



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD  
AT ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor N Kelly
- Committee Members  
(In person)** : Aldermen - T Burns, L Clarke, M Girvan,  
and J Smyth  
Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington,  
J Gilmour, A Logue and J Montgomery,
- Committee Members  
(Remote)** : Councillors - R Foster and R Swann
- Non Committee  
Members  
(In person)** : Councillor B Webb
- Non Committee  
Members:  
(Remote)** : Councillor V McWilliam
- Officers Present** : Director of Operations - G Girvan  
Director of Parks & Leisure - M McDowell  
Director of Waste Operations – M Lavery  
Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health,  
Building Control and Property) - C Todd  
Deputy of Director of Governance – L Johnston  
System Support Officer Colin Bell  
Member Services Officer – E Skillen

## CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the April Operations Committee meeting and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

### 1 APOLOGIES

Aldermen F Agnew and J McGrath  
Councillor N Ramsay

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.5 – Alderman Smyth

### 3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

None

### 4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

#### 4.1 PK/GEN/035/VOL4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUB GROUP

At the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 14 March 2023, Members considered a detailed report. Arising from the meeting a series of recommendations were made for consideration by the Operations Committee (Minutes circulated).

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 14 March 2023 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations*

#### 4.2 EH/PHWB/003 AFFORDABLE WARMTH - SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Members were reminded that Council continued to deliver the Affordable Warmth Scheme in partnership with the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Affordable Warmth was a Department for Communities' scheme for tackling fuel poverty which focused on households that had an income of less than £23,000 p.a. and which delivered energy efficiency measures such as heating system replacement and loft/cavity wall insulation.

Referrals were processed by the Environmental Health and Wellbeing team and each household had been assessed against the qualifying criteria:

- income of less than £23,000 and,

- applicants were an owner-occupier or private tenant.

Households which met the criteria had been advised of the required documentation such as proof of income, ownership and occupancy. A referral form was subsequently completed and transferred to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive who made the final decision on eligibility.

The Department for Communities had prepared an updated Service Level Agreement (circulated), to cover the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. At present, the Department had been unable to confirm the budget for 2023/2024, however, they had stated that their current planning assumption was for a capital budget of £1.6m regionally, which equated to the completion of twenty referrals per calendar month in each Council area. In this case therefore the current allocation of twenty referrals per calendar month would continue.

The Department would draft an addendum to the current business case to allow the Scheme to run from April 2024 to March 2026. Options on a revised funding model would be set out in the addendum and any changes must demonstrate value for money and would be subject to budget availability and approval.

The annual target for referrals by Council during 2022/2023 was achieved and feedback from applicants who had benefited from the scheme had been extremely positive.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**the Service Level Agreement for delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Health and Wellbeing).*

#### **4.3 G/MSMO/017 VOL 3 KEEP RECYCLING LOCAL – PRESENTATION REQUEST**

Members were advised that a request (circulated) had been received from Keep Recycling local representatives requesting the opportunity to make a presentation at a future Operations Committee meeting to provide information on recycling and the circular economy.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

**approval be granted for local representatives from Keep Recycling local representatives to present to a future Operations Committee meeting.**

*ACTION BY: Member Services*

#### 4.4 PK/CEM/026 BALLYLINNEY OLD BURYING GROUND

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Ballylinney Old Burying Committee (circulated) requesting that Council consider how it could support this area of historical significance within the Borough. The burying ground was an important source of the history in the local area, with the ground retaining two Commonwealth War Graves, and the graves of rhyming weaver poet Thomas Beggs, and inventor and entrepreneur John Rowan.

It was proposed that initial support would include the Parks Service undertaking tasks such as grass cutting, tree work and other relevant grounds maintenance on an ongoing basis. The Committee would retain responsibility for any burials at this time. In addition to the initial support, it was proposed that Officers would explore how the group could be further supported in areas such as heritage and tourism.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**approval be granted to undertake grounds maintenance works at Ballylinney Cemetery on an ongoing basis.**

*ACTION BY: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations.*

Having declaring an Interest in Item 4.5 Alderman Smyth left the Chamber.

#### 4.5 L/LEI/002/VOL3 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Members were advised that during the fifth call for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme (January - February), a total of 42 applications were submitted. All 42 applications had been scored (a detailed table including recommendations were circulated).

Members were reminded that for 2022/23, in order to provide more flexibility and a quicker turnaround for applicants, the budget for the programme would roll on an annual basis. As a result, the financial position, should all recommended grants be approved, demonstrated a £30,180 overspend. However, this balance would roll into the next financial year and be within the allocated £170,000 budget to the 2023/24 Leisure Grant Aid Programme.

