MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 29 JUNE 2026 AT 6.30 PM

In the Chair	:	Mayor (Councillor H Cushinan)
Members Present	:	Aldermen – L Boyle, P Bradley, M Magill, and P Michael
	:	Councillors – M Brady, S Cosgrove, P Dunlop, N Kelly, R Kinnear, AM Logue, R Lynch, H Magill, B Mallon, E McLaughlin, V McWilliam, L O'Hagan, A O'Lone, S Ward, B Webb and S Wilson
Members Present (Remotely)	:	Aldermen – T Campbell, M Cosgrove, L Clarke, J McGrath, S Ross and J Smyth
	:	Councillors – A Bennington, J Burbank, M Cooper, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour, M Goodman, L Kirkpatrick, T McGrann, M Ní Chonghaile and M Stewart
Officers Present	:	Chief Executive - R Baker Director of Community and Culture – U Fay Director of Environment Services and Sustainability– M Laverty Director of Organisation Development (Interim) – L Johnston Director of Finance – J Balmer Deputy Director of Regeneration and Infrastructure – S Norris Borough Lawyer (Legal, Land, Governance & Policy)– P Casey ICT Change Officer – A Cole ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson Member Services Officer – S Fisher Member Services Officer – S McMaw
Officers Present (Remotely)	:	Head of Leisure – D O'Hagan

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 Father Gerard Fox.

Alderman L Boyle and J Smyth and Councillors M Brady, J Burbank, P Dunlop, R Kinnear, N Kelly, H Magill, T McGrann, L O'Hagan and A O'Lone and S Wilson joined the meeting at this point.

2 **APOLOGIES**

Councillor – A McAuley

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 14.2 – Councillor R Foster

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

Moved by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Tuesday 26 May 2026 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Ward and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 1 June 2026 be taken as read and signed as correct.

6 **MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 8 June 2026 be approved and adopted.

7 **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor O'Lone
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Development Committee Meeting of Monday 15 June 2026 approved and adopted.

AMENDMENT TO THE DECISION MADE AT ITEM 7.3

As this item had been taken 'In Committee', the Mayor advised that the meeting would move into 'In Committee'.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor O'Lone 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.

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor McGrann that

Members reconsidered Item 7.3 Rathcoole Community Hub Capital Project in the Community Development minutes.

It was proposed that Option four be adopted namely:

(a) the outline Business Case including the preferred option for the development of a Community Hub on the Pavilion site in Rathcoole, with two grass pitches and changing facilities, and retention of the existing Dunanney Centre at a total estimated cost of £[redacted] be approved.

(b) progress of the development project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme be approved.

On the amendment being put to the meeting and a recorded vote having been requested by Councillor Brady, Members voted as follows:

In favour of the Amendment 8 Members viz	**Against the Amendment 29 Members viz**	**Abstentions 1 Member viz**
Councillors – Cushinan, Kinnear, Logue, McGrann, McLaughlin, Ní Chonghaile, O'Hagan and O'Lone	Aldermen – Boyle, Bradley, Campbell, Clarke, Cosgrove, Magill, McGrath, Michael, Ross and Smyth. Councillors –Bennington, Brady, Burbank, Cooper, Cosgrove, Dunlop, Flanagan, Foster, Gilmour, Kelly, Kirkpatrick, Lynch,	Councillor - Goodman

	McWilliam, Magill, Mallon, Stewart, Ward, Webb and Wilson	

The amendment was declared not carried.

A Member's concern regarding information being released in this public forum on this matter was noted. Following a request from another Member, the Chief Executive agreed that the confidential information would be removed from the audio recording.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

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

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

8 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Alderman Bradley
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 16 June 2026 be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 22 June 2026 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.

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

Moved by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 22 June 2026 Part 2 be approved and adopted.

10 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK

Moved by Councillor O'Hagan
Seconded by Councillor Brady and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of Tuesday 23 June 2026 be taken as read and signed as correct.

Aldermen Campbell and Smyth and Councillors Burbank, Gilmour and Kirkpatrick left the meeting during Item 11.

11 MOTION

Proposed by Councillor O'Hagan
Seconded by Councillor Logue

"Council recognises the 78th Anniversary of the National Health Service on the 5th July 2026 and places on record its sincere appreciation for all the health and social care workers across Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough.

