



March 6th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 6th March 2023** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 06-02-2023.pdf](#)

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2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 February 2023

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 February 2023

[Council Minutes-06.02.2023.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30 January 2023

[Special Council Minutes - 30-01-2023.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2023

[ERT Minutes 13 February 2023.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2023

[SPR Committee Minutes 16-02-2023.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023

[AHC Committee Minutes 20 February 2023.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Special Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 01 February 2023

[Sp. Sustainability and Environment Committee Minutes - 01-02-2023.pdf](#)

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10.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting

held on 22 February 2023

[SE Committee Minutes - 22-02-2023.pdf](#)

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11.0 Planning Section - Local Development Plan

LDP: Progress Report - Quarterly Update attached

[Extract Planning Minutes 08.02.2023.pdf](#)

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Correspondence

12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes & Housing Bulletin

[Housing Council Minutes - 12th January 2023.pdf](#)

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[Members Bulletin - 9 February 2023.pdf](#)

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13.0 Response from Ards & North Down Borough Council re NOM: C/207/2022 - Workers Legal Rights to Tips

Letter dated 8 February 2023 attached

[Response from Ards & N Down re NOM C.207.2022 - - Workers legal rights to tips.pdf](#)

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14.0 Response from Secretary of State N.I. re NOM: Electronic Travel Authorisation - ref. C/184/2022 & C/014/2023

Letter dated 9 February 2023 attached

[Response from Sec of State NI re C.184.2022 & C.014.2023.pdf](#)

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15.0 Response from Minister of State for Energy & Climate re Emergency NOM C/209/2022

Letter dated 3 February 2023 attached

[Response from Minister of State Energy & Climate re NOM C.209.2022.pdf](#)

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16.0 Response from Catherine Martin TD re NOM: C/185/2022 &

C/020/2023 - Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland's Ancient East Tourism Experience Brand

Letter dated 21 February 2023 attached

[!\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9_img.jpg\) *Response from Catherine Martin TD re NOM C.185.2022 & C.020.2023.pdf*](#) *Page 89*

[!\[\]\(dfbd6b3763a6d1d9afaa974f64e2e4b5_img.jpg\) *C.185.2022 and C.020.2023 Letter to Irish Tourism Minister.pdf*](#) *Page 90*

17.0 Letter from DfC re 'Rates Support Grant Allocation' with Appendix Letter to Five Main Party Leaders

Letter dated 8 February 2023 & Appendix letter dated 23 January 2023 attached

[!\[\]\(c694a3ff3b077d76910920a6a1593ab4_img.jpg\) *Letter from DfC re Rate Support Grant Allocation.pdf*](#) *Page 92*

[!\[\]\(ec9132f1d27c8919987d92907322654d_img.jpg\) *Appendix -Letter to All Party Leaders re Rates Support Grant.pdf*](#) *Page 93*

18.0 Response from Department for Economy re NOM: C/051/2023 - Northern Ireland Electricity Suppliers

Letter dated 1 March 2023 attached

[!\[\]\(dd161862f9164df98f62b726e9846241_img.jpg\) *Response from DfE re NOM C.051.2023 - NI Electricity Suppliers.pdf*](#) *Page 95*

19.0 Letter from DfI re. Watson's Road, Newry

Letter dated 26 January 2023 and Appendix attached

[!\[\]\(626ce8ac21792b9405bfddfea8e0c96a_img.jpg\) *Letter from DfI re Proposed Stopping-Up of Watsons Road, Newry.pdf*](#) *Page 96*

[!\[\]\(a8f9309f944226d1420f5fed22e2b6e6_img.jpg\) *App. 1 - Stopping Up Plan - Watsons Road Newry.pdf*](#) *Page 98*

Notices of Motion

20.0 Notice of Motion - Inclusive and Accessible Leisure Facilities

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Sharvin:

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council reaffirms its commitment to ensuring all leisure facilities are inclusive and accessible for everyone in our community.

The Council recognises that we can do so much more for people with a disability, such as autism, and will undertake a review engaging with service users, Autism network providers and Disability Sports NI.

The review should include the provision of training needs to all council staff both front of house, support staff and the aquatics team to provide inclusive 1:1 swim sessions for users with disabilities".

21.0 Notice of Motion - Voting Age Reduction

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andrews:

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and if this motion is adopted seeks the support of the remaining councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16 year old and upwards to vote".

22.0 Notice of Motion - Invest NI

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Hanlon:

"That this Council notes the recent publication of the Department of Economy's review into Invest NI;

Welcomes that the need for profound change within the organisation has been recognised;

Notes with concern that Invest NI has not proactively promoted the benefits and opportunities of the Protocol for businesses, which given our councils geographic position represents missed opportunities;

And calls on Council to work collaboratively with Invest NI to put a focus on:

- Promoting a balanced regional economy;
- Boosting productivity;
- Targeting support to local small and medium businesses;
- Bringing new and good quality jobs to our district;
- Future proofing our local economy and investing in green jobs;
- Unlocking the potential of our towns

23.0 Notice of Motion - Funding

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Tinnelly:

"This Council welcomes the commitment from DfC, DAERA & DfI to help fund the 4 proposed Environmental Improvements schemes in Rostrevor, Bessbrook, Saintfield & Castlewellan that are currently being developed. This council also recognises that notwithstanding the recent welcome additional funding offer to offset inflationary construction costs, council's contribution to the overall cost of these projects may also need to be increased to take account of other unforeseen factors and to accurately reflect the outworking's of the public engagement process. To that end, council officers will now bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity with a revised budget requirement, to be considered by council as a contingency measure to cover any potential funding shortfall, in order that the EI schemes to be delivered in each of these 4 locations fully reflect the views and expectations of the local communities as per the public engagement process".

24.0 Notice of Motion - Prostate Cancer

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Gallagher:

"Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men in Northern Ireland. Prostate cancer usually develops slowly, so there may be no signs you have it for many years. Most cases develop in men aged 50 or older. I call on Newry Mourne and Down Council to proactively engage with the department of health to provide advice and sign post people on the symptoms of prostate cancer. This will result in the utilising the council's facilities and social media to promote the signs and

symptoms of prostate cancer.

This Council write to the Department of Health to increase their own promotional campaign on Prostate Cancer ".

25.0 Notice of Motion - Domiciliary Care

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Trainor:

“This Council recognises the importance of Domiciliary Care in ensuring people can be cared for in the comfort of the home environment. Will write to the South Eastern and Southern Health and Social Care Trust’s calling for them to review their current models for providing these services and to increase the percentage of Care Packages delivered by the Trust’s. Further calls for an urgent review into Domiciliary Care and how it is delivered across the North given the lack of capacity both in the Public and Private sectors.”

26.0 Notice of Motion - Mourne Mountain Rescue Team

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McMurray:

‘The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mournes, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.’

27.0 Notice of Motion - MOU – DFI Roads, Roads and Footpaths Maintenance During Cold Snaps

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:

“That this Council notes recent cold snaps which left many roads and footpaths in the district impassable, accepts the logistical challenges facing the workers with responsibility for gritting and maintaining roads and commends them for their

efforts; Recognises the resource implication and the operational impact that such periods of colder weather can have on road services; And Calls on Council to engage with DFI Roads as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will ensure our roads and footpaths are maintained during cold snaps and the public are kept safe”.

28.0 Notice of Motion - Rebellion Anniversaries

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Brennan

"Council notes that this year will see a number of historically significant local anniversaries, including the 225th anniversary of the 1798 United Irish rebellion; and the 220th anniversary of the execution of Thomas Russell in Downpatrick in 1803 Council recognises the significance of the 1798 rebellion to this district, in particular the battles at Ballynahinch and Saintfield as well as the execution of a founding leader of the United Irishmen, Thomas Russell, at Downpatrick Gaol; Council further recognises the unique and invaluable opportunities which exist to mark these events as key moments in our local shared history; Calls on Council to engage with all interested schools/community groups/historical societies with the objective of launching a series of events and initiatives that suitably mark these significant anniversaries".

29.0 Notice of Motion - Vaping and E Cigarette Retailers

The following Motion was received from Councillor Rice:

"This Council notes the increasing prevalence of vaping and e-cigarette retailers opening throughout the district;

Further notes that in recent times there has been an increasing number of complaints from concerned parents, regarding the sale of vape products to underage children;

Commends the work of council officials in monitoring the situation and intervening where possible;

Further calls on the relevant licensing body to proactively inform all vape & e-cigarette shop owners of the potential repercussions for selling their products to underage children".

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Cllr Robert Burgess
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Mr Gerard Byrne
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Mr Andrew Cassells
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Cllr William Clarke
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Mrs Linda Cummins
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Cllr Dermot Curran
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Mr Eoin Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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Cllr Hugh Gallagher
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
.....
Cllr Valerie Harte
.....
Mrs Janine Hillen
.....
Cllr Roisin Howell
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Ms Catherine Hughes
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Mr Colum Jackson
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Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Josephine Kelly
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Cathal King
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Mr Michael Lipsett
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Mrs Regina Mackin
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Gavin Malone
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Colette McAteer
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Jonathan McGilly
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Cllr Harold McKee
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Patricia McKeever
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Cllr Karen McKeivitt
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Catrina Miskelly
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Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Mr Kevin Scullion
.....
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
.....
Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/178/2019</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – C/131/2019: Live Animals in Circuses</i>	<i>At the request of Councillor McAteer it was agreed the motion remain on the action sheet.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>		<i>N</i>
<i>C/084/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28.03.22 – with NIAS & SHSCT</i>	<i>It was agreed to bring forth problem solving solutions to the NIAS in all facets of their work and for this action to be retained on the Action Sheet to keep track of progress</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>		<i>N</i>

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/032/2023</i>	<i>To set a district rate for the financial year 2023/24</i>	<i>The considerations and recommendations of the SFWG in relation to 2023/24 rated setting process App. 7 was agreed</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
			<i>J Kelly</i>	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/033/2023</i>	<i>Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 09.01.2023</i>	<i>The Action Sheet was agreed C/185/2022 and C/020/2023 – Inclusion of Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand Councillor Byrne asked that a copy of correspondence sent to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as well as responses received be included within papers.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/034/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 09.01.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/035/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 16.01.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/036/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 18.01.2023</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/037/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19.01.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. It was agreed that an All Ireland Citizens Assembly be subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment. It was agreed a report would be presented to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee</i>	<i>Democratic Services J Kelly</i>	Noted <i>Report presented to SPRC on 16/02/23</i>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/038/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 23.01.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/039/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 25.01.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/041/2023</i>	<i>NI Housing Council Minutes – 08 December 2022 & 12 January 2023</i>	<i>The Minutes were noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/042/2023</i>	<i>Response from NIO re NOM C/183/2022 – Cost of Living Crisis</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/043/2023</i>	<i>Response from HM Treasury re NOM C/183/2022 – Cost of Living Crisis</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/044/2022</i>	<i>Response ABC, Fermanagh & Omagh & Ards & N Down re. NOM C/207/2022 –</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	<i>Workers legal right to tips</i>				
<i>C/045/2022</i>	<i>Letter to Colum Boyle, Permanent Secretary DfC re. Rates Support Grant</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/046/2023</i>	<i>Response from NIO re. NOM C/206/2022 – Cervical Screening in N. Ireland</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/047/2023</i>	<i>Response from PSNI re. NOM C/022/2023 – Former Warrenpoint PSNI</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/048/2023</i>	<i>Response from Catherine Martin TD re. NOM C/020/2023– Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland’s Ancient East</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/049/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Local Development Plan</i>	<i>The motion was referred to ERT Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>C Mallon</i>	Noted To be heard at ERT on 13.03.2023	

C/050/2023	Notice of Motion - Recreational Sea Angling Strategy	The motion was referred to AHC Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	Democratic Services P Tamati	Noted To be heard at AHC on 20.03.2023		
C/051/2023	Notice of Motion – NI Electricity Suppliers	It was agreed this Council notes with ongoing concern the cost of living energy crisis inflicted on our fellow citizens, hampered by the ongoing non-functioning of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly; the lack of roll out of smart meters by the Department for the Economy and agrees that more needs to be done by Northern Ireland Electricity suppliers to address these issues. In light of the 'Demand Flexibility Service' being implemented in GB to avoid blackouts and provide savings for consumers, this Council should write to NIE and all electricity suppliers encouraging them to work collaboratively to introduce a similar scheme encouraging consumers to avoid using electricity during peak times and begin rolling out smart meters for all households. Council also writes to Mike Brennan, Department for the Economy asking what the Department's plans are for rolling out smart meters across N. Ireland.	Democratic Services	Noted		
C/052/2023	Notice of Motion – Holiday Homes	The motion was referred to the AHC Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	Democratic Services	Noted		
C/053/2023	Notice of Motion – School Street Schemes	This Council notes that the "School street" schemes in the Republic of Ireland and GB, which close the roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, have the multiple benefits of improving road safety for pupils, encouraging active travel to school by walking, cycling and public transport, and improving the air quality around schools; Commends	Democratic Services A Rennick C Mallon	Noted On-going		

		<i>Fingal County Council which has successfully pioneered the scheme at many schools in North County Dublin; Recognises that we do not have the statutory powers to introduce such a scheme in Newry, Mourne and Down, either in pilot or permanent form; Calls on the Department for Infrastructure to bring forward urgently a School Streets pilot project in Newry, Mourne and Down, identifying a number of pilot schools across the district; Agrees that the DEA Forums will agree a number of schools in each area to recommend to the Department for Infrastructure as part of a pilot scheme; Shall explore further ways to work with all relevant partners to develop School Streets and support measures to cut vehicle emissions and pollution in the vicinity of schools, including enforceable No-Idling Zones, air quality measuring and tree planting as part of the one million trees initiative".</i>		To be heard at ERT on 13.03.2023	
<i>C/054/2023</i>	<i>Emergency Notice of Motion – Signage outside school in Clough</i>	<i>This Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent erection of intimidatory and anti-Irish signage outside a school in the village of Clough; Council recognises that this was a clear attempt to threaten and intimidate school children and their families and is the latest in an ongoing campaign by some individuals to mark out territory and intimidate both people living in and travelling through the area; Council acknowledges that the naming and targeting of a school in this instance was particularly sinister; And calls on anyone with any information on those responsible for these actions to come forward and assist police with their enquiries immediately.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>END</i>					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/****Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 February 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber****In the Chair:**

Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor Brennan	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor C King
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
Councillor G Kearns	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance
 Ms V Keegan, Head of Communications and Marketing
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance via Teams:

Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture and Events

**Also in attendance
Via Teams:**

Ms N Largey, Legal Services

C/030/2023

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Malone and McEvoy.

