



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Alderman S Ross)
- Members Present (In Person)** : Aldermen – F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, M Cosgrove, M Girvan, P Michael and J McGrath
- Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Brady, J Burbank, M Cooper, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour, N Kelly, A McAuley, N McClelland, V McWilliam, M Magill, B Mallon, N Ramsay, V Robinson, L Smyth, and B Webb
- Members Present (Remote)** Aldermen – T Campbell, and J Smyth
- Councillors – P Bradley, M Goodman, R Kinnear, A Logue, R Lynch, J Montgomery, M Stewart and R Swann
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon
Director of Economic Development and Planning - M McAlister
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
Director of Community Planning - U Fay
Director of Parks and Leisure Operations – M McDowell
Director of Waste Operations – M Laverty
Director of Corporate Strategy – H Hall
Head of Human Resources – J Close
Head of Investment and Business Development – M McKenna
Head of Regeneration and Infrastructure (Interim) – S Norris
Head of Corporate Affairs – J McIntyre
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson
ICT Helpdesk Officer – D Mason
Member Services Manager – A Duffy
Member Services Officer – L Irwin

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

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

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Reverend Robert Ginn who expressed his sincere condolences to the Director of Operations, Geraldine Girvan whose Mother had passed away on 21 March 2023.

Councillors Cushinan, Goodman, Kelly, Logue and McAuley joined the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Councillor R Wilson

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Motion 14 – Councillor Cushinan

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 27 February 2023 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Ramsay and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 6 March 2023 be taken as read and signed as correct.

6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 7 March 2023 be approved and adopted.

7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Item 5.3 Traffic Management at Spring Plant Fair, it was noted that following the Community Planning Committee meeting the PNSI had advised that due to potential traffic congestion the venue be changed from Hazelbank to Lough Shore Park.

AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Magill that

Item 5.8 the request to carry out Paranormal Investigations at Sentry Hill and Clotworthy House should not proceed.

On the amendment being put to the meeting it was unanimously agreed that Paranormal Investigations at Sentry Hill and Clotworthy House should not proceed.

Moved by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 13 March 2023 be approved and adopted to include the above amendment.

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

Moved by Alderman Agnew
Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 20 March 2023 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.

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

Moved by Alderman Agnew
Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 20 March 2023 Part 2 be approved and adopted.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of Tuesday 21 March 2023 be approved and adopted.

Alderman Burns left the meeting during the following Item.

10 ITEMS FOR DECISION

10.1 EL/207 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE - SHANE'S CASTLE, ANTRIM FOR STEAM RALLY,

An application had been received for the grant of an Entertainments Licence for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Where entertainment will be held	Type(s)and hours of entertainment
-----------------	-----------------------------	---	--

Ian Duff	Shane's Castle Estate, Castle Road, Antrim, BT41 4NE	Outdoor	<p>Singing, Music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind</p> <p>Not more than 14 particular days within 12 month period following grant of the licence</p> <p>Friday 28th April 12pm – 12am</p> <p>Saturday 29th April 12pm – 12am</p> <p>Sunday 30th April 12pm – 12am</p> <p>Monday 1st May 12pm – 12am</p>
-----------------	--	---------	---

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Additional Information

The Shane's Castle Steam Rally would take place from Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May 2023 and would comprise of a display of over 800 vintage vehicles including steam engines, vintage cars, and tractors. The event which is part funded by Council and attracts over 15,000 people has camping facilities and entertainment provided on site. Tickets are pre-paid and purchased online, however any tickets remaining could be purchased at the gate on the day.

The organiser and safety officer, Ian Duff, will co-ordinate the event and liaise with various government bodies through a Safety Advisory Group, including

PSNI, NIFRS, DFI and NI Ambulance Service. The event would be contained within a security perimeter on Shane's Castle Estate, however the event and entertainment areas would not be enclosed by barriers. An occasional liquor licence would be applied for by the event organiser for the sale of alcohol within the entertainment area.