Members acknowledge the dedication, professionalism and compassion of health and social care staff who continue to deliver compassionate care despite facing unprecedented demand and workforce challenges. Council also recognises the contribution made by those who have come from other countries, and for whom this borough is home. They are valued members of our workforce and our communities.

Accordingly, Council agrees to

a) Place on record its thanks and appreciation to all health and social care workers serving in our borough
b) Write to the Northern Health & Social Care Trust and convey councils continued gratitude and support for their workforce
c) Mark the NHS Anniversary through civic message celebrating the contribution of the health & Social care workers across the borough".

RESOLVED - the motion was declared carried.

ACTION BY: Richard Baker, Chief Executive

Councillor O'Hagan left the meeting at this point.

12 ITEMS FOR DECISION

12.1 ED/REG/094 SHAPING SUSTAINABLE PLACES PROGRAMME

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this report was to update Members on correspondence received from the Department for Communities (DfC) in relation to the outcome of their public consultation process in respect of the Shaping Sustainable Places Programme and to seek approval to commence the development of the Council's Shaping Sustainable Places Action Plan.

2. <u>Introduction</u>

Members would be aware that the Department for Communities (DfC) in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) were jointly developing a new regeneration programme entitled Shaping Sustainable Places.

Members were advised in September 2025 of the public consultation process initiated by DfC during June to August 2025 seeking views from Stakeholders on the proposed programme. Members acknowledged the response to the consultation developed by Officers over the summer which was submitted in September 2025.

As set out in the consultation documentation issued at the time, Shaping Sustainable Places aimed to create a flagship programme of interventions to address the decline in village, town and city centres. The Departments anticipated that through more strategic place-based interventions, the Programme would contribute to stimulating places and catalysing private sector activity to further protect them. It was hoped that Shaping Sustainable Places lay the foundation for new ways of delivering regeneration outcomes.

The Shaping Sustainable Places Programme would predominantly be a capital scheme which focused on key capital projects aimed at improving village, town and city centre environments and may include interventions such as tackling dereliction and vacancy, enhancing public realm, improving physical connectivity, improving safety and security etc. From the initial programme overview, this initiative had four key objectives:

- To improve the places we love by ensuring they are sustainable into the future to create places where people want to live, work, invest and visit.
- To prioritise the safety, health and wellbeing of people through regeneration and creation of people-centred accessible and inclusive spaces.
- To shape places to become more resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change
- To work collaboratively across the departments and through Local Councils, we would be able to deliver a programme that is greater than the sum of its parts.

3. Key Issues

Officers were in receipt of correspondence issued by DfC on 1 May 2026 providing an update on the outcome of the public consultation process in terms of the production of a consultation report and summary document. This document was circulated for Members' information

Members noted from the summary within the document that the Departments had reported on the key findings in that there was broad support for the direction of travel in respect of the Programme, and general support for its component parts in terms of the key placemaking approach. Members also noted specific details within the consultation report and summary in respect of the responses received, and how these were helping to shape the development of the programme.

The report set out the next steps by DfC in terms of finalising the programme design and business case, publishing the funding and prioritisation approach, providing practical delivery guidance to Councils and other key matters. DfC anticipate that between the period Spring-Autumn 2026, that they would secure Executive approval, publish the allocation model and delivery guidance as well as identify early projects. Whilst there was currently no specific date for a formal programme launch, it was anticipated that it would take place further into the current financial year.

In the meantime, Officers continued to engage with DfC and attended a recent session on the 3 June 2026 designed for local authorities to continue to feed into the programme design process.

At the workshop it was clear that, with the anticipated programme launch later this year, local Councils now needed to prepare for the programme by undertaking the development of a new Action Plan for the Shaping Sustainable Places programme that considered the areas and projects which could be supported through the programme in Antrim and Newtownabbey. DfC would like this action planning process to be largely completed by the end of the current financial year and, given the need for large scale engagement with Members, businesses and residents it was timely to get this work underway.

The Department had made clear that allocations to the Council would be based upon a costed action plan and therefore to ensure maximum draw down of funding for the Borough the action plan needed to be robust and evidence based.

The cost of the development of the action plan would have to be met by the Council in the first instance but would be recoverable from DfC in the Year 1 allocation providing it does not exceed 4.75% of the Council's total 10-year allocation.

Considering this indicative timeline, approval was sought to undertake a procurement exercise for suitable consultancy support to begin the development of the action planning process with a further report to be presented in due course. It was expected that the cost would be in the region of £60,000, which would be recovered from the Department in full in due course. In order to meet the anticipated timeframe for the action plan development, the cost would have to be met from the Economic Development budget 2026/27 in the first instance. Whilst this wasn't accounted for in the estimates process, Officers were content that through effective budget management this expenditure could be accommodated.