The Chairperson spoke of the huge tragedy unfolding in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria with two massive earthquakes claiming over 2,500 lives with the death toll rising. On behalf of Council, he expressed condolences to the people of both countries, many of whom were refugees fleeing war in the region.

The Chairperson expressed his condolences to Councillor McEvoy, whose grandfather Pat Joe Travers had been laid to rest over the weekend.

Condolences were also sent to the late former SDLP Rostrevor Councillor Brian Mulligan whose wife Pat had been laid rest.

The Chairperson thanked everyone involved in making his Chairperson's Charity Ball a huge success which raised much needed funds for his chosen charities Southern Area Hospice, Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, Suicide Down To Zero and Simon Community. He thanked the Democratic Services team in making the event happen, all those who attended the ball, sponsored the event in any way and who played a role in the fantastic event.

The Chairperson extended his congratulations to the team at Clanrye Group for securing the district's third Pride of Place Award in a row in Dublin in recent weeks, stating it was justified recognition for an organisation that had improved the lives of citizens for the last 40 years.

Newry Gateway were congratulated on embarking on their celebrations marking 50 years of changing the lives young adults with learning difficulties.

The Chairperson advised local GAA clubs were also to be congratulated with numerous players picking up awards in the Gaelic Life All Stars including the following:

- Kilcoo's Ryan McEvoy, Aaron Branagan and Shealan Johnston who featured in the team of the year.
- Liatroim's Ruairi and Pearse Og McCrickard for hurling team of the year.
- Clonduff's Katie Morgan, Jenna Boden, Fionnuala Carr, Paula O'Hagan and Sara Louise Graffin for Camogie Team of the Year.

The Chairperson advised an emergency notice of motion had been received from Councillor Brennan and for the motion to be heard it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders (which required a qualified majority vote, not less than 80% of Members present and voting) and this matter would be brought forward for consideration later in the meeting.

C/031/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lewis declared an interest in item 27 – Emergency Notice of Motion: Incident of anti-Irish signage outside a school in Clough.

C/032/2023 TO SET A DISTRICT RATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

Read: Report from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding the District Rate 2023/24 dated 6 February 2023 **(Copy circulated)**
 Appendix 1: Medium Term Financial Plan
 Appendix 2: General Estimate of Rates 2323/24 – DfC Return
 Appendix 3: Capital Strategy Report 2023/24
 Appendix 4: Capital Programme at 31/1/2023
 Appendix 5: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24
 Appendix 5: Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2023/24
 Appendix 6: Action Sheets of meetings of Strategic Finance Working Group to consider rate setting process 2023/24 (restricted item)

The Chief Executive confirmed Ms N Largey, Legal Services was in attendance at the meeting.

In accordance with Standing Order 21, Council was asked to agree that this paper should not be subject to call-in because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the rate by the statutory deadline of 15th February 2023. This was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

The Chief Executive then referred Members to the considerations and recommendations of the report pointing out that detailed estimates had been formulated, presented and scrutinised by Members via the Strategic Finance Working Group Meetings (action sheets attached at appendix 7). She added account outturns from previous years, corporate pressures, planned savings and efficiencies, current spending plans and projected future investment and that adequate funding was available to protect frontline services had all been taken into account.

Mrs Ward advised she was satisfied that the estimates presented, subject to the significant uncertainties noted within 2.1 of the report, should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2023/24 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to Council had been made in the preparation of the estimates. Members were reminded that the impact of two economic

shocks and current challenges to Land and Property Services valuation lists could have significant impact on the rate base and therefore consideration to ringfencing a reserve to deal with the financial uncertainty going forward into the new term of Council was required.

Mrs Ward confirmed she was content that the current reserves held by the Council were adequate to meet the medium-term financial commitments of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Members were referred to the recommendations at 3.1 of the report and asked to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Strategic Finance Working group in relation to 2023-24 rate setting process and have regard to the Chief Executive's Statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and approve an increase in the district rate for 2023/24 of 5.99%, based on an estimated penny product of 2,471,219 meaning a non-domestic rate of 27.2846 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4395 pence (and approve points 2-7 of the officer's report).

Councillor Sharvin stated SDLP had taken their responsibility throughout the rates process extremely seriously and been consistent throughout the process in questioning and holding officers to account, but more importantly holding themselves to account for the ratepayers of the district. He referred to Council setting a capital fund to allocate £1.5m across 10 years, setup to reduce the MRP and in turn, the rate rises being faced. He went on to say that by utilising £1.5m from the Capital Fund, the rate being suggested would drop from 5.99% to 3.49% and lessen the burden on the ratepayer and that Council would be delivering the financial tools setup to stop the MRP from rising.

Councillor Sharvin then asked the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer of Council to provide a reason to why Council could not utilise the Capital Fund that was setup to stop the rise of the MRP this year and in turn reduce the Council rate.

The Chief Executive responded by stating Members were aware a number of queries had been raised at the SFWG in relation to reserves and officers had tried to address those at the meetings. She added that in general terms, reserves were there to protect the working capital of Council, but also allow realisation of the short and medium-term plans for investment within the District and were not there to fund everyday operations of Council as that would not be financially prudent.

Mrs Ward advised the proposed rate 5.99% was only being achieved by using reserves for 2023/24. She added the use of reserves was a balance and any use would impact the rate for the following financial year and ultimately the delivery of Council's Corporate objectives and ambitions.

In relation to the use of reserves in the capital fund to reduce the MRP in 2023, Members were advised this would directly impact the rate for next year.

Mrs Ward confirmed current estimates showed a projected rate of 10% for 2024/25 and additional use of reserves would only further increase that, and further efficiencies would be required in addition to the pay award risks already highlighted. The level of reserves was dependant on the projected financial position at year end and the level of pay award for 2023/24. As previously advised to Members, Council and

officers will keep the MRP and all capital projects under review for affordability and reprofiling during 2023/34 and beyond.

Members were reminded that projects only impact the rate the year after the building or project come into use and the MRP charge 2023/24 is impacted by capital expenditure completed in 2022/23 and that included IT transformation, purchasing of new vehicles and other capital projects.

Mrs Kelly agreed with the Chief Executive and confirmed a significant amount of reserves had been used to bring the proposed rate down to 5.99% with MRP being part of that and that it was about balance for this year and next as well.

Mrs Ward wished to point out in reply to Councillor Sharvin's reference to using £1.5m from future years capital funds to offset MRP that it was made clear at the SFWG meetings that that was not the position of Council but merely an illustration of how reserves could be used and that it would be the requirement of the new term of Council to set a new strategic direction.

Councillor Sharvin requested legal opinion if Councillors used powers to use the capital funds as set up to be and Chief Executive not acceptable of that what it would mean for Councillors.

Ms Largey, legal advisor pointed out the Chief Executive as Chief Financial Officer and other qualified members of staff who had said this was the appropriate point and that Council should not go further into reserves. She added if Members had advice and you did not act in accordance with that advice then it would leave Councillors in a difficult position.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews to have a recess at this point of the meeting to enable Members to consider written legal opinion provided by Ms Largey – 6.29pm.

The meeting then reconvened – 7.10pm.

Councillor Sharvin stated he believed there was still an opportunity to reduce the rate and that it was felt the legal opinion was quite general in terms, but he respected officer's opinions had been shared and expressed throughout the process and that his hands were tied.

In proposing an increase in the district rate for 2023/24 of 5.99% Councillor Ó Muirí spoke of Sinn Féin's satisfaction that Council's finances had been scrutinised over months and that the 5.99% increase represented the lowest the Council could safely and responsibly go with without adversely affecting services. He added they had examined the Council reserves and were satisfied that it would be impossible to borrow any more without seriously jeopardising the ambitious capital programme which would see the delivery of many long awaited projects.

Councillor Hanlon seconded Councillor Ó Muirí's proposal and reiterated the amount of meetings held with Councillors and Officials and thanked everyone for the work undertaken to bring the rate down using sound fiscal policy.

Councillor Byrne spoke at length and asked that it be put on record that it was not about questioning officers but rather the question put forward to the Chief Executive from SDLP at this meeting had been put to the SFWG and an adequate reply had not been given.

Mrs Ward responded saying the capital fund was only put in place in June 2022 when reviewing the significant reserve held by Council and prior to the significant financial challenges presented. Mrs Ward acknowledged Councillor Byrne was correct in relation to the Covid Economic Recovery Fund which was put in place significantly earlier, and which had been utilised. She said as per discussions at the SFWG meetings they had been looking at using the reserves for the purpose of trying to keep the rate at a realistic level whilst also being mindful of future processes and she said Members had been advised there would have to be a strategy put in place in the next four years in relation to reserves.

Councillor Byrne said the CEO, at the second SFWG meeting had stated it was the intention to use the capital fund to stop MRP from rising, and he said MRP was rising this year to a level that put 2.54% on the rate and those two statements did not correlate.

Mrs Ward said the council anticipated the capital fund would be used to try and have an impact on the delivery of capital moving forward. She said everything was being looked at 'in the round', the reserves were being used and could be offset against MRP or other costs this year, and a strategy would have to be put in place moving forward.

Councillor McMurray said his party were aware of the difficult conditions under which Council was operating and that any rise given the current financial pressure was not an easy decision to come to.

Following concerns raised by Councillor Tinnelly that the legal opinion had not been circulated to those Members who were at the meeting remotely, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McAteer, to go into closed session to enable legal opinion to be shared on screen at this point – 7.27pm.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to come out of closed session – 7.35pm.

Councillor Hanna stated his party still believed additional efficiencies could have been made to further reduce the rate and that his party would be abstaining from a vote on the 5.99% increase.

Councillor Reilly expressed concern that Council was dipping into reserves.

Councillor Taylor spoke of how it had been one of the most challenging years which Council had to face and whilst he did not want to see an increase in the rate it was where Council was at this stage, and it was vital to protect frontline services.

Councillor McKee thanked the Chief Executive and team for working through at such a difficult time and that he accepted the rate increase as it was one of the lowest across the Councils and that he did not want to see a reduction in capital spend.

The Chairperson then put the Councillor Ó Muirí's proposal, seconded by Councillor Hanlon to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Strategic Finance Working Group (as outlined within the report) and an increase in the district rate for 2023-24 of 5.99% to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 21
 AGAINST: 0
 ABSTENTIONS: 17

The Chairperson declared Councillor Ó Muirí's proposal carried.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Strategic Finance Working Group in relation to the 2023/24 rate setting process (Appendix 7) and, having regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (2.1 & 2.2 of the officer's report)**

- 1. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2023-24 of 5.99% based on an estimated penny product of 2,471,219 meaning a non-domestic rate of 27.2846 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4395 pence;**
- 2. Approve the Medium Term Financial plan and authorise the 2023-24 expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 1);**
- 3. Approve the Capital Strategy Report for 2023-24 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (Appendix 3);**
- 4. Approve the capital programme (see Appendix 4);**
- 5. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023-24 (Appendix 4);**
- 6. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2023-24 (Appendix 5).**
- 7. Approve the Action Sheets of the Strategic Finance Working Group relating to the rate setting process. (Appendix 7: Restricted item)**

Councillor McKeivitt left the meeting for the duration of the above discussion.

C/033/2023 **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2023**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 9 January 2023 (copy circulated).

In response to a point raised by Councillor Enright regarding a motion not being included within the action sheet he was advised it would be contained within the action sheet of the Committee it was deferred to. The

C/185/2022 and C/020/2023 – Inclusion of Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand

Councillor Byrne asked that a copy of correspondence sent to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as well as responses received be included within papers.

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 9 January 2023 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/034/2023 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2023

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 9 January 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/035/2023 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2023

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

C/036/2023 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2023

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer,**

seconded by Councillor Bowsie.

C/037/2023 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2023 (copy circulated).

SPR/005/2023: Establishment of All Ireland Citizens Assembly

Councillor Reilly proposed the establishment of an All Ireland Citizens' Assembly be subject to a full equality impact assessment. Councillor Hanna seconded the proposal.

The Chief Executive advised Councillor Reilly had received a response from Councils Equality Officer on the matter and that it had been equality screened. Mrs Ward confirmed she would bring a report in relation to an equality impact assessment to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee.

Councillor Ó Muirí stated it was made clear at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee that there was no intention to chip away at political, religious or cultural beliefs.

Councillor Reilly replied by commenting that it was about what Council promotes and the perception from the non nationalist community.

Councillor Taylor pointed out any opposition outlined was based on the constitutional position of Council.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanna that an All Ireland Citizens' Assembly be subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment. It was agreed a report would be presented to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee.

C/038/2023 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 23 January 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 23 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the**

proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

C/039/2023 MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2023

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/040/2023 PLANNING SECTION

There were no planning issues.

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES

C/041/2023 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES - 8 DECEMBER 2022 AND BULLETIN – 12 JANUARY 2023

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes, 8 December 2022 and bulletin, 12 January 2023
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 8 December 2022 and bulletin dated 12 January 2023 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

C/042/2023 RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE RE: NOM C/183/2022 – COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Read: Correspondence from Northern Ireland Office re: NOM C/183/2022 dated 12 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the correspondence from Northern Ireland Office.**

C/043/2023 **RESPONSE FROM HM TREASURY RE: NOM C/183/2022 – GOVERNMENT HELP WITH COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Read: Correspondence from HM Treasury re: NOM C/183/2022 dated 18 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the correspondence from HM Treasury.**

C/044/2023 **RESPONSE FROM ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL AND ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOM C/207/2022 WORKERS LEGAL RIGHT TO TIPS**

Read: Correspondence from Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council dated 4 January 2023 and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council dated 13 January 2023 and Ards and North Down Borough Council dated 6 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the correspondence Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council.**

C/045/2023 **LETTER TO COLUM BOYLE, PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE: RATES SUPPORT GRANT**

Read: Correspondence sent to Colum Boyle, Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities re: Rates Support Grant dated 18 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne enquired if officers had an update on the requests to DfC for the reinstatement of the Rates Support Grant to normal levels and if they anticipate any further cuts.

