

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, and remotely, on Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 6:00pm

- PRESENT:** Councillor A McIntyre (Chairman)
- The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson
- Aldermen A Grehan and J Tinsley
- Councillors R T Beckett, D J Craig, A Gowan, J Lavery BEM, H Legge, S Mulholland and Jenny Palmer
- PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:** Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy
- Alderman S Martin
- Councillors N Anderson, R Carlin, T Mitchell and S Skillen

- IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
 Head of Communities
 Head of Parks and Amenities
 Head of Sports Services
 Member Services Officers (BF & EW)
 Technician
 IT Support

Commencement of Meeting

A number of Members congratulated the newly-elected Chairman, Councillor A McIntyre, and he paid tribute to Councillor S Skillen for the manner in which she had overseen the Committee's business during her tenure. He reminded attendees that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, unauthorised recording was not permitted. The Director of Community and Leisure Wellbeing read the safety announcement and the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and officers in attendance.

1. **Apologies**

An Apology was reported on behalf of Alderman M Henderson MBE.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

In respect of item 4.7, Community Bursary Submission, Councillor S Skillen declared non-pecuniary interest in that she was a member of a sub-group of the Ballybeen Improvement Group, which had applied for funding under the scheme.

3. Report of the Director of Community and Leisure Wellbeing

3.1 Leisure and Community Wellbeing Department – Performance Report

The Director outlined the principal aspects of the above-mentioned report, together with the details contained within a table of key performance indicators, which gave an overview of the Department's performance to the end of quarter 4 of the financial year 2021/22. The Director reported that eight of the nine key performance indicators had been met during that period, which was notable, given the impact which the pandemic had had on operational efficiency. She pointed out that the Department's performance had demonstrated an adherence to the principles of continuous improvement and then she proceeded to outline the contents of an operational matrix and the key performance indicators for 2022/23.

After discussion, it was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Committee note:

- the trading accounts covering the period 1st January to 28th February, 2022;
- the outturn of operational metrics/service key performance indicators for Quarter 4;
- the outturn of performance improvement key indicators for Quarter 4;
- the Directorate Risk Dashboard.

In addition, the Committee approved the operational metrics/service key performance indicators for 2022/23.

4. Report of the Head of Communities

4.1 DEA Investment Plan 2022/23 – DIY Community Fund

The Head of Communities reported that the Council's District Electoral Area (DEA) Investment Programme 2022/23 included provision for the development of a DIY Community Fund, which would have an indicative budget of £30,000, with a maximum grant of £1,000 per successful application. She outlined the aims and objectives, together with the guidance notes and essential criteria relating to the programme, which would be open for applications from constituted community groups and voluntary organisations within the Council's seven DEAs.

The Committee was informed that the DIY Community Fund would be established to support general improvements to existing community facilities, enhance income opportunities to make the facility more user-friendly to the local community. It was noted that only facilities which were not Council-owned would be eligible for support, and that the scheme would open for applications during the summer months, with a closing date in early-September.

The Head of Communities outlined the measures that would be taken, such as the hosting of information sessions, to assist groups in submitting applications, and outlined how the scheme would be publicised across the DEAs. She indicated that, with regard to groups which operated currently from within leased properties, should such groups obtain the permission of the leaseholder and demonstrate sufficient community-based use of the premises, it was anticipated that applications from these groups could be considered within the criteria for funding.

4.2 DEA Investment Plan 2022/23 – DIY Community Fund (Cont'd)

In response to further questions relating to the eligibility of newly-established groups to apply, that being, those which had been operational for less than one-year, the Director indicated that the funding criteria would concur with existing grant aid streams, such as the Community Support Grant Aid. However, she outlined the range of support measures which were available to assist groups who would not yet be eligible to apply and undertook to signpost Members should they raise a query in this regard.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the Committee endorse the contents of the report, together with the associated timescale for the delivery of the DIY Community Fund. In addition, it was noted that a report in relation to the outcome of the application process would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

4.3 Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Working Group Minutes

The Committee noted the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group, which was held on 27th April.

