

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: NMD/GC/2

**Minutes of the Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Governance Committee held on Tuesday 22 July 2014 at 6.00pm in the
Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

In attendance: (Councillors)

Cllr. S Burns	Cllr. M Carr (Chair)
Cllr. G Craig	Cllr. L Devlin
Cllr. G Donnelly	Cllr. S Ennis
Cllr. C Enright	Cllr. G Fitzpatrick
Cllr. V Harte	Cllr. H Harvey
Cllr. L Kimmins	Cllr. K McAteer
Cllr. C McGrath	Cllr. B O'Muirí
Cllr. M Ruane	Cllr. JJ Tinnelly

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
Mrs D Starkey, Committee Administrator

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Recreation and Community
Services
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Administration (Equality)
Mr L McLernon, Policy & Equality Officer
Mr S Wright, Business Improvement Manager

GC/15/2014: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors P Clarke, H Reilly and G Stokes and Mr E Curtis, Chief Executive (NMDC), Mr C Moffet, Equality Officer and Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Environmental Services.

GC/16/2014: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

GC/17/2014: **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2014**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Governance Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: In response to a query from Councillors O'Muirí and Enright regarding the circulation of bi-lingual reports, the Chief Executive confirmed this would need to be considered as part of a language policy for the new Council, as both predecessor Councils had two different policies concerning the issue. To be submitted to the Council in due course.

GC/18/2014: **STATUS OF COUNCIL**

Read: Report on the Status of the new Council. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: The Chief Executive provided an overview of the options available to the new Council in relation to its status post April 2015.

The Chief Executive advised he was seeking clarification from the Department of the Environment that there would be no change to the Chairman of the new Council being Mayor, as Newry held City Status.

AGREED: **It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Burns, SECONDED by Councillor Donnelly to proceed on the basis of Newry City and District status.**

It was also AGREED the status of the new Chairman of the Council will be Mayor (subject to clarification from the Department of the Environment).

GC/19/2014: **CORPORATE PLAN TENDER REPORT**

Read: Report on the Quotation for the Preparation of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015 to 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Administration (Equality) provided an overview of the report, outlining the timeline for the production of the Corporate Plan.

The Chief Executive pointed out the preparation of the Corporate Plan would follow on from workshops scheduled to

take place with each political party, and an overall workshop with all Councillors.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Fitzpatrick, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burns to proceed with the invitation to quote for the preparation of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015 to 2019.

GC/20/2014: **SUB-COMMITTEES WITH SPECIFIC INFLUENCE ON DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS (DEAs)**

Read: Report on Sub-Committees with specific influence on DEAs. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: The Chief Executive proposed allowing Members of a DEA to attend Sub-Committee Meetings (when formed to consider a project, event or programme) with speaking rights only, following concerns raised at the Council Meeting on 8 July 2014.

Councillor Ruane spoke against the report and **PROPOSED** Sub-Committees should remain as agreed by Council, with no change. This was **SECONDED** Councillor Burns.

Councillor Enright **PROPOSED** the approval of the report so that where a sub-committee is formed to consider a project, event, programme for a specific DEA, that all Members of the DEA could attend with speaking rights. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Craig.

A show of hands was taken on Councillor Ruane's **PROPOSAL**, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 6
AGAINST: 10

The **PROPOSAL** was **LOST**.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Enright, **SECONDED** by Councillor Craig to approve where a Sub-Committee is formed to consider a project, event, programme for a specific DEA that all Members of that DEA could attend with speaking rights. Only Members nominated to these Committees will have voting rights on the Sub-Committee.

**GC/21/2014: NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
EQUALITY SCHEME**

Read: Report on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: Mr McLernon highlighted the importance of the new Council complying with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

AGREED: **It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Fitzpatrick, SECONDED by Councillor Craig for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Equality Scheme to proceed to public consultation.**

GC/21/2014: UPDATE ON MINUTE PAD SYSTEM

NOTED: Mr McBride, Change Manager provided a verbal update on the Minute Pad System and confirmed training for all Councillors was scheduled to take place on 7th August 2014.

NOTED: Mr McBride confirmed new email addresses were active for those Councillors who had received iPads to date. Any issues were to be forwarded to the IT Department.

NOTED: Mr McBride referred Councillor Enright to the Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors in response to his query regarding the legislative basis for not being able to send Council information to private email accounts of Councillors.

GC/22/2014: PROGRESS REPORT ON DELIVERY OF REFORM

Read: Progress report on delivery of reform. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: In referring to 3.1 Transfer of Functions, Councillor Devlin raised concerns about information being communicated from Department for Social Development regarding the availability of funding for Urban Redevelopment Grants.

AGREED: **It was AGREED to write to the Minister for Social Development seeking clarification on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's position in relation to Urban Redevelopment Grant Funding, and the advice given by the Department to applicants for post 2015 funding.**

AGREED: **A copy of the DSD funded schemes to be provided to Councillor Devlin.**

AGREED: **It was AGREED to mark the above report 'noted'.**

CONSULTATION

GC/23/2014: DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (STANDING ORDERS) REGULATIONS (NI) 2014

Read: A report on a draft response for the Draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (NI) 2014 consultation document. **(Copy circulated).**

NOTED: The Chief Executive highlighted that the requirement for Committee Minutes to be published within 2 working days for the purposes of Call-in was very challenging, and although officers would endeavour to work to 2 days, the consultation response would seek publication within 3 working days.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Donnelly, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fitzpatrick to approve the Council's response to the draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (NI) 2014 as presented, and to amend the number of days for the publication of Committee Minutes from 2 days to 3 days.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at **6.40pm**.

For consideration at the Shadow Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 5 August 2014.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Chief Executive Designate