



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD  
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor J Montgomery)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – F Agnew, P Brett, T Burns, T Campbell, L Clarke  
M Cosgrove, M Girvan, J McGrath, P Michael and J Smyth
- Councillors – J Archibald, A Bennington, M Cooper,  
H Cushinan, P Dunlop, G Finlay, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour  
M Goodman, P Hamill, L Irwin, N Kelly, R Kinnear, AM Logue,  
R Lynch, V McAuley, N McClelland, T McGrann, V McWilliam,  
M Magill, N Ramsay, S Ross, L Smyth, M Stewart, R Swann,  
B Webb and R Wilson
- In Attendance** : Dr S Blockwell, Northern Ireland Water  
Mr D McCullough, Northern Ireland Water
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon  
Director of Economic Development and Planning – M McAlister  
Director of Operations – G Girvan  
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole  
Director of Community Planning – N Harkness  
Director of Organisation Development – A McCooke  
Head of ICT – G Smyth  
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey  
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson  
Member Services Manager – V Lisk

In order to protect public health during the current COVID-19 emergency it was not possible to allow the public or the press to physically attend the meeting. The public and the press can access those parts of the meeting which they are entitled to attend via live stream (a link to which is on the Council website). The meeting minutes and audio recording would be published on the Council's website.

**1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME**

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

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor. The Mayor thanked Dr McBride for his service to the Borough, and wished him and his family a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Councillors Finlay, Goodman, Kelly, Kinnear, Logue and McGrann joined the meeting.

## **2 APOLOGIES**

Councillor V Robinson

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 14 – Councillors Kelly, Logue, McAuley and the Chief Executive

Item 11.2 – Councillor McClelland

Item 13.4 – Alderman McGrath

Item 13.4 – Councillor Wilson – non-pecuniary interest

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

Moved by Alderman Brett

Seconded by Alderman Burns and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday, 30 November 2020 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

## **5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Alderman Burns and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 1 December 2020 be approved and adopted.**

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

Moved by Alderman Brett

Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Wednesday, 2 December 2020 be approved and adopted.**

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

Moved by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Monday, 7 December 2020 be approved and adopted.**

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

Moved by Alderman Campbell  
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 8 December 2020 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.**

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

Moved by Alderman Campbell  
Seconded by Councillor Flanagan and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 8 December 2020 Part 2 be approved and adopted.**

**9 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Moved by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting of Wednesday, 9 December 2020 be approved and adopted.**

**10 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND WATER**

The Mayor welcomed the representatives from Northern Ireland Water, Dr Stephen Blockwell, Head of Investment Management, and Mr David McCullough, Head of Wastewater, to the meeting via Zoom.

Dr Blockwell provided an update on the Utility Regulator's recommended level of funding and how this will deliver on infrastructure investment plans for the area, and he and Mr McCullough responded to Members' questions and agreed to respond to individual Members' queries.

The Mayor and Members thanked Dr Blockwell and Mr McCullough for their presentation, wished them a Merry Christmas and they left the meeting.

## 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 11.1 EH/EL/162 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (ANNUAL LICENCE) McARTS FORT BAR AND GRILL, 162 ANTRIM ROAD, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 7OZ

An application had been received for the grant of an Entertainment Licence (annual licence) for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
John Moore	McArts Fort Bar and Grill 162 Antrim Road Glengormley BT36 7OZ	Singing, music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind  Monday to Sunday 10am to 11pm  Number of persons 100	EL162	New

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

The Council could 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 made a decision against Officers' recommendation, then Members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote would be taken.

Operating hours  
Monday to Sunday 10 am to 11pm

Moved by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

**RESOLVED – that an Entertainment Licence (annual licence) is granted to the applicant John Moore, 162 Antrim Road, Glengormley, BT36 7OZ with the condition that the entertainment is provided 10am to 11pm.**

*ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health*

## **11.2 G/MSMO/008 Vol 2 CRIMINAL JUSTICE (COMMITTAL REFORM) BILL**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Assembly requesting Members' views/comments on the content of the Criminal Justice (Committal Reform) Bill by Friday 15 January 2021.

Information regarding the Bill could be obtained from the Assembly's website <http://nia.me/4b5> or could be provided on request by emailing [committalreformbill@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:committalreformbill@niassembly.gov.uk).

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

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

Moved by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and

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

*NO ACTION*

## **11.3 ED/GEN/015 WORKING GROUP MINUTES OF RETAIL & TOWN CENTRE RE-OPENING MOBILISATION TEAM**

Members were advised that the Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team met on Thursday 17 September 2020. This Forum facilitates collaborative working between local businesses from across the Borough, the Council and Central Government Partners. The Forum informs joint recovery plans aimed at building consumer confidence, driving footfall and delivering best practice in accordance with Central Government guidance. An Action Plan informs the collective activities of the Forum and is updated following each meeting and referred back to the Council for consideration as an enclosure to the minutes.

Representation on each Team consists of Party Group Leaders and representatives from businesses, shopping centres, central government and stakeholder organisations. The Team is supported by Council Officials from Economic Development, Environmental Health and Health and Safety.

