



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN
ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2015 AT 6:30 PM**

- In the Chair** : The Mayor (Councillor T Hogg)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – F Agnew, P Barr, T Burns, T Campbell, M Cosgrove, W DeCourcy, M Girvan and J Smyth
Councillors - T Beatty, J Bingham, J Blair, P Brett, H Cushinan, B Duffin, T Girvan, P Hamill, N Kells, N Kelly, B Kelso, R Lynch, M Magill, M Maguire, J Montgomery, N McClelland, V McWilliam, P Michael, M Rea, D Ritchie, S Ross and J Scott
- In Attendance** : Northern Ireland Housing Executive Representatives:
Siobhan McAuley – Director of Regional Services
Ailbhe Hickey – Regional Planner
Sharon Crooks – Area Manager
Esther Christie – Assistant Director, Strategic Planning & Research
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon
Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance & Governance
C McFarland
Director of Community Planning and Regeneration –M McAlister
Director of Organisational Development - A McCooke
Director of Operations - G Girvan
Legal Advisor - P Casey
Head of Communication and Customer Services –T White
Health, Safety and Well Being Officer –D Irwin
Senior Mayor/Member Services Officer - K Smyth
Senior Administrative Officer –S McAree

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Rev. Campbell Dixon MBE.

Councillors Cushinan and Kelly joined the Meeting.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Members stood for one minute's silence as a mark of respect for Skelton Rainey, an employee of the Council who had recently died following a long illness, Alan Drennan, a resident of the Borough who had tragically lost his life in Ibiza and Ian Austin who died tragically in a scuba diving accident in Egypt.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Jim Montgomery, Alderman Cochrane-Watson's replacement, to his first meeting of the Council. The Chairman and Members offered best wishes to Alderman Cochrane-Watson in his new role and offered congratulations to Councillor Montgomery. Councillor Montgomery thanked the Chief Executive and staff for all their assistance.

The Mayor offered get well wishes to Councillor Hollis who was in hospital and informed members that he had arranged for a basket of fruit to be sent to him on behalf of the Council.

Congratulations from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and members' was extended to Councillor Arthurs on his recent marriage.

The Mayor also congratulated the appropriate staff on receiving 10 green flag awards for the Borough, which was an increase of two from the previous year.

HEALTH & SAFETY BRIEFING

The Health, Safety and Well Being Officer provided an update for Members on evacuation procedures for Antrim Civic Centre in the event of a fire.

2 APOLOGIES

Alderman – W Ball

Councillors – D Arthurs, A Ball, L Clarke, M Goodman, D Hollis, A M Logue, R Swann and W Webb

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor (Alderman Hogg), Alderman DeCourcy, Councillors Hamill and Scott declared an interest in item 7.18, Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal.

Councillors Brett, Kelso and McClelland declared an interest in item 7.9, Community Development Grant Aid Programme 2015/16 funding recommendations (Second Call).

Councillors Beatty, Cushinan and Duffin declared an interest in item 7.17 Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership Scheme: Request for Match Funding.

(Alderman Burns arrived following consideration of this item).

4 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Beatty
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 29 June 2015 be approved.

NO ACTION

5 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting on Monday 29 June 2015 be taken as read and signed as correct.

NO ACTION.

6 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, PART 1

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Part 1 held on Monday 20 July 2015 be taken as read and signed as correct.

NO ACTION.

7.1 G/MSMO/7 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2015-2019

Members were reminded of the request from Northern Ireland Housing Executive to present their Antrim and Newtownabbey Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019 that had been reported to the April Council Meeting.

A copy of the Housing investment Plan was enclosed and the undernoted representatives were in attendance.

- Siobhan McCauley - Director of Regional Services
- Sharon Crooks - Area Manager
- Ailbhe Hickey - Regional Planner
- Esther Christie – Assistant Director, Strategic Planning & Research

Following members questions The Mayor thanked the representatives for their attendance and they left the meeting.

NO ACTION

7.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Members had been advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council:

22 Grave Leases in respect of Council cemeteries

Moved by Councillor Duffin
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and

RESOLVED - that the sealing of documents as listed in the register of documents sealed be approved.

NO ACTION.

7.3 ED/ED/4 RYBNIK DAYS 2015

Members were reminded of the 'Rybnik Days' Festival which took place from 11- 14 June in Rybnik Poland. The delegation included the Mayor, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Community Planning & Regeneration Committee, two musicians from the Major Sinclair Memorial Pipe band and an officer. Representatives from the Council's twin town of Dorsten also attended. The Mayor of Rybnik, Mr Piotr Kuczera, had written to the Mayor expressing his thanks to the Council's delegation who attended this year's festival.

A copy of the correspondence was enclosed.

It was reported that during the visit the Mayor of Rybnik facilitated a meeting to discuss future collaboration opportunities between the twinned towns (including Larissa in Greece which Rybnik was twinned with) and expressed his wish to explore future cooperation opportunities through cultural projects perhaps involving schools in each of the regions by way of student exchange initiatives if there was interest from local schools and if external funding could be identified. The delegation also met with the local Craftsmen and SME Guild (similar to Chambers of Commerce) to discuss potential co-operation in terms of exchanging good practice in the area of entrepreneurship support between the

twinned towns and facilitating networking between businesses in each region.

Before the end of the visit it was suggested that a follow up visit could take place in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council to take forward the co-operation ideas discussed in Rybnik.

Moved by Councillor Bingham
Seconded by Councillor Kells and

RESOLVED – that

- a) **Members’ invite the Mayor of Rybnik and representatives from Dorsten to visit Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council later in the year**
- b) **A strategic review of the Council’s twinning arrangements be reported to a future meeting.**

ACTION BY: Paul Kelly

7.4 CPR/PBS/PS/1 ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A COIL IN THE AIR HANDLING UNIT AT THE VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Members were advised that the coil for the air handling unit at the Valley Leisure Centre was no longer operational and the most feasible option available was to purchase a replacement coil, which was estimated to cost between £14,000 and £15,000. The proposal was that this essential work would be funded from the £700,000 capital budget for the leisure centres approved for the 2015/16 year.

A copy of the Economic Appraisal was attached.

Moved by Councillor Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED – that approval be granted to purchase and install a replacement coil for the air handling unit at the Valley Leisure Centre at a maximum cost of £15,000.

ACTION BY: Bronagh Doonan

7.5 PBS/BS/3 STREET NAMING

Members were advised that the following name had been submitted for approval.

Donardview Close

It was reported that the above name had been submitted for the re-development of 6no. dwellings off an existing street which was previously un-named and serviced existing flats which had been demolished many years ago

off Derrycoole Way, Rathcoole, adjacent to Deerfin Park a map indicating the location of the street was enclosed. Please note the current Building Control application was for a total of 18 no units.

Members were advised that in response to a specific request from the applicant Helm Housing Association it was proposed that the street name be Donardview Close which was in keeping with the alphabetical system of street names within the Rathcoole estate.

Moved by Councillor Scott
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED – that the name Donardview Close be approved.

ACTION BY: Bronagh Doonan

7.6 PBS/BS/3 STREET NAMING

It was reported that correspondence was received on 10 July 2015 from Creeve Construction Ltd. regarding the naming of a residential development at Junction Road, Antrim. The development was for approximately 16 units comprising of detached and semi-detached dwellings, a map indicating the location was enclosed.

Three development names had been submitted as follows:

- 1 Millburn
- 2 Milltown Lane
- 3 Cornmill

Moved by Councillor Scott
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED – that the name Cornmill be approved.

ACTION BY: Bronagh Doonan

7.7 CP/GR/16 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID PROGRAMME 2015-16

Members were reminded that the annual Good Relations Action Plan submitted to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister contained a budget of £25,000 for the implementation of a Good Relations Grant Aid Programme to support community and race relations locally. This was a rolling programme open until March 2016 subject to budget availability.

Members were reminded that a pass threshold of 50% for Good Relations Grant Aid applications was agreed at the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee in November 2014.

During the month of June one application requesting a total of £2,500 was received and assessed by Officers and a summary was outlined below:

	Group Name/ Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Scored (%)	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
1	Croi Eanna	Hallowe'en Festival to serve as an enlightening and positive introduction to other cultures and languages.	40	£2,500.00	£0
			TOTAL AMOUNT	£2,500.00	£0

As indicated the applicant failed to meet the threshold of 50% to secure funding.

Members were advised that officers would provide support to the group should they wish to re-submit an enhanced application.

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Councillor Brett and

RESOLVED –that the funding application be rejected and the group receive feedback on their application.

ACTION BY: Rhoda Gray

7.8 CPRD/CD/6 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME 2015/16 - FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS (SMALL GRANTS)

Members were reminded of the Small Grants Programme which was agreed by the Council in October 2014 as part of the new Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Members were advised that the purpose of the Small Grants Programme was to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to a maximum of £500 towards Seeding Costs and/or Insurance or a Small Activity and/or insurance. Groups who applied for a small grant were not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme which included Community Outreach and Involvement, Premises, Technical Assistance and Summer Schemes, during the course of the 2015/16 financial year.

