



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

January 2nd, 2018

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 8th January 2018** 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 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 December 2017

📄 Council-04122017.pdf

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 December 2017

(Amendment to the Minute)

C/191/2017 NOTICE OF MOTION – CLOSURE OF ULSTER BANK, KILLYLEAGH BRANCH

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration proposed by Councillor Andrews:

“Following the recent announcement by the Ulster Bank of its proposed closure of the Killyleagh Branch, we as a Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and urge Ulster Bank to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people”.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Andrews stated that once again the banks were not thinking of their customers with their decision to close the Ulster Bank branch in Killyleagh. He asked that Members support his motion to have this decision overturned.

Councillor Harvey seconded the motion.

Members were unanimous in their support of the motion stating that once again, banks had no moral consideration for the rural community or elderly within the District. They highlighted that many people do not have access to suitable standard broadband within the District as well as a lot of elderly people who do not use internet banking and this should be taken into consideration by the banks before closing any branches. *They also agreed to seek a meeting with Ulster Bank officials to discuss the closure in detail.*

The motion was CARRIED unanimously.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Harvey that following the recent announcement by the Ulster Bank of its proposed closure of the Killyleagh Branch, we as a Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and seek a meeting with Ulster Bank to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people.

5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27th November 2017

📄 Special Council-27112017.pdf

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6.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 13 December 2017

📄 Special Council-13122017.pdf

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

7.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2017

📄 ERT Mins 11 December 2017.pdf

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8.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2017

📄 SPR Minutes 14-12-2017.pdf

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9.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2017

📄 AHC - 18 December 2017.pdf

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10.0 Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2017

📄 RTS - 19 December 2017.pdf

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Correspondence and Conferences

11.0 Correspondence received from Permanent Secretary O'Reilly re: Universal Credit

📄 Universal credit in NI.pdf

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12.0 Correspondence received from Education Authority re: Proposed Closure of Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre

📄 Letter to Mr Liam Hannaway re Ardnabannon OEC.PDF

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13.0 Correspondence received from Ulster Bank re: Closure of Killyleagh Branch

[!\[\]\(21199eb166cc97331a0c54c649195dcc_img.jpg\) *Ulster Bank response letter.pdf*](#)

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14.0 Correspondence received from Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman's Office regarding New NIPSO Powers

[!\[\]\(e78f798d4ea5c530c9db49e7d26e6b95_img.jpg\) *Ombudsman letter to all Listed Authorities - new powers.pdf*](#)

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15.0 Conference on education policy in Northern Ireland - area plans, collaboration and leadership - keynote: Education Authority and GTCNI - Policy Forum for Northern Ireland, Morning, Tuesday, 23rd January 2018

Tuesday, 23rd January 2018 - 9am - 1pm (registration from 8.30am)

Radisson Blu Hotel, The Gasworks, 3 Cromac Place, Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2JB

£230 plus VAT

[!\[\]\(dd161862f9164df98f62b726e9846241_img.jpg\) *education-policy-NI-18-agenda.pdf*](#)

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16.0 National Association of Councillors Environment Conference

Cost per delegate = £350+ VAT + travel + accommodation

[!\[\]\(a8f9309f944226d1420f5fed22e2b6e6_img.jpg\) *NAC Conference - Leeds.pdf*](#)

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[!\[\]\(899d8b7697d64725bf017d3296cfcf1b_img.jpg\) *NAC Conference agenda.pdf*](#)

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[!\[\]\(cbd8541a32dfc32f356f5c6c994b0a21_img.jpg\) *Booking form-NAC conference.pdf*](#)

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

17.0 Review of Senior Structure of Council

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of para.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)

Richard O'Rawe, Stellar Leadership will be in attendance

Copy report to follow

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews	terry.andrews@nmandd.org
Cllr Naomi Bailie	naomi.bailie@nmandd.org
Cllr Patrick Brown	patrick.brown@nmandd.org
Cllr Robert Burgess	robert.burgess@nmandd.org
Cllr Stephen Burns	stephen.burns@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
Mr Eddy Curtis	eddy.curtis@nmandd.org
Cllr Laura Devlin	laura.devlin@nmandd.org
Ms Louise Dillon	louise.dillon@nmandd.org
Cllr Sean Doran	sean.doran@nmandd.org
Cllr Sinead Ennis	sinead.ennis@nmandd.org
Cllr Cadogan Enright	cadogan.enright@nmandd.org
Cllr Gillian Fitzpatrick	gillian.fitzpatrick@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
Cllr Terry Hearty	terry.hearty@nmandd.org
Cllr David Hyland	david.hyland@nmandd.org
Miss Veronica Keegan	veronica.keegan@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
Cllr Kevin Mc Ateer	kevin.mcateer@nmandd.org
Colette McAteer	colette.mcateer@nmandd.org
Cllr Declan McAteer	declan.mcateer@nmandd.org
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Ms Carmel Morgan	carmel.morgan@nmandd.org
Cllr Roisin Mulgrew	roisin.mulgrew@nmandd.org
Cllr Mark Murnin	mark.murnin@nmandd.org
Mrs Aisling Murray	aisling.murray@nmandd.org
Cllr Barra O Muiri	barra.omuiri@nmandd.org
Cllr Pol O'Gribin	pol.ogribin@nmandd.org
Mr Canice O'Rourke	canice.orourke@downdc.gov.uk
Ms Patricia Oakes	patricia.oakes@nmandd.org
Cllr Brian Quinn	brian.quinn@nmandd.org
Cllr Henry Reilly	henry.reilly@nmandd.org
Cllr Michael Ruane	michael.ruane@nmandd.org
Cllr Michael Savage	michael.savage@nmandd.org
Cllr Gareth Sharvin	gareth.sharvin@nmandd.org
Cllr Gary Stokes	gary.stokes@nmandd.org
Sarah Taggart	sarah-louise.taggart@nmandd.org
Cllr David Taylor	david.taylor@nmandd.org
Caroline Taylor	Caroline.Taylor@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly	jarlath.tinnelly@nmandd.org
Cllr John Trainor	john.trainor@nmandd.org
Central Support Unit	central.support@nmandd.org
Cllr William Walker	william.walker@nmandd.org
Mrs Marie Ward	marie.ward@nmandd.org
Mr Adam Wilkinson	adam.wilkinson@nmandd.org

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2017

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Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/175/2017	Chairperson's Remarks	Mr Hannaway to liaise with Rainbow Community regarding their concerns over premises.	L Hannaway		
C/176/2017	Declarations of Interest	Councillor Savage declared an interest in C/182/2017 – SPR/195/2017 – Murphy's Trust. Mr Hannaway declared an interest in C/182/2017 – SPR/199/2017 – Forkhill GAC – Waive of Deed of Charge	D Services		
C/178/2017	Minutes of Council Meeting 6 November 2017	Minutes adopted.	D Services	Adopted.	
C/179/2017	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23 October 2017	Minutes adopted.	D Services	Adopted.	
C/180/2017	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30 October 2017	Minutes adopted.	D Services	Adopted.	
C/181/2017	Minutes of ERT Committee 13 November 2017	Minutes adopted.	M Ward	Adopted.	
C/182/2017	Minutes of SPR Committee 16 November 2017	SPR/187/2017: Agreed that the following be established for the 2018/19 financial year: An Irish Language Bursary Scheme. A financial assistance scheme with two specific themes – Irish language community renewal and development; positively engaging the Irish language. Minutes adopted.	D Carville	Adopted.	
C/183/2017	Minutes of AHC Committee 20 November 2017	Minutes adopted.	M Lipsett	Adopted.	
C/184/2017	Minutes of RTS Committee 22 November 2017	RTS/138/2017: Mr Wilkinson to provide the following: • List of upgrade plans for years 1, 2 and 3 for all	A Wilkinson	Adopted.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the public convenience in Kilkeel for Councillor Reilly. • An estimated timescale for the disabled toilet at Saintfield Play Park for Councillor Burgess. <p>Minutes adopted.</p>			
C/185/2017	Appointment of One Member to the FLAG Board	Councillor Curran was declared appointed as the Council's representative on the FLAG Board.	M Quinn		
C/186/2017	Conference on Transport Infrastructure	Councillors Craig, Burgess and Carr along with a senior official to attend the Transport Infrastructure conference.	Democratic Services	Members booked onto conference	
C/187/2017	Lagan Navigation Trust Conference 2017	Councillors Casey, Hyland and Murnin to attend the Lagan Navigation Trust Conference 2017	Democratic Services	Members booked onto conference – 06/12/17	
C/190/2017	Notice of Motion received from Councillors Brown, Enright and Trainor	<p>It was agreed that the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council prioritises the Eastern Distributor Road in Downpatrick equally alongside other priority infrastructure projects in the District; the Ballynahinch bypass, the Southern Relief Road and the widening of the A7, and will write to Transport NI to confirm this. • Council recognises the severe congestion issues facing the District's largest town and the negative effect this has on the growth and prosperity of Downpatrick and its surrounding area. The Council commits to prioritising the Eastern Distributor Road whilst also continuing to advance the Southern Link Road and One Way System infrastructure projects in Downpatrick at a later stage. • Council will also write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure requesting a meeting as soon as possible to discuss these priority projects for the District. • Council will facilitate a meeting between TransportNI, landowners, developers and Department for Infrastructure as well as any other interested people 	Democratic Services	Letters sent – 15/12/17	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		and Councillors to discuss a way forward.			
C/191/2017	Notice of Motion received from Councillors Andrews and Walker	It was agreed that following the recent announcement by the Ulster Bank of its proposed closure of the Killyleagh Branch, Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and seek a meeting with Ulster Bank to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people.	Democratic Services	Letter sent – 15/12/17 Holding response received – 28/12/17 Response letter received – 29/12/17 – on agenda	
C/192/2017	Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andrews	It was unanimously agreed that Newry, Mourne & Down District Council notes the assessment for Personal Independence Payment is causing severe stress to those most in need of support, and calling for intervention to address serious concerns about the operation of the new PIPS regime including reports of the Capita Assessment process being degrading and humiliating, Council commits to writing to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities, calling on him to instigate an urgent review of the PIP assessment process and to give consideration for further exemption reviews.	Democratic Services	Letter sent – 15/12/17	

IN CLOSED SESSION

C/193/2017	Report from Chief Executive regarding Councillor's Attendance at Meetings	It was agreed to approve Councillor Bailie's absence from Council meetings, due to ill health, for a further period of six months when her ability to attend meetings will be reviewed.	L Hannaway		
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NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/**

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 4 December 2017 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor R Mulgrew**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor P Byrne	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 D Hyland
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B O'Múiri
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services

Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities

Mr A Wilkinson, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services (Interim)

Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager

Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/175/2017**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Harte, Kimmins and O'Gribin.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last Council meeting of 2017. She said there were families in the District that had suffered recent tragedies and asked Members to keep them in their prayers at Christmas.

The Chair advised the Rainbow community had received an award in Letterkenny at the weekend and she said they had issue a letter to most councils raising concerns regarding premises, and she had asked Mr Hannaway to liaise with the Rainbow community this week in this regard.

C/176/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Savage declared an interest in C/182/2017 – SPR/195/2017 – Murphy’s Trust.

Mr Hannaway declared an interest in C/182/2017 – SPR/199/2017 – Forkhill GAC – Waive of Deed of Charge.

C/177/2017 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 November 2017 (copy circulated).

C/169/2017 – Ireland 2040 “Our Plan” – Draft National Planning Framework for Republic of Ireland – NMD Consultation Response

Mr Hannaway advised Council’s draft response had been submitted as part of the consultation.

AGREED: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 November 2017 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/178/2017 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2017

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 November 2017 (copy circulated).

AGREED: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hearty.

C/179/2017 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2017

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 23 October 2017 (copy circulated).

AGREED: The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 23 October 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hearty.

C/180/2017 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2017**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 30 October 2017 (copy circulated).

AGREED: The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 30 October 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Craig.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/181/2017 **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2017**

Read: Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2017 (copy circulated).

ERT/199/2017 – 2018/19 Tourism Events Programme

In response to concerns from Councillor Byrne, Mrs Ward advised she would ask Mr Patterson to share the information on the breakdown of each festival prior to the December ERT Committee meeting.

AGREED: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee held on 13 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

C/182/2017 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2017**

AGREED: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 16 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Stokes.

SPR/187/2017 *Moltaí Le Haghaidh Bhunú Scéim Sparánachta Na Gaeilge Agus Scéim Chúnamh Airgeadais/Proposals for the Establishment of an Irish Language Bursary Scheme and a Financial Scheme*

Councillor O'Muire referred to the Irish Language Bursary Scheme and Financial Scheme, saying figures were discussed at length at the Cross Party Working Group including comparison figures with other councils and he was surprised the figures had not been included within the proposal in the paper and subsequently within the minutes. He advised it was his understanding that if figures were agreed at Committee and ratified at Council, they would then be included in the rates setting process.

Mrs Carville said the figures had been discussed at SPR Committee, but there had been no formal proposal for those figures to be considered, although this could be picked up at Efficiencies Working Group as part of the rates setting process.

Councillor O'Muire said there had been a misunderstanding, as he had intended the figures to be included within the proposal and Councillor Savage confirmed that he had seconded the proposal on that basis also.

Councillor Hyland agreed with Councillor O'Muire's position.

Mrs Carville advised she would investigate the audio recording of the SPR Committee.

Councillor Walker proposed an amendment to the recommendation to include minority languages whereby people from other languages could also apply. He said it was wrong to have a stand-alone bursary for the Irish Language when other minority language were not funded. He added there was an equality issue and his party would be taking legal advice on this matter as unionists and minority languages were being discriminated against.