A copy of the minutes of the Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Group meeting held on 19 November 2020 was circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Councillor Bennington  
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Group dated 19 November 2020 be approved.**

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

*Councillor Magill left the Chamber.*

#### **11.4 ED/ED/173 STRATEGIC ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

The Strategic Economic Development Working Group met on 23 November 2020 to consider strategic economic development and tourism matters, reviewed the outcomes achieved through the investment made by the Council to date and considered priorities going forward as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact.

A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 23 November 2020 was circulated for Members' consideration.

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the 23 November 2020 be approved.**

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

#### **11.5 ED/GEN/006 ENTERPRISE SUPPORT INITIATIVES**

Members were reminded that the Council has a statutory responsibility for new business start-up and entrepreneurship.

##### **Regional Start-Up Support**

The 'Go for It' programme offers regionally consistent support to entrepreneurs, helping them to develop a business plan. It has been running since September 2017 across all Council areas and the current programme will complete on 31 March 2021. The Programme 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. As Members were aware, funding had been secured from the European Regional Development Fund and Invest NI (totalling 80% of eligible programme costs) to deliver a new regional programme for the period 1 April 2021–31 March 2023 and procurement for a delivery agent is currently underway. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council would continue to manage the programme on behalf of all Councils.

The Council has an annual statutory job creation target of 80 jobs to be created as a result of participation on a Regional Start-up Initiative. Officers were pleased to report that 106 jobs were created in the 2019-20 year through the Programme. It was anticipated that Council will meet its statutory job target for the 2020-21 year by the end of March 2021, despite the impact

that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the numbers entering the programme, in particular in quarter 1 during the first major lockdown.

### **Business Start Coaching**

To help entrepreneurs convert their 'Go For It' business plan into a trading business, Council has in place a coaching and support programme which offers up to 5 hours of business coaching and a bursary of up to £200 to support the set-up of businesses in the Borough. This programme is unique to Antrim and Newtownabbey and is delivered through a partnership of Antrim Enterprise Agency, Mallusk Enterprise Park and LEDCOM. The original timescale for the programme was completion by 31 March 2021 with a target of 108 entrepreneurs. Participants benefit from both coaching and bursary support. To date, 41 entrepreneurs have benefited from coaching support, with 19 applying for the bursary.

Officers were extending the programme timeline to support participants whose start-up plans have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. The programme will be extended to 30 September 2021, maintaining the same overall budget and targets.

### **Other Enterprise Initiatives**

Officers were currently exploring other initiatives to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, in particular to young people. There are two primary elements to this; high-street recovery and the promotion of entrepreneurship to Primary 6 pupils and young people aged between 13 and 18 years old.

High-street recovery: The significant impacts of COVID-19 on the retail sector will potentially create opportunities for new retail start-up businesses within our town centres. As part of the Council's strategic economic recovery plans Officers were exploring options for the development of workspace. To add value to this Officers were working with local stakeholders to formulate a specific retail start-up programme that would commence 2021/22 and include accredited training, support with the identification of suitable property, lease negotiation, a promotion and marketing support package and a seed grant for any necessary refurbishment or rental of the retail space. This will be designed to help mitigate any future increase in vacancy rates. A further report would be tabled to Council as the initiative is developed further.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship (targeting Primary 6 Pupils): Due to the current restrictions, it was not possible to host our highly successful schools enterprise initiatives, which are normally held in November and to which all primary and post primary schools in the Borough are invited to take part. In lieu of these, Young Enterprise has a tailored programme which will deliver a virtual Business Challenge Programme to Primary 6 pupils across the Borough. The Challenge will include Business Volunteer videos, virtual presentations and a challenge to design a new juice carton packaging, with a competition running across the Borough for pupils in participating schools. This programme was anticipated to reach a minimum of 400 pupils and will commence the Council's Career Passport Programme. It would run during the remainder of the current school

year, from January through to June 2021 and the estimated cost, including time and materials was £6,000.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship (targeting post-primary age pupils): It was also proposed to deliver up to two Access Enterprise programmes across the Borough. This is an accredited enterprise programme (OCN Level 1 in Vocational Skills) which targets young people, aged 13-18 through youth settings, to explore self-employment through a mixture of theory and practical application, including taking a product to market. This programme will also run during the remainder of the current school year, from January – June 2021 and can be delivered virtually or face-to-face depending on the requirements of the youth setting and the restrictions in place at the time. The cost to deliver the two programmes was £5,000 and it was expected to benefit 15 participants.

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED – that**

- i) the update on statutory job targets and the new Go for It Programme be noted;**
- ii) the Business Start Coaching Programme extension to 30 September 2021 be noted; and**
- iii) the Primary School Business Challenge Programme and Access Enterprise Programmes be delivered at a total cost of £11,000 within the next calendar year, provision for which exists in the Economic Development Budgets.**

*ACTION BY: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager*

## **11.6 ED/CD/040/VOL 2 LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP**

Members were reminded that a decision was taken at the June 2018 Council meeting to approve the Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement with funding of £22,000 to be provided per annum for 3 years commencing 1 April 2018, subject to satisfactory performance.