Moved by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED - that an Entertainments Licence be granted to the applicant, Ian Duff, Shane's Castle Estate, Castle Road, Antrim, BT41 4NE with the following conditions;

- That all relevant licensing requirements are met
- That statutory consultees have no objections to approval

OPERATING HOURS

Friday 28th April 2023 – 12pm – 12am

Saturday 29th April 2023 – 12pm – 12am

Sunday 30th April 2023 – 12pm – 12am

Monday 1st May 2023 – 12pm – 12am

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

10.2 EL/208 APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE - THE GRANGE BAR & RESTAURANT, 22 – 26 THE SQUARE, BALLYCLARE, BT39 9BB

An application had been received for the provisional grant of an Entertainments Licence for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Where entertainment will be held	Type(s)and hours of entertainment
Glen Samuel Balmer	22- 26 The Square, Ballyclare, BT39 9BB	Indoor	Singing, Music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind Annual Licence (Provisional) Monday to Sunday 11.30am to 1:00am Occupancy total within the proposed licensable areas to

			be determined further to consultation with NIFRS.
--	--	--	---

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Additional Information

Recently under new ownership, these premises are currently under extensive renovation. This application was being made to allow entertainment to be provided upon the completion of the works. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 permits the provisional granting of an Entertainment Licence subject to the condition that the works are completed in line with all relevant licensing requirements and agreed by the Council.

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Ramsay and

RESOLVED - that an Entertainments Licence be provisionally granted to the applicant Glen Samuel Balmer, The Grange Bar & Restaurant, 22-26 The Square, Ballyclare, BT39 9BB on the following condition;

- **That all relevant licensing requirements are met**
- **That statutory consultees have no objections to approval**
- **That a satisfactory electrical report is submitted**
- **That the public consultation does not result in any objections**

OPERATING HOURS

**Monday to Sunday
11.30am to 1:00am**

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

10.3 EL/200 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE THE JUNCTION, OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE ADJACENT TO UNIT 57, THE JUNCTION RETAIL & LEISURE PARK BT41 4LL

An application had been received for the grant of an Entertainments Licence for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Where entertainment will be held	Type(s)and hours of entertainment
Christopher Flynn	Outdoor Event Space, Adjacent to Unit 57 The Junction Retail & Leisure Park, BT41 4LL	Outdoor	<p>Theatrical Performance & Singing, Music, Dancing or entertainment of a like kind</p> <p>Any 14 unspecified days within 12 month period following grant of the licence</p> <p>Dates and times to be determined</p> <p>Occupancy – 250 persons</p>

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Additional Information

The Junction are planning to host family events such as discos and theatrical performances in the outdoor space. This usually coincides with monthly

markets hosted on the mall. Tickets would be pre purchased online with the proceeds going to a local charity. The dates are to be confirmed with the event organiser.

Moved by Councillor McClelland
 Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and

RESOLVED - that an Entertainments Licence be granted to the applicant, Christopher Flynn, The Junction, Outdoor Event Space, Adjacent to Unit 57, The Junction Retail & Leisure Park, BT41 4LL with the following conditions;

- That all relevant licensing requirements are met
- That statutory consultees have no objections to approval
- Dates and times of events are agreed in advance with Licensing Team

OPERATING HOURS

To be determined by event organiser. Dates and times to be agreed with Licensing Team.

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

10.4 EL/203 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE - TIME COFFEE HOUSE, 17-19 THE SQUARE, BALLYCLARE, BT39 9BB

An application had been received for the grant of an Entertainments Licence for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Where entertainment will be held	Type(s) and duration of entertainment
David Doherty	17-19 The Square, Ballyclare, BT39 9BB	Indoor	Singing, Music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind Annual Licence Monday to Sunday 9am – 11pm Number of persons No greater than 100

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence

- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown
 Seconded by Councillor Ramsay and

RESOLVED - that an Entertainments Licence be granted to the applicant, David Doherty, 17-19 The Square, Ballyclare, BT39 9BB with the following conditions;

- That all relevant licensing requirements are met
- That statutory consultees have no objections to approval
- That a satisfactory electrical report is received

OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Sunday 9am – 11pm

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

**10.5 EL/083 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE
 MONEYGLASS COMMUNITY CENTRE, 10 LOUGHBEG ROAD, TOOMEBRIDGE,
 BT41 3TN**

An application had been received for the grant of an Entertainments Licence for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Where entertainment will be held	Type(s)and hours of entertainment
Henry Marron	10 Loughbeg Road, Toomebridge, BT41 3TN	Indoor	Singing, Music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind Annual Licence Any public contest, match, exhibition or display of boxing/ wrestling/judo/karate/ similar sport or darts Monday to

			<p>Saturday 8.00am to 1.00am Sunday 10.30am to 1.00am</p> <p>Occupancy total within the proposed licensable areas to be determined further to consultation with NIFRS.</p>
--	--	--	---

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and

RESOLVED - that an Entertainments Licence be granted to the applicant, Henry Marron, 10 Loughbeg Road, Toomebridge, BT41 3TN on the following condition;

- That all relevant licensing requirements are met
- That statutory consultees have no objections to approval

OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Saturday 8:00am - 1.00am
Sunday 10.30am - 1.00am

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

10.6 ED/LMP/002 LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) – DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2023/24

Members would be aware of the Labour Market Partnership (LMP), the aim of which is to improve labour market conditions by working on a collaborative basis with a range of partners.

The Draft Action Plan for 2023/24 had been developed by the Partnership in line with the Strategic Priorities provided by the Department for Communities (DfC), namely;

- To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area;
- To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally, and
- To promote and support delivery of existing employability or skills provision available either regionally or locally.

Following guidance from DfC the Partnership undertook data analysis, consultation and a turning the curve exercise and selected the following themes as local priority:

- Youth Unemployment: people aged 18 – 24 in receipt of an unemployment benefit.
- Economic Inactivity: those not in employment and who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and/or not able to work within the next 2 weeks.
- Skilled Labour Supply: resident working age population with no qualifications.

These themes are consistent with the aims and objectives of the Borough's Community Plan, Economic Strategy and the Programme for Government NI (PfG).

A copy of the Draft Action Plan was circulated for Members consideration.

The Draft Action Plan was approved by the Partnership at its meeting on 21 February 2023 and submitted to DfC on 24 February 2023, subject to approval at Full Council in March. The Draft Plan would be considered, and subject to approval by, the Regional Labour Market Partnership at its meeting on 22 March 2023.

The budget required to deliver the activity contained within the plan was detailed in the table below.

DfC	£503,842 includes: £100,768.4 administration £403,073.6 operational
Council	£22,567 administration
Total Programme Budget	£526,409

It should be noted that the budget had been developed based on guidance supplied by DfC, confirmation of budgets would be dependent on approval of central DfC funding.

Administration costs are capped at 20% of overall programme costs. There are currently 3 Council Officers (2.8 FTE equivalent) working on the Labour Market Partnership programme. Funding of £100,768.4 from DfC will cover 81.7% of the salary costs involved with 18.3% or £22,567 met by the Council,

provision for which had been made in the 2023/24 economic development budget.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the LMP draft Action Plan 2023/24 including the budget outlined be approved.

ACTION BY: Michelle Pearson, Business Development Officer (Skills)

Alderman Burns returned to the Chamber.

10.7 ED/LMP/001 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Meetings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership were held on Thursday 26 January and 21 February 2023 and the minutes recorded at the meetings were circulated.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Labour Market Partnership Meetings of 26 January and 21 February 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Michelle Pearson, Business Development Officer (Skills)

10.8 FI/GEN/021 CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DATE OF ANNUAL REVALUATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Correspondence had been received (circulated) from the Department for Communities in relation to the commencement of their consultation on a proposal to change the date of the annual revaluation in the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) from 1 April to 6 April.

This change of date will align the annual pension scheme revaluation dates with the period used by HMRC for determining if there is any tax liability on the growth of a scheme member's pension over the period.

The Department are now seeking views on the draft Regulations (circulated) which introduce this change.

The consultation closes on the 24 March 2023 and a draft response was circulated.

