



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2025 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor N Kelly)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – L Boyle, T Campbell, J McGrath, M Magill, P Michael and S Ross
- : Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Brady, M Cooper, S Cosgrove, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour, R Kinnear, R Lynch, H Magill, B Mallon, A McAuley, E McLaughlin, V McWilliam, A O’Lone, S Ward and B Webb
- Members Present (Remotely)** : Aldermen – Bradley, L Clarke, M Cosgrove and J Smyth
- : Councillors - M Goodman, AM Logue, T McGrann, L Smyth, M Stewart and S Wilson
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - R Baker
Director of Economic Development and Planning – M McAlister
Director of Community Development – U Fay
Director of Sustainability, Operations – M Lavery
Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations – M McDowell
Director of Organisation Development (Interim) – H Hall
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston
Deputy Director of Finance – J Balmer
Head of Human Resource (Interim) – J Clarke
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson
Member Services Manager – A Duffy

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting and advised Members of the audio recording procedures.

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Alderman Campbell.

The Mayor, Alderman Boyle and Councillors Cushinan, Goodman, Kinnear, Logue, McAuley, McGrann, McLaughlin and O'Lone joined the meeting at this point.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor took to the Chair and welcomed all present to the meeting. He paid tribute to former Mayor of Newtownabbey, Alderman Edward Alfred (Ted) Turkington following his recent sad passing. He also paid tribute to His Holiness Pope Francis following his sad passing and reminded Members that books of condolences were available online and at both Civic Offices until close of play on Friday 2 May 2025.

2 APOLOGIES

Councillors – J Burbank, Ní Chonghaile and L O'Hagan

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 10 Aldermen – Clarke and Smyth

Item 11.1 Aldermen - Clarke and Smyth, Councillors - Brady, Cooper, Dunlop and Magill

Item 13.6 Alderman McGrath

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 31 March 2025 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor McWilliam

Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 7 April 2025 be approved and adopted.

A Member raised a query regarding an AORB matter discussed at the Operations Committee Meeting in relation to the current recycling process of hard plastics. The Director of Sustainability Operations clarified the current

situation and agreed to provide an update to Members assuring them that advance notice would be provided going forward.

ACTION BY: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability Operations

6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor O'Lone
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 8 April 2025 be approved and adopted.

7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Development Committee Meeting of Monday 14 April 2025 approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Wednesday 23 April 2025 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.

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

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Wednesday 23 April 2025 Part 2 be approved and adopted.

9 PRESENTATION

9.1 OD/OD/004 DECADE OF DELIVERY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation was to share with Members the Decade of Delivery short film which was originally presented at the Decade of Delivery Civic Event held in Theatre at The Mill on Wednesday 2 April 2025

2 Background

The Council was formed on 1 April 2015 and to mark the tenth anniversary a Civic Event was delivered on Wednesday 2 April 2025 in Theatre at The Mill. The event also incorporated the inaugural Golden Threads staff recognition event.

3. A Decade of Delivery Film

A ten-minute film built around the Council's corporate themes of People, Place, Prosperity, Planet and Performance was created to showcase the Council's achievements across the decade. The film shown for the benefit of Elected Members who were unable to attend.

It was proposed to utilise the film in the following ways in the coming months:

1. Staff Induction Sessions
2. April Staff Newsletter (end of month edition)
3. Corporate Website – a dedicated *Decade of Delivery* page would be created
4. Digital version of Borough Life
5. Team meetings
6. Digital screens across our Leisure Centres

Councillor Lynch thanked all staff and teams for their input and delivery over the last ten years and highlighted that the Golden Threads event was an exceptional evening of recognition and a testament to staff for their achievements and welcomed this becoming an annual event.

Moved by the Mayor, Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Lynch that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

Having declared an Interest in Item 10 and Item 11.1 Aldermen Clarke and Smyth left the meeting remotely.