The Chief Executive advised the Council's involved with the Rates Support Grant were lobbying very hard for the reinstatement of the grant and that the risk to cuts were included within the rates paper.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the correspondence sent to Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities re: Rates Support Grant.**

C/046/2023 **RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE RE: NOM C/206/2022 CERVICAL SCREENING IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Read: Correspondence from Northern Ireland Office re: Cervical Screening in Northern Ireland dated 23 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the correspondence from Northern Ireland Office.**

C/047/2023 **RESPONSE FROM PSNI RE: NOM C/022/2023 – FORMER WARRENPOINT POLICE STATION**

Read: Correspondence from PSNI re: Former Warrenpoint Police Station dated 25 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the correspondence from the PSNI.**

C/048/2023 **RESPONSE FROM CATHERINE MARTIN TD RE: NOM C/020/2023**

Read: Correspondence from Catherine Martin TD Re: NOM C/020/2023 – Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand dated 26 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the acknowledgement letter from Catherine Martin TD.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/049/2023 **NOTICE OF MOTION – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for the preparation of a development plan for the district and has commenced work on the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan (LDP).

The LDP will provide a 15-year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the district, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development.

We commend the work our council planning staff and the diligent work to date by members of the planning committee in the preparation of the plan however, we are concerned the plan will not meet the huge housing need within the district.

The councils Preferred Options Paper cites 10% of all households in the district reside in social housing tenure compared to the NI average of 15%. However, the need for social housing in the district has remained at a very high level since 2010 with a 31% increase from 2012.

This council is committed to ensure housing need is met within this district and therefore will commit to developing a housing led regeneration plan through the strategic assessment and use of public sector land assets and adjoining private sector lands.

Members will be consulted and included within the development of the strategy and good practice evidence will be gathered from similar councils to inform its development”.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Clarke.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/050/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – RECREATIONAL SEA ANGLING STRATEGY

The following motion was received from Councillor Clarke:

"This Council welcomes the increasing popularity of Sea Angling along the Down coast, recognises the potential for increased tourism and the benefits this will bring to the local economy;

Calls for the development and introduction of a Recreational Sea Angling Strategy in consultation with local fishermen and the relevant agencies.

Such a strategy should aim to;

Promote sea angling in a safe and sustainable way and capitalise on the on the opportunities for the local economy that an increase in sea angling would deliver”.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/051/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS

The following motion was received from Councillor Lee–Surginor:

"This Council notes with ongoing concern the cost of living energy crisis inflicted on our fellow citizens, hampered by the ongoing non-functioning of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly; the lack of roll out of smart meters by the Department for the Economy and agrees that more needs to be done by Northern Ireland Electricity suppliers to address these issues. In light of the 'Demand Flexibility Service' being

implemented in GB to avoid blackouts and provide savings for consumers, this Council should write to NIE and all electricity suppliers encouraging them to work collaboratively to introduce a similar scheme encouraging consumers to avoid using electricity during peak times and begin rolling out smart meters for all households."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Councillor Bowsie said whilst he agreed it was important to address rising energy costs, he had concerns with the wording of the motion. He said it was important not to overstate the savings to be had by having a smart meter, saying they had no effect on energy usage or tariff; they only gave more accuracy around billing.

Councillor Bowsie said more clarity was needed on what issues needed to be addressed by NIE Suppliers and the 'Demand Flexibility Service' was the responsibility of the National Grid and not NI energy suppliers and he said he would not either support or amend the motion.

Councillor Sharvin said smart meters could show energy usage in real time and could help to monitor bills, however, he said he considered they could also be a source of anxiety for the householder. He asked if an amendment could be made to the motion to include a letter be sent to Mike Brennan, Department for the Economy asking what the Department's plans are for rolling out smart meters across N. Ireland. Councillor Lee Surginor accepted the amendment.

Councillor Reilly asked it to be put on record the great job done by Sir Jeffrey Donaldson and the DUP at Westminster for ensuring all householders in N. Ireland received their £600 energy support payment. Councillor Reilly said he was opposed to smart meters, he considered they provided unwarranted privacy violations and safety issues and the increased Wi-Fi needed could pose a health risk. He said smart meters had been rolled out in the UK with no significant savings reported.

Councillor Taylor said he was content to support the Motion, however, he said he was not convinced smart meters would deliver any savings

In summing up, Councillor Lee Surginor thanked Members for their support and said the smart meter was not designed to make savings but, as and when energy providers rolled the 'Demand Flexible Service' they could prove usage in real time.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee Surginor, seconded by Councillor McMurray that Council notes, with ongoing concern; the cost of living energy crisis inflicted on our fellow citizens, hampered by the ongoing non-functioning of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly; the lack of roll out of smart meters by the Department for the Economy and agrees that more needs to be done by Northern Ireland Electricity suppliers to address these issues. In light of the 'Demand Flexibility Service' being implemented in GB to avoid blackouts and provide

savings for consumers, this Council should write to NIE and all electricity suppliers encouraging them to work collaboratively to introduce a similar scheme encouraging consumers to avoid using electricity during peak times and begin rolling out smart meters for all households.

Council also to write to Mike Brennan, Department for the Economy asking what the Department's plans are for rolling out smart meters across N. Ireland.

C/052/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – HOLIDAY HOMES

The following motion was received from Councillor Tinnelly:

"This council recognises that within our district, holiday home ownership is increasingly having a detrimental effect on the ability of first-time buyers to own a house in the area where they were born and raised. The long-term consequences of this may have a negative impact on local school populations, sports clubs, small family businesses and the general growth, wellbeing and sustainability of some of our towns & villages, particularly along the coast, as new and young families with generational ties to their own area are priced out of living in the place, they call home. Further to a recent public statement from the Department for Infrastructure that whilst there are currently no plans to change any laws in relation to this problem, it is their view that local councils have the power to make bespoke arrangements within their own district. To that end, this council will now instruct our officials to bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity outlining exactly what powers will be contained within our proposed local development plan to directly address this problem, powers that if robustly applied would discourage the purchase of holiday homes within our district".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/053/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – SCHOOL STREET SCHEMES

The following motion was received from Councillor Sharvin:

"Notes that the "School street" schemes in the Republic of Ireland and GB, which close the roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, have the multiple benefits of improving road safety for pupils, encouraging active travel to school by walking, cycling and public transport, and improving the air quality around schools; Commends Fingal County Council which has successfully pioneered the scheme at many schools in North County Dublin; Recognises that we do not have the statutory powers to introduce such a scheme in Newry, Mourne and Down, either in pilot or permanent form; Calls on the Department for Infrastructure to bring forward urgently a School Streets pilot

project in Newry, Mourne and Down, identifying a number of pilot schools across the district; Agrees that the DEA Forums will agree a number of schools in each area to recommend to the Department for Infrastructure as part of a pilot scheme; Shall explore further ways to work with all relevant partners to develop School Streets and support measures to cut vehicle emissions and pollution in the vicinity of schools, including enforceable No-Idling Zones, air quality measuring and tree planting as part of the one million trees initiative".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Gallagher

In proposing the motion, Councillor Sharvin said the School Streets scheme was first highlighted by Belfast City Council and he had discussed the pilot with Sustrans to understand how it could improve our local school streets. He said the School Streets scheme had the potential to address some of the road safety concerns local schools faced on a daily basis. He stated a pilot could be implemented that would see the outside of the school pedestrianised at drop off and pick up time, which, he said would ensure safety for children going and coming from school and also would result the congestion being faced along the street at the two key times as well as reducing vehicle emissions and pollution.

He suggested that Councillors could present a case for schemes to be implemented in their DEA, and through the DEA forums, agreement could be sought on the number of schools in each area and these could then be recommended to the Department for Infrastructure.

During discussions, Members expressed support for the Motion but had concerns regarding the location of some schools in the district and their suitability to be part of the scheme.

Councillor Enright asked that an amendment to read *'and finish the 20mph limits outside of schools on main roads'* be included after the words *'No Idling Zones'*

Councillor McMurray seconded the proposed amendment.

Councillor Sharvin did not accept the amendment.

Councillor Byrne, on a point of information, said the amendment was a direct negative and therefore could not be accepted.

The Chairperson agreed with Councillor Byrne, saying the motion was about closing the road, whereas the amendment was about extending the 20mph limit.

In summing up, Councillor Sharvin thanked Members for their support and said he was aware not all schools would be suitable for the pilot scheme and the DEAs involvement would ensure those schools that were most suitable would be highlighted.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher this Council notes that the "School street" schemes in the Republic of Ireland and GB, which close the roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, have the multiple benefits of improving road

safety for pupils, encouraging active travel to school by walking, cycling and public transport, and improving the air quality around schools; Commends Fingal County Council which has successfully pioneered the scheme at many schools in North County Dublin;

Recognises that we do not have the statutory powers to introduce such a scheme in Newry, Mourne and Down, either in pilot or permanent form;

Calls on the Department for Infrastructure to bring forward urgently a School Streets pilot project in Newry, Mourne and Down, identifying a number of pilot schools across the district;

Agrees that the DEA Forums will agree a number of schools in each area to recommend to the Department for Infrastructure as part of a pilot scheme;

Shall explore further ways to work with all relevant partners to develop School Streets and support measures to cut vehicle emissions and pollution in the vicinity of schools, including enforceable No-Idling Zones, air quality measuring and tree planting as part of the one million trees initiative".

The Chairperson advised an emergency Notice of Motion had been received, the wording of which had been emailed to all Councillors and to enable it to be heard, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting). The Chairperson then invited Ms Nora Largey to offer legal guidance to Members given the fact there was a potential live investigation going on in respect of the detail of the motion.

Ms Largey advised Members that due to ongoing PSNI investigation all discussions should be kept general, and they should refrain from straying into the detail of the case.

Councillor Hanna said the word 'sinister' in the motion had underlying tones, Ms Largey replied the use of the word was not an issue in legal terms.

Councillor Lewis declared an interest saying he was a member of the Board of Governors and would therefore withdraw from discussions.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to suspend Standing orders 16.1.1 at this point in the meeting to allow for the tabling of the emergency motion.

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 32
AGAINST: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 5

It was agreed by a qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 (copy attached)

C/054/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – SIGNAGE OUTSIDE SCHOOL IN CLOUGH

The following Emergency Motion was received from Councillor Brennan:

"This Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent erection of intimidatory and anti-Irish signage outside a school in the village of Clough; Council recognises that this was a clear attempt to threaten and intimidate school children and their families and is the latest in an ongoing campaign by some individuals to mark out territory and intimidate both people living in and travelling through the area; Council acknowledges that the naming and targeting of a school in this instance was particularly sinister; And calls on anyone with any information on those responsible for these actions to come forward and assist police with their enquiries immediately."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

In proposing the motion Councillor Brennan said the erection of the signage was a blatant incident of anti-Irish racism that had no place in the tolerant and inclusive Ireland that so many were working hard to achieve and stated that shared education was a valued and respected part of the education system.

He went onto say that such incidents were a clear indication that laws in place to tackle hate crimes and sectarianism must be strengthened so those responsible could be held to account under the law.

Councillor Ó Muirí said, as a teacher, his gaelscoil in Crossmaglen had been partnered with Markethill primary school for 10 – 12 years and the pupils and teaching staff of both schools got on very well together. He stated he very much welcomed shared education and he said the motion was about a united call in opposition to what had occurred.

Councillor Taylor said the sign should not have been erected but he expressed concern with the wording 'mark out territory' contained within the Motion and asked for clarity on what was meant by that wording as he was not aware of any ongoing intimidation in the area.

Councillor McKee said he did not have a problem with people speaking the Irish language, however he considered the Motion to be more of a political statement. He said the sign should not have been erected, however, as Clough was a predominantly Unionist area, he could understand why some people would be opposed to the promotion of the Irish language.

Councillors Gallagher, McMurray, Murphy and O'Hare all expressed full support for the Motion.

The Chairperson said difference needed to be respected and the erection of the sign was no reflection on the school, and it had only served to cause harm.

In summing up, Councillor Brennan thanked Members for their support. He said the erection of the sign was not reflective of the people of Clough and he defended the decision to bring the motion to Council.

The Chairperson put the Motion to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 29
AGAINST 5
ABSTENTIONS: 2

The Motion was carried.

Councillor Taylor expressed his disappointment that he had not been given any clarity on the wording as he had requested.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that this Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent erection of intimidatory and anti-Irish signage outside a school in the village of Clough; Council recognises that this was a clear attempt to threaten and intimidate school children and their families and is the latest in an ongoing campaign by some individuals to mark out territory and intimidate both people living in and travelling through the area; Council acknowledges that the naming and targeting of a school in this instance was particularly sinister; And calls on anyone with any information on those responsible for these actions to come forward and assist police with their enquiries immediately.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.21pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 March 2023.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30 January 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor A Finnegan **18.00 PM – 18.09 PM**
Councillor M Savage **18.09 PM – 19.20 PM**

In attendance in Chamber: (Councillors)
Councillor T Andrews Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor D McAteer Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor C Bowsie Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor O Hanlon Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin Councillor A Lewis
Councillor K McKee Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor A McMurray Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Rice Councillor J Trainor

In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)
Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

In Attendance via Teams: NIE Networks
Mr N Crawford, Connection Manager (Planning)
Mr A Cupples, Network Development Manager
Mr I Craig, Major Project Stakeholder Lead

Northern Ireland Water
Mr R Larkin, Director of Finance
Dr S Blockwell, Head of Investment Management

SC/001/2023 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

As the Chairperson was running late the Vice-Chair assumed the Chair.

