



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

February 1st, 2019

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 4th February 2019** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 To set a District Rate for the Financial Year 19/20 as required under Section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011

Council Report re District Rate 2019-20.pdf	Page 1
Appendix 1 - Medium Term Financial Plan.pdf	Page 4
Appendix 2 - Capital Strategy report 2019-20.pdf	Page 5
Appendix 3 - Four Year Capital Programme.pdf	Page 10
Appendix 4 - Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20.pdf	Page 14
Appendix 5 - MRP Statement-2019-20.pdf	Page 28

Items Restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

3.1 Action Sheets of Efficiency Working Group Meetings

EWG Action Sheet 3.9.18 .pdf	Not included
EWG Action Sheet - 5 November 2018.pdf	Not included
EWG Action Sheet 03122018.pdf	Not included
EWG-17122018.pdf	Not included
EWG Action Sheet - 18-01-2019.pdf	Not included

4.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 January 2019

Council-07012019.pdf	Page 29
--------------------------------------	---------

5.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 January 2019

[Council-07012019.docx](#)

Page 32

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 January 2019

[Enterprise_Regeneration_and_Tourism_Committee_Minutes_14-01-2019.pdf](#)

Page 43

[NM&D_Presentation_Jan2019.pdf](#)

Page 50

7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2019

[Strategy_Policy_and_Resources_Committee_Minutes_17-01-2019.pdf](#)

Page 64

8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2019

[AHC-21012019.pdf](#)

Page 71

9.0 Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 23 January 2019

[Regulatory_and_Technical_Services_Committee_Minutes_23-01-2019.pdf](#)

Page 78

10.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 15 January 2019

[Audit_Committee_Minutes_15-01-2019.pdf](#)

Page 87

Correspondence and Conferences

11.0 National Association of Councillors Conference - Environment & The Municipalization of Energy

The Park Inn Hotel, York City Centre

22nd-24th February 2019

£350 +VAT

Accommodation - £60 +VAT

Flights extra

[Intro letter.pdf](#)

Page 95

12.0 National Association of Councillor Events 2019

13.0 Elected Member Workshop on Data and Evidence in Community Planning

Friday 15th February 10.30am-1pm, Antrim Civic Centre

Notices of Motion

14.0 Notice of Motion - Addressing Dog Fouling

Notice of Motion received from Councillors Hanna and Andrews

"That this Council is proactive in addressing the dog fouling problem in Newry, Mourne and Down Council area, by enforcing the by-laws of this Council, rigorously, with fines. This Council should increase staffing in this enforcement area until this problem is under control."

15.0 Notice of Motion - Request for Joint Departmental Task Force in relation to Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke

"This Council will write to the Department of Communities and the Department for Health asking that a joint departmental task force is formed to explore what interim measure can be taken in relation to Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOTB's) and reduction of their maximum stake in line with other jurisdictions across these islands.

This Council calls on the Department of Health to recognise that gambling is a public health issue and undertakes to ensure more support services are provided to address gambling problems. This should include public health education and awareness raising programmes and adequate funding to addiction service providers is made available to ensure service quality."

16.0 Notice of Motion - Failure to control littering, dog-fouling, fly-tipping and related issues

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright

"This Council censures Newry Mourne and Down management over the failure to control of littering, dog-fouling, fly-tipping and related issues. We note with concern the stark contrast between the statistics for this Council and the statistics for Ards and North Down Council. We do not accept the contention that the

legislation is 'not fit for purpose' and direct Council management to learn from Ards and North Down."

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews	terry.andrews@nmandd.org
Cllr Naomi Bailie	naomi.bailie@nmandd.org
Cllr Robert Burgess	robert.burgess@nmandd.org
Lorraine Burns	lorraine.burns@nmandd.org
Cllr Pete Byrne	pete.byrne@nmandd.org
Mr Gerard Byrne	gerard.byrne@nmandd.org
Cllr Michael Carr	michael.carr@nmandd.org
Mrs Dorinnia Carville	dorinnia.carville@nmandd.org
Cllr charlie casey	charlie.casey@nmandd.org
Cllr William Clarke	william.clarke@nmandd.org
Cllr Garth Craig	garth.craig@nmandd.org
Cllr Dermot Curran	dermot.curran@nmandd.org
Ms Alice Curran	alice.curran@nmandd.org
Cllr Laura Devlin	laura.devlin@nmandd.org
Mr Eoin Devlin	eoin.devlin@nmandd.org
Ms Louise Dillon	louise.dillon@nmandd.org
Mr Liam Dinsmore	liam.dinsmore@nmandd.org
Cllr Sean Doran	sean.doran@nmandd.org
Cllr Cadogan Enright	cadogan.enright@nmandd.org
Cllr Gillian Fitzpatrick	gillian.fitzpatrick@nmandd.org
Mr Kieran Gordon	kieran.gordon@nmandd.org
Cllr Glyn Hanna	glyn.hanna@nmandd.org
Mr Liam Hannaway	liam.hannaway@nmandd.org
Cllr Valerie Harte	valerie.harte@nmandd.org
Cllr Harry Harvey	harry.harvey@nmandd.org
Mr Conor Haughey	conor.haughey@nmandd.org
Cllr Terry Hearty	terry.hearty@nmandd.org
Mrs Janine Hillen	janine.hillen@nmandd.org
Cllr Roisin Howell	roisin.howell@nmandd.org
Cllr David Hyland	david.hyland@nmandd.org
Mr Colum Jackson	colum.jackson@nmandd.org
Miss Veronica Keegan	veronica.keegan@nmandd.org
Mrs Sheila Kieran	sheila.kieran@nmandd.org
Cllr Liz Kimmins	liz.kimmins@nmandd.org
Cllr Mickey Larkin	micky.larkin@nmandd.org
Mr Michael Lipsett	michael.lipsett@nmandd.org
Cllr Kate Loughran	kate.loughran@nmandd.org
Cllr Jill Macauley	jill.macauley@nmandd.org
Mrs Regina Mackin	regina.mackin@nmandd.org
Mr Conor Mallon	conor.mallon@nmandd.org
Mr Johnny Mc Bride	johnny.mcbride@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Colette McAteer	colette.mcateer@nmandd.org

Cllr Declan McAteer	declan.mcateer@nmandd.org
Jonathan McGilly	jonathan.mcgilly@nmandd.org
Patricia McKeever	patricia.mckeever@nmandd.org
Cllr Oksana McMahan	oksana.mcmahan@nmandd.org
Cllr Andrew McMurray	andrew.mcmurray@nmandd.org
Catrina Miskelly	catrina.miskelly@downdc.gov.uk
Mr Ken Montgomery	ken.montgomery@nmandd.org
Mr Roland Moore	roland.moore@nmandd.org
Ms Carmel Morgan	carmel.morgan@nmandd.org
Cllr Roisin Mulgrew	roisin.mulgrew@nmandd.org
Cllr Mark Murnin	mark.murnin@nmandd.org
Cllr Barra O Muiri	barra.omuiri@nmandd.org
Mr Andy Patterson	andrew.patterson@nmandd.org
Cllr Brian Quinn	brian.quinn@nmandd.org
Cllr Henry Reilly	henry.reilly@nmandd.org
Cllr John Rice	john.rice@nmandd.org
Ms Alison Robb	Alison.Robb@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Michael Ruane	michael.ruane@nmandd.org
Cllr Michael Savage	michael.savage@nmandd.org
Mr Kevin Scullion	kevin.scullion@nmandd.org
Cllr Gareth Sharvin	gareth.sharvin@nmandd.org
Donna Starkey	donna.starkey@nmandd.org
Cllr Gary Stokes	gary.stokes@nmandd.org
Sarah Taggart	sarah-louise.taggart@nmandd.org
Cllr David Taylor	david.taylor@nmandd.org
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly	jarlath.tinnelly@nmandd.org
Cllr John Trainor	john.trainor@nmandd.org
Cllr William Walker	william.walker@nmandd.org
Mrs Marie Ward	marie.ward@nmandd.org

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	4th February 2019
Subject:	District Rate 2019-20
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ken Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------

Members are asked to approve the recommendations at 3.1 below.

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires that a Council shall fix, for the next financial, the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates made by the Council.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Chief Executive's submission to Council on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and robustness of the revenue estimates.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Chief Executive, as Chief Financial Officer is required to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves position as part of the rate setting process. Detailed estimates have been formulated, presented and scrutinised by members via the Efficiency Working Group meetings. These have taken into account past outturn, current spending plans and likely future demand and pressures. However, it should be highlighted that there are a number of significant uncertainties within the current estimates which have arisen due to current political instability at NI Executive level, uncertainties surrounding Brexit and potential significant reduction of Rates Support Grant.</p> <p>Political instability at NI Executive level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current political instability prevents the determination of a regional rate for 2018/19 Land and Property Services (LPS) have advised that Councils are protected in legislation and, therefore, are guaranteed payment of their rates in instalments. There may however be some delay to these payments, and we have been mindful of this potential delay in our calculations of working capital requirements as part of our Prudential Indicators and MRP Statement 2019-20. • Included within our 2019-20 estimates are various areas of funding received from central government. We have included amounts on the basis of our previous

	<p>arrangements with central government. However, it is important to note that until such times as a budget is agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive these funding streams are uncertain.</p> <p>Uncertainties surrounding Brexit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a lack of political decision regarding Brexit, the financial implications for Council are currently unknown, and no provision has been made in the estimates for any financial implications arising. Furthermore, included within our 2019-10 estimates are various areas of funding received from the European Union under programmes which we have been advised will continue during the 2019-20 year. <p>Rates Support Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present there has been no agreed budget by the NI Executive. The absence of an agreed budget has the potential to impact on the ability of the Department for Communities (DfC) to issue rates support grant to Councils. Whilst the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 27 states that "the Department shall for each financial year make a grant under this section to Councils". Councils have yet to be advised of the total amount of Rates Support Grant being made available by the DfC for 2019-20. • In Autumn 2018, a successful Judicial Review challenge to the Rates Support Grant allocation resulted in a significant reduction to the RSG paid to NMDDC. This in year financial pressure was alleviated via special payment from DfC. However, DfC have advised that NMDDC will receive a considerable reduction to its RSG allocation in the 2019-20 year. This has the potential to impact the rate by 1.5%, which will be met from Council's reserves in 2019-20, therefore having no detrimental impact on the 2019-20 rate. <p>As a result I am satisfied that the estimates presented, subject to the significant uncertainties noted above, should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2019-20 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to the Council have been made in the preparation of the estimates.</p> <p>The minimum prudent level of reserves that the Council should maintain is a matter of judgement. CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) guidance does not set a statutory minimum level but advised Councils to have reserves appropriate to meet your medium term financial commitments. Therefore, it is up to the Council itself, taking into account all the relevant local circumstances, to make a professional judgement on what the appropriate level of reserves and balances should be. The Council's general fund balance is forecast to be in the region of £12m at 1 April 2019 representing 20% of its gross expenditure. I am therefore content that the current reserves held by the Council are adequate.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Members are asked to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Efficiencies Working Group in relation to the 2019/20 rate setting process (see Appendix 6) and, having regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (see 2.1 below):</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2019/20 of 1.99% based on an estimated penny product of 2,347,835 meaning a non-domestic rate of 24.2403 pence and a domestic rate of 0.3893 pence; 2. Approve the Medium Term Financial plan and authorise the 2019-20 expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 1); 3. Approve the Capital Strategy Report for 2019/20 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 2); 4. Approve the 4 year capital programme (see Appendix 3); 5. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019-20 (see Appendix 4); 6. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2019-20 (see Appendix 5).
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Resource implications are as detailed in the appendices.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	No equality or good relations implications have been identified.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	Due regard to rural needs has been considered in making the recommendation.
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1: Medium Term Financial Plan Appendix 2: Capital Strategy Report 2019-20 Appendix 3: Four Year Capital Programme Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20 Appendix 5: Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2019/20 Appendix 6: Action Sheets of meetings of Efficiency Working Group to consider rate setting process 2019-20.</p>
8.0	Background documents
	None

**Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Four Year Plan**

Final 4th February 2019

	Estimate 2018/2019 £	Estimate 2019/2020 £	Estimate 2020/2021 £	Estimate 2021/2022 £	Estimate 2021/2022 £	Appendix 1
Net Spend per figs as listed						
Expenses excl Payroll & Loans	15,865,424	15,661,577	16,131,424	16,615,367	17,113,828	
Payroll	34,504,273	36,197,008	38,006,858	39,907,201	41,503,489	
MRP	4,392,998	4,911,444	6,038,747	7,271,000	7,523,000	
Loan Interest	2,309,222	2,410,000	2,927,907	3,236,025	4,055,572	
Loans - Severance	932,888	522,252	0	0	0	
Total Net Spend	58,004,805	59,702,281	63,104,937	67,029,593	70,195,889	1
Rate Support Grant	(2,267,748)	(2,267,748)	(2,267,748)	(2,267,748)	(2,267,748)	
From Reserves	(932,888)	(522,252)	0	0	0	
Net to be raised	54,804,169	56,912,281	60,837,189	64,761,845	67,928,142	
Est'd product of 1 penny	2,305,909	2,347,835	2,390,096	2,433,118	2,476,914	
Non Domestic District Rate (pence) %	23.7668 3.38%	24.2403 1.99%	25.4539 5.01%	26.6168 4.57%	27.4245 3.03%	
Conversion factor for Domestic Rates	0.016059	0.016059	0.016059	0.016059	0.016059	
Domestic Rate (pence) %	0.3817 3.38%	0.3893 1.99%	0.4088 5.01%	0.4274 4.57%	0.4457 4.27%	

Capital Strategy Report 2019/20

Appendix 2

Introduction

This capital strategy is a new report for 2019/20, giving a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It has been written in an accessible style to enhance members' understanding of these sometimes technical areas.

Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets. The Council has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £2k are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

In 2019/20, the Council is planning capital expenditure of £20m as summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ millions

	2017/18 actual	2018/19 forecast	2019/20 budget	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget
General Fund services	17.3	17.0	20.0	22.0	21.2

The main General Fund capital projects include Down Leisure Centre £17.5m, Newry Civic Centre £20.2m and Conference Facilities and Play Strategy £2.2m.

Governance: Service managers prepare business cases on projects annually in September/October which are included in the Council's draft capital programme. The corporate Finance Department calculate the financing cost (which can be nil if the project is fully externally financed). The council's Efficiency Working Group appraises all projects based on a comparison of service priorities against financing costs and makes recommendations to the Council. The final capital programme is then agreed by full Council at the special meeting to ratify the Council's Four Year Plan in early February each year. Full details of the Council's capital programme is made available at this meeting.

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing in £ millions

	2017/18 actual	2018/19 forecast	2019/20 budget	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget
External sources	1.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.2
Own resources	1.1	0.1	0.3	-	-
Debt	15.1	14.9	17.7	20.0	20.0
TOTAL	17.3	17.0	20.0	22.0	21.2

Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as minimum revenue provision (MRP). Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned MRP and use of capital receipts are as follows:

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance in £ millions

	2017/18 actual	2018/19 forecast	2019/20 budget	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget	
Own resources	6.1	4.4	4.9	6.1	7.2	

The Council's full minimum revenue provision statement is provided in a separate report.

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt. The CFR is expected to increase by £16.4m during 2019/20. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2018 actual	31.3.2019 forecast	31.3.2020 budget	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget
General Fund services	80.0	90.5	103.3	117.2	130.0

Asset Management: To ensure that capital assets continue to be of long-term use, the Council has an asset management strategy in place, a copy of which is attached to this report.

Asset disposals: When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts. The Council plans to receive £320k of capital receipts in the coming financial year as follows:

Table 5: Capital receipts in £ millions

	2017/18 actual	2018/19 forecast	2019/20 budget	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget
Asset sales	0.7	0.1	0.3	-	-

Treasury Management

Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Council is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

Due to decisions taken in the past, the Council currently has £72.4m borrowing (interest rates vary in the range 1.1% to 15.9%) and £4.8m treasury investments at an average rate of 0.76%.