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman McGrath

“That this Council expresses concern at the unaffordable rents and inadequate protections for many of the 18,800 private renters in Antrim and Newtownabbey; recognises that the significant imbalance between supply and demand for rental properties is driving up monthly rents and leaving many tenants struggling to make ends meet; further recognises that too many private renters face unacceptable delays to access the basic repairs necessary to make their homes habitable and safe; and agrees to write to the Minister for Communities to call for a review of minimum fitness standards in the private rented sector, statutory timeframes for private landlords to carry out essential repairs, and measures to boost the supply of affordable rental

properties, including a cap on short term holiday lets and the creation of an Empty Homes Taskforce to help bring more empty homes back into use".

On the Motion being put to the meeting, 18 Members voted in favour, 0 against and 17 abstentions and it was

RESOLVED – that the Motion be declared carried.

ACTION BY: Richard Baker, Chief Executive

Having declared an Interest in Item 11.1 Councillors Cooper, and Magill left the Chamber.

11 ITEM FOR DECISION

11.1 AC/GEN/112 VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members approval for the award of VE Day 80 community grants to support the delivery of VE Day 80 themed community events in the Borough.

2. Introduction/Background

The 80th Anniversary of VE Day occurs on 8 May 2025 and the Council was organising a programme of events to mark this significant anniversary.

VE Day was the anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe and events celebrating 80 years of peace would be taking place across the UK and beyond.

The UK Government's VE Day 80 programme was announced on 4 March 2025 and within this announcement communities were encouraged to hold their own local street parties.

3. Previous Decisions

Members were reminded that the proposed programme to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2025 was approved by the Community Development Committee in February 2025.

It was then reported to the March Community Development Committee that up to 100 street party packs at an approximate cost of £10,000 would be available to local groups to support street parties.

At this Committee meeting in March, it was also agreed that the Council deliver a VE Day 80 community small grants programme with 30 grants of up to £500 to be made available.

At the Policy and Governance Committee in January 2025 the Councils Grant Funding Policy was approved.

4. Community Support for VE Day 80 Events

The VE Day 80 community grant programme opened on Thursday 3 April 2025 and closed on Monday 14 April. A total of 48 applications were received by the closing date from community and voluntary organisations across the Borough for a variety of VE Day 80 themed events.

Applications were assessed by a panel of officers on a pass/fail basis with up to £500 available per group to deliver their events and 47 applications were approved for funding. Details of all the 47 successful applications were circulated for Members' information, and it was proposed to provide funding as requested for all successful applicants at a total cost of £23,480.

The delivery of these 47 events across the Borough would complement the Councils own programme and enhance the VE Day 80 activity in the Borough.

5. Finance

Whilst provision for the VE Day 80 Community Grant Programme was not made in the 2025/26 Community Development budgets it was reported to the Community Development Committee in March that following an initial call to the Tourism Events Fund a budget of £40,600 remained. It was proposed to re-profile £23,480 from the tourism events fund to cover the VE Day 80 community grant programme. This would leave £17,120 for the second call to the Tourism Events Fund scheduled to open in July 2025. Officers had not anticipate a high demand in response to this second funding call as those event organisers expected to seek tourism funding support responded to the first call earlier in the year.

6. Governance

The VE Day 80 Community Grant Programme was administered and delivered within the framework of the Councils Grant Funding Policy approved in January 2025. This grant fund was made available through the Councils online grant portal to recognised community and voluntary groups within the Borough for VE Day 80 themed events. Applications were assessed on a pass/fail basis.

7. Summary

The Council was delivering a programme of events and activities in early May 2025 to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. As part of this it was agreed to provide a community grants programme. Applications for this funding were made through Council's online grant funding portal with applications opened at 12 noon on Thursday 3 April and closed on Monday 14 April 2025.

In total 48 applications were received by the closing date, of which 47 were successful. It was proposed to fund all successful applications at a total cost of £23,480. This additional expenditure could be funded through the profiling of

an underspend from the Tourism Events Fund into the Community Development grant budget.

Moved by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Ross and agreed that

the VE Day 80 community grant funding awards as outlined, at a total cost of £23,480 be approved.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

*Aldermen Clarke and Smyth returned to the meeting remotely.
Councillors Cooper and Magill returned to the Chamber.*

12 ITEM FOR NOTING

12.1 G/MSMO/14 MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL MOTION – NORTHERN IRELAND ROAD TRAFFIC LAW

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members that correspondence had been received from Mid Ulster District Council in relation to its Motion regarding Northern Ireland Road Traffic Law.

