

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, and remotely, on Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 18:00

PRESENT: Councillor R T Beckett (Chairperson)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan

Aldermen A Grehan, H Legge and S P Porter; and
Councillors D Bassett, D J Craig, N Eaton, S Lowry,
A McIntyre, T Mitchell and G Thompson

PRESENT REMOTELY: Deputy Mayor Councillor G McCleave;
Alderman S Skillen and Councillor R Carlin

ALSO ATTENDED: Councillor G Hynds

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Head of Communities
Head of Sports Services
Member Services Officers (BF and EW).

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Regarding item 5.2 re: 'Sports Accelerator Fund', The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, declared an interest in that members of his family were associated with Dromara Village Football Club, which had applied for funding under the scheme.

Councillor T Mitchell declared an interest also in item 5.2 in that a family relation was associated with Lisburn Ladies FC.

In respect of item 4.1, re: 'Social Supermarket Funding', Alderman A Grehan declared an interest in that she was a volunteer with Lisburn City Church Community Trust, the organisation which had administered the scheme on behalf of the Council.

3. Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

3.1 Lough Moss Carryduff Community Garden Project & Games Area (0.05)

The Director reported that notification had been received from the Pro-Landscaper Project Awards that the Lough Moss Carryduff Community Garden Project and Games Area had been short-listed in the Community Green Space Category. She explained that the category sought to acknowledge projects which had been delivered within smaller budgets. The ceremony would take place at the ExCeL Centre in London on Tuesday, 21st November.

Accordingly, the Committee was recommended to approve the attendance at the awards of the Chairperson, together with one officer from the Parks and Amenities Section, to include travel, tickets for the event and one night's accommodation in London.

It was moved by Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Committee adopt the recommendation.

(Alderman A Grehan entered the Chamber at 18:09).

4. Report of the Head of Communities

4.1 Community Support Funding - Social Supermarket Funding (0.47)

(Alderman A Grehan declared an interest in this matter and did not partake in any discussion or decision-making on the item).

The Head of Communities advised the Committee that the Department for Communities, as part of its Letter of Offer to the Council for 2023/24, had provided an additional amount for the provision of a social supermarket in the sum of £80,928.97.

In response to a Member's query, the Head of Communities advised that the Department for Communities could not provide a guarantee on the provision of funding beyond the current financial year. She indicated that the proposed finance formed part of the Welfare Reform Budget, which would be in place until 2025, although that, in itself, provided no guarantee. She pointed out that, whilst central government could not offer absolute assurances regarding the scheme on a year-on-year basis, any agreement with Lisburn City Church Community Trust (LCCCT) to deliver the scheme would not be entered into until final confirmation had been received in respect of the funding for the current financial year. Thereafter, further discussions would be entered into regarding the scheme in future years.

In addition, the Head of Communities outlined the plans to ensure that the terms of reference with LCCCT would extend the scope of the scheme into the wider Castlereagh area.

The Committee, on the proposal of Councillor A McIntyre, which was seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, adopted the recommendation, that being, to authorise LCCCT to deliver the scheme on the Council's behalf, subject to the drawing-up of a formal agreement to include a terms of reference to oversee the management of the scheme.

5.0 Report of the Head of Sports Services

5.1 2024 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run (9.42)

The Committee considered a report which proposed a number of changes to the race routes for the 2024 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run.

The Head of Sports Services clarified a number of queries raised regarding the steps that would be taken to manage competitors, specifically at Halftown Road, Blaris Road and the Blaris Greenway. He indicated that any closure of the Greenway to the public would be minimal and he outlined the stewarding, marshalling and health and safety arrangements that would be in place to protect both competitors and members of the public.

It was moved by Alderman H Legge, seconded by Councillor S Lowry, and agreed that the Committee approve the changes to the proposed routes in 2024.

5.2 Sports Accelerator Fund 2023/24 (17.07)

(The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, left the Chamber whilst the matter was under discussion. Councillor T Mitchell, did not partake in any discussion or decision-making on the item).

The Committee noted a list of awards that had been made to 48 organisations under the above-mentioned fund. The amount allocated to the successful applicants had been £103,412.50, which was £3,412.50 in excess of the £100,000 budgeted amount.

The Head of Sports Services clarified the processes which had been put in place within the department to evaluate and mark the applications received. In addition, he outlined the support and feedback arrangements which were to be made available to unsuccessful applicants.

Moved by Alderman A Grehan,
Seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and

Resolved - that the Committee notes the information provided and agrees that a sum of £3,142.50 be sourced from within additional income streams received to address the oversubscription and to enable all successful applicants to receive the full funding allocated.

6. Any Other Business – Non Confidential

6.1 Vitality Membership Scheme (24.10)

The Deputy Mayor Councillor G McCleave reminded the Committee that a private provider had previously delivered the Vitality Membership Scheme on behalf of the Council in Lough Moss Leisure Centre. He enquired if Council might be able to consider entering into a similar-type agreement with one of the several private gym providers within the Killultagh District Electoral Area.

In response, the Head of Sports Services outlined the background to the Council's previous agreement in respect of Lough Moss. He undertook to provide further information to the Deputy Mayor regarding his query.

6.2 Hillsborough Forest Park Run (28.36)

In response to a request by Councillor A McIntyre, the Director undertook to provide an update to him in relation to the provision of signage for competitors at the Hillsborough Forest Park Run.

7. Confidential Report of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The Chairperson advised that the reasons for confidentiality for the following matters was by virtue of the Section 6, Part 1, of the Local Government Act (2014) Northern Ireland, specifically the provisions therein as outlined within each report.

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, 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 Request to Increase Contracted Rates for Stewarding

(Report confidential in that it related to the financial or business affairs of any particular person – including the Council holding that information).

The Committee noted the receipt of a request to increase the rates for stewarding services as part of a variation to an existing contract.

It was agreed that further detail be provided to the Committee in respect of the cost implications to the Council and further clarity be given on the various increases to the rates of pay associated with the revised contract.

7. Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman P Porter, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed that normal business be resumed.

The meeting ended at 18.46.

Chairperson