Moved by Councillor Montgomery
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that the draft response be approved.

ACTION BY: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

10.9 CP/CP/178 DEA ENGAGEMENT MEETING TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were reminded that the DEA Engagement Meeting Terms of Reference would be amended and brought back to the Council meeting in March. The updated Terms of Reference were circulated for Members approval.

The Terms of Reference would provide the framework for the DEA Meetings moving forward. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of Officer's to ensure effective operation and reporting of the meetings.

The new Terms of Reference would also provide clear timelines for the operational side of the meetings to ensure Members were provided with the most up to date information at their DEA Meeting. The recently in post DEA Engagement Team would implement the new framework for the DEA Meetings and manage the process in collaboration with other service areas across the Council.

Moved by Councillor Ramsay
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED -that the revised DEA Engagement Meeting Terms of Reference be approved.

ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

11.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Northern Ireland Housing Council for Members' information. A copy of the Northern Ireland Housing Council's March Bulletin and Minutes from their February Meeting were circulated.

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that the correspondence be noted.

NO ACTION

11.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL – REDUCTION IN VOTING AGE

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council.

A copy of the letter was circulated for Member's information.

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that the correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council be noted.

NO ACTION

11.3 P/PLAN/083 DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE ON PLANING FEES AND PLANNING PORTAL

The Deputy Secretary for the Department for Infrastructure, Julie Thompson, had written to all Chief Executives regarding the uplift in planning fees and an update on the planning portal. A copy of the letter was circulated for information.

In relation to fees, an update would come into effect on 6 April 2023. There would be a one-year inflationary uplift of approximately 12.3 percent across all fee categories.

In relation to the new planning portal, the Department advises work was continuing in remedying emerging issues and that progress had been made. The Department was also engaging with stakeholders to what was working well and what areas could be improved.

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

11.4 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL – ENERGY COMPANY PROFITS

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council requesting that this Council sends a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in similar terms.

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

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that the correspondence from Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council be noted.

NO ACTION

11.5 G/MSMO/008/VOL 3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON SOUTH WEST ACUTE HOSPITAL

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council advising of the launch of WHSCT Public Consultation on the South West Acute Hospital. They request that this Council respond to the consultation in positive manner and argue for the retention of the full suite of services at the Hospital

Full details of the consultation are available at <https://westerntrust.hscni.net/trust-launches-public-consultation-on-the-temporary-change-to-emergency-general-surgery-at-south-west-acute-hospital/>. The consultation would close in April 2023.

Moved by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED - that the Public Consultation on the South West Acute Hospital be noted.

NO ACTION

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Cllr Magill
Seconded by Cllr Dunlop

“That this Council reaffirms its support for the further development of the public transport network in the Greater Belfast area and more specifically within the boundaries of Antrim and Newtownabbey. That the Council notes the strength of public opinion on the necessity of expansion of the rail network generally, and in particular the re-opening of the Knockmore Line and its connection to Belfast International Airport.

This enhancement of our rail provision is critical to realising the economic potential of immediate Airport and Nutt's Corner employment location, the borough and indeed the wider region. It will facilitate reliable and affordable access to employment and education, support tourism growth and increase opportunities for social and leisure activities whilst also presenting tangible opportunities for carbon reduction.

The Council welcomes recent engagement with Translink on this matter and their proposal to undertake a feasibility and cost study over the next 18 months, subject to confirmation of funding from the Department. The Council should fully engage in this study as a key stakeholder and seek to maximise the benefits that can be realised for our residents through such an investment.

Further, given the strategic importance of the BIA site and the scale of opportunity for investment and economic growth, the establishment by the Council of a Working Group to support the advancement of key strands of work is to be welcomed. Focus areas should include Connectivity, Route

Offer, Investment opportunities, Digital and Innovation advancement and attraction and retention of workforce''.

Members agreed that plans be considered for a railway halt at Ballymartin Park and Ride, Templepatrick.

RESOLVED - the Motion was unanimously declared carried.

Having declared an Interest in Motion 14 Councillor Cushinan left the Chamber.