2. Introduction

Members were advised that correspondence circulated had been received from Mid Ulster District Council regarding a Motion passed by that Council. The motion was in relation to introducing legislation mandating vehicles to stop when a school bus was actively loading or unloading students to enhance safety and offer additional protection to schoolchildren across Northern Ireland.

3. Key Points

Mid Ulster District Council had resolved to call upon the Northern Ireland Assembly to develop and pass legislation requiring vehicles to stop for school buses that were picking up or dropping off pupils. To formally write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Minister of Education, highlighting the need for such legislation.

Mid Ulster District Council seeks collaboration from all Northern Ireland Councils to support the motion.

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the correspondence from Mid Ulster District Council be noted.

NO ACTION

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

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

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

13 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

13.1 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/582 PROVISION OF INTERCEPTOR, JETTING, GREASE TRAPS AND DRAINAGE CCTV SERVICES

CONTRACT PERIOD 13 MAY 2025 – 30 APRIL 2027 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 24 MONTHS (SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to obtain approval for the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced organisation to undertake planned preventative maintenance and repairs to the various systems for the contract period.

2. Introduction/Background

Across the Council's properties, and at the direction of Estates Services, the contractor would be responsible for the planned preventative maintenance and repairs of interceptors, jetting of sewage lines, drains and car park gullies, cleaning of grease traps at Council catering venues, and drainage CCTV services. The annual spend for this contract, across both lots, was approximately £[REDACTED]

This tender consists of two lots:

- Lot 1 Interceptors, Jetting and Grease Traps
- Lot 2 Drainage CCTV Services

For each lot, the contractor ranked first would undertake the planned preventative maintenance and repairs and provide an emergency response service. Where there were other works packages, Officers could call-off the contract directly at the tendered rates or undertake a further competition. Where the costs of any further competition exceed the relevant threshold, a report would be brought to Council to be approved by Members.

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 17 February 2025. One tender response was opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 25 March 2025 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tender was evaluated on a two-stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderer's professional conduct, economic and financial standing, previous relevant experience, management systems and practices, technical capacity and capability, and declarations and form of tender. The tender met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. The tender met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Sub-Stage 2 – Quality & Commercial Assessment

LOT 1 – INTERCEPTORS, JETTING AND GREASE TRAPS

The tender was evaluated on the basis of implementation plan (10%), capacity and capability to deliver (10%), contract management and performance monitoring (10%), social value (10%), and cost (60%). The recommendation was as follows:

Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 40%)	Cost Assessment (out of 60%)	Total % Score	Estimated Total Cost per Annum (£) (excl. VAT)
Enva Northern Ireland Ltd	████	████	████	████

LOT 2 – DRAINAGE CCTV SERVICES

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

Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 30%)	Cost Assessment (out of 70%)	Total % Score	Estimated Total Cost per Annum (£) (excl. VAT)
Enva Northern Ireland Ltd	████	████	████	████

While there was only one tenderer, the prices were in line with current market rates and therefore, Officers were content that they represent value for money.

At the request of a Member it was agreed that officers would explore the use of installed technology to actively monitor interceptors and grease traps.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Alderman Campbell and

RESOLVED - that, having achieved the scores detailed above, Enva Northern Ireland Ltd be appointed for each lot for the period of 13 May 2025 – 30 April 2027, with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months at the tendered rates.

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager and Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

13.2 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/559 FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE ALARM MAINTENANCE AT COUNCIL SITES THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH

CONTRACT PERIOD 13 MAY 2025 – 30 APRIL 2027 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 24 MONTHS (SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to obtain approval for the appointment of suitably qualified and experienced organisations to a framework to undertake maintenance and works on the Council's fire alarm, public address and similar systems for the contract period.

2. Introduction/Background

Across the Council's properties, and at the direction of Estates Services, the contractors appointed to the framework would be responsible for the reactive, emergency and planned maintenance visits as well as capital works for the fire alarm systems, emergency voice communication, public address systems and induction loop systems in accordance with the relevant legislation. The annual spend for this contract was approximately £ [REDACTED]

The top four highest scoring tenderers would be appointed to the framework. The primary contractor, ranked first, would undertake the planned preventative maintenance and repairs and provide an emergency response service. Where there were other works packages, Officers could call-off the framework directly at the tendered rates or undertake a further competition. Where the costs of any further competition exceed the relevant threshold, a report would be brought to Council to be approved by Members.

