

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 18:00**

PRESENT: Councillor R T Beckett (Chairperson);
 Deputy Mayor Councillor G McCleave;
 Aldermen A Grehan, H Legge and P Porter;
 Councillors D Bassett, D J Craig, N Eaton, J Gallen,
 B Higginson, S Lowry, A McIntyre and G Thompson.

ALSO ATTENDED: Councillor G Hynds.

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
 Director of Director of Regeneration & Growth
 Head of Communities
 Acting Head of Parks and Amenities
 Head of Sports Services
 Member Services Officer (BF & EW)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan; Alderman S Skillen; Councillor R Carlin and Councillor T Mitchell.

2. Declaration of Interest

Councillor G Hynds declared interests in items 4.1 and 7.2, in that he was member of the Board of Trustees of Lisburn Recreation and Community Hub.

3.0 Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

3.1 DEA Local Investment Programme for 2024/25

(The Director of Organisation Development and Innovation, and the Acting Head of Portfolio, IT and Commercialisation attended in connection with this item.)

At its meeting on 5th March, the Committee had approved the DEA Local Investment Programme for 2024/25. The Director reported that, in reviewing several projects which had been included within previous programmes, officers had recommended that three projects be suspended and reviewed, given their increased costs, community guidance and location considerations. The three projects were, namely, the refurbishment of the Ramblers' Bridge at McIlroy Park, the installation of a barrier at Hillsborough Forest Park and the creation of a dog exercise area in Maghaberry. The Director added that the projected financial considerations would be £58,000, which would be held in reserve until the 2024/25 programme had been fully reported, to enable Members to make an informed decision on any reallocation of funding.

It was moved by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman P Porter, and agreed that the Committee endorse the following course of action:

1. That the three aforementioned projects be suspended for the reasons outlined; and
2. That, subject to the commencement of the DEA Local Investment Programme for 2024/25, the projected saving of £58,000 be held in reserve and considered as part of an overall evaluation of the financial status of the 2024/25 programme.

The Director clarified a number of queries in respect of the programme budget and underspend and undertook to provide an update to a Member in relation to the future plans for the undertaking of enhancement work at the Ramblers' Bridge. The Director also advised Members that any reallocation of significant funds, within the programme, would be brought before the Committee for its consideration.

3.2 Redevelopment of Dundonald International Ice Bowl and Associated Works

(The Director of Regeneration and Transformation and the Head Planning and Capital Development attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report which provided an overview of the progress achieved to date in the redevelopment of Dundonald International Ice Bowl and Associated Works.

The Committee commended officers for the work which had been undertaken to date in relation to the project.

4.0 Report of the Head of Communities

4.1 Communities Facilities Fund 2024/25

(Councillor G Hynds, who had declared an interest in this matter, did not partake in any discussion whilst the item was under consideration.)

The Head of Communities reported that 46 applications for funding had been received under the above-mentioned scheme, 28 of which had been deemed successful. The 18 remaining applications had been unsuccessful since the applicants had either been in receipt of a previous grant under the fund, or their application did not meet the scoring threshold/eligible amount applied for.

The Committee was informed that the total amount of eligible funding to be awarded was £379,894.22 and noted that there remained an underspend of £40,105.78 in the fund.

It was moved by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman P Porter, and agreed that the Committee endorse the following course of action, that:

1. the successful applicants be awarded a total of £379,894.22;
2. officers offer feedback, support, and signposting to unsuccessful applicants; and
3. the underspend of £40,105.78 be reallocated across remaining projects in the DEA Investment Programme, subject to the associated demand in each of the areas.

5.0 Report of the Acting Head Parks & Amenities

5.1 Request for the Use of Wallace Park

It was moved by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Committee grant approval to the Belfast and District Amalgamated Committee of the Apprentice Boys of Derry to use Wallace Park as an assembly and dispersal point for its parade on Easter Monday, 21st April 2025.

It was agreed also that the byelaw prohibiting the use of the park for religious services be set aside for this purpose, and that small-scale infrastructure support be provided in accordance with Council policy.

6.0 Any Other Business – Non-Confidential Matters

6.1 Hydebank Playing Fields

The Vice-Chairperson, Councillor J Gallen, placed on the record his thanks to the Acting Head of Parks and Amenities, who had overseen the erection of goalposts at above-mentioned venue over the previous weekend.

6.2 Grass Cutting at Council Parks and Amenities

The Acting Head of Parks and Amenities provided clarity in relation to the plans to undertake additional grass cutting at various Council sites and cemeteries over the forthcoming period.

6.3 Councillor R T Beckett – Last Meeting as Chairperson

The outgoing Chairperson, Councillor R T Beckett, placed on the record his thanks to the Members of the Committee, the Vice-Chairperson and officers, for the manner in which they had supported him throughout his term in the Chair.

Several Members thanked the Chairperson for the manner in which he had conducted meetings and promoted the work of the Department over the past year.