It was reported that these groups might however be eligible to apply for a Festival Grant should further funding become available during this financial year. A further option for these groups would be the Council Good Relations Grant Aid Programme. To be successful in securing a small grant, groups applying must score a minimum of 50% in their applications and all proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

During the month of June a total of 3 applications requesting a total of £1,477.27 were received and assessed by Officers and a summary of the proposed awards were outlined below:

Group Name/Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Scored (%)	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Burnside and District Community Group	Insurance costs to cover annual programme of events	46.5	£500	£0
St Benedict's PTA	Summer scheme provision	53.5	£500	£500
Tidy Randalstown	Insurance costs to cover annual programme of events	53.5	£477.27	£477.27
Total			£1,477.27	£977.27

It was further reported that officers would provide support to unsuccessful groups should they wish to re-submit an enhanced application. The total budget available for Small Grants for the 2015/2016 financial year was £6,472.37. The total amount of financial assistance awarded under this assessment is £977.27 leaving a balance of £1,497.30 to fund future successful applications submitted during the course of the 2015/16 financial year.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED - that the proposed funding awards be approved and the unsuccessful group receive feedback on their application.

ACTION BY: Rhoda Gray

(Councillors Brett, Kelso and McClelland, having declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting during its consideration).

7.9 CPRD/CD/6 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME 2015/16 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS (SECOND CALL)

Members were reminded of the decision taken in May 2015 to invite the 31 groups who had been unsuccessful in securing financial assistance under the first call of the Community Development Grant Aid Programme 2015/16 to resubmit their applications. A budget of £60,000 was allocated from existing budgets. The closing date for the second call was 26 June. To support the resubmission of these applications Officers delivered a series of grant workshops and offered one-to-one support to individual group upon request.

In total 16 applications were received and assessed by Officers and a summary of the applications and score sheets were shown below.

Group Name / Project Promoter	Project Description / Title	Scored Percentage	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Small Activity Grants				
Muckamore Village Indoor Bowling Club	Hall rental, Insurance and fees to promote the Club within the community	60	£500.00	£500.00
Antrim Reminiscence Group	Reminiscence programme for older members covering insurance, rent and fees.	53	£500.00	£500.00
Premises Grants				
Ballydonagh Rural Community Association	Maintain small hall for rural community use in Ballydonagh area.	70	£3,499.00	£3,499.00
Academy Sports Club	Continued operation as a sports club as priority grows to develop the facility as a Community and Sports Hub.	65	£2,270.00	£2,270.00
Home-start Antrim District	Continue to provide a building to offer Homestart assistance to families in the Antrim area.	65	£3,500.00	£3,500.00
Women's Aid - Newtownabbey Centre	Maintain the Women's Aid office and support centre base in the Newtownabbey Area.	65	£3,400.00	£3,400.00
Mossley Heritage & Development Association	Manage and maintain a multi-purpose building for local residents to use for meetings, events and development activities.	60	£2,623.00	£2,623.00
Caddy and District Community Group	Maintain a rural based hall offering accommodation to a variety of local groups.	50	£2,421.86	£2,421.86
Outreach Grants				

Ballyclare Widows Group	Social and educational activity programme for widows and former-widows in the Ballyclare area.	75	£1,203.00	£1,203.00
St James Aldergrove GAC	Provision of a structured outreach programme teaching Gaelic sports to girls.	40	£2,000.00	£0.00
Summer Scheme Grants				
Barnardo's Newtownabbey Family Connections	3 week family scheme in Newtownabbey Community High School with arts, crafts and trips.	50	£1,494.00	£1,494.00
Community Festivals Grants				
Ballyclare Chamber of Trade	Christmas Extravaganza to coincide with Christmas Tree Light Switch on in the Town.	65	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Cloughfern District LOL	Festival showcasing regalia and historical items relating to the loyal orders in an effort to promote the orders to the wider community.	65	£2,765.00	£2,265.00
The Bytes Project	Multi-Cultural Festival including workshops focusing on musical instruments, dance, dress, make up and customs.	62.5	£4,700.00	£4,700.00
Lord Our God In Community (LOGIC)	Community fun day comprising of inflatables, climbing wall, pancake making and environmental projects.	55	£1,100.00	£1,100.00
Antrim Borough Special Olympics Basketball Club	Family fun day to include special Olympics basketball and promotion of intellectual disabilities raising awareness within the community	47.5	£735.00	£0.00

	of voluntary organisation.			
Total			£37,710.86	£34,475.86

Members were reminded that a pass threshold of 50% was agreed at the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee in November 2014. It was also agreed that groups would no longer be required to demonstrate match funding however where a group evidenced match funding this would be reflected in the scoring. In relation to insurance, successful applicants under Community Outreach and Involvement, Summer Schemes and Technical Assistance would also be entitled to insurance cover up to a maximum of £500. Members were also advised that proposed awards were subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of funding might be withdrawn.

It was reported that in total 16 applications had been received as detailed in the table above; 14 applications successfully scored 50% and above requesting £34,475.86 and 2 applications failed to meet the 50% threshold.

Members were advised that if all applications scoring 50% and above were approved then a budget of £25,524.14 would remain from the total budget of £60,000 and it was proposed that £10,000 of this be utilised to service the rolling Small Grants Programme up to 31 March 2016.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Michael and

RESOLVED – that

- a) **The proposed funding awards totalling £34,475.86 be approved**
- b) **£10,000 of the remaining budget of £25,524.14 be utilised to service the Small Grants Programme up to 31 March 2016**
- c) **the unsuccessful groups receive feedback on their application.**

ACTION BY: Elaine Manson

7.10 CPRD/GR/3 GOOD RELATIONS SUB-GROUPS

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the Committee meeting in April that the Council would establish Good Relations Subgroups for a period of 6-12 months based on priority issues identified in the Antrim and Newtownabbey

Council Good Relations Audits and in keeping with the overall government strategy for Good Relations, Together Building a United Community. The subgroups were:

Our Children and Young People; to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building Good Relations.

Our Shared Community; to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Our Cultural Expression; to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

It was proposed that each subgroup should be comprised of Elected Members and community/statutory members with a specific interest or specialism in the theme. On a practical basis it was proposed that the maximum membership of each group should be 13 elected members. The community and statutory representation on each subgroup would be subject to change depending on the issue identified by members.

Following a self-selection process based on subgroup preference 31 Members indicated their preference. A copy of the membership for each subgroup based on first preference was included below:

Our Children & Young People	Our Cultural Expression	Our Shared Community
The Mayor, Cllr Thomas Hogg (DUP) Cllr Paul Hamill (DUP) Cllr Billy Webb (All) Cllr Noreen McClelland (SDLP) Cllr Trevor Beatty (DUP) Ald Mandy Girvan (DUP) Cllr Henry Cushinan (SF) Cllr Mervyn Rea (UUP) Cllr Roderick Swann (UUP)	The Mayor, Cllr Thomas Hogg (DUP) Ald Pamela Barr (DUP) Cllr Neil Kelly (All) Cllr Anne Marie Logue (SF) Cllr Timothy Girvan (DUP) Cllr Philip Brett (DUP) Cllr Drew Ritchie (UUP) Cllr Stephen Ross (DUP) Ald Tom Campbell (All) Cllr Matthew Magill (DUP) Cllr Nigel Kells (DUP) Cllr Brian Duffin (SDLP) Ald Fraser Agnew (UUP) Ald William DeCourcy (DUP)	The Mayor, Cllr Thomas Hogg (DUP) Ald Mark Cosgrove (UUP) Cllr Vera McWilliam (UUP) Cllr Jim Bingham(UUP) Cllr John Blair (All) Cllr Michael Goodman (SF) Cllr Roisin Lynch (SDLP) Cllr Paul Michael (UUP) Cllr David Hollis (TUV) Cllr Ben Kelso (UUP)

Moved by Councillor Beatty
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED – that the above membership be agreed and members that have not responded please respond with their preference.

ACTION BY: Elaine Manson

7.11 CP/CD/8 AREAS AT RISK ANTRIM ACTION PLAN

Members were reminded of the decision at the June Council meeting to approve the Antrim Areas at Risk Action Plan for the delivery of programmes in Farranshane, Ballycraigy and Steeple Super Output Areas from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. Project spend would start in July 2015 and would total £109,960. It was also agreed that a further report be brought to the July Council meeting regarding further proposals for the Steeple area.

It was noted at the June Council meeting that there might have been some groups within the Steeple Super Output Area who did not participate fully in the Areas at Risk consultation process due to limited capacity. As a result it was agreed that these capacity issues would be clarified. Following discussion it was proposed that the groups would benefit from a tailored capacity building programme in order that they can participate fully in the Areas at Risk Programme, and wider development and funding opportunities.

Members were advised that the Council might therefore wish to commit a further £5,000 to support this activity. £4,500 of which would be utilised to work with groups in the area to build capacity and take forward small scale projects with £500 allocated to enhance the "Inter-Estate Partnership - Integrated Community & Youth Development Project (in association with Steeple Community Association)" project included in the Action Plan by Steeple Community Association. The groups which would potentially benefit from this additional funding would be; Steeple Community Association, Steeple Housewives, Steeple Pensioners Club and the Bridge Community Development Association.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Kells and

RESOLVED – that the Council allocates an additional £5,000 to the Areas at Risk Programme to support the development of community based activity in the Steeple Super Output Area.

ACTION BY: Elaine Manson

7.12 CP/CD/25 CHRISTMAS TREE PROVISION 2015

Members were advised that a request had been received from Ballyrobert Village Committee seeking assistance with the erection, decoration and removal of a Christmas tree in the village in 2015.

It was reported that since 2012 Ballyrobert Village Committee had successfully secured sponsorship for a Christmas tree for the Village and organised a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. In November 2014 there were in excess of 400 members of the public in attendance.

Previously the former Newtownabbey Borough Council agreed on a 'year by year basis' to include the erection, decoration and removal of the tree within its annual programme of work providing that the group secured a tree and the cost did not exceed £1,250. The Group was currently seeking sponsorship for a tree for Christmas 2015 and if successful had again requested that the Council provided similar assistance to that provided over the last 3 years.