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 11 February 2025. Four tender responses were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 19 March 2025 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tenders were evaluated on a two-stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderer's professional conduct, economic and financial standing, previous relevant experience, management systems and practices, technical capacity and capability, and declarations and form of tender. All tenders met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

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

Sub-Stage 2 – Quality & Commercial Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on the basis of adherence to arrival and leaving times (10%), capacity and capability to deliver (20%), contract management and performance monitoring (10%), social value (10%), and cost (50%). The recommendation is as follows:

Rank	Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 50%)	Cost Assessment (out of 50%)	Total % Score	Estimated Total Cost per Annum (£) (excl. VAT)
1	Zest Fire and Security Ltd	████	████	████	████
2	VIS Security Solutions Ltd	████	████	████	████
3	Diamond Electronic Systems Ltd	████	████	████	████
4	PIP Fire & Security Ltd	████	████	████	████

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that,

- a. having achieved the scores detailed above, the tenderers be appointed to the framework in ranked order for the period of 13 May 2025 – 30 April 2027, with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months at the tendered rates.
- b. in future should similar services be required a report would be brought to the relevant Committee which includes and explores the option of using trained / certified 'in-house' staff resources.
- c. collaboration with other Councils to realise potential cost savings in future procurement exercises, would be explored.

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager

13.3 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/572 PROVISION OF LEGIONELLA MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT COUNCIL SITES

CONTRACT PERIOD 13 MAY 2025 – 31 MAY 2028 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 24 MONTHS (SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to obtain approval for the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced organisation to provide legionella management services for the contract period.

2. Introduction/Background

The Council maintains a variety of buildings which require regular water quality monitoring to ensure adherence to the relevant legionella management standards. This contract included six main elements: water sampling, monitoring, testing and inspection, risk assessments and the written scheme, provision of software and support, flushing of little used outlets, and remedial works. The level of annual spend on this contract was approximately £ [REDACTED]

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 18 February 2025. Three tender responses were opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 26 March 2025 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tenders were evaluated on a two-stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tenders were evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderer's professional conduct, economic and financial standing, previous relevant experience, management systems and practices, schedule of operatives, professional membership, laboratory accreditation, and declarations and form of tender. All tenders met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

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

Sub-Stage 2 – Quality & Commercial Assessment

The tenders were evaluated on the basis of management of the contract and customer focus (20%), technical capacity and capability (20%), social value (10%) and cost (50%). The recommendation was as follows:

Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 50%)	Cost Assessment (out of 50%)	Total % Score	Estimated Total Cost for 3 Years (£) (excl. VAT)
Graham Asset Management Ltd t/a GRAHAM	50%	50%	100%	[REDACTED]

Moved by Alderman Campbell
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that,

- a) **having achieved a score of 100%, Graham Asset Management Ltd t/a GRAHAM be appointed to provide legionella management services at the tendered rates for the period of 13 May 2025 – 31 May 2028, with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months.**
- b) **in future should similar services be required a report would be brought to the relevant Committee which includes and explores the option of using trained / certified 'in-house' staff resources.**

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager

Councillor McGrath left the Chamber at Item 13.4.

13.4 IN CONFIDENCE CD/PM/179 APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR REPLACEMENT PLAY PARKS AT KINGS PARK AND RATHCOOLE

1. Purpose

Following completion of the Play Park Refurbishment review and Procurement process, the purpose of this report was to seek Members' Investment Decision to appoint Sutcliffe Play Ltd as the Principal Designer & Contractor to undertake the delivery of the replacement play parks at Rathcoole Diamond and Kings Park, Newtownabbey. The projects had a combined Gross CAPEX of £[REDACTED].

The projects were deemed affordable in the context of CAPEX and whole life annual revenue.

