

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 1st February 2022 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor S Skillen (Chairperson)

Alderman J Tinsley

Councillor A Gowan

PRESENT IN A The Right Worshipful the Mayor Alderman S Martin

REMOTE LOCATION:

Deputy Mayor Councillor T Mitchell

Alderman A Grehan

Councillors R T Beckett, D J Craig, R Carlin, M Guy, D Honeyford, A McIntyre, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer and Hon N Trimble.

OTHER MEMBERS Alderman J Baird and Councillors A Givan,

PRESENT IN A

REMOTE LOCATION:

H Legge and C McCready.

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

The Chairperson, Councillor S Skillen, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded attendees that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, unauthorised recording was not permitted. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing read the safety announcement and the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and officers in attendance.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors N Anderson and S Hughes.

2. Declarations of Interest

In respect of item 3.1, 'DfC - Support Recovery Scheme', Councillor A Gowan declared an interest in that he was the Vice-Chair of the Anahilt and Magheraconluce Community Association.

3. Report of the Head of Communities

3.1 Department for Communities (DfC) – Covid Recovery Support Scheme

(Councillor A Gowan left the Chamber whilst this item was under consideration and Councillor C McCready joined the meeting at 6:04pm).

The Head of Communities reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 2nd November, it had adopted several recommendations in respect of the management of the DfC Covid-19 funds for community development activities, which sought to support organisations in addressing evolving needs and increasing resilience as a result of Covid-19.

In addition, the Committee had agreed that a budget of £100,000 be allocated to the Scheme, which, it was reported, had been increased to £142,200, after an additional offer of financial assistance had been received from the DfC. The Members were informed that 75 applications had been received, of which 45 were deemed eligible following assessment against the pre-agreed criteria. A copy of the successful and unsuccessful applicants were appended to the report.

In accordance with the Committee's decision in November, to delegate authority to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to award the grants, a meeting in this regard took place on 18th January. Given that the amount of funding requested had exceeded the funds available, it had been agreed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson that a financial reduction of 10% be applied to the eligible amounts requested by the 45 successful applicants to enable payments to be made within budget. It was noted that the final allocation of £143,087 included a sum of £887 sourced from within departmental Covid-19 budgets.

It was moved by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed that the Committee note the outcome of the assessment process and the allocation of funding as outlined.

3.2 Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Working Group Minutes

(Councillor A Gowan returned to the Chamber at this point).

It was moved by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed that the Committee note the contents of the minutes of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group of 29th November, 2021.

4.0 Report of the Head of Sports Services

4.1 Summer Activity Programme 2022

(Councillor R Carlin and Hon Councillor N Trimble joined the meeting at 6:08pm).

The Head of Sport Services reported that a programme had been developed to oversee the 2022 Summer Activity Programme. He reminded the Committee that, to ensure that there would be the widest variety of activities provided to young people, a review of the 2021 Summer Scheme had been undertaken, the findings of which were appended to the report. He pointed out that the proposals came with a caveat in that, in light of ongoing restrictions, the required number of staff might not be recruited, which would necessitate a review of the schemes in that eventuality. Accordingly, he outlined the proposals and recommended that they be applied in the running of the Summer Scheme in 2022.

It was proposed by Councillor DJ Craig and seconded by Councillor M Guy and agreed that the Committee adopt the proposals as outlined by the Head of Sport Services.

5.0 Confidential Report of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The Chairperson advised that the reasons for confidentiality for the following matters were, as set out in the agenda, 'confidential by virtue of Section 6, Parts 1 and 3 of the Local Government Act (2014) Northern Ireland, i.e., information relating to any individual, or information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor DJ Craig, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, 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 being present.

5.1 Minutes of the Housing Liaison Forum

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the Committee note the contents of the minutes of the Council's Housing Liaison Forum meetings of 5th May and 23rd June 2021.

5.2 Tender for Generalist Advice Services

It was moved by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed that the Committee note the outcome of the tendering exercise and the award of contact for the provision of Generalist Advice Services across the Council area to the company as detailed with the report, to commence on 1st April 2022 for a period of three years, with the option to extend for two further periods of twelve months each.

5.3 Tender for Static Attendants

It was proposed by Deputy Mayor Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the tender for the above service be noted as having been awarded to the company as detailed with the report, at the cost outlined.

5.4 Tender for Parks and Amenities Staff Uniforms

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed that the Committee note that the tender for the provision of Parks and Amenities Staff Uniforms had been awarded to the company as detailed with the report, at the cost outlined.

5.5 Refurbishment of Public Toilets in Royal Hillsborough Village

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed that the tender for the provision of the above-mentioned work be noted as having been awarded to the company as detailed with the report, at the cost outlined.

5.6 Woodland Trust Emergency Tree Fund

(Alderman J Baird joined the meeting at 6:24pm).

In accordance with notice on the agenda, the Head of Parks and Amenities provided a verbal update in the above-mentioned matter. He reminded the Members that the Council, at its meeting on 15th December, had agreed to delegate authority to the January meeting of the Committee to permit officers to accept any offer made through the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund, which had been anticipated to occur in late-January. He reported that, subsequently, a letter of offer for financial support had been received to enable the Council to develop a sustainable native species tree nursery to assist the Council and community groups to plant 30 to 40 hectares of trees per year, over a two-year period. He outlined the next steps in the project, including the establishment of a two-tier engagement network to encourage participation by the community and governmental bodies, and indicated that the Committee would be kept updated in this regard.

After discussion, during which the Committee expressed its gratitude to the officers, most notably the Parks Manager, who had prepared the Council's application for support from the Fund, it was moved by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Deputy Mayor Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Committee note the information provided.

5.7 Killeaton Open Space

The Head of Parks and Amenities provided an update to the Committee in respect of the above-mentioned matter and the consultations which had been undertaken with local residents in the planting of native trees and hedgerows in the locality.

The Committee noted the information provided.

5.8 Royal Hillsborough Community Fun Day

In response to a query from Councillor John Palmer, the Head of Parks and Amenities provided an update on the preparations for the Royal Hillsborough Community Fun Day, which was due to take place on 26th March

“Resumption of Normal Business”

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Rise in Fuel Costs

Councillor A Gowan referred to the significant rise in fuel costs and enquired if the Department might be able to work conjunction with community groups to explore additional support mechanisms to address the rising costs. In response, the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing indicated that she and officers would examine the matter.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6:37pm.

Mayor/Chairperson