

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 5th December 2017 at 5.30 pm

PRESENT:

Alderman J Tinsley (Chairman)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor T Morrow

Aldermen M Henderson MBE, W A Leathem and S Martin

Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, R B Bloomfield MBE,
T Mitchell, A McIntyre, C Quinn and R Walker

OTHER MEMBER:

Councillor J McCarthy

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services)
Head of Service (Parks & Amenities)
Head of Service (Sports Services)
Member Services Officer

Lough Neagh Development Trust

Mr Nigel Kinnaird – Chairman
Ms Karen Arbuckle - Director

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman J Tinsley, extended a welcome to all present and proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

The Chairman asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert him accordingly so that the Member Services Officer might accurately reflect arrival and departure times in the minutes.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Alderman S P Porter; Councillors J Gray MBE and A Grehan.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited Members to declare any Interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided at their places.

The following Declarations of Interest were made:-

- Alderman W A Leathem - Item 2 of Report of Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services) – “Carryduff Community Hub”. (Board member of Libraries NI, the area around Carryduff Library being the preferred option for the proposed location of Carryduff Community Hub).
- Alderman S Martin - Item 2 of Report of Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services) – “Carryduff Community Hub”. (Board member of Libraries NI, the area around Carryduff Library being the preferred option for the proposed location of Carryduff Community Hub).

3. Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held on the 7th November 2017 as adopted by the Council at its meeting held on the 28th November be confirmed and signed.

4. Lough Neagh Development Trust

The Chairman of the Committee welcomed the undernoted officials of the Lough Neagh Development Trust who were in attendance to advise on the current and proposed activities of that organisation:-

- Mr Nigel Kinnaird – Chairman
- Ms Karen Arbuckle - Director

Mr Kinnaird thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address the meeting and with the aid of PowerPoint, Ms Arbuckle made a presentation in regard to the Trust’s endeavours to bring Lough Neagh into public ownership from Lord Shaftesbury. The presentation addressed the following:-

- Facts about Lough Neagh, eg physical, geographical and usage;
- History to and progress being made in acquiring public ownership of Lough Neagh;
- Aims, objectives and activities of the Lough Neagh Development Trust;
- Current priorities of the Trust;
- Ways in which the Council could assist the Trust in its activities;
- The relationship between the Lough Neagh Partnership and the Trust.

Alderman S Martin and Alderman W A Leathem entered the meeting during the presentation (5.45 pm and 6.04 pm respectively).

4. Lough Neagh Development Trust (Continued)

After the officials had answered questions put to them by Members, the Chairman of the Committee, Alderman J Tinsley, thanked them for their attendance and they left the meeting. (6.06 pm)

The Chairman, Alderman J Tinsley, advised that this matter would be revisited later in the meeting.

The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, left the meeting. (6.07 pm)

5. Reports from the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed that the main report and recommendations of the Director of Leisure & Wellbeing be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

5.1 Date of January 2018 Meeting of Committee

Members were reminded that – in line with the decision of Council at its meeting held on the 28th November 2017 – the January 2018 meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

5.2 Departmental Budget Report

It was agreed to recommend that the Departmental budget report for the period ended the 31st October 2017 be noted.

5.3 Report from the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities)

It was proposed by Alderman S Martin, seconded by Councillor B Bloomfield and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities) be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

5.3.1 Lough Neagh Development Trust

A discussion took place in regard to the presentation from the Lough Neagh Development Trust as detailed at Item 4.

It was agreed to recommend that the undernoted steps be taken in order to assist the Lough Neagh Development Trust in its endeavours to secure Lough Neagh into the public ownership:-

- if so requested - making a room within Council facilities available free of charge for meetings of the Trust;
- promote the flyer entitled “Become a Friend of Lough Neagh” on the Council’s website;

5.3.1 Lough Neagh Development Trust (Continued)

- circulate the flyer entitled “Become a Friend of Lough Neagh” to appropriate groups;
- provide the Trust with contact details of relevant community groups;
- ask the Community Planning Manager to contact the Trust to see if their plans could feed into the Community Plan.

