



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD  
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 6.30 PM**

**In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor W J Webb MBE JP)

**Members Present** : Aldermen – P Brett, T Burns, T Campbell, L Clarke  
M Cosgrove, J McGrath, P Michael and J Smyth

Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Brady,  
M Cooper, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, R Foster,  
J Gilmour, M Goodman, N Kelly, R Kinnear, AM Logue,  
A McAuley, N McClelland, T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Magill,  
B Mallon, J Montgomery, N Ramsay, V Robinson, S Ross,  
L Smyth, M Stewart, R Swann and R Wilson

**Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon  
Deputy Chief Executive of Operations – G Girvan  
Deputy Chief Executive of Finance and Governance – S Cole  
Director of Community Planning - U Fay  
Director of Organisation Development – D Rogers  
Head of Communications and Customers – N McCullough  
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey  
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson  
Systems Support Officer – C Bell  
Member Services Manager – V Lisk

Although the COVID restrictions had been relaxed, to manage numbers and minimise risk, members of the public and press could continue to access those parts of the Council meetings which they are entitled to attend through the livestream 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 Councillor Magill.

Councillors Cushinan, Kelly, Kinnear and McGrann joined the meeting.

## MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor expressed his condolences to the family and Party colleagues of Christopher Stalford MLA and Members observed a minute's silence. He also expressed support for those living in Ukraine and hoped other Nations would back the call for Russia to withdraw.

### 2 APOLOGIES

Aldermen – Agnew and Girvan  
Councillor Lynch

### 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 12.3 – Councillor Magill

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

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 31 January 2022 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

### 5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Logue  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 7 February 2022 be approved and adopted.**

### 6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor McGrann  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 8 February 2022 be approved and adopted.**

### 7 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council of Monday 14 February 2022 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

## **8 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Chief Executive advised Members that there had been a query in relation to a grant application and suggested that this be deferred to clarify the detail of the proposal.

Moved by Councillor Stewart  
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 14 February 2022 be approved and adopted with an amendment to Item - Community Development Grant Aid Programme Recommendations 2022/2023 – the grant application for Monkstown Boxing Club be deferred in order to clarify the detail of the proposal.**

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

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

**RESOLVED – that, in relation to Item 3.6 – COVID Certification, and in line with the current guidance, - the COVID certification requirement for access to theatres and premises be removed.**

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

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

Moved by Councillor Flanagan  
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 21 February 2022 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

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

Moved by Councillor Flanagan  
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 21 February 2022 Part 2 be approved and adopted.**

## **10 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **10.1 G/MSMO/017 VOL 3 LEGITIMATE – PRESENTATION REQUEST**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from Caoimhe Donnelly, Head of Operations for Legitimate, following their recent presentation to the National Association of Councillors NI, requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Councillors.

Legitimate is a free to use platform providing the option of a safer way to communicate with the public and press on social media. It eliminates trolling and abuse, as a verified identity/profile will be required for users to engage. All social media posts can be controlled through this one site, if desired.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and

**RESOLVED - that Legitimate be invited to present at a future Policy & Governance Committee meeting.**

*ACTION BY: Member Services*

### **10.2 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE REFORM OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

Members were advised that the Department of Health is launching a public consultation on the reform of adult social care. This consultation is designed to provide a wide range of stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals that have been laid out at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-reform-adult-social-care>

The consultation will run for 16 weeks from 26 January 2022 to 18 May 2022, the impact assessments will be consulted on for the same period. Full details of the consultation and a link to the survey are available at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-reform-adult-social-care>

Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

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

*NO ACTION*

### **10.3 ED/ED/154 RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT SCHEME – TACKLING RURAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ISOLATION (TRPSI)**

Members recalled that during the 2021-22 financial year the Council administered a Rural Business Development Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI). This followed a successful pilot programme which the Council delivered in 2019-20 and subsequent follow up in 2020-21. The programme was open to micro businesses based in the rural areas of the Borough who hadn't previously been supported with TRPSI funding and in 2021-22, 21 applicants were successful in securing grants of up to £4,999. The scheme supported capital spend by businesses, such as purchasing new equipment. The total value of

grants accepted in the Borough in 2021-22 was just under £56,000 leading to a total investment of over £121,000.