7.0 Confidential Report of the Director

The Chairperson advised that the reasons for confidentiality for the following matters were by virtue of the Section 6, Part 1, of the Local Government Act (2014) Northern Ireland, namely, in that the reports contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council holding that information).

It was moved by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed that the confidential report of the Director be considered 'in committee'.

7.1 Winter Programme 2024

(The Head of Economic Development, together with the Regeneration Manager, attended in connection with this matter.)

The Director outlined the principal aspects of a report which made a number of recommendations in respect of the delivery of the Council's programme of winter events in 2024. Members were provided with an outline of the feasibility of providing additional 'pole mounts' for lighting purposes across the Council area as part of the programme.

It was moved by Alderman P Porter, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Committee approve the Council's Winter Events Programme for 2024, and associated budgets, as outlined in the report which would include a drawdown on ringfenced funds as previously agreed in 2021.

Arising from discussion, the Director undertook to provide further information to a Member in relation to the management of ticketing arrangements for several events hosted as part of the programme.

7.2 Community Investment Fund – Phase 3

(Councillor G Hynds, who had declared an interest in this matter, did not partake in any discussion whilst the item was under consideration.)

(Councillor S Lowry left the meeting at 18:40 and returned at 18:42.)

The Head of Communities gave an overview of the outcome of the assessment of the applications which had been received under Phase 3 of the above scheme. She reported that the following four top scoring applications had been identified as eligible for partnership, subject to the due diligence process:

1. **Hillhall Regeneration Group** (Downshire East) - Council investment of £350k against an overall cost of £720k to develop a bespoke Community Hall/Resource hub on lands adjacent to Ashmount Gardens in Hillhall Estate;
2. **Carryduff GAC** (Castlereagh South) - Council investment of £290k against an overall development cost of £580k;
3. **Ballinderry War Memorial Hall** (Killultagh) - Council investment of £350k against an overall cost of £1,029,600 for the restoration and regeneration of the hall; and
4. **Canal Boxing Club** (Lisburn South) - Council investment of £285,455 against an overall cost of £573,324 for the construction of a sports hub at Queen Elizabeth II playing fields.

Several Members expressed gratitude to officers for the work which had been undertaken in compiling the report and welcomed the benefit which the funding would bring to communities across the Council area.

It was moved by Councillor J Gallen, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Committee approve the following course of action:

1. that the four successful applicants be deemed as the Council's project partners under Community Investment Fund – Phase 3 and that match funding be offered in the sum outlined;
2. that 'in principle' letters of offer be issued to the four partner projects under the terms outlined by the Head of Service; and
3. that feedback and support be provided as required to unsuccessful applicants.

7.3 Pitches Strategy – Terms of Reference

(Councillor N Eaton left the meeting at 18:55 and returned at 19:00.)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Councillor G McCleave, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the Committee approve the Terms of Reference for the undertaking of a review and

development of a Council Pitches' Strategy and that a suitably qualified individual, or organisation, be appointed for this purpose within the budget outlined, provision for which had been identified within existing budgets.

7.4 Hydebank Playing Fields – Pavilion Refurbishment

It was moved by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor J Gallen, and agreed that the Committee note the contents of a report in relation to the above-mentioned matter and agrees to approve the uplift in costs as outlined; and that the contract be awarded and the conclusion of the process to the most economically advantageous tender received.

7.5 Moira Demesne – Community Shed Business Case

It was moved by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Committee approve the Project Initiation Request & Strategic Outline Case (PIRSOC) for the above development and that the project progress to business case stage with a view to awarding the tender to construct a community shed in Moira Demesne.

7.6 Lough Moss 3G Pitch

It was moved by Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Councillor S Lowry, and agreed that the Committee adopt the criteria for the allocation of the 3G Pitch at Lough Moss, which would enable officers to make operational decisions on the usage of the newly developed pitch.

It was noted that the criteria would be reviewed by officers after a period of 12 months.

7.7 St Patrick's Gaelic Athletic Club – Grounds Management Request

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Councillor G McCleave, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed that the Committee note the information provided in an associated report and agree that the matter be progressed with the development of an options appraisal paper which would be presented for consideration at a future meeting.

7.8 Dundonald International Ice Bowl – Service and Exclusivity Agreement

It was moved by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Alderman H Legge, and agreed that the Committee approve the terms of a Service and Exclusivity Agreement with the Belfast Giants for their use of facilities at the above-mentioned venue.

7.9 Request to Vary an Existing Contract

It was moved by Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre, and agreed that the Committee accede to the request for the variation of an existing contract as outlined by the Acting Head of Parks and Amenities.

8.0 Any Other Business – Non-Confidential Matters

8.1 Funding Workshop

The Director provided an overview on the arrangements that would put in place for the holding of two Members' workshops to consider the management of the Council's overall grants' programmes.

It was noted that, subject to the identification of suitable dates, it was anticipated that two workshops would be held over the summer period.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was moved by Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Councillor B Higginson and agreed that normal business be resumed.

The meeting ended at 19:36.

Chairperson