5.3.2 George Best Community Cup

Members noted that the annual George Best Community Cup for people with disabilities in the UK as hosted by the Irish Football Association would be held on the 14th and 15th June 2018 at the Billy Neill SCOE. The IFA was seeking assistance from the Council to host the event.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor B Bloomfield and agreed to recommend that a grant of £1,050 be awarded to the Irish Football Association to off-set the costs of the facility hire for the annual George Best Community Cup at the Billy Neill SCOE on the 14th and 15th June 2018.

5.3.3 Blaris Greenway - Request for Land Transfer

Members were aware that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) hoped to construct Phase One of the Blaris Greenway before the end of the current financial year. This phase would connect Blaris Road to the Park & Ride facility at Sprucefield and would require a relatively short strip of Council land at the back of Blaris Cemetery.

In this regard, it was agreed to recommend that the undernoted items of correspondence be noted:-

- letter dated the 30th October 2017 from the Department for Infrastructure together with an attendant map showing the required strip of land which is currently registered to the Council;
- map of Blaris Cemetery showing the overall extent of the Council’s ownership at that location;
- map of Blaris Greenway Phase One.

The Head of Service explained the location of the proposed Greenway (Phase One) and that of the required strip of land, the loss of which having no detrimental impact on the operations of the Cemetery as it was outside its boundary.

The Head of Service also explained the location of the proposed Greenway (Phase Two) which would enable the National Cycle Network Route No. 9 to be diverted off Blaris Road.

5.3.3 Blaris Greenway - Request for Land Transfer (Continued)

It was agreed to recommend that:-

- the request from the Department for Infrastructure to transfer an area of Council land at Blaris Cemetery to the Department so as to progress the Blaris Greenway scheme be acceded to;
- Land & Property Services be asked to determine a transfer valuation for the land in question;
- the transfer of the necessary lands be actioned by Central Support Services;
- in the event that the land transfer cannot complete before the funding deadline for the works, arrangements be made for a Licence to be put in place to allow the Department's contractor to enter the Council lands to carry out the works.

5.3.4 Flower Bed Displays

In preparation for the Britain in Bloom, Ulster in Bloom and NI Amenity Council competitions in 2018, it was agreed to recommend that displays at the undernoted locations be agreed:-

- Mayor's Charity – Corrymeela Community – Bradford Court
- Mayor's Charity – Habitat for Humanity – Hillsborough Roundabout
- Poppy 1918-2018 – Castle Gardens/Queen's Road – Winter display
- Fairtrade – Hillsborough Roundabout (requested by Development)
- Girls Brigade 125th Anniversary - Hillsborough Roundabout
- Wallace Commemoration – Lagan Valley Island (new bed)
- Dundonald Towns Women's Guild 50th Anniversary – Grahamsbridge Road/Moat Park

The Committee also noted that the number of wild flower beds would increase from 20 to approximately 30 in 2018 with the emphasis on poppies to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

The Head of Service verbally advised that the poppy-themed beds would be part of the Winter bedding scheme to coincide with Armistice Day.

Councillor R Walker asked that consideration be given to the planting of a commemorative bed to mark the 50th anniversary of the Lisburn Gateway Club. Officers would confirm the date and if 2018 was the 50th anniversary, then this would proceed.

5.3.5 Tennis Fundamentals Wallace Park

It was agreed to recommend that the closure of the tennis courts at Wallace Park from Thursday 21st to Saturday 30th December 2017 inclusive be noted. The operator - Tennis Fundamentals – had reviewed the opening hours over the festive period whilst taking account of demand for the facility.

5.3.6 Health Initiatives

Further to the previous meeting of the Committee, Members noted that the Cycle to Work Scheme was being re-advertised to all eligible staff and Elected Members, with HR progressing this directive.

Progress reports in relation to a number of health initiatives within the Council were set out in the Head of Service's report and their contents noted.

5.3.7 Ulster Grand Prix – Branding Evaluation

It was agreed to recommend that a synopsis of the Council's branding return on investment for the annual sponsorship which it provides to the Ulster Grand Prix be noted, this synopsis having been provided by the UGP organisers and being available at http://prezi.com/ya558w-hszhz/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy.