Councillor Reilly concurred with Councillor Walker's concerns and seconded Councillor Walker's amendment stating the bursary scheme should be open to all cultures, languages and sections of society. Councillor Reilly contended that equality impact had not been fully considered.

Mr Hannaway referred to the report tabled at SPR Committee, specifically paragraph 5.3, which stated the outcome of screening the proposed establishment of an Irish Language Bursary Scheme was that it not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures/alternative policies). He also referred Members to paragraph 5.2 of the Report, which stated while it should be noted language was not an equality category, it was acknowledged the themes were directly related to the Irish language. While it should be noted language was not an equality category, Irish language is predominantly spoken by people who are of Catholic, Nationalist and Irish National identity. However, the themes would be designated as positive actions building upon the Council's Bilingualism Policy, audit of Irish Language provision in the Newry, Mourne and Down District area, and the Irish Language Strategy 2017/19.

Councillor Reilly requested a recorded vote.

Councillor Burgess said the Irish language was being used as a political football which was a disgrace.

Councillor Craig asked why Council had not chosen to create a minority language working group instead of the Irish language working group, saying it was one dimensional and disability languages also should be represented. Councillor Craig asked officers to check whether there would be any funding from central government for this initiative.

Councillor Savage stated he had seconded Councillor O'Muire's proposal, and said Newry, Mourne and Down was a bilingual council. He said he had asked questions at SPR Committee relating to equality screening and was satisfied.

Councillor Andrews advised that the Irish Language Strategy Working Group had considered the issue of minority languages and, after determining that this was outside the remit of the Irish Language Working Group, felt that a minority languages strategy needed to be considered by the Good Relations Forum.

Councillor McAteer spoke of the due consideration given to this issue by the Irish Language Strategy Working Group and Councillors McAteer and Brown gave their support to the motion.

Councillor Sharvin said he had raised concerns at the SPR Committee regarding the equality screening issue. He said his concerns were that 457 applications had been received, 299 of which had been successful and 158 unsuccessful. Six had been related to the Irish language, and he had concerns these 6 would be successful and 152 would have no opportunity. However Mr Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, had explained due process had been carried out.

Councillor Hanna also explained he could not support the motion.

The Chair adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes at 7.17pm.

The meeting resumed at 7.24pm.

The Chair invited Councillor Walker to read out his amendment to the recommendation contained within the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee (SPR) report.

Councillor Walker said his proposal was that minority languages were included within the bursary scheme, which would include languages such as Polish, Ulster Scots and disability languages.

Councillor Reilly formally seconded Councillor Walker's motion which was put to a recorded vote.

Voting was as follows (copy of recorded vote attached):

FOR: 8
 AGAINST: 28
 ABSTENTIONS: 1

The motion was LOST.

Councillor O'Muiri then proposed and Councillor Savage seconded adoption of the original recommendation contained in the Committee Report – SPR/187/2017.

- Councillor Reilly requested a recorded vote.

Voting was as follows (copy of recorded vote attached):

FOR: 28
 AGAINST: 8
 ABSTENTIONS: 1

The motion was declared CARRIED and it was therefore agreed that the following be established for the 2018/19 financial year:

An Irish Language Bursary Scheme.

A financial Assistance Scheme with two specific themes:

- Irish language community renewal and development;
- Positively engaging the Irish language.

SPR/191/2017 – Local Development Plan Steering Group

Councillor McAteer referred to the proposal of the Deputy Chair of the Local Development Plan Steering Group, saying he had not seconded the proposal, Councillor Enright had done so and this should be amended in the minutes.

SPR/205/2017 – Car Parking at the Closed Newry Sports Centre

In response to Councillor Savage's concerns regarding the closure of the pathway from the car park at the sports centre onto St Patrick's Street, Mr Hannaway advised that would be investigated.

AGREED: The Minutes of SPR Committee meeting were then adopted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Ruane (the Minutes having already been agreed, at an earlier point in the meeting, for accuracy).

C/183/2017 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2017

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2017 (copy circulated).

AGREED: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee held on 20 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burns.**

C/184/2017 MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2017

Read: Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 22 November 2017 (copy circulated).

RTS/137/2017 – Newcastle Britain in Bloom Entry 2017

Councillor Devlin congratulated the team involved in Newcastle's success in Britain in Bloom and also the local community on their great work.

Councillor Quinn asked to be associated with Councillor Devlin's remarks.

RTS/138/2017 – Council Review of Public Conveniences

Councillor Devlin welcomed the Council review of Public Conveniences, saying she had been inundated with complaints especially during the summer. She added there was a need to accommodate disabled visitors.

In response to Councillor's queries, Mr Wilkinson provided the following :

- The council review of public conveniences was a quick review of condition, cleanliness and prioritisation and the RTS Committee had agreed in principle to support the provision of £1.2m to carry out works in line with the schedule presented to Committee which showed a 3 year application of the £1.2m with Newcastle toilet upgrade in Year 1. At the RTS committee, it had been agreed that officers would engage with wider groups to ensure the toilets were refurbished and improved to suit a wider application ie. disabled users and users with autism.
- Public conveniences at Spelga Dam and other locations would be incorporated within the review as detailed projects and as proposals were brought forward these would include options for opening hours etc.
- Fixtures and fittings of public conveniences would be looked at as part of the overall review.
- There was a master key for all disabled toilets across Northern Ireland. Environmental Services held this key.
- There was damage to public conveniences and this would also be incorporated within the review programme.

In response to requests from Councillors, Mr Wilkinson undertook to provide the following:

- A list of the upgrade plans for Years 1, 2 and 3 for all Members.
- An update on the public convenience in Kilkeel for Councillor Reilly.
- An estimated timescale for the disabled toilet at Saintfield play park for Councillor Burgess.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee held on 22 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Trainor.

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

C/185/2017 APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER TO THE FLAG BOARD

Read: Report regarding background on FLAG (copy circulated).

It was proposed by Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Burgess, that Councillor Curran would represent Council on the Flag Board.

It was proposed by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Craig, that Councillor Hanna would represent Council on the Flag Board.

Mr Hannaway referred Members to Standing Orders 20.3 – External Appointments, which stated “if agreement cannot be reached by Members when voting on external appointments where there is more than one post to be filled and the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, there shall be a ballot of the Members present at the meeting in which each Member of the Council shall vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled. Vacancies shall then be filled using the single transferrable vote”.

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly, Mr Hannaway clarified both Ards and North Down Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council could appoint one Member each to the board.

The Chairperson called for a vote for either Councillor Curran or Councillor Hanna to represent Council on the FLAG Board, the results of which were as follows:

Councillor Curran	21
Councillor Hanna	16

Councillor Curran was declared appointed as the Council’s representative on the Flag Board.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

C/186/2017 CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Read: Report regarding Conference on Transport Infrastructure – 20 February 2018 (copy circulated).

Councillors Craig, Burgess and Carr put their names forward for the above conference. Councillor Carr suggested a senior official should also attend.

AGREED: It was agreed that Councillors Craig, Burgess, Carr and a senior official should attend the Transport Infrastructure conference.

C/187/2017 **LAGAN NAVIGATION TRUST CONFERENCE 2017**

Read: Report regarding Lagan Navigation Trust Conference 7 December 2017 (copy circulated).

Councillors Casey, Hyland and Murnin put their names forward for attendance at the Lagan Navigation Trust Conference 2017.

AGREED: It was agreed that Councillors Casey, Hyland and Murnin would attend the Lagan Navigation Trust Conference 2017.

FOR NOTING

C/188/2017 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM PETER MAY, PERMANENT SECRETARY REGARDING A2 ROAD – NEWCASTLE**

Read: Correspondence received from P May, Permanent Secretary, dated 14 November 2017 regarding A2 Road – Newcastle (copy circulated).

Councillor Quinn expressed his disappointment in the response from the Permanent Secretary.

Councillors Reilly and Hanna concurred with Councillor Quinn's comments

C/189/2017 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM PETER MAY, PERMANENT SECRETARY REGARDING NOTICE OF MOTION RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO 10b PERMITS AND MINIBUS DRIVING**

Read: Correspondence received from P May, Permanent Secretary, dated 27 November 2017 regarding proposed changes to 10b Permits and Minibus Driving (copy circulated).

Councillor Murnin expressed his disappointment regarding the groups affected not receiving a similar response, saying they still did not know where they stood with 10b permits.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor Murnin.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/190/2017

NOTICE OF MOTION - EASTERN DISTRIBUTER ROAD IN DOWNPATRICK

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration proposed by Councillor Brown:

'That this Council prioritises the Eastern Distributor Road in Downpatrick equally alongside other priority infrastructure projects in the District; the Ballynahinch bypass, the Southern Relief Road and the widening of the A7, and will write to Transport NI to confirm this.

It recognises the severe congestion issues facing the District's largest town and the negative effect this has on the growth and prosperity of Downpatrick and its surrounding area. The Council commits to prioritising the Eastern Distributor Road whilst also continuing to advance the Southern Link Road and One Way System infrastructure projects in Downpatrick at a later stage'

In proposing the motion, Councillor Brown added an amendment to the motion that:

"The Council will also write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure requesting a meeting as soon as possible to discuss these priority projects for the District."

All Members were in agreement with the amendment.

Councillor Brown stated that all Members would be very familiar with the congestion issues within Downpatrick and the Eastern Distributor Road has been on the long-term scheme list for a long time. This was not good enough where population growth and housing development means added congestion. He asked Members to support his motion.

Councillor Trainor in seconding the motion stated Downpatrick was the county town of Down and therefore should receive equal treatment to other areas in Northern Ireland in terms of alleviating traffic congestion. The establishment of this road would encourage potential business into the town as well as increasing residential development.

Councillors Clarke, Sharvin and Enright all spoke in support of the motion stating it was long overdue and people were already using the Slievegrane Road as a link road, although it was not fit for the volume of traffic using it. They stated that Edward Street was constantly at a standstill and the Council should be working with developers and government to provide this road.

Councillors Walker and Craig stated they couldn't support the motion as the Ballynahinch By-Pass was shovel-ready and any attempt to prioritise this scheme over any other may jeopardise the Ballynahinch By-Pass scheme going ahead.

Councillor Clarke proposed an amendment to the motion stating that Council facilitate a meeting with Transport ni, landowners, developers and the Department for Infrastructure with any other interested people and Councillors also being invited to discuss a way forward. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Burgess.

The amendment to the motion was agreed by the proposer and seconder.

The motion, as amended, was put to a vote, results of which were as follows:

FOR: 28
 AGAINST: 0
 ABSTENTIONS: 4

The motion was CARRIED.

- ACTION:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Trainor that:
- Council prioritises the Eastern Distributor Road in Downpatrick equally alongside other priority infrastructure projects in the District; the Ballynahinch bypass, the Southern Relief Road and the widening of the A7, and will write to Transport NI to confirm this.
 - Council recognises the severe congestion issues facing the District's largest town and the negative effect this has on the growth and prosperity of Downpatrick and its surrounding area. The Council commits to prioritising the Eastern Distributor Road whilst also continuing to advance the Southern Link Road and One Way System infrastructure projects in Downpatrick at a later stage.
 - Council will also write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure requesting a meeting as soon as possible to discuss these priority projects for the District.
 - Council will facilitate a meeting between TransportNI, landowners, developers and Department for Infrastructure as well as any other interested people and Councillors to discuss a way forward.

Councillors Hearty, Burgess and Walker left the meeting during the above discussions – 8.04pm, 8.22pm and 8.31pm respectively.

C/191/2017 **NOTICE OF MOTION – CLOSURE OF ULSTER BANK, KILLYLEAGH BRANCH**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration proposed by Councillor Andrews:

“Following the recent announcement by the Ulster Bank of its proposed closure of the Killyleagh Branch, we as a Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and urge Ulster Bank to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people”.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Andrews stated that once again the banks were not thinking of their customers with their decision to close the Ulster Bank branch in

Killyleagh. He asked that Members support his motion to have this decision overturned.

Councillor Harvey seconded the motion.

Members were unanimous in their support of the motion stating that once again, banks had no moral consideration for the rural community or elderly within the District. They highlighted that many people do not have access to suitable standard broadband within the District as well as a lot of elderly people who do not use internet banking and this should be taken into consideration by the banks before closing any branches.

The motion was CARRIED unanimously.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Harvey that following the recent announcement by the Ulster Bank of its proposed closure of the Killyleagh Branch, we as a Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and urge Ulster Bank to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people.**

C/192/2017 NOTICE OF MOTION – PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENTS

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration proposed by Councillor Andrews:

"Newry, Mourne & Down District Council notes that the Assessment for Personal Independence Payment is causing severe stress to those most in need of support, calls for intervention to address serious concerns about the operation of the new PIPS regime including reports of the Capita Assessment process being degrading and humiliating, Council commits to writing to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities, calling on him to instigate an urgent review of the PIP assessment process and to give consideration for further exemption reviews"

In proposing the motion, Councillor Andrews stated the PIP assessment was not fit for purpose and was causing undue stress and humiliation to people being called for assessment. He called on Members to support his motion to ask for an urgent review of the assessment process.

Councillor Loughran seconded the motion stating the process was letting everyone down with dishonest reports being presented and people getting assessed by people with no medical training.

Members spoke unanimously in support of the motion stating the following:

- The system was designed to remove those people who were cheating the benefit system however the number of people with strong medical evidence to back up

their legitimate claims who were being turned down was staggering and needed to be addressed.