Apologies were received from Councillors Lee-Surginor, McEvoy, Tinnelly and Ward.

SC/002/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/003/2023

**PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND
ELECTRICITY**

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland Electricity and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Crawford thanked Council for the opportunity to meet representatives and proceeded to deliver the presentation (copy of which is attached to these minutes).

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

- Members paid thanks to all NIE staff and in particular call centre staff for their professionalism and quick response when contacted with any issues.
- Councillor Sharvin thanked Mr Crawford and his team for resolving an issue at Malone Way/Park Lane Downpatrick.
- Caravan sites had a future plan to install electric charging ports at each caravan for charging of electric vehicles, was there sufficient infrastructure in place to support the increase in power supply?
- Was there any government funding available to assist with planning for the future for caravan sites installing electrical charging points?
- What was the stance of NIE in relation to rolling out of enhancement of infrastructure for the future?
- Concerns raised that the power infrastructure in the Mourne area would not be sufficient to cope with new developments and initiatives.
- How advanced were smart meters in Northern Ireland and when would they be available?
- Councillor McAteer thanked NIE for the extensive work that had been carried out on lines in the Burren area where birds had been congregating as it had made a real improvement to the area.
- Was the delay in commercial connections due to lack of manpower and when would this improve?
- Daisy Hill – How long would it take to put the infrastructure in place for the upgrade in power supply in particular for the Diagnostic Suite and MRI scanner as it was crucial in ensuring the future of the hospital?
- The Chairperson to forward on contact details of Daisy Hill Future Group to Nigel Crawford in order to set up a meeting to progress the matter urgently and see what support could be given at Assembly and ground level.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- There were parts of the grid which would not have capacity and would require future investment to be upgraded and improvements in order to meet the demand for an increase in power supply.
- It was important that Members and customers inform and engage with NIE regarding future plans, around both domestic and larger installations, so they are aware and can invest in the network going forward.
- There had previously been grants in the past for installing charging points, but not aware of any government funding available at present. This was something the Department for Economy would consider in future development.
- Future proofing the infrastructure was crucial, one of the areas being looked at were new housing developments and installation of new infrastructures, to ensure those assets were fit for the future growth that would occur and wouldn't need upgraded or replaced.

- Grids right across the network would require investment and reinforcement to facilitate electrification. Part of the model would identify the substations in the Mourne area which would need extra investment, in order to meet supply demand.
- Charging methods in Northern Ireland for commercial customers did differ slightly than Great Britain and South of Ireland. NIE welcomed the Utility Regulator committing to review those arrangements to spread the cost more evenly.
- A successful pilot study had commenced with 1000 smart meters installed across the country, giving good insights. Department for the Economy had recently been trialling a cost benefit analysis which would be rolled out wider once the green light had been given to commence to all customers.
- Daisy Hill was a longer-term project with estimated completion in 2028, however it could be done on a phased approach, depending on requirements and works involved, NIE to follow up to see what stage it was at and revert back to Members.
- Timescales for commercial applications were typically 8-12 weeks to get onto the ground to commence work once terms accepted, survey completed and then permissions of the third party landowner which can take some time.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their detailed presentation and stated he was grateful for work carried out and hoped to work in partnership for the planned works in the future.

Councillor Finnegan left at this point of the meeting – 18.45pm

SC/004/2023

**PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND
WATER**

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland Water and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Larkin thanked Members for the opportunity to present the report and introduced his colleague, Dr Blockwell, he then proceeded to make his presentation. (copy appended to these minutes).

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

- There were continuing issues with capacity throughout the district in relation to new developments which needed future investment.
- Was there an update regarding the lack of water pressure at Downs Road, Ardglass?
- Could a site meeting be arranged with Slieve Croob Members regarding the Dundrum moratorium on all new developments to see what could be done to resolve the matter.
- There were areas of issue preventing future development within the Newry area and a walk-through meeting would be beneficial.
- Local Development Plan – How much engagement was planned between NI Water and Planners to be able to deliver the type of housing the area needs and develop a visionary approach in the coming years?
- Encouraging to see funding had increased.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Would look specifically at Ardglass again and revert to Councillor Curran, other areas along the coast which had similar problems had now been resolved.

- Message to customers was if there appeared to be a leak on your ground or farmland, get it fixed and if unable to do so to contact NI Water to see what they could do. If there was a leak in the system it impacted on pressures in other areas.
- Site meeting in Dundrum with Slieve Croob Members - Environmental Agency and other stakeholders would be beneficial as extensive environmental modelling in that area had been done which had thrown new light on what the issues may be. - To be arranged by NIW.
- NIW continued to press for funding and getting it signed off, however funding needed to be secured right up until the end of PC27 so they could plan and work with developers. Members had a role to play by asking their Parties to continue to push the Assembly and ask how funding would be made available in future years.
- Future investment was not only good for infrastructure but also the economy and securing jobs for the future.
- In response to a request for an update from Councillor McKee regarding low pressure at caravan parks and surrounding areas in Kilkeel, the delegation confirmed that a pressure test had been completed May-September 2022 and it found that network pressure did not drop below the minimum level of service, however did find that one section of iron cast main had deteriorated and it was planned to be replaced in February 2023 with new piping which may help with an increase in pressure in the area.

Councillor Reilly left during the above discussions – 19.15pm

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.20pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 6 March 2023.

Signed:

Chairperson

Director Sustainability and Environment

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 February 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
 Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
 Councillor C Enright (Teams)
 Councillor G Hanna (Teams)
 Councillor V Harte (Chamber)
 Councillor R Howell (Teams)
 Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
 Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
 Councillor H Reilly (Teams)
 Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
 Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor G Sharvin (Teams)
 Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events
 Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment Regeneration
 Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
 Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer
 Ms T McLoughlin PA Director ERT

ERT/022/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson requested if all Members could be present in the Chamber for the last meeting of the ERT Committee for this term of Council.

The following apologies were received:

- Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
- Councillor G Kearns

ERT/023/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Enright declared an interest in Item 6 regarding the Artisan Markets and withdrew from discussions.

**ERT/024/2023: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2023**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 January 2023.

NOTICE OF MOTION

**ERT/025/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: FORMER DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL BUILDING**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor G Sharvin:-

" Newry Mourne and Down District Council recognises the significant history that the former Down District Council building has to this area and through this Motion, will carry out full research into the history of the Workhouse, resulting in an interpretive panel being erected at the site for visitors and residents, and a temporary exhibition at Down County Museum to be arranged."

Councillor Sharvin presented the Notice of Motion. He said the Downpatrick Union

Workhouse admitted its first inmates on 17 September 1842 which was designed to house up to 1,000 inmates across what was an 11 acre site. He referred to the history of the Downpatrick Workhouse and those who worked in it as an important part of our heritage and said the story and lives of those who worked in it must be remembered. He spoke of the Workhouse's connection to not only Downpatrick but to the wider Lecale and surrounding area and he added that it is recorded that committees in Killough and Saul had soup kitchens in 1847 and held famine relief meetings in Dunsford, Ballee and Inch. He said the Public Records in Northern Ireland hold full admissions and discharge registers from 1842 to 1948 and that the Workhouse regime ended in July 1948 when the National Health Service and the Welfare State began and the Workhouse became the Quoile Hospital.

In explaining why the history of the Workhouse was so important to Downpatrick, he referred recent development works for the new Down High School which uncovered the ground-breaking archaeological discovery of an Irish famine graveyard and one of the largest prehistoric settlements ever discovered on the island of Ireland, including a 2000BC urn, 950 burials from the workhouse and 19th Century bronze age.

He said in 2012 the Down Recorder published an article on Bernard Piper who was placed in the Workhouse in 1940 and who after 18 months escaped, and shared details on the conditions and the hardship experienced by inmates.

The projects proposed by Council officers shows how important we as a Council recognise the Workhouse to our heritage and history.

He also spoke of an opportunity to work with the Down High School and the archaeologists who complete the dig, when the 950 bodies are re-interred as part of a planned commemorative event.

He said it will be of most importance to know the history of the people of the Workhouse and that their names be known and their history told.

He expressed thanks to the Council Officers in their consideration of the Motion and the submission of a detailed project for Committee approval which shows the importance that we recognise the people that lived and worked in the Workhouse.

Councillor Curran he would like to propose the heritage project on the history of the Downpatrick Workhouse, as detailed in the officer report, adding it was a very interesting situation as the building was the former Down District Council Offices and therefore a significant history to play. He said the building was opened in 1841 as a workhouse run by a board of guardians with a limited amount of money with conditions harsh and it was important to carry out research to establish the history of this place.

Councillor Trainor formally seconded the proposal by Councillor Curran and supported the sentiments expressed by Councillor Sharvin and Councillor Curran on the importance of bringing this Notice of Motion forward and spoke of the significance of our Museums displaying exhibits relating back to our rich shared heritage of our ancestors.

The Chairperson expressed his support for the Motion.

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a Notice of Motion on the former Down District Council building. **(Circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed to approve the proposed heritage project on the history and development of Downpatrick Workhouse as detailed in this report.**

ERT/026/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor C Enright and Councillor A McMurray:-

“This Council recognises the important role that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) can play in promoting regeneration, leading economic development, and providing a collective voice for local businesses. It also recognises the excellent work already being done by Newry BID, and that this can serve as an exemplar for BIDs across the District. Council will use its human or other resources to enthusiastically welcome and support plans to establish new BIDs across the District, particularly in our main towns.”

Councillor Enright formally proposed the Notice of Motion which was seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

Whilst he agreed in principle, with the officer recommendation, Councillor Enright said Council should be encouraging BIDs in order to send a clear message that we will support them subject to a viable business case, rather than considering them when the proposals arrive, as suggested in the officer recommendation.

He felt a BID was an excellent way for businesses to pool resources and leverage with a collective voice to draw down further funding as is the case with Newry as the BID enables businesses to get ground work done that Council may struggle to deliver in a cost effective manner therefore BIDs can deliver additional services along with Council

when drawing in additional funds.

He referred to the lack of support for a Downpatrick Town Centre Manager and felt that BID would be an excellent way to provide a Town Centre Manager without funding from Council.

He said the Newry BID was very successful and he referred to the Newry BID Manager who is supportive of proposals to create a BID for Downpatrick, given the ongoing effort by the regeneration group who are working towards the future of Downpatrick. He also referred to a recent public meeting at which it was felt BID would be a good idea and would be tabled for discussion at the next Downpatrick Regeneration Meeting.

He highlighted the fact businesses needed support for bids to be successful referring to Belfast, Coleraine, Strabane, Enniskillen and Ballymena who all have benefited from either Department for Communities, or Council support with bids.

Councillor Enright agreed with the officer recommendation but suggested it include the Council write to the Department for Communities to ascertain if there is any intention to bring back funding to help BIDs in towns who don't already have them.

Mr McGilly said the question could be asked of the Department. He explained the process included a levy on the rates for the businesses therefore emphasising the need for businesses being willing to come on board with this as opposed to Council leading the way in terms of creating a BID. He said the report reflected that Council would support BIDs coming forward with a viable action plan ensuring alignment to Council strategy, and Council will play its role in the ballot if eligible to vote, based on property owned in the defined area.

Councillor Stokes endorsed comments made by Councillor Enright adding the Council were instrumental with regard to the setting up of Newry BID.

Councillor Trainor said clarity was needed to ascertain whether businesses were supportive of a Downpatrick BID and added Council should support those who wished to establish BIDs.

Mr McGilly said the issue of a Town Centre Manager for Downpatrick had not been ruled out but focus of the DRWG was on the need to establish priorities around what businesses and the wider community wanted for the area. From that a method to deliver would be agreed considering all the resources currently available etc.

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding a Notice of Motion on Support for Business Improvement Districts. **(Circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed:

- 1) To note the Council will consider the merits of, and whether to support a BID proposal, as and when one is submitted, and in doing so will assess the proposed business plan to ensure there is no duplication of service and that the plan aligns to Council strategy.**
- 2) Council write to the Department for Communities to ascertain if there is any intention to bring back funding to help support the setting up of BIDs in the future.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/027/2023: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKETS

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on Artisan Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry and Warrenpoint.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed:

- 1. To pilot a reduction in the stall fee at the Artisan Markets from £35.00 to £30.00 for 23/24. This will assist traders to offset increasing operating costs and attract other artisan producers.**
- 2. To commence an Expression of Interest process to appoint a delivery agent for Newcastle Market whilst investigating alternative location and storage.**

Councillor Hanna indicated he was not in favour of the above decision.

ERT/028/2023: KILLYLEAGH REVITALISATION MURAL PROJECT

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Killyleagh Revitalisation Mural Project. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve a Service Level Agreement with the Killyleagh Development Association valued at £6,750 plus VAT to implement a mural in Plantation Street Killyleagh, as agreed in the Killyleagh Small Settlement Scheme Action Plan.

ERT/029/2023: REGIONAL FUTURE BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Entrepreneurship Support Service/Future Business Support Working Group. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed:

- 1) To note the update provided on the Entrepreneurship Support Service, including:**
 - **Council Officers will ensure the provision of the required support to move the Entrepreneurship Support Service through to procurement and contract awards**
 - **Council Officers will contribute to the completion and submission of an application for funding for the delivery of the Entrepreneurship Support Service until March 2025.**
 - **An update on progress will be brought back to a future committee.**
- 2) Council to provide a funding declaration form confirming Council's match funding to the Entrepreneurship Support Service for 2023/24 and 2024/25. (2024/25 approved in principle, subject to confirmation of future rate estimates)**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

ERT/030/2023: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS / LETTERS OF OFFER 2023/2024

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Service Level Agreements / Letters of Offer 2023/2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the list of Service Level Agreements for 2023/2024, as detailed in Point 2.1 within the above report.

ERT/031/2023: CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed Members approve the Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway Site Investigation and the appointment of a supplier through a Pan Government Collaborative framework agreement to complete the works.