4. <u>Financial Implications</u>

Members were asked to note that as part of the overall proposed Central Government funding package of £150m across Northern Ireland over the next ten years. There is a 10% match funding requirement from Councils over the same period which would bring the total funding envelope to £165m.

Whilst exact allocations were yet to be confirmed, the potential average Council allocation would likely be in the region of £11-13m over the ten years meaning an expected Council contribution of between £1.1m - £1.3m, roughly up to £130,000 per year for the next ten years.

These figures had been provided as a purely illustrative estimate at this stage to inform financial planning.

Members were also asked to note that this was a capital programme focusing on larger scale projects in villages and towns across the Borough. From engagement with DfC officials, it was expected that the programme would be administered and solely delivered by Councils in addition to the business-as-usual funding provided by DfC for town centre regeneration. In light of this, additional staff resources in both Economic Development and Capital Development may be required, and it was unclear at this time whether the salaries of these posts could be considered as part of the Council's match funding contribution to the programme.

5. <u>Summary</u>

The Department of Communities was bringing forward a new £165m Shaping Sustainable Places Programme over the next 10 years. This would be delivered and administered by the Councils and could be worth around £13m to each local authority. In order to progress this project an evidence-based Action Plan needed to be developed that identified areas and projects that could be funded to maximise impact and meet the overall objectives.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED: - that Members:

a) Note the update on the Shaping Sustainable Places programme; and
b) Approve the procurement of support to assist with the development of the Council's Shaping Sustainable Places Action Plan at an estimated cost of £60,000.

ACTION BY: Steven Norris, Deputy Director of Regeneration and Infrastructure and Michael McKenna, Deputy Director of Investment and Business Development

12.2 ED/DI/005 ASK CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAMME GRANT AWARDS

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the award of five grants under the ASK Capital Grant Programme.

2. <u>Background</u>

The ASK (Advice, Skills and Knowledge) Mentoring Programme was launched in September 2025 and supported local businesses through tailored one-to-one mentoring and business development support.

Through the programme businesses could access up to 10 hours of mentoring support across a range of areas such as Advanced Digital Technologies, Digital Infrastructure & Strategy, Innovation & Product Development, Business Strategy and Planning and Sales & Marketing.

To support the implementation of mentor-led recommendations, the Council introduced the ASK Capital Grant Programme, which provided eligible businesses with grant assistance towards capital investment projects.

Following completion of mentoring eligible businesses could be invited to apply for an 80% funded capital grant of up to £1,500 to support investment in software, systems, equipment and other innovation-enabling technologies aligned with Economic Development objectives.

3. <u>Previous Council Decision</u>

In May 2026, Members approved the extension of the Ask Capital Grant Programme, with a budget allocation of £75,000 for the 2026/27 financial year.

4. <u>Capital Grant Applications Received</u>

Members were advised that during the period 1 April 2026 to 8 June 2026 a total of five applications were received and assessed by officers, with £6,687.83 being recommended for approval, subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation. Grant awards were set out in the table (circulated).

5. <u>Financial Position</u>

The overall ASK Capital Grant Programme budget for 2026/27 is £75,000. To date, £17,713.00 had been awarded. Should Members approve the five grant recommendations within this report the remaining programme budget would be £50,599.00.

6. <u>Summary</u>

This report made five grant recommendations under the ASK Capital Grant Programme for the period 1 April 2026 to 8 June 2026, subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation.

Moved by Councillor Cosgrove
Seconded by Alderman Magill and

RESOLVED: – that Members approve the five grant awards totalling £6,687.83 to the successful applicants under the ASK Capital Grant Programme, subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation.

ACTION BY: Natasha Donald, Economic Development Manager

Alderman Bradley left the Chamber during Item 12.3

12.3 ED/ED/313 BUSINESS DIGITISATION PROGRAMME GRANT AWARDS

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this report was to seek Members approval for the award of 15 grants under Call 2 of the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Business Digitisation Programme.

2. Introduction / Background

The Business Digitisation Programme was one of a number of projects being delivered through the Council's three-year Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Action Plan, funded by the Department for the Economy (DfE). The overall LEP Action Plan had a total budget allocation of £2,868,000. The Business Digitisation Programme provided grant assistance to micro, small and medium-sized businesses to invest in digital technologies, supporting improvements in productivity, operational efficiency and competitiveness.

