

## **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 December 2018 at 6.30pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor M Murnin

**In attendance:**

**(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor R Howell
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor J Rice	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

**(Officials)**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing  
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of Community Engagement  
Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure  
Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**C/184/2018**

### **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Curran, Devlin, Harte and Stokes.

- The Chairman thanked Cathedral Tearooms for providing an excellent Christmas dinner prior to the meeting.
- The Chairman advised November had been a busy month with the Christmas switch-ons and receiving of a delegation from China, with another delegation due within the next week. He advised the opening of the new Down Leisure Centre had been a huge success with the number of memberships having doubled within a

week.

**C/185/2018            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C/186/2018            ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2018**

Read:                    Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 November 2018 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                            The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 November 2018 was agreed.**

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/187/2018            MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2018**

Read:                    Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 November 2018 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                            The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

**C/188/2018            MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2018 – HEALTH TRUSTS AND NI AMBULANCE**

Read:                    Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 22 October 2018 (copy circulated).

Members raised the following issues arising out of the minutes:

- South Eastern Trust should not have announced their recruitment of a consultant from Southern Trust as a lot of those Members interested in the Southern Trust had left the meeting at that stage and therefore could not question what impact the loss of a consultant would have had at Daisy Hill.
- Response times for ambulances should be reinforced following a recent incident where an elderly man, after falling in Ballynahinch, waited 48 minutes on an ambulance to arrive.
- Council should follow up on the training of First Responders as they do marvellous work in certain areas.

**Agreed:                            The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 22**

October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

**C/189/2018**                    **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2018 – DfI ROADS**

Read:                            Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 October 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed:                        **The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 29 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/190/2018**                    **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2018**

Read:                            Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed:                        **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor McMahon.**

**C/191/2018**                    **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018**

Read:                            Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed:                        **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

**C/192/2018**                    **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2018**

Read:                            Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2018 (copy circulated).



tipping it should give serious consideration to accepting large household items, such as sofas, fridges and other white goods at the household recycling centres.

Councillor McAteer asked whether members of the public handing in addresses of those illegally fly-tipping had resulted in any successful enforcement. He asked if something could be done in specific hotspots to highlight that fly-tipping was not allowed and how much had been spent on waste collection from fly-tipping sites.

Mr Moore advised a special workshop would be held in January to garner Members' views on what they wanted the service to look like. He advised that fly-tipping protocol for all Councils was currently in draft format with NI Environment Agency, with the possibility of Councils being given wider powers. He stated he would circulate the figures on how much had been spent collecting illegally dumped waste.

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Clarke.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES**

**C/194/2018** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM KENSINGTON PALACE REGARDING INVITATION TO DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX TO VISIT NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 25 October 2018 received from Kensington Palace declining an invitation to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex to visit Newry, Mourne and Down District and thanking the Council for its kind words and invitation (copy circulated).

**Noted:** **The correspondence received was noted.**

**C/195/2018** **REPLIES RECEIVED IN RELATION TO COUNCIL'S MOTION ON CITIZENS' RIGHTS POST BREXIT**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 25 and 30 October 2018 received from Il Presidente of EU Parliament and Department for Exiting the European Union, regarding Council's Motion on citizens' rights post-Brexit (copy circulated).

**Noted:** **The correspondence received was noted.**

## **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**C/196/2018**

**CONSULTATION ON SEASONAL CLOCK CHANGES**

**Read:** Report dated 3 December 2018, received from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, detailing draft response to the Irish Government's Department of Justice and Equality Consultation on Seasonal Clock Changes (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Ruane that Council submit a response to the Irish Government's Department of Justice and Equality Consultation on Seasonal Clock Changes as set out in the officer's report.**

**Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this stage – 7.15pm**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/197/2018**

**NOTICE OF MOTION– HOUSING CONFERENCE**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillors Savage, Casey, Clarke, Hyland, Taylor, Walker and McMurray:

**“Against the backdrop of a growing social and affordable housing crisis in Newry City and across the District, this Council agrees to hold a major Social & Affordable Housing Conference in Newry in February 2019. The Department for Communities, The Housing Executive and all stakeholders within the housing sector and associated support service providers will be invited to attend this event which will have the aim of providing opportunities for collaboration to provide short, medium and long term solutions to tackle the social and affordable housing crisis in Newry and across the district.”**

In proposing the motion, Councillor Savage thanked the members for their support and highlighted the following issues:

- The aim of the conference was to assemble all key decision makers and strategists responsible for delivering social and affordable housing in the district together in an effort to tackle the rising housing shortage particularly in Newry.
- The topography and geography of the city combined with the lack of sites, growing disabled need, a young population and also one of the fastest growing older populations in N. Ireland contributed to the immense challenges faced in delivering social housing.
- There was a sizeable amount of work involved in organising the conference and workshops and group discussions would be needed to examine the key challenges faced and to look at imaginative, forward thinking and collaborative solutions.
- Invitations to the conference could be extended to the new Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities and the Chief Executive of the NI Housing Executive, who along with Council CEO Mr Hannaway would make up three of the keynote speakers.

- The scale of the housing crisis was staggering and statistics based on projected need provided by the Housing Executive in March of this year demonstrated a need for a minimum of 700 units in Newry City alone and district wide 1,844 but in real terms these figures were more likely to be 1,000 and 2,000 respectively.
- The revival of living above the shop scheme currently being proposed in England could be explored.

Councillor Savage paid tribute to the local staff at the NI Housing Executive saying they did all they could in terms of helping people in need. However he said the Department for Communities would have to play a lead role in the conference to enable them to be aware of the extent of the need in Newry and across the district, and the need to work collaboratively in providing a solution to the crisis.

Councillor Walker seconded the motion saying the lack of social housing was a district wide problem that needed to be addressed. He continued, saying housing associations had to compete against each other for funding and this was an on-going problem. He said he had conducted a survey in his area that indicated the provision of sheltered accommodation would free up social housing in certain areas.

Councillor Hyland expressed support for the motion saying housing was a basic human right and a solution was needed for the entire district.

Councillor Taylor expressed support for the motion saying there were people on housing waiting lists for years, in some cases, and there was a clear need for a strategy to be developed. He said it was imperative the Housing Executive and Housing Associations bought into the concept.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the motion saying he was acutely aware of the housing shortage across the district, particularly in single occupancy units and shared housing developments.

Councillor Tinnelly expressed support for the motion and said it was only a matter of time before the housing crisis in the district would be on a par with that currently being experienced in the Republic of Ireland. He said a difficulty arose where Housing Associations were forced to compete with private developers.

Councillor Clarke expressed support for the motion and requested that the wording of the Motion be amended to include Newcastle and Warrenpoint.

Councillors Savage and Walker indicated their acceptance of the amendment, which was consented to by the meeting.

Councillor Clarke said the uncertainty surrounding Brexit could exacerbate the housing crisis and action was urgently needed.

Councillor Trainor expressed support for the motion saying more single occupancy units were needed and this was an opportunity for Council to be proactive.

In summing up, Councillor Savage thanked members for their overwhelming support for the motion saying the conference would be seen as a statement of intent. He thanked officers

for their support and asked that high ranking officials from the Department for Communities, with budgetary responsibility, be invited to attend the conference.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Walker that, against the backdrop of a growing social and affordable housing crisis in Newry City and across the District, this Council agrees to hold a major Social & Affordable Housing Conference in Newry in February 2019. The Department for Communities, The Housing Executive and all stakeholders within the housing sector and associated support service providers will be invited to attend this event which will have the aim of providing opportunities for collaboration to provide short, medium and long term solutions to tackle the social and affordable housing crisis in Newry, Newcastle, Warrenpoint and across the district.

**C/198/2018**                    **NOTICE OF MOTION - POST BREXIT UNITED KINGDOM SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND**

This Motion was withdrawn in accordance with Standing Order 19.3 (1).