Members were advised that tender documents were currently being prepared for the supply, delivery, erection, decoration and removal of 21 Christmas trees across the Borough for Christmas 2015. If the Council approved the request for assistance from Ballyrobert Village Committee then this would be included in the tender process.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and

RESOLVED – that the Council includes the erection, decoration and removal of the Christmas tree in Ballyrobert in its ongoing programme of work on the basis that the group continues to secure a tree.

ACTION BY: Elaine Manson

7.13 CP/CP/1 REVIEW OF HSC COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS

Members were advised that in January the previous Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety announced a review of the arrangements for commissioning health and social care services in Northern Ireland.

When the current arrangements were established it was envisioned that local Councils would have a central role to play in assessing the health and care needs of local populations and planning services to meet these needs.

It was reported that the review would undertake an assessment of how the commissioning process facilitates the delivery of high quality and efficient health and social care services with particular reference to:

- Assessing the health and wellbeing needs of the population of Northern Ireland
- Strategic planning to prioritise needs within available resources
- Engaging patients, users, carers/families and other key stakeholders at a local level in the commissioning of health and social care services
- Securing, procuring, incentivising and agreeing high quality, value for money services which meet the assessed and prioritised needs of the population
- Ensuring the delivery and outcomes from services commissioned
- Evaluating the impact of health and social care services and feeding back into the commission process in terms of how needs have changed.

Members were further advised that correspondence had been received requesting that Councils make submissions to the Department with regard to the above issues. A response had been drafted on behalf of the Council and was enclosed.

Moved by Councillor Hamill
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

RESOLVED – that the draft submission regarding the review be approved and forwarded to the Department accordingly.

ACTION BY: Alison Keenan

7.14 ED/TOU/2 TOURISM ACTION PLAN

Members were advised that a workshop with local tourism service providers took place in June 2015 to agree an action plan for 2015-16. The workshop was attended by representatives from the accommodation, activity, attractions and hospitality sectors.

It was reported that as a result of the workshop a Tourism Action Plan for 2015-16 is proposed that focused on identifying target markets, creating a new brand and developing a destination marketing plan for the new Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area. The Action Plan also included initiatives aimed at building capacity and encouraging the local sector to network and collaborate on joint packaging opportunities that would both improve competitiveness and enhance the visitor offer.

Members were further advised that a number of actions could be completed in-house at no cost to the Council. External support from specialist communications and digital service providers would be required for the marketing, branding and digital visitor servicing aspects of the Action Plan within existing budgets. It was intended that a new brand and marketing plan would be prepared for consideration before April 2016.

Moved by Councillor Beatty
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – that the Tourism Action Plan (2015-16) for Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council be agreed.

ACTION BY: Paul Kelly

7.15 ED/GEN/1 PROPOSED NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS START PROGRAMME

Members were reminded that the transfer of Local Economic Development functions to Councils from April 2015 included budgets that have previously been allocated to Invest Northern Ireland. This included funding to support business start-up provision, a social enterprise programme and initiatives to encourage women and young people to consider the self-employment option. Officers were developing a proposal that seeks to design and deliver a regional business start-up programme jointly with up to 10 other Councils. This would maximise the opportunities for economies of scale that were expected to come from

collaborating in this way, not least in terms of joint marketing and management arrangements.

Members were also reminded that Invest NI offered to continue to deliver the current Business Start-up Programme (also known as 'Go for It') for an extended period from April to October 2015 to allow the Councils time to prepare, agree and submit an application under the new round of EU funding which could cover 60% of the costs, with Invest NI contributing a further 20% and the Councils 20% each. A Service Level Agreement was now in place between Invest NI and each of the 11 Councils to ensure that the extended programme was delivered effectively and to facilitate the launch of a new Council-led from the end of October this year. Members might wish to note that 26 new business starts had been promoted to date in the Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council area in the 3 months to the end of June.

It was reported that an economic appraisal for the proposed new programme had now been completed on behalf of all 11 Councils and an outline application submitted to Invest NI for funding under the EU Jobs and Growth programme. The economic appraisal set out a business case for a delivery option that sought to produce over 7,000 new business start-ups and over 8,000 jobs across Northern Ireland over 3 years. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council had offered to take the lead on the procurement and management of the proposed new programme, subject to the outcome of the funding application and to a Service Level Agreement being approved by those Councils that choose to participate.

Members were advised that whilst all 11 Councils continued to express a keen interest in collaborating in this proposed programme it was possible that one or more might decide to take a different route based on local delivery arrangements. Each Council had been asked to confirm its position by the end of July if possible to allow the procurement process to get underway but subject to the outcome of the EU funding application. If the funding application was not successful the Councils would have to consider reverting to the transfer of functions annual budget to cover the costs of a programme.

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Councillor Brett and

RESOLVED- that

- a) the Council agrees to become part of a consortium of up to 11 Councils to design and deliver a new regional Business Start Programme over 3 years from November 2015, subject to the outcome of the EU funding application and to the Council's annual estimates process**
- b) Should the funding application be unsuccessful that a programme be advanced through the transfer of functions budget on a consortium basis as appropriate**
- c) Officers report back in due course including any recommendations on the budget implications for the Council.**

ACTION BY: Paul Kelly

7.16 ED/TW/8 SISTER CITIES CONVENTION 2016

Members were reminded that Newtownabbey has had a 'Sister City' partnership with the town of Gilbert in Arizona since 1995 to promote cultural and economic links between the two areas. Each year 2 young people from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and 2 from Gilbert were 'home-hosted' by families here and in Arizona through a Youth Ambassador or Student Exchange programme.

It was reported that the Lord Mayor of Dublin had written to the Mayor outlining a proposal for a major Sister Cities Summit in Dublin from 22-23 April 2016 to mark the 60th anniversary of Sister Cities International by President Eisenhower. The US Vice-President Joe Biden had been invited to be the keynote speaker at the Summit. According to Sister Cities International there were 62 cities and towns in Ireland that were twinned with partners in the United States.

Members were advised that the theme for the Summit will be "Independence and Interdependence", reflecting the need for cities globally to work together to improve the lives of citizens and to address common urban challenges. The Lord Mayor was suggesting that each city and town in Ireland invited its respective Sister City partner in the United States to attend the Dublin Summit next April organised by Dublin City Council followed by local gatherings of Sister City delegations hosted by their twinned Councils. Dublin City Council was also offering to host a special optional event on 24 April to commemorate the 100th Anniversaries of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising.

At this early stage there was no indication of the participant numbers or cost involved. Should Members wish to proceed, Officers would produce a detailed report. In the meantime, Members might wish to note separate correspondence received from the Mayor of Gilbert a copy of which was enclosed.

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED – that

- a) **A strategic review on the Sister City initiative in conjunction with the review on the Council's twinning arrangements agreed in item 7.3 be reported to a future meeting**
- b) **A detailed report including the programme participant numbers and costs be submitted to a future meeting**
- c) **The correspondence from the Mayor of Gilbert be noted.**

ACTION BY: Paul Kelly

(Councillors Beatty, Cushinan and Duffin having declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting during its consideration).

7.17 O52/(f) LOUGH NEAGH LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME: REQUEST FOR MATCH FUNDING

Members were reminded that the Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) was a not-for-profit body that promoted the interests and sustainable development of Lough Neagh.

It was reported that the LNP currently received financial support from the Council towards its annual operating and project costs; Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Mid and East Antrim and Mid Ulster Councils also provide financial support. Members were also reminded that in January this year the LNP asked the Council to consider increasing its funding to £25,000 per annum to support its core costs and the implementation of a Destination Management Plan that was produced on behalf of the former 7 Councils around Lough Neagh in 2013.

Members were advised that the Council subsequently agreed to renew its financial support to the LNP for the year to 31 March 2016 to allow time for an Inter-Departmental Working Group (DARD and DCAL) to propose a new structure for the long term management of Lough Neagh. Officers were asked to bring back a further report to the Committee with recommendations on the future funding of the LNP once the decision of the Inter-Departmental Working Group was known. Members were advised that no decision had yet been taken.

It was further reported that in the meantime, as reported to the Council in January, the LNP had been developing an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership Scheme seeking around £2.6m in grant assistance for a range of projects addressing the natural, built and cultural heritage around Lough Neagh that were proposed over five years from 2016-2021.

Members were further advised that the total estimated costs of the proposed Landscape Partnership Scheme were just over £3.53m and the five Councils were now asked to consider supporting the application and the match funding requirements before the end of July. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was asked to consider contributing up to £146,620 in match funding (including £33,550 in 2016/17) with Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon and Mid-Ulster Councils approximately £302,000 each.

It was further reported that appendix I outlined the projects that would apply to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area. Lisburn and Castlereagh and Mid and East Antrim were also asked to consider match funding smaller sums. Members might wish to note that the LNP indicated that if the HLF application

was successful up to 34% of the grant aid would be allocated to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area of Lough Neagh.

Moved by Councillor Rea
Seconded by Councillor Kells and

RESOLVED that-

- a) **the Council agrees in principle to provide up to a total of £146,620 in match funding for the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership application over 5 years from April 2016 to March 2021 subject to:**
 - **The application to HLF being successful**
 - **Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon, Mid-Ulster, Mid and East Antrim and Lisburn and Castlereagh Councils agreeing to provide the requested levels of match funding**
 - **A satisfactory annual review of the projects delivered in the Antrim and Newtownabbey area**

- b) **Officers to bring back a further, more detailed report, once the outcome of the application is known.**

ACTION BY: Paul Kelly

The Mayor (Alderman Hogg), Alderman DeCourcy and Councillors Hamill and Scott having declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting during its consideration).