On-line and TV coverage was not included nor were the tourism benefits enjoyed by the City during the UGP period.

5.3.8 NI Forest Schools & Biodiversity Programmes

It was agreed to recommend that the content of an e-mail from Downshire Primary School, Hillsborough in relation to the school's participation in the NI Forest Schools & Biodiversity Programme be noted. The school's involvement had been a positive experience.

5.4 Report from the Head of Service (Culture & Community Services)

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Culture & Community Services) be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

5.4.1 Universal Credit – Supporting Communities

Members were aware that - under the Welfare Reform arrangements - the roll out of Universal Credit to replace a number of benefits had commenced on a phased approach with the Lisburn & Castlereagh area scheduled for June 2018.

Universal Credit represented a considerable change to the current benefits system and would impact on current and new claimants with the potential to impact on quality of life and income levels across the Council area.

5.4.1 Universal Credit – Supporting Communities (Continued)

To this end, Council officers along with Lisburn & Castlereagh Citizens Advice Bureau had met to review the current plan of transition support and to develop additional support structures to assist.

It was agreed to recommend that the following additional support structures be agreed and put in place:-

- the Council's Community Services Section develop a number of training and information sessions, facilitated by Lisburn & Castlereagh Citizens Advice Bureau, for community leaders and community development staff so as to equip them with the basic skills to support claimants to understand and register under the new system;
- the Bridge Community Centre, under the Council's Community Centre Development Plan, provide additional space within the Centre for Citizens Advice to host group support sessions for individuals to register online;
- Community Services, in conjunction with Citizens Advice, plan and roll out a joint media campaign signposting individuals to locations of support and advice in advance of the June 'go live' date.

It was also noted that additional funding support from the Department for Communities might become available either through the Council or directly to Citizens Advice, however this was yet to be confirmed.

The Head of Service was asked to ensure that the training sessions would relate not only to Universal Credit but also to Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

5.4.2 Carryduff Community Hub

The Head of Service's main report and the Director's additional report dealt with this item of business.

In furtherance of previous decisions, Members were aware that Turleys had been commissioned to review and consult on proposals for a Carryduff Community Hub.

A copy of Turley's final report had been provided with the Director's additional report made available to Members earlier that day. The recommendation of the report was that "The preferred location for a potential community hub is Site 1. Feedback obtained from the engagement activities also identifies this location to be the first choice identified by stakeholders.". Site 1 had been identified as "Lands within Carryduff town centre, focusing on the area around the Library and Killynure House". An action plan was also included in the report.

5.4.2 Carryduff Community Hub (Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed to recommend that:-

- the content of the report prepared by Turleys in regard to a potential community hub at Carryduff be noted, together with the recommendation and action plan contained therein;
- the recommendation of Turleys as to the preferred site location be accepted, ie Site 1 - "Lands within Carryduff town centre, focusing on the area around the Library and Killynure House";
- Officers progress the appointment of a consultant to develop the project design concept, in the context of the Turley recommendations and the Community Planning actions under the theme 'Our Community'.

It was noted that the working group was likely to be reconvened early in the New Year so as they might be updated and advised of the progress made to date.

The Director and Head of Service (Culture & Community Services) were thanked for their work associated with this project.

5.4.3 Developing Place – Sharing Space Community Fund, Maghaberry

The Committee was aware that the Council was in receipt of a developer contribution in regard to a new housing development within the Maghaberry village, the purpose of which being to enable the Council to facilitate and oversee the delivery of a grant scheme to support local project delivery within the Maghaberry area which would improve or increase community or social infrastructure.

The delivery of the funding scheme is governed by a Deed of Agreement and Officers had used it as a framework to develop a robust policy and guidance document for the "Developing Place – Sharing Space Community Fund".

Members had been provided with a draft copy of the "Developing Place – Sharing Space Community Fund" policy document which set out the levels of funding, eligibility, and scheme assessment process. The proposal to introduce two grant levels was noted, ie Small grants (up to £10,000) and Large Grants (up to £50,000) with a minimum award available of £1,000.

It was anticipated that the scheme would open, via a public call, during January 2018 with applications being assessed prior to the end of March and letters of offer issued during April 2018.