Due to the success of the scheme and ongoing need for business recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, DAERA had approached Councils to administer another programme, subject to the outcome of a Business Case, which was currently underway. The grant scheme would be a capital grant scheme of up to £4,999 to support rurally based micro businesses to invest in new equipment to enable them to remain sustainable or to diversify and develop. A micro business is a business with up to 10 full-time equivalent employees and the rural area is defined as any village or area with less than 5,000 residents. In Antrim and Newtownabbey, this will include villages and rural areas outside of the 5 main towns of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown and outside of the Newtownabbey Urban area, which includes Mallusk and Whiteabbey. Grant funding would be offered at a maximum 50% grant rate, so at least 50% of project costs will be provided by the participating business.

DAERA considered Councils feedback to include previously supported businesses for funding, and subject to the business case, expects that the grant will be open to businesses who have not previously received funding, and those who received funding in either of the first 2 years of the programme. Businesses successful in securing funding in the 2021-22 year will not be eligible to apply.

It was anticipated that £62,000 of funding would be made available to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area in the 2022-23 financial year to deliver this programme and that approximately 20 rural businesses will benefit from grant aid. There was no direct financial contribution required from the Council. DAERA would provide 10% of the funds awarded through Letters of Offer (so £6,200 if all funding is allocated) for administration purposes, to promote and deliver the programme, which would be managed by the Economic Development Team.

It was anticipated that the programme will launch in mid-April, with an application call planned for May, and outcomes of assessment notified by early September 2022. To help expedite the release of Letters of Offer it was requested that authority for approving the funding awards be delegated to the Chief Executive. A schedule of the supported projects would be presented to a future Council meeting for information.

Moved by Councillor Logue  
Seconded by Alderman Michael and

**RESOLVED - that the Council agrees to participate in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme in 2022-23, subject to the award of funding from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme.**

*ACTION BY: Sara Thompson, Economic Development Officer*

#### **10.4 CP/CP/182 HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE WORKING GROUP**

Members were reminded that Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group has been meeting monthly since Tuesday 21 September 2021, with the minutes of the meeting of 14 December 2021 approved at the January 2022 Community Planning Committee and the minutes of 19 January 2022 approved at the January 2022 Council meeting.

A further meeting of the Working Group was held on Wednesday 23 February 2022 and the minutes were circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group meeting of 23 February 2022 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

#### **10.5 ED/REG/059 LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) – ACTION PLAN**

Members were be aware of the recently established Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP). The aim of the Partnership is to improve labour market conditions by working on a collaborative basis with a range of partners. The previous meeting of the Labour Market Partnership was held on 27 January 2022 and a copy of the minutes was circulated. At this meeting the Partnership Members reviewed feedback from the Department for Communities (DfC) relating to the Draft Action Plan which was presented to the Council and submitted to DfC in December 2021.

In response to feedback from the Department the Partnership agreed three thematic priority areas for the Action Plan, as follows:

- Theme 1: Reducing Youth Unemployment amongst persons aged 18 – 24 years who are in receipt of an unemployment benefit;
- Theme 2: Reducing Economic Inactivity amongst persons not in employment and who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and /or are not able to work within the next 2 weeks;
- Theme 3: Reducing the Claimant Count by supporting persons who are able to work to find employment and to encourage them off Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit.

A core element of the LMP Action Plan is a co-ordinated intervention across multiple stakeholders that will help guide the persons identified within the themes above onto a tailored and specific support provision. The support aligns to five key intervention stages;

1. Recruitment: Targeted at the three thematic areas identified above with referrals accepted from stakeholder organisations including community partners.