Borrowing strategy: The Council's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Council therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheap short-term loans (currently available at around 0.75%) and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher (currently 2.0 to 3.0%).

Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, leases and transfers from local government reorganisation are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

Table 6: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2018 actual	31.3.2019 forecast	31.3.2020 budget	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget
Debt (incl. leases)	64.2	69.7	81.7	95.5	109.3
Capital Financing Requirement	80.0	90.5	103.3	117.2	130.0

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from table 6, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

Liability benchmark: To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £1m at each year-end. This benchmark is currently £62.6m and is forecast to rise to £112.6m over the next four years.

Table 7: Borrowing and the Liability Benchmark in £ millions

	31.3.2018 actual	31.3.2019 forecast	31.3.2020 budget	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget
Outstanding borrowing	64.2	69.7	81.7	95.5	109.3
Liability benchmark	62.0	72.5	85.3	99.2	112.0

Affordable borrowing limit: The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 8: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2018/19 limit	2019/20 limit	2020/21 limit	2021/22 limit
Authorised limit - borrowing	98.5	111.8	126.2	139.5
Operational boundary - borrowing	90.5	103.3	117.2	130.0

- Further details on borrowing are contained in the treasury management strategy.

Investment strategy: Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

The Council's policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield, that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Council may request its money back at short notice.

Table 9: Treasury management investments in £millions

	31.3.2018 actual	31.3.2019 forecast	31.3.2020 budget	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget
Near-term investments	2.0	0.5	1.5	1.5	1.5

- Further details on treasury investments are contained in the treasury management strategy.

Governance: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Director of Corporate Services and finance staff, who must act in line with the treasury management strategy approved by council. Bi-annual reports on treasury management activity are presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Investments for Service Purposes

Revenue Budget Implications

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Table 10: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2017/18 actual	2018/19 forecast	2019/20 budget	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget
Financing costs (£m)	7.52	6.7	7.9	9.6	10.5
Proportion of net revenue stream	13.4%	11%	13.4%	15.2%	15.7%

Sustainability: Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for up to 40 years into the future. The Director of Corporate Services is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable.

Knowledge and Skills

The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions.

Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Council currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly, and ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council Capital Programme

Newry Mourne and Down District Council publish a 4 year Capital Programme in February each year as it announces its annual district rate. The Capital programme sets out the capital projects ongoing and planned for within the District. It is reviewed and amended each year to reflect any changes including new projects arising and amendments to projects ongoing. It can also be amended during a financial year with the approval of Council.

The capital programme includes a number of projects which are currently at business case/ feasibility stage, where a project is envisaged, but the full extent of the project has not been determined or appropriately costed at this stage. Projects included in this category include:

Albert Basin Park	£130,000 included for consultations and design works etc
Warrenpoint Community Centre	£50,000 included for feasibility studies etc
Kilbroney Gaelic and Soccer pitches	£50,000 included for feasibility studies etc
Newcastle Centre project	£100,000 included for feasibility studies etc

The capital programme is kept under review throughout the year by Council and a detailed review is undertaken annually as part of the rates estimate process for the following financial year of Council.

Project Code	Description	Instructor	Officer	Project Group	2017/2018 Projected	2018/2019 Budget	2019/2020 Budget	2020/2021 Budget	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget	Total Budget	Grant Income
9160	Bann Road Car Parking - Additional spaces and Pavillion	AHC	CH	Playing Fields		250,000			0		250,000	
9286	Dundrum Playing Field - Car Parking and Pavillion	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		115,000				115,000	
9261	Kilmore Playing Fields - Extend Car Park	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		80,000				80,000	
9786	Newcastle Tennis Courts upgrade	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0	85,000					85,000	
9243	Play Areas - Various - replace Equipment	AHC	CH	Playing Fields			65,000				65,000	
9257	Jennings Park 18.2 Football Pitch NI Funding	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	632,000	540,000	500,000	500,000	500,000		2,672,000	(500,000)
	Derrykeagh Complex Football Pitch	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		525,000				525,000	(375,000)
	Milburn Football Club	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0	50,000	60,000				110,000	
	Dunleath Park Football Pitch	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		50,000				50,000	
	Kilbroney Park Gaelic and Soccer Pitches	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		100,000				100,000	
9282	Derrykeagh Soccer Pavillion	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		50,000				50,000	
	Milltown Gaelic Pavillion	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		250,000				250,000	
	Annalong Bowling Pavillion	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		250,000				250,000	
9288	Kilkeel Bowling Pavillion	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		180,000	30,000			30,000	
9042	Ballyhoman 3G Pitch (S.I.F.)	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0		25,000				25,000	
9043	Downpatrick Football Club (S.I.F.)	AHC	CH	Playing Fields	0	150,000					150,000	
9287	ORNI Walking Trails	AHC	CH	Playing Fields			190,000				190,000	
9291	Newry Tennis Courts	AHC	CH	Sports	15,000	30,000					45,000	
9186/9187	Tennis Bubble Newry and Newcastle	AHC	CH	Tennis Courts	0		100,000				100,000	
91557	Newry - Albert Basin Park (Consultancy 2nd Access)	AHC	CH	Tennis Courts	10,000	60,000	60,000				130,000	(100,000)
	Newcastle Centre - Feasibility Study	AHC	CP	Leisure Centre	860,686	1,496,000	2,782,000	570,000	540,000	0	6,248,686	
		AHC	CP Total		5,000	0	50,000	50,000	0	0	105,000	
9234	16 The Square Rostrevor Refurbishment	AHC	JH	Sports		100,000					100,000	
9293	Sports Financial Assistance	AHC	JH	Community	0	0	260,000				260,000	
9172	Wi-Fi Community Centres	AHC	JH	Community			70,000				70,000	
	RDP - Match Funding REFCLUS Various Capital Schemes	AHC	JH	Community		40,000	150,000	80,000	80,000		230,000	
9039	Ballykintler Community Centre	AHC	JH	Community	0	70,000		150,000	150,000		490,000	
9168	Killys Road Community Centre-Kilkeel	AHC	JH	Community	0	300,000	70,000				70,000	
9169	Renewable Energy Projects	AHC	JH	Community	50,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000		300,000	
9170	Community Centre Upgrades	AHC	JH	Community	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000		200,000	
9210	Assistance	AHC	JH	Community		550,000	550,000	550,000	50,000		1,650,000	
9010	Saintfield Community Hall - Construction (inc Fees)	AHC	JH	Sports	370,000	1,450,000	0				1,820,000	(750,000)
9295	3G Pitch at Killybeggy Bangor - REFCLUS (SIF)	AHC	JH	Sports		260,250	260,250		27,000		547,500	(547,500)
9290	Meadowlands Play Park	AHC	JH	Sports		260,250	220,000				220,000	(220,000)
		AHC	JH Total		420,000	2,920,250	1,680,250	880,000	357,000	100,000	6,357,500	
9214	Kilkeel Leisure Centre - upgrade & extension	AHC	KG	Leisure Centre		150,000	250,000				400,000	
9249	Down Leisure Centre - FFE	AHC	KG	Leisure Centre	0	150,000					150,000	
9009	Down Leisure Centre	AHC	KG	Leisure Centre	12,500,000	3,500,000	1,500,000				17,500,000	
9321	Newry Leis Facility - Ph 2 -	AHC	KG	Leisure Centre	0	150,000					150,000	
9250	Newry Leis Facility - Ph 2 - External Works	AHC	KG	Leisure Centre	0	0	1,135,000				1,135,000	(1,125,000)
	Down Leisure Centre- Marketing Launch & Identify	AHC	KG	Leisure Centre		125,000					125,000	
9251	Newcastle Centre - Wi Fi Indoor Leisure	AHC	KG	Tourism	0		115,000				115,000	
		AHC	KG Total		12,500,000	4,075,000	3,000,000	0	0	0	19,575,000	

9844	Warrenpoint Public Realm	ERT	JMG	Public Realm	0		25,000						25,000	
	Forkhill Regeneration	ERT	JMG	Regeneration	30,000	70,000	90,000						190,000	
	Rural Village Regeneration	ERT	JMG	Regeneration	20,000	400,000	600,000			13,000			1,033,000	
9924	Downpatrick Regeneration (to revisit)	ERT	JMG	Regeneration		100,000							100,000	
	Castlewellan Forest Pk. (HL F Funded) - REFUCUS	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0	60,000	512,000		1,822,000				2,394,000	(1,197,000)
	Warrenpoint Promenade Upgrade	ERT	JMG	Tourism									155,000	
	and Ballinahinch PR Schemes	ERT	JMG	Tourism									160,000	
	Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme - Funding secured)	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0	0							32,000	
9895	Cranfield Beach - sea defences	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0	13,000	19,000		62,500				122,500	
26/9/17	Purchase of Downpatrick Police Station Site	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0	0							150,000	
26/9/17	Lough)	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0	150,000							120,000	
26/9/17	Public Wifi	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0	0							170,000	
9215	Newry Canal Lough NO. 5 Restoration	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0	50,000	170,000						170,000	
9926	Village Actions Plans	ERT	JMG	Tourism	0		5,000						55,000	(50,000)
		JMG	JMG	Regeneration										(1,725,000)
9527	Aughnagun Landfill Final Capping	NS	JP	Capping	200,000	1,479,000	1,051,171	1,051,171	12,582,908	0	28,125,750		385,925	(385,925)
90027	Drumanakelly Final Capping	NS	JP	Capping	395,925		3,988,671	9,875,171					421,000	(128,000)
	Install new Drainage at Warrenpoint HRC	NS	JP	Drainage	421,000	20,000							20,000	
9000	Downpatrick Recycling Centre	NS	JP	Waste	300,000	700,000							1,000,000	
	Automate Weighbridge at Drumanakelly	NS	JP	Waste		25,000							25,000	
	Compactors at HRC's	NS	JP	Waste		100,000							100,000	
	New Barriers and walkways at HRC's	NS	JP	Waste		75,000							75,000	
	Residual Waste Treatment Project	NS	JP	Waste										
		JMG Total	JMG	Regeneration			3,988,671	9,875,171	12,582,908	0	28,125,750		385,925	(385,925)
9033	Bus Shelters	NS	KS	Bus Shelters	1,106,925	920,000		1,947,306	0	0	3,974,231		165,000	
9267	Replacement of Em'gency Lights at G'bank Depot	NS	KS	Facilities	15,000	30,000	30,000	30,000					40,000	
9268	Provision of Secondary Glazing - Downshire Civic Centre	NS	KS	Facilities		40,000							18,000	
9272	Upgrading CCTV/Fire Alarms/Burglar Alarms - Various	NS	KS	Facilities		12,212	15,000	15,000	15,000				57,212	
9269	Heater Boiler Replacement Upgrade	NS	KS	Facilities		40,000	20,000	20,000	20,000				100,000	
9270	Provision of Heating in Downshire Civic Centre	NS	KS	Facilities			100,000						100,000	
	Extension to Monkshill Cemetery	NS	KS	Facilities			200,000						200,000	
9003	Cemetery - (Loch Inch)	NS	KS	Graveyard	125,000	45,000	115,000						170,000	
9262	Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery	NS	KS	Graveyard		10,000	145,000						125,000	
9263	Warrenpoint Graveyard Extension	NS	KS	Graveyard	0	10,000	40,000						155,000	
9266	Upgrade of Safety Tiles in Play Parks	NS	KS	Playgrounds		60,000	400,000	400,000	345,000				1,170,000	
9271	Car Park Works at Strangford Road Depot	NS	KS	Toilets	0	25,000	100,000						100,000	
		KS Total	KS		140,000	290,212	965,000	665,000	410,000	30,000	2,500,212		75,912,767	
		Grand Total	Grand Total		18,156,999	14,007,462	14,990,921	14,737,477	13,889,908	130,000	130,000		75,912,767	

PLANT & Equipment

VEHICLES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GRAND TOTAL

420,236	100,166	247,166	30,000	20,000	817,568		
1,683,791	3,040,000	2,058,337	981,580	891,500	8,655,208		
36,500	869,950	4,387,005	960,810		6,254,265		
20,297,526	18,017,578	21,683,429	16,709,867	14,801,408	130,000	91,639,808	(7,153,426)

Net Capital Spend

84,486,383

APPENDIX 4

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20

Introduction

Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. NMDDC has and will be borrowing and investing substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.

Treasury risk management in the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. In addition, the former Department of the Environment (DoE) issued Guidance on Local Authority Investments in October 2011 that requires the Authority to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the *Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011* to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the DoE Guidance.

Revised strategy: In accordance with the DoE Guidance, the Authority will be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement should the assumptions on which this report is based change significantly. Such circumstances would include, for example, a large unexpected change in interest rates, in the Authority's capital programme or in the level of its investment balance.

External Context

Economic background: The UK's progress negotiating its exit from the European Union, together with its future trading arrangements, will continue to be a major influence on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2019/20.

UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) for October was up 2.4% year/year, slightly below the consensus forecast and broadly in line with the Bank of England's November Inflation Report. The most recent labour market data for October 2018 showed the unemployment rate edged up slightly to 4.1% while the employment rate of 75.7% was the joint highest on record. The 3-month average annual growth rate for pay excluding bonuses was 3.3% as wages continue to rise steadily and provide some pull on general inflation. Adjusted for inflation, real wages grew by 1.0%, a level still likely to have little effect on consumer spending.

The rise in quarterly GDP growth to 0.6% in Q3 from 0.4% in the previous quarter was due to weather-related factors boosting overall household consumption and construction activity over the summer following the weather-related weakness in Q1. At 1.5%, annual GDP growth continues to remain below trend. Looking ahead, the BoE, in its November Inflation Report, expects GDP growth to average around 1.75% over the forecast horizon, providing the UK's exit from the EU is relatively smooth.

Following the Bank of England's decision to increase Bank Rate to 0.75% in August, no changes to monetary policy has been made since. However, the Bank expects that should the economy continue to evolve in line with its November forecast, further increases in Bank Rate will be required to return

inflation to the 2% target. The Monetary Policy Committee continues to reiterate that any further increases will be at a gradual pace and limited in extent.

While US growth has slowed over 2018, the economy continues to perform robustly. The US Federal Reserve continued its tightening bias throughout 2018, pushing rates to the current 2%-2.25% in September. Markets continue to expect one more rate rise in December, but expectations are fading that the further hikes previously expected in 2019 will materialise as concerns over trade wars drag on economic activity.

Credit outlook: The big four UK banking groups have now divided their retail and investment banking divisions into separate legal entities under ringfencing legislation. Bank of Scotland, Barclays Bank UK, HSBC UK Bank, Lloyds Bank, National Westminster Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank are the ringfenced banks that now only conduct lower risk retail banking activities. Barclays Bank, HSBC Bank, Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets and NatWest Markets are the investment banks. Credit rating agencies have adjusted the ratings of some of these banks with the ringfenced banks generally being better rated than their non-ringfenced counterparts.

The Bank of England released its latest report on bank stress testing, illustrating that all entities included in the analysis were deemed to have passed the test once the levels of capital and potential mitigating actions presumed to be taken by management were factored in. The BoE did not require any bank to raise additional capital.

European banks are considering their approach to Brexit, with some looking to create new UK subsidiaries to ensure they can continue trading here. The credit strength of these new banks remains unknown, although the chance of parental support is assumed to be very high if ever needed. The uncertainty caused by protracted negotiations between the UK and EU is weighing on the creditworthiness of both UK and European banks with substantial operations in both jurisdictions.

Interest rate forecast: Following the increase in Bank Rate to 0.75% in August 2018, the Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose is forecasting two more 0.25% hikes during 2019 to take official UK interest rates to 1.25%. The Bank of England's MPC has maintained expectations for slow and steady rate rises over the forecast horizon. The MPC continues to have a bias towards tighter monetary policy but is reluctant to push interest rate expectations too strongly. Arlingclose believes that MPC members consider both that ultra-low interest rates result in other economic problems, and that higher Bank Rate will be a more effective policy weapon should downside Brexit risks crystallise when rate cuts will be required.