Lough Neagh Partnership provides an annual report outlining the progress made on each of the projects/activities below;

1. Landscape Partnership Project
2. Destination Management Plan
3. Marketing and Promotion of Lough Neagh
4. Lough Neagh Cycle Trail
5. Lough Neagh Community Trust
6. Lough Neagh Cooperation Project
7. Group Farm Scheme
8. Lough Neagh Food Programme



9. Tourism Strategy – general
10. LNP Strategy
11. Monitoring and Performance

The existing three year funding agreement expires on 31 March 2021. The progress report for the final year is to follow after 31 March 2021 but performance to date had been satisfactory. The circulated details some of the partnership's achievements throughout the current 3 year funding period. In addition to agreed outputs within their Letter of Offer the Lough Neagh Partnership had assisted the Council in securing £50,000 DAERA funding for tourism cluster projects, was contributing content input to the interpretive display in The Gateway and had supported the establishment of new businesses and enabled heritage survey work at Antrim Steeple site in partnership with Queen's University Belfast.

Lough Neagh Partnership had sent a letter to the Chief Executive a copy of which was circulated requesting early consideration of future funding to help them prepare for the next financial year.

Key areas of concentration for Lough Neagh Partnership and the Landscape Partnership Project over the new funding period would be:

- Supporting implementation of the Council's Tourism Action Plan in the areas of:  
Leisure Development:
  - Developing tourism experiences
  - Joint marketing campaigns including the development and distribution of visitor information at locations of higher footfall
  - Supporting the promotion of Council's funding for industry specific product development
  - Group travel offers through engagement with specialist operators
  - Assist with consultations and initial feasibility assessments for future project proposals in the vicinity of Lough Neagh (eg. Cranfield Holy Church and Well)
  - Support the development of Council facilitated events and festivals
- Signage, Interpretation and use of Technology
  - To improve connectedness and public perception through effective wayfinding
  - To maximise footfall at Antrim Castle and Gardens, Heritage Sites and Lough Neagh through the development and promotion of visitor experiences.
  - The identification of funding and support with facilitating projects aligned to the Lough. This includes support with the Mid Ulster District Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council tourism cluster project being supported by DAERA.

It was proposed that in line with the existing Service Level Agreement, funding of £22,000 per annum be provided for 3 years to the end of March 2024 subject to satisfactory annual performance and budget availability.

Lough Neagh Partnership had invited the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister, Mr Edwin Poots MLA, to visit some local schemes which they had supported over the past few years. This will primarily concentrate on Environmental Group Farm Schemes, Management and Conservation. It was provisionally scheduled for 27 January and depending on COVID-19 restrictions this may conclude with a lunch at The Boathouse restaurant at The Gateway. As the Sculpture, Interpretive Display and Environmental Improvement works in the vicinity of The Gateway are only scheduled to conclude at the end of March 2021 it was anticipated that the Minister will attend a separate launch event in the Spring.

Moved by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

**RESOLVED – that**

- I. the Service Level Agreement be approved with funding of £22,000 provided per annum for 3 years commencing 1 April 2021, subject to satisfactory annual performance and budget availability;**
- II. the visit arranged by Lough Neagh Partnership for Minister Edwin Poots MLA be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Karen Steele, Tourism, Town Centre and Regeneration Manager*

**11.7 ED/ED/005 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Members were reminded that GROW South Antrim Limited is responsible for delivering the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 across the Borough to include grant aid funding to support rural businesses, community organisations and village renewal projects and for working in cooperation with other Rural Development clusters across Europe. GROW South Antrim has a contract with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for £2,140,000 of programme funds. The full allocation of funding had been awarded to 77 projects, 64 of which are complete. The majority of funding (46 projects) was awarded to business projects and the Letters of Offer indicated 115 new full-time equivalent jobs would be created in the Borough as a result of the investment.

In support of the programme delivery, Council has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with DAERA to provide administrative and advisory support to GROW South Antrim. The SLA commenced on 1 April 2016 and was due to expire on 30 December 2020. The administration budget is 22% of the programme funds, so £470,000 which provides a permanent staff team of 2.3 full-time equivalent officers in the Economic Development Section of Council. The estimated monthly cost of this resource is £7,500 per month.

Council has a contract with GROW South Antrim Limited to provide these administrative services to them for the same period as the SLA with DAERA.

DAERA has acknowledged that the Programme will not be complete by the end of December 2020, citing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as a principal reason for this. GROW still has 13 live projects and the final projects were now due to complete by 30 June 2021, with claims processing expected to take place thereafter. Monitoring of projects was underway, with 60 Post Project Evaluations still to be completed.

Taking account of revised project end dates, DAERA had issued an extension to the Service Level Agreement between DAERA and Council and the contract between Council and GROW South Antrim Limited from 31 December 2020 to 31 March 2022. A copy of DAERA's letter and the extensions were circulated. DAERA had indicated that the extension to the SLA is for a time extension only and that no additional administration funds will be paid under the contract. At present, it was anticipated that funding income to support the administration of the programme would be exhausted in May 2021. This creates a small administrative funding gap for the completion of the existing programme to June 2021 but more concerning is the unknown time lag between the end of the current programme and any replacement programme.