2. Triage: A customer led assessment of need managed through a dedicated shared resource through DfC and the Council assessing needs based on motivation levels, health, skills, experience and any barriers to employment such as travel or childcare costs.
3. Work Ready Support: 'Soft Skills Training' and support to help get participants ready for exposure to work.
4. Career Specific Support: Sector specific taster sessions sector specific academies with career relevant training and qualifications.
5. Employment: Supporting access to employment for participants and incentivising employers to offer an opportunity to participants via grant funding.

The development of the Action Plan has been supported by Grant Thornton. A further draft of the Action Plan encompassing the Department's suggestions was circulated. It was proposed that the plan be submitted to DfC for further consideration. The next stage was for the Department to undertake a business-case assessment of the Action Plan. Upon completion of the business-case it was anticipated that funding would be awarded in March 22 for the financial year 22 / 23.

However, DfC had raised a potential issue regarding budget certainty for the 22/23 year and hence there may be a longer lead-in time for receipt of a Letter of Offer. The budget required for delivering the programme activity contained within the plan was noted in the table below.

	<b>Year 1 21/22</b>	<b>Year 2 22/23</b>
<b>DfC</b>	£160,000 (pending)	£400,186 (pending)
<b>DfE</b>	£10,000 (received)	£40,000 (received)
<b>Total Programme Budget</b>	<b>£170,000</b>	<b>£440,186</b>

The Draft Action plan was still subject to review by the Labour Market Partnership at its next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

**RESOLVED – that the Council approves**

- **the content of the further updated LMP Action Plan for submission to the Department for Communities (DfC); and**
- **the minutes of the Labour Market Partnership held on 27 January 2022.**

*ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development*

## 10.6 ED/REG/048 MASTERPLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

The Council previously approved draft town centre masterplans with further views to be sought through local consultation. The masterplans spatially plot regeneration and investment projects across the following areas:

Town Centres: Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown.  
Arterial Routes:

- A57 Belfast International Airport to Ballyclare
- A52/A26 Crumlin/Nutts Corner/Antrim
- A8 Glengormley to Ballynure
- A6 / M22/M2 Randalstown to Glengormley

Key economic nodes: Abbeycentre, Belfast International Airport, Beverley Shopping Area, Carnmoney, The Junction, Mallusk, Nutts Corner and Whiteabbey.

To date, Officers had facilitated a series of engagements, including Town Team Meetings, Public Engagement Events, Virtual Events and Public Sector Stakeholder Engagement. Throughout February, Officers had been engaging at a local District Electoral Area level to ensure that Members are aware of the types of regeneration initiatives contained within the masterplan document, in particular projects relating to the arterial routes and economic nodes referred to above.

Once finalised and adopted by the Council, the masterplan documents would become the Council's 10 year investment plan. Further refinement of the plans were taking place and Officers were proposing the following milestones towards completion of the work:

- March to April 2022: Formal Public Consultation Period
- May 2022: Refinement of the action plans to reflect public consultation findings
- June 2022: Council Approval of the final draft document
- September 2022: Launch of the Council's 10 year Investment Plan

Prior to the formal public consultation going live Members would have an opportunity to view the collated final draft action plans via: [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/towncentremasterplans](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/towncentremasterplans). Email communications would be issued to advise Members when the final draft plans are live for review.

Moved by Councillor Logue  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

**RESOLVED - that the Council notes the progress of the new masterplans to date and the timescales for their completion with a final draft document to be considered by the Council at its meeting in June 2022.**

*ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development*



## 10.7 PT/C1/046 CORPORATE RECOVERY & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-23 – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Members were reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services, in the context of strategic objectives and issues.

Section 85 of the Act requires a Council, for each financial year, to set itself improvement objectives for improving the exercise of its functions and to have in place arrangements to achieve those objectives. These objectives must be framed so that each improvement objective so as to bring about improvement in at least one of the specified aspects of improvement as defined in Section 86: Strategic Effectiveness; Service Quality; Service Availability; Fairness; Sustainability; Efficiency; Innovation.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council approved a Corporate Recovery Plan 2021-23. While we are still operating in a period of uncertainty, the Council is ambitious and an updated Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 (Draft for consultation) had been drafted (circulated) which will guide and assist the Council in working towards the goals and ambitions we have already committed to and fulfils our statutory performance duty.