Alderman Campbell left the meeting at this point.

14 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Cllr Flanagan
 Seconded by Cllr Bennington

This council recognises the immense sacrifice of those prison officers who served in Northern Ireland through its most difficult times, and indeed who continue until the present day to serve this community with great bravery; further, that an appropriate commemoration be installed in the Borough, an event be held to celebrate officers within the Borough and a legacy project be commenced to honour their contribution to our society'.

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

In favour of the Motion Members viz 33	Against the Motion Members viz 3	Abstentions Members viz 0
Aldermen – Agnew, Burns, Clarke, Cosgrove, Girvan, McGrath, Michael, Smyth and Ross Councillors – Archibald- Brown, Bennington, Bradley, Brady, Burbank, Cooper, Dunlop, Flanagan, Foster, Gilmour, Kelly, Lynch, McAuley, McClelland, McWilliam, Magill, Mallon, Montgomery, Ramsay, Robinson, Stewart, Swann, Smyth and Webb	Councillors – Goodman, Kinnear and Logue	

RESOLVED - the Motion was declared carried.

Councillor Cushinan returned to the Chamber.

Alderman McGrath and Councillors Cooper, Flanagan and Magill left the Chamber.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop

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.

*Councillor Mallon left and returned to the Chamber during Item 12.1.
Councillor Cooper returned to the Chamber during Item 12.1.*

12 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

12.1 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/173 OUR PROSPERITY OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUP MINUTES

The Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group met on the 10 March 2023 to review progress on strategic economic development and tourism matters and to consider priorities as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact. A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 10 March 2023 was circulated for Members consideration.

The Chief Executive advised that she would respond to a Members questions following the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group of 10 March 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

12.2 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED.195 VOL.2 MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE MEETINGS OF THE LEVELLING UP FUND PROJECT BOARD HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2023

The Levelling Up Fund award required that a governance structure be put in place to oversee the management and implementation of the approved schemes:

- o LUF0037 Glengormley Integrated Economic and Physical Regeneration Scheme

- o LUF0080 Antrim Integrated Economic and Physical Regeneration Scheme

This included an internal project board made up of relevant Officers involved in delivery: Capital Development; Economic Development; Public Relations & Marketing; Legal Services; Building Control.

The Levelling up Fund Project Board met on the 16 February 2023 to monitor progress and to provide direction for the schemes.

Copies of the minutes from the meetings were circulated for Members consideration.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Levelling Up Fund Project Board meetings held on 16 February 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

12.3 IN CONFIDENCE G/LEG/14-32 LAND AT WHITEHOUSE PARK

Members were reminded that the Council completed the sale of land at Whitehouse Park to the owner of number [REDACTED] Whitehouse Park in 2016. The land was marked in red in the circulated map and is at the rear of [REDACTED] Whitehouse Park.

The owners of number [REDACTED] had submitted a planning application to the Council for a shed to keep vintage vehicles and garden mowers and equipment on the land. The area where they wish to place the shed is highlighted in yellow (for illustration purposes only), on the circulated map, however, the proposed location of the shed was subject to discussions with Planning Officers.

One of the restrictions which the Council placed on the land was as follows:

'Not to build or erect any building erection or structure other than a garden shed or ornamental feature not to exceed a height of six feet on the Premises or any part thereof.'

[REDACTED]

The owners of the land at [REDACTED] Whitehouse Park, via their planning agent, had requested the above restriction be amended, subject to planning permission, to allow for a shed to be built on the land for the purposes of keeping vintage vehicles and garden mowers and equipment.

To allow this Officers suggest that the change to the restriction is as follows:

'Not to build or erect any building erection or structure other than a shed or ornamental feature, subject to planning permission, on the Premises or any part thereof.'

If Members are minded to allow this change to the restriction and subsequently the planning application is refused the original restriction would remain unchanged.

The planning application was currently on hold pending the current request.

Councillor Foster's objection to the proposal was noted.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

RESOLVED - that the Council amends the restriction outlined above subject to planning approval.

ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer & Head of Legal Services

Councillors Flanagan and Magill returned to the Chamber.

12.4 IN CONFIDENCE WM/ARC21/008 RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT

Members were referred to the circulated letter from the remaining bidder in the Residual Waste Treatment Project in which they wish to update Members about the Project.

Moved by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Smyth that Council accepts the invitation from Indaver NI Ltd for Officials and Elected representatives to visit the Meath facility after the election.

On the proposal being put to the meeting 10 Members voted in favour, 22 against and 4 abstentions.

The proposal was declared not carried.

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Alderman Michael and

RESOLVED - that the letter from Indaver NI Ltd be noted.

ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer & Head of Legal Services

12.5 IN CONFIDENCE P/FP/LDP/85 DAERA MARINE & FISHERIES DIVISION, MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Marine &

Fisheries Division, Marine Licensing Team regarding a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the three departments (Department for Infrastructure (DfI), Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for the Economy (DfE) – circulated.

The MOU relates to infrastructure for offshore renewable energy projects within Northern Ireland territorial waters (i.e. out to 12 nautical miles from baseline) that require at least two of the following consents: (1) a grant of planning approval under the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011, (2) a marine license under the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and consent under the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992. All three Departments have responsibilities under retained EU law, such as Environmental Impact Assessment legislation. The MOU:

1. Is an agreement between DfI, DAERA and DfE and sets out roles, responsibilities and clear lines of communication;
2. Aims to ensure that offshore renewable energy projects are prioritised and where possible, Departments co-ordinate and communicate to progress applications expeditiously; and
3. Establishes a framework within which the three Departments will work closely together to ensure that planning, marine licensing and consent to construct, extend or operate applications for all offshore wind and marine renewable energy projects are brought to the most appropriate decisions as quickly and as seamlessly as possible.

For the purpose of the MOU, offshore renewable energy projects include energy infrastructure, both inshore and in the off shore region.

Whilst the MOU is welcome and the Council would process any applications received on a timely basis, the document places an extra administration burden on the Council outside of the normal planning process which would set a precedent for other types of applications coming forward. It is therefore proposed that the letter circulated is issued from the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

RESOLVED - that the report be noted and letter issued by the Chief Executive.

ACTION BY: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning

12.6 IN CONFIDENCE ED/ED/162 FUTURE BUSINESS START PROVISION

Background/Go For It Extension

Members were reminded that the Council had responsibility for supporting entrepreneurship and a statutory target for business start-up in the Borough which was currently 80 jobs per annum. The main vehicle through which the Council seeks to achieve this job target is the Go For It, Regional Business Start Programme. This programme offers support to entrepreneurs wishing to start

their own business including mentoring assistance to develop a business plan. Over the last three years, the Council had delivered against the statutory target, creating 106 jobs in 2019/20, 84 in 2020/21 and 97 in 2021/22. In the current year to date 100 jobs had been created, exceeding the statutory target for 2022/23.

The programme has been running since September 2017 across all Council areas and is managed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on behalf of all Councils and is delivered by Enterprise NI through their network of Local Enterprise Agencies. Locally, Mallusk Enterprise Agency and LEDCOM are part of the Enterprise NI consortium delivering the programme, however Antrim Enterprise Agency is not involved. The programme has been funded through European Structural funds, Invest NI and via a contribution from all local Councils. In order to enhance the provision at a local level the Council has separately supported additional pre and post support to participants.

In anticipation of the end of the current contract, all 11 Councils have worked together to develop a business case for a new Entrepreneurship Support Service. This new service would address a number of deficiencies identified in the current Go For It model to ensure that any future programme is value for money, flexible and delivers with impact at a local level. The new service incorporates both pre and post start up support which was not currently included in the Go For It programme and provides support for accelerated scaling and growth.

Whilst the new Entrepreneurship Support Service was being developed, it was agreed to extend the current Go For It delivery contract with Enterprise NI and the associated Collaboration Agreement between all 11 Councils for 6 months, to 30 September 2023. The extension would ensure that business start-up provision was still available consistently across Northern Ireland and that the Council could continue to meet its statutory job target during this transition period.