The UK economic environment remains relatively soft, despite seemingly strong labour market data. Arlingclose's view is that the economy still faces a challenging outlook as it exits the European Union and Eurozone growth softens. Whilst assumptions are that a Brexit deal is struck and some agreement reached on transition and future trading arrangements before the UK leaves the EU, the possibility of a "no deal" Brexit still hangs over economic activity. As such, the risks to the interest rate forecast are considered firmly to the downside.

Gilt yields and hence long-term borrowing rates have remained at low levels but some upward movement from current levels is expected based on Arlingclose's interest rate projections, due to the strength of the US economy and the ECB's forward guidance on higher rates. 10-year and 20-year gilt yields are forecast to remain around 1.7% and 2.2% respectively over the interest rate forecast horizon, however volatility arising from both economic and political events are likely to continue to offer borrowing opportunities.

A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is attached at Appendix A.

For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that new investments will be made at an average rate of 0.7%, and that new long-term loans will be borrowed at an average rate of 2.77%.

Local Context

On 31st December 2018, the Authority held £72.4m of borrowing and £3.6m of investments. This is set out in further detail at **Appendix B**. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.3.18 Actual £m	31.3.19 Estimate £m	31.3.20 Forecast £m	31.3.21 Forecast £m	31.3.22 Forecast £m
Capital financing requirement	80.0	90.5	103.3	117.2	130.0
Less: External borrowing	-64.2	-69.7	-81.7	-95.5	-109.3
Internal borrowing	15.8	20.8	21.6	21.7	20.7
Less: Usable reserves	-12.8	-12.8	-12.8	-12.8	-12.8
Less: Working capital	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2
Investments (or New borrowing)	3.2	1.8	-2.6	-2.7	-1.7

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

The Authority has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme, but minimal investments and will therefore be required to borrow up to £109.3m over the forecast period.

CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation during 2019/20.

Liability benchmark: To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £1m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31.3.18 Actual £m	31.3.19 Estimate £m	31.3.20 Forecast £m	31.3.21 Forecast £m	31.3.22 Forecast £m
CFR	80.0	90.5	103.3	117.2	130.0
Less: Usable reserves	-12.8	-12.8	-12.8	-12.8	-12.8
Less: Working capital	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2	-6.2
Plus: Minimum investments	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Liability Benchmark	62.0	72.5	85.3	99.2	112.0

Borrowing Strategy

The Authority currently holds £72.4 million of loans, an increase of £8.2 million on the previous financial year, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that the Authority expects to borrow up to £81.7m in 2019/20. The Authority may also borrow additional sums to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £111.8 million.

Objectives: The Authority's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

Strategy: Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead.

By doing so, the Authority is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal / short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Authority with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Authority borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2019/20 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

Alternatively, the Authority may arrange forward starting loans during 2019/20, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

In addition, the Authority may borrow further short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

Sources of borrowing: The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- Government Loans Fund (via the Department of Finance, DoF)
- any institution approved for investments (see below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- any other UK public sector body
- UK public and private sector pension funds
- capital market bond investors
- Special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues

Other sources of debt finance: In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing
- hire purchase
- sale and leaseback

The Authority has previously raised its long-term borrowing from the DoF but it continues to investigate other sources of finance, such as local authority loans and bank loans, that may be available at more favourable rates.

Short-term and variable rate loans: These loans leave the Authority exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below.

Debt rescheduling: The DoF allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Authority may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk.

Investment Strategy

The Authority holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Authority's investment balance has ranged between £6m and £0.2 million, and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year.

Objectives: Both the CIPFA Code and the DoE Guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

Negative interest rates: If the UK enters into a recession in 2019/20, there is a small chance that the Bank of England could set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term investment options. This situation already exists in many other European countries. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.

Strategy: Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority aims to further diversify into more secure and/or higher yielding asset classes during 2019/20. All of the Authority's surplus cash is currently remains invested in short-term unsecured bank deposits and money market funds. This diversification will represent a continuation of the new strategy adopted in 2018/19.

Approved counterparties: The Authority may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table 3 below, subject to the cash limits (per counterparty) and the time limits shown.

Table 3: Approved investment counterparties and limits

Credit rating	Banks unsecured	Banks secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
AA and above	£3m 2 years	£3m 2 years	£3m 25 years	£1m 2 years	£1m 5 years
BBB to AA-	£2m 1 years	£2m 1 year	£3m 5 years	£1m 1 year	£1m 5 years

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

Credit rating: Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

Banks unsecured: Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

Banks secured: Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Government: Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Corporates: Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made as part of a diversified pool in order to spread the risk widely.

Registered providers: Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of registered providers of social housing and registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Department for Communities. As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Operational bank accounts: The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £3m per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.

Risk assessment and credit ratings: Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

Other information on the security of investments: The Authority understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit

default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Authority's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2011, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government via the Debt Management Office or invested in government treasury bills for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned, but will protect the principal sum invested.

Investment limits: The Authority's revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £12.8 million on 31st March 2019. In order that no more than 23% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £3 million. A group of banks under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes. Limits will also be placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts, foreign countries and industry sectors as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Table 4: Investment limits

	Cash limit
Any single organisation, except the UK Central Government	£3m each
UK Central Government	unlimited
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£3m per group
Money market funds	£2m per MMF

Liquidity management: The Authority uses cash flow forecasting to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Authority being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Authority's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

Treasury Management Indicators

The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

Security: The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	A

Liquidity: The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a three rolling month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity risk indicator	Target
Total cash available within 3 months	£5m

Interest rate exposures: This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

Interest rate risk indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£270,000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£270,000

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at current rates.

Maturity structure of borrowing: This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	20%	15%
12 months and within 24 months	8%	5%
24 months and within 5 years	17%	10%
5 years and within 10 years	25%	20%
10 years and above	45%	35%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year: The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

Price risk indicator	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£1m	£1m	£1m

Related Matters

The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to include the following in its treasury management strategy.

Financial Derivatives: Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in Section 79 of the *Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014* removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).

The Authority will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Authority is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria. The current value of any amount due from a derivative counterparty will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

Markets in Financial Instruments Directive: The Authority has retained retail client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a smaller range of services but with the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Chief Financial Officer believes this to be the most appropriate status.

Government Guidance: Further matters required by the DoE Guidance are included in Appendix C

Financial Implications

The budget for investment income in 2019/20 is minimal, based on an average investment portfolio of £5 million at an interest rate of 0.7%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2019/20 is £2.4 million, based on an average debt portfolio of £75.7 million at an average interest rate of 3.7%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Other Options Considered

The DoE Guidance and the CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Chief Financial Officer believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

Appendix A - Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast December 2018

Underlying assumptions:

- Our central interest rate forecasts are predicated on there being a transitional period following the UK's official exit from the EU.
- The MPC has a bias towards tighter monetary policy but is reluctant to push interest rate expectations too strongly. We believe that MPC members consider that: 1) tight labour markets will prompt inflationary pressure in the future, 2) ultra-low interest rates result in other economic problems, and 3) higher Bank Rate will be a more effective policy weapon if downside risks to growth crystallise.
- Both our projected outlook and the increase in the magnitude of political and economic risks facing the UK economy means we maintain the significant downside risks to our forecasts, despite the potential for slightly stronger growth next year as business investment rebounds should the EU Withdrawal Agreement be approved. The potential for severe economic outcomes has increased following the poor reception of the Withdrawal Agreement by MPs. We expect the Bank of England to hold at or reduce interest rates from current levels if Brexit risks materialise.
- The UK economic environment is relatively soft, despite seemingly strong labour market data. GDP growth recovered somewhat in the middle quarters of 2018, but more recent data suggests the economy slowed markedly in Q4. Our view is that the UK economy still faces a challenging outlook as the country exits the European Union and Eurozone economic growth softens.
- Cost pressures are easing but inflation is forecast to remain above the Bank's 2% target through most of the forecast period. Lower oil prices have reduced inflationary pressure, but the tight labour market and decline in the value of sterling means inflation may remain above target for longer than expected.
- Global economic growth is slowing. Despite slower growth, the European Central Bank is conditioning markets for the end of QE, the timing of the first rate hike (2019) and their path thereafter. More recent US data has placed pressure on the Federal Reserve to reduce the pace of monetary tightening - previous hikes and heightened expectations will, however, slow economic growth.
- Central bank actions and geopolitical risks have and will continue to produce significant volatility in financial markets, including bond markets.

Forecast:

- The MPC has maintained expectations of a slow rise in interest rates over the forecast horizon, but recent events around Brexit have dampened interest rate expectations. Our central case is for Bank Rate to rise twice in 2019, after the UK exits the EU. The risks are weighted to the downside.
- Gilt yields have remained at low levels. We expect some upward movement from current levels based on our central case that the UK will enter a transitional period following its EU exit in March 2019. However, our projected weak economic outlook and volatility arising from both economic and political events will continue to offer borrowing opportunities.

	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Average
Official Bank Rate														
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.17
Arlingclose Central Case	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.13
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.75	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-0.85
3-mth money market rate														
Upside risk	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.17
Arlingclose Central Case	0.90	0.95	1.10	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.27
Downside risk	-0.20	-0.45	-0.60	-0.80	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.76
1-yr money market rate														
Upside risk	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.33
Arlingclose Central Case	1.15	1.25	1.35	1.50	1.70	1.60	1.50	1.40	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.40
Downside risk	-0.35	-0.50	-0.60	-0.80	-0.90	-0.90	-0.90	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.77
5-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	1.15	1.25	1.35	1.50	1.50	1.40	1.35	1.35	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.33
Downside risk	-0.50	-0.60	-0.65	-0.80	-0.80	-0.70	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.66
10-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	1.50	1.65	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.75	1.75	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
Downside risk	-0.55	-0.70	-0.70	-0.80	-0.80	-0.75	-0.75	-0.70	-0.70	-0.70	-0.70	-0.70	-0.70	-0.71
20-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.18
Downside risk	-0.60	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.73
50-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	1.90	1.95	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.99
Downside risk	-0.60	-0.70	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.73

Government loans are available at 1.00% above the gilt yield

Appendix B - Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	31/1/2019 Actual Portfolio £m	31/1/2019 Average Rate %
External borrowing:		
Government Loans Fund	61.4	3.7%
Local authorities	11.0	1.0%
Total gross external debt	72.4	
Treasury investments:		
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	3.0	
Money Market Funds	1.0	
Total treasury investments	4.0	0.7%
Net debt	68.4	

Appendix C - Additional requirements of the Government Investment Guidance

Specified investments: The DoE Guidance defines specified investments as those:

- denominated in pound sterling,
- due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement,
- not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- invested with one of:
 - the UK Government,
 - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
 - a body or investment scheme of “high credit rating”, and
- where the principal sum to be repaid at maturity is the same as the initial sum invested, other than investments in the UK Government.

The Authority defines “high credit rating” organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds “high credit rating” is defined as those having a credit rating of A- or higher.

Non-specified Investments: NMDDC does not intend to place any funds in non-specified investments.

Investment training: The needs of the Authority’s treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed annually.

Staff regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. Relevant staff are also encouraged to study professional qualifications as appropriate.

Investment advisers: The Authority has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers.

Investment of money borrowed in advance of need: The Authority may, from time to time, borrow in advance of need, where this is expected to provide the best long-term value for money. Since amounts borrowed will be invested until spent, the Authority is aware that it will be exposed to the risk of loss of the borrowed sums, and the risk that investment and borrowing interest rates may change in the intervening period. These risks will be managed as part of the Authority’s overall management of its treasury risks.

The total amount borrowed will not exceed the authorised borrowing limit of £112 million. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be two years, although the Authority is not required to link particular loans with particular items of expenditure.

Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2019/20

(Appendix 5)

Where the Authority finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Authority to have regard to the Department for Communities and Local Government's *Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision* (the DfC Guidance) most recently issued in 2011.

The broad aim of the DfC Guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.

The DfC Guidance requires NMDDC to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year, and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance as well as locally determined prudent methods.

For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2012, MRP will be equal to the principal repayments of the associated borrowing.

For capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2012, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset either in equal instalments or as the principal repayment on an annuity with an annual interest rate equal to the average relevant PWLB rate for the year of expenditure, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over an appropriate period.

For assets acquired by finance leases or the Private Finance Initiative, MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.

Capital expenditure incurred during 2019/20 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2020/21.

Based on the Authority's latest estimate of its Capital Financing Requirement on 31st March 2019, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31.03.2019 Estimated CFR £m	2019/20 Estimated MRP £
Capital expenditure before 01.04.2012	25.03	2.5
Supported capital expenditure after 31.03.2012	82.07	2.4
Finance leases and Private Finance Initiative	-	
Total	107.1	4.9

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 7 JANUARY 2019

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/004/2019	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 December 2018	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	D Services	Adopted	Y
C/005/2019	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 November 2018	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	D Services	Adopted	Y
C/006/2019	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2018	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	M Ward	Adopted	Y
C/007/2019	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2018	SPR/167/2018 – Redundancy Council agree to ratify the agreement of the December 2018 SPR Committee: subject to the wording relating to the terms of release being finalised between the parties to ensure the best interests of Council are served. A further update to be provided to January SPR Committee as to whether agreement had been reached and if the redundancy had been confirmed. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	D Carville	Adopted	
C/008/2019	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2018	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	M Lipsett	Adopted	Y
C/009/2019	Minutes of RTS Committee Meeting held on	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	R Moore	Adopted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	18 December 2018				
C/010/2019	Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2019	It was agreed that no one would attend the conference in light of Council organising their own conference in February 2019.	Democratic Services	Noted	Y
C/011/2019	Replies received in relation to Council's motion on Curriculum Sports Programme	The correspondence received was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	Y
C/012/2019	Correspondence regarding motion on Funding Crisis in Community Pharmacy received from Derry & Strabane Council	It was agreed to write to Derry & Strabane Council outlining the Council's support for the Community Pharmacy scheme.	Democratic Services	Letters sent	Y
C/013/2019	National Association of Councillors Conference, Leeds	It was agreed that Councillor Andrews attend the NAC Conference in Leeds.	Democratic Services	Bookings made	Y
C/014/2019	Notice of Motion – Strangford Ferry	It was agreed that this Council agrees to write to Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) requesting a joint Council meeting with North Down and Ards Council to discuss the current timetable and operational concerns of the Strangford Ferry Service with the view to addressing the increasing and noticeable needs and requirements of those who availed of this service. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for an early morning sailing from Portaferry for commuters • The need for the Ferry service on the Strangford 	Democratic Services	To be actioned after 29 January 2019	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>side to use its waiting area as part of its standard operations as it does in Portaferry to avoid regular blockading of Strangford village, its cross-roads, bus services business and residents. It was further agreed to request that all relevant MP's and MLA's be invited to participate in the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed the motion would be actioned following the outcome of the meeting referred to by the Chief Executive, taking place on 29 January 2019</p>			
C/015/2019	Notice of Motion – Paediatric Pathologist	<p>It was agreed that Council note the Belfast Trust are struggling to recruit a Paediatric Pathologist. This Council urges the Permanent Secretary of Health to approach this issue on an All-Ireland basis. This would reduce the already enormous burden from parents suffering from bereavement. The process of carrying out a Post Mortem should be done sensitively and swiftly so a family can get the answers they need from professionals. By using services in England this would prolong this. This Council calls on the Permanent Secretary of Health to engage urgently with the Department of Health in the South to find an All-Ireland solution to this sensitive issue.</p>	Democratic Services	Letters sent	Y

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 January 2019 at 6.00pm
in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor M Murnin**In attendance:****(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor R Howell
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor O McMahon
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor J Rice
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of Community Engagement
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services –
 HR and Safeguarding
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/001/2019**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Burgess, Byrne, Harte and Hyland.

- The Chairperson offered his congratulations to Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy who received the title of BEM for services to local government and Roberta Brownlee, Chair of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust who received an MBE for her services to Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland and charitable fundraising in the Queen's New Year Honours List.
- The Chairperson advised that Council had rolled out the sustainable Christmas

trees programme across the District which was well received and something that children could be part of year on year.