- The new system was putting severe stress on people and needed to be streamlined and improved.
- Interviews were very stressful for people who often had conditions that will never have any improvement and were being called back for re-assessments.
- The system was not looking after those vulnerable people in society and that was wrong.
- Welfare reform was an unmitigated disaster with PIPS and Universal Credit schemes.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Loughran that Newry, Mourne & Down District Council notes the assessment for Personal Independence Payment is causing severe stress to those most in need of support, and calling for intervention to address serious concerns about the operation of the new PIPS regime including reports of the Capita Assessment process being degrading and humiliating, Council commits to writing to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities, calling on him to instigate an urgent review of the PIP assessment process and to give consideration for further exemption reviews.

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

C/193/2017 REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE REGARDING COUNCILLOR'S ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burns, 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 this item of business.

Read: Report from Chief Executive dated 4 December 2017 regarding Councillor's Attendance at Meetings (copy circulated)

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to approve Councillor Bailie's absence from Council meetings, due to ill health, for a further period of six months when her ability to attend meetings will be reviewed.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.08pm.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 4 December 2017 **VENUE:** Downshire Civic Centre **MEETING:** Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: C/182/2017 –Minutes of SPR Committee 16.11.2017 - Proposals for the Establishment of an Irish Language Bursary Scheme and a Financial Scheme – Cllr Walker amendment

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		X		
N Bailie				
P Brown		X		
R Burgess	X			
S Burns		X		
P Byrne		X		
M Carr		X		
C Casey		X		
W Clarke		X		
G Craig	X			
D Curran		X		
L Devlin		X		
S Doran		X		
C Enright		X		
G Fitzpatrick		X		
G Hanna	X			
V Harte				
H Harvey	X			
T Hearty		X		
D Hyland		X		
L Kimmins				
M Larkin		X		
K Loughran		X		
J Macauley	X			
D McAteer		X		
O McMahan		X		
A McMurray		X		
R Mulgrew		X		
M Murnin		X		
P Ó Gribin				
B Ó Muiri		X		
B Quinn		X		
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane		X		
M Savage		X		
G Sharvin			X	
G Stokes		X		
D Taylor	X			
JJ Tinnelly		X		
J Trainor		X		
B Walker	X			
TOTALS	8	28	1	4

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 4 December 2017 **VENUE:** Downshire Civic Centre **MEETING:** Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: C/182/2017 –Minutes of SPR Committee 16.11.2017 - Proposals for the Establishment of an Irish Language Bursary Scheme and a Financial Scheme – Original Proposal at 16.11.2017 SPR Committee.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
N Bailie				
P Brown	X			
R Burgess		X		
S Burns	X			
P Byrne	X			
M Carr	X			
C Casey	X			
W Clarke	X			
G Craig		X		
D Curran			X	
L Devlin	X			
S Doran	X			
C Enright	X			
G Fitzpatrick	X			
G Hanna		X		
V Harte				
H Harvey		X		
T Hearty	X			
D Hyland	X			
L Kimmins				
M Larkin	X			
K Loughran	X			
J Macauley		X		
D McAteer	X			
O McMahan	X			
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin	X			
P Ó Gribin				
B Ó Muiri	X			
B Quinn	X			
H Reilly		X		
M Ruane	X			
M Savage	X			
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor		X		
JJ Tinnelly	X			
J Trainor	X			
B Walker		X		
TOTALS	28	8	1	4

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/SC/****Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 27 November 2017 at 6pm
in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick****In the Chair:** Councillor R Mulgrew**In attendance:****(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor O McMahon
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

Mr R Larkin, Northern Ireland Water
 Mr K Henderson, Northern Ireland Water
 Ms L Hughes, Northern Ireland Water
 Mr D Mathers, Northern Ireland Water

SC/32/2017 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Brown, Burns, Byrne, Carr, Curran, Devlin, Fitzpatrick, Hanna, Harte, Kimmins, Murnin, Savage and Stokes.

SC/33/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest

SC/34/2017 NORTHERN IRELAND WATER

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland Water and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Larkin, Director of Finance and Regulation, Northern Ireland Water, thanked the Chairperson and Council for inviting them to make their presentation. He highlighted the water and waste water services that exist within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area along with the fact that £31.4m had been invested in capital project spend within the Council area since 2015. A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

The Members asked the following questions:

- Derryboye outside Killyleagh had issues with spillages due to septic tanks being unable to get into main system. Would it be possible to arrange a meeting to investigate this issue?
- Smell on Downpatrick Road outside BT30 9RR, there seemed to be something wrong with the filters, could this be investigated?
- There was sometimes very bad odours around the Greenbank area and Warrenpoint Road in Newry – could this be investigated?
- Would it be possible for Council's facebook page to be alerted when there was a breakdown in systems and for DEA Councillors to be notified also?
- The smell around Greenbank area seemed to be worse at night, would there be any reason for this?
- Could an update be provided on Dundrum pumping station?
- Was the works at Crossgar capable of managing the capacity?
- An additional number of homes had been built at Darragh Cross, were the existing facilities up to scratch?
- Was the new Ardtole project in Ardglass working to capacity as there were still reports of raw sewage around the Sheepland Bay area?
- Would NIW be working with Phoenix Gas to ensure as little disruption as possible in Downpatrick?
- Would it be possible to get more signage at Silent Valley to discourage dog owners to let their dogs off the lead?
- Was there any potential for additional tourist developments at Spelga Dam?
- The Carrigenagh Road in Kilkeel had not been reinstated properly following the last sewage works.
- There were issues regarding the cost of connecting water to developments, previously people were able to request a road opening permit however now it costs £2700 in-house for this service. Can this be investigated as it seemed quite costly?
- Corrosion of household pipes seemed to have stopped, was there a change in the way that water was being processed?
- Odour issues at Ardmeen Green in Downpatrick continue and with the ongoing development at Ballyalton were only likely to get worse. What steps were being taken to address this issue?
- Odour issues at the back of houses in Bishopsbrae – can this be investigated?
- The Links at Strangford had an issue with a manhole overflowing regularly and with sewage spilling out – would investigations be carried out in this area?
- A lot of people were unaware of the free septic tank emptying and perhaps this was something that could be highlighted more?
- Was Derryogue Park in Kilkeel part of the phase 1 drainage area plan?
- As part of the plan, could the Kilkeel River from the bridge going down to the

harbour be included with a maintenance plan?

- At the Head Road where new pipes had to be laid, the roads had not been reinstated correctly and were broken up due to frost etc.
- Was there any maintenance programme in place to ensure that fire hydrants lids were able to be opened?
- Would NIW support charities to run 10k races around Silent Valley?
- Had Phoenix Gas caused any difficulties with their excavations so far?
- Would it be wise to have a plan in place to introduce a new plant at Newry treatment plant due to the over-usage of the current plant?
- Were there any statistics in relation to burst pipes over the winter period?
- Dromintee upgrade was carried out 3 years ago with a planned 50 additional houses being erected. The developers had been told there would be infrastructure to access the sewage works however this was never put in place. Would it be possible to get an update on this?
- Was there capacity to supply water over the next 25 years due to expansion highlighted within the Council's area plan?
- Carrick Primary School in Burren had issues with a water bill that was incorrect and the issue was still not rectified, could this be investigated?

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- The issue regarding odour on the Downpatrick Road outside Grove Park could be due to the carbon filters requiring to be updated and this would be investigated.
- Complaints regarding spillages in the Derryboye area related to infrastructure issues and it was important that funding was obtained to carry out investment upgrades. Representatives from NI Water would investigate this issue and revert back to Councillors Andrews and Walker.
- Odour problems at the Newry treatment centre would be investigated.
- There were odour problems specifically in the Greenbank area due to a mechanical/electrical fault with the air blowers, which had now been solved and there had been no further complaints during the past week. NI Water officials had liaised with the Environmental Office and residents regarding the problem.
- The Newry waste treatment works was built 10 years ago to serve a population of 70,000, but the population had now doubled and also industrial usage meant the works was overloaded at times.
- The reason for the odour being worse at night was due to the fact that odours lingered at low levels in colder temperatures and as the temperature rose during the day, the odour dissipated.
- Upgrade works had been undertaken at Newry pumping station and Newry treatment works and NI Water were continuing to make processes at the stations as efficient as possible.
- A substantial upgrade had been undertaken at Crossgar waste water station one year ago - new pumps had been replaced and improvements undertaken to the line. Representatives from NI Water would investigate the odour complaints.
- The waste water treatment works at Dundrum was fully loaded, although a new scheme starting in January 2018 to upgrade the system would assist with the increase in incoming flows. NI Water officials were in negotiations with the NIEA to provide an overall holistic solution for the whole catchment area of Dundrum.

- There was always disruption relating to investment programmes although NI Water officials worked to find the best ways to minimise any disruption.
- The waste water treatment works at Ardtole was a new facility with considerable investment of £6m and had been fully operational for the past year. The works had been designed to deal with a population of 7,000, although there were only 2,700 people living in the Ardglass area. Trade effluent discharge ie. fish processors, was significant particularly at certain times of the year. At these times it was not uncommon to see loading up to the equivalent of 15,000 people, which put pressure on the facility.
- There was ample capacity at Ardtole during normal situations, but during periods of sustained heavy rainfall, the extra flow travelled through a storm tank, had 6 hours of retention and was discharged into the Irish Sea.
- NI Water officials would investigate the dog attack in the Silent Valley and look to provide preventative measures ie. signage.
- Car parking and picnic benches had been improved at Spelga Dam, but NI Water officials would liaise with the Mourne Trust and the NI Tourist Board to investigate what other improvements could be made in order to attract more visitors.
- NI Water officials would revert to Councillor Reilly regarding the poor re-instatement of the Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel.
- It was only NI Water who could dig up the road to allow new connections, which had increased costs.
- Chemicals better suited to less pipe corrosion were now being used.
- Complaints had been received in February regarding odour at Bishops Brae, Downpatrick. Works had been undertaken including the replacement of carbon filters, sealing of manhole covers, de-silting and dosing. NI Water officials were keeping an eye on the situation as silt did build up and required regular cleaning.
- An overflow from the manhole cover by the turn in to the playing fields in Strangford would be investigated.
- NI Water officials were aware of odour issues at Ardmeen Green, Downpatrick. The odour was controlled with a chemical which was dosed at the waste water pumping station.
- Water bills for businesses were charged retrospectively and NI Water officials worked with businesses to accommodate them. It was NI Water's policy to request immediate payment.
- The NI Utility Regulator ensured the standing charges for water were authorised. Standing charges were to make the network available for everyone using it and NI Water were keen to issue cost reflective bills and had worked successfully over the past 10 years to ensure that bills did not rise higher than inflation.
- NI Water officials would investigate the bills Councillors Craig and Harvey highlighted and would speak to the customers on their behalf.
- The whole catchment of Kilkeel plus the pumping in from Ballymartin was included in the Drainage Area Plan Study which would produce an overall plan.
- NI Water officials would liaise with Rivers Agency regarding the maintenance programme required on the Kilkeel River from the bridge in the middle of Kilkeel to the harbour.
- NI Water's maintenance period of 2 years had passed for the Old Town Road.
- NI Fire & Rescue Service carried out yearly checks on water hydrants and the NIFRS sent NI Water a list of the checks on a regular basis.

- A number of 10k runs had been successfully staged in the Silent Valley. Officials were required to work with the charity to ensure event insurance was in place.
- NI Water had a protocol in place where by utilities worked together regarding excavations and re-instatements of roads.
- The Newry waste water treatment plant was future proofed through the capital planning process.
- A strong media campaign had been launched after the harsh winter of 2010/11 and then this had been tested by polling. Further work had been undertaken on the website and a direct link had been seen between the adverts on the media campaign and sales of pipe insulating materials. This campaign would be run again next year and would link into the NIHE and the Education Service to continue to raise awareness.
- The Newry Treatment Plant was not 2x over capacity although it was fully loaded. Extra loading was from increased housing developments and industrial waste. At some point in the future the works would be required to be extended, although this would require massive capital investment and land required was not available on the existing site.
- Housing developers were required to make the shortfall contribution for infrastructure to NI Water depending on the number of units being built. In the Drumintee area 60% of new units were waiting for developer contributions.
- NI Water officials would investigate the cost of the connections in the Drumintee area and revert to Councillor Larkin.
- NI Water officials would investigate the billing issue at Carrick Primary School, Burren and would work with the school to ensure all allowances were made to minimise the bill.
- There was a management plan which looked at supply and demand of water for future years. The Ballydugan Scheme which was a new water main from Portadown to Newry was a big step forward.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their attendance and extended the thanks of the Council to the Elected Member telephone number handlers.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 8 January 2017.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/SC/****Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 13 December 2017 at 6pm
in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick****In the Chair:** Councillor R Mulgrew**In attendance:****(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor S Doran	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Larkin	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor Ó Gribin
Councillor Ó Muirí	Councillor Quinn
Councillor Reilly	Councillor Ruane
Councillor Savage	Councillor Stokes
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Trainor
Councillor Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mrs R Mackin, Asst Director, Corporate Planning & Policy
 Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Dr J Kremer, Kremer Consultancy
Mr P O'Kane, Council Solicitor**SC/35/2017 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Craig, Enright, Harte, Kimmins, Sharvin and Tinnelly.

SC/36/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest

SC/37/2017 PRESENTATION BY JOHN KREMER: INDEPENDENT QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES – THE NAMING OF RAYMOND MCCREESH PARK and CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

The Chairperson invited the Chief Executive to provide some background to the issue being discussed.