Category	No. of apps.	Budget	Approved spend to date 22/23	No. of apps.	Grants proposed	Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of application)
					(£)	
Capital Grants	1	£20,000	£20,000	0	£0	£0

Grants to Clubs	16	£19,714	£19,658	2	£12,723	-£12,667
Grants to Athletes	48	£38,993	£37,464	24	£6,378	-£4,849
Grants to Coaches and Officials	18	£1,792	£1,792	5	£1,873	-£1,873
Sports Event Grant	13	£85,000	£84,972	4	£2,435	-£2,407
Defibrillator Grant	4	£4,500	£4,500	6	£8,385	-£8,385
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>£170,000</b>	<b>£168,387</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>£31,794</b>	<b>-£30,180</b>
Fitness suite Gold Card	<b>12</b>	20 Applications	12 eligible	1 Application	0 eligible	8 applications

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery  
 Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**the grant awards set out in the enclosure be approved**

*ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager*

Alderman Smyth returned to the Chamber.

#### **4.6 WM/WM/32 NORTHERN IRELAND WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2023**

The Chartered Institution of Waste Management (CIWM) Northern Ireland and Recycle NI have organised a Resource Conference on 'The Journey to Net Zero' at Titanic Conference Centre Belfast on Thursday 25 May 2023.

The Conference would have a range of waste and resource management sector professionals in attendance, opinion formers and policy experts from across the UK and Europe speaking throughout the day.

The Conference was open to Elected Members and Officers and a summary of the current agenda had been circulated. The agenda was of strategic interest to Council climate change and waste plans and it was proposed to offer the opportunity for up to five Elected Members to attend at a rate of £140 per delegate. The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) had provided all Northern Ireland Councils with two tickets each for Officer's use and it was proposed that the Director of Waste Operations and the Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts would also attend the event.

The Director of Waste Operations stated that conference places would be reserved and parties would be contacted after the election for their nominations to attend.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
 Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**attendance at the Northern Ireland Waste and Resource Management Conference at Titanic Conference Centre, Belfast on Thursday 25 May be approved for up to five Elected Members and one further Officer; Councillor Archibald Brown nominated as DUP representative.**

*ACTON BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts*

#### **4.7 WM/WM/49 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY 2023**

Members were reminded that Council had successfully implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO14001 throughout its operations and facilities which had demonstrated our commitment to leading the way in environmental excellence.

As part of the requirement to hold EMS ISO14001 certification, Council must review and up-date, where applicable, its Environmental Policy in line with improvements made. The Environmental Policy had been reviewed and had been circulated for approval.

The Environmental Policy must follow a standard format and proposed that Council would:

- Develop and implement specific environmental objectives and targets to be reviewed annually;
- Comply fully and, where possible, exceed the requirements of applicable legislation and regulations to ensure prevention of pollution and continued environmental improvements;
- Review the Environmental Management System to ensure effectiveness and continued improvement.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery

Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

**the Environmental Policy be approved with additional emphasis on restricting the use of landfill.**

*ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy Contracts*

#### **4.8 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 AMENDED STREET NAMING – RANDALSTOWN ROAD, ANTRIM**

Members were reminded that a development naming application had been received from Samantha Shannon on behalf of Lotus Homes (UK) Ltd. regarding the naming of a residential development off Randalstown Road, Antrim. The development consisted of 74 dwellings, these being a mixture of detached and semi-detached. The development names and developer's rationale were submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan circulated.

The names suggested by the developer were rejected at the February meeting of the Operations Committee. Officers contacted the developer and as a result, alternative proposals were set out below:

1. Weavers Gate – The British Enkalon factory manufactured fibres which were then spun into nylon thread. Nylon was commonly woven into other fabrics to strengthen or add elasticity. On that basis Weavers would be an appropriate name, based on the history of Enkalon.
2. Weavers Lodge – The same rationale as above applied to the second suggestion.
3. Weavers Green – The same rationale as above applied to this suggestion.

In order to rationalise postal numbering, it was requested that officers be given delegated powers to add suffixes to the overall development name if required.

Members were reminded that there was a Weavers Meadow and Weavers Wood located in Crumlin and Newtownabbey respectively.

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter would be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the name Weavers Gate be approved for the above development and that Officers be given delegated powers to use suffixes for postal numbering purposes.**

*ACTION BY: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor*

#### **4.9 PT/CI/052, 053, 054 RECOVERY AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 3 - OPERATIONS**

Members were reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 put in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

The Council's Corporate Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 was approved in June 2022. This set out a range of challenging performance targets, along with four identified improvement objectives and a number of Statutory Performance Targets.