The Plan provides an overview of some achievements to date, details our statutory targets and identifies improvement objectives for customer service, leisure, staff attendance and prompt payments. The Plan also details performance targets for all service areas and these will be reported quarterly to Committee/Council, however do not form part of the Councils legislative duty.

Departmental guidance, indicates that Councils should *'develop an on-going dialogue with our communities and areas that it serves, so that the setting of improvement objectives is a jointly owned process centred on a balanced assessment of the needs of the community as a whole, rather than any particular organisation or interest group within it.'*

To this end, it was proposed to conduct a twelve-week consultation period to encourage feedback from our stakeholders, commencing on 7 March and running to 24 May 2022.

Following the consultation, a summary report of the responses would be presented to the Policy and Governance Committee, and a revised draft of the Plan would be brought to Members' attention in June 2022.

The Plan had been screened for equality and there were no implications to the equality of opportunity or good relations of the Section 75 equality categories. A copy of the Screening Form was circulated for Members' consideration.

A Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the Plan had been carried out to ensure Rural Proofing and was circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED - that the Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 (Draft for consultation), Equality Screening Form and Rural Needs Impact Assessment are approved, subject to consultation.**

*ACTION BY: James Porter, Performance and Transformation Officer*

## **11 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **11.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL**

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's February 2022 monthly bulletin was circulated for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 13 January 2022 was also circulated.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

### **11.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION - FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO NORTHERN IRELAND'S HANDLING OF CARE HOME RESIDENTS**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council calling for support for the Commissioner for Older People's request for a public enquiry into Northern Ireland's handling of care home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and requesting support for this.

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

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED - that the correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

### **11.3 CE/GEN/015 AND ED/ED/166 VOL 2 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING BELFAST RAPID TRANSPORT PHASE 2 MOTION**

Members recalled that at the Council meeting held on 27 September 2021, a Motion was unanimously carried in relation to the Belfast Rapid Transport Phase 2 Project. As requested the Chief Executive had written to the Ministers for Finance and the Minister for Infrastructure (copies circulated).

The Private Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure had now replied and a copy of the response was circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **11.4 G/MSMO/008 VOL 3 BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION PERIOD AND HEARINGS**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Boundary Commission advising that the secondary consultation period of the 2023 Boundary review has commenced.

The secondary consultation period provides an opportunity to submit further written representations with respect to the representations from the initial consultation period, which are available on the Commission's [website](#). It also includes three public hearings, at which representations can be made about any of the Commission's initial proposals, and about any alternative proposals.

The hearings would take place as follows:

- Wednesday 2 March 2022 at the Clayton Hotel, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast
- Tuesday 8 March 2022 at the City Hotel, Queen's Quay, Derry/Londonderry
- Friday 11 March 2022, at the Glenavon Hotel, Drum Road, Cookstown

Each hearing will run from 11am until 7pm, with morning (11am – 1pm), afternoon (2pm – 4pm), and evening (5pm – 7pm) sessions. You can find more details about the hearings, and a registration form [here](#).

Contacts in relation to the consultation are BCNI Secretariat:  
[www.boundarycommission.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk)

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **11.5 CE/GEN/015 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS REGARDING ANIMAL WELFARE MOTION**

Members recalled that at the Council meeting held on 31 January 2022, a Motion was carried in relation to animal cruelty. As requested the Chief

Executive had written to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (copy circulated).

The Permanent Secretary had now replied and a copy of the response was circulated for Members' information.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **11.6 ED/ED/140 GROW SOUTH ANTRIM LOCAL ACTION GROUP MINUTES**

A meeting of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group was held on Friday 29 October 2021 and the minutes recorded at the meeting were circulated.