In mid-2019 DAERA corresponded with GROW to express that they were beginning to formulate the successor programme to the existing Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Subsequent to that the Council contributed to a consultation workshop in January 2020. To date there had been no further information regarding the successor programme received from DAERA. The proposed support measures and the delivery models had previously been dependent on Council delivery. The Director of Economic Development and Planning had written to DAERA's Director of Rural Affairs, Mr Paul Donnelly seeking an update on the new programme and consideration of an interim administrative support.

Members were aware of the Ekosgen report commissioned by SOLACE and approved in November 2020, providing a framework for the delivery of successor funding past the end of the existing EU Structural Funds entitled The Shared Prosperity Fund. This report included details regarding the delivery of the current Rural Development Programme and the key elements of delivery for a successor programme.

It was not clear as yet what the Shared Prosperity Fund will provide for Northern Ireland and there was concern that this would not sustain the levels of EU Structural Funds provided to date.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**RESOLVED – that Members approve the contractual and Service Level Agreement extensions**

*ACTION BY: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager*

## **11.8 CE/GEN/017 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT 53 FORTHILL DRIVE, NEWTOWNABBEY**

Members were advised that a D1 form, a copy of which was circulated, had been received from Land and Property Services regarding land declared surplus by the Department for Infrastructure Roads at 53 Forthill Drive, Newtownabbey.

Officers had reviewed the information provided and had not identified a need for this asset.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**RESOLVED – that the Council does not express an interest in this land.**

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

## **11.9 ED/GEN/015 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY – ADDITIONAL FUNDING AWARD**

Members were aware of the ongoing programme of work to support the recovery of town centres, urban areas and rural villages, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department for Communities in tandem with the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs had agreed to provide an additional £1.7m to support Council grant schemes under this Programme. The additional funding to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was £73,000 (letter circulated) shared across urban and rural areas.

Overall the NI Executive Programme, had now allocated a total of £19.3m to help Councils to make their town and city centres a safer environment for everyone. This included £12m from the Department for Communities, £5m from the Department for Infrastructure and £2.3m from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

With respect to Antrim and Newtownabbey, through the Town Centre and Retail Recovery Working Group established by the Council an action plan had been produced which detailed the specific initiatives to be delivered. This includes Revitalisation Grants of £1,000 to assist businesses with their individual needs. 90 applications had been received to date in the most recent call for applications in urban areas outside town centres and villages, against an indicative budget of £120,000.

It was proposed that the additional money received be directed towards this grant fund and that following a review of current applications the fund remains open on a rolling basis post-Christmas for all areas (town centres, urban areas outside town centres and villages) and all eligible customer facing sectors across retail, tourism, private healthcare and financial and professional services. Similar to the previous funding programmes, the grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Delegated authority was

granted to the Chief Executive at the November Council meeting for the issuing of Letters of Offer. It was proposed that this be extended to this scheme with a report to be brought back to Council for noting in January.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove  
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

**RESOLVED – that**

- (i) the additional funding award be accepted and utilised as outlined; and,**
- (ii) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to approve the awards.**

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

*Councillor Magill returned to the Chamber.*

**11.10 CE/GEN/079 COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES - LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**

Correspondence had been received from the Committee for Communities, setting out a call for written evidence on the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill. The deadline for written evidence was Monday 14 December 2020

A comprehensive response to the Bill (circulated) had been prepared by NILGA which covers the key issues.

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

**RESOLVED – that the response to the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill provided by NILGA be approved and in addition, that Members respond on an individual or party basis as appropriate.**

*ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations*

**11.11 DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE - NOTICE OF OPINION RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE LA03/2018/0605/O – SECTION 54 APPLICATION TO VARY PLANNING CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO OUTLINE PERMISSION U/2009/0405/O FOR A MAJOR URBAN EXTENSION IN BALLYCLARE INCLUDING THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE BALLYCLARE RELIEF ROAD**

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) had written to the Council to advise that it had issued a Notice of Opinion that approval should be granted to the Section 54 application (variation of conditions) outlined below (copy of the DfI letter and the accompanying Notice of Opinion circulated).

<b>Application Reference:</b>	LA03/2018/0605/O
<b>Proposal:</b>	Application to vary condition 3 (Phasing Plan), condition 10 (occupation of dwellings), condition 29 (Environmental Management Plan), condition 21 (cycle infrastructure), condition 40 (landscaping details) and condition 42 (Landscape Masterplan) and non-compliance with condition 4 (Phasing Plan), condition 9 (access arrangements), condition 11 (road drainage), condition 16 (TAS approval), condition 17 (geotechnical approval), and condition 18 (road safety audit) of planning permission U/2009/0405/O for major urban extension to include: residential neighbourhood, northern section of Ballyclare Relief Road, local centre, central park and other open spaces, equipped children's play areas and ancillary works.
<b>Location:</b>	Lands adjacent to the north-west of Ballyclare including lands bounded by Cogry Road/Rashee Road north of Ross' Avenue/Clare Heights and north east and west of Ballyclare Rugby Club.
<b>Applicant:</b>	Ballyclare Developments Ltd

**Full details on the above application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk)**

As previously reported to the Council this application forms one of a number of linked applications submitted to DfI in relation to a major urban extension in the western part of Ballyclare that was approved by the then Department of the Environment in 2011 under the Article 31 Major Development procedure.