A third quarter progress report for Operations was circulated for Members' approval. The Corporate Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 Quarter 3 Performance Progress Report was scrutinised, reviewed and noted by the Audit & Risk Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the Corporate Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 Quarter 3 progress report Operations be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Allen Templeton, Performance Transformation Officer*

#### **4.10 PK/GEN/130 MOSSLEY DAM – THREEMILEWATER CONSERVATION AND ANGLING ASSOCIATION**

Members were reminded that the Threemilewater Conservation and Angling Association had been operating at Mossley Dam since 2012, originally on the basis of an annual renewal. In June 2019, Council approval was given to the group for a 12-year licence which was further amended in January 2022 to retain 12 years on the licence allowing the group to make funding applications.

Council Officers were formally notified following their Annual General Meeting in February 2023 that the group had now been dissolved resulting in the licence being terminated. Officers had recently been contacted by previous members of the dissolved group, who had been constituted as Mossley Mill and Threemilewater Angling Association. Following an initial meeting with Council Officers, the group had requested that Council consider agreeing to a similar licence arrangement that was previously in place. If approved, Officers would commence drafting a new licence and would provide a further report to Committee for consideration and approval.

In response to a Member's query the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations confirmed that the option of extending the boardwalk to the right of the Dam to improve accessibility could be explored.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

**negotiations with Mossley Mill and Threemilewater Angling Association commence in order to agree on a licence for use of Mossley Dam**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations*

## **5 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **5.1 L/LEI/50 QUEST ACCREDITATION**

Members were reminded that Quest was a quality assurance scheme for leisure facilities across the United Kingdom designed to measure how effective organisations were at delivering leisure operations.

Members were reminded that all Council leisure centres achieved Quest accreditation in 2019, with centres retaining their accreditation when the scheme recommenced following disruption relating to the pandemic in 2021.

In 2023 all centres entered into a more extensive assessment called Quest Plus which would take place over a two-day period. Assessments had recently been completed with all centres achieving accreditation.



In response to a Member's query the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations advised that he would provide details of the modules covered.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations*

## **5.2 L/LEI/648 DARKNESS INTO LIGHT**

Members were reminded that there had been a charity walk event delivered in partnership with Pieta House, the Darkness into Light Charity since 2016. The event encouraged people to walk in memory of loved ones lost through suicide and in doing so, sought to raise awareness about suicide prevention services as well as supporting charities involved in this vital work.

The event is scheduled to commence at sunrise at the V36 on Saturday 6 May 2023. This year's charity partner would local mental health charity Listening Ear, based in Rathcoole. The walk would be promoted by Pieta House as well as through Council's social media and website.

Registration for the event opened in March via  
<https://www.darknessintolight.ie/>

Proposed by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **5.3 L/LEI/AF/010 ANTRIM FORUM 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Members were advised that the Antrim Forum would celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2023. To ear-mark the occasion, Officers intended to liaise with local DEA members and other key stakeholders to develop a range of activities including the creation of an exhibition illustrating the Antrim Forum over the years.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted**

*NO ACTION*

#### **5.4 L/SAP/008/VOL3 SPORTS AWARDS 2023**

Members were reminded that in November 2019, Council agreed to host a series of prestigious awards, including Council Sports Awards, once every Council term to maximise their impact. The Sports Awards were previously held in November 2019. Therefore, it was proposed that the next awards would take place in late 2023.

It was previously agreed that a working group be established for the Awards, made up of one nomination from each political party and the corresponding number of community sporting representatives. The first full meeting of the Sports Awards Working Group would take place after the election in mid to late June.

For this year's Awards, Officers intended to seek sponsorship opportunities to offset the costs of the event, with the specific details reported back to the Working Group.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**the report be noted**

*NO ACTION*

#### **7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

In response to comment from a number of Members on the quality of the sound system in the chamber, the Director of Operations advised she would ensure that the matter be raised with the relevant Officer.

*ACTION BY: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance*

In response to a query from a Member, the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations advised that following heavy rainfall that any remedial possible action will be taken to improve ground conditions in the dog park in Antrim.

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations*

Following a request from two Members, regarding dog fouling in Glengormley, and Crumlin, the Deputy Director of Operations (Environment Health, Property and Building Services), agreed to provide an update report to Committee.

*ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Waste Operations (Environmental Health, Building Control and Property)*

#### **PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE**

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and the livestream and audio recording would cease.