Eligible businesses could apply for a grant of up to £5,000.00, at a grant rate of 80%.

3. Applications Received

Members were advised that for the period 25 March 2026 – 8 May 2026, 17 applications were received and assessed by an assessment panel, with 15 achieving the required pass threshold. The total value of grant funding recommended for approval is £57,668.95. Grant awards were set out in the table (circulated).

4. Financial Position

The overall budget allocated to the Business Digitisation Programme was £200,000. To date £38,143.42 had been awarded under Call 1 of the Programme. Should Members approve the 15 grant recommendations (circulated) under Call 2, the remaining programme budget would be £104,187.63.

5. Summary

This report made 15 grant recommendations under Call 2 of the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Business Digitisation Programme, subject to receipt of all relevant documentation.

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: - that Members approve the 15 grant awards totalling £57,668.95 to the successful applicants under Call 2 of Business Digitisation Programme, subject to receipt of all relevant documentation.

ACTION BY: Conor Steele, Local Economic Partnership Officer

12.4 ED/GEN/018 CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL GROWTH FUND IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2026-2029

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update members on the public consultation in relation to the Local Growth Fund and retrospectively approve the Officers' response provided by the deadline of 26th June.

2. Introduction/Background

The UK Government's Spending Review for 2025 announced a new targeted approach to local growth funding that was designed to drive economic growth across the United Kingdom. The Local Growth Fund (LGF) would support long-term investment programmes aimed at delivering sustained growth throughout Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The UK Government had committed £129 million over the next three years to support this growth and the LGF represented significant commitment, providing targeted investment to address structural barriers to growth whilst capitalising on opportunities.

The consultation sought views on the proposed strategic framework for the fund helping to shape how this investment was directed to maximise impact for the Northern Ireland economy. The deadline for responses was 26 June 2026.

3. Previous Decision of Council

No previous decision

4. Key actions

Given the deadline of 26 June, Officers had provided a corporate response to the UK Government's Public Consultation 9 (circulated). The response was fundamentally based around the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2030.

5. Financial Position

No financial implications.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED: - that Members approve the draft response retrospectively.

ACTION BY: Stewart McCormack, Investment Officer

Alderman Bradley returned to the Chamber at this point.

13 ITEM FOR NOTING

13.1 FI/AUD/02 REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members to note the Review of the Effectiveness of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Committee's Annual Report for 2025/26.

2. Introduction / Background

Members were advised that Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Audit Committee – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2022, placed a requirement on Audit Committees to "Report regularly on their work, and at least annually report an assessment of their performance".

3. Key Points

In February 2025, Members of the Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the Committee's performance throughout 2025/26, through the completion of the 'Self-Assessment of Good Practice' and the 'Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Audit Committee' checklists.

The results (circulated) of this review were agreed by the Audit and Risk Committee at their meeting in March 2026.

The Audit and Risk Committee had also prepared an Annual Report (circulated) which was agreed by Members at the Audit and Risk Committee in June 2026.

This report outlined the Audit and Risk Committee's activities during 2025/26 and how the Committee had discharged its roles and responsibilities as set out in the Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference.

Moved by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

RESOLVED: - that the Review of the Effectiveness of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Committee's Annual Report for 2025/26 be noted.

NO ACTION

Councillor Cooper left the meeting.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Brady 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.

14 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

14.1 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/629 TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, STOCK & MAINTENANCE OF VENDING MACHINES AT LEISURE CENTRES

CONTRACT PERIOD 3 JULY 2026 – 30 JUNE 2029 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 24 MONTHS (SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW)

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this report was to obtain approval for the appointment of suitably qualified and experienced organisations to supply, stock and maintain vending machines at leisure centres for the contract period.

2. <u>Introduction/Background</u>

The Council provided an excellent range of leisure and recreation facilities for residents and visitors to the Borough, and these facilities were ideally positioned to promote and provide healthy food and drinks to the many people who go there to get fit and improve their health. In order to facilitate the demand for healthy vending options, the Council had undertaken a procurement process to appoint vending providers in the following lots:

Lot 1 Confectionery & Crisps
Lot 2 Cold Drinks & Water
Lot 3 Hot Drinks
Lot 4 Small Sports Goods

The Service Provider for each lot would be responsible for providing a fully managed vending service which included the supply, maintenance, calibration, and stocking and replenishment of the machines as well as end to end customer support. Where the lot relates to food and/or drink items, the Service Provider would ensure that the contents of the vending machines meet the Phase 2 nutritional standards set by the Food Standards Agency. These standards specify a calorie cap for savoury snacks, chocolate and confectionery and the percentage of drinks that should be offered for sale. The Service Provider would pay the Council a commission percentage on sales and the annual income for the Council would be approximately £[redacted] across all lots.

