



August 3rd, 2020

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 3rd August 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Skype Call**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020

 *Action Sheet Council Meeting 6 July 2020.pdf*

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020

 *Council Minutes 06 07 2020.pdf*

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

5.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 6 July 2020

 *Minutes Audit Committee July 2020.d.pdf*

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5.1 Audit Committee Annual Report 2019/2020

 *Audit Committee Annual Report 2019 2020.pdf*

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6.0 Extract from Draft Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 July 2020

There were no issue referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 July 2020.

Correspondence

7.0 Department of Health Re: C/084/2020 - Reinstatement of Emergency Cover at Downe Hospital & C/085/2020 - Ambulance Cover

 *Letter from R Swann re NOMs C.084.2020 C.085.2020.pdf*

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8.0 The Somme Association - Invoice

 *Somme Association - Invoice .pdf*


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9.0 Derry City and Strabane District Council - Motion re: Public Health Strategy

10.0 DFI Roads Southern Division Re: Hillcrest Village, Bessbrook

 *DFI Roads Southern Division re Hillcrest Village Bessbrook.pdf*

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 *DFI pg 2.pdf*

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 *DFI pg 3 .pdf*

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11.0 Department of Justice Re: Pavement Cafes and Use of Private Land for the Consumption of Alcohol

 *Letter from Minister Long re Pavement Cafes and Use of Private for Consumption of Alcohol.pdf*

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For Noting

12.0 Carlow County Council Re: Black Lives Matter Protests

 *Carlow County Council re Black Lives Matters Protect .pdf*

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Conferences/Events

13.0 NILGA Condensed Planning Programme for Councillors 2020

Online - Zoom

18th August 2020

10.30am - 3.30pm

Notices of Motion

14.0 Notice of Motion - Supporting our Local Economy

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Taylor:

'That the Council supports, where possible, our local producers and businesses within the procurement processes of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. This will complement the "SHOP LOCAL" initiative supported by various elected representatives and will provide much needed investment to the Council's area. We would ask that a report on this matter is brought forward as quickly as possible with a view to supporting our local economy.'

15.0 Notice of Motion - Information on localised outbreaks of COVID Cases

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Owen:

"That this Council supports the need for greater localised information from the Department of Health regarding localised outbreaks of COVID positive cases in the area. In the wake of the suspected localised outbreak in the Rowallane area, had local representatives access to more specific information, a downturn in footfall and containment of anxiety in non-affected regions may have been prevented.

Therefore this Council calls on the Department of Health to provide DEA specific information or to provide a helpline for Councillors to reduce this from happening to other areas going forward".

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Catrina Miskelly
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Mr Ken Montgomery
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Mr Roland Moore
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Ms Carmel Morgan
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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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
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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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
.....
Cllr John Trainor
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Cllr William Walker
.....
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
C/178/2019	Notice of Motion – C/131/2019: Live Animals in Circuses	At the request of Councillor McAteer it was agreed the motion remain on the action sheet.	Democratic Services		N

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 6 JULY 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/063/2020	Action Sheet Arising from Council Meeting held on 2 March 2020	<i>C/051/2020: 2020 CF BATTLEFIELD TOURS</i> It was agreed Councillors Burgess and Owen attend the 2021 CF Battlefield Tours.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/064/2020	Minutes of Emergency Council Meeting held on 16.03.2020	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/065/2020	Record of Decisions taken under Delegated Authority at Party Reps Meetings held from March to July 2020.	It was agreed to stand down Delegated Authority. The record of decisions taken under delegated authority at Party Reps Meetings March – July 2020 were agreed and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/066/2020	Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 01.06.2020	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/067/2020	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 08.06.2020	<p><i>ERT/062/2020: AONB MGT REVIEW / GEOPARK</i> It was agreed to amend the Minutes to include the NI Agricultural Producers Association when arranging the Meeting with the Ulster Farmers Union.</p> <p><i>ERT/065/2020: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR: LEASE OF SLIPWAY</i> It was agreed that officers would investigate the possibility of providing clothing storage facilities for swimmers at Newcastle Harbour.</p> <p><i>ERT/064/2020: WARRENPOINT BATHS</i> It was agreed that Officers arrange to have discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Historic Environment Division regarding the restoration of the Warrenpoint Baths.</p> <p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted subject to the above amendments being made</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon</p> <p>C Mallon</p> <p>Democratic Services</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Actioned</p>	
C/068/2020	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 11.06.2020	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/069/2020	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 15.06.2020	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	