Mr Hannaway referred to the Report dated 13 December 2017, which had been circulated. He advised the Equality Commission wrote to Council in June 2016, advising it had decided to rescind its earlier decision of May 2015, by which it had accepted Council's decision to retain the name of the park and close its investigation. The Commission recommended that Council debate the question of whether it should retain the name of the park, vote on it and maintain an adequate record of decision making. It also recommended that Councillors be provided, in advance, with a qualitative analysis of the responses provided during the previous consultation process.

Mr Hannaway advised that Dr Kremer had carried out the qualitative analysis and invited him to present his findings.

Dr Kremer advised he had looked at the content of the responses that came back from the consultation rather than the quantity of responses. He had been tasked with trawling through the responses and extracting emerging themes. The responses were unusual in that they were polar opposites, either for or against the naming of the park.

Dr Kremer stated that due to the depth of feeling provoked by the matter and the polarised opinions expressed by the two communities, Council had few options available for a solution that would meet the diverging and competing aspirations and would help to promote equality of opportunity and good relations locally and across the Council District.

He stated there were three possible options;

1. Retain the name of Raymond McCreesh Park;
2. Change the name to a neutral or non-political name;
3. Review the use and management of the land occupied by the park.

Mr Hannaway stated the third option had emerged during the course of the deliberations and recommended that Council proceed with option three to review the use and management of the land occupied by the park in line with the Council-wide strategic review of play areas, and that the Council's Play Strategy recommendation regarding consultation for consolidation of play facilities at Raymond McCreesh Park and Barcroft Community Centre from two to one, be re-timetabled from year 2 to year 1, which was aimed to complete by 31 March 2018.

Councillor Stokes proposed to accept the officer's recommendation for option three. This was seconded by Councillor Ruane.

Councillors Reilly, Taylor, Harvey, Walker and McMurray all spoke against option three stating there would be no guarantee that the name would be removed or reverted back to a non-contentious name and that there seemed to be no willingness to deal with this issue in the manner it should be dealt with.

Councillor Reilly proposed that Council accept option two: Change the name to a neutral or non-political name. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Ó Gribin entered the meeting during the above discussions – 6.21pm

Councillor Reilly requested a recorded vote. (copy of vote attached)

Mr Hannaway stated he would ask each Member, in turn, whether they were voting for option two or option three.

The matter was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

OPTION TWO: 9 VOTES
OPTION THREE: 23 VOTES

AGREED: It was therefore agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ruane by 23 votes to 9, to proceed with option three:

- Review the use and management of the land occupied by Raymond McCreesh Park in line with the Council-wide strategic review of play areas; and that
- The Council's Play Strategy recommendations regarding consultation for consolidation of play facilities at Raymond McCreesh Park and Barcroft Community Centre from two to one be re-timetabled from year 2 to year 1, which was aimed to complete by 31 March 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.28pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 8 January 2017.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 13 December 2017 **VENUE:** Downshire Civic Centre **MEETING:** Special Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: SC/37/2017 - Option 2 – Rename McCreesh Park to a neutral or non-political name OR Option 3 - review the use and management of the land occupied by the park in line with the Council-wide strategic review of play areas; and that the Council's Play Strategy recommendation regarding consultation for consolidation of play facilities at Raymond McCreesh Park and Barcroft Community Centre from two to one be re-timetabled from year 2 to year 1, which was aimed to complete by 31 March 2018.

COUNCILLOR	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		X		
N Bailie				X
P Brown	X			
R Burgess	X			
S Burns		X		
P Byrne		X		
M Carr		X		
C Casey		X		
W Clarke		X		
G Craig				X
D Curran		X		
L Devlin		X		
S Doran		X		
C Enright				X
G Fitzpatrick		X		
G Hanna	X			
V Harte				X
H Harvey	X			
T Hearty		X		
D Hyland				X
L Kimmins				X
M Larkin		X		
K Loughran		X		
J Macauley	X			
D McAteer		X		
O McMahan				X
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew		X		
M Murnin		X		
P Ó Gribín		X		
B Ó Muiri		X		
B Quinn		X		
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane		X		
M Savage		X		
G Sharvin				X
G Stokes		X		
D Taylor	X			
JJ Tinnelly				X
J Trainor		X		
B Walker	X			
TOTALS	9	23	0	9

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on
Monday 11 December 2017 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council
Offices,
Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor P Byrne

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor M Carr
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor G Stokes

Also in Attendance: Councillor Sharvin

**Officials
in Attendance:** Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration &
Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Asst. Director, Enterprise Employment &
Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Asst. Director, Tourism Culture & Events
Ms C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/209/2017: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors McMahon, Ruane and Hearty.

The Chairperson welcomed Newry Youth Council to the meeting.

ERT/210/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Curran declared an interest in item ERT//2017 – Ardglass Harbour Development.

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in item ERT//2017 – Accelerate Innovation Proposal.

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**ERT/211/2017: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2017**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 November 2017.
(Copy circulated)

ERT/201/2017 – Support for European Capital of Culture 2023 Bid

In response to a query from Councillor Hanna, Mrs Ward advised Council had issued Letters of Support for the bid to Derry City Council and Belfast City Council and correspondence had been received to say work was being undertaken to find a resolution.

ERT/199/2017 – 2018/19 Tourism Events Programme

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer, Mrs Ward said whilst this query should have been raised at the December Council meeting, she undertook to include an action to liaise with the groups currently running tourism related festivals.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 November 2017.

ERT/212/2017: PRESENTATION – FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NMD

Read: Presentation – Future Economic Growth in NMD by Eoin Magennis – Ulster University.

The Chairperson welcomed Eoin Magennis of Ulster University to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Magennis thanked the Chairperson for the invitation to attend the meeting and said he had been asked to look at what economic success in Newry, Mourne and Down may look like in 10 years' time in relation to employment, the labour market and the challenges posed for the Council in terms of infrastructure and housing.

Following the presentation, the following points were raised:

- What did 10% of direct employment in the top 100 businesses mean in terms of employment?
- Further investment was required for new start-up businesses. If the start-up was not in Derry or Belfast, Invest NI did not seem interested.
- Wage levels for care workers were very poor and had stagnated over the past 10 years. Were wage levels going in a particular direction?
- There were jobs to be had in eg. Dublin, whereby tradesmen left the north early and returned late in the day.

- Were there any examples of what councils had done to make changes or intervene?
- If corporate tax was lowered, would it provide a massive boost?
- Education providers should be helping young people undertaking education to fill the gaps in industry by targeting specific areas.
- The rural areas were subject to poor infrastructure which was a disadvantage. The skills base could be an issue for schools to target the right businesses in the future. What was the role of council in this – was it to support/facilitate the businesses to move things forward?
- Businesses in the Newcastle area could not find office locations to suit their needs ie. a bespoke business park environment with good connectivity, in a town of their choice with links to lifestyle aspects.
- What were the views on hubs for professional services? Would the Newry Civic Centre provide a good opportunity for professional services to act as a stimulus ?

Mr Magennis replied to comments, advising:

- Invest NI would work with the top 100 firms which employed 6,500 people. Employment numbers for work place employment in the District was 66,000, which was 10% direct employment.
- Wages were behind across NI where they were 10-15 years ago. Another emerging issue was the zero hours contract. Wage levels to the west of the Sperrins were much worse than to the east of the Sperrins due to the retention of people along the Belfast/Dublin corridor.
- Commuting for work each day to eg. Dublin, was ok until family commitments took over.
- Galway City Council had put all their eggs into the medical devices/software sectors and pushed the education providers in their area to deliver graduates that the local firms would want to employ. County Kerry had gone down the route of concentrating on its large rural economy and looked to help rural enterprises and tourism to move from 1-2 employees to over the 5 employee mark by introducing schemes such as LEADER. The common theme to both councils was a concentration on business start-up and how to bring it through to a bigger scale.
- Norbrook was in the top 100 companies in NI.
- There was an argument for corporation tax which took away the discouragement of growing businesses more. Issues around VAT could be looked into to encourage more export.
- It had often been the role of councils to be a facilitator to ensure infrastructure was kept well up the agenda.
- The Newry Civic Centre posed a good opportunity for a business park environment type of development, as did the civic centre in Downpatrick. Professional services were setting up in business parks in Dundalk and Drogheda and were transforming the idea of a traditional industrial park from huge buildings, to smaller shared spaces.

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

Agreed: It was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to all Members of ERT Committee.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/213/2017: RING OF GULLION SLLP NIEA FUNDING

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Mr Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding Ring of Gullion SLLP NIEA Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Harvey, it was agreed to sign and return NIEA Acceptance Form and to approve the additional funding offer of £11,000.

ERT/214/2017: UNION PRIORITY 4 (SEAFLAG)

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the Report on Flag 2. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Quinn, it was agreed: -

1. To note the Strategy Development process.
2. To approve the submission of the Development strategy to DAERA.
3. To approve the acceptance and sign off for the administration/running costs letter of offer.

ERT/215/2017 IRISH STREET, DOWNPATRICK – PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the Irish Street, Downpatrick, Public Realm Scheme. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to approve the further expenditure of £6,000 to allow the scheme to secure the necessary planning approval. This will ensure that the project will be ready to proceed as soon as the DFC funding is released.

ERT/216/2017: ACCELERATE INNOVATION PROPOSAL

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Jonathan McGilly,

Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the Accelerate Innovation Programme.

In response to a query from Councillor Harvey, Mr McGilly advised that the issue was one of resources, but that this could be looked at moving forward if the pilot worked out well.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to contribute £25,000 towards the Innovate Accelerate Pilot Programme in Year One, to be implemented by Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre in partnership with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Louth, Meath and Monaghan Local Enterprise Offices. Option for two additional years in 2018/19 and 2019/20 upon review for the pilot programme.**

ERT/217/2017 AUDIT OF VACANT PROPERTIES

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Audit of Vacant Properties. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to queries from Councillors, Mr McGilly provided the following answers:

- The £10,000 would be used to look at the level of dereliction in Newry and Downpatrick, to identify ownership, what was stopping the buildings from being used, the potential for use in the future and a strategy to bring them into more productive use.
- The pilot would explore the issues and the potential for use and to address these.
- Owners could not be forced into complying with the audit, but officers would try to work with owners to engage with businesses in the short term.
- If some of the derelict properties were brought back into use, it would be a good start as council was often challenged about dereliction in town centres.
- Dereliction was an issue District wide. If some quick wins could be achieved, it would justify looking at other areas in the District.

Councillors Clarke, Casey, Quinn and McAteer provided their support to this initiative.

Councillor Sharvin advised he had requested this item would be included on the ERT agenda as Downpatrick had become a prominent area for local businesses to move into and it was a struggle for them to understand which properties were vacant and what size of properties were available. He added that some of the larger retailers were looking in the Downpatrick area for space over 10,000 sq ft and it would be important to include any vacant land that was available in the report.

Councillor Hanna proposed an amendment to the recommendation to include any

vacant land in Downpatrick and Newry that was available.

Councillor Curran seconded Councillor Hanna's amendment.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed:**

1. **To approve the SLA with the 2 no. Enterprise Agencies to cover works agreed in advance up to a maximum cost of £20,000 per annum for 2017/18 and 2018/19.**
2. **To approve vacant property unit works be completed under this SLA at a cost of £10,000 within the current financial year.**
3. **To include any vacant land in Downpatrick and Newry.**

The Newry Youth Council departed from the meeting – 6.05pm

ERT/218/2017 ARDGLASS HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from from Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Ardglass Harbour Development. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hanna welcomed the proposal saying he wanted to see economic development of all of the fisheries along the County Down coast.

Councillors Clarke, Quinn and Carr also added their support to the proposal.

Councillor Carr requested officers to elaborate on the title to include some of the surveys.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed:**

1. **To contribute £25k (25%) to Local Harbour Development Group to complete a business case for Harbour Development and wider regeneration projects.**
2. **That the Group contribute 10% overall costs.**
3. **That the Group secure remaining (65%) budget from external source i.e FLAG.**
4. **That a Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Officer support the Group in their work.**

ERT/219/2017 ACCESS AUDIT STRANGFORD LOUGH AND LECALÉ

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration and Andy Patterson, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration. **(Copy circulated).**

Councillor Clarke stressed the importance of water sports having access to the waterway.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to an Audit of Access to the Strangford Lough to include: Current Access, Potential Access and Recommendations, relevant to the potential to develop water based recreation and related activities while conserving the area's conservation features and biosecurity.**

ERT/220/2017 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REPORT

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding International Relations Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Burgess referred to the twinning programme, saying he had been approached by the Downpatrick and Ballynahinch twinning programmes. Councillor Burgess also requested a meeting with the chairs of the twinning groups in the Downpatrick area.

Mrs Ward asked Councillor Burgess to provide her with details which she would bring to the International Relations Working Group (IRWG) and then back through ERT Committee. Mrs Ward requested Councillor Burgess to provide details of the twinning groups in the Downpatrick area which she would then organise to attend the IRWG.

In response to a query from Councillor Byrne, Mrs Ward advised council was keen to work with other schools and school principals and SRC had been invited to attend the next IRWG.

Councillor Quinn suggested developing an initiative around the Suez Canal as the man who designed it was from the Kilkeel area. Mrs Ward undertook to take this to the next IRWG.