7.18 CE/STC/128 RATHCOOLE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

Members were reminded that the Department for Social Development (DSD) awarded an amount of £27, 042.60 for the continuation of Neighbourhood Renewal in Rathcoole during 2015/16. As this represented a reduction from the amount allocated in 2014/15 it was agreed at the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting in April to provide match funding of £7,796.16 to make up the shortfall. This equated to a total budget of £34, 838.76 for 2015/16 to cover salary and associated costs with no provision for running costs or programme delivery.

It was reported that within the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan there was an objective to build greater community cohesion and provide community events for all elements of the community to become involved. For the past 3 years this has involved a summer festival which was attended by approximately 800 people in 2014. This year a carnival had been arranged for Saturday 15 August to coincide with a family fun event to mark the end of the annual SPARK Programme delivered by local churches. The family fun event and carnival was a joint initiative between Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and local community groups, many of whom would provide 'in kind' support. Other organisations supporting the overall event include the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. An application had been submitted to Awards for All to cover the cost of the

carnival to include activities such as a samba band and circus skills, however due to a back log within the organisation the outcome was not likely to be known until October 2015 which fell outside the timeframe for this event.

The Council might wish to allocate a budget of £1,900 to enable the carnival event to proceed as planned, the funding for this could be met from existing budgets within the Community Planning and Regeneration Department. In the absence of this funding the family fun event would proceed, however the carnival element would be scaled down and would not include many of the planned activities mentioned above.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

RESOLVED - that an amount of £1,900 be allocated to enable the Rathcoole Family Carnival event to proceed as planned.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister

7.19 L/LEI/32 ALLOTMENTS - TOOME

Members were reminded that allotments were becoming increasingly popular, with the Borough's allotment facilities having most recently been added to at Greystone in Antrim. With considerable interest from residents Members had previously indicated that options for further allotment provision should be explored as there was currently unmet demand for allotment plots across the Borough. The benefits of allotments to health and wellbeing were widely accepted and Council's Corporate Plan focused on *an active, healthy and empowered community and improving the quality of life for everyone*.

It was reported that the TIDAL group, based in the village of Toome, had approached Council for support to establish community allotments and garden adjacent to the existing play park.

Members were advised that following identification of the need for a playground in Toome Antrim Borough Council leased land from the Dioceses of Down and Connor on a 20 year lease (from 1st March 2006) for recreation, playground and multi sports purposes. Part of the land was then developed for a playground with the remainder used as a 'kick about area' largely by the local primary school. There might be a cost to securing the approval of the Diocese should Council decide to approve. See area of land leased by council on map attached.

It was further reported that the group had indicated that should allotments be developed, the Primary School Principal would be amenable due to the benefits of allotments to the local community. The site would accommodate approximately 45 plots (each circa 98 m²).

Management arrangements for the site would need to be discussed and a further report brought to Committee.

Members were further advised that TIDAL had identified two potential sources of funding to deliver the project namely; Groundwork NI in partnership with the Public Health Agency (circa £20,000) and the NGO Challenge Fund (an environmental funding programme, circa £8,000). As the site was already fenced off (requirement of Groundwork funding programme) it was envisaged that a successful Groundwork application should cover total development costs. The Group expect to know the outcome of the application shortly and would need to move to secure spend.

Moved by Councillor Bingham
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED - that the Council approves, in principle, the development of green space to the rear of Toome playground, for allotments and garden, subject to TIDAL securing all necessary funding and to the resolution of all legal and financial matters.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Elaine Upton

7.20 WM/WM/6 WASTE MANAGEMENT WEIGHBRIDGE BRUSLEE RECYCLING CENTRE

It was reported that Bruslee Recycling Centre currently operated a weighbridge system to accommodate the disposal of commercial waste. The weighbridge, which ensured that weights are properly recorded and correctly charged for is due to be upgraded as its weights/scales need to be replaced and re-calibrated. This would ensure that the weights were accurate and charging was correct, important for both income and waste data reporting purposes. The accompanying software also needed to be replaced.

Members were advised that initial research indicated that new software availability could allow for the other recycling centres across the Borough to be added to the system at a later date. This could allow a more localised service to be offered with commercial users being charged accordingly on a per load basis at any of the Recycling Centres.

The initial business case for replacement was enclosed. The estimated cost of upgrading the system was £15,700 plus £1,200 p.a. maintenance for Bruslee.

Approximate cost for adding sites to the software under license was approximately £1,000 per site.

Estimated costs were based on market research and quotation guide.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED - that the Council approves the upgrade of the weighbridge system and software at Bruslee Recycling Centre at an estimate cost of £15,700 plus annual maintenance of £1,200.

ACTION BY: by: Geraldine Girvan/Jim Gurney

7.21 L/LEI/2 2016 INTERNATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

It was reported that Athletics Northern Ireland had hosted the annual International Cross Country event at CAFRE Greenmount Campus in January each year since 2010.

Members were advised that the event each year was one of only ten International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) worldwide Permits and attracts around 700-1100 participants from all over the world including countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, USA, Somalia, Spain and Portugal. This event also provided the opportunity for young athletes from all over the UK and Ireland to participate in the supporting races. Previously local primary schools from the former Antrim Borough Council's Aspire talent development programme, also participated.

Members were further advised that the event attracted approximately 1,000 volunteers and spectators providing around 220 bed nights during what was traditionally a quiet time of the year for local accommodation providers. Local service providers were also sourced where possible e.g. coach and car hire event management providers, facility hire and catering provision. Antrim Borough Council supported the event annually with financial assistance of £10,000. The event also received extensive newspaper and television coverage in local media, international coverage in specialist athletics and running publications as well as international television coverage highlighting the local scenic attractions. A recorded programme of at least 30mins duration would be produced and broadcast multiple times on Setanta, Premier Sports (UK), Zuku Sports (Africa).

Members were advised that the next event was scheduled for Saturday 16 January 2016 and Athletics NI had requested support from Council for the 2016 event in the region of £10,000.

The Council might wish to invite Athletics NI to come to the Operations Committee in September to provide more details on the benefits of this event.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED - that the Council approves the request from Athletics NI for £10,000 in financial support for the International Cross Country event on 16 January 2016.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Nicola McCullough

7.22 OLD BLEACH BOWLING CLUB

It was reported that correspondence had been received from Old Bleach Bowling

Club, Randalstown, requesting assistance from council in relation to hosting two events; the Association's Championship Finals - the Northern Ireland Private Greens Championships - 27/28 July and 1 August (2015) and the Association's Centenary Year events in 2017.

Members were advised that the Championship Finals event this month would involve 100 players and officials over the course of the week as well as numerous spectators. The club had requested financial assistance of £350 to help to meet catering costs.

It was proposed that officers work with the club in the planning of the 2017 centenary event with a report presented to committee for consideration in due course.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and

RESOLVED - that the council approves £350 in funding for Old Bleach Bowling Club, Randalstown in support of Northern Ireland Private Greens Championships.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Ivor McMullan

7.23 L/P/13 BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Members were reminded that following the success of Antrim Town in the Large Town category of Ulster in Bloom, the town had automatic entry into the Britain in Bloom awards. Council's portfolio had been submitted in advance of judging which was scheduled to take place in August.

It was reported that up to 5 representatives from each entry were invited to attend the awards ceremony (no charge) which this year was being held in Sunderland, on the evening of Friday 16 October.

Costs for flight and accommodation were estimated to be £250 per person for attendance and overnight stay.

Judges' Surgeries would be held the morning after the awards ceremony from 9am to 1pm.

Moved by Councillor McClelland
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED - that approval be given for attendance by the Mayor, Chair and Vice Chair of Operations Committee (or their nominee), as an approved duty, plus an officer at an estimated cost for flight and accommodation of £250 per person.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Members Services

7.24 ACTIVE COMMUNITIES - UPDATE

It was agreed that **the matter be deferred until next month.**

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan

7.25 VALLEY PARK – PRICING POLICY

L/LEI/VLC/2 VALLEY PARK SHARED SPACE FACILITIES – PRICING AND FACILITY BOOKINGS

Members were advised that Cogent Management Consulting was commissioned by Newtownabbey Borough Council to undertake research into an appropriate pricing structure for the new 3G pitch as part of the Peace III Shared Space project at the Valley Park. The objective of the overall project was to '*Create a shared space which will be a welcoming, safe and attractive environment*'. To achieve this objective and promote good relations within the area, significant engagement, confidence and trust building was required. Encouraging widespread use of the new facilities including the playpark, 3G pitch and civic linear park by a diverse range of interested individuals and groups is central to the funding package of £3.6 million provided for the project.

Sport was identified as a key means to promote inclusion and ensure that the shared space was accessible and used by all. The research undertaken by Cogent therefore sought to:

- Identify levels of interest in using the 3G pitch amongst end user groups
- Identify willingness to pay amongst end users
- Provide benchmarking information relating to costs being charged by other similar facilities.