The Department had previously issued Notices of Opinion (NOP) to the Council to approve the following linked applications: LA03/2018/1011/RM, LA03/2018/0601/O and LA03/2019/0149/O which related to the development approved under U/2006/0377/O for lands between the Templepatrick Road and the Doagh Road, Ballyclare as well as a small area to the north of the Doagh Road (see map circulated for Area A). These were reported to the April 2019 meeting of the Council where it was resolved not to request a hearing into the NOPs on these applications.

The Department subsequently issued approval to the above applications and as Members were aware work was now underway on Phase 1 of the development. This included delivery of the first phase of the Ballyclare Relief Road between the Templepatrick Road and the Doagh Road together with associated housing development, although these most recent approvals maintained a stipulation that none of the housing or other buildings proposed in Phase 1 of the development can be occupied until the first phase of the road link is completed.

The current application relates to the remainder of the development planned for the western part of Ballyclare previously approved by the then

Department of the Environment in 2011 under application reference U/2009/0405/O (see map circulated for Area B). In essence it comprises the majority of the area between the Doagh Road and the Rashee Road and includes the land necessary to deliver the northern section of the Ballyclare Relief Road. The amendments to the conditions attached to the original outline permission proposed under the current application seek to replicate the phasing plan for the entire area already agreed by virtue of the aforementioned Section 54 approvals granted by the Department in 2019 as well as some technical changes to other conditions to reflect current circumstances. Importantly a stipulation was maintained that no further housing approved in this area should be occupied until the remainder of the proposed Relief Road linking the Doagh Road to the Rashee Road is completed.

Following earlier consultation by the Department on this application, and the other associated applications, the Council had agreed not to provide a corporate view and this position was subsequently conveyed to the Department in writing.

Having now issued its opinion that approval should be granted to this last Section 54 application the Department, as with the previous applications, had written to the Council to ascertain if it wished to request an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Planning Appeals Commission on the current application. It was noted that the Department had also written to the applicant in similar fashion.

If a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission was requested by the Council or the applicant, the Department must take into account the report of this hearing. However, the final decision in relation to the application would rest with the Department.

Members noted that a Section 54 application cannot vary any conditions relating to when reserved matters shall be submitted or the time within which development shall commence. As such it was noted that the original outline permission (and the Section 54 application if approved) was due to expire on 6 January 2021 unless a valid application for reserved matters was submitted by this time. As a consequence, should Members agree to seek a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission on this particular Section 54 application, it would not be possible for the applicant to seek to implement it through the submission of reserved matters to the Council and the application would become redundant.

On foot of the NOP now received there were in effect only two options available to the Council in responding to the Department:

1. To request a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission on the Department's Notice of Opinion; or
2. To note the Department's Notice of Opinion and advise that the Council would not be seeking a Hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission.

In relation to the previous Notice of Opinions on the linked Section 54 applications issued by the Department at this location, and as indicated above, the Council had to date noted these and resolved not to request a hearing on the applications.

Moved by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Ramsay and

**RESOLVED – that the Department's Notice of Opinion be noted and the Department be advised that the Council would not be seeking a Hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission**

*ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning*

#### **11.12 CP/CD/354 POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COUNCILS TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE EVENT OF A NON-NEGOTIATED OUTCOME AT THE END OF THE EU EXIT TRANSITION PERIOD**

Officers had received recent correspondence from DfC (circulated) regarding the possibility of funding to support vulnerable households and communities in the event of a Non-Negotiated Outcome at the end of the EU Exit Transition Period.

The specific areas recommended for support included:

- Financial Vulnerability
- Economic Connectivity
- Workforce

It was proposed that Councils would distribute the funding to local community and voluntary groups via the existing Community Support Programme. This may include food distribution, fuel clubs and community health and wellbeing services.

There was no indication from DfC as to the scale of any potential funding and it was therefore not possible to advise on a maximum award per group. Officers recommended that as a first response, subject to sufficient budget availability, an initial grant of up to £2k should be offered to the list of groups at enclosure 2 circulated. This is the same list of groups that officers were currently working with in relation to DfC additional funding for food support.

Officers would work with the groups on how to identify vulnerable households and communities linked to the EU exit and what mitigations were possible. Top up awards could be offered subject to ongoing need and available budget. If the initial budget were insufficient to support £2k per group officers would reduce the offer accordingly.

In addition and subject to remaining budget availability, officers would create an open call for any groups not on the enclosed list who could support households and communities made vulnerable as a result of the EU exit.



Awards of up to £1k could be offered with opportunities to re-apply if need persists and available budget allows.

DfC had indicated that Councils can request that reasonable administration costs can be covered. Based on this it was recommended that officers work with DfC officials to charge a 5% administration cost to any forthcoming awards of grant funding.