In response to a question from Councillor Casey, Mrs Ward explained she had met with representatives from the Changchun region and a friendship agreement was being developed which took time, and an update would be brought to Committee in January.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to:**

- (1) Note the detail of the visit to Kirovsk and the signing of a Twinning Agreement from October 2017 to April 2019.**

- (2) **Approve the financial contribution of Council to the St Paul's Exchange visit in February 2017.**
- (3) **Approve the placement of a Russian Student for the period of April 2018 to March 2019.**
- (4) **Approve further consideration of development of a Friendship Agreement between the Changchun region and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.**

TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS ITEMS

ERT/221/2017: EVENTS OPEN CALL PROPOSAL

Read: Report dated 11 December 2107 from Andy Patterson, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne expressed concerns regarding the balance between the Council led events budget allocation and the community led events budget allocation, saying there was an uneven split. He said he was not comfortable with growing the Council events at the cost of the community led events and would not like to see events such as the Pride festival receiving any reduction in funding. He added that Wake the Giant and the Soma festival had seen fantastic returns but he did not want this to be at the cost of the community led events.

Councillor Clarke said whilst he concurred with some of Councillor Byrne's comments, he proposed Scenario 3, as it would allow the festivals to grow and it could be reviewed next year.

Councillor Carr proposed Scenario 2, saying there was a greater return from supporting the community led festivals than the council run festivals, although there were groups in the District that could increase with the help of financial assistance.

Councillor Hanna seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal for Scenario 3, saying it was important to support new festivals coming on board and given the opportunity to develop with help from council.

Mr Patterson advised the importance of the Open Call, saying any new festivals could talk to council officers about their proposals.

Councillor Burgess seconded Councillor Carr's proposal for Scenario 2.

Councillor McAteer expressed concerns around publishing the criteria, saying it could send out the wrong message regarding applications and he gave his support to Scenario 2.

In response to Councillor Hanna's query, Mrs Ward advised groups could apply for up to a maximum of £15k, but if there was a huge number of applications that met the criteria, then the budget would be apportioned and brought back to committee.

Councillor Clarke expressed concern around the negative undertones, saying festivals needed to grow and this would encourage visitors. To start to cut festivals

would send out the wrong message.

Councillor Byrne said council led festivals were growing at a faster rate than community led festivals and work was required with the community groups on this issue.

Mrs Ward confirmed Scenario 2 was a cut to the budget which would enable council to grow events. She said if Scenario 2 was agreed, there would be an impact, which could mean a cut in the number of giants being built or whether the Festival of Flight was run over 1 or 2 days. She added that it was not all about a return on finances, but about the reputation and the positive impact on the District.

The Chairperson put Councillor Clarke's proposal, seconded by Councillor Hanna for Scenario 3, to a vote.

Voting was as follows:

FOR:	4
AGAINST:	6
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was LOST.

Councillor Carr's proposal, seconded by Councillor Burgess, for Scenario 2, was put to a vote.

Voting was as follows:

FOR:	7
AGAINST:	4
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was CARRIED.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to approve Scenario 2: Remove c12% from Giant Adventures Events – to include the following:

- Festival of Flight: £140k proposed budget cut to £122k.
- Footsteps in the Forest: £85k proposed budget cut to £74k.
- Wake the Giant: £100k proposed budget cut to £87k.
- City of Merchants: £100k budget cut to £87k.
- In addition to the above budget adjustments, the overall budget proposed for the Guardians of the Mournes Festival would be cut from £128k to £112k.

FOR NOTING

ERT/222/2017: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET

Read: ERT Action Tracker Sheet (**copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Harvey, it was agreed to note the ERT Action Tracker Sheet.

ERT/223/2017: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Scheme of Delegation (**copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Scheme of Delegation.

**ERT/224/2017: REPORT FROM NEWRY & MOURNE MUSEUM
RE: APPLICATION FOR REIMAGE, REMAKE , REPLAY**

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism. (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Harvey, it was agreed the information be noted.

ERT/225/2017: UPDATE ON PROPOSED DOWNPATRICK HOTEL

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding update on proposed Downpatrick Hotel. (**Copy circulated**).

Councillor Curran expressed disappointment in the progress of the hotel, saying the application was still with the planners and he thought the hotel would have started by now.

Mrs Ward said whilst she had raised the issue of progress with the planners several time, she would follow up on any progress again.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed Committee asked to "Note" this progress and await the outcome of the planning process.

ERT/226/2017: DOWNPATRICK PSNI STATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 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).

Read: Report dated 11 December 2017 from Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Downpatrick PSNI Station.

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Harvey, to approve the recommendations as outlined in Section 3.0 of the Report.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.20pm.

Signed: _____
Councillor P Byrne
Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 December 2017 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.

In the Chair: Councillor T Hearty

In Attendance: Councillor P Byrne Councillor R Burgess
 Councillor S Doran Councillor C Enright
 Councillor O McMahon Councillor A McMurray
 Councillor M Savage Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning & Performance
 Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director, Estates and Project Management
 Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance)
 Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
 Ms C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/208/2017 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Ruane, Stokes and Mr A Wilkinson, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services (Interim).

SPR/209/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/210/2017 ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2017 (circulated).

SPR/189/2017 – Operating Protocol for Audio Recording of Council and Committee Meetings

Councillor Byrne said he had experienced difficulties in locating the audio recordings on the new website and requested the layout to be more user friendly in this regard.

Mrs McParland confirmed there had been an issue with transferring information onto the Council's new website which had gone live earlier in the day.

Agreed: It was agreed to ensure the Council's new website was improved to highlight more easily for users where to access audio recordings, agendas and minutes.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 16 November 2017 be noted and the actions identified in the right hand column as completed be removed.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPR/211/2017 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARATORY STUDIES - PAPER 15: STRATEGIC SETTLEMENT EVALUATION

Read: Report from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer, dated 14 December 2017, regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies – Paper 15: Strategic Settlement Hierarchy (copy circulated).

Councillor Byrne expressed concerns regarding Crossmaglen being reclassified from a town to a village and asked for the reasons for this, and the impact of this on Crossmaglen.

Councillor Hearty concurred with Councillor Byrne's concerns regarding the reclassification of Crossmaglen.

Mr Hay advised population alone should not dictate what tier settlements fell into, especially when they were serving the rural hinterland and the services they provided, but Crossmaglen was reclassified based on feedback.

Councillor Byrne proposed Crossmaglen would be retained as a small town in Tier 2.

Councillor Hearty seconded Councillor Byrne's proposal.

Councillor McMahon referred to Ballyholland, saying it had been reclassified from a Tier 3 to a Tier 4. She said Ballyholland was a growing settlement with many services and was not a small settlement.

Councillor McMahon proposed Ballyholland would be retained as a Village in Tier 3.

Councillor Doran seconded Councillor McMahon's proposal.

In response to concerns relating to villages and small settlements in the Downpatrick DEA area, Councillor Enright undertook to email Mr Hay with further details.

Mr Hay advised if any Member had any issues with any of the proposed tiers, or any small settlements which any Member felt worthy of inclusion, to contact Mr Hay and he would look into these.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was proposed to retain Crossmaglen in Tier 2: Local and Small Towns.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McMahon, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was proposed to retain Ballyholland in Tier 3: Villages.

PERFORMANCE

SPR/212/2017 IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT 2017-18

Read: Report from Mr J McBride – Assistant Director: Community Planning and Performance, dated 14 December 2017, regarding Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2017-18 (copy circulated).

Councillor Enright expressed concerns, saying the report was unambitious. He said he could not support the audit and assessment as it was not fit for purpose.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, the Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2017/18, including the proposals for improvement was agreed.

POLICIES

SPR/213/2017 NMDDC PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Read: Report from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, dated 14 December 2017, regarding NMDDC Procurement Policy and Procedures.

Mr Montgomery pointed out a typo on Page 23 of the Procurement Policy & Procedures to be changed as follows:

*“The Chief Executive and Directors can approve Purchase Orders/Invoices over £30k as long as the suppliers/services/works provided **can** be linked to a contract/ framework or service level agreement”.*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, the NMDDC Procurement Policy and Procedures was agreed to include the correction referred to in respect of page 23.

CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/214/2017 MINUTES OF ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2017

Read: Minutes of Elected Member Development Working Group held on 4 December 2017 (copy attached)

Mrs McParland advised Members that Councillor Harvey had been nominated to sit on the NILGA Regional Member Development and Workforce Group.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Walker, the Minutes of the Elected Member Development Working Group held on 4 December 2017 were agreed.

Councillor Enright said it was his view there had been an excessive use of restricted items on the agenda.

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

SPR/215/2017 CCTV - SPWG

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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 this item of business.

Read: Report from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance, dated 14 December 2014 regarding Public Space and Facilities CCTV (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, 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 that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage, to note the contents of the Officer's report and agree to the recommendations of the Special Meeting of the Strategic Projects Working Group of 27 November 2017 and of the official concerning authority to enter into discussions with statutory relevant stakeholders.

SPR/216/2017 SURPLUS LAND AT FORKHILL

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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 this item of business.

Read: Report from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services, dated 14 December 2014 regarding Surplus Land at Forkhill Village (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, 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 that it had been agreed to note the content of the officers report.

SPR/217/2017 **IN-YEAR BUDGET REALLOCATION**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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 this item of business.

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 14 December 2017, regarding In Year Reallocation of Resources (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, 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 that it had been agreed to note the content of the officers report that an in year reallocation of resources to other non-recurring activities was not considered necessary at this juncture.

SPR/218/2017 ESTATES ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY – PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANTS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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 this item of business.

Read: Report from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, dated 14 December 2017, regarding Estates Asset Management Policy – Procurement of Consultants (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, 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 that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's Report that Council approve the procurement of a Consultant Building Surveyor to complete building condition surveys up to the value of the figure detailed in the Report, with the cost being taken from the Corporate Services Directorate consultancy budget.

SPR/219/2017 FIRE PAINT AT DOWNPATRICK

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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 this item of business.

Read: Report from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, dated 14 December 2017, regarding Progress report on Down Leisure Centre (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, 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 that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 3.1 of the officer's report on the contract for Downpatrick Leisure Centre, relating to a change in fire paint specification.

SPR/220/2017 **COMPLAINTS**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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 this item of business.

Read: Report from Mr G McBride, Head of Administration and Customer Services, dated 14 December 2017, regarding Report on Complaints Statistics September and October 2017 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, 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 that it had been agreed to note the report on complaints statistics for the month of September and October 2017 with Members commenting on the need for more detailed, accurate, timely information.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2018.

Signed: **Councillor Terry Hearty**
 Chairperson

Signed:

Dorinnia Carville
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2017

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 December 2017 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

Chairperson: Councillor Walker**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**
Councillor Andrews Councillor Brown
Councillor Burns Councillor Enright
Councillor Fitzpatrick Councillor Loughran
Councillor McMurray Councillor Ó Muirí
Councillor Quinn Councillor Taylor
Councillor Trainor**Officials in attendance:** Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Active & Healthy Communities (Health & Wellbeing)
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of Active & Health Communities (Community Engagement)
Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Active & Healthy Communities (Leisure & Sports)
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer**Also in attendance:** Miss A Braiden, Down Youth Council
Mr T Laird, Down Youth Council
Mr M Reynolds, Down Youth Council
Mr F Cumiskey, Contact NI**AHC/189/2017: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Kimmins and Mr Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson asked for a letter of condolence to be sent to the family of Mr Paul Straney who had passed away recently. He advised Mr Straney was a fantastic footballer who had played for Cliftonville, was a coach of Kilmore Rec and was a great ambassador for the local area.

ACTION: It was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to the family of Mr Paul Straney.

AHC/190/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**AHC/205/2017 - Social Investment Fund – Update**

Councillor Burns declared an interest if Castlewellan Community Centre was discussed under the above item.

AHC/191/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 November 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the action sheet.**

PRESENTATIONS**AHC/192/2017: PRESENTATION BY DOWN YOUTH COUNCIL ON THE YAFTAS**

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from Down Youth Council and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Laird, Ms Braiden and Mr Reynolds advised the Committee of their upcoming Youth & Future Talent Awards (YAFTAS) which was being held in Millbrook Lodge Hotel, Ballynahinch in March. They stated this was the first time the event was being held by Down Youth Council as Newry & Mourne Youth Council have hosted for the past five years.

They stated the awards were broken down into 7 categories and recognise the achievements of young people outside of academic or sporting arenas. They had secured funding for most of the costs with each of the categories receiving £100 along with a trophy for 1st place and £50 for 2nd place.

The youth council members thanked Councillor Brown for his liaison work with Phoenix Gas to secure sponsorship for the new Inclusion Award and invited Members to attend their launch in January in Carnbane Resource Centre and the YAFTAS event in March in Ballynahinch.

Members congratulated the youth council members for their presentation and wished them every success in the event, offering assistance as required.

AHC/193/2017: PRESENTATION BY CONTACT NI

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Cumiskey to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Cumiskey stated Contact NI was a charity specialising in crisis counselling and

suicide prevention and their vision was to have a society free from suicide. He stated they provide the free-phone regional Lifeline crisis response helpline and wraparound counselling service. They had pioneered Independent Schools Counselling in Northern Ireland as well as the independent counselling support and advice service to the Northern Ireland Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry.

Mr Cumiskey advised the best way to bring about change is through legislation and the NI Suicide Prevention Bill with clinical duties of candour, competence and cooperation should be established.

Members asked the following questions:

- What, if any, links had been established with local groups in the District such as Suicide Down to Zero, PIPS, MYMY etc?
- What can Council do assist?
- The ethos of the Bill seems very health driven, would it cross into education also?
- How would the Bill help in terms of education, resources were not mentioned as presumably the resource of lifeline number and longterm plan to tackle suicide prevention would be put in statute?