Arising from discussion, the Chairman, together with several Members, including Councillor H Legge as Chairman of the Working Group, placed on the record their appreciation to officers on the success of the recent programme of events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

4.4 Good Relations Project Fund 2022/23

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 1st March, it had approved the Good Relations Action Plan for 2022/23, which included provision for a £30,000 Good Relations Project Fund, 75% of which would be funded by the Executive Office. She reported that, in response to an open call, 15 applications had been submitted for support, 14 of which had been deemed eligible for assistance. The total amount requested, she reported, had exceeded the budget and, in order to keep the fund within budget, she recommended that all applications be funded, based on their weighted score after assessment, with a reduction of 8% applied to each grant recipient.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor H Legge, and agreed that the Committee approve the allocation of funding in accordance with the recommendation of the Head of Communities.

4.5 DEA Investment Plan 2022/23 – 'Connecting You' Programme

The Head of Communities informed the Committee that the 'Connecting You' Programme had been extended for 2022/23. She reported that in 2021/22 the programme had succeeded in providing 80 devices and/or data bundles to eligible applicants who had demonstrated that they were digitally excluded either through access to a device or internet connection. The current programme would have a financial commitment of £27,500 to be divided across the Council's seven DEAs. She outlined the three key elements of the programme, together with its key aims, objectives and proposed outcomes.

4.6 DEA Investment Plan 2022/23 – ‘Connecting You’ Programme (Cont’d)

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Committee approve the terms for the programme for 2022/23. It was noted also that officers would investigate the feasibility of re-using redundant Council devices as part of the programme.

4.7 Requests for Seeding Grants

The Committee was advised that requests for Seeding Grant funding for had been received from Lisburn Walking and Wellbeing Group, Ballymacash Community Craft Group and Live Life Wellbeing Centre. The Head of Communities reminded the Committee that Seeding Grants sought to assist newly-established groups to meet running costs, with a maximum amount of £200 available for such purposes.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor J Laverty, and agreed that the Committee approve the allocation of £200 to each group under the Seeding Grant fund.

4.8 DEA Investment Plan 2022/23 - Phone Box Environmental Programme

The Head of Communities outlined the aims and objectives of the above-mentioned programme, which sought to transform traditional red telephone boxes across the Council area through community-led environmental enhancements. The ‘Adopt a Kiosk’ scheme had been successful in transforming unused phone boxes and preserving the heritage of the red kiosk, particularly in rural locations. She reported that an initial scoping exercise had identified six phone boxes, that being, at Ballyskeagh Road, Drumbeg; Magheragall Road, Ballinderry; Tullynacross Road, Lisburn; Church Close, Ballylesson; Main Street, Royal Hillsborough and Main Street, Moira. It was noted that a further exercise would be carried out in conjunction with BT to identify additional telephone boxes eligible for adoption.

The Committee was advised of the next steps in the programme, which had a budget of £5,000, would include the provision of community support in identifying and guiding groups through the adoption and transformation process for designated phone boxes.

It was proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, seconded by Councillor N Anderson, and agreed that the Committee approve the report outlining the Council’s involvement in the programme.

4.7 DEA Investment Plan 2022/23 – Community Development Bursary

(Councillor S Skillen, withdrew from the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.)

Further to its decision of 1st March, to approve the above-mentioned bursary, the Committee was informed that two applications had been received in response to an open call, that being, from the Ballybeen Improvement Group and the Resurgam Trust. The Head of Communities reported that both applications had been assessed against a pre-agreed criteria and had been deemed successful. She recommended that each applicant be awarded £1,000 for the purpose of further educational study which would contribute to community development.

4.7 DEA Investment Plan 2022/23 – Community Development Bursary (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed that the Committee adopt the recommendation of the Head of Communities.