The research was completed in October 2014 and produced the findings outlined below:

- Schools in the catchment area cited travel costs as a key barrier to using the new facilities
- Most respondents were interested in using the facility from 6pm onwards with the smallest number during the 9.00am to 12 noon period. In the main the morning bookings would reflect the schools within the area with sports clubs and private bookings more interested in the evening slots.
- Levels of demand are highest Monday to Thursday and no organisations expressed an interest in using the facility on a Sunday
- Demand lower over the summer months when turf pitches are more likely to be used
- Most respondents wished to use the facility for one hour on each occasion
- Most respondents were interested in a football size pitch for bookings (equivalent to ½ of a GAA or rugby pitch)

It was reported that on an overall basis, respondents suggested that they would be willing to pay, on average £38 per hour without floodlighting and £49 per hour with floodlighting. A benchmarking exercise with 17 other 3G/synthetic pitches in the area was undertaken and indicated that these prices were below

the average amount being charged by similar facilities. Whilst this was the case, due to the nature of the funding secured for the project the research recommended that careful consideration should be given to maximising income whilst ensuring that prices were at an equitable level to stimulate demand from the various groups and communities that the Council was seeking to attract. Consideration should also be given to utilisation during period of lower demand e.g. at weekends and the use of casual rather than block bookings and encouraging use by groups that would contribute towards the shared space targets. The allocation of peak time slots should also be considered and the Council might wish to limit levels of usage at an individual organisation level to encourage participation by a larger and more varied number of organisations.

Funding Offer

Members were further advised that the Letter of Offer received from the EU Special Programmes Body stipulated specific outcomes/impacts which related to the offer of funding for this project as follows:

- To increase the number of residents from the immediate vicinity, Newtownabbey, Belfast and further afield that access the Valley Park facilities by 40% within two years post completion i.e. by June 2017
- To reduce the number of disturbances and clashes, anti-social behaviour and crime within the Valley Park
- To increase the confidence of communities surrounding the Valley Park to use the various facilities both existing and proposed thereby promoting trust and tolerance to result in a 50/50 average usage

It was further reported that in order to achieve these outcomes and impacts it was proposed that for the first 24 months of operation a reduction of 15% be applied to the hire process for the 3G pitch and civic events space – with a review to be carried out after 12 months and reported to Committee. The new Valley Park facility (V36) would be available to the public at the end of the summer, and in preparation a programme of opening activities, booking arrangements and pricing proposals were being developed.

Bookings

Members might wish to note that all bookings for the Valley Park facility will be taken at the Valley Leisure Centre. It was proposed that:

- Shared Space principles will apply to usage of the site in line with the outcomes/impacts of the funding allocation.
- Clubs and organisations who declared an interest will be offered a priority booking period up to 15th August 2015. Thereafter bookings will be open to normal requests.
 - Block bookings to be taken for one of the two pitches only in the early stages (1-3 months). This will give opportunities for ‘turn up and play’ bookings to take place on a ‘reserve pitch for casual use’ basis and will broaden the diversity of users.
 - Important events and league matches, etc. will be given preference over block bookings.

- Schools will be given preferential rates for weekday use (see details below).
- Groups will be encouraged to maximise advantage of VAT benefits through block booking commitments.
- All bookings will include the periods necessary for changeover from one activity to another.
- The Conditions of Let arrangements for leisure facilities will apply.

Pricing

It was proposed that the pricing schedule approved for the synthetic pitches at Crumlin Leisure Centre will apply to the Valley Park and to Allen Park when it comes on line (subject to any increases approved by council in the meantime). As set out above, for the first 24 months of operation it is proposed that a reduction of 15% be applied to the hire process for the 3G pitch and civic events space.

FACILITIES	DURATION	A DULT	Less proposed 15% Discount
Rugby and Gaelic (Pitches 1 & 2 together)	½ hour	£ 45.00	£38.25
Pitch 1 or 2 (Peak)	½ hour	£ 30.00	£25.50
Pitch 1 or 2 Schools/colleges from within the Borough at any time	½ hour	£ 13.00	£11.05
Half pitch 1 or 2 Off Peak (up to 5 pm weekdays)	½ hour	£ 7.00	£5.95
Half pitch 1 or 2, Peak	½ hour	£ 15.50	£13.20
Quarter pitch Off Peak (education/development rate)	½ hour	£ 4.00	£3.40
Quarter pitch Peak (1 st October – 31 st March)	½ hour	£ 9.00	£7.65

Notes:

1. Prices include floodlights
2. Prices are consistent with current hockey pitch charges

Pricing – Event Spaces

Members were further advised that proposals for the two event spaces were set out below and included community price proposals which were significantly discounted so that they were affordable by community and voluntary groups, thereby encouraging greater use of the Park and helping to minimise requests for financial assistance with meeting hire costs. Commercial events of a larger nature would be negotiated on the basis of an increased income potential and such proposals would be brought to the Council for consideration. The facility would

also offer excellent potential for Council run events such as that proposed for Halloween.

	Community/ Voluntary Rate	Less proposed 15% Discount	Standard Commercial Rate	Less Proposed 15% Discount	Commercial Rate - Closed Park
Event Space 1 (30x40m)					Price by negotiation and council approval including profit share option as appropriate
Full Day	£200	£170	£1,000	£850	
Half day	£100	£85	£500	£425	
Event Space 2 (30x90m)					
Full Day	£200	£170	£1,000	£850	
Half day	£100	£85	£500	£425	

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

RESOLVED - that

- a) the Council approves the pricing schedule and booking arrangements as outlined for the Valley Park including a 15% discount on 3G and events space prices for 24 months to help council achieve outcomes and impacts of funding allocation from Peace III.
- b) a review to be carried out after 12 months and reported to Committee

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Ivor McMullan

7.26 DLG/237 DALE FARM MILK CUP 2015

It was reported that correspondence had been received from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council regarding the finals of the 2016 Dale Farm Milk Cup Tournament.

Members were advised that the event was scheduled for Friday 31st July (arrival between 5.30-6.00 pm at Ballymena Showgrounds). Tickets cost £65 (plus VAT) each or a table for 10 at £585 (plus VAT).

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED – that any member wishing to attend do so at their own expense.

NO ACTION

7.27 L/LEI/VLC/1 VALLEY PARK – OPENING UPDATE

Members were advised that the Valley Park scheme was due for completion in August and was expected to be open to the public towards the end of August. The proposed opening arrangements for the facility were set out below and were set to facilitate maximum accessibility year round.

Proposed times were as follows;

Pedestrian/Vehicle access through Church Road / Longlands Avenue entrances	6 am – 10pm (all year)
Synthetic pitch	9 am -10pm (all year)

Play area
Summer 9am – 9pm
Winter 9am – 6pm/dusk

It was reported that in anticipation of the opening of the Valley Park adventure play area (V36), a small test event was planned in the area on Friday 4 September from 3-7pm.

Members were further advised that a series of activities were planned including a puppet show and storytelling, facilitated play sessions, arts and crafts and the story of the background to the park.

This event would be used to test and evaluate the systems and procedures at the facility.

It was envisaged that a selected crowd of 100-200 be invited to the event, through the existing inter-agency group and that costs would be in the region of £1500.

Moved by Councillor Bingham
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED – that the opening hours set out above be approved and that Members note the proposed test event details.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Ivor McMullan

7.28 FC/G/25 PAYMENTS REPORT

The schedule of payments for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council dated 22 May 2015 to 19 June 2015 and schedule of manual payments for May 2015 were attached. Any payments over £5,000 had been analysed in more detail.

Moved by Councillor Girvan

Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED – that the report be approved.

ACTION BY: John Balmer

7.29 G/MSMO/8 HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Assembly, Committee for Social Development on the proposed Housing (Amendment) Bill.

It was reported that the deadline for responses was 4 September 2015.

A copy of the consultation was attached for Members' information.

It was

RESOLVED - that members respond on an individual or party political basis

NO ACTION

7.30 G/MSMO/8 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DARD) CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTION PLAN 2015-2017

Members were advised that consultation correspondence had been received from the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development Children and Young People's Action Plan 2015-2017.

The closing date for comments was Wednesday 30 September 2015.

A copy of the correspondence was attached for Members' information.

It was

RESOLVED - that members respond on an individual or party political basis

NO ACTION

7.31 G/MSMO/8 DRAFT CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PLANS 2015/16 - 2017/18

Members were advised that correspondence had been received inviting Council to take part in the consultation on the Housing Executive's Draft Corporate and Business Plans for 2015/16 – 2017/18.

The consultation period ended on 28 August 2015.

A copy of the correspondence was attached for Members' information.

It was

RESOLVED - that members respond on an individual or party political basis

NO ACTION

7.32 CP/CD/11 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE TIME LIMITS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

Members were advised that consultation correspondence had been received from the Department of Justice inviting comments on proposals to change the time limits for judicial review.

It was reported that consultation runs until Monday 14 September 2015.

A copy of the correspondence was attached for Members' information.

It was

RESOLVED- that the Council welcomes the proposals to change the time limits for judicial review.

ACTION BY: J Dixon/M Aiken

7.33 OA/HS/72 CONSULTATION ON MAKING CHOICES: PROPOSED CHANGES IN PROVISION OF STATUTORY RESIDENTIAL CARE

Members were advised that consultation correspondence had been received from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust inviting comments on MAKING CHOICES: Proposed Changes in Provision of Statutory Residential Care.

It was reported that the consultation would run for a 14 week period until 2 October 2015.

A copy of the correspondence was attached for Members' information.

It was

RESOLVED - that members respond on an individual or party political basis

NO ACTION

7.34 CP/CD/11 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL ADVISERS AMENDMENT BILL

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Jim Allister MLA on a Proposal for a Special Advisers Amendment Bill.

It was reported that the deadline for responses was 31 August 2015.

A copy of the consultation was attached for Members' information.

It was

RESOLVED - that members respond on an individual or party political basis

NO ACTION

7.35 CE/OA/RD/1 PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – MANSE ROAD AT MOSSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was reported that correspondence had been received from Transport NI advising of proposals to install a "Puffing Pedestrian Crossing" on Manse Road adjacent to Mossley Primary School. Responses would be accepted up to and including 28 July 2015.