The Community Support Plan had previously been rural proofed and screened for Equality Impact.

More recently DfC had indicated that Council will receive a Letter of Offer for £31,852.74 for a Volunteering Fund aligned to the previously agreed Christmas and New Year Support Fund. Given that volunteering costs were already eligible within the Christmas and New Year Support Fund it was proposed to discuss this opportunity with groups and where applicable issue revised Letters of Offer to the existing recipients:

- 37 Community and Voluntary Groups (circulated – Enc 2)
- 8 FareShare Groups (circulated – Enc 3)
- 2 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships (Grange and Rathcoole)
- 18 Areas at Risk recipients (circulated – Enc 4)

Members were requested to advise officers if any further groups should be added to these lists of grant recipients.

This would increase the value of the awards to distribute the available £31,852.74 to support the costs of recruiting, training and deploying volunteers. The value of the uplift would be in the region of £500 but may vary depending on the level of uptake.

There was also an indication from DfC that further funds could be available for distribution before the end of March 2021.

Moved by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Brett and

**RESOLVED – that**

- (i) the Council manages and delivers the proposed additional funding through the existing Community Support Programme;**
- (ii) such funding be targeted at the most vulnerable households and communities;**
- (iii) any potential funding be allocated on the basis of the existing Community Support Programme model and the proposals outlined above;**

- (iv) **the Volunteering Fund of £31,852.74 be distributed as outlined above; and**
- (v) **Officers be delegated authority to develop similar methods of grant distribution should additional funding become available for urgent spend.**

*ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager*

*Alderman Burns left the meeting.*

## **12 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **12.1 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council and requesting Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's consideration of this Motion.

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

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**RESOLVED – that the correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

### **12.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from Ards and North Down Borough Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council and requesting Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's consideration of this Motion.

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

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**RESOLVED – that the correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

### **12.3 PK/CEM/017 CARNMONEY CEMETERY**

Members were advised that a request had been received from a community group called R City, which works with young people. They have a parents'

group which is looking for ways they can help the community but during the COVID-19 restrictions they had been limited in what they can do.

The request was to set up an area at the cemetery on Sunday 20 December from 10am to 2pm from which they will offer tea and coffee, chat with people and provide practical help cleaning/clearing graves. There would be a mix of adults and young people in attendance.

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

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

*NO ACTION*

#### **12.4 ED/GEN/013 DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY (DFE) PROJECT STRATUM - UPDATE**

Members were aware that the contract to deliver Project Stratum had been awarded to Fibrus Networks Ltd by the Department for the Economy.

Project Stratum would deliver a full fibre, gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure to over 76,000 (primarily rural) premises across Northern Ireland by March 2024, of which 4,932 premises were estimated to be located within the Council area boundaries.

This transformational project will improve the lives of citizens and the productivity of businesses across Northern Ireland. Once the full site list was available, officers would make this available to Members for inspection. Under the Fibrus model approved by the Department, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area was scheduled to be addressed from summer 2023.

There had been a significant level of interest from elected representatives, businesses and members of the public, mainly seeking to know if and when the project will improve broadband services in their area or to their premises.

A portal had been established by Fibrus Networks to provide this key information throughout the deployment phase of the project. Details of the deployment plan were now available on the portal and a premises checker would be added over the coming weeks. The portal - [www.HyperfastNI.com](http://www.HyperfastNI.com) - was now operational and would be updated and expanded as the project progresses.

Moved by Alderman Brett  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

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

*NO ACTION*

The Mayor advised that the Motions would be taken at this point of the meeting.

*Having declared in interest in the next Item, Councillors Kelly, Logue, McAuley and the Chief Executive left the Chamber/meeting.*

## **14 MOTION**

*Proposed by Councillor M Magill*

*Seconded by Aldermen P Brett, L Clarke, M Girvan, J Smyth and Councillors J Archibald, A Bennington, M Cooper, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, P Hamill, L Irwin, V Robinson and S Ross.*

*"This Council recognises the importance of our National Health Service and the heroic contribution of our health and social care workers, and care home workers, throughout the pandemic; expresses our thanks for their commitment to and care for our community and will write to the Health Minister Robin Swann MLA asking him to administer a "thank you" payment of at least £500 as a practical demonstration of our gratitude."*

### **AMENDMENT**

*Proposed by Councillor Wilson*

*Seconded by Councillor Lynch that in addition to the Health Minister, the Chief Executive also write to the First and Deputy First Ministers, and the Minister for Finance.*

On the amendment being put to the meeting 3 Members voted in favour, 32 against and 0 abstentions and the amendment was declared not carried.