4.8 PEACE PLUS Partnership – Appointment of Social Partners

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 1st March, it had agreed the structure, composition and recruitment process for the filling of places on the PEACE PLUS Partnership. The Head of Communities reported that, after an extended recruitment period, a number of places allocated to social partners on the Partnership remained unfilled. She indicated that it would be necessary to extend the recruitment process to ensure that those positions were filled in advance of an inaugural meeting of the Partnership, would take place in late-June.

Accordingly, the Head of Communities sought the Committee's approval to delegate authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in consultation with the Elected Members on the Partnership, to appoint the social partners at the completion of the extended recruitment process.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed that the Committee note the update provided and delegate authority to appoint the remaining social partners to the Partnership on the terms outlined by the Head of Communities.

5. Report of the Head Parks and Amenities

5.1 Carryduff – Community Engagement Survey

The Head of Parks and Amenities spoke to a report which outlined the findings of an engagement exercise which had been conducted to gauge the local community's views in relation to the redevelopment of an area of waste land within Lough Moss Playing Fields. He indicated that the survey had received 329 responses and he gave an overview of the range of suggestions submitted.

The Committee was informed that, after considering the feedback and suggestions, it was being proposed that Phase 1 of the re-development would see the establishment of a community garden with a range of amenities, the delivery of which could, if approved, commence in the autumn of 2022. The Head of Parks and Amenities reported that Phase 2 of the project could see the establishment of a youth activity area, subject to planning approval and a financial appraisal. He added that, should the Committee approve progression to Phase 1, it was anticipated that a process of further community engagement would take place,

After discussion, it was proposed by Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, seconded by Councillor N Anderson, and agreed that the Committee approve progression to Phase 1 of the project and that officers explore the delivery of Phase 2, with a report to be submitted in due course to detail the costs, financial appraisal and potential funding opportunities to enable progression.

5.2 Carryduff Colts Football Club

The Head of Parks and Amenities reminded Members that the Council, at its meeting on 24th May, had delegated authority to the Committee to consider to a request which had been received from Carryduff Colts FC, seeking permission to set aside of relevant Council bye-law to permit a barbeque to take place at a football tournament on 11th and 12th June at the Lough Moss Playing Fields, together with the waiving of the pitch hire fees for the event.

On the proposal of Alderman A Grehan, which was seconded by Councillor R Carlin, the Committee acceded to the request to waive the costs associated for the hire of pitches for the tournament and set aside the relevant bye-law for the purpose outlined.

5.3 Request by Lisburn Feile

The Head of Parks and Amenities reported that the above-mentioned request, which related to the use of Wallace Park for a musical event, had been withdrawn from the agenda. It was noted that having ascertained more information, the organiser would be providing musical accompaniment to the Park Run and, as such, would be dealt with as an operational event booking.

Arising from discussion in the matter, the Head of Parks and Amenities noted a number of suggestions for future musical events which might be hosted within the Council's parks and open spaces.

6. Report of the Head Sports Services

6.1 Junior Belfast Giants Ice Hockey Tournament

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Junior Belfast Giants to host an under-13 hockey tournament in June 2023 at Dundonald International Ice Bowl over a two-day period of a date to be determined. The Head of Sports Services explained that the club had requested that fourteen hours' complimentary ice time be granted for this purpose. He outlined the benefits which the event would bring to the Council district and recommended that the Committee approve the complimentary use of the ice rink as outlined.

The Committee, on the proposal of Alderman A Grehan, which was seconded by Councillor N Anderson, agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Head of Sport Services.

6.2 Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland – Request for Support

The Committee was advised that an invitation had been received from the above-mentioned organisation to attend a team function at Belfast City Hall on 27th June. It was reported that the correspondence had requested also that the Council consider providing financial support to each team member from within the Council area selected to represent Northern Ireland at the games.

The Head of Sports Services reminded the Committee that the Council had acceded to similar-type requests in the past and that, in 2018, it had donated £750 to each Council-

6.2 Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland – Request for Support (Cont'd)

based team member selected to attend that year's games in Queensland, Australia. However, he recommended that, since the 2022 games would take place in Birmingham, an amount of £250 and it was estimated that the total amount would be in the region of £3,750.