It was

RESOLVED - that members respond on an individual or party political basis

NO ACTION

7.36 CCS/EDP/4 EQUALITY ACTION PLAN

It was reported that the draft Equality Action Plan was prepared by the Audit of Inequalities Working Group, approved by Council and went out to consultation on 29 January 2015 for a twelve week period. The only response received was from Disability Action and the Action Plan had now been amended giving due consideration to the comments received.

A copy of the amended Equality Action Plan was attached. Progress against the Action Plan would be monitored by the Audit of Inequalities Working Group on a quarterly basis.

Moved by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and

RESOLVED - that the final Equality Action Plan be approved.

ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke/Helen McBride

7.37 OD/HR/ER/1 POLICIES FOR ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

It was reported that under the Human Resources RPA Convergence Work Plan, a number of Human Resources Policies had already been developed for the new Council, in consultation with trade unions.

Members were advised that subject to Council approval, the following policies had been developed in consultation with trade unions:

*Flexible Working Policy
Learning & Development Policy
Health & Safety

*excludes existing planning staff

It was further reported that these policies were recommended to be approved and adopted by the Council with effect from 1 August 2015.

Moved by Councillor Hamill
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED - that the above policies be adopted by Council with effect from 1 August 2015.

ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke/Laura Campbell

7.38 CE/STC/133 ANBC - PENSIONS DISCRETIONS POLICY STATEMENT

Members were advised that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is required to have a complete Policy Statement on specific discretions it could exercise under the following Regulations:

1. The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 from 1 April 2015 in respect of members of the Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) scheme
2. Earlier Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) in respect of members of the LGPS who left prior to 1 April 2015, and
3. Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and earlier compensation regulations.

Members were reminded that in February 2015 Council approved a policy statement limited only to the granting of additional pension and compensation arrangements for the calculation of redundancy pay and enhanced payments in respect of redundancy retirements under the RPA Severance Scheme for Local Government, which were payable on or after 1 April 2015.

A complete Discretions Policy Statement, reviewing the above discretions and setting out all remaining discretions contained within the legislation above, was now attached for Members to consider, summarised as follows:

- i. discretions to be exercised under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations in relation to those employees who are active scheme members after 31 March 2015 and members who cease active membership after 31 March 2015, as set out in Table A at Annex 1 (attached), and
- ii. discretions to be exercised under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations in relation to those scheme members who left prior to 1 April 2015, as set out in Tables B, C, D and E at Annex 2 (attached), and
- iii. discretions to be exercised under the Discretionary Compensation Regulations, as set out in Table F at Annex 2 .

Moved by Councillor Scott
 Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and

RESOLVED – that the Council approves the complete Discretions Policy Statement.

ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke/Joan Cowan

7.39 ENVIRONMENTAL BETTER REGULATION BILL

It was reported that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Environment Committee requesting comments on the Environmental Better Regulation Bill. The deadline for receipt of submissions was 7 August 2015.

Officers were currently developing a response and propose to submit it by the deadline subject to ratification at August Council.

Moved by Councillor Girvan
 Seconded by Councillor Beatty and

RESOLVED that the Council approves the submission of a draft response to the Environmental Better Regulation Bill subject to Members’ comments on the draft at the August meeting of Council.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan

7.40 ST/T/176 NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

Members were reminded that the Council agreed to work towards the achievement of the Elected Member Development Charter. It was also agreed that this would be progressed through the Member Development Working Group.

It was reported that a key element in the achievement of the Charter was to ensure Member’s training needs were identified and met. It was recommended to create a training hub for Member’s so they could easily view any generic training which was available throughout the year. It was also recommended

that each Member be given the opportunity to have an individual training needs analysis and development programme.

Members were advised that the Member Development Working Group proposed to hold an event to coincide with Democracy Week, to be held on 13 October 2015 from 9.30am- 2.30pm in the Linen Suite, Mossley Mill. An outline programme would be reported for approval in due course.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED - that -

- a) **a training hub for Member's is created for Member's to view any generic training which is available throughout the year**
- b) **each Member be offered an individual training needs analysis and development programme**
- c) **an event to coincide with Democracy week is organised for 13 October 2015 and an outline programme be reported in due course.**

ACTION BY Andrea McCooke/Helen Hall

7.41 D/PM/152 O'NEILL ROAD RECYCLING CENTRE UPDATE

Members were reminded that the new Recycling Centre on O'Neill Road was nearing completion and all relevant permits and licences were in place.

It was reported that the Planned hand over was week commencing 27/July 2015. However this was subject to some minor snagging works being completed satisfactorily.

Following consultation with local residents it was proposed to open the site in the first instance as follows:

9am- 5pm Monday to Saturday

Members were advised with the opening hours in place, usage levels, frequency and peak times would be monitored and reviewed if necessary with a report coming to committee with any proposed changes.

It was further reported that the recycling team were currently working with Marketing to develop a promotional programme for the facility with an official launch being planned for later on in the month.

Moved by Councillor McClelland
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED - that the opening hours set out above for O'Neill Road Recycling Centre be approved.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Jim Gurney

7.42 FI/FIN/8 TENDERS NI - NEW ONLINE TENDER SYSTEM

Members were advised that for some years the council had used an internet based portal for public tendering. A new, improved system for public sector contracts was currently being rolled out by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD). It incorporated two significant features for tenderers:

- Retention of supplier profile data so that the same data could be used for different contracts without the need to re-input.
- Registration for alerts on new tender opportunities.

It was reported that from the council's perspective the new system maintained the same high levels of governance arrangements e.g. tender deadlines and audit trail of tenderer communication.

Members were advised that CPD had already started using the new system and it was hoped that Council would switch in late September. This ensured that all public sector tenders were on the same portal.

It was further reported that registration was now open for businesses to receive alerts for new tender opportunities, a series of e-tender roadshows and meet the buyer events had taken place and we would be contacting suppliers on the councils own contractor database to ensure that they are aware of registering for new tender opportunities.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

RESOLVED: that the Council moves to the new on-line tender system for Public Sector Contracts.

ACTION BY: Catherine McFarland/John Balmer

7.43 CCS/CPRM/3 WEBSITE STATISTICS

Members were reminded that the Council website was launched on 1 April 2015. The website usage statistics for www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk for the period 1 June – 30 June 2015 were detailed below and included the most visited pages and website searches. The usage statistics would continue to inform the shape and content of our website and a future Digital Transformation Strategy for the Council.

TOTAL UNIQUE VISITORS: 31,000

TOP 10 VISITED PAGES: (excludes 'home' page)

	No. of visitors
1. Valley Leisure Centre	4,221
2. Waste/Recycling	2,398
3. Gym Classes Timetable	2,212
4. Events	2,164
5. Things To Do	2,156
6. Antrim Forum	1,779
7. Valley Swimming	1,513
8. Contact Us	1,483
9. Newtownabbey Bin Checker	1,365
10. Job Vacancies	1,350

VISITORS TO SPECIFIC PAGES:

	No. of visitors
Planning:	1,058
Newtownabbey Bin Checker:	1,365
Antrim Bin Checker:	167
Your Councillors:	974

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING FOR TO FIND OUR WEBSITE:

- "Newtownabbey Borough Council"
- "Valley Leisure Centre"
- "Antrim Borough Council"
- "Antrim and Newtownabbey"
- "Newtownabbey Council"
- "Antrim and Newtownabbey Council"
- "Antrim Council"
- "Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council"
- "Sixmile Leisure Centre"
- "Mossley Mill"

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.44 WM/WM/8 PROPOSALS FOR PARTNERING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM TOWN CENTRE FOOTWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS

It was reported that correspondence had been received from Transport Northern Ireland requesting consideration of a new agreement with Council for snow clearance from town centre footways and pedestrian areas.

Members were advised that officers had been working on proposals for Committee consideration since interim arrangements were approved in late

winter/early spring and a report would be brought to the September meeting of the Operations Committee.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.45 OA/PL/105 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO WIND ENERGY

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the NI Assembly Committee for the Environment regarding the recommendations emerging from its Inquiry into Wind Energy published in January 2015. Due to its relevance to the new Councils, following the transfer of planning powers, the Committee had forwarded a copy of the Inquiry Report's Executive Summary and Recommendations which was enclosed for Members information.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.46 CE/STC/SC/107 COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS 2015

Members were reminded that the Council facilitated a series of community planning workshops in March and April of this year. For Members' information, a summary report of the workshops was enclosed. In addition, officers were in the process of updating the Council website to provide more detail on the information gathered at the workshops.

Members were reminded that the workshops earlier this year were the starting point in what would be an ongoing engagement with local communities to inform the community planning process. Over the summer period officers were taking the opportunity to attend Council events and community festivals to speak to residents about community planning. The findings from this engagement would be collated and reported to the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee in September.

It was reported that planning was also underway for a further series of engagement events in the autumn, the aim of which would be to draw out priorities for inclusion in the Community Plan.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.47 CD/CP/1 FELDEN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT - PLAYPARK AND OUTDOOR GYM REQUEST

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Clanmill Housing Group regarding the development of 97 family homes at Felden, Newtownabbey. Included within the development was a children's playpark and outdoor gym which the Clanmill Group was requesting that the Council adopted and opened and closed accordingly. A copy of the sketch plan for the 1200 square metre playpark was enclosed with a list of the equipment to be included.

At this point, Officers had not had an opportunity to assess the future maintenance requirements and associated costs which would be incurred by the Council if the playpark were to be adopted.