**C/199/2018**                    **NOTICE OF MOTION - ULSTER WAY – SECTION FROM KILLYLEAGH TO DOWNPATRICK**

The following Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillors Enright and Walker:

**“The loss of the Ulster Way section from Killyleagh to Downpatrick and hence to Strangford was a huge blow to East Down in 1989. Since then Council staff have promised to re-assert off-load links to recreate these vital routes but it has not been prioritised.**

**Council resolves that this work now needs to be prioritised on a cross departmental plan to have any hope of success within a reasonable timescale;**

**-The Policy and Resources department and their legal team need to ensure off-road links are restored, enforced and maintained. Or that necessary section 12 declarations under the Countryside Order are put in place.**

**- The Active and Healthy department needs to target key routes for community trails between Kilclief, Strangford, Saul, Killyleagh and Downpatrick to ensure we have an off-road network that is worthy of being adopted as a way-marked trail.**

**- The Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Department needs to strategically link up these community trails to way-marked trails on a regional basis. We will need to apply to have this section of the Lecale Way recognised once again as part of the Ulster Way all the way to Killyleagh around the Southern banks of Strangford Lough and across the Quoile”.**

In proposing the motion Councillor Enright said a cross departmental team with a tourism mandate was needed to reconnect the community trails in East Down which were once part



of the Ulster Way. He continued, saying walkers arriving in Strangford were informed by the official guide to get a bus to North Down, and he said to ensure these trails were reinstated, Council would need to liaise with the relevant statutory bodies.

Councillor Walker seconded the motion saying a recent consultation had taken place regarding the future of Delamont Country Park which had received overwhelming public support. He acknowledged there was work in progress with regard to walking trails in the Slieve Croob area and he said it would be a perfect opportunity to tie the linkage from Downpatrick to Delamont into this. He continued, saying the opening of walkways in other areas had proven to be successful and contributed to a healthy lifestyle.

Councillor Andrews said the SDLP Members welcomed the motion and that it was a healthy initiative that would boost visitor numbers to the area.

Councillor Sharvin said he fully supported the motion and the restoration of the Ulster Way, but St. Patrick's Way and Lecale Way should also be included.

Councillor Burgess expressed support for the motion but said landowners along the affected routes must be consulted prior to any other work being carried out.

Councillor Clarke expressed support for the motion and said he agreed with Councillor Burgess that any landowner issues would have to be addressed. He said it was important to pursue these Rights of Way and local residents should be encouraged to become involved.

In summing up, Councillor Enright thanked everyone for their support and said if the Ulster Way was reinstated it would automatically encompass other routes including St. Patrick's Way and Lecale Way. He continued, saying there were no choke areas along the routes that would adversely affect farmers and that the farmers were supportive of the initiative.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Andrews that the loss of the Ulster Way section from Killyleagh to Downpatrick and hence to Strangford was a huge blow to East Down in 1989. Since then Council staff have promised to re-assert off-load links to recreate these vital routes but it has not been prioritised. Council resolves to re-assert off-load links to recreate vital routes along the Ulster Way section from Killyleagh to Downpatrick and hence to Strangford. This work needs to be prioritised on a cross departmental plan to have any hope of success within a reasonable timescale;**
- **The Policy and Resources department and their legal team need to ensure off-road links are restored, enforced and maintained. Or that necessary section 12 declarations under the Countryside Order are put in place.**
  - **The Active and Healthy department needs to target key routes for community trails between Kilclief, Strangford, Saul, Killyleagh and Downpatrick to ensure we have an off-road network that is worthy of being adopted as a way-marked trail.**
  - **The Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Department needs to strategically link up these community trails to way-marked trails on a regional basis. We will need to apply to have this section of the Lecale Way recognised once again as part of the**

**Ulster Way all the way to Killyleagh around the Southern banks of Strangford Lough and across the Quoile”.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.50pm

**Signed:**

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**Chairman**

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**Chief Executive**