

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2023

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16  
October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row and remotely via Microsoft  
Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

**In attendance in Chamber:** Councillor J Jackson  
Councillor A Lewis  
Councillor A Mathers  
Councillor D Murphy  
Councillor K Murphy  
Councillor S O'Hare

**In attendance via Teams:** Councillor L Devlin  
Councillor D Finn  
Councillor A Finnegan  
Councillor C Galbraith  
Councillor D Lee-Surginor  
Councillor A McMurray

**Non-Members via Teams:** Councillor T Andrews  
Councillor J Brennan  
Councillor J Truesdale

**Officials in attendance  
in Chamber:**

Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport  
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**AHC/108/2023: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor Howell.

In the absence of Councillor Howell, Vice-Chairperson Councillor Magennis assumed the Chair.

**AHC/109/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/110/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2023. **(Copy circulated)**.

*AHC/100/2023 – Letter of Offer, Area of Risk 2023/24*

Councillor Finnegan spoke of a meeting between herself and Mrs Robb and reiterated the need for consultation regarding the needs of the communities of Bessbrook and Crossmaglen.

*Saintfield Sports Club*

In response for an update from Councillor Jackson in relation to lighting at Saintfield Sports Club, Mr Tamati confirmed lux level light testing had been carried out the previous week and that a further report had been commissioned to include upgrade costs etc and details on that would be brought back to Members to agree next steps.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2023.**

**AHC/111/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION – HOMELESSNESS**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding a Notice of Motion in relation to Homelessness. **(Copy Circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale spoke at length about the work undertaken regarding homelessness and thanked officers for the detailed response, Councillor Savage for his previous work in bringing agencies together and Council for assisting and facilitating a strong partnership, as 'Housing within the District was integral to the Councils Community Plan'.

Members were reminded Councils overarching strategic Community Plan 2030 - Living Well Together, recognised the need for housing especially social and affordable housing across the District.

Councillor Truesdale commended the work carried out by Council under Homelessness and spoke of how a number of agencies worked on a coordinated interagency basis. She highlighted the work of the Ethnic Minority Support Service who she had worked with and how they were supported by voluntary and statutory organisations in the Mourne area.

Councillor Truesdale stated statutory and voluntary organisations coming together into a stakeholder group was crucial for the success of any large scale multi-faceted issue and whilst NIHE were ultimately responsible for homelessness suggested a presentation from advocates on the ground such as Bolster, Newry Help the Homeless, Welcome or De Paul be arranged.

Councillor Truesdale also suggested a page on the Council website, under a Housing Crisis tab, coordinating all the contact details of all the organisations within the District that may be able to help in a crisis situation be established. She also suggested addiction organisations, domestic and sexual violence organisations, mental health support and PSNI 101 link be added to create an all-encompassing coalition of support.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor that a presentation regarding homelessness be made from advocacy groups such as those listed and a webpage signposting organisations to help people in crisis be included on the Council website.

Councillors Finnegan and Finn spoke in support of the motion and spoke at length about homelessness and the importance of addressing homelessness within the District.

Mrs Robb confirmed she had noted the proposal for a presentation and a webpage and that she would bring forward a report to committee in due course.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the contents of the report and consider inviting NIHE to present on the issue of Homelessness to Council in due course.**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor that a presentation regarding homelessness be made from advocacy groups such as those listed and a webpage signposting organisations to help people in crisis be included on the Council website.**

**AHC/112/2023:            DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE**

Read:                                Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the District Electoral Area Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finnegan raised the issue of Crossmaglen Community Centre being closed at certain times due to staff shortages and asked that alternative arrangements be made available as soon as possible.

Councillor Finnegan advised she had spoken with Mrs Robb to raise concerns and asked that staffing issues be resolved as soon as possible. She asked that the centre be opened to 10pm on 31 October to enable a Halloween event arranged by the Community Association and funded by Council to go ahead as planned.

Mrs Robb acknowledged there were short term staffing issues due to sickness absence and there were currently difficulties recruiting staff for certain types of posts. She confirmed she had undertaken to speak with the Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events to facilitate the original booking for the centre until 10pm on Halloween night.

Councillor Lewis enquired if it was possible to add or replace independent members who may leave during their term at DEA Forums.

Mrs Robb pointed out that elected members should encourage people to step forward and participate in DEA Forums where possible and confirmed there was provision to fill gaps where there was an under-representation in certain areas e.g. business. She advised members to raise within their DEA Forums where such gaps existed.

