisees at the Old Courthouse, and Lough Shore Parks being offered the opportunity to have coffee carts.

The procurement process had recently been completed for the provision of ice cream, light snacks and hot/cold soft drinks at Sixmilewater Park, Ballyclare; Threemilewater Park, Newtownabbey; Lillian Bland Community Park, Glengormley; Hazelbank Park, Newtownabbey; Crumlin Glen, Crumlin; Wallace Park, Templepatrick and Cranfield, Antrim.

Following assessment and having quoted the highest bids the following services had been awarded:

Sixmilewater Park, Ballyclare

Ice Cream Mr Hugh Coulter (Mr Cool) £ [REDACTED]

Lillian Bland Park, Glengormley

Hot Drinks / Light Snacks Paul Gray (Pablos) £ [REDACTED]

Wallace Park, Templepatrick

Ice Cream Alan Sharpe (Sno Cream ices) £ [REDACTED]

Crumlin Glen, Crumlin

Hot Drinks / Light Snacks Hayley Keery (13Coffee) £ [REDACTED]

Ice Cream Mr John Duff (Mr Coco) £ [REDACTED]

Hazelbank Park

Ice Cream Mr George Pirie (Mr George's Ices) £ [REDACTED]

No tender submissions were received for the ice cream or hot/cold soft drinks and light snacks categories in Threemilewater Park and Cranfield.

In relation to existing catering franchisees, a representative of Mann's at the Old Courthouse had indicated that their existing take away service, available from the café at the Old Courthouse, meets the needs of visitors to that part of the town due to the proximity to the Barbican Gate.

Barista, operating at the Loughshore Park in Jordanstown had expressed an interest in having a coffee cart at the Park and was currently developing a business case.

The Loughshore Restaurant at Antrim, which holds the franchise for the Boathouse and food trading opportunities on the whole site, was interested in outdoor catering units in the Park.

For both of these franchisees, it was proposed that rental payments for each additional vending unit were charged at the same cost per square metre as the related indoor unit and sit alongside the relevant franchise agreements.

Moved by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED – that approval is given for the vending opportunities as set out above.

ACTION BY: Glenda James, Administration Supervisor

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Hamill
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending, reminded them of the Mayor's Auction taking place at 7 pm on Friday 30 April 2021 in aid of his charities, Guide Dogs NI and Air Ambulance NI, and requested that they continue to share the details and promote this on social media.

The meeting concluded at 8.51 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.

