

At the Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022 the Democratic Services Manager advised an amendment was required as the incorrect information had been circulated due to a duplication. The minute was to read and approved as follows:

AHC/194/2022: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer that the Biodiversity Officer drafts a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for NMDDC to lead biodiversity action across the district for the next 5 years.

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 November 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor Y Moore
Councillor D McAteer

In attendance via Teams: Councillor J Brennan
Councillor C Casey
Councillor G Malone
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó'Muirí
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly

Non-Members in attendance: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor H McKee (Teams)
Councillor K Owen (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Officials in attendance in Chamber: Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance via Teams: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Ms L Cummins Democratic Services Officer

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AHC/182/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

AHC/183/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/184/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/168/2020: Warrenpoint Community Centre

In response for an update from Councillor McKeivitt regarding Warrenpoint Community Centre, Mrs Hillen confirmed Council had agreed to establish a Governance Project Group with representation from Council officers, the consultant design team, estates department and elected members. She added that it was hoped the first meeting would be scheduled early January 2023 and would be responsible for driving forward any future decision in relation to Warrenpoint.

AHC/080/2022: Hilltown Car Park

Councillor McKeivitt praised the work done completed at the Hilltown car park and at Carcullion House and Mrs Hillen advised she would pass that on.

AHC/152/2022: Ukrainian Crisis Report

Councillor McKeivitt enquired if payments had been made to hosts of Ukrainian refugees. Mrs Hillen advised she had not heard of any further delays in relation to the payments but would confirm following the meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 October 2022.

DIRECTORS PAPERS

AHC/185/2022: MID-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN ASSESSMENT 2022/23

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities presented by Mr P Tamati regarding the Mid-Year Business Plan Assessment 2022/23. **(Copy circulated)**

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Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the Mid-Year Assessment for the Active and Healthy Communities' Directorate Business Plan 2022-2023.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/186/2022: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT – CALL 1

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance Report for Call 1. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Ó Muirí, Mrs Hillen confirmed the Irish Language theme remained within Call 1.

Councillor McAteer referred to community groups who had missed out in the past and asked that they be advised of the Call opening. Mrs Hillen confirmed a reminder email notification would be sent to groups who had previously accessed this fund and that it would be publicly advertised also.

Councillor Sharvin spoke of previous calls where community groups were not successful as they were not aware of what the definition of community facilities was and enquired if the definition had been updated.

Mrs Hillen confirmed the definition for Council of what a community organisation was had been agreed as part of the Community Centre Effectiveness Review and advised that, more recently, discussions were held at DEA level regarding a revised definition. She stated members were engaged directly and the matter would be addressed through the Community Facilities Strategy. Mrs Hillen stated that groups had been advised in the meantime how to update or amend their governance documents in order that they are eligible to apply for funding.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding the ability of unsuccessful groups to reapply within the 4 years, Mrs Hillen confirmed she would check however it was her understating was it was a 4 year call for the SLAs with a 2 year interim call.

Councillor O'Hare enquired about how a new Men's Shed in Hilltown would apply for funding. Mrs Hillen confirmed the Men's Shed constitution would mean they would be eligible for a number of themes and that they should be encouraged to attend training sessions in advance of the call being opened and link in with other Men's Shed's and similar group for advice and guidance.

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

- **To open the Call on 6th December 2022 and close in Jan 2023 to ensure letter of offer are with groups by start of finance year to allow planning.**

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- **To merge Community Events and Festival and Summer Schemes into one theme to reduce duplication.**
- **To move Arts and Culture and any other relevant themes to Call 2.**
- **The recommendations for Call 3 as per appendix attached within the report and issue.**

AHC/187/2022: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS - UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to note the report and approve the actions for the following:**

- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 11 October 2022.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2022.**
- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 1 November 2022**

AHC/188/2022: COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Co-ordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2022.**

COMMUNITY PLANNING

AHC/189/2022: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities Committee presented by Mrs J

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Hillen regarding a Service Level Agreement with the Education Authority. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Lee-Surginor spoke of the importance of youth provisions and welcomed the initiative.

Councillor Sharvin enquired about the requested allocation of budget as to whether it was new money to be found within the budget or replace existing agreements with the Education Authority. Mrs Hillen advised it was her understating it was in addition to any agreements Council had and that it was to assist in the delivery of different objectives.

Mrs Hillen advised she would confirm if the allocation was annually.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to issue a Service Level Agreement through the Council Programmes Unit, verified in line with Council procedures.**

AHC/190/2022 **LIAISON AGREEMENT FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF WORK RELATED DEATHS**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a liaison agreement for the investigation of Work Related Deaths. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí enquired if approval was from now or retrospectively.

