

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2023

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 20 March 2023 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic
Centre and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor J Jackson
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor D Lee- Sarginor
Councillor G Malone
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor J Tinnelly

**Non-Members
in attendance on Teams:**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor H McKee
Councillor H Reilly

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Mrs M Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager
Ms C Burns, Project Co-Ordinator, Financial Assistance
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance
via Teams:**

Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes, Community Engagement

AHC/031/2023: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan and Sharvin and Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement.

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor Sharvin from Saul GAC on being awarded the Sports NI Volunteer of the Year.

AHC/032/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/033/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2023

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/156/2022: Warrenpoint Community Centre

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer, Mr Tamati advised he would confirm the name for the new Warrenpoint Centre.

AHC/081/2022: Down High School Lights and 3G Pitch

Councillor Jackson requested an update in relation to the Down High School floodlights upgrade and the lux level testing for lighting at the Saintfield Sports pitches.

Mr Tamati advised the planning application for lights at the new Down High School was being progressed with challenges around that, and confirmed there had been a recent meeting with the school and consultants. Mr Tamati advised it was hoped this would be progressed and an update would be provided to Council once known.

In relation to Saintfield Hockey pitch Mr Tamati advised the capital team had been asked to commission lux level testing, a date for which was to be confirmed and once known he would inform Councillor Jackson via email.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023.

AHC/034/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION – RECREATIONAL SEA ANGLING

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a Notice of Motion, Recreational Sea Angling. **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming the report Councillor Clarke agreed with the officer's recommendation pointing out that it was not intended for the motion to cause duplication in regard to having a Sea Angling Strategy alongside the Council's Sports Strategy.

Councillor Clarke highlighted areas of Newcastle, Ardglass, the coastline of Mourne and Lecale and Strangford and Carlingford Lough that all provided huge opportunities for sea angling tourism and for local people to benefit from improved infrastructure and improved strategy for sea angling. He spoke of the opportunity to discuss with the sea anglers about species and improvements that could be made, along with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) regarding species going forward.

Councillor Clarke said he felt there was a weakness within Council regarding the promotion of sea angling and the need for a Charter for sea angling opportunities within the District and responsible fishing as well.

The Chairperson along with Councillors McAteer and McEvoy voiced support for the motion.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan to note that Sea Angling will be included in the consultation process for Council's Sports Development, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Officers will continue to work to promote Sea Angling in collaboration with the Sport's Governing Body, established providers of sea angling and via Council's financial assistance processors.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/035/2023: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY CAPITAL – CALLS 1 & 3

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding Financial Assistance Community Capital, Calls 1 & 3. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Lewis thanked officers for their work and for hosting workshops and enquired if there had been much uptake with regard to the Coronation Fund. Mr Tamati advised he would revert to Councillor Lewis directly on the matter.

Agreed: It was agreed on the approval of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the following:

- Approve the attached appendices for revenue and capital projects and issue letter of offers post Council ratification and Call in.
- Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer issued and where this is not satisfied budget to be re-allocated.
- Open Call 3 May/June 2023.

AHC/0/36/2023: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets for the following:

- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 28 February 2023.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Ad Hoc Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2023.

- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023.**
- **Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023.**

AHC/037/2023: COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding an update on the Community Co-Ordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for:**

- **Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2023.**

AHC/038/2023: RURAL DIAL-A-LIFT TRANSPORT ISSUE TABLED AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR SHARVIN

In the absence of Councillor Sharvin, Councillor McKeivitt presented the following request:

We call on the Council to write to Department of Infrastructure to provide the financial security needed for local community transport organisations i.e., the Down Community Transport and Newry and Mourne Community Transport to enable them to provide the vital service to our community particularly the rural communities across the District. Currently both organisations had been left unaware of their financial future as it could not be guaranteed of funding past the 30th April 2023, and staff were unsure about their employment and more importantly the users were frightened of how they would access essential day to day needs.

In speaking in support of the request, Councillor McAteer pointed out Members were well aware of the increasing problems being faced by all sorts of rural transport from Translink to taxi firms. He stated there was a real crisis for rural communities emerging with communities and businesses suffering and that there was a need for a policy on rural transport as it was in the decline.

Councillor Ó Muirí supported the request and referred to cuts to the many vital services within rural communities particularly when faced with the cost of living crisis and that the failure to setting up an Executive was having an impact on everything. Councillor Ó Muirí pointed out that it was not the responsibility of Council to provide transport but there was a need for a strategy to liaise and work in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure to ensure rural areas were best served in terms of rural transport.

In speaking in support of the request, Councillor Lewis pointed out these were vital lifeline services for many particularly those in rural areas, and any loss in funding would be detrimental to the service and to the elderly and vulnerable.

Councillor Andrews voiced support and that it was hoped the Permanent Secretary could in some way ensure funding was released.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor McAteer to call on the Council to write to Department of Infrastructure to provide the financial security needed for local community transport organisations i.e. the Down Community Transport and Newry and Mourne Community Transport to enable them to provide the vital service to our community particularly the rural communities across the District.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/039/2023: **AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME UPDATE AND APPROVAL FOR SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing regarding an update on Affordable Warmth Scheme and approval for Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finnegan welcomed the continuation of the scheme and the signing of the Service Level Agreement. She enquired about the geographical limitations of the scheme given that it was targeted and proposed that it be revised so the geographical limitations be removed to allow the whole District to be taken into consideration.

Councillor McKeivitt also welcomed the scheme and supported Councillor Finnegan's comments in relation to the geographical limitations.

Mr Devlin advised the new method of targeting was appreciating that, as referrals that were received from a health professional, Council officers or elected members and those people met the income criteria would get into the scheme but that the demand was above what was possible.

In response to a query from Councillor O'Hare in relation to savings being included within the £23,000 limitation, Mr Devlin confirmed savings were considered as part of it and he would forward the detail of that to him directly.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement with the Department for Communities in relation to the provision of the Affordable Warmth Scheme and that the Committee note the change in the targeting approach.

AHC/040/2023: **CONSULTATION RESPONSE REGARDING OFFSHORE WIND**

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing regarding a consultation response regarding Offshore Wind. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Devlin advised the deadline for consultation responses was 16 March 2023 and a submission had been provided, with the caveat that it was subject to Council approval.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to agree to the submission of the attached Consultation response.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McEvoy it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 12-16 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. Three of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

AHC/041/2023 DRAFT POLICY ON BONFIRES ON COUNCIL LAND (v5) REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, presented by Mrs Flynn, Safer Communities and Good Relations Manager regarding a draft policy on Bonfires on Council Land. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve the report and draft Policy on Bonfires on Council Land (V5).

FOR NOTING

AHC/042/2023 SCALE OF CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Scale of Charges for Community Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the report.

AHC/043/2023 SCALE OF CHARGES FOR LEISURE CENTRES

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Scale of Charges for Leisure Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the report.

AHC/044/2023 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT ON PROCEDURES

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding procedures for Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson took the opportunity to point out Council could not make an exception for any individual club and the importance of elected members adhering to the agreed and adopted processes for Financial Assistance Payments.

Mr Tamati reiterated the need to provide a consistent approach and protect Council and elected members from potential legal challenges or grievances.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report.

AHC/045/2023 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DfC) COST OF LIVING SALARY SUPPORT FUNDING REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Department for Communities Cost of Living Salary Support Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report.

AHC/046/2023 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DfC) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ASSIST WITH INCREASED RUNNING COSTS

Read: Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Department for Communities additional funding to assist with increased running costs. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.53 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

Signed: Councillor H Gallagher
Chairperson

Signed: Paul Tamati
Assistant Director Leisure and Sport