## 6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

### 6.1 **IN CONFIDENCE** WM/arc21/4/VOL10 arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

The papers for the arc21 Joint Committee Meeting were circulated for:

- March 2023

Members were reminded that these documents were confidential and may be legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure. Members therefore should not disclose this information to any third party and the information must be kept secure.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and agreed that

**the papers be noted.**

NO ACTION

### 6.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** CCS/CEA/013, PK/GEN/197 CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY UPDATE

The burial capacity as at 17 March 2023 across all cemeteries was set out in the table below:

<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>No. of plots remaining</b>	<b>Current Average no. of plots sold PER YEAR (based on 3yr average)</b>	<b>Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)</b>
Carnmoney	0	156	0.0
Ballyclare	663	70	9.5
Rashee	386	9	42.9
Sixmile	2178	60	36.3
Crumlin	433	10	43.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3660</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>12.00</b>

The estimated burial capacity for the Borough was currently 12 years.

<b>Garden of Remembrance Plots/Columbarium (for burial of ashes only)</b>	<b>No. of plots remaining</b>	<b>Average no. of plots sold (based on 3 year average)</b>	<b>Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)</b>
Carnmoney GOR	39	60	0.7
Ballyclare GOR	128	5	25.60
Mallusk	15	1	15.00

Members were reminded that a Garden of Remembrance for Sixmile Cemetery in Antrim had previously been approved and would provide 160 plots when works had been completed in late summer 2023. Furthermore, Officers remained in correspondence with colleagues in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Belfast City Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council as these authorities were also seeking potential sites for cemetery provision and therefore the potential to work in partnership was being explored. Members would be kept updated on any progress.

Proposed by Alderman Burns  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and approved that

**the report be noted.**

NO ACTION

### **6.3 IN CONFIDENCE PK/PG/006 JOHN STREET PLAYGROUND - REVIEW OF LEASE**

Members were advised that in 2008 Council agreed to enter into a 15 year lease of lands at John Street, Randalstown to allow for the development of a play park.

The current lease was due to expire on 14 May 2023 with landowners recently providing terms for an extension to the lease for a further 15 years at an annual rent of £[REDACTED] per annum. The rental amount reflected a Retail Price Index (RPI) adjusted level and was in accordance with the rent review mechanism contained in the current lease.

In response to a Member's request the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations undertook to establish the potential for the land to be purchased instead of leased.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**this item be deferred to Full Council pending clarification.**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations*

### **6.4 IN CONFIDENCE PK/GEN/210 HAZELBANK PARK & JORDANSTOWN**

#### **LOUGHSHORE PARK DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

Members were reminded that Council's approved capital programme included two separate projects relating to Hazelbank Park and Jordanstown Loughshore Park. Both projects had progressed through a feasibility stage with Economic Appraisals [circulated] which provided recommended options for approval by Members. A summary of each project was as follows:

#### **Hazelbank Park**

Members were reminded that Council had approved the King's Coronation Garden at Hazelbank Park in January 2023 being scheduled for completion

before His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation on 6 May 2023. The mechanical pleasure garden will not only act as a lasting tribute to the King's Coronation but would be a significant attraction for visitors from both inside and outside of the Borough. The proposed project at Hazelbank Park, separate from the King's Garden, included an increase in car parking provision, development of a new play park, redevelopment of the bowling pavilion to a café, development of new toilet facilities (including Changing Places), and provision of a new staff compound with staff welfare facilities. The total estimated cost of the project was £ [REDACTED] including contingency and professional fees.

### **Jordanstown Loughshore Park**

Jordanstown Loughshore Park was a popular visitor destination that was redeveloped in 2011 providing a caravan park with ancillary visitor facilities, café, play park, and public toilet facilities. While the play park remained in good condition through regular maintenance of equipment, the other facilities required upgrading and refurbishment. The proposed project included a full refurbishment of the caravan park ancillary facilities, refurbishment of existing café (including the creation of a 1<sup>st</sup> floor restaurant), refurbishment of toilet facilities (including provision of Changing Places), and an increase in car parking provision. The total estimated cost of the project was £ [REDACTED] including contingency and professional fees.

A Section 75 Screening Form had been completed and was circulated. An EQIA was not required.