The cost to extend delivery and the supporting infrastructure namely marketing, call-handling, Management Information System and support staff has now been confirmed as £37,847 for Antrim and Newtownabbey which will support 145 business plans, converting to 87 jobs, mirroring the support available in 2021-22 and 2022-23. Provision for this funding has already been made in the Economic Development budget for 2022-23.

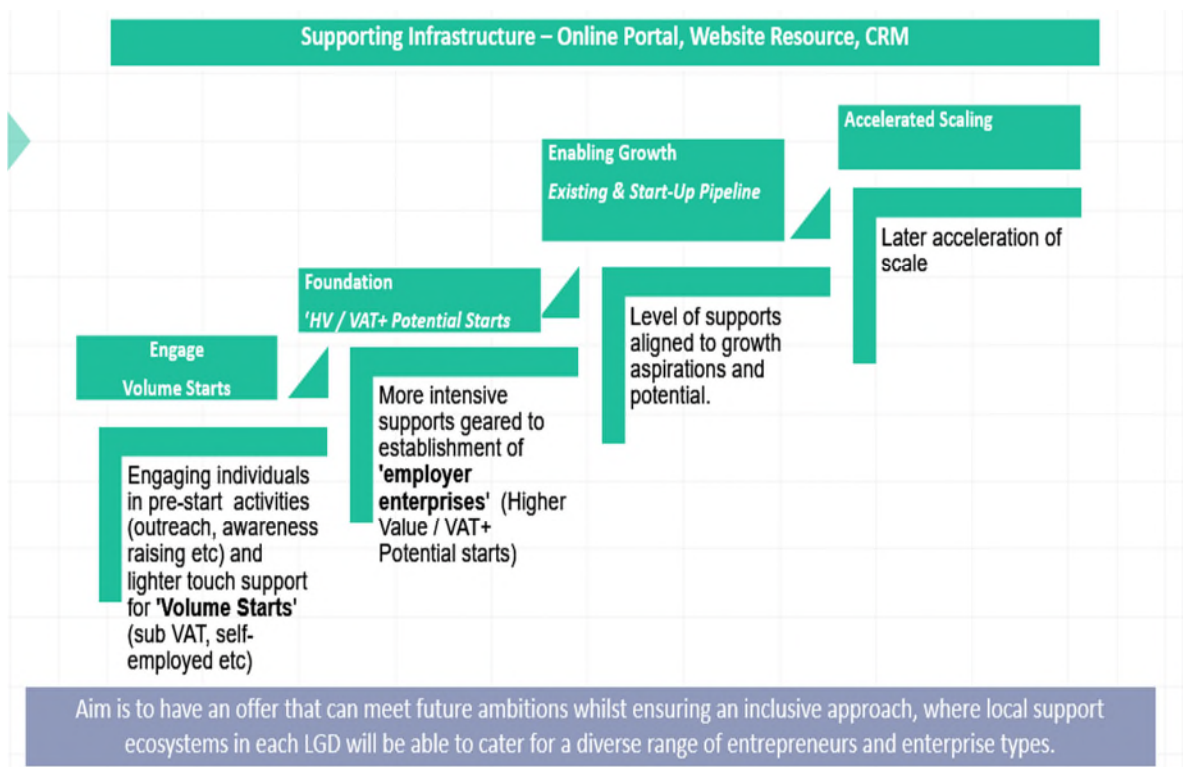
Future Business Start/Entrepreneurship Support Service (ESS)

As outlined above, a new Northern Ireland Council-led Entrepreneurship Support Service (ESS) has been developed to replace the existing EU-funded model coming to an end on 31 March 2023. In order to continue our statutory responsibility for enterprise development, an all-Council bid, led by Belfast City Council, was being prepared to secure £17 million from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This would resource the delivery of a Council-led 'Entrepreneurship Support Service' for an initial 2 years. As part of this application process all 11 Councils are required to sign Joint Bid and Match Funding forms.