Mr Cumiskey responded to the queries as follows:

- There was an all-party working group on suicide prevention that many local groups were represented at. Each meeting had 40-50 people in attendance.
- Awareness training should be provided to all staff on how to recognise if someone is trouble, asking the question "are you ok", staying around to hear the answer, knowing how and where to refer people. There should be mandatory training and education for every workplace and educational facility.
- There needed to be community response and attitude around suicide prevention with people noticing and engaging those people who are at risk of suicide. If more people adopted a good Samaritan attitude, it would make an immense difference to the overall rate of suicide but people need to be educated and trained in recognising the symptoms and signs and how to ask someone if they are ok.
- There were many resources available to tackle suicide however until the data was in place in terms of how many deaths occur each year in each health trust by suicide there would be no way to drive the kind of service and preventative patient health systems required to tackle it.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Cumiskey for attending the meeting.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/194/2017: PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Programmes Manager, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Burns to agree to the**

recommendations of the Peace IV Partnership as follows:

- **Children and Young People:**
 - * To move forward with developing the EA identified cross-border project (Young Women's Youth Group) in the South Armagh/North Louth Area, including approaching Louth CC to come to an arrangement regarding cofinancing the project. Once development is complete and agreeable, the project will move forward to implementation. Estimated cost: £15,000
- **Shared Spaces and Services:**
 - * Tender and appoint a provider for the Preparatory Programme for disengaged communities and leaders. Estimated cost: £84,700
- **Building Positive Relations:**
 - * Appoint facilitators to carry out needs analysis and matching under the Capacity Building Programme for Groups. Estimated costs: £20,000
 - * Appoint a facilitator to carry out a needs analysis with DEA Fora. Estimated cost: £12,000
 - * Carry out a number of older people good relations programmes in various areas. Estimated cost: £25,000
 - * Carry out small scale ethnic minority projects as identified. Appoint facilitators as required. Estimated cost: £30,000

AHC/195/2017: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Read: Report from Mrs J McCabe, Programmes Unit dated 18 December 2017, regarding Financial Assistance (copy circulated).

Councillor Burns asked that officers work with those groups who had been successful, however were unable to meet the funding threshold, to investigate other sources of funding for their programmes such as Awards For All.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker to:**

- **Open Financial Call 1 in January 2018 to include revenue programmes, potential minor capital budget and ERT projects as recommended by ERT.**
- **Implement the financial assistance review recommendations to include a revision of the application form and scoring.**
- **Deliver information workshops to communities on the open financial call.**

It was also agreed that officers work with successful groups who had not reached the funding threshold to investigate other sources of funding for their programmes.

AHC/196/2017: DEA FORA - UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement and Ms S Rice, DEA Coordinator (Crotlieve), dated 18 December 2017, regarding DEA Fora Update (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Quinn, to approve the actions outlined in the action sheets from the following DEA Forum meeting:

- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on the 11 October 2017;
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on the 25 October 2017;
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on the 9 November 2017;
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on the 14 November 2017;
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on the 23 November 2017.

AHC/197/2017: STRENGTHENING THE LINKS BETWEEN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORA AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Strengthening the Links between District Electoral Area (DEA) Fora and Community Planning (including Revised Terms of Reference & Operating Protocol for DEAs) (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the recommendations agreed at the Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board's meeting on Tuesday 24 October 2017 and to:

- Allocate an operational budget of £10,000 for each DEA Coordinator to help them undertake actions, and respond to issues, in their respective DEA.
- Allocate a budget of £2,000 per DEA to develop and enhance communication.
- Allocate a budget of £2,000 per DEA to support capacity building initiatives.
- Approve the revised Terms of Reference & Operating Protocol for the DEA Fora.

AHC/198/2017: ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DfC) FOR FRONTLINE ADVICE SERVICES

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Additional Funding from Department for Communities (DfC) for Frontline Advice Services (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Andrews to award the additional DfC funding of £14,460.57 to Citizens Advice Newry, Mourne and Down.

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/198/2017: VACANT CRECHE SPACE AT NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE

Read: Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 18 December 2017, regarding vacant Crèche Space at Newry Leisure Centre (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muíri, seconded by Councillor Loughran to commence expression of interest process for vacant drop in baby minding area at Newry Leisure Centre.

AHC/199/2017: OPTIONS FOR EXTENDED OPENING TIMES WITHIN INDOOR LEISURE

Read: Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Options for Extended Opening Times within Indoor Leisure (copy circulated).

Councillor Brown queried whether an economic analysis on the extension of opening hours had been carried out.

Mr Moore advised there had been a very low response rate to the consultation, with half of those already attending the leisure centre, therefore, it would not be robust enough to state what the income increase would be. He stated it was something that would be monitored going forward.

Councillor Fitzpatrick asked why no staff members had responded from Down and Newry Leisure Centres.

Mr Moore advised it had previously been agreed by Council that Down and Newry Leisure Centres opening hours would be extended.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Taylor to:

- Continue to open DLC and NLC in line with previously approved opening hours and monitor usage over the next 6-12 months to determine level of interest from members of the public;
- Continue to monitor staff and customer feedback from Ballymote, Kilkeel and Newcastle to facilitate any future reviews;
- Maintain current opening arrangements at Ballymote,

Kilkeel and Newcastle and to promote the availability of additional Sunday morning opening at the Newry and Downpatrick centres;

- **Present further paper to Committee in October-December 2018 to determine success of Sunday opening hours at DLC and NLC to influence future decision on remaining facilities at Ballymote, Kilkeel and Newcastle.**

AHC/200/2017: WARRENPOINT TENNIS CLUB

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Warrenpoint Tennis Club – Lease of Lands at Milltown Recreation Site, Warrenpoint (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muiri to enter into a 3 year lease agreement at a rental of £120 per annum (as assessed by LPS) subject to completion of all legal formalities in order to regularise the situation and in light of the Assets Management Review.**

AHC/201/2017: LICENCE REQUEST FOR A BOOKING AT NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE

Read: Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 18 December 2017 regarding Licence Request for a Booking at Newry Leisure Centre (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Quinn to proceed with licence request for a booking at Newry Leisure Centre.**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/202/2017: RESPONSE NI CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME 2019-2024

Read: Report from Ms S McEldowney, Senior Environmental Health Officer, dated 18 December 2017, regarding response NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor Andrews advised the Sustainability & Climate Change Forum had received a presentation from Sustainable NI and suggested they be invited to make a presentation to the Committee.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright to note the report and to submit the response as outlined in the report. It was also agreed to invite Sustainable NI to present to the**

Committee at a future date.**AHC/203/2017: REQUEST FROM AGE SECTOR PLATFORM TO HOST PENSIONERS PARLIAMENT**

Read: Report from Ms L O'Reilly, Age Friendly Co-ordinator, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Request to Host Local Sitting of NI Pensioners Parliament (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Taylor to agreed that the Council hosts and facilities a local sitting of the Pensioners Parliament.**

AHC/204/2017: APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS

Read: Report from Ms S Murphy, Senior Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety), dated 18 December 2017, regarding Appointment of Public Analysts (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Andrews to formally appoint the following Public Analysts to provide services to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council:**
Ronald Anthony Ennion BSc, MChemA, CChem, FRSC, MIFST
Watney Elizabeth Moran MSc, MChemA, CChem, FRSC
Duncan Kenelm Arthur BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Nigel Kenneth Payne MSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Joanne Hubbard BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Kevin Wardle MSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Lilian Emma Jane Downie MChem, MChemA, CChem, MRSC

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**AHC/205/2017: SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND - UPDATE**

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Programme Manager, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Social Investment Fund - Update. (copy circulated).

Noted: **The update report on Social Investment Fund was noted.**

AHC/206/2017: POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report from Ms D Brannigan, Head of Engagement & Ms S Fearon, PCSP Manager, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Policing & Community Safety Partnership (copy circulated).

Noted: **The update report on Policing & Community Safety Partnership was noted.**

AHC/207/2017: NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement & Mr S McKeivitt, Neighbourhood Renewal Officer, dated 20 November 2017, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. (copy circulated).

Noted: **The update report on Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership was noted.**

FOR NOTING – LEISURE & SPORTS

AHC/208/2017: PLAY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 18 December 2017, regarding Delivery of Play Strategy Consultation Process (copy circulated).

Noted: **The update report on delivery of play strategy consultation process was noted.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.36pm.

For consideration at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 8 January 2017.

Signed: Councillor W Walker
 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 Tuesday 19 December 2017 at at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor J Trainor

Members:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor S Burns
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor G Stokes

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mr A Wilkinson, Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services
 Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
 Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
 Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
 Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support
 Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/146/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Macauley, Ruane, Harte, Fitzpatrick and Craig.

Councillor Andrews asked that a 'Get Well' card be sent to Councillor Harte on behalf of the Committee.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to send a 'Get Well' Card to Councillor Harte on behalf of the Committee.

The Chairperson acknowledged this was the last meeting to be held in 2017. He thanked staff for their hard work throughout the year particularly staff in refuse collection.

RTS/147/2017: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

Declarations of 'Conflicts of Interest' were received from Councillors Casey, Clarke, Stokes and Taylor.

RTS/148/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2017. *(Circulated)*.

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke regarding the availability of caddies in public buildings, Mr Dinsmore replied that the rates estimates allowed for the provision of an additional 6,000 caddies.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed that the provision of free brown bins be extended until March 2018**

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – BUILDING CONTROL**RTS/149/2017: APPLICATION FOR AMUSEMENT PERMIT AT 4 MARGARET SQUARE, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 19 December from Mr Colum Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory & Technical Services regarding an Application for Amusement Permit at 4 Margaret Square, Newry. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Trainor seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to consider the content of this Report and any representation made, Members are asked to consider the legal advice provided on the 22 November 2017, and to grant an Amusement Permit for premises at 4 Margaret Street, Newry.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING**RTS/150/2017: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES 2017-2018**

Read: Report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **The report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives was noted.**

RTS/151/2017: DECEMBER 2017 - PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Read: Report on Planning Committee Performance for December 2017 *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **The Planning Committee Performance Report was noted.**

Councillor Casey acknowledged the huge workload being undertaken by Case Officers. Mr McKay replied that the figures documented were the average case load per officer, he continued saying that although it was very challenging, the staff were very resilient and recruitment was on going, additional staff would be starting and staff were moved around to ensure that case loads were divided up fairly.

Councillor Tinnelly referred to the number of live applications in the system and commented that although there was a significant reduction in the numbers in the system under 6 months and up to and including 18 months, that cases in the system between 18 months and 24 months and those in the system for over 24 months appeared to be stagnant. He enquired as to the reason for this. Mr McKay replied that applications age each day and acknowledged that while some of the outstanding applications came from the legacy councils and some were problematic, there was significant movement on the older applications and said that the figure was down to 60 from 167 a year ago.

RTS/152/2017: CURRENT APPEALS – OCTOBER 2017

Read: Report of current appeals in October 2017 *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **The report of current appeals in October 2017 was noted.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION
– FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

RTS/153/2017: BUS SHELTER AT CLOUGHREAGH PARK, BESSBROOK

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson,
Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services.
(Circulated)

Mr Scullion provided background to the report.

Councillor Stokes proposed not to proceed with the recommendation for the following two reasons:

1. The special circumstances of the family whose house was located beside the proposed bus shelter
2. He understood that it was no longer a bus stop.

Councillor Taylor also expressed concern if the bus shelter was to be located at the proposed site. He said it would have a detrimental impact on neighbouring families and in particular one family with delicate medical issues, which because of the open forum of the meeting he did not want to discuss. He said he wasn't opposed to a bus shelter being sited on the road, rather the proposed location.

Mr Scullion said Translink had confirmed it was a well utilised service and up until August 2017 two buses used this route, however this proved problematic when both buses were on the route at the same time due to cars being parked on both sides of the road. Currently one bus used this route on an hourly basis which offered a service to Bessbrook and Newry and was used by both school children and local residents. It was a 'hail' service and the proposed location for the shelter was in the widest part of the road. He said he had liaised with PSNI and was not aware of any anti social behaviour issues.

Councillor Taylor proposed amending the recommendation to look at an alternative location on the road. This proposal was not seconded.

Councillor Clarke proposed and Councillor Casey seconded that the recommendation be upheld, however an amendment should be made stating that the situation be monitored for anti social behaviour over a six month period as opposed to the twelve months contained in the recommendation. Councillor Clarke added there was an onus on the Council to provide the infrastructure that goes with public transport.

Councillor Curran expressed concern at passengers having to cross the road to avail of the bus service. Mr Scullion said it was inevitable some people would have to do this but said that Translink had confirmed it was still a serviceable route and during inclement weather the shelter would offer protection to passengers.

Councillor Stokes proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded not to proceed with the recommendation and to have a meeting with DEA to discuss further.

The Chairperson then referred back to the original proposal made by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Casey which was that the recommendation be upheld and the situation monitored for anti social behaviour over a six month period as opposed to the twelve months contained in the recommendation.

This proposal was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

For: 5
Against: 3

The proposal was declared carried.

Councillor Clarke then asked if a site meeting could be arranged to which Slieve Gullion DEA Committee be invited. He said it was important to establish feedback from both Translink and PSNI. Mr Scullion said that every effort would be made to arrange a site visit in January to take place in a meeting room in Cloughrea Community Centre to which DEA Committee, RTS Committee and all interested Councillors would be invited.

Councillor Tinnelly asked that an update to the proposed bus shelter at Sheepbridge be provided to Members at the January 2018 RTS Committee Meeting.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed that a site meeting would take place in Cloughrea Community Centre to which DEA Committee, RTS Committee and all interested Councillors be invited to establish all feedback received from Translink and PSNI. Every effort would be made to ensure this meeting would take place in January 2018.

Agreed: An update to the proposed bus shelter at Sheepbridge be provided to Members at the January 2018 RTS Committee Meeting.