- The Chairperson stated he and Roland Moore had attended a conference in Italy in December.
- There had been two Chinese delegations visiting the District recently.
- The Chairperson advised he and the Vice-Chair had attended a very successful indoor bowling tournament in Ballyholland which involved competitors from across the UK and Ireland.
- Councillor Tinnelly stated that thankfully there had been no road fatalities in the district over the Christmas period. However there had been a number of suicides over this period, with the numbers being in double figures. He suggested that Council should request that anyone in need of help should receive the help and that families, friends and colleagues should look out for each other. Councillor Sharvin stated that PIPS Downpatrick were hosting a session on Thursday evening in Ballymote Centre to assist those who had been affected by suicides in the area, particularly that of a young local person.

C/002/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/003/2019 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 December 2018 (copy circulated).

C/197/2018 – Notice of Motion – Housing Conference

The Chief Executive advised that, following confirmation from Chief Executive of the Housing Executive and representatives from Department for Communities, the Council organised Housing Conference would be held on Monday 25th February in the morning. He proposed to bring together an agenda for the sessions to the Party Representatives Forum Meeting.

Councillor Savage asked that members of Housing Executive staff be involved in the structure of the conference as they were on the ground and know the issues to be addressed.

The Chief Executive advised there would be workshops following on from the formal Conference and these would be on various themes, which he hoped would be facilitated by Housing Executive staff.

C/192/2018 – Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2018 – AHC/241/2018 – New Down Leisure Centre Handball and Squash Provision

Councillor Sharvin asked for an update on the issue of the handball and squash provision at Down Leisure Centre.

The Chief Executive advised an update would be provided at the January AHC

Committee Meeting.

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 December 2018 was agreed.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/004/2019 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 December 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 December 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor McMahon.**

C/005/2019 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 November 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 26 November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/006/2019 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Meeting held on 10 December 2018 (copy circulated).

ERT/208/2018 – Tourism Events Programme 2019/20

Councillor Harvey stated he did not agree with the £60,000 underspend being allocated to the Rainbow Project for hosting UK and Ireland Pride, stating this was unfair and should be split evenly across the District.

Councillor Mulgrew, Stokes and McAteer spoke in support of the money being allocated to the Pride event, stating it would be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the District and was a celebration event for everyone.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Meeting held on 10 December 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

C/007/2019 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2018 (copy circulated).

On a point of accuracy, Councillor McMurray advised he was in attendance at the meeting but had not been recorded. Mrs Carville advised the minutes would be amended accordingly.

SPR/175/2018 – Proposed Replacement Bridge at Ghost Lane, Strangford

Councillor Carr, on a point of accuracy, advised there was an error in the minute and it should read Moygannon River. Mrs Carville advised this would be amended.

SPR/168/2018 – Report on Establishment of a Minority Communities Financial Assistance Scheme

Councillor Mulgrew queried whether the Council had been discriminating against certain groups of people, as she was sure that officers did a first class job ensuring all people were treated equally across the District. However with the establishment of a scheme such as that proposed, this sent a message that Council was not treating all citizens equally.

Mrs Carville assured the Councillor there was no active discrimination involving any individuals or groups. She provided background to the origins of the scheme, stating a motion had been passed by Council in June 2018 to ensure that all minority communities felt their culture, tradition and identity were celebrated and awarded a fair share of funding. This matter was referred to the Equality and Good Relations Reference Group and recommendations brought forward to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee to designate £10,000 for projects from the PUL community, projects and initiatives, and £2500 for the BME community projects.

Members discussed the issue at length with the following comments being made:

- The Irish Language bursary scheme had to go through the establishment of a cross-party Irish Language Working Group, why should the same process not apply in this case.
- This was affirmative discrimination as other section 75 groupings would not be able to apply, and it would be exclusive to two communities.
- Did officials speak to the BME community to find out what they needed or wanted?
- There was a duty under equality and the promotion of good relations to support the recommendations put forward.
- Perhaps Council should set aside funds to support the communities of Creggan and Crossmaglen which were the two wards of social deprivation within Northern Ireland.

- How did officials arrive at the figures put forward?

Mrs Carville responded to the queries as follows:

- There had been no formal engagement with the BME community prior to the options paper coming forward.
- The report went to SPR Committee and was equality screened and results presented to SPR Committee.
- Work had been on-going through the AHC Directorate to encourage engagement with particular DEAs and this would be referred to AHC to ensure the two wards referred to got additional support around the application process for funding.
- As requested, an options paper was brought by officers for a funding programme for minority groupings. The specific sums were discussed and agreed by the Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in November 2018 and subsequently brought to SPR Committee in December 2018, with the themes of cultural expression and positively engaging with minority communities.

Councillor Ruane proposed that the decision be deferred to allow for a specific group to be established to enable further discussion into the sums agreed and to give space for engaging with BME communities to investigate their needs and requirements. This was seconded by Councillor Hearty.

The Chairman put the proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 12
AGAINST: 22
ABSTENTIONS: 1
The proposal was LOST

Councillor Enright proposed that the word 'Protestant' be removed from Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist (PUL) grouping reference being used and people should not assume that religion was the same as nationality. This was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

The Chairman put the proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 18
ABSTENTIONS: 15
The proposal was LOST

Councillor Reilly proposed to accept the recommendations as set out in the minutes, this was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

The Chairman put the proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 22
AGAINST: 13
ABSTENTIONS: 0
The proposal was CARRIED

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2018 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the above amendments, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) – for discussion on minute reference SPR/167/2018 - Redundancy.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Savage that:

1. Council agrees to ratify the agreement of the December 2018 Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee: subject to the wording relating to the terms of release being finalised between the parties to ensure the best interests of Council are served.
2. A further update will be provided to this month's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee as to whether agreement has been reached and if the redundancy has been confirmed.

Agreed: The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Savage.

C/008/2019 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2018 (copy circulated).

AHC/244/2018 – Action Sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2018 – AHC/229/2018 – Newry Tennis Bubble

Councillor Ruane stated there had been a lot of media interest in the above item and

asked for a response from senior officials on whether Councillors had been misled as to a letter of offer from the Department for Communities.

Mrs Carville advised a report was brought to the AHC Committee on 19 November 2018 stating funding had been offered to the value of £90,000. This offer was made verbally and no formal letter of offer had yet been issued. She advised that the Head of Outdoor Leisure spoke to the Education Authority and Department for Communities who were still advising verbally that funding would be offered to Council and Council were this morning still awaiting and actively pursuing a letter of offer from SportNI. She stated officers were working under the verbal assurance due to the short time frame to ensure works were completed and a further update would be given to the AHC Committee when a formal letter of offer was received.

Councillor Ruane stated lessons needed to be learned to ensure that information provided to Councillors was correct in future.

Councillor McAteer raised an issue about planning problems that would have existed at the site for Our Lady's and asked for an update.

The Chief Executive advised he would report back to Councillor McAteer.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Loughran, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

C/009/2019 **MINUTES OF REGULATORY & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2018**

Read: Minutes of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2018 (copy circulated).

RTS/192/2018 – Cost of Fly Tipping

Members discussed the issue of fly-tipping at length raising the following queries:

- Could cameras be installed at known fly-tipping areas in order to apprehend the culprits?
- The installation of cameras could cause some problems, particularly if installed on farmers' lands.

Mr Moore advised he had held a meeting with NI Environment Agency and revised fly-tipping protocol was due which would give Council additional powers. He said camera installation would be possible, however this would involve a cost and there would be GDPR regulation implications. He advised this matter would be discussed further at Committee.

Councillor Casey asked that as Chair of the Committee he be appraised in future in a timely manner if events were being rescheduled to other venues.

Councillor Hanna raised an issue regarding bin collections over the Christmas period and the confusion that occurred with householders across the District.

Mr Moore advised he was aware of the communication issues over Christmas and officers were working hard to address this. He stated a paper on this issue would be brought to the RTS Committee Meeting on 23 January 2019.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/010/2019 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING CONFERENCE 2019

Agreed: **It was agreed that no one would attend the conference in light of Council organising their own conference in February 2019.**

C/011/2019 REPLIES RECEIVED IN RELATION TO COUNCIL'S MOTION ON CURRICULUM SPORTS PROGRAMME

Read: Correspondence dated 7 December 2018 received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding Council's Motion on Curriculum Sports Programme. (copies circulated).

Noted: **The correspondence received was noted.**

C/012/2019 CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING MOTION ON FUNDING CRISIS IN COMMUNITY PHARMACY RECEIVED FROM DERRY AND STRABANE COUNCIL

Read: Correspondence dated 4 December 2018 received from Derry City and Strabane District Council and correspondence dated 15 October 2018 from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding Funding Crisis in Community Pharmacies (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor to write to Derry & Strabane Council outlining the Council's support for the Community Pharmacy scheme.**

C/013/2019 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS CONFERENCE, LEEDS

Read: Correspondence dated 6 December 2018, letter detailing NAC

Conference in Leeds from 11 to 13 January 2019 and booking form (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Casey that Councillor Andrews attend the National Association of Councillors Conference in Leeds.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/014/2019 NOTICE OF MOTION – STRANGFORD FERRY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Enright.

“That this Council agrees to write to Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) requesting a meeting to discuss the current timetable and operational concerns of the Strangford Ferry Service with the view to addressing the increasing and noticeable needs and requirements of those who availed of this service. In particular:-

- **The need for an early morning sailing from Portaferry for commuters**
- **The need for the Ferry service on the Strangford side to use its waiting area as part of its standard operations as it does in Portaferry to avoid regular blockading of Strangford village, its cross-roads, bus services business and residents.”**

In proposing the motion Councillor Enright said that a meeting was needed with the Permanent Secretary in order for a number of issues to be resolved. He advised he had received a number of complaints about the Strangford Ferry Service and the knock-on effect it had, causing regular road blockages especially at junctions on the Strangford side. Roads Service had stated this was not an issue for them to resolve as it was a direct result of the ferry operations.

Councillor Sharvin seconded the motion and asked that it be amended to include that Council also support North Down and Ards Council in their request for a meeting.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had already been liaising with the Chief Executive of Ards and North Down Borough Council and a joint Council meeting had been scheduled for 29 January 2019 with Mr Simon Richardson of DfI Roads Service to discuss the issue.

Members spoke in support of the motion with Councillor Clarke requesting that any future delegation should include relevant MPs and Councillor Trainor requesting that relevant MLA's also be included.

Councillor Enright, as proposer of the Motion, indicated his agreement to the inclusion of all amendments.

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, “that this Council agrees to write to Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) requesting a joint Council meeting with North Down and Ards Council to discuss the current timetable and operational concerns of the Strangford Ferry Service with the view to addressing the increasing and noticeable needs and requirements of those who availed of this service. In particular:
- The need for an early morning sailing from Portaferry for commuters
 - The need for the Ferry service on the Strangford side to use its waiting area as part of its standard operations as it does in Portaferry to avoid regular blockading of Strangford village, its cross-roads, bus services business and residents. It was further agreed to request that all relevant MP’s and MLA’s be invited to participate in the meeting.”

It was agreed the motion would be actioned following the outcome of the meeting referred to by the Chief Executive, taking place on 29 January 2019

C/015/2019 NOTICE OF MOTION – PAEDIATRIC PATHOLOGIST

The following Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillors Clarke and Mulgrew:

“Council notes that the Belfast Trust are struggling to recruit a Paediatric Pathologist. This Council urges the Permanent Secretary of Health to approach this issue on an All-Ireland basis. This would reduce the already enormous burden from parents suffering from bereavement. The process of carrying out a Post Mortem should be done sensitively and swiftly so a family can get the answers they need from professionals. By using services in England this would prolong this. This Council calls on the Permanent Secretary of Health to engage urgently with the Department of Health in the South to find an All-Ireland solution to this sensitive issue.”

In proposing the motion, Councillor Clarke asked if Council would support an initial discussion between representatives from the North and South of Ireland in order to have a whole island approach to finding an immediate solution to the Belfast Trust’s attempts to recruit a Paediatric Pathologist.

All Councillors spoke in support of the motion.

Councillors Craig and Taylor said whilst supporting the motion, they considered the reinstatement of a paediatric pathologist in Belfast to be of the utmost importance.

In summing up, Councillor Clarke thanked members for supporting the motion and said it was about improving services for the public and addressing issues of recruitment on a small island. He stated the decision was an operational one and therefore within the gift of the Permanent Secretary to deal with.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew that "Council notes that the Belfast Trust are struggling to recruit a Paediatric Pathologist. This Council urges the Permanent Secretary of Health to approach this issue on an All-Ireland basis. This would reduce the already enormous burden from parents suffering from bereavement. The process of carrying out a Post Mortem should be done sensitively and swiftly so a family can get the answers they need from professionals. By using services in England this would prolong this. This Council calls on the Permanent Secretary of Health to engage urgently with the Department of Health in the South to find an All-Ireland solution to this sensitive issue."**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.58pm

Signed:

Chairman

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 14 January at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council
Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor Ruane

In Attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials

in Attendance: Ms M Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson, Asst. Director, Tourism, Culture & Events
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

Others

in Attendance: Mr E Magennis, Ulster University

ERT/001/2019: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received for Councillors Byrne, Carr and Curran.

ERT/002/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**ERT/003/2019: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION
AND TOURISM MEETING OF MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2018**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 December 2018.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism**

Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018.

ERT/004/2019: PRESENTATION EOIN MAGENNIS, ULSTER UNIVERSITY ON 2019 ECONOMIC CONTEXTS, OUTLOOKS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Eoin Magennis from Ulster University and invited him to deliver his presentation. **(Copy attached).**

Following the presentation, discussion took place and the following issues were raised:

- Concerns regarding the future of the agri sector in terms of the uncertainty surrounding Brexit and the retail sector in terms of the shift in consumer online spend.
- Business investment has been low for the past few years across the UK.
- There are fewer companies competing with regard to the procurement of public works in N Ireland.
- The continued growth of the construction industry in Dublin has resulted in large numbers of workers in the District travelling to Dublin for work.
- Growth is needed across all levels of pay within the tourism industry, currently difficult to recruit staff on lower incomes.
- With the increase in online shopping, the make up of the high street is changing and towns are moving towards more recreational spaces with some retail units.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Magennis for his presentation and he left the meeting.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/005/2019: VILLAGE RENEWAL APPLICATION TO RDP

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Village Renewal Application to RDP. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Ward advised the Members that Mr McGilly had recently transferred to Community Planning on a temporary basis and they were currently in the process of backfilling his post. She congratulated Amanda Smyth on her recent appointment as Head of Regeneration and Business Development.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer the following was agreed:

- **Using the Council's Framework for Integrated Consultancy Services to appoint an Integrated Consultancy Team to manage full design and statutory requirements for all schemes. The cost of this is anticipated to £200,000, up to RIBA Stage 4 and this is available within current budgets.**
- **Council will also undertake procurement for the identification of a preferred contractor(s) for implementation of capital works of approximately £3.2 m. 75% of these costs will be applied for in**

an application to RDP. 25% balance is available within the Capital budget. Procurement of a contractor is a pre application eligibility requirement. No appointment will be made until a Letter of Offer is secured.

- To make applications to the Mourne Gullion Lecale Village Renewal measure for implementation of capital works
- If a Letter of Offer is secured:
 - To sign and accept the Letter of Offer
 - To formally appoint the contractor(s)
 - To further engage the Integrate consultancy Team to manage the project through RIBA stages 5 and 6 at an estimated cost of £80,000. It would be expected that 75% of this cost will be included in the LoO to be secured through RDP and 25% of cost will be paid by Council from available budgets.

ERT/006/2019: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK HLF AND DAERA APPLICATION

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park HLF and DAERA Application. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Clarke the following was agreed:

- Accept and sign off on Economic Appraisal
- Accept Letter of Offer of Round One funding by HLF
- Council to continue working towards submitting DAERA application before 31st January 2019.
- Proceed with issuing ITT for Integrated Supply Team for Walled Garden, Bothy Yard and Rhododendron Wood. The tendered prices to inform DAERA application.
- Explore the option of an additional DAERA application for Grange.
- Proceed with finalising Job Description of Project Development Officer for Castlewellan Project
- Begin preparing tender documentation for Integrated Design Team for Grange/ Traffic as part of HLF Development Phase
- Begin preparing tender documentation for Horticulturalist works as part of HLF Development Phase
- Issue Press Release and have a Photocall before Christmas Holiday with appropriate approval from HLF and NMDDC Marketing team.
- Continue to keep both HLF and DAERA apprised of progress. Establish time-table for HLF Round 2 submission.
- Council Inter-Departmental team to be established to inform HLF Development Phase.
- NMDDC and FS to liaise on Agreement to Lease.