Members noted that some commercial business details had been redacted in line with operational requirements.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group Meeting held on Friday 29 October 2021 be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

*Councillor Magill left the Linen Suite at this point of the meeting.*

### **MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'**

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

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

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

*Councillor Goodman left the meeting having experienced technical difficulties.*

## **12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE**

### **12.1 IN CONFIDENCE AC/GEN/077 NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE REGIONAL HUB – MOSSLEY MILL**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED – that Members note the progress being made to provide an interim Civil Service Regional Hub at Mossley Mill.**

*ACTION BY: Sandra Cole, Deputy Chief Executive of Finance and Governance*

**12.2 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/209 GILBERT STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

Members were reminded that the 2022 Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme was approved by the Council in August 2021. The Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme is a cross-community programme that

provides four students, two from Antrim and Newtownabbey and two from Gilbert, Arizona with an opportunity to develop an understanding of a different country, its culture, and its people through a family living experience. The programme lasts approximately six weeks during the summer with half the time spent in Gilbert and half in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Members were advised that the application process is now complete and consisted of a written application form, nomination from school teacher or youth leader, and an interview with students and their parents/guardians.

Sixteen applications were received in total, with five applications being ineligible; three of which did not meet the age requirements of the programme, one of which did not live within the Borough, and one application which was not completed.

The interview panel consisted of the Mayor, Councillor Billy Webb, Alderman Fraser Agnew and Councillor Jim Montgomery and Business Development Manager, Emma Stubbs.

The two successful candidates selected to represent Antrim and Newtownabbey during the 2022 Student Exchange Programme are [REDACTED] attending Antrim Grammar School, and [REDACTED] attending Belfast High School. Because of the possibility of changing circumstances due to COVID-19 three candidates had been appointed as reserves. They are [REDACTED] attending Belfast High School, [REDACTED] attending Antrim Grammar School and [REDACTED] attending St. Malachy's College.

A reception to welcome the American students to the Borough would be hosted by the Mayor.

The programme remains subject to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the applicants and their parents, and wished them well.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and

**RESOLVED - that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] take part in the 2022 Student Exchange Programme and [REDACTED] be offered reserve positions.**

*ACTION BY: Carly Long, Economic Development Project Officer*

*Alderman McGrath left the meeting during the next item.*

### **12.3 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/215 REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND IN CRUMLIN**

A request had been received from an interested party to purchase Council land to the rear of Crumlin Leisure Centre, known as the 'Barley Field'. The

map (circulated) showed the size and location of the land. [REDACTED]

Members recalled that Expressions of Interest had previously been invited for Council land including the Steeple site and the Central Services Depot. In both cases the process had been positive and resulted in a preferred option for sale.

Moved by Councillor Logue

Seconded by Alderman Burns that this be brought back to DEA Members with further information for further discussion.

#### AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor McAuley

Seconded by Alderman Michael that an Expression of Interest process be initiated for the 'Barley Field' in Crumlin.

On the Amendment being put to the meeting, and a recorded vote having been requested by Alderman Burns, Members voted as follows:

<b>In favour of the Amendment Members viz 25</b>	<b>Against the Amendment Members viz 8</b>	<b>Abstentions Members viz 0</b>
Aldermen – Brett, Campbell, Clarke, Cosgrove, Michael and J Smyth  Councillors – Archibald-Brown, Bennington, Brady, Cooper, Dunlop, Flanagan, Foster, Gilmour, Kelly, McAuley, McWilliam, Mallon, Montgomery, Ramsay, Robinson, Ross, L Smyth, Swann and Webb	Aldermen - Burns  Councillors – Cushman, Kinnear, Logue, McClelland, McGrann, Stewart and Wilson	

The Amendment was declared carried and on being put to the meeting as the Substantive Motion, 25 Members voted in favour, 8 against and 0 abstentions and it was

**RESOLVED - that an Expression of Interest process be initiated for the 'Barley Field' in Crumlin.**

*ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth*

*Councillor Magill returned to the meeting.*

#### **12.4 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/173 OUR PROSPERITY OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUP MINUTES**

The Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group met on the 24 February 2022 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 24 February 2022 was circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group of 24 February 2022 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development*

#### **12.5 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/406 TENDER FOR PROVISION OF CONTRACTOR TO DELIVER THE ANTRIM RIVERFRONT REGENERATION PROJECT WORKS**

At the Council meeting on 28 June 2021, Members agreed to proceed with the Antrim Riverfront Regeneration Scheme development, part of Levelling Up Fund (LuF) opportunities outlined for Antrim.