3. Procurement Process

This tender was procured in accordance with good practice laid out in the Procurement Act 2023. The opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 2 June 2026.

One tender response was opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 17 June 2026 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment for Lots 1, 2, and 3. No tender responses were received for Lot 4. The requirements of this lot and the market capacity would be reviewed by officers, and a further procurement process would be undertaken, where appropriate.
The tender was evaluated on a three-stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – COMPLETION AND COMPLIANCE

The tender was checked for completion and compliance and to ensure that no mandatory or discretionary exclusion grounds were applicable. The tender met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for:
- financial capacity
- management systems and practices
- previous relevant experience
- declarations and form of tender

The tender met the requirements of Stage 2 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 3.

STAGE 3 – AWARD STAGE

Quality and Commercial Assessment

The tender was evaluated on the basis of:
- implementation plan (10%)
- quality of the goods and services (25%)
- contract management and performance monitoring (10%)
- cost (55%)

The quality score for the tender exceeded the agreed quality threshold and officers were content that the tenderer could deliver a high-quality contract in accordance with all aspects of the specification for each lot. Full details of the evaluation methodology were available in Appendix A (circulated).

The recommendation for each lot was as follows:

Lot	Tenderer	Quality Assessment (out of 45%)	Cost Assessment (out of 55%)	Total % Score	Commission Payable to Council for Sales

					Generated (%)
1 – Confectionery & Crisps	Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2 – Cold Drinks & Water	Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
3 – Hot Drinks	Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

While there was only one tenderer for each lot, the commission percentages were in line with market rates and officers were content that they represent value for money.

4. Social Value

Social Value in procurement was implemented by the Executive in June 2022 and incorporated all aspects of sustainable procurement including ethical and sustainable supply chains, community benefits and wealth building, job and skills creation and efforts to decarbonise. It was a mandatory requirement for above threshold contracts. This procurement exercise did not meet the requirements for social value criteria to be applied.

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and

RESOLVED: - that for Lots 1, 2, and 3, having achieved a score of 100%, Coca Cola Hellenic Bottling Company be appointed to supply, stock and maintain vending machines at the tendered rates for the period of 3 July 2026 – 30 June 2029, with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months, subject to performance and review.

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager

Alderman Magill left the Chamber and Councillor O'Lone left and returned to the Chamber during Item 14.2

14.2 IN CONFIDENCE L/LEI/629/VOL2 BALLYCLARE RUGBY CLUB – THE CLOUGHAN PROJECT

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

[redacted]

ACTION BY: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure

14.3 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/607 APPOINTMENT OF THE INTEGRATED CONSULTANT TEAM FOR THE SMALL AREAS REVITALISATION PROGRAMME

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this report was to recommend Members approve the appointment of the Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) to undertake works for the Small Areas' Revitalisation Scheme.

2. <u>Introduction/Background</u>

The Small Areas Revitalisation Programme aimed to tackle dereliction and unsightly areas across several areas within the Borough, specifically – Halls Entry (Antrim), Pogue's Entry (Antrim), Harrier Way Entry (Ballyclare), North End (Ballyclare), Granges Entry (Ballyclare) and Farmley Road, beside Santander (Glengormley), Cashels Lane (Randalstown) and Crumlin Community Garden (Crumlin). The scheme would seek to improve the paving, lighting, painting, street furniture and planting at each of these locations to improve the overall appearance and encourage greater footfall through safer, cleaner more attractive spaces.

3. <u>Previous Decision of Council</u>

In October 2024 approval was granted for a funding application to be submitted to the Department for Communities (DfC) for financial support towards the Revitalise Scheme.

In August 2025, Members were informed that the estimated capital budget for the scheme was £[redacted] of which 90% (£[redacted]) would be secured from the

Department for Communities and 10% (£[redacted]) would be funded through the Council's Economic Development budget.

Council had already committed £[redacted] to the development phase of the project, which was provided for within the Economic Development budget.