ERT/007/2019: ULSTER UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Ulster University Partnership Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McMahon it was agreed to renew Council's Partnership Agreement with the Ulster University for a 2 year period between February 2019 and January 2021 at a cost of £25,390.

ERT/008/2019: YOUNG ENTERPRISE NI – SUPPORT FOR STUDENT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Ms Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Young Enterprise NI.

Ms Ward advised Members that a total of 900 students from across the Southern Region would be engaged in the Digital and Tourism Masterclass/ Quick Start Programme to be delivered by Young Enterprise NI.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to provide an SLA of £10,000 to Young Enterprise for delivery of Digital and Tourism Masterclass / Quick start Programme within NMD Secondary Schools.

ERT/009/2019: CONFERENCE, DRIVING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE – LA MON HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB, BELFAST ON 24 JANUARY 2019.

Councillor Burgess indicated his intention to attend the conference. Ms Ward asked that Members advise Mrs McKeever if they were intending to go to the conference.

TOURISM, CULTURE AND EVENTS ITEMS**ERT/010/2019: MINOR WORKS AT TYRELLA BEACH**

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Minor Works at Tyrella Beach. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor

Clarke it was agreed to grant approval to progress a works contact through the Council's CPD framework to implement capital improvement works at Tyrella Beach.

ERT/011/2019: ROSTREVOR DOWNHILL TRAILS

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Rostrevor Downhill Trails. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer referred to the development of walking trails in Kilbroney Park and asked for assurance they would still be progressed. Ms Ward advised that both Rostrevor Downhill Trails and Kilbroney Park walking trails would be funded and delivered within the current financial year.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Clarke the following was agreed through the CPD Framework undertake a design and build contract to facilitate the trail enhancements which will improve the trail flow and encourage a greater number of visitors to the trails.

FOR NOTING

ERT/012/2019: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation.

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the Scheme of Delegation.

ERT/013/2019: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET

Read: Action Tracker Update Sheet.

Agreed: It was agreed to 'note' the Action Tracker Update Sheet.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

ERT/014/2019: TRADING PITCH AT SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Trading Pitch at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. **(Copy circulated).**

ERT/015/2019: IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY FUND – NARNIA PROJECT AT KILBRONEY PARK

Read: Report dated 14 January 2019 from Mr Andy Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events regarding Immersive Technology Fund – Narnia Project at Kilbroney Park. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:

ERT/014/2019 – Trading Pitch at Slieve Gullion Forest Park

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to proceed with the tendering of a trading pitch for the provision of one mobile ice cream vendor at the Upper car park of Slieve Gullion Forest Park for a period of up to three years, with the lease to be reviewed annually.

ERT/015/2019 – Immersive Technology Fund – Narnia Project at Kilbroney Park

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor McMahon it was agreed that approval be given to proceed to undertake necessary procurement exercises to deliver the Narnia AV/VR project subject to funding of £150,000 from TNI and £150,000 from Council. Council contribution agreed at November ERT Committee.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.55pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 4 February 2019.

Signed: _____
Councillor M Ruane
Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: _____
Ms M Ward
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee



2019 Economic Contexts, Outlooks and Considerations



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council

January 2019

ulster.ac.uk

 [@UlsterUniEPC](https://twitter.com/UlsterUniEPC)



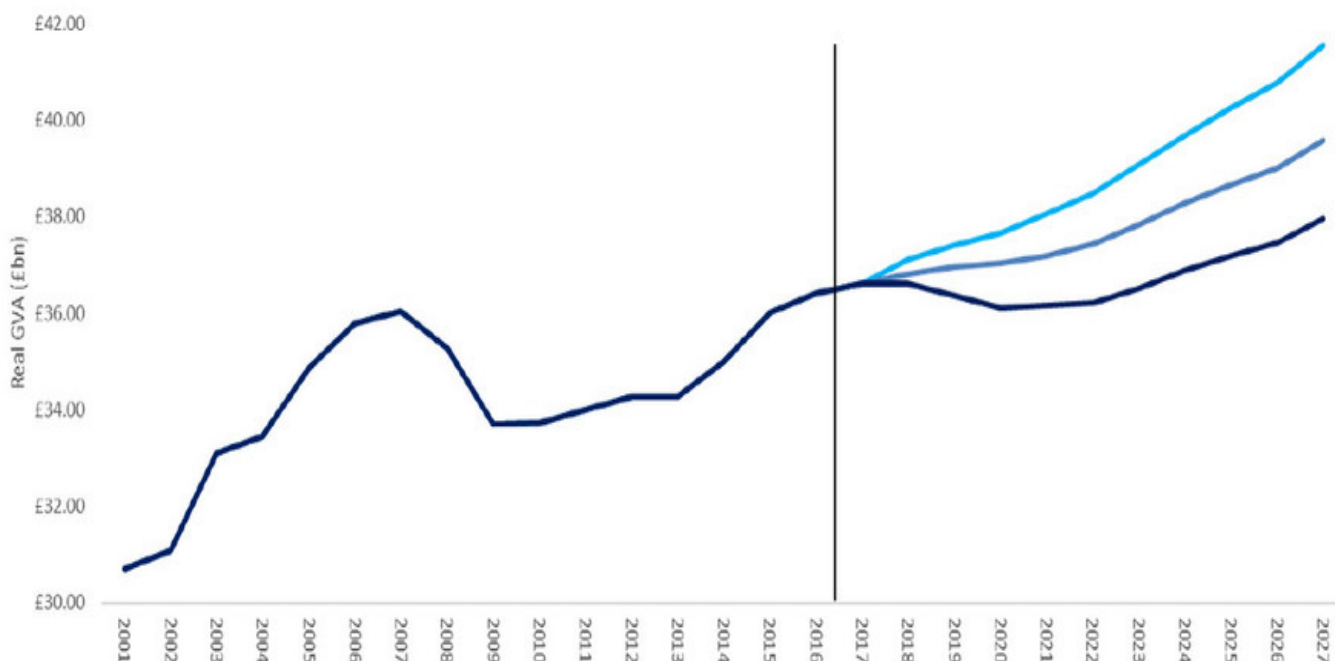
Contexts

NI economic output at a record high

And set to continue to increase in the next decade

Real GVA (£bn), NI, 2001-27

— Upper scenario — Baseline — Lower scenario

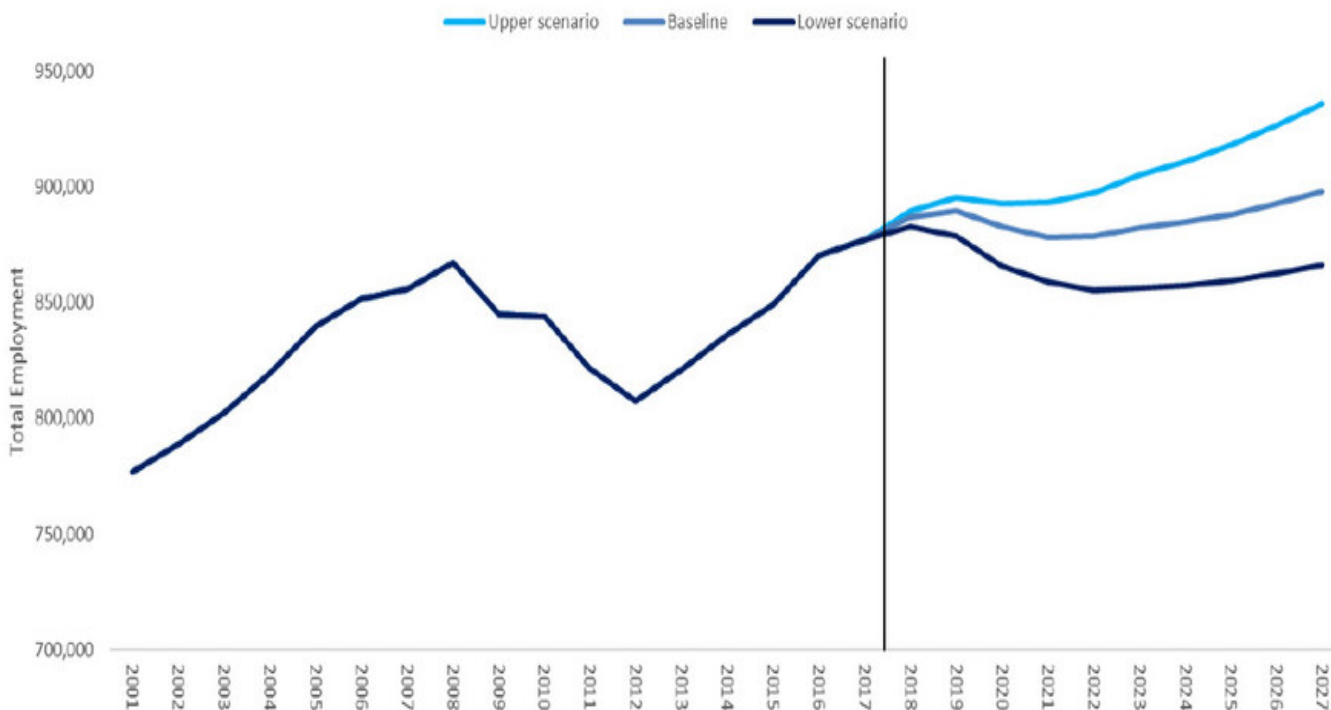


- NI accounts for 2% of total UK GVA, on average
- Real GVA has increased by £9bn since 2001 with the current level being £36.4bn (2016)
- This is set to increase to £39.6bn by 2027 – faster growth (0.8%) than in the recovery period (0.4%) but still below historical averages (1.1%)
- In the Upper & Lower scenarios real GVA is set to increase to £41.5bn & £38bn by 2027 respectively

NI employment at a record high

And set to continue to increase in the next decade despite difficulties

Total workplace based employment, NI, 2001-27

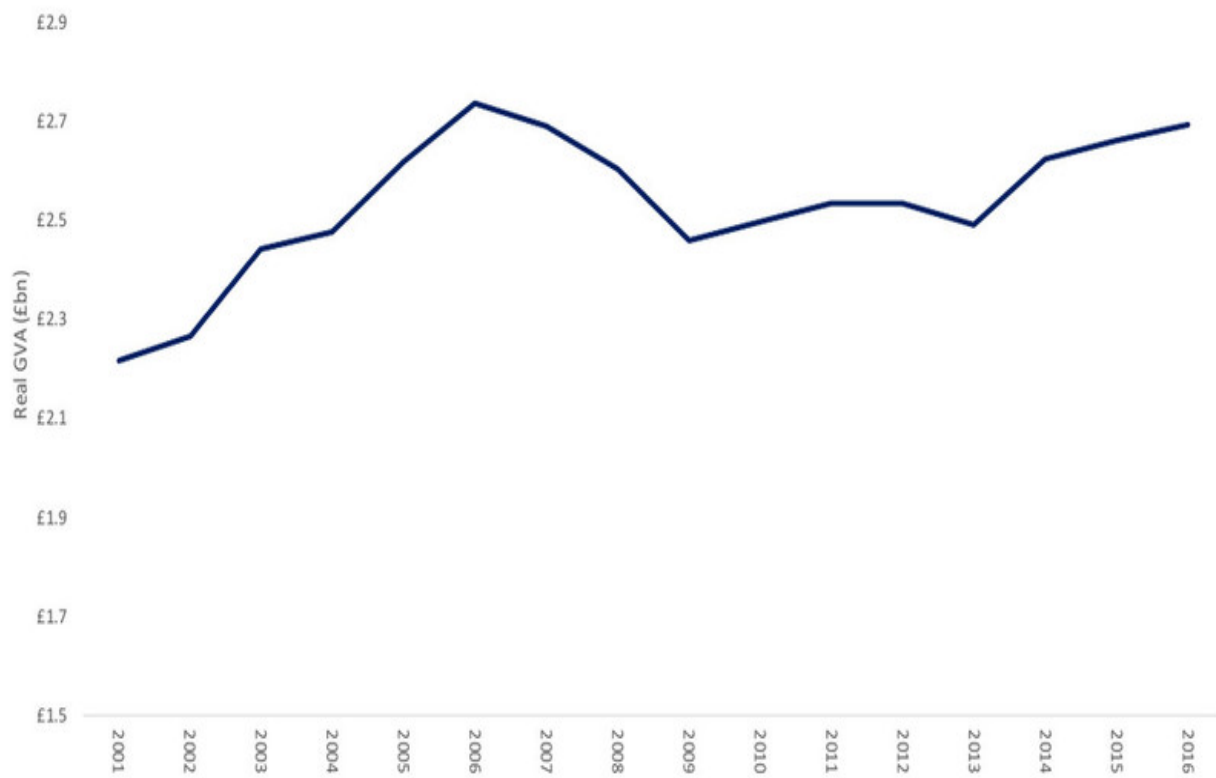


- More than 100,000 additional jobs since 2001, mainly in Health and Administration Services with loss of 12,000 Manufacturing jobs
- Employment is forecast to increase from 877,000 in 2017 to 898,000 in 2027 = +21,000 jobs
- The Upper scenario forecasts that employment will reach the ambitious level of 935,000 by 2027
- The Lower scenario forecasts that employment will fall to 866,000 by 2027

Real GVA in NM&D has slowly recovered since the recession

Expected to pass the previous peak (2006) in 2018

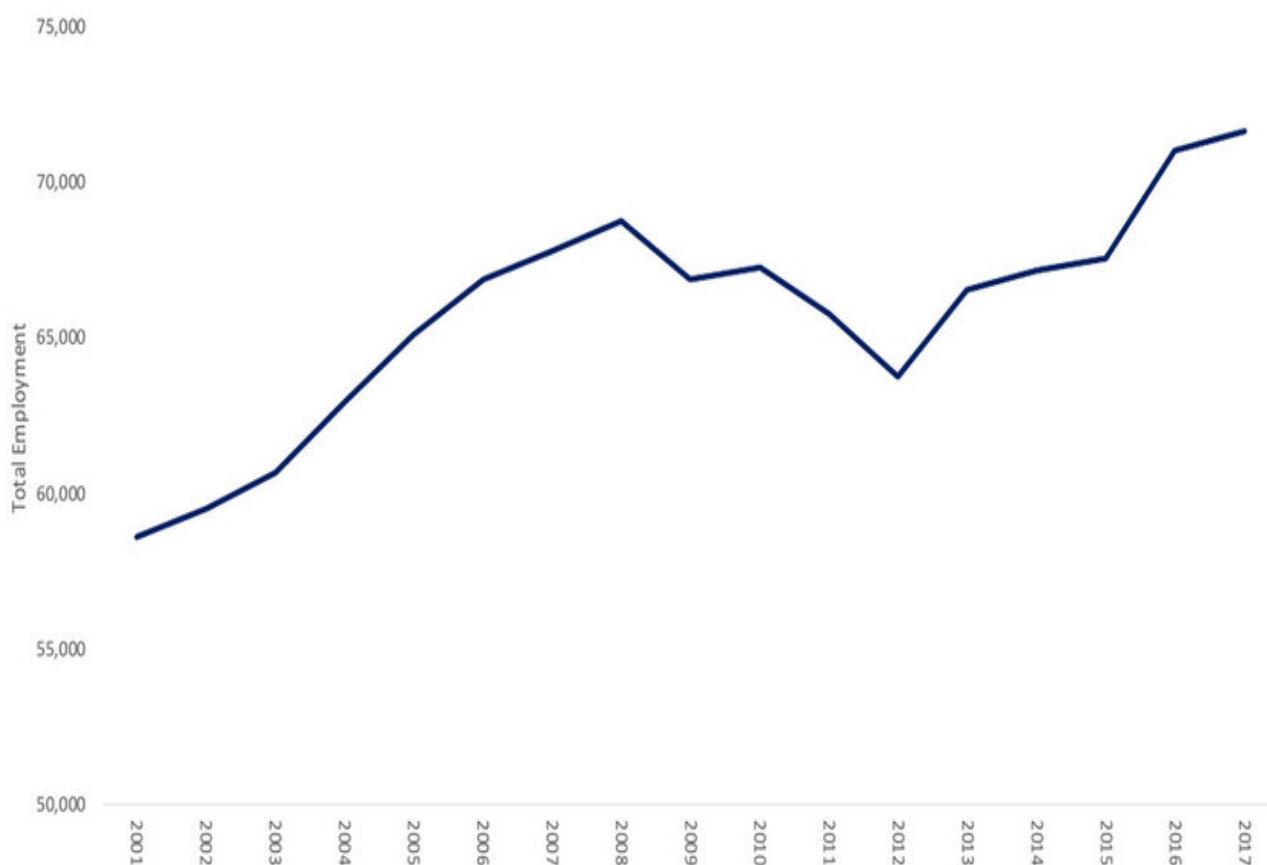
Real GVA (£bn), Newry, Mourne & Down, 2001-16



- Real GVA currently is £2.7bn (2016) in NMD
- Up from £2.2bn in 2001 a gain of almost £500m in the last 15 years
- In part due to the attraction of more tourists as well as the emergence of First Derivatives and other high value adding jobs

Current employment levels in NM&D have passed peak employment

Total workplace employment, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2001-17



- Employment has increased by over 13,000 since 2001 with employment in 2017 being 72,000 – a new historical record!
- A 22% increase in workplace based employment since
- NMD since 2012 has created 7,900 jobs – nearly 3,000 more than was lost during the recession
- The recession did have a big effect on the council with losses totalling 5,000
- Growth in last 5 years has been strong with Health & Manufacturing leading the way – but not as strong as pre-recession growth

Newry, Mourne & Down one of the best places to live for quality of life!