This report presented the outcome of the recent tender exercise to appoint the contractor for the scheme.

##### **PROJECT SCOPE**

The scheme which is located in the building at 55-59 High Street, will create a direct access to the boardwalk, improve the exterior appearance to the rear elevation of the building facing the Sixmilewater River along with upgrades to accessibility. The project scope comprises:

- Façade treatment including installation of a double height feature window
- Accessibility improvements including ramped access from the existing boardwalk
- Completion of minor internal fit-out, ceiling and structural works, including a platform lift and staircase.

##### **PROCUREMENT**

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 7 July 2021. Three completed Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) were selected on 6 August 2021 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The PQQ responses were evaluated using the criteria of past performance, economic and financial standing, professional conduct, health and safety and technical & professional ability. One contractor failed at PQQ stage, and two contractors were selected for Invitation to Tender (ITT).



ITT documents were issued to the two contractors on the 12 January 2022. One contractor declined to submit a tender, with one contractor (JPM Contracting) submitting.

## TENDER ANALYSIS

Contractor	Total of the Prices*	Model Compensation Event Total**	Tender Assessment Total Price***
JPM Contracting	£ [REDACTED]	£ [REDACTED]	£ [REDACTED]

\*The Total of the Prices is the Contractor's price to carry out the commission.

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

\*\*\*The Tender Assessment Total Price is the Total of the Prices + the Model Compensation Event Total and is used solely for tender comparison purposes

The tender was evaluated on a price (100%) only basis and was in line with pre-tender estimate.

## COST SUMMARY

Based on the lowest tender, the anticipated budget for the project is as follows:

Total of the Prices	[REDACTED]
Model Compensation Event	[REDACTED]
Tender Assessment Total Price	[REDACTED]
Fees/contingency	[REDACTED]
<b>Estimated Total Project budget</b>	[REDACTED]
Private Sector Funding	[REDACTED]
LuF Funding	[REDACTED]
Council Contribution	[REDACTED]

## PROGRAMME

Following the appointment of the Contractor, works were anticipated to commence in March 2022 and complete in May 2022 as per the requirements of the funding secured.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

**RESOLVED - that**

- 1. the tendered total of the prices, of £ [REDACTED] (excl. VAT) from JPM Contracting be approved; and**
- 2. the total project budget of £ [REDACTED] be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Chris McClure, Capital Projects Officer*

## **12.6 IN CONFIDENCE G/INS/PROP/023/VOL2 THE STEEPLE SITE UPDATE**

Members were aware of the comprehensive plans for the redevelopment of the Steeple Site, including investment by both the Council and the private sector. In the main, the proposals cover four key elements:

- a) Steeple House Refurbishment
- b) Steeple House Outbuildings
- c) Steeple Park (Paths and Planting)
- d) Private sector led Healthcare Hub

With respect to the refurbishment of Steeple House, the background and current financial position was summarised as follows:

Following the fire of the Steeple House in the early hours of 2 July 2019, due to a number of factors including its listing, the size and complexity of the claim, there have been protracted negotiations over an 18 month period resulting in a payment to Council of £1.9 Million.

The £1.9 Million will be used for the refurbishment of the Steeple House as previously agreed. Capital Development will commence planning this project and Members will be consulted on the proposal for the building as this progresses.

The listed outbuildings associated with the House were also partly damaged by a fire and an insurance claim was now underway. There is the potential for external funding for this scheme, which Officers were exploring, including the Heritage Lottery Fund. The buildings would lend themselves to a range of uses including flexible exhibition space, and it was proposed that Officers begin to scope out options and high level costs for Members' consideration.