The ESS will take the form of one Council (Belfast City Council) acting as lead on behalf of all 11 NI-Councils and a series of collaborative agreements and governance requirements in place to enable delivery. The aim of the ESS is to offer flexibility to meet individual Council needs, with options to tailor support to sectors, geography and specialisms.

The 4 proposed pillars of the Entrepreneurship Support Service are:

- 1) Engage
- 2) Foundation
- 3) Enabling Growth
- 4) Accelerated Scaling



The Service aims to create a clear business support pathway with support at varying stages of the enterprise journey from pre-start to growth. Pre-Market Engagement with stakeholders across Northern Ireland took place at the end of January 2023, with feedback obtained on the proposed delivery model. The delivery model sets out allocation of contracts based on 5 geographical areas in line with the Invest NI regional offices – linking Antrim and Newtownabbey with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area. Council / Belfast City Council will contract with suppliers based on these sub-regions, however each individual Council will liaise directly with the preferred supplier for their area to develop an annual service plan designed to meet local needs and ambitions and achieve regional targets set out by the funder. The aim is to commence procurement in April 2023, with delivery from September 2023 for the 2-year period 2023-25.

Alongside this will be the delivery of a grant scheme with funding of £1,000-£3,000 available to businesses who have taken part in the Foundation and Growth elements of the ESS.

The project is expected to utilise £12 million for the main service, with an additional £5 million for business grants to eligible enterprises over the 2-year period 2023-25.

Resources are to be matched with financial contributions from Councils; indicative costs for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in 23/24 and 24/25 financial years is estimated to be in the region of £77,347 per annum (subject to variance and potential funding from other stakeholders). Provision has been made within the Economic Development budget from these sums and is inclusive of the cost associated with a 6-month extension to the current Go For It Programme to provide continuity of service until the new support is in place and ready for launch in September 2023.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

RESOLVED - that members approve

- a) **the match funding of £37,847 for the proposed 6-month extension of the Go For It Programme;**
- b) **the request to participate in the new Entrepreneurship Support Service 2023-25 in advance of the formal Letter of Offer of funding Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and to sign associated Match Funding and Joint Bid forms;**
- c) **the requirement to match-fund the new Entrepreneurship Support Service in the indicative amount of £77,347 in 2022-23, provision for which has already been made in the Economic Development budget.**
- d) **the requirement to commit to an addendum to the Collaboration Agreement between Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and 9 remaining NI Councils to extend the term of the Agreement to 30 September 2023 and amend updated targets.**
- e) **the requirement to commit to an addendum to the Collaboration Agreement between Belfast City Council and 9 remaining NI Council to extend the term of the Agreement for the existing CRM Service Level Agreement to 30 September 2023, costs for which are included in the 6-month Go For It extension budget already agreed.**

ACTION BY: Sara Thompson, Economic Development Officer

12.7 IN CONFIDENCE G/LEG/38/113 LEGAL ADVICE FOR MEMEBERS

At the February Council meeting a Member requested legal advice regarding the implications for the Council and associated liabilities for Members in relation to the decision to reject grant funding from The Office for Product Safety and Standards.

The following was the opinion of the Borough Lawyer.
It was difficult to provide specific legal advice regarding the above matter without details of a potential challenge. However, in general terms, any legal challenge to a Council decision would be against the Council as a body

corporate and not against individual Members of the Council (sections 1 and 116 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 apply).

Individual liability of Councillors may occur as a result of The Local Government Auditor exercising their power to recover monies from Councillors where a loss had been incurred or deficiency caused by the wilful misconduct of a Councillor (articles 19 and 20 of The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 apply). It would be a matter for the Local Government Auditor to identify what they deem to be willful misconduct and thereafter apply to the court to have the decision declared unlawful.

Moved by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED- that the report be noted

NO ACTION

All Officers left the Chamber at this point.

12.8 IN CONFIDENCE CE/STC/88 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

Members received a presentation from the Chief Executive on proposals for a new Organisation Structure.

Moved by Councillor Flanagan
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED- that the recommendation be approved subject to consultation with staff and Trade Unions

NO ACTION

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.

MAYOR