4. Phasing

Given budget pressures at the Northern Ireland Executive, the Department for Communities had requested that the Council consider phasing the projects over two financial years to better align with the funding available.
To that end, it had been agreed to appoint the Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) for the full project of 8 sites. On completion of the design stage, separate funding applications would be submitted to DfC for capital monies for the schemes to be completed in the first financial year and then a subsequent application for those to be completed in the second financial year.

5. Procurement

Hanna & Hutchinson consulting Engineer Ltd were appointed to develop and create concept design proposals which were subsequently presented to Members.
To meet the programme targets it was proposed to use a public sector procurement framework (Pagabo) to appoint the ICT.
This framework was compliant with the Council's procurement regulations.
Council officers recommend retaining the services of Hanna & Hutchinson Consulting Engineers Ltd who had detailed knowledge of the scheme and would provide conformity, design perspective and value.

Hanna Hutchinson Consulting Engineers Ltd were incorporated within McAdam Design Ltd who were one of the design consultants on the Pagabo Framework. It was therefore proposed to appoint McAdam Design Ltd for delivering the scheme.

6. Cost Summary

A fee proposal had been received from McAdam Design Ltd based upon the scope of works, as indicated below.

Design Fees	[redacted]
Surveys, Statutory investigations etc.	
Contingency / Legal surveys	
Total	

The design fee equates to approximately 10% of the estimated total cost of the works. Benchmarking against a recent similar scheme completed by Council (Environmental Small Settlements Scheme) the fee was considered to provide value for money.

7. Programme (Indicative)

The overall programme for works subject to planning approvals and legal agreements being agreed with various entities was currently estimated as starting the first tranche of funded projects in the summer of 2027. The second tranche was likely to commence in April 2028 completing around winter 2028.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and

RESOLVED: - that Members approve the appointment of McAdam Design Ltd via the Pagabo Framework to undertake the ICT works for the quoted sum of £[redacted] giving a total estimated works' cost, (including optimum bias, surveys etc) of £[redacted]

ACTION BY: John Cook, Capital Development Project Manager

14.4 IN CONFIDENCE E/REG/072 CONTRACT VARIATION REQUEST FOR SMALL SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to modify the contracts for Collins-Rolston Architects Ltd and ID-Verde UK Ltd in relation to works carried out under the Small Settlements Environmental Improvement Scheme.

2. <u>Introduction/Background</u>

In February 2022, the Council was awarded £[redacted] from the Department of Communities, Department for Infrastructure and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs under the COVID-19 Small Settlements Recovery Fund. In line with the funding agreement, the Council was required to provide a minimum match funding contribution of £[redacted] resulting in a total programme budget of £[redacted] split over five areas as detailed below.

- Shop Front Scheme - £[redacted]
- Illumination Scheme - £[redacted] (Templepatrick only)
- Environmental Improvement Scheme - £[redacted]
- Artwork, Signage, Interpretation - £[redacted]
- Programme Delivery - £[redacted]

At the September 2025 Committee, Members were advised that there was a programme underspend of £[redacted] and were provided with an overview of a proposed Templepatrick Environmental Improvement Scheme to utilise the underspend.

3. <u>Previous Decision of Council</u>

In January 2026, Members approved an additional £[redacted] from the economic development budget to accommodate additional works which would allow the Scheme to utilise an underspend on the overall COVID Recovery Small Settlements Programme, circa £[redacted]

4. Templepatrick Environmental Improvement Scheme

In September 2025 and January 2026, Members approved revisions to the Small Settlements Scheme for Templepatrick. These works were designed, managed and completed within the predicted cost and timeline, however whilst the additional funding was approved the contract variation was never approved by Members.

This report sought retrospective approval from Members to increase the contract values for both the design team ((Collins-Rolston Architects Ltd) and contractor (ID-Verde UK Ltd) based on this increased value of works.

These works had already been completed, and this amendment does not require any further budget to be allocated.

5. Financial

A breakdown of the changes required are provided below.

Collins-Rolston Architects Ltd

Contract value awarded	[redacted]
Estimated Final account	
Amendment required	

ID-Verde UK Ltd

Contract value awarded	[redacted]
April 2025 award	
Estimated Final account	[redacted]
Amendment required	

These figures were allowed for within the overall value of the works previously approved by Members in January 2026 and don't require any further budgetary approval.

Overall, the Environmental Improvement Scheme had been delivered for circa £[redacted] less than initially forecast.