Well-being indicators (life satisfaction, worthwhileness, happiness & anxiety), NI LGDs, 2017-18

	Life Satisfaction (High Levels 9-10)	Worthwhileness (High Levels 9-10)	Happiness (High Level 9-10)	Anxiety (Low Levels 0-1)
Antrim & Newtownabbey	36.2%	39.4%	39.5%	51.2%
Ards & North Down	35.4%	41.4%	38.3%	46.2%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	36.3%	46.1%	47.1%	51.1%
Belfast	26.4%	33.9%	32.0%	39.2%
Causeway Coast & Glens	44.6%	50.2%	47.6%	48.8%
Derry City & Strabane	31.6%	43.8%	41.3%	34.5%
Fermanagh & Omagh	39.7%	49.1%	42.2%	51.2%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	40.4%	44.6%	44.9%	53.3%
Mid & East Antrim	35.3%	40.4%	37.7%	43.6%
Mid Ulster	36.6%	40.2%	39.5%	45.4%
Newry, Mourne & Down	52.3%	60.6%	55.1%	60.2%
Northern Ireland	36.7%	43.7%	41.6%	47.1%
UK	31.7%	36.7%	35.2%	41.5%

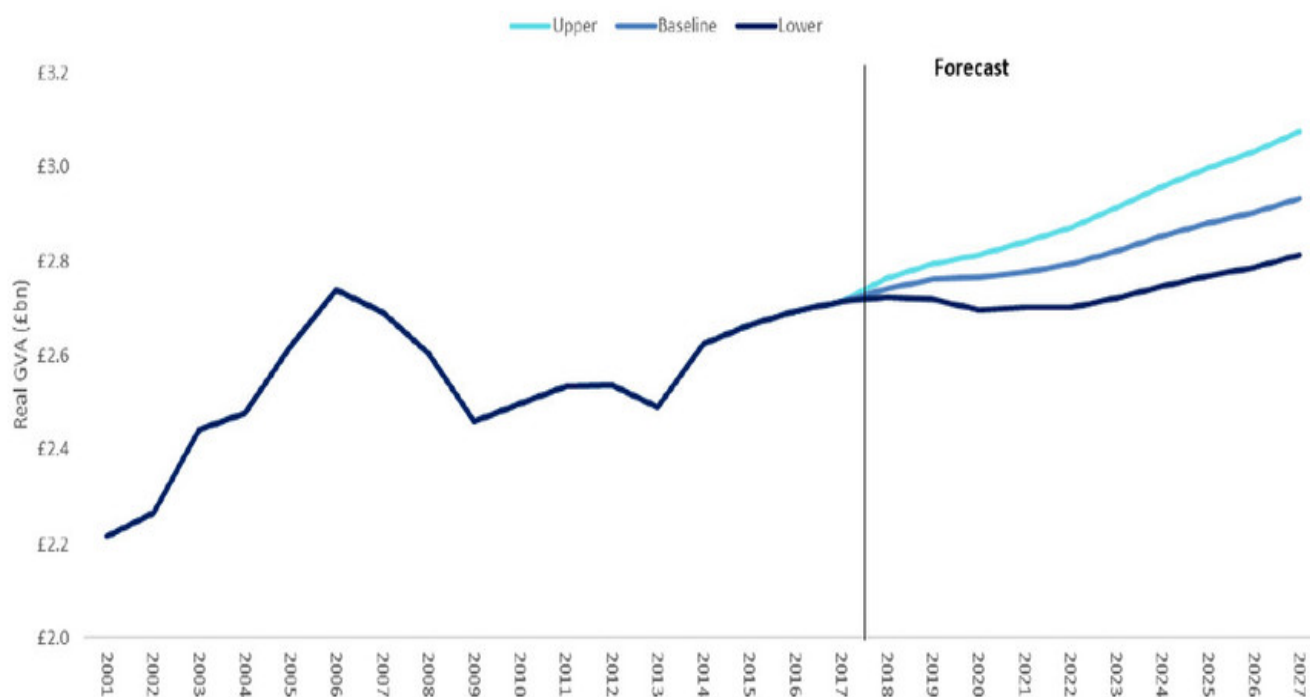
- NMD is the happiest, most life satisfying, life fulfilling (worthwhileness) place to live in all of NI
- As well as being the council with the lowest levels of anxiety out of all councils in NI
- A reflection of the lifestyle?

Outlooks

Output to increase at a steady rate over the next decade

Driven by ICT and Professional Services expansion

Real GVA (£bn), Newry, Mourne & Down, 2001-27

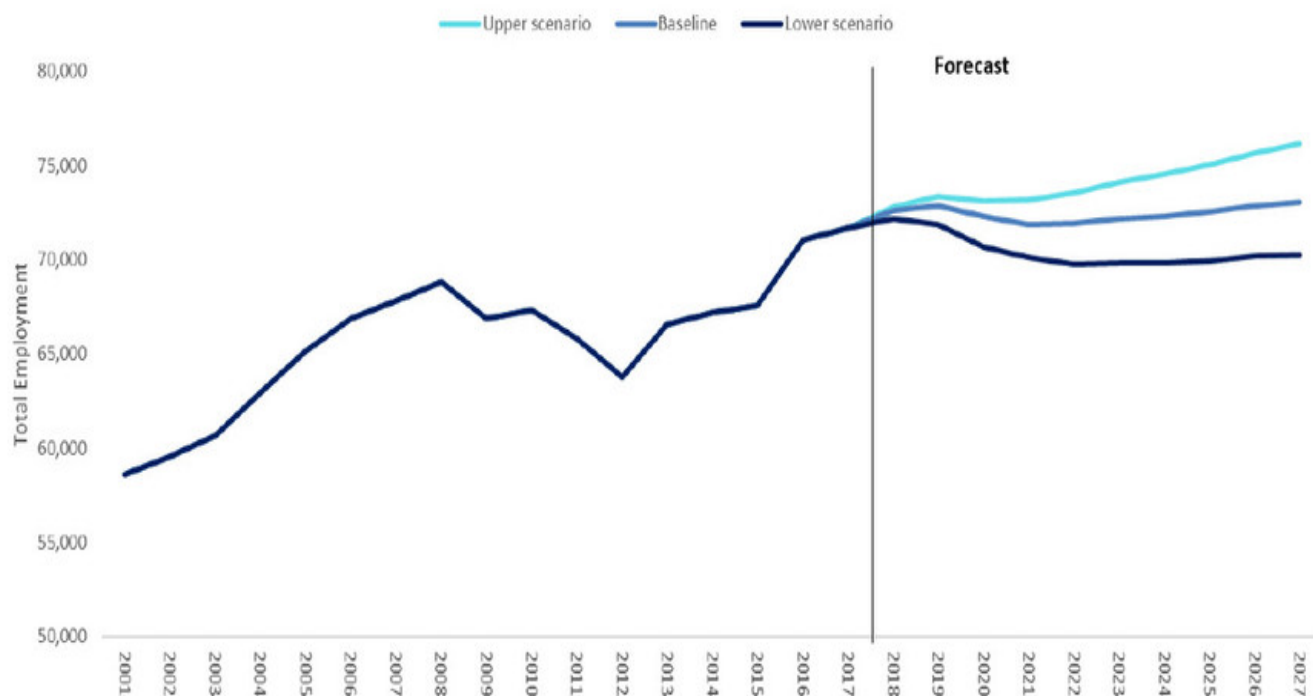


- Real GVA is forecast to increase from £2.7bn (2016) to £2.9bn (2027) – 0.8% growth in line with NI average
- As a result of increase of the creation of more highly productive jobs e.g. ICT
- Upper scenario forecast real GVA is to be £3.1bn by 2027 while Lower scenario forecast real GVA is to be £2.8bn by 2027
- Particularly modest growth in 2020-2021 with Brexit transition period

Employment currently at record levels

And increase set to continue unless under Lower scenario

Total workplace based employment, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2001-27



- Total employment is forecast to be 73,000 in 2027, up from 72,000 in 2017 – a 1.9% increase
- Upper scenario forecasts total employment to be 76,000 by 2027 (+4,500)
- Lower scenario forecasts total employment to be 70,000 by 2027 (-1,400)
- The accommodation & professional services sectors are forecast to provide around 800 additional jobs by 2027
- Agriculture & Retail forecast to lose jobs – due to changing circumstances in those sectors

Forecast summary

Positive story but slowing growth in the forecasts...are there measures to increase this?

Forecast summary table, Newry, Mourne & Down, 2017-27

	2017	2027	% Change or % point change	Direction of Change
GVA	£2.7	£2.9	8.9%	↑
Total Employment	72,000	73,000	1.4%	↑
Total Population	179,000	189,000	5.6%	↑
Working Age Population	111,000	112,000	0.9%	↑
Resident Employment Rate (%)	65.2%	66.7%	1.5%	↑
Resident Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6%	4.7%	0.1%	↑
Resident Economic Inactivity Rate (%)	31.6%	30.0%	-1.7%	↓

Considerations: Strengths & Challenges

Local council strengths & challenges:



Source: NISRA, NISRA (BRES), LFS (Local Area Database), ONS (Regional Accounts) & ONS (Well-being)



Contact details

63

Dr. Eoin Magennis

Senior Economist: Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Email: e.magennis@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone: 07825140326

Andrew Park

Economist: Ulster University Economic Policy Centre

Email: a.park@ulster.ac.uk

Telephone: 02890 368 917

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 January 2019 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In Attendance:

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor M Carr
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor O McMahon
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor B Ó Muíri
Councillor J Rice	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor J Trainor	

Also in Attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Casey
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor R Mulgrew

Officials in Attendance:

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Administration)
 Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director
 Mr F O'Connor, (Acting) Head of Legal Administration
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/001/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne, Sharvin and Walker.

SPR/002/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SPR/003/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 13 December 2018 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/004/2019 REPORT ON SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October-December 2018 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October-December 2018.**

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/005/2019: SUB LEASE OF “THE BOAT-HOUSE”, WARRENPOINT

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mr F O’Connor, (Acting) Head of Legal Administration, regarding Sub Lease of “The Boat House”, Warrenpoint **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to grant a sub-lease of “The Boat House” premises to Carlingford Lough Curragh Club at a peppercorn rental for a term due to expire on 31st March 2021.**

SPR/006/2019: IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESILIENCE RESOURCING MODEL

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, regarding Implementation of Local Government Resilience Resourcing Model **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri, the SLA was agreed to progress the implementation of the Local Government Resilience Resourcing Model and enable the adoption of a regional approach.**

SPR/007/2019: BYE-LAWS TYRELLA BEACH

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration), regarding Bye-Laws Tyrella Beach **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to have the agreed Bye-Laws for the Regulation of the Seashore at Tyrella, County Down, formally made to enable the legislative procedural requirements outlined in the officer’s report to be completed.**

SPR/008/2019: CIRCULAR 11/2018 – CONSULTATION ON RECTIFICATION OF THE COST CAP FLOOR BREACH

Read: Correspondence dated 19 December 2018 from NILGOSC, regarding Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) – Consultation on Rectification of the Cost Cap Floor Breach (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the correspondence received from NILGOSC and any Member who wished to add to the consultation response to contact the Director.**

SPR/009/2019: RENEWAL OF LEASE WITH MOURNE STIMULUS

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration), regarding Renewal of Lease with Mourne Stimulus – Premises at Council Road, Killeel (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri, it was agreed to approve the renewal of the Lease with Mourne Stimulus of its existing premises at Council Road, Killeel, for the term of 25 years from the end of the existing Lease on the same terms and conditions, save for the Clause permitting an option to renew.**

SPR/010/2019: RESIDENTS SURVEY REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mr A Beggs, Head of Evidence & Research, regarding Residents Survey and Elected Members Survey (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the results and findings detailed within the circulated reports.**

SPR/011/2019: CIVIC CENTRE REGENERATION (CCR) PROGRAMME THEATRE/CONFERENCE PROJECT

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director, regarding Civic Centre Regeneration (CCR) Programme Theatre/Conference Project (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the enhancement and extension of the existing Town Hall and Sean Hollywood Arts Centre to include:**

- a) a highly-specified, flexible Studio Theatre of the standard required to place Newry on the professional, studio-scale touring circuit;**
- b) in the main Town Hall a high quality, multi-use room equipped to accommodate occasional music performances, conferences, banquets, local community, amateur and semi-professional performing arts groups;**

- c) a greatly improved ancillary offer comprising canal-side/riverside café/bar facilities; visual arts display areas; informal internal and external pop-up performance areas;
 - d) to adapt the existing accommodation and develop the new so that they can also support conferencing facilities for up to 300 attendees, comprising primary meeting space, plenary space, breakout, exhibition and catering;
 - e) to include a number of syndicate rooms for accommodating smaller meetings.
- It was also agreed to approve the procurement of external resource to provide conference operational expertise.

FOR DISCUSSION

SPR/012/2019: DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer, regarding Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly and Northern & Western Regional Assembly **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Council response to the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for Eastern & Midland and Northern & Western Regional Assembly.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McMahon, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/013/2019: BREXIT PLANNING

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019, from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Brexit Planning (including Day 1 preparedness) **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the update on Brexit Planning.

SPR/014/2019: REPORT ON SURPLUS ASSETS

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019, from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, regarding Disposal of Surplus Assets(**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Trainor to approve the disposal of the assets listed in para.3.1 of the officer's report through the D1 public trawl process, namely lands at:**

- Meadowlands Recreation Area
- Ballyvange
- 17 Square, Ballynahinch – Steel Frame
- Grove Gardens Recreation Area – Killyleagh
- Windmill Hollow – Saintfield
- Linkside Park, Newcastle
- Boghill Amenity Area, Forkhill
- Rear of Jonnesborough Market
- Kilkeel Town Hall
- Lands adjacent to Derryleckagh Playing Fields

And to consider further the remaining assets listed in the officer's report at a further meeting of the Strategic Projects Working Group.