RTS/154/2017: LEASE OF PUBLIC TOILETS AT BESSBROOK

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services.
(Circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed Council seek a valuation

from LPS and thereafter enter into a three year lease agreement from 2018 for the rental of the public conveniences at Bessbrook Town Hall.

RTS/155/2017: PROPOSED COUNCIL PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STUDY GROUP

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services.
(Circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Burns it was agreed the Committee to note the contents of the above Report and agree to the setting up of a cross Directorate Study Group to gather relevant information concerning the use and operation of our PC's so that in making consideration concerning future spend and use of our PC's all relevant issues are considered.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – WASTER MANAGEMENT

RTS/156/2017: REVIEW OF RESOURCE LEVELS IN THE REFUSE SECTION

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services.
(Circulated).

General discussion took place and all members were in agreement that the collection of waste in the district was paramount and staffing issues in relation to this needed to be addressed. Mr Wilkinson said he was currently working with HR and Union representatives on staff 'Terms and Conditions' differentials between the two legacy councils.

Councillor Curran congratulated Mr Wilkinson on the approach he had taken so far, stating that refuse collection was a statutory obligation and Mr Wilkinson was to be commended in how he was dealing with the challenging issues around this.

Councillor Andrews commended staff on the roll out of the brown bins. He said he was pleased to see temporary staff getting permanent contracts and said this would go far in boosting staff morale.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed Council adopt a phased approach to address the staffing resource issues.**

1. **Phase 1 – Council undertake to ensure 100% of the required staffing level is employed on permanent contracts. This will require the recruitment of 1 HGV driver, 2 Macpac drivers, making the 10 staff recruited as part of the food waste expansion project permanent and making 4 of the current FTE posts permanent and recruiting permanently for all current vacant posts.**
2. **Phase 2 – Council allow for an absence rate of 20% and employ additional staff required on temporary 12 month contracts to allow the completion of the route optimisation exercise. This will require the recruitment of 7 HGV drivers, 1 Macpac Driver and 10 loaders/general operatives.**
3. **A significant number of new waste collection vehicles are to be procured over the next three years, as part of the Council's commitment to delivering the Capital programme. A suitable number of existing vehicles will be retained to ensure there is sufficient vehicle back-up to cater for general maintenance of the fleet and breakdowns.**

RTS/157/2017: OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR THE COLLECTION OF MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services.
(Circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Burns it was agreed Council to approve a timetable with respect to completion of Options Appraisal for the collection of Mixed Dry Recyclates at Newry, Mourne and Down Council.**

RTS/158/2017: UPDATE WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CIVIC AMENITY SITE AT DOWNPATRICK

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services.
(Circulated).

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed by Members to note and approve proposed timeline for construction of new**

**Household Civic Amenity Site, Killough Road,
Downpatrick.**

**RTS/159/2017: ACCESS TO CIVIC AMENITY SITES FOR THE DISPOSAL
OF COMMERCIAL WASTE**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson,
Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services.
(*Circulated*)

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke regarding if it was possible to monitor the scenario of the 'man with a van' collecting waste from house holders and taking it to amenity sites, Mr Wilkinson replied that this was a very difficult situation for attendants to monitor at sites and said a more robust policy was required. He added that it was not a quick fix, but it was on the radar to be looked at.

Councillor Tinnelly asked if there were any statistics available on fly tipping and if it was feasible to keep this under control by issuing commercial licences.

Mr Dinsmore replied that licence conditions were to be reviewed as part of the Civic Amenity Site Review.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly seconded by
Councillor Andrews it was agreed: -**

- 1. It is recommended that there is no change in the current Council Policy with respect to receiving of Commercial waste at Civic Amenity Sites.**
- 2. It is recommended that any commercial waste as is sought to be received at Household Civic Amenity Sites is redirected to licensed sites at Camlough and Kilkeel, where payment may be received.**
- 3. To facilitate small business premises, it is recommended that all sites may receive small quantities of cardboard and paper waste only, where such wastes are delivered in car boot and do not exceed 3 bags of such recyclable wastes.**
- 4. Vehicles providing a collection and disposal service for household waste e.g. bulky waste are categorised as commercial waste and shall be directed to Camlough or Newry, where payment must be made.**
- 5. As part of the Civic Amenity Site Review, license conditions be reviewed and consideration be given as**

to best location, if any, for receipting and conditions for receipting of wastes from small business i.e. commercial wastes.

FOR NOTING

RTS/160/2017: REFUSE ARRANGEMENTS AND OPENING HOURS FOR HOUSEHOLD CIVIC AMENITY SITES DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD

Read: Report regarding refuse arrangements and opening hours for household Civic Amenity Sites during the Christmas and New Year period. (*Circulated*)

Noted: **It was agreed to note the refuse arrangements and opening hours for household civic amenity sites during the Christmas and New Year period.**

RTS/161/2017: HISTORIC ACTION SHEET

Read: Historic Action Sheet (*Circulated*).

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Historic Action Sheet.**

ITEM TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

RTS/162/2017: FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY – OFF STREET PARKING

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information in accordance with part 1 of schedule 6 of the local government act (NI) 2014**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2017 from Mr Colum Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory & Technical Services regarding the future service delivery of Off-Street Parking Enforcement, Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) processing and associated functions. (*Circulated*)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Tinnelly it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly seconded by Councillor Clarke:

- 1. Note that AECOM has completed its analysis in relation to the future delivery options for Off-Street Car Parking and therefore agree to extending the existing Agency Agreement with the Department for Infrastructure for the provision of the above services for a further period of 3 years from 1 November 2019 until 31 October 2022;**
- 2. Note the proposals to utilise the findings of the AECOM analysis to improve the service delivery. This can be achieved by mitigating the risk of costs associated with successful appeals by introducing Alpha Numeric keypads on all Pay & Display ticket machines within the District. Installation costs for this technology covering the 31 Pay and Display ticket machines within the District, would equate to £30,000 with potential annual savings of £10,000. The installation outlay would therefore be recovered after a 3 year period.**
- 3. To consider the recommendation from AECOM to remove the £1 for 3 hours and implement the basic acceptable tariff of 40p/hour in all charged car parks within the District, with effect from April 2018. This adjustment has the potential to increase Pay and Display revenue by approximately £75,000 per annum. The Off-Street tariff of 40p/hour would remain well below the present On-Street tariff which stand at 60p/hour.**
- 4. Note the proposal to actively market and promote Cashless parking, which will assist consumer convenience and reduce cash collection costs to Council.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.40pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 8 January 2018

Signed: Councillor John Trainor
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

Signed: Mr A Wilkinson
Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

From: Leo O'Reilly
Permanent Secretary

Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028 90 823301

E-mail: leo.oreilly@communities-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: PSC 1005.17
Date: 7 December 2017

Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

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



Date 11 DEC 2017

Chief Executive
Liam Hannaway

Dear *Liam,*

Thank you for your letter dated 16 November 2017 on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding the rollout of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland. In line with extant political agreements, Universal Credit is being introduced in Northern Ireland for new claims, on a phased geographical basis, from 27 September 2017 until September 2018.

The Department for Communities has worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), learning from their experiences and applying this knowledge to the introduction of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland. Consequently, we have adopted a phased approach, launching Universal Credit for new claims over a period of 12 months on a postcode basis, aligned to the current office structure. Universal Credit will initially roll out to smaller offices to ensure that claimants and staff have the support they need to adjust to the change to a new, digital service.

Universal Credit was introduced on Wednesday 27 September 2017 for new claimants living within the area served by Limavady Jobs and Benefits and in Ballymoney Jobs and Benefits office on Wednesday 15 November 2017. Universal Credit will rollout to the Jobs and Benefits offices in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area in 2018.

Support for Claimants

The Department for Communities has invested additional resources to ensure that claimants are fully supported through the rollout of Universal Credit and beyond. This support includes Digital Zones in the Jobs and Benefits offices, where claimants can access the new digital service through Department for Communities computers or their own digital devices using free Wi-Fi. Staff will be available and trained to support claimants in setting up and maintaining their claim online, both in the local offices and in the Service Centre.

Additional support is available for claimants with complex needs, to enable them to access and use the Universal Credit service. This support is tailored to meet the claimant's needs and may be on a one off basis or on a short, medium or long term basis. Support may include making alternative payment arrangements, easements to work related requirements, arranging interpreting services, setting up regular interventions with the claimant's Work Coach or arranging home visits. This list is not exhaustive, and support will be tailored to meet each individual's needs.

Assisted Digital support is also available for those claimants who require assistance in accessing and maintaining their claim online. Universal Credit staff will provide tailored assistance to claimants based on their individual circumstances, and the support will be available for as long as it is required by the claimant. This support includes:

- Support from family and friends
- Telephone support when using the online channel
- In-house coaching in the local office
- Home visits
- Agent as proxy (in exceptional circumstances only)

Financial Support

Universal Credit Advances are available to support claimants in financial need who cannot manage until they receive their payment of Universal Credit. When a claimant submits a claim to Universal Credit and verifies their identity, they will be advised that if they need financial support until their first Universal Credit payment, they can apply for an Advance Payment. Advance Payments will be discussed at the claimant's initial interview and we also provide information on NI Direct, through the new 'Universal Credit and You' guide for claimants and in any claimant information leaflets that we develop.

Discretionary Support may also be available if a claimant is in financial hardship.

Northern Ireland Flexibilities

Northern Ireland payment flexibilities have been introduced to ease the transition from the existing legacy benefits to Universal Credit.

- Twice monthly payments are the default payment option for Universal Credit. This reflects the frequency of current benefit payments and is intended to help support to some of our most vulnerable claimants in managing their finances. Claimants will be able to opt out and request a monthly payment if they wish.
- Universal Credit will be paid directly to the claimant as a household payment. The claimant (or claimants if a couple) provide details of a bank account (can be a single or joint account) at the initial claim stage, but couples will also have the option of split payments once their claim to Universal Credit has been set up. There are 3 ways to receive payments:
 - One payment into the bank account of one or other of the Universal Credit claimants (if in a couple);
 - One payment into a joint bank account; or
 - A split payment into separate bank accounts (if in a couple).
- The housing element of Universal Credit will be paid directly to landlords as the default option for rented properties. Claimants will be able to opt out and have the housing element paid to them if they meet certain criteria.

Universal Credit Mitigations

The Welfare Reform Mitigations Working Group recommended that people claiming Working Tax Credit / Universal Credit and in employment should be entitled to supplementary payments. These payments, known as a 'Cost of Work Allowance', are intended to provide financial assistance to people in 'working poverty'. The Cost of Work Allowance will be paid as a single annual payment. One payment will be made to eligible claimants in each year of the scheme.

Further to this, the Working Group recommended the provision of a contingency fund to provide emergency financial assistance to Universal Credit claimants where hardship occurs through no fault of the claimant.

I can advise that the Department plans to deliver this additional hardship fund for Universal Credit claimants as part of the existing Discretionary Support Scheme. This will provide appropriate financial support to Universal Credit claimants experiencing financial difficulties. The payments will be in the form of a grant which will not have to be repaid and will be available to those Universal Credit claimants who have already applied for a Universal Credit Advance Payment. It is considered that this approach will ensure that this limited additional financial support is made available to those claimants considered to be in the greatest need.

Autumn Budget 2017

Universal Credit is assessed on a monthly basis and paid in arrears, with Northern Ireland claimants receiving twice monthly payments.

Waiting days

Following receipt of a claim, claimants generally serve seven Waiting Days. The first Assessment Period will then begin and run for one month. The Universal Credit award is calculated based on claimant circumstances at the end of the Assessment Period. The Universal Credit award is then processed within seven days, and payment issued to the claimant. It will therefore be approximately five to six weeks from the date that the claim is submitted until the claimant receives payment. This period is bound by legislation and not caused by a delay in administration.

Following the Autumn Budget statement, it was announced that from February 2018 Waiting Days will be abolished.

Advances

Universal Credit Advances aim to support claimants in financial need who can't manage until they receive their payment of Universal Credit.

Following the Autumn Budget statement, it was announced that from January 2018 Advance payments available to claimants will be increased from up to 50%, to up to 100% of the estimated Universal Credit entitlement, and the repayment period will be extended from up to 6 months, to up to 12 months.

In addition, claimants who move from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit will be paid an additional two weeks of their Housing Benefit award from April 2018.

These budget changes will also be applied to Universal Credit in Northern Ireland and will be implemented by the time Universal Credit rolls out to the majority of offices in the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area.

Universal Credit analysis to date

To date, the Universal Credit service is working as anticipated with all claims being made online, ID verification completed both online and in the local office, and claimant commitments being agreed. At 30 November 2017, over 350 claims have been received.

Approximately 75% of claimants have made their application online without any assistance with approximately 25% of claimants choosing to make their claim in the local office with support from staff. Early evidence shows positive feedback from both staff and claimants in terms of using the new service.

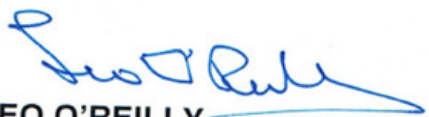
Approximately 40% to date have requested an advance payment, all of whom have received their payment on the same day.

Approximately 25% of claimants to date have reached the end of their First Assessment Period and payment has been made in full and on time for all claims to date. This means that the first Universal Credit payments have been paid within 5

weeks, where Waiting Days are not required to be served and within 6 weeks where Waiting Days are served.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



LEO O'REILLY
PERMANENT SECRETARY

Chief Executive Gavin Boyd



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CM/AK

20 December 2017

Mr Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT35 8DJ

Dear Liam

Proposed Closure of Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre

I write with reference to your letter dated 15 November 2017.

