Liam Hannaway Chief Executive

1 December 2016

To: All Agents



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Planning Department

Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Tuesday 13 December 2016 - Commedagh Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick at 2pm.

Wednesday 14 December 2016 - Board Room, Monaghan Row, Newry at 10:30.

Many of you attended our first Stakeholder Engagement Session at the end of May 2016. It was held shortly before a series of significant changes were introduced by Council particularly in relation to the operation of the Planning Committee. Six months on, now is an appropriate time to review progress.

Two events have been organised, in Downpatrick and Newry, to facilitate ease of access and minimise travel time. The details are set out above.

The Council's Planning Department wishes to use these events:

- To review the working of the planning committee, the use of speaking rights, the numbers of applications being determined by Committee;
- To highlight further changes likely to be introduced over the next six months;
- To introduce the work around the production of the Council's new Local Development Plan;
- To identify future areas for improvement within the development management function;

This is also an important opportunity for you to highlight areas of concern that you feel have not yet been addressed or to highlight areas of planning that are working well but where further improvement is possible.



We would ask you to contact us with discussion items for the agenda. We will endeavour to facilitate all requests. In contributing to the agenda you can ensure that it develops into a worthwhile engagement session.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend on one or other of the dates.

Please confirm you attendance and any items for the agenda by email to Marian McIlhone at marian.mcilhone@nmandd.org

We look forward to meeting with you on 13 and 14 December.

Yours Sincerely

Anthony McKay Chief Planning Officer