SPR/015/2019: NMDDC ASSET VALUATION

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019, from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding Revaluation of Assets for Balance Sheet Purposes (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Doran, to engage LPS to undertake valuations of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Land and Buildings for the 2018-19 Annual Accounts under a Direct Award Contract.**

SPR/016/2019: SUB-LEASE TO DRUMNAKELLY POWER LIMITED

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019, from Mr F O'Connor, (Acting) Head of Legal Administration, regarding Sub-Lease to Drumnakelly Power Limited (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Trainor to consent to a sub-lease from Drumnakelly Power Limited to Granville Energy Supply**

Limited of the site currently held by Drumnakelly Power under lease of the Council dated 29th July 2013.

SPR/017/2019: BUSINESS CASE FOR PROCUREMENT OF VALUATION SERVICES

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019, from Mr F O'Connor, (Acting) Head of Legal Administration, regarding Business Case for Procurement of Valuation Services (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Trainor to approve the Business Case to enable the procurement of Valuation Services to proceed.**

SPR/018/2019: UPDATE ON D1 PROCESS

Read: Report dated 17 January 2019, from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, regarding Update on D1 Process (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Trainor to note the contents of the officer's report and:**

- **to proceed to dispose of the Hospital Road site via the D1 Process to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, with Council noting their commitment to provide a portion of Daisy Hill Nurseries site to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust for the identified carparking required by the Trust;**
- **to progress to private sector sale of Market McAlevey Store and Coreagh Office;**
- **to dispose of the Metal Portal Frame Store (Kearns and Murtagh) site via the D1 Process to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive;**
- **that officers carry out further investigations and planning considerations in respect of Abbey Heights Amenity Area;**
- **and to delay private sector sale of Moorhill Former Refuse Site for a 2 month period.**

FOR NOTING - ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

SPR/019/2019: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ALBERT BASIN WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet arising from Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group Meeting held on 6 December 2018 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed to note the contents of the action sheet of Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group Meeting of 6 December 2018.

SPR/020/2019: **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGIC PROJECTS WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2019**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Strategic Projects Working Group Meeting held on 14 January 2019 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed to note the contents of the action sheet of SPWG Meeting of 14 January 2019.

FOR NOTING

SPR/021/2019: **NILGA SUBSCRIPTION AND WORK PLAN 2019/20**

Read: Correspondence dated 11 January 2019 received from Mr D McCallan, Chief Executive NILGA, regarding NILGA Subscription and Work Plan 2019/20 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: Agreed to note the NILGA Subscription and Work Plan 2019/20.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.31pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 4 February 2019.

Signed: **Councillor Michael Savage**
Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2018

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held
on Monday 21 January 2019 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room,
Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews**In attendance: (Councillors)**
Councillor S Doran Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick Councillor R Howell
Councillor K Loughran Councillor A McMurray
Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor B Quinn
Councillor D Taylor Councillor W Walker**Officials in attendance:** Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer**AHC/001/2019: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Harte, Kimmins and Sharvin.

- The Chairperson extended his condolences to Councillor Sharvin on the death of his grandmother Delia Shields and also to the family of Jean Osborne from Killyleagh, sister-in-law of former Down District Councillor Sam Osborne on her recent tragic passing.

Mr Devlin advised a letter had been circulated to businesses along with DAERA regarding Brexit, however the purpose of the letter had been misreported in the media. He encouraged Members to urge those who had received questionnaires to fill them in and return as it may help those businesses trade in the event of a no deal Brexit.

AHC/002/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/003/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 December 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/147/2018 – Wi-Fi in Community Centres

Councillor Ó Muíri asked for an update on the issue of Wi-Fi in Community Centres as it had been raised continuously by the DEA Forums.

Mrs Hillen advised the project had been agreed and was being supported through the IT project working group. She stated she would investigate when the project was due to complete and revert to the Councillor.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran that the action sheet be noted and actions removed as marked.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/004/2019: DEA FORA UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Fora Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed to note the report and agree the action sheets from the following DEA Forum Private Meetings:

- **The Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 5 December 2018;**
- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 12 December 2018.**

AHC/005/2019: RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT DEA FORUMS

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, regarding Recruitment of Independent Members to District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Walker queried if there was any way to ensure independent members were fulfilling the commitment they had given with regard attendance.

Mrs Hillen advised there was a clause within the forum's Terms of Reference which would deal with the issue of members of the forum not attending for a consecutive number of meetings. She stated she would address the matter with the DEA Coordinators.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri, it was agreed to note the report and contract an appropriate Regional Voluntary Organisation to verify future applications for Independent Members of DEA Forums on an on-going basis.

AHC/006/2019: COMMUNITY CENTRES SCALE OF CHARGES 2019/20

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, regarding Community Centres Scale of Charges 2019-20 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to approve the Community Centres Scale of Charges for the 2019/20 financial year as set out in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/007/2019: BALLYNAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE – ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, regarding Heating System, Ballynahinch Community Centre (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran, to approve the upgrade of the heating system at Ballynahinch Community Centre at a total cost of £69,336 which had been allocated within the existing capital budget.

AHC/008/2019: BUSINESS CASE – MEADOWLANDS PLAY PARK NEW BUILD

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement; Ms A Rennick, Engagement and Development Manager; and Ms K Hynds, Neighbourhood Renewal Officer, regarding Business Case for Meadowlands new build Play Park (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Enright, to approve the Business Case in support of the new build play park in Meadowlands, Downpatrick.

LEISURE AND SPORT**AHC/010/2019: DERRYLECKAGH COMPLEX UPGRADE PART 2**

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr D Crilly, Outdoor Leisure Officer, regarding Derryleckagh Complex Upgrade Part 2 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muiri, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, it was agreed to expend £63,000 from remaining capital budget of £100,500 being brought forward to the 2018/19 financial year with the remaining budget of £37,500 being used to carry out pitch surface improvement works and replace the Gaelic pitch goal posts.**

AHC/011/2019: KILKEEL TENNIS COURT MOURNE ESPLANADE

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr D Crilly, Outdoor Leisure Officer, regarding Kilkeel Tennis Court Mourne Esplanade (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to carry out and install all new fencing works at Kilkeel Tennis Courts and the realignment of the overall capital budget of £22,820 for the facility.**

AHC/012/2019: TRANSFORMING HEALTH, PREVENTING DISEASE – PROJECT FUNDING PROPOSAL

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, regarding Transforming Health, Preventing Disease – Project Funding Proposal (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to submit the joint proposal with Southern and South Eastern Health Trusts for Health Transformation Programme Funding.**

AHC/013/2019: ORNI – COMMUNITY TRAILS

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr D Crilly, Outdoor Leisure Officer, regarding ORNI Community Trails (**Copy circulated**)

Mr Lipsett advised that there was a significant risk that the projects would not happen due to the fact that monies from Rural Development Programme and Department for Communities must be spent by 31st March 2019 and although planning had been submitted, there maybe sensitivities around the environment and on that basis the Environment Agency may require reports prior to development of the trails which may hold the planning process from being completed in time to utilise the funding.

In response to queries from Members, Mr Lipsett stated that officers were in constant contact with officials in the Department and would provide updates to the Committee going forward.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Howell, an additional revenue cost of £10,000 per annum for maintenance of the trails was agreed with all trails covered under Council insurance, subject to successful planning approval.**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/014/2019: ALL PARTY GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Ms S McEldowney, Head of Sustainability, regarding All Party Group on Sustainable Development (**Copy circulated**)

Mr Devlin advised following an event held in November 2018 by Sustainable NI, NILGA and the Institution of Engineers, an All Party Group on Sustainable Development was to be established and two Elected Member volunteers were being sought from Council to sit on the new group. He stated the group would meet on a quarterly basis with the first meeting to be held in March 2019.

Councillor Andrews was nominated on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Walker.

Councillor Enright was nominated on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Walker.

Councillor Ó Muíri advised the Sinn Féin nomination would follow in due course.

Agreed: **It was agreed that nominations be submitted and agreed at the Party Representatives Meeting.**

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/015/2019: UPDATE PROPOSAL FOR CAMLOUGH PEACE CENTRE

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Ms J McCabe, Programmes Manager, regarding South Armagh/South Down Peace Centre (**Copy circulated**)

Councillors Ó Muíri and Loughran expressed their disappointment and the frustrations of the local community, at the decision taken by SEUPB regarding the South Armagh/South Down Peace Centre and asked officials to find out why they had been turned down.

Mrs Hillen advised there was a de-briefing meeting with SEUPB to be held and she would ascertain why the funding had been refused.

Noted: **It was agreed to note the update on South Armagh/South Down Peace Centre.**

FOR NOTING – LEISURE & SPORTS

AHC/016/2019: FLOODING AT JIM STEEN PARK, NEWTOWNHAMILTON

Read: Report dated 21 January 2019 from Mr D Crilly, Outdoor Leisure Officer, regarding Flooding at Jim Steen Park, Newtownhamilton **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muíri stated once again that the location of the park was wrong and would consistently flood due to being at the bottom of a hill from every angle, except at the side which was beside a river.

Mr Haughey advised that Rivers Agency had advised water was flowing down an open course river to the corner of the adjacent field as an opening drainage pipe had not been cleared on a private landowners land which caused water to spill over the kerb onto Council property. He stated that Rivers Agency would be contacting the owners of the properties and instruct them under Schedule 5 of the Drainage Order to remove the blockage and that Council would appoint contractors to clean the water chamber.

Noted: **It was agreed to note the update on flooding at Jim Steen Park, Newtownhamilton.**

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

AHC/017/2019: VERBAL UPDATE ON SQUASH FACILITIES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised it had been agreed to note the verbal update regarding the new squash facilities at Down Leisure Centre.

AHC/018/2019: VERBAL UPDATE ON NEWRY TENNIS BUBBLE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised it had been agreed to note the verbal update on Newry Tennis Bubble.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.44pm.

For consideration at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 4 February 2019.

Signed: Councillor T Andrews
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 January 2019 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor J Rice

Members:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
	Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor H Harvey
	Councillor Macauley	Councillor M Ruane
	Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor

Officials in Attendance: Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Waste Management
 Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
 Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/001/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey, Kimmins, McMurray and Trainor.

Councillor Rice said he would like to take this opportunity to pass on his deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the late Billy Lemon, former Council employee. He said Billy was part of the Council's Maintenance team for over 10 years before his retirement last year. Billy was part of the Council family and this was clear to see during his illness when so many of his former work colleagues visited and attended him during his final weeks.

Councillor Rice said Billy would be fondly remembered by all who knew him within the Council.

RTS/002/2019: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of Conflicts of Interest.

RTS/003/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2018. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed the Action Sheet of 18 December 2018 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

RTS/004/2019: URBELAC UPDATE

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Mr Roland Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services re: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council as a participant City in the URBELAC network. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to recommend-**

- 1. The Council continue its commitment to the URBELAC (4th Edition) and attendance at the next two meetings.**
- 2. The Council agree in principle to the development of a Manifesto on the Circular Economy, which the Council would endeavour to promote within the Council area at the end of the programme.**

BUILDING CONTROL AND LICENSING

**RTS/005/2019: ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS
- PENALTY CHARGE NOTICE**

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Mr Edwin Newell, Head of Building Control re: information sessions for Estate Agents on Energy Performance of Buildings – Penalty Charge Notice and the procedure which the Council would use to ensure compliance, in line with the EPB legislation and agreed by all 11 Councils. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to recommend:-**

1. **Where non-compliance was identified by the Council Officer, a warning letter would be issued to the Estate Agent.**
2. **The Council Officer would then re-visit the Estate Agent two weeks following the date of the warning letter. If non-compliance was still apparent a Penalty Charge Notice for £200 would be issued to the Estate Agent for the first offence.**
3. **Further offences would have a further £200 Penalty Charge Notice issued for each advertisement not displaying an EPC.**

However the delegates were reassured that the Council would follow all reasonable steps to work with and alongside Estate Agents to ensure compliance and that the use of a Penalty Charge Notice would only be used as a last resort to enforce the legislation.

RTS/006/2019: HEIGHT RESTRICTION BARRIERS, NEWCASTLE - UPDATE

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Mr Gary McCurry, Duty Manager, Off Street Parking Function advising the completion date for the proposed installation of Height Restriction Barriers (HRBs) at two car parking sites in Newcastle, namely Downs Road and Glen River (Patten's Bridge) car parks, had been delayed and outlining the key issues for this. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig, it was agreed to note the above update and advice from the Mr Jackson that the barriers would be erected by 15 March 2019.**

PLANNING

RTS/007/2019: CURRENT APPEALS – DECEMBER 2018

Read: Report of current appeals in December 2018. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the above report.**

AGREED: **At the request of Councillor Clarke it was agreed Officers get details of the claim for a full award of costs allowed in part, in respect of the appeal in relation to an agricultural building, Dublin Road, Killeen and advise him of the sum involved.**

RTS/008/2019: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES 2018-2019 – JANUARY 2019

Read: Report on Record of Meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives December 2018-2019 – January 2019.
(Circulated).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the above report.**

RTS/009/2019: REGISTER OF CONTACTS Q3 OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018

Read: Report on Register of Contacts Q3 October – December 2018.
(Circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the above report.**

**RTS/010/2019: PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT
- DECEMBER 2018**

Read: Report on Planning Committee Performance for December 2018.
(Circulated).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the above report.**

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/011/2019: REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPERATIONS

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Mr Johnny McBride, Assistant Director of Waste Management (Acting) updating Members with a summary of findings and recommendations from a review of operations over the Christmas/New Year holiday period and outlining a number of recommendations which affected both the refuse collection and household recycling centre service.
(Circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to recommend the following:-**

- 1. From an operational perspective, finalising Christmas / New Year holiday arrangements before the RTS Committee meeting in November to enable an**

- integrated operational plan (refuse collection & HRCS) to be implemented in the month of December (i.e. contractor arrangements, communications / key messages, contingency planning etc.);**
- 2. Continuing with the current arrangements in respect of communications until a time the Council agrees to and implements new refuse collection routes. The routes optimisation project would be included as part of the Neighbourhood Services project; and**
 - 3. Standardising communications activities between the two legacy areas in relation to Christmas / New Year holiday arrangements to ensure maximum impact and cost effectiveness. Recommendations to be presented to a future Committee meeting for Member consideration. An implementation date for the introduction of glass recycling in the legacy DDC area would be a key enabler for this.**

Councillor Stokes advised that Councillor Devlin had asked that he raise two issues at the meeting namely that when new arrangements were agreed that households again be issued with a hard copy calendar of dates detailing their refuse collection schedules and also that customers be advised via social media etc. when skips at household recycling centres were full and could not accept additional material.

Councillors Andrews, Craig and Clarke agreed that there was a need for improved communications regarding refuse collections and household recycling centre services.

RTS/012/2019: REPORT OF MEMBER WORKSHOP – REVIEW OF OPERATIONS AT HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement seeking approval from the Committee to the report of the Elected Member Workshop held on 7 January 2019 to consider the recommendations of a review of operations at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and mandating Officials to begin to work-up the next steps in accordance with the following:- *(Circulated)*

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Macauley it was agreed to recommend:-**

General Access & Usage Policy

- 1. Officers to give further consideration to the potential implications for fly-tipping arising from the implementation of greater restrictions;**
- 2. Further information required in relation to the cost of processing residual waste, as well as volume information in relation to the various waste streams managed via HRCs;**

3. **The identification of what arrangements are available for the Council to support small businesses in the disposal of their waste;**
4. **Restrictions in relation to trailer and van size to be more specific. Members commented that a single-axle trailer limit was too restrictive as these trailer-types were becoming increasingly uncommon;**
5. **Further information required on the rationale for proposed limits / thresholds for specific waste materials (i.e. paint); and**
6. **Careful consideration to be given to the potential communications required to advise users of the Council's HRCs as to the rationale for, as well as the specific policy changes.**

Construction / DIY Policy

1. **More detail required from Officers in relation to the proposed limits / thresholds for the receipt and processing of specific construction / DIY waste materials.**

Commercial Waste Policy

1. **Further information required in relation to the legislative / licensing provisions and what the Council is / is not permitted to do in relation to the disposal of commercial tyres;**
2. **Further information concerning the administration and benefits of the proposed permit system; and**
3. **More detail required from Officers in relation to travel times / number of business serviced by the proposed designated HRCs for commercial waste.**

Re-use Policy

1. **Avoiding competition between re-use partners with regard to access to materials at HRCs; and**
2. **Investigating the potential of a scheme, whereby businesses can leave materials for all groups to collect materials from HRCs rather than limiting the amount of re-use partners to a select few.**

HRC Opening Hours

1. **Further information and analysis required on the volumes receipted on each day at each HRC;**
2. **Officers to consider extending opening hours into the evenings during Monday – Saturday as an alternative to Sunday opening; and**
3. **Costed options to be presented to the RTS Committee for future consideration.**

It was also recommended Officers develop new operating procedures for the new Downpatrick HRC, in accordance with the guiding principles as previously agreed by the Committee in November 2018. This would be required to be undertaken concurrently with the HRC review due to the opening date of the new site, however new policy decisions based on the HRC review would then be implemented at the Downpatrick HRC (and all the Council's HRCs thereafter).