I note that your correspondence requests that the Education Authority (EA) reverses its decision to downgrading Killyleagh and Killowen Outdoor Education Centres and to keep Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre.

The EA has given careful consideration to the proposed model of outdoor learning as well as the required support for EOTAS provision. The EA is confident that the new model will provide a better quality of provision with no reduction in service delivery. The proposals will, therefore, proceed with implementation commencing January 2018.

The EA is grateful for your consideration of this matter and officers will continue to engage with council officers specifically in relation to the development of provision at Delamont Country Park.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mangan'.

Dr Clare Mangan
Director
Children and Young People's Services

Direct Tel Line: 028 9056 4041
Email: Clare.Mangan@eani.org.uk

Our Ref: PHO-0173687917

Date: 18th December 2017

Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
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Ulster Bank Limited
11-16 Donegall Square East
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Facsimile: 028 90275661

www.ulsterbank.com

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



Date 29 DEC 2017

Chief Executive
Liam Hannaway

Dear Mr. Wilson

Re: Closure of the Killyleagh branch.

Thank you for your letter in which you sent details of the motion passed by the council following the announcement of our plans to close our branch in Killyleagh.

I am genuinely sorry to hear of your councilors' concern. We have considered this decision carefully and while we won't be revisiting it, I hope to explain in more detail how we arrived at this conclusion and the alternatives available to our customers in your council area.

We have made the decision to close these branches because there has been a significant reduction in branch usage and more and more customers are banking online and on their phone – these changes continue apace and so we must respond to how our customers prefer to bank with us. In the UK, branch usage has reduced by 40% since 2014, while mobile transactions during the same period have increased by 73%.

We are communicating with our customers affected by the closures and proactively contacting vulnerable, business and regular branch customers. We have extended the time between announcing our decision and the branches' closure to six months from the date of the announcement on November 15, 2017. This has been done in order to ensure customers have sufficient time to consider the right banking options for them. Our local teams have also contacted branch customers and are prioritising the most regular users of the branches, as well as our elderly and vulnerable customers. Regular Business Banking customers are also being personally contacted via their Relationship Managers or our local Business Growth Enablers to discuss the alternative and most appropriate ways in which our customers can continue to bank with us.

We know that not all our customers are comfortable with online or digital banking – and we are not forcing customers to use these options if they do not want to. We have however, created a new specialist taskforce of Ulster Bank TechXperts who will be dedicated to providing our customers with digital education until the branch closes. Our TechXperts will support customers with digital, telephony and Post Office banking services –, as well as with setting up telephone banking or personally introducing customers to local Post Office staff. These individuals are all trained in supporting customers with fraud and scam awareness, via our Trading Standards accredited training and are there to ensure that all customers are properly educated about how to bank safely online.

Ulster Bank Limited Registered Number: R733 Northern Ireland.
Registered Office: 11-16 Donegall Square East, Belfast BT1 5UB.

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, and entered on the Financial Services Register (Registration Number 122315) except in respect of our consumer credit products for which Ulster Bank Limited is licensed and regulated by the Office of Fair Trading. Calls may be recorded.

Our contract with the Post Office means that our personal customers can withdraw and deposit cash, deposit cheques and business customers can register to obtain coinage. For customers wishing to maintain personal contact with the bank, our 24 hour telephone banking service replicates the majority of transactions available at a branch all for the cost of a local telephone call. Our Local Area Manager for the area, Terry Robb, will be happy to discuss these alternatives and the other ways in which our customers can bank with us - he can be reached at terry.robb@ulsterbank.com


Nevertheless we remain committed to ensuring our customers and communities in the most isolated communities are able to continue accessing quality banking services. Therefore we are appointing a Community Banker who will provide customers in Killyleagh with personal assistance and support to access our non-cash services, as well as help with achieving their financial plans and goals – replicating many of the services available in our branches. Our Community Banker will get to know the local community, engage with local groups and provide training and education on issues such as fraud and scams protection in the local area.

Ulster Bank also announced on November 15 it is extending its mobile bank on wheels service to 17 locations across Northern Ireland, including Killyleagh. This provides a branch style service one day a week in the most isolated communities for those customers who require such a service.

I appreciate your councilors and some of their constituents will be disappointed by our decision. However, I hope I have made clear our commitment to ensuring access to alternative banking options once the branch closes.

As per your request, your office will be contacted soon by Dan McGinn from our Public Affairs Team about arranging a potential meeting in January to discuss with a delegation of councilors their concerns in more detail. We will be in touch shortly in the hope that a suitable time and location can be arranged.

Yours sincerely



Sean Murphy
MD, Ulster Bank



Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman

To: All Listed Authorities

21 December 2017

Dear All

OMBUDSMAN (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 2016 (2016 ACT) NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (NIPSO)

The Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (the 2016 Act) provided for significant changes to my jurisdiction as Ombudsman. Since April 2016, I have overseen the phased introduction of a number of extensions of remit for my office, which now covers a wider range of public services in Northern Ireland. The Assembly's legislation also brought a number of wider changes, including a more accessible service, clearer signposting of complainants to the Ombudsman, a more streamlined investigative process and new governance arrangements. A full account of the changes over the course of 2016/17 can be found in my annual report <https://nipso.org.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/NIPSO-Annual-Report-2016-17-Final-2.pdf>.

From 1 April 2018, and in subsequent years, I will have new powers impacting on how my office operates. I want to ensure that all public service providers under my remit are aware of these changes in order to prepare for these.

Publishing investigation reports in the public interest

From April 2016, I have the power to publish reports of my investigations (when it is in the public interest to do so). This is an important new power which ensures that public service providers are held to account for failures in service. Publication enables the learning from complaints to be widely shared. It is important that the lessons learned are available to all listed authorities to support them in improving service delivery to the public and their complaints handling practices.

In line with the provisions of the 2016 Act, I will be publishing my first public interest reports early in 2018. I will ensure that I take into account the interests of complainants, listed authorities and any person alleged to have taken action to which a complaint relates, and others as I consider appropriate. However, the decision on publication will be made by me on a case by case basis having regard to relevant public interest factors. In taking decisions on publication I will be mindful of privacy and confidentiality considerations. It is my intention to ensure that a wide range of

reports will be available publicly to help ensure that there is transparency in relation to my findings and recommendations. This publication of investigation reports was not previously available to my predecessors under legislation that is now replaced by the 2016 Act.

Publication of a report will mean laying my report before the Assembly and the report will be available on my website. It is my intention that my published investigation reports and my annual report will be complemented by a more regular supply of information on the learning from my findings on complaints, including case summaries of a full range of investigations.

Own Initiative investigations

From 1 April 2018 I will have the power to undertake investigations on my own initiative where I have a reasonable suspicion of systemic maladministration or systemic injustice. The new investigation power will allow me to proceed with an own initiative investigation where one or more complaints have been made, or where no complaints have been made. The authority to undertake own initiative investigations was a key part of the discussions around the development of the 2016 Act with the former Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

This is an important new power and one which will help my office identify and address systemic failures potentially affecting the wider public and not just individual complainants to ensure significant failings are addressed across sectors as a whole.

As required by the 2016 Act, over the coming months my office will be working to prepare for this new investigation power through the development of new processes and investigation methodology. I will be publishing criteria to be used in determining whether to commence an own initiative investigation. My staff will be engaging with each relevant sector to explain this role and the published criteria.

Improving complaints handling

The 2016 Act includes provision for a complaints standards authority role for NIPSO, subject to commencement by the Northern Ireland Assembly. These provisions are aimed at enabling the Office to take forward improvements in complaints handling by all public bodies through the development of a common set of complaints handling principles and model complaints handling procedures. These are supported by monitoring, promoting and sharing best practice guidance on complaints handling.

To prepare for this future role, my Office will be undertaking research to develop a detailed understanding of the complaints landscape across Northern Ireland and experiences of complaining. This will include mapping listed authorities' complaints handling procedures, capturing the public's experiences of complaining and understanding the perspective of listed authorities on complaints handling challenges, and good practice approaches. This Northern Ireland-based research will build on experience of complaints handling good practice and following on from the report published by the former Ombudsman, Dr Tom Frawley CBE, on 'Mapping the Administrative Justice Landscape in Northern Ireland'.

Please note that further information on the research for stakeholders will be communicated by my Office in 2018.

I will continue to keep you informed of progress in these areas as they develop in the future. The 2016 Act provided for a phased implementation of NIPSO powers and I wish to ensure full implementation of the new legislative provisions during my term as Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARIE ANDERSON
Ombudsman

Key issues for education in Northern Ireland: area plan implementation, effective collaboration and improving leadership

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 23rd January 2018

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, The Gasworks, 3 Cromac Place, Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2JB

Draft agenda subject to change



**POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Peter Weir MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Next steps in area plans: progress, lessons and priorities for the future**
John Collings, Director of Education, Education Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.30 **Realising the aims of the area plans: meeting local need, the future for collaboration and financial sustainability**
What are the options that schools currently facing sustainability issues could pursue and what strategies could be adopted by those smaller schools outside Belfast and large urban areas in particular; what are the key challenges and opportunities presented by different approaches? How can schools be supported to collaborate, and to share and implement good practice; what steps can be taken to ensure that partnerships are durable and deliver positive outcomes for schools and pupils? In light of the latest news that school budgets are to be reduced, what options are available to schools to meet the needs of pupils within spending limits? To what extent might greater community involvement improve the financial sustainability of schools, for example through making school facilities available for community organisations outside of school hours? Where school facilities are not fit-for-purpose, how can schools be supported to help bring them in line with expected standards, and how might this be financed?
Professor Tony Gallagher, Acting Head of School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast
Dr Graham Gault, Principal, Maghaberry Primary School and Nursery Unit
Gerard Campbell, Chief Executive, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
Jayne Thompson, Programmes Manager, Parent Teacher Association Northern Ireland
Peter Bryson, Head of Country, Northern Ireland, Save the Children
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Peter Weir MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.35 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chris Lyttle MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.05 - 11.25 **Sustainable schools and school management: the NI Audit Office perspective**
Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General, Northern Ireland Audit Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 - 11.50 **Implementing the delivery of high-quality education**
David Canning, Council Chair, General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 - 12.00 **Priorities in the development of effective school leadership**
Dr Sam McGuinness, Course Director, Master's Level Leadership and Headship Courses, School of Education, Ulster University
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Ensuring access to high-quality education: teaching provision, school leadership and educational sustainability**
What is the latest thinking on how the challenges currently faced by teachers can be addressed - especially in smaller and more rural schools with composite classes? What steps can be taken to help improve standards and encourage further sustainability, particularly in regard to further specialised training and continuing professional development? What incentives can be put in place to encourage outstanding teachers and school leaders to join schools that have more room for improvement, or are based in more remote locations? How can greater cooperation and communication between school governors, leaders, staff, pupils and local stakeholders be promoted, and where good practice exists, how can it be rolled out more widely? In an ever-changing school environment, what further assistance can be given to teachers and staff to improve their health, wellbeing and morale, and to adapt teaching and pastoral methods, which in turn will enhance provision for pupils?
Dr Patricia Eaton, Director of Teaching and Learning, Stranmillis University College, Belfast
Dermot Mullan, Principal, Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock and President, Association of School and College Leaders NI
Kathleen O'Hare, Principal, Hazelwood Integrated College, Newtownabbey
Justin McCamphill, National Official, Northern Ireland, NASUWT
Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Sam McGuinness**, Course Director, Master's Level Leadership and Headship Courses, School of Education, Ulster University
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Chris Lyttle MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
Roger Greer, Senior Researcher, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland



5/12/2017

National Association of Councillors Environment Conference

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Leeds
19th-21st January 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to invite you to our Environment Conference at The Crowne Plaza Hotel Leeds City centre. The venue has great facilities and is very close to major transport links.

We will be discussing a wide range of topics over the weekend which will include Waste Management, Air pollution, Construction & Local Authority Energy Delivery Schemes and their effect on the environment.

There are some major concerns within government both locally and nationally on how to reduce pollution caused by these activities.

Over the weekend we will receive information from experts on how we can play our part as Councillors. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

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

Contact

Office: 0191 378 9947

Mobile: 07791 574 879

Website: www.nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

Email: generalsecretary@nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

Representing local government councillors nationwide

National Association of Councillors

General Secretary

Councillor
Brian Nelson

Council Offices
6 Goatbeck Terrace
Langley Moor
Durham. DH7 8JJ

Crowne Plaza, Leeds

19th-21st January 2018

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National Association of Councillors

Environment Conference **DRAFT Agenda**

Friday 19th January 2018

5 – 6pm Registration

6pm Session One, Speaker TBA

Waste Management, How are we performing!

7.30pm Dinner

Saturday 20th January 2018

10-00am Session Two

Speaker from Leeds City Council

Combatting Air Pollution, How we can make a difference.

Questions

10.45am Construction and the Environment

Speaker from the Industry

Construction and protecting the environment.

Questions

11.30am Tea / Coffee

Crowne Plaza, Leeds

19th-21st January 2018

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11.45am Session 3

Paul Nelson, Sustainability Manager,
North Tyneside MBC
Local Authorities Delivering Energy Schemes

Questions

1-00pm Lunch

2-00pm Regional Meeting

6-15pm Reception hosted by The NAC Chairman

7-00pm Conference Dinner

Sunday 21st January 2018

10-00am NAC Officers,

Workshops (delegates to split into groups)

Both Groups to Feedback

12-00 Noon Lunch

1-00pm End of Event.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

Environment Conference

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Leeds, 19th-21st January 2018

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)