It was proposed by Councillor T Beckett, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the Committee approves that a sum of £250 be donated to each team member from the Council area chosen to represent Northern Ireland in 2022. In addition it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (or their nominees) be authorised to attend the function at Belfast City Hall on 27th June.

Arising from discussion, Councillor T Beckett placed on the record his disappointment at the ruling of the International Gymnastics Federation, which had precluded Rhys McClenaghan, Eamon Montgomery and Ewan McAteer from participating at the Commonwealth Games, since they had previously represented Ireland. A number of Members concurred with the foregoing comments and expressed their desire that the matter be resolved to enable the gymnasts to represent Northern Ireland.

7.0 Confidential Report of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The Chairman advised that the reasons for confidentiality were by virtue of the Local Government Act (2014) Northern Ireland, specifically for the reasons as set out in the agenda.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman S Martin, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed that the confidential report of the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing be considered “in committee” in the absence of members of the press and public.

7.1 Sam McBratney Public Art and Literature Trail – Draft Licence Agreement (Report/licence agreement to remain confidential)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th November 2021, it had been advised that the Council had been successful in a funding bid to Tourism NI to establish a public art and literature trail in Lisburn, based on Sam McBratney's children's book 'Guess How Much I Love You!' The Head of Communities outlined the main aspects of a draft licence agreement which had been drawn up to enable the walking tour to be progressed and implemented and sought the Committee's approval for the document.

The Committee approved the document as submitted.

7.2 Twilight Night by Fairy Light – Review of Event and Proposals for 2022 (Report to be made available following ratification after Council meeting in June)

The Head of Communities outlined a number of proposed changes to the Twilight Night by Fairy Light event which had traditionally taken place at the end of October in Wallace Park.

7.2 Twilight Night by Fairy Light – Review of Event and Proposals for 2022 (Cont'd)

After discussion, during which The Head of Communities responded to a range of Members' questions, it was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor T Beckett and agreed that the Committee adopt the proposals in respect of the event for 2022.

7.3 Lock and Unlock Tender

(Report to be made available following ratification after Council meeting in June)

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor J Palmer, and agreed that the Committee note the outcome and award of contract in respect of the above-mentioned tendering exercise.

7.4 Procurement and Two Tracked 360 Degree Excavators

(Report to be made available following ratification at Council meeting in June)

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed that the Committee note the outcome and award of contract in respect of the above-mentioned tendering exercise.

7.5 Sports Services Catering Contract

(Report to be made available following Council meeting in June)

It was moved by Councillor S Skillen, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the Committee note the outcome of the tendering exercises in respect of the above mentioned contract. It was agreed also that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman be granted delegated authority during the summer recess to endorse the award of the remaining lots within the contract and any related matters.

7.6 Lisburn Classic Fire Engine (raised under AOB in confidential)

In response to a query from Councillor Jenny Palmer, the Director undertook to explore a number of options regarding the future maintenance and upkeep of the classic fire engine which was currently located within Lisburn Museum.

“Resumption of Normal Business”

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business be resumed.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Provision of Infrastructure Support

The Committee agreed that the Head of Parks and Amenities be authorised to provide infrastructure support at the following events:

- at the request of Councillor Jenny Palmer, the provision of portable toilet facilities outside Lisnagarvey High School to coincide with the Royal Black Institution demonstration on Saturday 27th August; and

8.1 Provision of Infrastructure Support (Cont'd)

- at the request of Councillor H Legge, on behalf of Alderman James Baird, the provision of infrastructure support at the Drumbo and Temple vintage runs on 14th and 28th July respectively.

In addition, in a response to a query from Councillor D J Craig, the Head of Parks and Amenities undertook to examine the removal of a pole at Milltown shops which was formerly the location of a CCTV camera which had been erected by the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7:02pm.

Chairman