Jan 2026	Budget	[redacted]
June 2026	Final account Est	[redacted]

6. Summary

This report provided an updated financial position on the Templepatrick Environmental Improvement Scheme and requests retrospective approval for the design team and contractor contract values to be adjusted to accommodate the approved and completed additional works.

Moved by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

RESOLVED: - that Members retrospectively approve the modification of the contracts in relation to works carried out under the Small Settlements Environmental Improvement Scheme as follows:

Collins-Rolston Architects Ltd [redacted]
ID-Verde UK Ltd

ACTION BY: John Cook Capital Development Project Manager and Natasha Donald, Regeneration Officer

Alderman Magill returned to the Chamber at this point.

14.5 IN CONFIDENCE FI/GEN/028 LIFECYCLE PROJECTS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the appointment of a contractor to undertake the Lifecycle projects listed. These projects were contained within the capital expenditure programme for 2025/2026.

Lifecycle Project

1. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Antrim Forum
2. Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Crumlin

Please note that HVAC systems managed air temperature, humidity and quality within buildings therefore ensuring that users always experience acceptable conditions.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that in February 2025, Council approved budgets for lifecycle projects relating to, Antrim Forum HVAC replacement and Crumlin Leisure Centre HVAC replacement.

In order to facilitate projects of this nature, the Council put in place the Framework for the Provision of Mechanical Services in April 2025.

This framework consists of three lots:

- Lot 1 Domestic and Non-domestic Plumbing Services
- Lot 2 Domestic and Non-domestic Mechanical Services
- Lot 3 HVAC and Smoke Vent Services

Under the framework, Officers could call off the contract directly at the tendered rates or undertake a further competition. The work required for these lifecycle projects would fall under Lot 3, in which Precision Mechanical Contractors Ltd was the first ranked contractor. As such, Officers considered that their tendered rates represented value for money.

3. <u>Current Position</u>

A summary of each Lifecycle project and the procurement process followed was detailed below. Please note that due to additional structural concerns and design changes the accurate costs were now provided.

1) Antrim Forum HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) replacement

The current HVAC system in the Antrim Forum was past its usable lifespan. Persistent faulting and low-level performance, symptomatic of the systems age were causing significant issues for staff and users on site as comfort temperatures/humidity levels were difficult to maintain.

A specialist consultant had produced a specification for a new system which had been costed through the Estate Services mechanical framework for supply, installation and maintenance costs for 1 year. Following this the maintenance costs would be covered by the existing mechanical planned maintenance budget. The total cost was £[redacted] (excl. VAT).

It is recommended that Precision Mechanical Contractors Ltd be appointed to complete these works.

2) Crumlin Leisure Centre HVAC replacement

The current HVAC system in Crumlin Leisure Centre Gym was past its usable lifespan. Persistent faulting and condensation issues coupled with low level performance, were causing significant issues for staff and users on site as comfort temperatures/humidity levels were difficult to maintain.

A specialist consultant had produced a specification for a new system which had been costed through the Estate Services mechanical framework for supply, installation and maintenance costs for 1 year. Following this the maintenance costs would be covered by the existing mechanical planned maintenance budget. The total cost was £[redacted] (excl. VAT).

It was recommended that Precision Mechanical Contractors Ltd be appointed to complete these works.

The tendered framework costs were summarised below.

	Actual Costs
1. HVAC Antrim Forum	[redacted]
2. HVAC Crumlin	[redacted]

These projects would be funded from the previously approved Capital Lifecycle project budget 2025/2026.

Contingency sums of [redacted] had been included in the above costs for each project, for unforeseen works.

4. Further Works

The estimated completion date for project 1 is September 2026 and for project 2 August 2026. Please note that disruption caused by the proposed works would be minimised at all times.

The Director of Finance responded to a Member's question regarding contingency arrangements in place for the contract.

A Member requested that a workshop be run to assist small businesses on writing social responsibility documents for procurement submissions.

A Member's concerns regarding comments made in relation to the Mayor, at this point in the meeting, were noted.

Moved by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

RESOLVED: - that Precision Mechanical Contractors Ltd be appointed via Lot 3 of the Framework for Mechanical Services at a cost of £[redacted]

ACTION BY: David Blair, Head of Estate Services

14.6 IN CONFIDENCE G-LEC-3-366 LEGAL UPDATE

[redacted]

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

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

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 7.58 pm.

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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.