Mr Devlin clarified there was one in existence and that this was to modernise and bring it up to date and would be from Council approval on.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to grant approval for Council to sign up to the revised liaison agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths.**

AHC/191/2022 **NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEMBERSHIP FEE 2022/23**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding payment of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Membership fee for 2022/23. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve payment of the annual subscription for membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities to the value of £1283.00.**

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AHC/192/2022 **COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding support for the ‘Guardians for Grub’ and ‘Feeding Britain’ campaigns. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor O’Hare to approve Council signing up to both Guardians of Grub and Feeding Britain campaigns.**

AHC/193/2022 **SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES – APPLYING FOR BRONZE ACCREDITATION**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding Council applying to the Sustainable Food Places network for consideration of their Bronze Award. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that an application for the Bronze Award be submitted to the Sustainable Food Places Network.**

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AHC/194/2022 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2023-2028

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2023-2028.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Devlin confirmed Members could contact the Council's Biodiversity Officer with suggestions as to where to focus the new approach and that they would be seeking formally invited to reach out to stakeholders. Councillor Sharvin added DEA Forums should be included to feed into the Strategy.

Councillor McAteer spoke of previous discussions he had with the Department of Infrastructure in relation to opportunities for biodiversity work in the dual carriageways between Warrenpoint and Newry. Mr Devlin confirmed he had noted the comments and would revisit with the Department.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer that the Biodiversity Officer drafts a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for NMDDC to lead biodiversity action across the district for the next 5 years.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, 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. 3 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 McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/195/2022 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – MAJOR SPORTS CAPITAL (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL)

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Michael Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities presented by Mr P Tamati regarding financial assistance, major sports capital. **(Copy circulated)**

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It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer that the Biodiversity Officer drafts a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for NMDDC to lead biodiversity action across the district for the next 5 years.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that officers will bring a report back to the December Committee to investigate further the Sports Capital Financial Assistance arrangements.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve to progress a Sports Hub, Expressions of Interest Financial Assistance Call for Higher Level Sports Capital as outlined in 2.1.B of the officer's report.

Councillor O'Hare left the meeting at this point – 6.49pm.

AHC/196/2022 **HOME TO HOSPITAL SCHEMES FOR MOURNES AND SLIEVE GULLION DEAs**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding Home to Hospital Schemes for Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEAs. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muiri to provide funding for Mournes and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital Volunteer Driver Schemes and seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community/Voluntary sector organisations to administer subject to funding being identified within Rates Estimates process.

AHC/197/2022 **OPEN SPACE STRATEGY – BUSINESS CASE**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a business case for an Open Space Strategy. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the following:
1.To progress the public tender as outlined in 1.1 of the officer's report and approve the business case as per appendix 1.
2.That officers undertake the appropriate evaluation of tenders in line with procurement guidelines and appoint a preferred bidder.

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AHC/198/2022 UPDATE REGARDING DERRYBEG COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding an update on Derrybeg Community Centre, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

AHC/199/2022 LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR ANNSBOROUGH AND LISDRUMGULLION

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding expressions of interest for Annsborough and Lisdrumgullion. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the contents of the officer’s report and that expressions of interest for the land outlined in 1.1 of the officer’s report would progress to stage 3 of the Sport and Leasing Policy 2016.**

AHC/200/2022 NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE – SWIMMING POOL

Read Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding the swimming pool at Newry Leisure Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the contents of the report and the following:**

- **Newry Leisure Centre Swimming Pool would not close in December 2022.**
- **Officers would continue to work with the original project team and contractors to determine a programme for closure of Newry Leisure Centre swimming pool, prioritising minimal disruption to service users.**
- **A future report to Council would be tabled to seek approval for closure arrangements of Newry Leisure Centre swimming pool.**

END OF CLOSED SESSION

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FOR NOTING

AHC/201/2022 UPDATE ON MULLAGHBAWN COMMUNITY CENTRE - TERMINATION OF LEASE

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding an update on Mullaghbawn Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the Mullaghbawn Community Centre termination of lease had been completed as and from the 31 October 2022, and the keys had been returned to the Parish.**

AHC/202/2022 PEACE PLUS LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding the Peace Plus Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the contents of the report and the Minutes from the Peace Plus Partnership Meeting held on 6 October 2022.**

AHC/203/2022 INITIATIVES FOR USE OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding initiatives to help with the Cost of Living crisis. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Lewis enquired about facilities to purchase warm tea and coffee within the Down Leisure Centre to which Mr Tamati advised there was currently no resource for that however options were to be worked on with the community.

Councillor Ó Muiri referred to Councillor Murphy's original motion for warm spaces within community and leisure centres for warmth, wi-fi, somewhere for people to meet and to provide drop off points. He added there was a need to link in with outside agencies to provide hot food.

Mr Devlin referred to work ongoing through the age friendly strategic alliance with partners there to promote activities already going on and work with partner agencies to provide keep warm packs. Members were advised there were to be two cost of living events held in early January 2023.

In response to a query from Councillor Lee-Surginor as to whether more locations could be added to the list, Mrs Hillen advised officers would be looking into all centres and a further