With respect to the wider parkland development, previous approval was granted to proceed with the development of a path scheme through the site to promote connectivity and a planting scheme to improve the appearance of the park. This work was being progressed.

The final element of the scheme is the private sector led healthcare hub, with Apricot Health as the lead developer. Des Mooney had been appointed as the architect for the scheme and had held an initial introductory meeting with Officers in planning and economic development. Given the various elements of work being advanced at the Steeple, there was an opportunity to co-ordinate with the developer on survey work in relation to; Traffic Flow &

Car Parking and Archaeology & Historic considerations. This approach would ensure that the various elements of work are 'joined up' and presented as a 'masterplan' approach to consultees such as the Department for Infrastructure Roads and Historic Environment Division. The cost of the agreed studies could therefore be met on a shared basis by the Council and the developer.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery  
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

**RESOLVED - that survey work in relation to Traffic Flow & Car Parking and Archaeology & Historic considerations be progressed on a 50/50 basis with the Developer as required.**

*ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth*

## **12.7 IN CONFIDENCE ED/REG/013 ULSTER BAR CORNER**

Members were reminded that the Council has been granted a 2 year licence (with option to extend to five years) by the Department for Communities to undertake a meanwhile use on the site at Ulster Bar Corner, in advance of a final decision regarding its future development. Alongside the agreement, the Department had awarded funding of £[REDACTED] towards a meanwhile use scheme. A copy of the draft concept plan and visuals were circulated.

It was also proposed to include incidental play pieces at key locations on the site and low level lighting and festoon lighting to provide both security and ambience for the space. The total cost of the proposed schemes was £[REDACTED]. This budget makes provision for design risk given the current market conditions. The project would therefore require a Council match funding contribution of up to £[REDACTED].

Whilst it was initially indicated that this scheme would have to be completed by 31 March 2022, a funding extension until January 2023 was being sought from the Department given the procurement requirements which must be met. The indicative timeframe for delivery of the scheme was commencement on site in August 2022 and completion by December 2022. (Date subjected to planning permission not being required).

Moved by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and

**RESOLVED - that the proposed scheme for Ulster Bar Corner be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth*

## **12.8 IN CONFIDENCE G/BCEP/009 PEACE PLUS GEO THERMAL PROJECT BID**

Members were reminded of the previous reports to the Council which outlined the details of a bid to the Peace Plus programme to advance a Geo Thermal project which includes Antrim town as a target location. There will

also be partners from Dublin and potentially Sligo due to the cross border nature of the bid.

The work proposed through the initial funded project, if progressed, would provide essential technical intelligence which will inform the scope of any future scheme e.g. water temperature, distance that could be travelled to a connecting site, etc. This information would also inform the wider opportunity to connect key public sites such as Antrim Forum, Antrim Area Hospital and local schools.

There is also a growing interest emerging from the private sector to explore this technology as a means to reduce their energy costs and improving their carbon footprint. As this is very new technology to Northern Ireland, it will be important that the communication regarding any future project is handled sensitively and developed in co-operation with all partners involved to ensure a consistent and 'joined up' message is shared.

The current interest in advancing geo thermal technology was aligned to the Department for Economy's strategy for renewable energy as part of the drive towards carbon zero.

Following a recent meeting with representatives from the Geological Survey Northern Ireland and the Department of the Economy, a request had been made to make a presentation to the Council's Climate Change Working Group, to provide members with detailed information regarding the survey work completed to date and the scope of the Peace Plus Programme project bid for a deep geothermal demo work package.

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED - that**

- (a) the request by the Geological Survey Northern Ireland to present to the Climate Change Working Group in June 2022 be approved and that all Members are invited to attend the meeting for this item;**
- (b) the Council agrees 'in principle' to act as the Northern Ireland lead for this project;**
- (c) a Communications Plan is prepared for the project.**

*ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth*

**MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'**

Moved by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 7.42 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.***