### **AMENDMENT**

*Proposed by Councillor McGrann*

*Seconded by Councillor Archibald that "all student health and social care staff" be included.*

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

In favour of the Amendment Members viz 34	Against the Amendment Members viz 1	Abstentions Member viz 0
<p>Aldermen – Agnew, Brett, Clarke, Cosgrove, Girvan, Michael, McGrath and J Smyth</p> <p>Councillors – Archibald, Bennington, Cooper, Cushinan, Dunlop, Finlay Flanagan, Foster, Gilmour, Goodman, Hamill, Irwin, Kinnear, Lynch, McClelland, McGrann, McWilliam, Magill, Montgomery, Ramsay, Ross L Smyth, Stewart, Swann, Webb and Wilson</p>	Alderman Campbell	

The Amendment was declared carried, was then put to the meeting and agreed as the Substantive Motion, and it was

**RESOLVED - that this Council recognises the importance of our National Health Service and the heroic contribution of our health and social care workers, all student health and social care staff and care home workers, throughout the pandemic; expresses our thanks for their commitment to and care for our community and will write to the Health Minister Robin Swann MLA asking him to administer a “thank you” payment of at least £500 as a practical demonstration of our gratitude.”**

*ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive*

*Councillors Kelly, Logue, McAuley and the Chief Executive returned to the Chamber/meeting.*

## 15 MOTION

*Proposed by the Mayor, Councillor J Montgomery  
Seconded by Alderman P Brett*

*“In recognition of the historic milestone of 40 years of service to Council by Alderman Dr Fraser Agnew MBE, this Council express its gratitude and congratulations and undertakes to mark the occasion in an appropriate way.”*

**The Motion was declared unanimously carried.**

*ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive*

## 16 MOTION

*Proposed by Councillor B Webb*

*Seconded by Deputy Mayor, Councillor N McClelland, Aldermen F Agnew, P Brett and M Cosgrove*

*"Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council sends congratulations to Mayor Brigitte Peterson on her election as Mayor of our Sister City of Gilbert and recognises the Gilbert Centenary by way of a Proclamation which will highlight our continuing commitment to the Gilbert Sister Cities Project. We look forward to strengthening our links with Gilbert in the coming years and to welcome Mayor Peterson to our Borough in the near future."*

**The Motion was declared unanimously carried.**

*ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive*

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

*Moved by Alderman Smyth*

*Seconded by Councillor Magill 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** WM/arc21/008 RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update to Members and a copy of the letter to be sent to arc21 and the relevant councils was circulated for Members.

Members requested that their concerns in relation to the arc21 Joint Committee be included in the letter.

*Moved by Councillor Foster*

*Seconded by Councillor Goodman and*

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

*ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive*

## 13.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** FI/PRO/TEN/326 CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF MECHANICAL PLANT IMPROVEMENTS AT ANTRIM FORUM & SIXMILE LEISURE CENTRE - REVIEW OF TENDER PRICE

### **BACKGROUND**

In September 2020 Council approved the tender from Devlin Mechanical Limited for the provision of Mechanical Plant Improvements at Antrim Forum and Sixmile Leisure Centres in the tender price of £[REDACTED] (including a Model Compensation Event). The total budget approved including works, fees, gas supply and client contingency was £[REDACTED]. The tender was evaluated on a price only basis. Other tender price returns were as detailed below:

- Second Placed Tender: £[REDACTED]
- Third Place Tender: £[REDACTED]

### **PROJECT SCOPE**

The scope for the scheme includes the following elements:

- Sixmile Leisure Centre – replacement of the existing oil fired boiler plant and conversion of the existing biomass boiler to a pellet feed boiler.
- Antrim Forum Leisure Centre – replacement of the existing combined heat and power unit.

### **CONTRACT ISSUE**

Following award of the contract, vigilance by the consultant team established that the technical specification for the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit submitted by Devlin Mechanical Limited for the Antrim Forum element of the works does not meet with the Council's specification. The CHP unit offered did not meet the working load requirements and also included a reconditioned engine. Devlin Mechanical Limited acknowledged the error but advised they could not comply with the specification at the tender price of £[REDACTED] submitted. After extensive negotiations with officers and the consultants, Devlin Mechanical Limited advised that to comply with the specification and continue with the project they would require an uplift in their tender of £[REDACTED] giving a revised tender price of £[REDACTED]. Devlin Mechanical Limited had been instructed to put all work on hold.

Accepting this solution offers the best value providing the lowest cost to the Council to complete the works to both the Sixmile and Antrim Forum Leisure centres whilst responding to the Sixmile Leisure Centre operational requirements. Moving to the second placed tender would incur additional cost to the Council of £[REDACTED]. Retendering would cause further delays and was likely to return a higher cost based on the previous tendering exercise.

### **REVISED COST SUMMARY**

If the Council decided to accept the revised tender the anticipated budget (works and fees) is as follows:

Revised Tender Price	£[REDACTED]
Model Compensation Event Total	£ [REDACTED]

Revised Tender Total Price	£ [REDACTED]
Professional fees: Fees – Semple & McKillop Ltd.	£ [REDACTED]
Firmus gas supply	£ [REDACTED]
Client contingency to allow for higher unforeseen risk in this refurbishment project. This will only be expended if necessary.	£ [REDACTED]
<b>Total revised predicted project cost</b>	£ [REDACTED]

The total revised predicted project cost was £ [REDACTED] above the current total approved budget of £ [REDACTED].

#### **PROGRAMME**

Subject to approval of the revised tender price from Devlin Mechanical Limited, provisional completion dates were April 2021 for the Sixmile Leisure Centre followed by the Antrim Forum Leisure Centre June 2021.