ERT/032/2023: FOR NOTING: TOURISM NI LEARNING JOURNEY

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events, regarding AONB and Geopark – Tourism NI Learning Journey, Sustainable Tourism.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the contents of this paper.

ERT/033/2023: FOR NOTING: TOURISM NI MARKET LED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022/2023

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the contents of this paper.

FOR NOTING**ERT/034/2023: UPDATE RE: COVID RECOVERY REVITALISATION PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding DFC/DAERA/DFI Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the final update report provided on delivery of the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme.

ERT/035/2023: CROSSGAR INTERPRETATIVE PANELS

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events regarding Crossgar Interpretative Panels. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

ERT/036/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

Read: Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/037/2023: NEW LISTED BUILDINGS – LISTED SCHEDULES NMD

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding additions to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.

ERT/038/2023: NMD BUSINESS GROWTH

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding NMD Business Growth – additional support. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note that additional business support to be delivered under the NMD Business Growth programme will be up to 40 days of `one to one' mentoring to 20 participating businesses (with a minimum target of 12

participant businesses receiving mentoring) by 31 March 2023.

ERT/039/2023: PARKING CONTROL MEASURES INCEPTION PROCESS

Read: Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr C Mallon Director of Enterprise, Regeneration Tourism regarding Parking Control Measures Inception Process. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the contents of the Report.

The Chairperson requested if Members could attend the next ERT Committee Meeting in the Council Chamber.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.55pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 March 2023.

Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr J McGilly
Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration

Mr A Patterson
Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 16 February 2023 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams &
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**

In the Chair:	Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)
In Attendance in Chamber	Councillor G Hanna Councillor R Howell Councillor A Lewis Councillor O Magennis Councillor A McMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor G Sharvin Councillor J Trainor
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor H Gallagher Councillor M Rice Councillor D Taylor
Non-Members:	Councillor T Andrews (Chamber) Councillor D Curran (via Teams) Councillor H McKee (via Teams) Councillor G O'Hare (via Teams)
Officials in Attendance:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Administration Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management Mr P Rooney, Legal Advisor Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/016/2023: **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apology received Mr C Mallon.

The Chairperson asked officers to clarify reasons why certain items were held in closed session.

In response, Mrs Kelly advised that when the agenda was being drawn up careful consideration was given to each item, there was legislation which must be adhered to quoting the following:

Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

For that reason, certain items were placed in closed session and at the end of closed session items there was an announcement of what had been agreed along with the proposer and seconder of the actions.

Councillor Byrne proposed that consideration be given to anything of a financial nature being placed in closed session as an appendix with the rest of the report being kept in open session for transparency. This was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Mrs Kelly advised that going forward officers would consider the proposal and items would be reviewed to help reduce the number of reports held in closed session.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that consideration be given to anything of a financial nature be placed in closed session as an appendix and the rest of the report be kept in open session for transparency.**

SPR/017/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sharvin declared an interest in Item 9 – Renewal of Microsoft Enterprise Agreement.

SPR/018/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query raised by Councillor Lewis, Mrs Ward confirmed that the application process for the King's Coronation fund would open on 13 March 2023.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2023.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

SPR/019/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION – DAISYHILL HOSPITAL

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Notice of Motion – Daisy Hill Hospital **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor O'Hare presented the motion which had been referred from the Council meeting held on 6th January 2023.

Councillor Taylor stated he supported the Motion in principle however on a point of accuracy highlighted that the Elective Framework announcement was not dependent on the purchase of Monaghan Row and did not want the impression if not purchased it would affect the position of having Elected Surgery at Daisy Hill and proposed the following amendment:

“That this Council acknowledges the announcement on the 19th October 2022, by the then Health Minister, Robin Swann that Daisy Hill Hospital would become an Elective Overnight Stay Centre for patients requiring intermediate complexity surgery with an overnight stay. Accepts that this announcement demonstrates the confidence of the Minister, Department of Health and clinicians that Daisy Hill Hospital can provide this regional service and improve access and reduce waiting times for planned elective surgical care for the people of Newry, Mourne, South Armagh and Down. Further accepts that key to building on the plans of overnight elective surgery and protecting the future of the hospital. Commits as a matter of priority, to make public its plan to facilitate the transfer of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Trust, so that Daisy Hill can join the Elective Care Centre model and play an important role in tackling our lengthy waiting lists and improving outcomes for our patients.”

Councillor Byrne seconded the amendment stating it would strengthen the motion as the acquisition of Monaghan Row would protect the future services and enhancement of the hospital. He added that the Elective Overnight surgery was welcomed and showed a confidence in Daisy Hill hospital and would continue to push to try to get Elected Orthopaedic surgery on site as well as other services.

Councillor Hanna and McMurray spoke in support of the amended motion.

Councillor O’Hare thanked Members for their support and accepted the amendment to the motion.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, that Elected Members agree to make public its plan to facilitate the transfer of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, so that Daisy Hill can join the Elective Care Centre model and play an important role in tackling our lengthy waiting lists and improving outcomes for our patients.**

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/020/2023: **REQUEST FOR NAME TO BE ADDED TO CASTLEWELLAN WAR MEMORIAL**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services regarding request for name to be added to Castlewellan War Memorial **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that Elected Members approve the request as outlined in the officer’s report subject to consent being obtained from Libraries NI to undertake the inscription work.**

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 Gallagher, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 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 Trainor, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

SPR/021/2023: **BUSINESS CASE FOR PROCUREMENT OF A VALUATION SERVICE**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023, from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services regarding Business case for procurement of a Valuation Service. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1 to enable to procurement of a Valuation Service from 24 August 2023.

SPR/022/2023: **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – BELFAST CITY COUNCIL LEGAL SERVICES DPARTMENT**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services regarding, Service Level Agreement – Belfast City Council Legal Services Department **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to enter into a one year SLA with Belfast City Council Legal Services Department from 1/4/23-31/3/24 on a non-profit/cost recovery basis by virtue of the provisions of section 105 of the Local Government (NI) Act 1972 in relation to the legal services indicated at 1.4.

SPR/023/2023: **SALE OF LANDS AT CLANRYE AVENUE, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding, Sale of Lands at Clanrye Avenue, Newry **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the sale of the lands outlined in red on the map to the party detailed in the report for the market value subject to the consent of Northern Ireland Housing Executive.**

SPR/024/2023: RENEWAL OF MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Renewal of Microsoft Enterprise Agreement **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members approve to give permission to renew its Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with the Licencing Solutions Partner- appointed through the Technology Products & Associated Services Aggregation (national further competition) operated by ESPO, for a 3 year period.**

SPR/025/2023: CAMLOUGH LAKE RECREATIONAL HUB

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events, regarding Camlough Lake Recreational Hub **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members approve the following:**

- 1. Members agree to progress detailed design work and the submission of a Planning Application for the Camlough Lake Recreational Hub.**
- 2. Members agree to progress procurement of an IST.**
- 3. Members accept an offer of funding from LUF and approve the associated Memorandum of Understanding/Contract for funding.**

It was agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding be circulated to Members as a restricted item prior to the Council meeting.

SPR/026/2023: 2023/24 INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Project Management, regarding 2023/24 Insurance Premiums **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members review and approve the payment of the insurance premiums for 2023/24.**

SPR/027/2023: NCCR-MONAGHAN ROW OFFICE SITE

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding NCCR-Monaghan Row Office Site **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- **Members agree to the sale of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at the LPS valuation subject to agreement of terms between both Council and the Southern Trust.**
- **Members agree to the lease back of a portion of Monaghan Row site from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at LPS valuation subject to agreement of terms.**

SPR/028/2023: COUNCIL CHAMBERS CONFERENCE SOLUTION

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Council Chambers Conference Solution **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve to proceed with option 3 as outlined in the officer's report.**

In relation to a query about the likely relocation costs at the Newry Chamber, Mrs J Kelly agreed to report back to the Council on this query.

FOR NOTING – This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the October 2022 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

SPR/029/2023: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 26 JANUARY 2023

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 26 January 2023.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 26 January 2023.**

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

SPR/030/2023: REDUNDANCY APPROVAL

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Redundancy Approval **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed Elected Members approve a redundancy as per 4.1 and the contents of the officer's report.**

Councillor Hanna left during discussions of the above item – 19.08

All officers left the meeting for the next item.

SPR/031/2023: NILGOSC RULE 85 REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding NILGOSC Rule 85 Report **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report and agree not to switch the 85-year rule on; based on the criteria in the table contained within the report, the assessment at 2.3 and resource implications within Section 4 of the report.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/032/2023: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW IRELAND WORKING GROUP

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Establishment of a New Ireland Working Group **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí stated that it did not make sense that an equality impact assessment would need to be carried out, however stated he was happy to let due process take its course in order that Councillor Reilly could be sufficiently satisfied that the establishment of a New Ireland Working Group would not be in breach of any equality legislation.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report in relation to considering Councillor Reilly's request that Council conduct an EQIA of the decision to establish a New Ireland Working Group.

SPR/033/2023: **MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD 2ND FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2nd February 2023 (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Sharvin stated there had been a lot of rumours circulating on social media that there would be job losses in Downshire Civic Centre as a result of the creation of new offices in Newry and he asked for a clear response from management that this would not occur.

The Chief Executive confirmed there would be no impact on jobs in the Downshire Civic Centre in the development of the Newry Civic Centre. She stated that Council had always taken the decision to have two offices, one in either side of the District.

The Chairperson welcomed the fact that the issue had been raised.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2nd February 2023

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.35pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 March 2023.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Josephine Kelly**
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2023

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 20 February 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 Brennan
Councillor J Jackson
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor G Sharvin**In attendance via Teams:** Councillor C King
Councillor D Lee- Sarginor
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 D Curran**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:**

Ms L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/013/2023: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Malone.

The Chairperson congratulated the Clanrye Group on receiving the Community Wellbeing Award at the Pride of Place Awards in Dublin, having been nominated by Newry Mourne and Down District Council for their outstanding contribution to community wellbeing throughout the District.

The Chairperson congratulated Jarlath Burns on being elected as GAA President.

The Joseph Ferris Martial Arts Academy Bryansford and Downpatrick were congratulated on attending the Savate Kick Boxing Open in Budapest recently.

The Chairperson welcomed the £126,000 from the levelling up fund for the Kilbroney Trails.

Members were reminded the Newry, Mourne and Down Sports Awards were taking place on 9 March 2023 in the Canal Court, Newry.

AHC/014/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/015/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2023

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 January 2023. **(Copy circulated).**

In response to a query from Councillor Jackson regarding upgrading of lighting at Saintfield Hockey Pitches, Mr Tamati advised he was aware of discussions and contact had been made with the Maintenance Department. Mr Tamati advised he would touch base with Councillor Jackson following the meeting.

Councillor McAteer enquired about the timescales for the McGrath Centre to which Mrs Hillen confirmed final lease arrangements had been put in place with the legal department and whilst listed as ongoing, it was near completion.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 January 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/016/2023: UPDATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - CALL 1 AND 2

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

At the request of the Chairperson, it was agreed on the approval of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer to discuss a query in relation to a current application in closed session later in the meeting.

In welcoming the successful applications, Councillor Sharvin referred to those that did not meet the criteria, in particular summer scheme applications, and enquired if there was an opportunity to review issues faced by groups.

Mrs Hillen advised there was an allocated budget against each scheme and when the budget was exceeded it moved to score and rank and that Councillors were aware each year some themes were oversubscribed. Mrs Hillen further advised there were pre-funding workshops with staff from the Programmes Unit in attendance to assist, and encouraged groups to attend these, especially those groups who may have been turned down a number of times.

Councillor O'Hare enquired if workshops were available prior to call 2. Mrs Hillen advised there were a number of workshops prior to call 1 but that she would check if there were further plans for a refresher prior to call 2.

Councillor Lewis asked how many of the unsuccessful groups sought a debrief with Council. Mrs Hillen advised she was unsure of the percentage but that it was a valid point and she would revert to Councillor Lewis on this.

In response to a point raised by Councillor McAteer in relation to why groups failed in terms of eligibility, Mrs Hillen advised there were a range of reasons as to why groups were unsuccessful and that as well as the assistance already outlined, local DEA Co-ordinators held a wealth of information regarding funding and were another source of support for groups.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the approval of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer to discuss a query in relation to a current application in closed session later in the meeting.**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor 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.**
- **Finalise Audit checks for Call 1 and bring any changes back to Committee before issuing a letter of offer.**
- **Open Call 2 on 13th March 2023**

AHC/017/2023: PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding PEACE IV Local Action Plan.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that the Committee agree to the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as set out in 2.1 of the officer's report:

- To liaise with SEUPB to determine whether the proposed project can proceed given the new construction timescales proposed.
- Subject to funding confirmation, Council to proceed with procurement of a design team, submission of a planning application and procurement of a contractor.

AHC/018/2023: ASYLUM DISPERSAL FUNDING

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Asylum Dispersal Funding.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the following:

- To use existing SLA arrangements to distribute funding to community/voluntary sector organisations through the Community Coordination Hub.
- To procure specialist & staffing resources for programmes supporting asylum seekers/refugees.

AHC/019/2023: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update on District Electoral Area Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Friday 27 January 2023.
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 31 January 2023.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2023.

AHC/020/2023: COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 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 Lewis, seconded by Councillor Brennan to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 18 January 2023.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING**AHC/021/2023: PRIVATE TENANCIES ACT - UPDATED POWERS**

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing regarding Private Tenancies Act – Updated Powers. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the new legislative powers for Council's in relation to the private rented sector and agree the proposed fixed penalty levels at £500.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor 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 Lewis, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/022/2023

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DISCUSSION

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that a report be brought back to the Committee detailing the existing Financial Assistance policy, protocols for groups accessing funding and legal advice on the next course of action.