Proposed by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

### **the following be approved:**

- i. the Economic Appraisal, together with the Section 75 Screening Form for Hazelbank Park Redevelopment as set out in Option 4: Increase in car parking provision (to 193 spaces), development of a new play park, redevelopment of the bowling pavilion into a café, development of new toilet facilities (including Changing Places), and provision of new staff compound with staff welfare facilities at an estimated cost of £ [REDACTED] including contingency and professional fees.**
- ii. the Economic Appraisal, together with the Section 75 Screening Form for Jordanstown Loughshore Park Redevelopment as set out in Option 2: Full refurbishment of the caravan park ancillary facilities, refurbishment of existing café (including the creation of a 1<sup>st</sup> floor restaurant), refurbishment of toilet facilities (including provision of Changing Places), and an increase in car parking provision (to 144 spaces) at an estimated cost of £ [REDACTED] including contingency and professional fees.**

*ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Parks Development Officer*

**6.5 IN CONFIDENCE L/LEI/VLC/005, L/LEI/SMW/005, L/LEI/AF/010, L/LEI/BE/004  
LEISURE CENTRE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

Members were reminded that in 2017, Council approved the Leisure Strategy (2017-2030) which set out a series of objectives under 5 key themes; Pricing, Partnership, People, Performance and Programming. Since 2017 there had been significant milestones achieved in relation to the strategy, which had contributed to leisure membership and usage increasing from circa 4,000 members and 1.1 million visits in 2016/2017 to near 11,000 members and a projected 2 million visits in 2022/23.

Council continued to invest significantly in improving leisure facilities with several projects currently being progressed within Council's approved capital programme. In addition, Members were reminded that Council facilities including leisure centres were subject to ongoing condition surveys which helped inform planned maintenance requirements. In November 2022, Council approved extensive maintenance works on the roof and swimming pool under croft at the Valley Leisure Centre. Similar works relating to the roof, swimming pool lining and swimming pool balance tanks at the Antrim Forum had been highlighted as requiring essential maintenance in order to prevent any future service disruption. The condition survey for the roof was circulated for Members' information.

In order to progress the matter, an Economic Appraisal for these essential maintenance works, as well as several leisure projects on the approved capital programme, had been completed [circulated], with options as follows:

- Status Quo: Do nothing
- Option 1: Essential maintenance works at Antrim Forum.
- Option 2: Essential maintenance works at Antrim Forum and refurbishment of swimming pool changing facilities at Antrim Forum, Sixmile Leisure Centre (including development of Changing Places), Valley Leisure Centre and changing facilities at Ballyearl.
- Option 3: Essential maintenance works at Antrim Forum and refurbishment of swimming pool changing facilities at Antrim Forum, Sixmile Leisure Centre (including development of Changing Places), Valley Leisure Centre, including changing facilities at Ballyearl. Development of a new fitness studio at Sixmile Leisure Centre.

The Appraisal considered a number of options and following assessment recommended option 3: Essential maintenance works at Antrim Forum and refurbishment of swimming pool changing facilities at Antrim Forum, Sixmile Leisure Centre (including development of Changing Places), Valley Leisure Centre, including changing facilities at Ballyearl. Development of a new fitness studio at Sixmile Leisure Centre, at an overall estimated cost of £[REDACTED].

A Section 75 Screening Form had been completed and was circulated. An EQIA was not required.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

**approval be given for the Economic Appraisal, together with the Section 75 Screening Form as set out in Option 3: Essential maintenance works at Antrim Forum and refurbishment of swimming pool changing facilities at Antrim Forum, Sixmile Leisure Centre (including development of a Changing Places facility), Valley Leisure Centre, including changing facilities at Ballyearl. Development of a new fitness studio at Sixmile Leisure Centre, at an estimated cost of [REDACTED] including contingency and professional fees.**

*ACTION BY: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations*

**The Chairperson advised that the 'In Confidence' Supplementary item would be taken at this point.**

#### **6.6 IN CONFIDENCE PK/BIO/019VOL3 CONFIRMATION OF FUNDING - GREENWAY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS**

Members were reminded that approval was given in October 2022 for the submission of business cases to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for funding from the Greenway/Active Travel Fund.

The business cases contained details of further works across sections of the two Greenway/Active Travel routes within the Borough; Mallusk/Hightown to Gideon's Green and Doagh to Larne Greenway.

A letter of offer had been received from the Department [circulated], offering 50% (£[REDACTED]) funding towards the development of a section of the Doagh to Larne Greenway through Ballyclare, which included the replacement of the pedestrian bridge between the Leisure Centre and War Memorial Park. It was anticipated that works would commence in May 2023 with project completion in March 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

**the Letter of Offer from DfI for the development of the Ballyclare section of the Doagh to Larne Greenway be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations*

#### **PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed

**that the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.**

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their contributions during his tenure as Operations Committee Chair, he thanked the staff and particularly paid tribute to the Vice-Chair. He wished everyone well for the future.

There being no further Committee business, the meeting concluded at 7.08pm.

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**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.***