Members were advised that the scheme was currently being equality screened, therefore any recommendation and agreement might be subject to change as a result of this.

The Head of Service clarified certain elements of the policy.

5.4.3 Developing Place – Sharing Space Community Fund, Maghaberry
(Continued)

The Committee was also advised that the Council held a further approximate sum of £20,000 so as to develop a project applicable to everyone, eg the provision of a safe crossing area.

It was agreed to recommend that - subject to any amendments which might be necessary following the equality screening process – the “Developing Place – Sharing Space Community Fund (for Maghaberry Village 2018-2020” be approved.

Alderman S Martin had left the meeting during discussion of this item and prior to decision thereon. (6.29 pm)

The members of the public who had been seated in the public gallery left the meeting. (6.30 pm)

5.4.4 Community Festivals Fund 2018/2019

Members were reminded that the Community Festivals Fund is jointly funded by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and the Department for Communities (DfC) to recognise the role that festivals can play in increasing social cohesion, economic regeneration and strengthening community relations. The scheme aimed to assist constituted groups working within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area to organise their own locally-based festivals.

In previous years the Council had attracted some criticism in regards to the timing around the issue of letters of offer to groups, in particular around summer festival programmes. Such delays had been outside of the Council control and had been as a direct result of the delay in receiving formal confirmation of funding from the DfC. However in an effort to speed up the process and to ensure that letters of offer could be issued in a timely manner, it was agreed to recommend that:-

- the scheme be opened in advance of the Council receiving its formal letter of offer from the Department thereby allowing applications to be processed and assessed so that letters of offer might be issued once funding has been secured;
- a clause be inserted in the scheme's literature advising that the awards would be subject to the Council securing funding from the Department for Communities;
- the scheme open for applications on Monday 15th January 2018 with a closing date of Friday 16th February 2018.

As in previous years the Council would host public information workshops to provide applicant organisations with information relating to the completion of applications to the Community Festivals Fund.

5.4.4 Community Festivals Fund 2018/2019 (Continued)

Officers were asked to stress to applicants the requirement to attend the public information workshops so that they might complete their applications as completely and accurately as possible.

In this regard, it was agreed that Officers give consideration to the mandatory requirement for applicants to attend the public information workshop otherwise their application would not be valid. A further report would be brought to the Committee on this matter.

Councillor B Bloomfield left the meeting. (6.33 pm)

5.4.5 Department for Infrastructure:
Section 10b Permits & Guidance on Minibus Driving
Response to Consultation Exercise
(Closing date: 8th December 2017)

The Committee was aware that the Department of Infrastructure was currently consulting on the use of Section 10B Permits and new guidance on minibus driving. Whilst the consultation was due to close on the 8th December 2017, the Department had already implemented some of the suggested changes as from the 1st November 2017.

The Committee was reminded that – at its meeting held on the 28th November 2017 – the Council had delegated authority to the Leisure & Community Development Committee to finalise the response to the consultation.

The following documents by way of draft responses to the consultation had been uploaded to SharePoint earlier in the day, it being noted that the draft responses took account of discussions with Lagan Valley Rural Transport:-

- Consultation response in respect of “Guidance on Minibus Driving”;
- Consultation response in respect of Section 10B Permits.

It was agreed to recommend that:-

- the draft responses to the above consultation be accepted as the Council's responses thereto and - in line with the authority delegated to the Committee - be submitted to the Department for Infrastructure by the stipulated closing date of the 8th December 2017;
- Elected Members and community groups be encouraged to submit responses to the consultation.

The Director verbally reported that – in furtherance of a decision of Council on the 28th November 2017 – he hoped to have arrangements for the meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure finalised later in the month.

5.4.6 Arts Centre Closures
January - June 2018

It was agreed to recommend that the Island Arts Centre closure dates for January to June 2018 be as follows:-

Monday 1 st January 2018	(New Year's Day)
Monday 19 th March 2018	(St Patrick's Day)
Friday 30 th March – Tuesday 3 rd April 2018	(Easter)
Monday 7 th May 2018	(May Day)
Monday 28 th May 2018	(Spring Bank Holiday)

Agreement on these dates would allow for the finalisation of the Programme of Events for January – June 2018.