AHC/023/2023

LISNACREE COMMUNITY CENTRE – REMOVAL OF LEASE

Read:

Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Lisnacree Community Centre – Removal of Lease. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the following recommendations:

- **Accept Lisnacree Community Associations letter and formally thank the association for the work they have done over the last 25 years.**
- **The termination of the lease between NM&DDC and the Diocese of Down for Lisnacree Community Centre**

AHC/024/2023

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE MARKET HOUSE, BALLYNAHINCH

Read:

Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding expressions of interest for the Market House, Ballynahinch. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the following recommendations:

- **Publicly advertise a lease for the whole Market House, Ballynahinch**
- **SP&R to consider issue of lease following public process by TDK**
- **Officers to seek legal advice regarding adding social value criteria when considering expressions of interest.**

AHC/025/2023 **RECONFIGURATION OF BALLYNAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE
– RIBA STAGE 2 CONCEPT DESIGN ADDITIONAL COSTS**

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the reconfiguration of Ballynahinch Community Centre, RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design Additional Costs .
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve the following recommendations:**

- **Approve, in principle, the additional spend (detailed in 2.1) on Base Cost Estimate as per Consultants RIBA Stage 2 Report within 2023/2024 capital rates estimates, subject to clarification from Estates department regarding the requirement for 10 additional carparking spaces.**
- **Approve an additional spend (detailed in 2.2) if required as a Risk Allowance Estimate as per Consultants RIBA Stage 2 Report within 2023/2024 capital rates estimates.**

AHC/026/2023 **DONARD PARK – ARTIFICIAL PITCH UPGRADE**

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Donard Park, Artificial Pitch Upgrade .
(Copy circulated)

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

- **To progress the appointment of an integrated design team for the upgrade of the Donard Park Artificial Surface.**
- **To progress with the procurement and appointment of a contractor for this project on completion of integrated design team works, subject to appropriate budget provision.**
- **To approve the business case for this project as per appendix 2.**

FOR NOTING**AHC/027/2023 OPEN HOUSE PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development and Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding an update on the Open House Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Brennan to note the update report.**

AHC/028/2023 PEACE PLUS LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Peace Plus Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Brennan to note the report and that two Social Partner vacancies would be publicly advertised due to inability to recruit through the community engagement process.**

AHC/029/2023 POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Brennan to note the report and Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2022, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 31 January 2023.**

AHC/030/2023 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 February 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Brennan to note the report and the Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 18 January 2023.**

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

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

Signed: Councillor H Gallagher
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams re: Council Waste Management arrangements update.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Bowsie (Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)
Councillor C King (Teams)
Councillor D Murphy (Teams)
Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)

Non-Committee Members: Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor H McKee
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor R Howell

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

SE/010/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

SE/011/2023: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 05-10 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

SE/012/2023: **COUNCIL STRATEGIC WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE**

Read: Questions from Members and Director's response submitted in advance of the meeting re: Council Strategic Waste Management arrangements update.

Read: Report dated 01 February 2023 from Mr A Cassells, re: Council Strategic Waste Management arrangements update. (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to:-

- To adopt in principle the recommendations of the SIB Project Business Case Report.
- To approve a funding application with DfC and DAERA in relation to the Subvention Funding required as detailed in the report, on the proviso that all 11 Councils adopt the recommendations.
- To endorse the actions of Officers to date and to receive future reports in due course.

AGREED: It was also agreed the Q&A information be circulated to all Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.45 pm

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

Signed: **Councillor O Magennis**
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: **Mr A Cassells**
Director of Sustainability & Environment

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.****Chair:** Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)**Members:** Councillor T Andrews (Teams)
Councillor C Bowsie (Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Teams)
Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor K McKeivitt (Teams)
Councillor A McMurray (Chamber)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)**Non Committee Members:** Councillor H McKee (Teams)**Officials in Attendance:** Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance
Ms G Kane, Head of Facilities Management
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer**SE/010/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor King and Councillor Malone.

SE/011/2023: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/012/2023: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2023**Read:** Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2023. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2023 be noted and actions removed as marked.

FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

SE/013/2023: SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE CHARGES FOR 2023/2024

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director re: Sustainability and Environment Directorate charges for 2023/24. (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to recommend adoption of the Sustainability & Environment Directorate charges as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 for the financial year 2023/24.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

SE/014/2023: CONTROL OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON LAND AT MOURNE DRIVE WARRENPOINT

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, re: control of Japanese knotweed at Carnmeen Park/Rossmara Park, Mourne Drive, Warrenpoint. (*Circulated*).

Noted: In response to concerns raised by Members in relation to the ongoing growth of Japanese knotweed in this area over a number of years, Mr Scullion advised that if Committee approved the recommendations in the report, the Council would continue to treat this area and would also continue to monitor it.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed in the interests of public health and whist there was no agreement on the treatment of Japanese knotweed on this land, that Council continue to spray for the control of this invasive species on an annual basis. Council to advise adjacent landowners of the current position including advice from DAERA in relation to their own legal civil remedy.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

SE/015/2023: COMMUNITY PAINT REUSE PROJECT AND FUNDING

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Sinead Murphy, (Acting) Assistant Director, Waste Management, re: community paint reuse project and funding. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to recommend approval for Officers to submit an application to the Paint Reuse Capital Grant Scheme for Northern Ireland, funding by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs through Community RePaint to set up a Council RePaint Scheme at HRC sites in the District.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 05-10 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 Ruane, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

SE/016/2023: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A METAL FABRICATION AND REPAIR CONTRACTOR

Read: Report dated 25 January 2023 from Mr K Scullion re: economic appraisal for the appointment of a metal fabrication and repair contractor. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Economic Appraisal and accept the conclusion of the Economic Appraisal that Option 4 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 4 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a contractor to**

provide metal fabrication and repair services. In addition to this an independent Metallurgical and Mechanical Engineering Consultancy Service would be appointed to provide advice to Council Officers on the procurement and management of this service.

SE/017/2023: BUSINESS CASES FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF COUNCIL PUBLIC SPACE CCTV

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Cases for maintenance and monitoring of Council Public Space CCTV. (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to:-

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Approve the findings of the Business Cases presented.**

Business Case for Town Centre CCTV Analogue Fiberoptic lines to link Camera system to Monitoring Centre – Approve Option 1 - Continue with analogue line rental with the current provider pending outcome of review of Public Space CCTV for 12-month period under an STA.

Business Case for Town Centre CCTV Monitoring – Approve Option 1 - Continue with annual monitoring contract with the current provider for 21 town centre Public Space CCTV cameras for 12-month period under an STA.

Committee to note that both contracts will be awarded via the use of a STA.

SE/018/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR TO UNDERTAKE LEGIONELLA CONTROL MEASURES ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake legionella control measures on behalf of the Council. (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to:-

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to undertake a number of duties**

under the Council's Legionella Management Plan for a three-year period.

SE/019/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR TO UNDERTAKE ASBESTOS CONTROL MEASURES ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Case for the appointment of a contractor to undertake asbestos control measures on behalf of the Council. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKevitt , it was agreed to:-

- **To note the content of the report.**
- **Accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option to the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to undertake a number of duties under the Council's Asbestos Management Plan for a three-year period.**

SE/020/2023: WASTE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Ms S Murphy re: Waste Management – contract extensions. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to approve:-

- **The extension of waste collection and processing contracts listed in Appendix 1 in line with the extension end date in the table.**
- **The extension of dog holding, kennelling and related services contracts listed in Appendix 2 in line with the extension end date in the table and rate increases in line with CPI .**

SE/021/2023: WASTE MANAGEMENT – FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 22 February 2023 from Ms S Murphy re: Waste Management – Fleet Replacement. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to:-

- **Approve the four year Capital Replacement Programme for Vehicles for the period 2023-2027 as outlined in the Officers Report.**

- **Approve the receipt of annual reports on the Fleet Replacement Programme to Committee.**
- **Note the approach in relation to the Fleet Replacement Metrics as detailed in the report.**

SE/022/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 26 JANUARY 2023

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 26 January 2023. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.

SE/023/2023: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 6 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the above Minutes.

FOR NOTING

SE/024/2023: NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Quarterly Provisional Estimates for July to September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the above Report.

SE/025/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 6 December 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the above Minutes.

SE/026/2023: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.10 pm.

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

Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment

Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 10.00am in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry and via Microsoft Teams.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CLOSED SESSION)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following items:

P/015/2023: LDP: Progress Report – Quarterly Update

Read: Report dated 8 February 2023 by Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan: Progress Report – Quarterly Update.

On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed to come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman advised the following had been agreed:

P/015/2023: LDP: Progress Report – Quarterly Update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the LDP: Progress Report – Quarterly Report provided in the report dated 8 February 2023 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan.



**Minutes of the 497th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 12th January 2023 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present

Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Cllr Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Cllr Victoria Moore	Ards & North Down Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Ald Adrian McQuillan	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry & Strabane Borough
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight, Department for Communities
David Polley	Director, Housing Supply Policy, Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, NIHE
Valerie Crozier	NI Water Service
Davy McGrath	NI Water Service
Fiona Neilan	Project Manager, NIHE
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (NIHE Secretariat)

Apologies:

Cllr Micky Murray	Belfast City Council
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1.	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price and David Polley from the Department for Communities and from the Housing Executive, Grainia Long</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenters, Valerie Crozier and Davy McGrath both from the Water Service and Fiona Neilan from the Housing Executive.</p> <p>The Chair also welcomed the new representatives for Ards & North Down, Councillor Victoria Moore to her first meeting of the Housing Council.</p> <p>Alderman Nicholl thanked Members for their sincere wishes during his recent illness.</p>	Secretary
2.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations were received.</p>	

3.	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 496th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 8th December 2022</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Mark Cooper seconded by Cllr A McQuillan and resolved, that the Minutes of the 496th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 8th December 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>Matters arising were dealt with through the Meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The forward workplan was noted.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive</u></p> <p>The Report provided the Housing Council with a monthly update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined as follows:-</p> <p>6.1 Industrial Relations</p> <p>Councillor Cooper requested further details the percentage figures in monetary terms for the lower grade workers. It was agreed that a presentation on the Housing Executive's Pay Grading and Review would be arranged for a future Meeting.</p> <p>6.2 Review of Damp & Mould following Awaab Ishak inquest</p> <p>Councillor Cooper referred to 5 cases presented to him within the last couple of months in the Monkstown area with severe damp issues, his main concern was the timeframe of 2/3 months for an Independent Damp Surveyor's report to be issued.</p> <p>Several Members expressed concern in relation to private landlords and their properties not always up to the required standard. The Chair added that some properties also being used as 'emergency accommodation' are not up to standard and asked if there was an opportunity to terminate these leases.</p> <p>Mr Polley confirmed that the Housing Executive are not responsible for private rented tenancies and he undertook to provide Members with related links from NI direct on the rules and regulations for the private rented sector.</p> <p>Ms Long urged Members that if there are any specific properties that Members feel are of inadequate standard properties should be brought to the Housing Executive's attention.</p> <p>Members recognise that the Housing Executive properties are ageing and investment into the stock is required, in particular referred to single window glazed properties and air circulation management can often be an issue causing condensation.</p>	<p>KC</p> <p>D Polley</p> <p>All</p>

Members requested if the Housing Council could feed into the review and to contribute with their views.

Agreed that a presentation on the final report on the Review of Damp & Mould would be arranged for a future Meeting.

Secretary

6.3 **Ark Housing Association, Derrytrasna - New Build Property Addition & Allocation issue**

6.4 **Green End, Rathcoole (incident on Friday 7 October 2022)
NIHE Revitalisation Programme - Progress Update**

6.5 **Corporate Plan**

6.6 **NIHE - Asset Management Strategy**

6.7 **Sustainable Development Strategy Update**

6.8 **Contribution to the Development of the NI Climate Action Plan**

6.9 **Implementation of the NIHE Cost of Living Plan**

6.10 **Future Working Practices and Accommodation Strategy**

6.11 **Ongoing Engagement with Political Parties and other stakeholders**

6.12 **Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA)**

6.13 **Bonfires**

6.14 **Ukrainian Resettlement Programme**

6.15 **Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation**

G Long undertook to have Deborah Reid contact Councillor Mark Cooper, in order for him to explain exactly the statistical information on a rolling basis, he is looking for in relation to homelessness and to include the total number of homelessness in Northern Ireland at this time.

G Long

D Polley undertook to provide Members with links to Homelessness statistics.