**Agreed:**                                **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the update report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:**

- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2023.**
- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 26 September 2023.**
- **Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2023.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 28 September 2023.**
- **The Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 3 October 2023.**
- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 October 2023.**
- **Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 11 October 2023.**

AHC/113/2023

**COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finn, note the report and approve the actions in the action sheet for Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on 20 September 2023.**

The Chairperson advised item 17 would be taken at this stage of the meeting.

AHC/114/2023

**LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST KILLOUGH, ST ANNE’S PARK AND BESSBROOK FOOTBALL FIELDS**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the leasing of Council land and facilities, expressions of interest Killough, St Anne’s Park and Bessbrook Playing Fields. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve for the following Council land to commence and progress through the various stages Councils Sport and Leasing Policy 2016:**

- **Playing Field at St Annes Park, Mayobridge Appendix 1.**
- **Killough Playing Fields, School Road Killough Appendix 2.**
- **Bessbrook Football Fields, Orior Park, Bessbrook Appendix 3.**

***Due to technical difficulties the meeting had a recess at this point 6.33pm – 6.38pm.***

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 19 and 20 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 D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Galbraith it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

**AHC/115/2023      PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNER – INDOOR LEISURE**

**Read:** Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Programme Delivery Partner, Indoor Leisure. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to approve a Public Tender and appointment for up to 3 years for an Indoor Leisure Programme Delivery Partner, subject to annual rates estimates provisions and approve the Business Case for this Public Tender (as per appendix 1 of the officer's report) and Council's procurement policy.

**AHC/116/2023      BUSINESS CASE FOR BESSBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Read:** Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development, regarding a business case for Bessbrook Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy to approve the business case for Improvement Works to Bessbrook Community Centre and that project costs be submitted for consideration in the 2024/25 rates estimates.

**AHC/117/2023**

**BUSINESS CASE FOR CLOUGHREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Read:** Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development, regarding a business case for Cloughreagh Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers to approve the Business case for DDA upgrade works to Cloughreagh Community Centre and that the project costs be included in the 2024/2025 rates estimates.**

**AHC/118/2023**

**DFC – LIVING HIGH STREET FUNDING**

**Read:** Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Department for Communities for Living High Street Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Devlin to approve commencing procurement and appointment of contractors for the projects outlined in section 1.1. of the officers report and in accordance with Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (NIPPP) and approve the business cases as per appendix 1 and appendix 2 of the officers report. It was also agreed that officers, in conjunction with local DEA Councillors, contact relevant landowners of the carpark area adjacent to Dunleath Park to discuss access possibilities.**

**AHC/119/2023**

**PROVISION OF SWIMMING POOL MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING PROVISIONS**

**Read:** Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the additional spend for Swimming Pool Plant Maintenance and Servicing as outlined in section 1.1 of the officer's report.**

AHC/120/2023

**WARRENPOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub Governance Documents . **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the project governance arrangements for the Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub and name change for the project as detailed within the officer's report and note that Council had submitted an application to Peace Plus 1.4 Reimaging Communities in relation to this project.**

AHC/121/2023

**PEACE IV REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Peace IV Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin to note the report and minute from the PEACE IV Partnership held on 22 June 2023 and 21 September 2023.**

AHC/122/2023

**NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the report and the following Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Minutes and action plan:**

- **Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2023, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023.**
- **Newry NRP Action Plan 2023 – 2026, approved at Newry NRP meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023.**



AHC/123/2023

**POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2023, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023.**

AHC/124/2023

**DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME REDUCED BUDGET**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding District Council Good Relations Programme Reduced Budget. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray commented that whilst the decision on cuts had already been made, he was concerned and disappointed at what the reduced budgets meant for the work of DEAs, and enquired what Council was doing to address this shortfall in funding.

Mrs Robb advised representation had been made by all Councils in relation to funding cuts and despite that they had unfortunately went ahead and that was unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.

Mrs Robb commented Council was coming into its own rates estimates process and would be looking closely at its own budget. She added collaboration with partners and working together to share resources to try and deliver on the ground seemed to be the way forward at this time.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the reduced budget from The Executive Office to the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) for 2023/24 and the associated impact on service delivery.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.12pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2023.

Signed: Councillor O Magennis  
Chairperson

Signed: Paul Tamati  
Assistant Director Leisure and Sport