5.4.7 Arts Grants

Members were advised that by the closing dates of the 29th September 2017:-

- six applications had been received under the Council's Arts Grant Scheme for projects taking place between January – March 2018;
- one application had been received under the Council's new Making Art in Communities scheme for projects taking place between January – March 2018.

Members noted the schedule of recommendations in regard to the grant allocations as determined by the Assessment Panel and that - in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation - the Head of Cultural and Community Services had accepted the recommendations from the Panel.

5.4.8 Pride of Place Awards

The Head of Service verbally reported that the undernoted groups had both received runner up awards within their nominated categories at the recent Pride of Place Awards:-

- Seymour Hill Community Residents Association
- Dreamscheme

The other nominated group in attendance was Lagan Valley Regional Park.

The Chairman stated that a reception at which the certificates would be presented would be organised to mark this success. It was hoped to have this in the Mayor's Parlour.

The Head of Service (Culture & Community Services) and the Community Support Officer were congratulated on their involvement with these groups.

5.5 Report from the Head of Service (Sports Services)

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Sports Services) be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

5.5.1 Seasonal Activity Scheme Charges

Further to previous discussion, Members were provided with an updated report and recommendations in regard to proposed charges for Seasonal Activity Schemes in 2018.

It was agreed to recommend that the charges for the 2018 Seasonal Activity Schemes be approved.

5.5.2 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10k and Fun Run 2017
Event Report

Members had been provided with copy of an evaluation report in regard to the 2017 Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run.

It was agreed to recommend that the evaluation report of the 2017 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run be noted and that the recommendations contained therein be accepted, one of which being the date for the 2018 event, ie Wednesday 20th June 2018.

5.5.3 Ulster Tennis
Ulster Tennis Academy Squad Funding Proposal

Members had been provided with a funding proposal from Ulster Tennis to offset costs in relation to the delivery of the Ulster Tennis Academy (UTA). The proposal had been received subsequent to a meeting involving the Chair of the Leisure and Community Development Committee, Ulster Tennis and the Head of Sport Services.

The Head of Service outlined the nature of the proposal but stressed that the Council's support for individual players with their training costs could potentially set a precedent across a range of sports.

It was agreed to recommend that the contents of the Ulster Tennis "UTA Squad Funding Proposal to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council" be noted and be directed to Sport Lisburn & Castlereagh who can provide ongoing assistance and support through their Grant Aid and Athlete Development Programmes.

5.5.4 Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards 2017
Waterfront Hall, Belfast - Monday 29th January 2018

Members had been provided with background information to the 2017 Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards due to take place in the Waterfront Hall on Monday 29th January 2018. Tickets were £75.00 each.

It was agreed to recommend that a table be taken at the above event with invitations to be agreed by the Chairman of the Committee in consultation with the Director.

5.5.5 Laurelhill Sportszone – Updated Plans

Members had been provided with the Plans approved by Council in November 2016 to form the basis of a planning application in respect of the above. Members were aware that a Pre-Application Notice (PAN) had been initiated and had included an information evening for interested parties in Laurelhill Community College on Tuesday, 24th September.

Prior to submission of a formal planning application, the Council would carry out independent tests to ascertain what if any pollution was likely from both a noise and light perspective. The eventual plans would be revised to reflect the results of these tests and any further stipulations that might arise out of the planning process.

It was noted that - upon collation of the PAN results - a further report would be presented to Committee for consideration prior to the submission of a Formal Planning Application.

5.5.6 Vitality Health & Fitness Charges

It was agreed to note that – in accordance with the Council’s Scheme of Delegation – the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing had approved the following off peak charges for Vitality Health & Fitness to operate between 10.00 am and 4.30 pm:-

- £21.50 per month or
- £192.50 per annum

Additional Report

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that the additional report and recommendations of the Director of Leisure & Wellbeing be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below:-

5.6 Carryduff Community Hub

Dealt with under Item 5.4.2.