C/070/2020	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 17.06.2020	<i>NS/156/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG FOULING ACROSS THE DISTRICT</i> It was agreed that a review of the Council Bye Laws be undertaken regarding dog fouling.	R Moore	To be undertaken	
		It was agreed Officers look at how other Councils tackle the issue of dog fouling and bring a paper back to the NS Committee.	R Moore	To be undertaken	
		It was agreed Officers circulate to Members details of all successful penalties Council had issued for dog fouling and illegal dumping throughout the district.	R Moore	Actioned	
		The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/071/2020	Minutes of Special SPR Committee Meeting held on 26.06.2020	<i>SPR/81/2020: PAVEMENT CAFÉ AND PROVISION OF OUTDOOR SPACE</i> It was agreed that Council write to Minister Long seeking clarity on licensing issues regarding the use of private lands.	Democratic Services	Letter sent to Minister for Justice.	
		The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/076/2020	Notice of Motion – Period Poverty Campaign	The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanlon: <i>"That this Council supports the 'Period Poverty' campaign and charities such as the Homeless Period and Red Box Project, the aim of these are to highlight the issue that sanitary products are not affordable for all females. As an initial step, that this Council looks at the feasibility of the introduction of free sanitary products in all council public conveniences. We should strive to proactively help efforts to tackle</i>		Included on agenda for AHC Committee to be held on 17 August 2020.	

		<p><i>period poverty and be part of bringing about such positive change.</i></p> <p><i>It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision.</i></p> <p><i>We as a Council will also write to the to the relevant ministers to ask for an update on the introduction of free sanitary products in schools and education facilities. Currently the North is the only area of the UK where free products are not provided to those in need”.</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	M Lipsett	Referred to AHC Committee	
C/077/2020	Notice of Motion – 100th Anniversary of The Creation of Northern Ireland	<p>The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanna:</p> <p><i>“As next year is 2021, the 100th anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland. Newry, Mourne and Down Council should seek to secure any funding from Westminster, Stormont or elsewhere that becomes available in the current year, or in 2021, to support events in the council area”.</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	C Moffett	Referred to Good Relations Forum	
C/078/2020	Notice of Motion - Coarse Fishing	<p>The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Enright:</p> <p><i>‘Recognising the importance of Coarse fishing to tourism and the local economy, particularly in the Quoile River, and noting the proactive approach taken by other Councils in Northern Ireland to restock fish on behalf of anglers, this Council will commit to fund</i></p>			

		<p><i>restocking of fish in line with other Council areas, carry out a review of Course fisheries across the District, and work with DEARA and other councils to develop a best practice approach.'</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the ERT Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	C Mallon	Referred to ERT Committee	
C/079/2020	Notice of Motion – Universal Basic Income for Northern Ireland	<p>The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown:</p> <p><i>'In the wake of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this Council recognises the need for a reformed, fairer welfare system that protects everyone in society.</i></p> <p><i>It recognises the need to provide economic security for all and invest in people to protect livelihoods and kickstart the economy.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, it calls on the Departments of Communities and Finance and the UK Treasury to design and deliver a recovery Universal Basic Income (UBI) for Northern Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, this Council supports in principle the investigation of a full, permanent UBI for Northern Ireland, recognising the need for a radical overhaul of the welfare state and the positive impact this would have on poverty alleviation, inequality and mental health in particular. Council will commit to producing a plan for how a pilot of a full UBI would be implemented within the District, and formally expresses its support for said pilot.'</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the ERT Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	C Mallon	Referred to ERT Committee	