2. Introduction/Background

A comprehensive independent audit of the Council's existing play park provision was completed in Autumn 2023. Of the thirty-six play parks evaluated, five were recommended for full replacement, including Rathcoole Diamond and Kings Park, Newtownabbey. The three remaining replacement play parks, Antrim Peace Park, Hazelbank and Crumlin Glen were not considered in this report.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In June 2024 Council granted approval to advance the Play Park Refurbishment Project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme at an estimated cost of £[REDACTED]

The estimated cost for replacing the play parks at Rathcoole Diamond and Kings Park was £[REDACTED]

4. Procurement

Two cost submissions for a contractor to design and construct the replacement play parks were sought through the YPO framework to ensure Council achieved best value for money. YPO was a national framework that was compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations and provided a simple procurement process with free access for clients.

5. Cost Analysis

Sutcliffe Play Ltd submitted the lowest cost was detailed below.

Contractor	Cost
Sutcliffe Play Ltd	£ [REDACTED]

Allplay was the local representative for Sutcliffe Play Ltd. Capital Development Officers met representatives from Allplay who confirmed they understood the requirements of the works and had priced accordingly.

6. Other Issues

During the procurement process a request was received to increase the scope of the project to include the MUGA area adjacent to Kings Park. A sum of £ [REDACTED] was included in the cost plan to develop this additional element.

7. Financial Position/Implication

Cost Submission	£ [REDACTED]
Contingency (10%)	£ [REDACTED]
Works to Kings Park MUGA	£ [REDACTED]
Total Anticipated Cost	£ [REDACTED]

*A contingency sum of approximately 10% (£ [REDACTED]) had been included to cover any unforeseen items including ground conditions as detailed site investigations had not been undertaken. This sum may or may not be fully utilised.

8. Programme

An indicative programme would be clarified following the appointment of the contractor.

Moved by Councillor Foster
 Seconded by Councillor Brady and

RESOLVED - that following completion of the Play Park Refurbishment review and Procurement process, approval was sought from Members to make the

Investment Decision and appoint Sutcliffe Play Ltd as the Principal Designer & Contractor to undertake the delivery of the replacement play parks at Rathcoole Diamond and Kings Park, Newtownabbey. The projects had a combined Gross CAPEX of £[REDACTED]

The projects were deemed affordable in the context of CAPEX and whole life annual revenue.

ACTION BY: Andrew McKeown, Capital Development Manager

13.5 IN CONFIDENCE L/GEN/079 ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE 3G PITCH AND CHANGING FACILITIES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to place the Abbey College 3G pitch and changing facilities project on the Council's Capital programme, to commence the first stage of the 4-stage Capital Project Management Process. Furthermore, this report seeks approval for the Education Authority's Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) to carry out the project design and management at a cost of £[REDACTED]

2. Introduction/Background

Members would be aware that Council previously approved the sale of land at Threemilewater Playing Pitches to the Education Authority for £1.1 million, enabling the development of the new Abbey Community College campus on the site. The sale was completed on April 1, 2025.

As part of the sale agreement, and to offset the loss of three playing pitches and one training pitch at the location, it was agreed that the 3G pitch being developed as part of the new campus would be made available for Council use outside of school hours (i.e. evenings and weekends). This arrangement would allow local sports teams to book and use the facility, enhancing the availability of 3G pitches across the Council area. The construction of the 3G pitch would form the first phase of work at the site. Until the pitch was completed, Council would retain use of the existing grass pitches under a licence agreement.

3. Changing Facilities & Floodlighting

A further element of the agreement allowed Council to retain a small portion of land near the proposed 3G pitch, designated for the construction of a team changing facility. This facility was intended for use by sports teams when booking the pitch. Due to operational considerations, including the layout of the new campus and the distance between the school's changing facilities and the 3G pitch, it was not practicable to rely on the school's facilities for this purpose.

Floodlighting for the 3G pitch was not being provided by the Education Authority, as it was not required for school use during daylight hours. However,

as the Council's usage would primarily be in the evenings, the provision of floodlighting was essential. It was anticipated that the cost of the floodlighting could be supported through external funding sources, such as the "Your School, Your Club" programme, a fund specifically designed to enable community use of school facilities outside of school hours.