D Polley

6.16 **Review of Muckamore Abbey Hospital Resettlement**

6.17 **Review of Disabled Facilities Grants**

6.18 **Finlock Gutters and Contribution to Costs by Homeowners**

7. **Presentation by the Water Service**

Valerie Crozier and Davy McGrath gave a presentation (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A). Members had asked for reassurance that on the tactical solution of separating foul and storm water, but in particular the separation of storm water, and how it could be made sure this in itself didn't pollute watercourses if it was going straight and un-treated into them. A detailed presentation was given on the challenges and economic

	<p>constraints NI Water Service are facing and how the NI Water are addressing capacity issues and financial constraints, the way forward and the new process which are being put in place to tackle the issues.</p> <p>The clear message to Members that prior to any development in their area, the water service is the first point of contact to ensure the proposed infrastructure has the capabilities for the area.</p> <p>It was confirmed that some Housing Association properties have Rainwater Harvesting projects, for the collection and storage rain.</p> <p>Alderman Speers referred to mixed Storm & Sewer systems in the Markethill area and asked how they are going to deal with these systems. He referred to an environmental scheme being developed in Richill and he was disappointed that NI Water weren't willing to attend meetings to create an infrastructure for future residents to avail of and felt it was a failure of NI Water not tackle the storm and foul which is creating a huge issue in developments. He felt that an investment is being carried out in an area, a detailed programme should be in place to ensure a sewage capacity.</p> <p>Mr McGrath agreed that there is an issue with the amalgamated storm and sewage system Pre 1970's. Mr McGrath undertook to contact Alderman Speers directly in relation to specific queries in his area.</p> <p>Ms Crozier confirmed that NI Water works closely with local Councils and attend meetings annually in relation to their Council Development Plans.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Crozier and Mr McGrath for a very informative Presentation.</p>	D McGrath /J Speers
8.	<p><u>Presentation on the Housing Executive's Fundamental Review of Allocations</u></p> <p>Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this presentation would be postponed until the February Meeting.</p>	Secretary
9.	<p>The following three papers had been requested at the last Meeting, were circulated for Members information.</p> <p>9.1 <u>Homeless Statistics by Local Council Area</u></p> <p>9.2 <u>SHDP Schemes expected to start in 2023</u></p> <p>9.3 <u>Affordable Warmth Scheme Statistics</u></p> <p>The above papers were noted.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Housing Starts – December 2022</u></p> <p>The Report was noted.</p>	

11.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>11.1 <u>Housing Council Membership 2023</u></p> <p>Paper was noted.</p> <p>11.2 <u>Housing Council Meetings during 2023</u></p> <p>Paper was noted.</p> <p>11.3 <u>Central Housing Forum Annual Community Conference titled 'the Cost of Living'</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Mark Cooper and seconded by Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald to sponsoring and supporting the Conference on 23rd February 2023 in Girdwood Community Hub.</p> <p>The Secretary undertook to confirm the terms of sponsoring this event.</p>	Secretary
12.	<p><u>Date of next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 9th February 2023 at 10 am in the Housing Centre or via Zoom,</p>	

The Meeting concluded at 12.30 pm

Appendix A



Northern Ireland Housing Council 12th January 2023

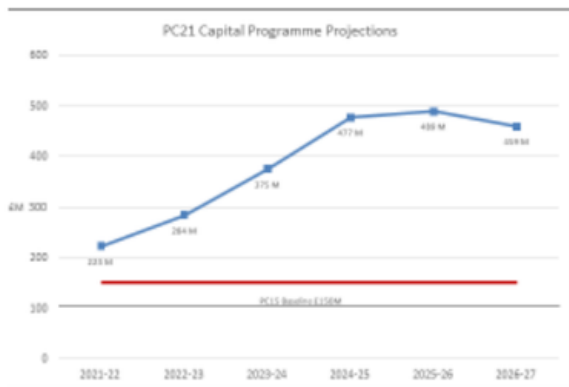
Valerie Crozier – Stakeholder Manager - Asset Delivery Directorate
David McGrath – Head of Developer Services - Customer & Operations Directorate



NI Water: Vital Infrastructure



Capital Expenditure Overview: PC15 vs PC21



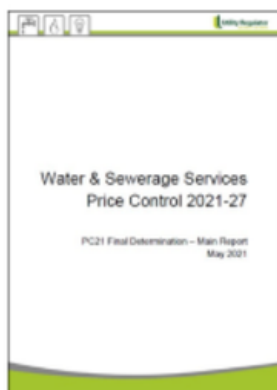
Our PC21 Capital Plan requires approx. £2.2bn of critical capital investment over the 6 year period.

The £2.2bn capital investment is divided between the following service areas:

- **Sewerage Provision = ca £1,100M**
- Planned/Reactive Maintenance = ca£450M
- Water Provision = ca£170M
- Capital Programme Running Cost = ca £330M
- Planning for the future & M&G = ca£200M



PC21 Final Determination



- PC21 FD published on 13th May 2021
- Company Acceptance 6th July 2021
- **Focus moving immediately to funding the FD**

Final Determination Highlights

- NI Water Efficiency Journey Recognised
 - Challenged to reduce annual operating costs by £15.4M
 - **Overall Opex £1.3bn**
- Enhanced Capital Investment Need Recognised
 - Delivering £117M of capital efficiency
 - **Overall Capex £2.2bn**



Key Challenges for NI Water



Why do we have Capacity Constraints?

- Legacy of chronic underinvestment in our wastewater infrastructure
 - Insufficient biological / hydraulic capacity at our treatment works i.e. WwTW operate at or over their design PE (population equivalent)
 - Significant Wastewater network capacity issues due to Unsatisfactory Intermittent Discharges UIDs, DG5s (internal flooding and external flooding)
 - Some Water capacity issues also exist, with more developing.
 - generally less significant for planning than Wastewater capacity issues
- The image shows a decorative graphic of overlapping blue and teal shapes at the bottom right of the page.

Consequences of New Connections to Overloaded Sewers



Unsatisfactory Intermittent Discharges (UIDs)



Out of Sewer Flooding



Internal Property Flooding

Physical Evidence of Pollution from Sewers: Aquatic Environments



Development Constraints – Current Situation



- Estimated – over **100** economically constrained areas in NI impacting local development
- We plan to address **49** of these in PC21 (subject to funding and statutory approvals)
- A further **30** constrained areas may arise during PC21 (2021 – 2027)
- **> 80%** of properties in NI affected by wastewater capacity constraints

How is NI Water addressing Capacity issues and their associated Economic Constraints?

Two level approach:

Strategic level

- Identified that sustained investment is needed for 12-18 years to address the historic under investment in our wastewater systems
e.g. Living With Water Programme
- We received a £2.2 billion Final Determination on our PC21 business plan
(First 2 years of the PC21 capital programme funded - need multi-year, ring fenced funding; Need for security of energy funding for PC21)
- NI Water advocates the strategic phasing of land as part of the Local Development Planning process and that it is cognisant of infrastructure investment and lead times

Tactical level

- We have designed and constructed, Developer led and financed solutions, on a bespoke site by site basis. These options are being continually refined.

What is NI Water doing to address the Economic Constraints Problem?

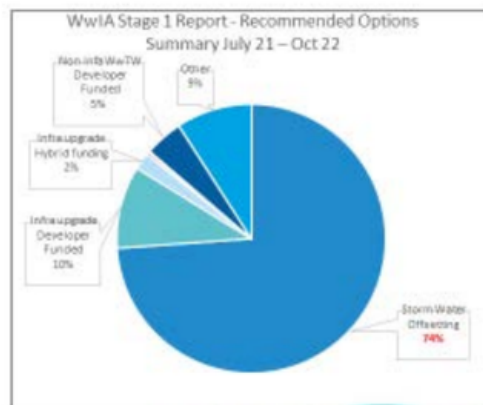
Two level approach:

- **Strategic level** - capital investment as previously noted
- **Tactical level** - we have designed and implemented, Developer led and financed solutions, on a bespoke site by site basis. These options are being further refined.

A Development Constraints Project Team has been put in place which provides:

- Additional resource (internal + external)
- New processes and procedures (Pre Planning)
- New responses to planning requests
- **Early two way dialog and engagement** continues between all stakeholders
- **Solutions Engineering Team is fundamental**

New Processes – Pre Planning



Solution Engineering Prioritisation Checklist

Solution	
1 Capital Works scheme to fix the issue within the catchment.	Risk that the Capital Works scheme, if planned, is delayed, cancelled or not aligned to Developer's programme. Proposal will be time dependent. Any planned Capital Scheme programme must align with developer programme.
2 Dev/ fully/partial funded capital scheme to fix the issue within the catchment.	Any developer funded capital scheme will be cost dependant and subject to a financial feasibility assessment in comparison with size of planned development. Mechanism as to how Developer actually pays NIW for this being investigated – may need Legislative change.
3 Phased development	Risk that there is no solution to allow the phased development to proceed after the initial phase allowance. Risk that any planned solution to allow the other phases of the development to connect is delayed or cancelled.
4 Storm offsets – within the site	No detriment solution approach has been agreed with NIEA and is constantly reviewed. Risk that assumption of what was going into the combined system in the past from the site is incorrect. Risk that the site has been derelict for an extended period and the no detriment solution is therefore not viable. It is already a prerequisite of any new development to separate out storm flow. Zero detriment solution (no deterioration of a performance threshold) approach has been agreed with NIEA.
5 Storm offsets – outside the site	Large developments may pose a risk of too much storm being removed from the catchment causing odour or operational issues within the system.

Solution Engineering Prioritisation Checklist c'ont

Solution		
9	Accommodation Works within Catchment to divert flows	Investigate whether there is any solution to divert flows within the catchment to another area of catchment with capacity, to free space for the development.
7/8	New gravity sewer or pump away	New gravity sewer or pumping arrangement to point in the sub catchment or other parts of the catchment / different catchment where there is capacity. Details around how this is delivered and who pays need to be agreed.
9	Flow attenuation and release during low flow – smart networks	Likely that a model will be required to carry out the detailed assessment required to assess the viability of this solution. Risk that no model exists. Use of emerging technologies that needs to be fully understood and integrated into NIW systems
10	Dedicated waste water treatment works for the site/s sites provided by the developer/s.	Risk of NI Water having to adopt an increasing sprawl of minor WwTW across Northern Ireland or that they are not constructed to an adaptable standard and pollute the environment. One WwTW per site only and if there are multiple developer they should be encouraged to work collaboratively.
11	Development of a De-minimis approach	Risk that this facilitates uncontrolled development. On a catchment by catchment basis this could prove successful but will require oversight and control Need significant buy-on from other agencies and Councils

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NI Water Planning Responses

- **Unconditional Approval:** NI Water is satisfied that the development proposal may be served.
- **Conditional Approval:** NI Water is satisfied that the development proposal may be served subject to identified Conditions e.g. Belfast WwTW no connection to the network prior to completion of Phase 0 July 2023
- **Refusal:** NIW has established detriment risk which may not be resolved by Condition
 - Developer advised to contact NI Water to establish if an alternative solution can be identified to serve the site, with the option that subject to a positive outcome the recommendation could be re-considered ([majority of recommended refusals fall into this category](#))
 - Where [zero detriment](#) is unachievable, for example where statutory nuisance is likely or non-compliance with a PPC permit, then a recommendation to refuse will be returned to the Planning Authority.

NI Water Planning Responses – April 2021 to December 2022 Total 6,671



Development Constraints & The Way Forward

- Decades of historic under-investment in the wastewater network has resulted in Economic Constraints.
- Decades of sustained investment will be needed to remove the constraints and enable development and growth without further pollution to the environment (12 – 18+ years.)
- We are committed to maximising the infrastructure we have:
 - Early engagement via Pre-Development Enquiries is essential
 - Robust planning responses, with conditions are necessary
 - **Use of Developer led and financed solutions, noting budgetary implications.**
- NI Executive sets NI Water’s level of investment.



How can others help with capacity challenges?

Future Planning

- Security of Funding
- Engage with NI Water on constraints and the zoning of new land for development and phasing of its release
- More foresight of proposed areas for development
- Closer liaison between all parties
 - new housing/schools etc.

New Standards

- Water/energy efficient homes
- Review housing design standards
 - Water efficiency mark
 - Water consumption targets
 - Water efficient showers/toilets
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - SuDs, including soft & small-scale SuDs



Summary

- Without sustained, adequate investment our society will have to choose between **environmental protection** and **economic development**
- Engagement with public and private developers on engineering solutions to address constraints over the short/medium term
- NI Executive must secure the funding necessary to deliver the investment in Water and Wastewater required for NI
- NI needs continued investment funding in critical infrastructure





CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

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 W: nihousingcouncil.org

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FEBRUARY HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 9th February 2023 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre of via Conference Call.

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Present

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Victoria Moore	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Micky Murray	Belfast City
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Michael Ruane	Newry & Mourne District

Apologies

Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Adrian McQuillan	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Paul Price & David Polley from the Department for Communities on the Housing Top Issues.

A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined **as follows**:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- Review the Caravans Act (NI) 2011
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax

Housing Council
498th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

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- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework
- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents
- Housing Executive Rent
- Non ACM Cladding Remediation Scheme
- Climate Act DfC will lead on the 'Residential and Buildings Sector Plan'

Members also received a Presentation on the Fundamental Review of Allocations

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the March Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9th March 2023 at 10.00 am via conference call.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

Contacts

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2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk Tel: 028 95982752

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Downpatrick Office,
Downshire Civic Centre,
Ardglass Road,
BT30 6GQ

Wednesday 08 February 2023

Dear Marie

Re: Notice of Motion – Workers Legal Rights to Tips

I refer to your letter dated 12 December 2022 and would advise you that at a meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council held on 26 January 2023 the Council agreed to support your resolution.

Further to this it was proposed and agreed that Ards and North Down Borough Council writes to the Department for the Economy and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in Westminster advocating for such legislation to be put through, but with any identified loopholes closed that would allow tips to be kept by the employer and not issued to staff. This should be done in consultation with the industry and those that work in it, including union representatives.

Yours sincerely

Richard King
Democratic Services Officer



Northern
Ireland
Office

**The Rt Hon Chris
Heaton-Harris MP**

**Secretary of State for
Northern Ireland**

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Marie Ward

Chief Executive

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

By email: council@nmandd.org

9 February 2023

Your reference: MC/23/36

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter of 16 January. I was grateful to hear from the Council, and of your engagement with these important issues concerning the Common Travel Area (CTA).

I realise the Minister of State for Northern Ireland Steve Baker responded to you previously on this matter and I wish to add to his assurances the firm commitment of the Government to the CTA. This includes the important and reciprocal rights that the CTA affords to British and Irish citizens alike to live, work, study, access public services and be represented across the jurisdictions that it covers. The Government also deeply appreciates the role that the thriving all-island tourism sector plays in the life of the economy.

The Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme respects the Government's commitment to the CTA and the reciprocal rights and privileges provided under it. Consistent with those commitments, the ETA scheme will not apply to UK or Irish citizens nor those with a form of pre-existing immigration status. This also includes those who work cross-border at present using a Frontier Worker permit.

As noted by the Minister of State, the UK will not operate routine immigration controls on the CTA with none on the Ireland-Northern Ireland land border. The same is the case now, and it shall remain the case that, when the ETA requirement is introduced, all those entering the UK will still be required to meet UK immigration rules.

I am keenly aware, as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, that tourism is advertised on an all-island basis, which is precisely why the Government is working with the Government of Ireland and a wide range of stakeholders, including those in the travel and tourism sector, to ensure the ETA requirement is communicated effectively.

The approach that the Government is taking is designed to ensure we mitigate against any risk of the ETA scheme being seen as a barrier to cross-border tourism on the island of Ireland, while respecting our commitment to the CTA and ensuring its security and integrity. I hope that we will be able to demonstrate this commitment to the Council in the months ahead and once again am very grateful for you taking the time to write on behalf of its Members and sharing these concerns with me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris', written in a cursive style.