It was proposed that a further report be presented to the Council in August should Members wish to consider this request in further detail.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.48 PSB/BC/2 BUILDING CONTROL MATTERS - FOR THE PERIOD 01 JUNE TO 30 JUNE 2015

Building Regulations

The following submissions under Regulation 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended) were received.

Applications

Full Applications 56
Building Notices 351
Regularisation Certificate Applications 44

Recommendations

Approvals 50
Rejected 48

Regularisation Certificate

34 Regularisation Certificates issued this month under Regulation 13 of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended)

Building Notices

34 Completion Certificates issued on Applications received under Building Notices

Inspections

A total of 830 inspections were carried out during the month, these include both interim and statutory inspections as required by Regulation 12 of the Building Regulations

Commencements & Completions

Work commenced on 281 projects during the month

Work completed on 187 projects during the month

Property Certificates

A search was carried out for issued notices under Building Regulations, on 223 property enquiries from Solicitors

Income for June 2015

Plan Fees received for month £17659.12

Inspection Fees invoiced for month £57437.67

Building Notice Fees invoiced for month £22872.00

Regularisation Fees invoices for month £5481.60

Property Certificate Fees received for month £13080.00

Non-statutory fees received for month £85.00

If Elected Members require more detailed information please contact the Building Control Section

Moved by Alderman Campbell

Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - the above matters be noted

NO ACTION

7.49 CE/STC/SC/17/VOL1 RECONSTITUTION OF PCSPS - COUNCIL MEETING 27 JULY 2015

Members were reminded that the second call for applications for the appointment of Independent Members to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) closed on 10 June 2015 with 24 applications received.

It was reported that the Council Recruitment Panel shortlisted 14 candidates for interview, the final interviews would take place on 20 July 2015 at which stage a list of the successful candidates would be forwarded to the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) to be added to the list of 14 already submitted to the NIPB in May following the first round of interviews. The NIPB Panel would then make the final appointments having taken account of the composition of the Political Members appointed by the Council and so that as far as practicable the full membership of the PCSP was representative of the community in the Council area.

It is envisaged that the names of the new Independent Members would be reported to the Council at its meeting in August.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that

- a) the report be noted
- b) members be informed when the outcome of the recruitment process is known

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon/Minnie Aiken

7.50 P/CD/23 CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2015

Members were reminded of the success of the 22 Christmas Tree Ceremonies held across the Boroughs of Antrim and Newtownabbey in November and December 2014 which attracted in excess of 10,000 people.

It was reported that over recent weeks Council Officers had met with the relevant Chamber of Commerce and Community Group Representatives to discuss potential dates for the switch on ceremonies in 2015. These dates were highlighted below and at present they do not coincide with any other events detailed in the Corporate Calendar.

Town Centre Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies

- Antrim Town Christmas tree lighting ceremony, Friday 20 November 2015 at 5.45pm
- Glengormley Christmas tree lighting ceremony, Saturday 21 November 2015 at 3pm
- Ballyclare Christmas tree lighting ceremony, Saturday 28 November 2015 at 3pm

Members were advised that full details on locations and programmes would be reported to the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee in September.

Local Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 17 November	7.00 pm	Ballyduff Community Centre
Wednesday 18 November	6.30 pm	Bawnmore Green, Bawnmore
Thursday 19 November	7:00 pm	Village Square, Doagh
Tuesday 24 November	11:00 am	Main Street, Straid
	1.30 pm	Ballynure Methodist Church

	7:00 pm	Kelburn Park, Burnside
Wednesday 25 November	7:00 pm	Parkmount Green, Mallusk
Thursday 26 November	11:00 am	Abbot's Cross Shops
	2.00 pm	New Mossley Car Park
	7.30 pm	Ballyrobert Village
Friday 27 November	2.30 pm	Tildarg Primary School
	7.00 pm	Templepatrick, 12 th Milestone
	7.00 pm	Randalstown, Moores Lane
Wednesday 2 December	7:00 pm	Whiteabbey War Memorial Car Park
Thursday 3 December	7.00 pm	Toome House, Toome
Friday 4 December	6.00 pm	The Diamond, Rathcoole
	7.30 pm	Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown
	7.00 pm	Parkgate Village Green
Saturday 5 December	6.45 pm	Crumlin (to be confirmed)

Other Events

It was reported that the annual Senior Citizens Tea Dance would take place on Thursday 3 December 2015 at 2pm in Ballyclare Townhall. In addition correspondence inviting groups to make application for financial assistance to run Christmas events for seniors in the Antrim area had been disseminated and the outcome of this exercise would be reported to the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee in September.

Members were advised that in previous years both Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils included carol services in their respective Christmas Programmes. A report with options for consideration would be presented in September.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

Alderman Girvan requested that the lighting of Ballynure Christmas tree be held in the evening.

ACTION BY: E Manson

7.51 CE/STC/SC/31 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY TRANSITION PLAN

It was reported that a transition plan had been produced by the Department for Social Development (DSD), a copy of which was enclosed, to assist with the transfer of Community Development and Urban Regeneration functions in April 2016. Members were reminded that a budget of £3.919 million which was intended to transfer on 1 April 2016, and annually thereafter.

Members were advised that officers would meet with DSD officials on a regular basis in the lead up to the transfer date to ensure a smooth transition was achieved.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.52 D/VPK/32 VALLEY PARK: OFFICIAL OPENING

Members were reminded that approval in writing to extend the 'Voices from the Valley Park' project end date to 30 September 2015 was received via email on 14 May 2015 and an official addendum to the letter of offer was received on 12 June 2015.

It was reported that the project was scheduled to complete on Monday 24 August 2015 and to this effect an official opening had been planned for Wednesday 23 September 2015 from 10am to 12 noon approximately.

Members were advised that the official opening would be attended by the Minister for Social Development and all Members were asked to reserve this date in their diaries should they wish to attend. Further details would be circulated in due course.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.53 ED/MI/319 WE'RE THE BUSINESS PILOT PROJECT

It was reported that the 'We're the Business' Programme was a pilot project funded by the Council (£16,100 including £2,100 in kind) and the Department for Social Development (£58,983) under the Neighbourhood Renewal from October 2013 to March 2015.

Members were advised that the programme was designed to support twenty 18–24 year olds from the Rathcoole, Grange and Monkstown areas who were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). The young people were provided with an opportunity to try out self-employment to help them develop their employability and business skills. The programme was delivered by the Rathcoole Community Churches Group at the Dunanney Centre and over-seen by the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's Economic sub-group.

It was reported that the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was required to submit an evaluation of the programme a copy of which was enclosed and a summary of the key outcomes is listed below:

- A Programme Co-ordinator was appointed to provide personal development training and counselling in a number of key areas including health matters, personal effectiveness and goal setting.
- A total of 12 participants were recruited (not 20 as projected) to the full programme and 8 completed, although the Programme Co-ordinator did engage with an additional number of young people (up to 35) to introduce them to some elements of the programme content.
- Programme participants took part in team building exercises, personal development training, vocational training, business skills through a 'Dragon's Den' exercise and running a small social enterprise venture 'Coole Shakes', a milkshake bar situated in the Dunanney Centre.
- Participants accessed mentoring on an individual basis throughout the programme to address specific barriers to employment including low self-esteem, substance abuse, parenting and caring responsibilities.
- 51 accredited qualifications were achieved including Level 2 training in Business, Social Enterprise, Business Administration and Youth Work.
- 38 young people accessed careers advice, further training and job opportunities.
- 25 young people have accessed specialist support to overcome personal barriers to education, training and employment.
- The programme has supported 10 young people to move into employment.
- 33 young people volunteered for community development activities.
- 4 young people have since become self-employed.

Key findings and recommendations:

- Recruitment was challenging and a number of barriers were identified including lack of childcare support and the length of the programme. Future programmes could consider a modular approach to delivery, enabling a wider number of participants to benefit.
- Consideration could be given to 'The Apprentice' style activities due to the daunting aspect of managing a small social economy business.
- Due to the intensive mentoring element, consideration could be given to recruiting additional qualified support or partnering with a relevant service provider.
- Due to the standalone nature of the programme, there was limited scope to involve other relevant organisations in the delivery.
- The programme was not compulsory, therefore participants engaged out of choice.
-

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the findings and recommendations in the evaluation of the 'We're the Business' Programme be noted.

NO ACTION

7.54 P/POL/1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULAR 26/2015 - GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

It was reported that the Department of the Environment, Local Government Policy Division had prepared guidance to assist on the practical operation of the provisions of part 12 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2015 (the 2014 Act), in relation to arrangements for performance improvement.

A copy of the Guidance was attached for Members' information.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the Guidance be noted.

NO ACTION

7.55 G/GEN/1 CHANGES TO RANDALSTOWN POST OFFICE

It was reported that correspondence had been received from the Post Office advising of proposed modernisation changes to Randalstown Post Office, 22-24 New Street, Randalstown, BT41 3AF. Proposals were to change the branch to one of the new main style branches which was scheduled to open at the current location on Wednesday 26 August 2015 - the branch would need to close for refurbishment on Thursday 20 August at 17.30.