At the request of Councillor Clarke it was also agreed as part of the review of operations at Household Recycling Centres, that officers investigate the possibility of hiring skip removal lorries to remove full skips at the Bann Road site, particularly coming into Spring when there would be an increase in green waste.

Councillor Clarke asked that it be placed on record the Committee's appreciation and thanks to all front line staff and refuse collection staff for their hard work, particularly over the busy Christmas period.

FOR NOTING

RTS/013/2019: ARC 21 MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – 4 DECEMBER 2018

Read: ARC 21 Members Monthly Bulletin 4 December 2018. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the contents of the above monthly bulletin.**

RTS/014/2019: HISTORIC ACTION SHEET

Read: Historic Action Sheet. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed the Historic Actions Sheet be noted and actions removed as marked.**

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Items 15, 16, 17 and 18 were deemed to be exempt items under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Macauley, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.

RTS/015/2019: NATURAL WORLD PRODUCTS (NWP) LTD – RECYCLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018-19

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Mr Liam Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement advising Members of the rates with NWP Ltd for 2018-2019. *(Circulated)*

RTS/016/2019: FIXED WIRE TESTING

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Mr Aidan Mallon, Head of Maintenance re: business case for appointment of a contractor to undertake annual fixed electrical wiring and emergency lighting testing (3 year contract). *(Circulated)*

RTS/017/2019: DUNDRUM PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Gail Kane, Head of Facilities, re: request for Council to express an interest in land within Dundrum Village for the purpose of siting a public convenience. *(Circulated)*

RTS/018/2019: STRANGFORD ROAD DEPOT

Read: Report dated 23 January 2019 from Gail Kane, Head of Facilities re: Strangford Road Dept – parking arrangements post new school development and long term viability of the site. *(Circulated)*

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Clarke seconded to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairman reported the following had been agreed:-

Natural World Products Ltd – Recycling Arrangements for 2018-2019

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Harvey, it was agreed to note the inflationary rise to the rates in 2019 in relation to the Council's recycling arrangements.

Business Case for appointment of a contractor to undertake annual Fixed Electrical Wiring and Emergency Lighting Testing (3 year contract)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to approve the recommendation outlined in Section 3 of the report dated 23 January 2019 to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 2 was the preferred option. Option 2 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent Electrical Contractor, who would undertake annual tests and where required, agreed remedial works.

Request for Council to express an interest in land within Dundrum Village for the purpose of siting a public convenience

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig, it was agreed to approve the recommendation outlined in Section 3 of the report dated 23 January 2019 to note the content of the report and to approve the proposed response as outlined and also that the Council apply for outline planning permission for the proposed development of a public convenience on land within Dundrum Village in consultation with the site owner.

Strangford Road Depot – parking arrangements post new school development and long term viability of site

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the recommendation outlined in Section 3 of the report dated 23 January 2019 to note the content of the report and to approve the 4 No. recommendations in relation to proposed parking arrangements for the development of a car park facility at Strangford Road Depot.

It was also agreed Mr K Scullion investigate the current position regarding a commitment given by legacy Down District Council that a memorial would be provided in memory of those who had died in the former workhouse located on the Strangford Road Depot site.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.00 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 February 2019.

Signed: Councillor Rice
Vice-Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

Signed: Mr R Moore
Director of Neighbourhood Services

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 2.00pm
in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate, Downpatrick**

Chairperson: Mr J Campbell, Independent Chairperson

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor C Casey
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin
Councillor M Ruane

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Ms D Carville, Director Corporate Services
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance)
Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager
Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director, Community Planning & Performance (Acting)
Ms Linda O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance: Ms C Hagan, ASM (Internal Auditors)
Ms C Kane, Northern Ireland Audit Office

AC/01/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne, Clarke, Devlin, Sharvin and Tinnelly

The Chairperson advised that this would be Colette Kane last meeting and that Tomas Wilkinson will be taking over responsibility for the Council's Audit. He thanked Colette for her support and wished her all the best for the future. Liam Hannaway also acknowledged and appreciated a very productive working relationship with Colette Kane and wished her well in her new role.

AC/02/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Campbell declared interest in the following item:

Item 5 – Annual Review of Chairperson's Performance.

AC/03/2019: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet arising out of Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2019. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Murnin, it was agreed to note the action sheet and remove those actions marked for removal.**

CHAIRPERSON OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

AC/04/2019: AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT

Read: Report from Mr J Campbell, Independent Chair of Audit Committee, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Audit Self-Assessment 2018/19 (copy circulated).

Mr Campbell advised Members there was a revised copy of page 3 of the self-assessment checklist contained in the appendix due to a technical problem with the software when uploading.

Mr Campbell took Members through the actions and recommendations and asked that reports be tabled at future meetings. He encouraged officers to ensure that all papers be provided on time to Democratic Services to give members sufficient time to read papers.

Mr Campbell thanked the Council officers for their support and assistance over the past year.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murnin, to approve the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2018/19.**

AC/05/2019 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHAIRPERSON'S PERFORMANCE

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 15 January 2019, regarding the Assessment of the Chairperson's Performance (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Assessment of the Chairperson's Performance.**

CORPORATE SERVICES**AC/06/2019 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Corporate Risk Register (copy circulated).

Mrs Carville advised a number of key changes were made following the review of the Corporate Risk Register, including:

1. CR01 – Failure to develop and improve our tourism offering. This risk has been de-escalated to the ERT Directorate Risk Register. SMT felt that Council is delivering on its tourism objectives, and tourism revenue has increased to £90m per year from £45m per year in 2015.
2. CR07 – Failure to have the necessary staffing structures and resourcing to deliver efficient and effective services. This risk has been deescalated to the Corporate Service Directorate Risk Register. SMT are content that they have sufficient staffing in place and services are being delivered.
3. CR11 – Failure to implement an economic development programme to regenerate the district and attract inward investment due to financial uncertainties around Brexit and the chances of a no deal Brexit, the score had to be increased. A Brexit risk register is being presented to the January SP&R committee to detail the risks the Council face. This is in line with work from the Brexit Task and Finish Working Group. See appendix 3 and 4 for further information.
4. Numerous other minor changes were made including new actions, updating the progress of actions and new detail included within certain risks. These can be evidenced on the Corporate Risk Register attached.

In response to Councillor Casey and Councillor Murnin's questions, Ms Carville confirmed that the Committee would be kept up to date and even though some of the risks have been de-escalated they would remain to be closely monitored.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Corporate Risk Register report.

AC/07/2019 FRAUD AND WHISTLEBLOWING UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Fraud and Whistleblowing (copy circulated).

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Fraud and Whistleblowing report.

AC/08/2019 DIRECT AWARDS CONTRACT (DAC) REGISTER

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Direct Award Contract (DAC) Register (copy circulated).

In response to a query, Mrs Carville advised that items 12 and 13 were in the process of going out to tender with regard to the future of CCTV.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Direct Award Contract Register report.

AC/09/2019 PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Update on Procurement (copy circulated).

In response to a query, Mrs Carville advised that Council had invested a lot of time and energy in procurement training and would hope to hold same on an annual basis.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update on Procurement.

AC/10/2019 UPDATE ON AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager, dated 15 January 2019, regarding update on Audit Recommendations (copy circulated).

Mr Campbell said he welcomed the progress made from 2015/2016, however there was still work to be completed on the 2016/17 recommendations. He asked for clarity as to what 'priority no longer accepted' meant.

Mr Byrne advised it meant that a service had changed or was no longer relevant to be completed.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update on Audit Recommendations.

AC/11/2019 PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS

Read: Report from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Prompt Payment Statistics (copy circulated).

Mr Montgomery confirmed there had been improvements on prompt payments during the last quarter due to an increase in payment runs each month.

Councillor Murnin welcomed the increase in the amount of invoices that were paid but expressed concerns at those payments over the 30 day payment period which need to improve especially for small businesses.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update on Prompt Payment Statistics.

PERFORMANCE

Items 12,13 and 14 were discussed together

AC/12/2019 DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2019-20

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Community Planning and Performance, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives (copy circulated).

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update on Draft Improvement Objectives 2019-20.

AC/13/2019 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT POLICY

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Community Planning and Performance, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Performance Improvement Policy (copy circulated).

AC/14/2019 MID YEAR PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-19

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Community Planning and Performance, dated 15 January 2019, regarding Mid Year Progress Report Of The Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19 (copy circulated).

Mr McGilly confirmed both item 12 and 13 reports had been approved through SP&R. Item 14 had a number of recommendations highlighted which will be worked forward and hopefully meeting objectives at end of year.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the updates on Performance Improvement Policy and Mid-Year Progress Report of the Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19.

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Murnin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during these items of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session and the following actions were agreed:

AC/15/2019 **NIAO REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE 2017-18**

Read: Correspondence received from Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) dated 21 December 2018, regarding Report to those Charged with Governance (copy circulated)

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the NIAO Report to those Charged with Governance 2017-18.

AC/16/2019 **NIAO - Annual Audit Letter**

Read: Correspondence received from Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) dated 10 January 2019, regarding Annual Audit Letter (copy circulated)

Noted: It was agreed to note the Annual Audit Letter, Newry Mourne and Down District Council 2017-18.

AC/17/2019 **NIAO IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT – AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ACTION PLAN**

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Community Planning and Performance, dated 15 January 2019, regarding NIAO Improvement Audit and Assessment - Audit and Assessment Report and Action Plan (copy circulated).

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the NIAO Improvement Audit and Assessment – Audit and Assessment Report and Action Plan.

INTERNAL AUDIT

AC/18/2019 ASM SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT

Read: ASM Summary Progress Report, dated 15 January 2019 (copy circulated)

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the ASM Summary Progress Report together with the final Audit Reports and follow up reviews contained within.

AC/19/2019 INVESTIGATION IN THE COUNCILS PROCUREMENT AND ERECTION OF THE 'BIG SCREEN' IN NEWRY

This item was withdrawn from the agenda on the advice of the officers.

AC/20/2019 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER – APPENDICES 3 AND 4

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 17 January 2019, regarding Corporate Risk Register – Appendices 3 and 4 (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed to note Appendices relating to the Corporate Risk Register – Brexit preparedness and Brexit risk register.

CIRCULARS

AC/21/2019 DAO (DoF 04/18 (19/11/2019) – FRAUD PROOFING GUIDANCE

Read: Letter and Report dated 19 November 2018 in relation to Fraud Proofing (copy circulated)

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of letter and report in relation to Fraud Proofing.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 3.57pm

Signed: **Ms D Carville**
Director of Corporate Services

Signed: **Mr J Campbell**
Independent Chairperson

15/1/2019

Environment & The Municipalization of Energy
The Park Inn Hotel, York City Centre
22nd-24th February 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to invite you to our Conference at The Park Inn, York City Centre. The venue has great facilities and is very close to major amenities & transport links.

As we all strive to reduce damage to the Environment, Local Authorities are driving ahead with innovative projects both to protect the environment and give good value for money schemes to the public.

This weekend we will look at The Environment and the Municipalization of Energy with Heat & Power plants benefitting our residents & Businesses.

This weekend we will have a range of speakers who are heavily involved in award winning schemes. We will be discussing how they are working and what the practicalities are including the political advantages.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions to all of the speakers.

The conference will be of use to members from all local authorities including members of police and fire committees.

To book your places at this important Conference please complete the form attached and return it to me by email or post.

Yours Faithfully

B. Nelson

Councillor Brian Nelson

General Secretary

Park Inn, York

22nd-24th Feb 2019

97

National Association of Councillors

Environment & The Democratization of Energy

Friday 23rd February 2018

5 – 6pm Registration

6pm Session One, Cllr Brian Stephens in the chair.

7.15 pm Dinner

Saturday 24th February 2018

10-00am Session Two,
Jim Gillon, Energy Services Manager. Gateshead MBC

Questions

10.45am Councillor Chris Mcewan, Darlington MBC

Democratization of Energy, a Members Prospective.

Questions

11.30am Tea / Coffee

11.45am Session 3

Park Inn, York

22nd-24th Feb 2019

98

Speaker TBC

1-00pm Lunch

2-00pm Regional Management Meeting

2-00pm Break out sessions

4-00pm Coffee

7-00pm Conference Dinner

Sunday 25th February 2018

10-00am NAC General Secretary, Cllr Brian Nelson.

Workshops (delegates to split into groups)

Groups to Feedback

12-00 Noon Lunch

1-00pm End of Event.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

The Environment including The Democratization of Energy

The Park Hotel, York. 22nd-24th February 2019

Delegate Booking Form

Name of Delegate.....

Organisation

Delegate's Email

Telephone Number.....

Authorising Signature.....Order No if reqd.....

Printed Name.....

Position.....Organisation.....

INVOICE, email address for invoice.....

To Register – Complete the delegate details above, and either:-Email a copy of this form to Cllr Brian Nelson
Generalsecretary@nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

or Post form to NAC Bookings, 16 Frederick St North, Meadowfield, Durham DH7 7NB

Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan, County, Unitary, Borough & District Councils

£295 plus VAT - Town, Parish and Community Councils

Accommodation is available for delegates at the Conference Hotel at the special NAC Conference Delegate rate of £60 plus VAT per night. The accommodation fee is payable by delegate on departure from the hotel unless otherwise indicated on the booking form.

Delegate Accommodation Friday & Saturdays nights YES / NO

Local Authority to be billed direct for accommodation YES / NO

Please note that double and family rooms are also available (prices available on request)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

EVENTS 2019

5th April 2019 5:00 pm to 7th April 2019 1:00 pm	Public Health, Wellbeing and Equality	Royal Hotel Scarborough
20th May 2019 10:30 am - 1:00 pm	Executive & Management Meeting	Union Jack Club Waterloo
28th June 2019 5:00 pm to 30th June 2019 1:00 pm	Regeneration of Towns, Villages and cities	Southport
9th September 2019 10:30am - 1:00 pm	Executive & Management Meeting	Union Jack Club Waterloo
23rd November 2019 9:45 am - 11:30 am	AGM	To be confirmed



Save the Date

Elected Member Workshop on Data and Evidence in
Community Planning

Antrim Civic Centre

Friday 15th February 10.30am – 13.00, Antrim Civic Centre

NILGA, in association with the Carnegie Trust and NISRA, invites Elected Members to a Workshop on the use of Data and Evidence in Community Planning, which will improve councillors understanding, participation and competence in evidence-based scrutiny and decision making:

- Gathering and using evidence – what it is, why it's important, where to find it, what support is available and how to use it.
- Reflection on community planning experiences of using evidence to date
- The councillor specific role in evidence-based scrutiny and decision making

Why Attend?

Elected members meaningful participation in community planning is key to delivery of the Community Planning Partnerships vision for their area. This session will focus on increasing elected members understanding and competence around the use of data and evidence in Community Planning. In doing so, elected members will be better equipped in their role in the interests of a more strategic place shaping approach to delivery.

To reserve your place please contact:

Amy McGrath on office@nilga.org or call 02890 798972

For further information please contact:

Fiona Douglas on f.douglas@nilga.org or call 02890 798972