5.7 Department for Communities
Letter of Variance relating to the Council allocation under the District
Council Community Support Programme 2017/18

Members were provided with copies of the undernoted items of correspondence from the Department for Communities:-

- letter dated the 1st December 2017 advising that an additional £180,000 had been secured for the Community Support Programme in 2017/2018;
- letter dated the 1st December 2017 by way of a Letter of Variance advising of an additional £8,093.82 of funding being made available specific to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council under the above Programme, this amount of funding being ring-fenced for Advice Services.

It was agreed to recommend that the Letter of Variance from the Department for Communities as referred to above be accepted.

6. Confidential Report from the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The Chairman advised that the reasons for confidentiality were as set out in the agenda, ie:-

- Peace IV: Award of Tenders - Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)
- Provision of Arboricultural Services: Tender Report - Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)
- Seymour Hill MUGA: Tender Report - Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)
- Staffing matter: Request for additional temporary post – Confidential due to information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
- Equipment for Maintenance of Artificial Surfaces: Tender Award - Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)
- Absence Report - Confidential due to information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

6. Confidential Report from the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
(Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor C Quinn and agreed that the confidential report of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing be considered "in Committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed that the confidential report and recommendations of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

6.1 Peace IV – Award of Tenders

Presented by Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services).

It was agreed to recommend that the awards under those Peace IV tenders listed in the Director's report be agreed.

6.2 Provision of Arboricultural Services - Tender Report

Presented by Head of Service (Parks & Amenities).

Members present at the meeting were provided with a copy of a Tender Report providing a tender evaluation in respect of the above. Members noted the awards of the contract, as outlined in the Tender Report.

At the request of Councillor N Anderson, the Head of Service agreed to investigate the use of fallen tree products at Knockbracken.

6.3 Seymour Hill MUGA - Tender Report

Presented by Head of Service (Parks & Amenities).

Members present at the meeting were provided with a copy of a Tender Opening Report in respect of the above. Also provided was a copy of the Tender Evaluation Report. Members noted the award of the contract, as outlined in the Tender Evaluation Report.

6.4 Staffing Matter - Request for Additional Temporary Post

Presented by Head of Service (Parks & Amenities).

It was agreed to recommend that the creation of a temporary Project Officer (PO2) position within Parks & Amenities to cease on the 31st March 2018 be approved.

6.5 Equipment for Maintenance of Artificial Surfaces - Tender Award

Presented by Head of Service (Parks & Amenities).

Members noted the award of the tenders for the above as set out in the Director's confidential report.

6.6 Departmental Absenteeism Report

Presented by the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing.

It was agreed to recommend that the Departmental absenteeism report as at the 31st October 2017 be noted.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor R Walker and agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Royal Wedding (May 2018) – Funding to Community Groups
Alderman J Tinsley

The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman J Tinsley, referred to the wedding in May 2018 of HRH Prince Harry and Miss Meghan Markle.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman W A Leathem and agreed that small grant packages be made available to those community groups who might wish to organise a celebration such as a street party to mark the Royal wedding.

The Director advised that – to meet time-scales - he would present a report on this matter to the meeting of Council due to be held on the 19th December 2017.

7.2 Ballymacash Football Academy – Presentation to Committee
Alderman W A Leathem

Alderman W A Leathem advised that Ballymacash Football Academy would wish to present to the Committee about their future plans.

The Chairman of the Committee and the Head of Parks & Amenities had already met with the Academy. As that requirement for a deputation had already been met, it was agreed that arrangements for the attendance of Ballymacash Football Academy at a future meeting be put in place.

7.3 Partnership Funding
Alderman W A Leathem

Alderman W A Leathem stated that he considered that funding of £350,000 per financial year was required to be put in place for Partnership Funding. This amount would equate to £50,000 per District Electoral Area per financial year.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing agreed to give the above matter consideration and for it to be discussed by the Corporate Management Team with a view to a report on the matter being made to a future meeting of the appropriate committee.

7.4 Cherry Room – Refurbishment
Alderman J Tinsley

The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman J Tinsley, welcomed the refurbishment of the Cherry Room and commended those involved in the choice of décor, furniture etc.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.57 pm.

Mayor/Chairman