A Copy of the correspondence was enclosed.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.56 G/HSWB/1 BIKE TO WORK SCHEME

Members were reminded that at the June Operations Committee, it was agreed that a funding application be submitted to Travelwise NI for match funding of £3,000 to support Council in the delivery of Bike Week events which would help promote sustainable means of transport to staff and Borough residents. The application was successful and to date the following events have already been successfully delivered:

- “Bee Safe” Bike Safety Awareness event – over 900 Year 7 pupils from 26 local schools within the Borough took part in this week-long event. This included a cycle safety competition, with vouchers from Carnmoney Cycles awarded to the overall winners.
- “Big Breakfast” event – a complimentary breakfast was provided to those Council staff who committed to cycling to work or on their lunch break during Bike Week (13th – 21st June). This could be received from the Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim Forum, Mossley Mill or the Valley Leisure Centre. A total of 14 members of staff took part across the 4 facilities, cycling approximately 170 miles and clocking up a total of 760 minutes (over 12 hours) of outdoor physical activity between them.
- An information stand attended by local bicycle retailers, Halfords, Carnmoney Cycles and Chain Reaction Cycles, was also set up at both the Antrim Civic Centre and Mossley Mill during Bike Week to help promote Council’s Cycle to Work scheme to employees. Chain Reaction Cycles also offered a spin bike challenge for staff on the day.

Members were advised that with the remaining funding, Council officers were working on the delivery of a “Sprocket Rocket” (fundamental cycling skills) programme in local primary schools in September, and in the production of a cycling publication for the new Borough.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

Councillor Kelso congratulated all involved in the Bike to Work Scheme.

7.57 OA/HS/60 ADULT SAFEGUARDING: PREVENTION AND PROTECTION IN PARTNERSHIP

It was reported that correspondence had been received advising of a publication from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on a new safeguarding policy for Northern Ireland.

Members were advised that the policy, Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership, had the support of all Executive Ministers and its publication was a Programme for Government commitment. The policy document was available on the DHSSPS website and could be accessed at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/safeguarding_vulnerable_adults/safeguarding_vulnerable_adults-resourcelibrary.htm.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.58 D/GEN/185 DISPOSAL OF LAND ON SHORE ROAD, GREENISLAND

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Land and Property Services regarding the disposal of land at 28, 30, 33, 36, 40, 44 and 68-72 Shore Road, Greenisland. A copy of the documentation was enclosed. Should the Council wish to express an interest this must be undertaken promptly

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.59 L/P/2 GRASSCUTTING UPDATE

A report on progress with grass cutting was set out below.

Category 1 Council Managed areas

It was reported that Work at all council locations permitted under the legislation had now had the first cut and the normal cutting cycle would progress for the remainder of the season. Work was ongoing with Transport NI to address remaining areas. In the meantime officers had identified a remote controlled grass cutting unit which would address some of the areas currently not able to be completed and Transport NI staff are working closely with officers to resolve the remainder.

Category 2 Work formerly undertaken by Transport NI Contractors

As agreed by council in July, Transport NI contractors had been commissioned to carry out the cutting of verges etc. on the former Newtownabbey side of the borough. Cutting started in the Ballyhenry area on 23rd July and it would take two full weeks to complete this first cut of all the verges etc.

Work was progressing on the appointment of suitably qualified contractors on the former Antrim side of the borough as a priority.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

Councillor Rea expressed concern regarding the condition of the roundabouts near the airport and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Blair) and Councillor Kells congratulated staff on the progress of the new grass cutting arrangements.

7.60 LETTER FROM MINISTER MARK H DURKAN MLA

It was reported that correspondence had been received from Minister Durkan MLA congratulating Council, and the many volunteers within Antrim's community, on the fantastic achievement of winning Ireland's Best Kept Large Urban Centre.

A copy of the correspondence was enclosed.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Blair) congratulated all of the staff and community that were involved in this fantastic achievement.

7.61 LETTER FROM MINISTER DANNY KENNEDY MLA

It was reported that correspondence had been received from Minister Kennedy MLA in response to Council's letter regarding the impact of budget cuts on grass cutting.

A copy of the correspondence was enclosed

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

MOTION TO PROCEED IN COMMITTEE

Moved by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED – that the Council proceed to conduct the following business 'in committee'.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

7.62 FI/FIN/8 TENDER FOR A STORAGE AREA NETWORK (SAN)

Introduction

Members were advised that at the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of 27 April 2015 the business case for the procurement of a Storage Area Network (SAN) was approved.

One tender return was received on 26 June 2015 after mini competition on a Crown Commercial Services framework agreement (RM1056L1 : Technology Products) from Kelway Ltd and was referred to the evaluation panel for assessment.

The budget for this Network was £80,000.

Tender Evaluation

The tender was assessed using a two-stage process:

Stage 1 (Selection Stage) comprised of selection criteria which included questions on Mandatory Exclusion and Declarations and Form of Tender. The tender passed the Selection Stage.

Stage 2 (Award Stage) was evaluated on Price (100%).

The tender adhered fully to the tender specification and proceeded to be evaluated on the basis of cost.

Moved by Councillor Bingham
Seconded by Councillor Brett and

RESOLVED - that the tender from Kelway Ltd for the supply and delivery of a Storage Area Network (SAN) inclusive of three year support in the sum of £98,694 be accepted.

ACTION BY: Catherine McFarland/John Balmer

7.63 F1/PRO/TEN/8 TENDER FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR PPP CREMATORIUM PROJECT

Members were reminded that a budget of £50,000 was approved to secure a Financial Advisor to provide key input into the procurement process. This tender exercise had now been completed and the following report was tabled.

Members were reminded that in June 2015 it was agreed that a financial advisor be appointed to assist the Council through the procurement process of the

Crematorium project.

Three tenders for the appointment of a financial advisor for PPP Crematorium Project were opened via the E-SourcingNI Portal on 3 July 2015 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. Tenders were received from the following firms:

Deloitte
KPMG
PWC

Stage 1 – Selection Stage

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis which included insurance cover, previous relevant experience of team members and declarations and confirmations. All of the tenders met the requirements of stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to stage 2.

Stage 2 – Award Stage

Tenders were assessed on the basis of lowest overall total fee (100% cost). Members will appreciate that at this point in the overall Crematorium development process it is unclear how many bids will be received to build and operate the facility. With this in mind the specification for the financial advisor had to be drawn up with certain presumptions on the number of bidders. The table below shows the potential fees for two scenarios.

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor Beatty and

RESOLVED - that having submitted the lowest overall total fee bids Deloitte be appointed as the Financial Advisor for the PPP Crematorium project.

ACTION BY: Peter Kay/Sharon Logue

7.64 CD/PM TENDER REPORT FOR RESTORATION OF PUMP CHAMBER AND TUNNEL, ANTRIM CASTLE GARDENS

BACKGROUND

It was reported that Antrim Borough Council approved £95,000 + fees at the Full Council meeting in October 2012 for the restoration of the Pump Chamber and Tunnel at Antrim Castle Gardens. In November 2013 a further £25,000 was approved to cover associated archaeological works giving a total budget of £130,300 (works & fees).

SCOPE

The scope of the project included the following:

- Basalt stone perimeter wall
- Structural glass panels to enable viewing into chamber
- Minor improvements to existing clay tiled floor
- Feature lighting
- Existing tunnel opened up into Pleasure Gardens (35m) to allow controlled (guided) access

- Restoration of pump for presentation purposes

PROCUREMENT

Taylor and Boyd (Civil and Structural Engineers) were appointed as consultants for the scheme in July 2014.

Donaghmore Construction Ltd and JPM Contracts Ltd returned completed Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs) in December 2014 for inclusion on a select list of contractors. The completed PQQs were evaluated using a range of criteria i.e. Professional Conduct, Economic & Financial Standing, Health & Safety and Technical & Professional Ability. Both contractors met the requirements.

Tender Documents were issued in June 2015. One tender was returned from JPM Contracts Ltd. with Donaghmore Construction Ltd not responding.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

RESOLVED - that -

- a) The works for the tendered sum of £97,000 from JPM Contracts Ltd be approved giving a tendered assessment total of £107,500**
- b) An additional client contingency sum of £10,000 be accepted**
- c) The total estimated budget for works and professional fees of £127,800 be approved.**

ACTION BY: Reggie Hillen

7.65 WM/FM/3 CORPORATE CAPITAL VEHICLE REPLACEMENT 2015/2016

Members were advised that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council now operated a fleet of approximately 250 vehicles which provided a wide range of services for the residents of the Borough, including waste and recycling, street and highway cleanliness, parks and maintenance and the provision of support for winter maintenance. Officers had worked on a cross departmental basis to consider service requirements, alignment, future plans etc. and have identified a programme of replacement to facilitate service delivery.

Corporate Plan

In the delivery of the Corporate Plan, fleet plays a significant background role:

*To deliver quality services for the Borough including statutory responsibilities
A place where people take pride in their surroundings
We have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods, and rural areas....*

The procurement of Council Vehicles can take from 6 to 40 weeks to complete dependent upon vehicle type size and class.

It is essential that Council continues with an ongoing replacement programme whilst reviewing need.

Moved by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Brett and

RESOLVED - that Council approves the vehicle replacement programme as outlined in the report.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan/Jim Gurney

7.66 CE/STC/88 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The following reports relating to Organisation Structures were tabled at the meeting:

STRUCTURES

A confidential report was tabled regarding final structures for Human Resources and Governance.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and

RESOLVED - that approval be given

- a) **To the Final Structures for Human resources and Governance (Messenger, Porter and Chauffeur Services).**
- b) **In principle, and subject to consultation with staff and trade unions, for the Environmental Health structure**

VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE APPLICATIONS

A confidential report was tabled regarding voluntary severance applications based on business cases for the following posts:

Governance
3 members of staff

Organisation Development
2 members of staff

Leisure Services
1 member of staff

Moved by Councillor Duffin
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – that the Council approves the recommended severance cases and that a suitable termination dates be agreed with the post holders

ACTION By: Andrea McCooke

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘OUT OF COMMITTEE’

Moved by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED – that the Council proceeds to conduct the following business ‘In Public’

There being no further business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 9.05pm.