Moved by Councillor Lynch  
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

**RESOLVED – that the cost uplift of £ [REDACTED] from Devlin Mechanical Limited is approved giving a revised tender total price of £ [REDACTED].**

*ACTION BY: Reggie Hillen, Head of Capital Development/John Balmer, Head of Finance*

### **13.3 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/305 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT 131 SHORE ROAD FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

Members were reminded that the Council agreed in April 2019 to act as sponsor for a number of public asset disposal submissions being made by community organisations/social enterprise. One of these submissions by Mallusk Enterprise Park (MEP) a copy of which was circulated related to land owned by NIHE at 131 Shore Road, Newtownabbey.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



With respect to the strategic fit with the Council's plans the proposed development links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan, Economic Development Strategy and Community Plan; Love Living Here.

The creation of a Social Enterprise Centre of Excellence in North Belfast and Newtownabbey will include 16 business units, 840 square metre office space and a childcare facility generating 30 jobs in the first year rising to 180 by year 4.

MEP had highlighted the need for such provision in a post COVID environment and highlighted the benefits of this land being transferred to a Social Enterprise.

The correspondence circulated had been received from MEP.

At the previous meeting of the Council's Strategic Economic Working Group Members requested that a number of initiatives be explored to help facilitate economic recovery post COVID-19. They included advancing a co-investment policy with partners from the third-sector for the creation of workspace. The Group had also asked that Officers explore a policy to address barriers to investment which will give consideration to a co-investment fund to implement infrastructure in order to reduce the required level of investment by clusters of businesses. It was proposed that initiatives such as these would be supported on the basis of job creation, investment attracted, skills promotion and rateable values.

These tools would also support the efforts of Invest NI to secure investment and help unlock the potential of strategic locations such as Global Point and Antrim Technology Park. A further paper outlining options regarding these projects would be presented to the Strategic Economic Working Group meeting in January for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Goodman  
Seconded by Councillor Hamill and

**RESOLVED – that**

- (i) a letter of support be sent to the NIHE regarding support for Mallusk Enterprise Park's proposal and the transfer of the asset at nominal value;**
- (ii) Officers engage with Mallusk Enterprise Park in relation to the opportunities for office/workspace development going forward.**

*ACTION BY: Majella, McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning*

Having declared an interest in the next Item, Alderman McGrath left the meeting.

#### 13.4 **IN CONFIDENCE** HR/ER/001 **PAY TAPERING POLICY**

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting held in November, it was agreed that Officers would draft a Pay Tapering Policy for the Council's consideration in December. A draft policy was circulated for the specific purpose of supporting the current staff reduction work programme, agreed by the Council in July 2020.

If approved, the proposed Policy would be without prejudice time limited and provide a cushion for affected employees allowing the employee to make the financial adjustments required.

Members were advised that this Policy is expected to have limited practical application (it is estimated that less than 10 employees are likely to experience a pay reduction arising from redeployment).

Consultation with the Trade Unions had been completed and their consultation response was circulated. The substantive request within their response was that the pay tapering period would be established for a two year period, as outlined below:

<b>PAY TAPERING PERIOD OFFERED</b>	<b>TRADE UNION RESPONSE</b>
For a <b>three month</b> period as follows:	Requested a <b>two year</b> period as follows:
First month at 100% of the difference	First six month period at 100% of the difference
Second Month at 66% of the difference	Second six month period at 75% of the difference
Third Month 33% of the difference	Third six month period 50% of the difference
	Fourth six month period 25% of the difference

#### **Options for Pay Tapering Periods**

Following Trade Union consultation, Members considered the following options in relation to the pay tapering period:

<b>PAY TAPERING PERIOD – 1 YEAR</b>	<b>PAY TAPERING PERIOD – 18 MONTHS</b>	<b>PAY TAPERING PERIOD – 2 YEARS</b>
For a <b>one year</b> period, as follows:	For an <b>18 month</b> period, as follows:	For a <b>two year</b> period, as follows:

First 3 month period at 100% of the difference	First 4.5 month period at 100% of the difference	First 6 month period at 100% of the difference
Second 3 month period at 75% of the difference	Second 4.5 month period at 75% of the difference	Second 6 month period at 75% of the difference
Third 3 month period 50% of the difference	Third 4.5 month period 50% of the difference	Third 6 month period 50% of the difference
Fourth 3 month period 25% of the difference	Fourth 4.5 month period 25% of the difference	Fourth 6 month period 25% of the difference
<b>Total Est Cost = £20,973</b>	<b>Total Est Cost = £31,460</b>	<b>Total Est Cost = £41,947</b>

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Goodman and

**RESOLVED – that a Pay Tapering Period of 2 years be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke, Director of Organisation Development*

**MOTION TO PROCEED ‘OUT OF COMMITTEE’**

Moved by Councillor Hamill  
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

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

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

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and commended the continued hard work of the Chief Executive, Directors and all staff. He wished Members, the Chief Executive, Directors and all staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year, and the meeting concluded at 8.48 pm.

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**MAYOR**

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