Officers had identified an opportunity to develop the facility to Intermediate Football standard by making modest enhancements to certain design specifications, particularly in relation to the size of the changing rooms, proximity and access to the pitch, and the surrounding fencing. It was important to note that the Irish Football Association was currently reviewing the ground criteria for Intermediate Football, and these standards may be subject to change in the near future.

4. Design & Procurement

Council Officers had been engaging with counterparts in the Education Authority to explore the possibility of incorporating the floodlighting and changing facility works into the current design process being undertaken by the Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) for the wider campus, including the 3G pitch.

This approach was considered the most efficient in terms of time and project coordination. It would also allow for the potential inclusion of these works within the main construction contract as a compensation event (subject to Council approval).

5. Financial Implication

A quotation for the design of the proposed elements had been received from the Education Authority's consultants, totalling £[REDACTED]. This had been reviewed by the Council's Capital Development team and confirmed as representing value for money.

6. Next Steps

In line with the Council's Capital Programme process, the Project Initiation Document (PID), circulated, could also serve as the Strategic Outline Case. If approved, this would allow the project to be progressed to Stage 1 of the Capital Programme. It should be noted that the proposal was also subject to the Education Authority's internal approval process. A further report would be brought forward for Members' consideration, outlining the full construction costs for all elements of the project.

In relation to a query raised by a Member in respect of financial provisions set aside in 2015 for the refurbishment of changing facilities, the Chief Executive undertook to investigate these details.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that approval be granted from Members to place the Abbey College 3G pitch and changing facilities project on the Council's Capital programme, to commence the first stage of the 4-stage Capital Project Management Process. To allow the project to progress, Members' approval was necessary for the Education Authority's Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) to carry out the project design and management, at a cost of £[REDACTED]

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations and Richard Baker, Chief Executive.

13.6 IN CONFIDENCE HR/ER/001 HR POLICIES

1. Purpose

In the context of escalating salary costs, the purpose of this report was to recommend to Members to approve the revised Pay Protection Policy, Pension Discretions Policy Statement Options Paper and a new Voluntary Severance & Voluntary Redundancy Policy as a measure to manage salary costs and deliver service improvements.

2. Previous Council Decision

Members were reminded that the Council approved the following:

- Pay Protection Policy in April 2016 and subsequently a Pay Tapering Policy in December 2020
- Pensions Discretions Policy Statement Options Paper in July 2022
- Voluntary Severance and Voluntary Redundancy Procedure in June 2023.

3. Main Report

Members were advised that in consultation with Trade Unions, the Pay Protection Policy, Pension Discretions Policy Statement Options Paper had been reviewed and updated and a new Voluntary Severance & Voluntary Redundancy Policy had been developed.

4. Key Revisions / Updates

A copy of all three policies (with the tracked changes for the Pay Protection Policy and Pensions Discretions Policy Statement) are circulated for Members' approval. However, by way of a synopsis the following were the key points:

- The Pay Protection Policy proposes to retain a maximum 3 year pay protection period in the event of organisational restructuring, reviews and or medical reasons or pay and grading review.
- Pensions Discretions Policy Statement, had been updated to reflect a figure from NILGOSC in relation to the 'additional pension up to a maximum award'.
- Voluntary Severance and Voluntary Redundancy Policy proposed to retain the enhanced termination multiplier of 1.7 and a payback period of 3 years.

5. Implementation

It was the intention to launch an 'expression of interest' in voluntary severance to all staff with immediate effect. Each 'expression of interest' would be considered based on operational requirements, financial impact and service continuity, (in accordance with the terms of the voluntary severance policy). Where there was deemed to be no financial or service detriment, organisational restructuring and re-design would be managed at an operational level.

Approval would be sought from Members where restructuring and re-design goes beyond an individual Directorate.

6. Governance

Section 75 Equality Screening had been carried out on these policies, copies of which were circulated for information.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the Pay Protection Policy, Pension Discretions Policy Statement Options Paper and Voluntary Severance & Voluntary Redundancy Policy be approved for immediate implementation.

ACTION BY: Helen Hall, Director of Organisation Development (Interim)

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Brady and

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

Alderman McGrath returned to the Chamber at this point.

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 7.24pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.