**THE RT HON CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**



**Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy**

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy and Climate

**Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy**
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

www.gov.uk

Marie Ward
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Oifig an Iúir, Newry Office
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Our ref: MCB2023/01317

3 February 2023

Dear Ms Ward,

Thank you for your email of 12 January addressed to His Majesty's Treasury, regarding the Government's energy support payments. Your correspondence has been passed to this Department and I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio. I apologise for the delay in response.

I appreciate the uncertainty and frustration that people across Northern Ireland have felt about when they will receive the energy bill support they are due. All households in Northern Ireland are receiving a single, one-off £600 payment to help with their bills. Payments started on 16 January and are made up of £400 under the Energy Bills Support Scheme Northern Ireland (EBSS NI), and £200 under the Alternative Fuel Payment (AFP) scheme, which is going to all households in Northern Ireland irrespective of how they heat their home.

Customers who pay for their energy using prepayment meters (keypads) or quarterly standard credit are receiving £600 vouchers from 16 January. All vouchers should be received by 28 February. Those who pay via Direct Debit will receive £600 directly into their bank account.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy and Climate



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Ms. Marie Ward
council@nmandd.org

21 February 2023

Our Ref: CHG-MO-00176-2023

Dear Marie,

I refer to your correspondence of 16 January 2023 proposing the inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the *Ireland's Ancient East* tourism experience brand and the ways that those two counties can play a role in All Ireland tourism.

As I pointed out in my previous reply, Fáilte Ireland's remit does not extend to Northern Ireland, therefore it is not possible to include Counties Armagh and Down in *Ireland's Ancient East* tourism experience brand.

The three tourism agencies on the island - Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland, work together in strategic partnership. Each agency has a distinct role and remit, and each complements the work of the other to develop the island of Ireland's valuable tourism market.

In order to identify and develop ideas for potential North South tourism partnerships, in respect of Counties Armagh and Down, I would suggest that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council engage with Tourism Northern Ireland, who may in turn liaise with Fáilte Ireland as regards any collaboration that might be considered beneficial.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Martin
Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

90

Our ref: C/185/2022 and C/020/2023

16 January 2023

Ms Catherine Martin TD
Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Dear Minister

Re: Notice of Motion – Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland’s Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 9 January 2023, Councillors considered your response to correspondence sent in November 2022 regarding the following Motion:

"This Council writes to the Irish Tourism Minister requesting assurance that the Counties of Armagh and Down are included in Ireland’s Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand. It was also agreed to write to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council to ask them to engage in the process".

During discussion disappointment regarding the response received from yourself was voiced and whilst it was acknowledged that it was going to be tricky to get a formal arrangement to take Armagh and Down into Ireland’s Ancient East, it was to be fought for and believed in. Reference was made to your response stating Failte Ireland’s remit did not allow for the counties to be included but outlined numerous ways it could be included; albeit informally.

It was unanimously agreed that Council write back to you and ask that all powers you hold be used to develop the inclusion of Armagh and Down in Ireland’s Ancient East and that at the next meeting with the Department, the informal ways Armagh and Down can play a role in All Ireland tourism be discussed.

I would ask that you give this matter serious consideration and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O’Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0330 137 4000 (Council)
council@nmandd.org
www.newrymournedown.org

Ag freastal ar an Dúin
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh





Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Pobal

Department fur
Commonities

From: The Permanent Secretary

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG**

**Telephone: 028 90 823301
E-mail: colum.boyle@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our Ref: PSC 0102.23
Date: 8 February 2023**

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valerie.watts@midandeantrim.gov.uk
chief.executive@midulstercouncil.org
Marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Chief Executive,

RATES SUPPORT GRANT ALLOCATION 2022/23

In recent weeks I have received correspondence from MPs, MLAs, Councillors and Council Chief Executives regarding the Rates Support Grant (RSG) allocation for 2022/23.

In my correspondence I outlined that the RSG is a statutory grant, the quantum is discretionary and the opening budget for 2022/23 is £8.924m. I confirmed that the decision has been taken to apply a reduction of £3m on the opening budget of £11.924m in 2021/22.

On 23 January 2023, I wrote to the five main Party Leaders outlining the reasons why the RSG opening budget for 2022/23 is £8.924m. A copy of that letter is attached for information.

I trust you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**COLUM BOYLE
PERMANENT SECRETARY**



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Pobal

Deapairment fur
Commonities

From: Colum Boyle
Permanent Secretary

Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028 90 823301
E-mail: Colum.Boyle@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our Ref PSC 0065.23
Date: 23 January 2023

Michelle O'Neill MLA
Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Naomi Long MLA
Doug Beattie MLA
Colum Eastwood MP

Via email: vp@sinnfein.ie

Dear Michelle, Sir Jeffrey, Naomi, Doug and Colum,

RATES SUPPORT GRANT (RSG) ALLOCATION 2022/23

Thank you for your letter and e-mail of 18th January 2023 seeking clarification regarding the allocation of the Rates Support Grant (RSG) for the current financial year.

I acknowledge the difficulties that are being faced across both Local and Central Government at this time. The Department for Communities (DfC) was allocated a budget for 2022/23 as a result of the Secretary of State releasing a Written Ministerial Statement on 24 November 2022. Although a budget for 23/24 has not yet been set, all indications are suggesting that further difficult decisions will be required.

As you have noted in your letter the RSG is a statutory grant, but its budget is discretionary and must therefore be considered in the context of the Department's overall budget priorities and challenges. The opening RSG budget for 2022/23 is £8.924m which equates to a reduction of £3m on the opening budget of £11.924m in 2021/22. RSG represents a small percentage of Councils' total income each year.

Councils received an additional RSG amount of £10m at the end of 2021/22 and were also able to access COVID-19 funding for cost-of-living pressures. On 23 March 2022 the Department issued an Accounts Direction to Councils setting out that all unspent COVID-19 funding should be transferred to a usable reserve in 2021/22 and ring-fenced for the purposes allocated.

On 27 October 2022, after the Department of Finance agreed that Councils could use their unspent COVID-19 money to continue to support the recovery in the context of increased operating costs as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, the then Minister announced that

Councils could utilise funds in excess of approximately £33m to address the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on their recovery from the Pandemic.

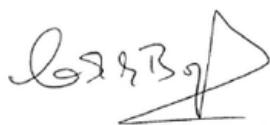
It should be noted that DfC also provided funding for Derating and Transferred Functions grants of £38.9m to Councils in 2022/23.

DfC will continue to engage with SOLACE NI and Councils through PSG/SOLACE meetings, which the Department of Finance also attends. Engagement will also continue with Council representatives of the Association of Local Government Finance Officers (ALGFO) and officials within DfC Local Government Finance.

I trust this information is helpful and would be happy to provide a briefing to the Party leaders if that would be beneficial at this time.

I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Head of the NI Civil Service and to my Permanent Secretary colleague at the Department of Finance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colum Boyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COLUM BOYLE
PERMANENT SECRETARY

FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
Mike Brennan



Ms Marie Ward

council@nmandd.org

Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8FD
Tel: 028 90529441
Email: permanent.secretarysupport@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: SCOR-0091-2023

1 March 2023

Dear Ms Ward,

Thank you for your email of 14th February 2023 on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. I share your concerns about the impact that the cost-of-living and energy crisis is having on our citizens.

In December 2021, the Department launched its Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland 'The Path to Net Zero Energy.' One of the key priorities within the strategy is to create a flexible, smart, and digitised energy system that integrates renewables across heat, power, and transport, creates value for consumers and enhances security of supply.

The Department commissioned a cost benefit analysis for the rollout of smart meters as detailed in Action Point 20 of the Department's Energy Strategy Action Plan 2022.

The 2022 Action Plan can be found at: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategy-path-net-zero-energy-action-plan>

The progress made against each of the 22 Action Points over the last year by central government and partners, from the Energy Strategy Action Plan 2022 can be found at: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategy-action-plan-2022-report>.

Regarding a demand flexibility service, it is worth noting that electricity suppliers do offer 'time of use' tariffs where consumers can pay a reduced rate at off peak times. It would be best for consumers to contact suppliers directly to enquiry about these tariffs.

I trust you find my response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Brennan', written in a cursive style.

MIKE BRENNAN
Permanent Secretary



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagairwww.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Roads Southern Division

The Chief Executive
Newry Mourne & Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT35 8DJ

Marlborough House
Central Way
Craigavon
BT64 1AD
Tel: 0300 200 7892
Email:
Southernlandsteam@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: RAB/616/22/KM

Date: 26 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSED STOPPING-UP TO MOTOR VEHICLES ONLY OF THE U6285 WATSONS ROAD NEWRY

As part of Planning Application (P-2013/0242/F) for a new housing development on Watsons Road, Newry the Department for infrastructure, Roads Service insisted on significant improvements to the Roads Infrastructure in this area to facilitate new and current through traffic. The proposed improvements will include a new roundabout and the construction of a realigned new road. This new road, when constructed will provide a full width carriageway for new and through traffic currently using the affected stretch of Watsons Road. As part of this process the redundant section of the old Watson's Road will no longer be required and can be stopped up to motorised Vehicles.

The current Planning Permission allows for the construction of the NEW alternative Road as shown shaded blue on the attached map.

Within the application the current stretch of Watson's Road will be stopped up by the construction of a 0.8m low block wall approximately 30m long with the existing northern section of the road remaining in operation and maintained by the Department. The wall's purpose is to effectively block access to motor vehicles at Points A-B. Approximately 506 m of new roadway / alternative route will be provided from the edge of a new roundabout to the tie in point adjacent to 20 Watsons Road Newry – as shown shaded blue on the same map.

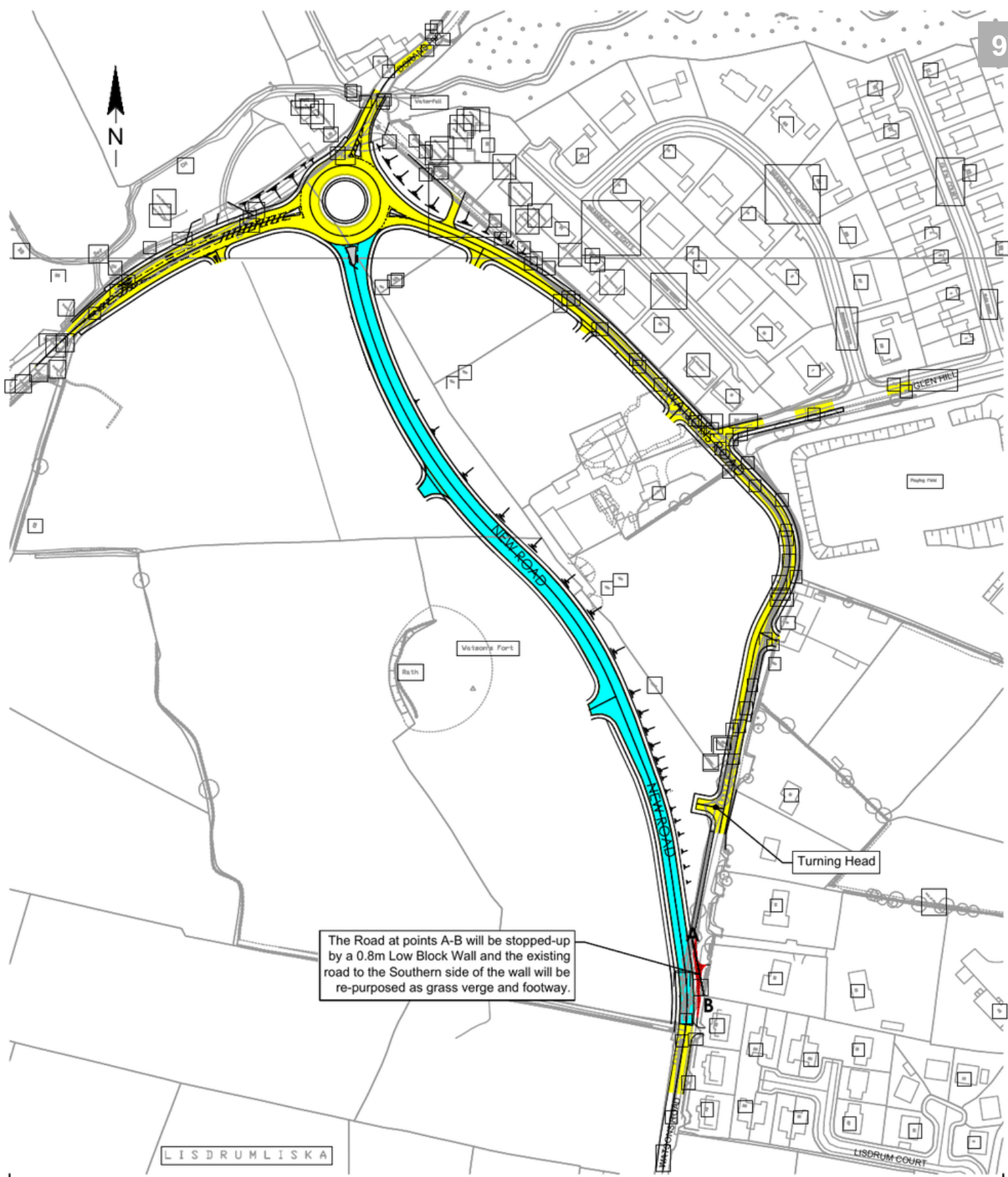
DfI Roads have offered no objection to the proposal.

Please advise, if possible before the **8th March 2023**, whether or not your Council has any objections to the proposals.

Yours faithfully



PP Kieran McQuaid
Lands Officer



The Road at points A-B will be stopped-up by a 0.8m Low Block Wall and the existing road to the Southern side of the wall will be re-purposed as grass verge and footway.

OS GRID REF:
 X = 307780
 Y = 325251

OSNI REF- 26610NE

Proposed Stopping up of the U6285 Watsons Road, Newry

File Ref- RAB/ 616/ 22/ KM
 Scale- 1:2500
 Date- Jan 23