C/080/2020	Notice of Motion – Covid 19 Impact and Recovery Campaign	It was agreed that Council recognises the unprecedented impact that Covid-19 global pandemic is having on our society and economy: commends the invaluable contribution made by our front-line workers who have provided vital service, selflessly, throughout this pandemic; believes that a fair and just and green economic recovery strategy is required in the aftermath of this crisis; agrees that an economic recovery strategy must not only recognise but also demonstrate that we value our front-line workers and want to protect them, and the most vulnerable, through any impending recession; understands that workers' rights and public services must be protected; commits to existing economic challenges being tackled by a just and green transition to a more high-skilled, regionally balanced and sustainable economy which works for workers, their families, and businesses; and calls on the Executive to ensure that these principles underpin an economic and society-wide recovery guided by a social partnership approach involving government, Trade Unions, businesses and the Third Sector."	Democratic Services	Letter sent to NIEO	
C/081/2020	Notice of Motion – Environmental Wardens	<p>The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Clarke:</p> <p><i>"Whilst this Council recognises the strategic importance of sustainable tourism as a local economic driver; it notes with growing concern that increasing numbers of visitors to the district is creating stress on our local environment, including many areas of ecologically sensitive importance. In recognition of this, this Council will bring forward options towards the establishment of Environmental Wardens - including delivery model, resource implications and partnership opportunities with existing organisations".</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the ERT Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	C Mallon	Referred to ERT Committee	

C/082/2020	Notice of Motion – New Civic Centre Project	<p>The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Malone:</p> <p><i>"The Council recognises that society has changed fundamentally within the last four months and there will most likely be austere times for many residents of our district for the foreseeable future, the Council also recognises the new financial realities in the time ahead for us as a local authority and therefore it is now time to postpone any further work on the proposed new civic centre project for the remainder of this term".</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the SPR Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	D Carville	Referred to SPR Committee 13.08.20	
C/083/2020	Notice of Motion – Distribution of Food Waste Bins	<p>The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Owen:</p> <p><i>"As this Council is promoting recycling as a key strategic objective, we need to commit to how this is delivered operationally. Distribution of small brown bins for food waste throughout council area is an important part of achieving our objective by helping residents separate their waste. Under Covid 19 restrictions normal practice of residents collecting these bins in person from Greenbank cannot occur at the moment, or in the near future. To ensure effective delivery of this service, council staff should commit to delivery of these bins to local areas and work with local councillors to support delivery of this service where practical. All bins distributed should be to a recorded address".</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the NS Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	R Moore	To be considered at August NS Committee	

C/084/2020	Emergency Motion – Reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital	<p>It was that Council supports the reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital.</p> <p>We recognise the tireless dedication and hard work of all the NHS staff during the COVID19 pandemic which is still ongoing.</p> <p>This Council however notes , with regret, that the SE Trust have not been able to provide a date for the restoration of the Emergency Dept / A&E; further regrets that hospital staff, local representatives, nor the local community were consulted about the introduction of a 7 days-a-week Minor Injuries Unit; We will seek a virtual meeting or in person with the Minister for Health to request urgent intervention and make immediate plans to restore all services at the Downe.</p>	Democratic Services	Letter sent to R Swann, Minister for Health	
C/085/2020	Emergency Motion – Ambulance Cover	<p>It was agreed Council is deeply concerned that the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area has been left with no NI Ambulance Service cover in recent days and has been reliant on the support of St. John's Ambulance Service and Rapid Response vehicles to provide cover in the area; expresses anger at the unacceptable lengthy delays in getting ambulances to the scene of a serious road accident and other emergencies over the weekend and asks the Council Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service requesting an urgent meeting with Councillors to discuss the lack of ambulance cover across the district; writes to the Health Minister Robin Swann seeking assurances that adequate funding has been sought and secured to ensure any potential ambulance triaging as part of a new-look post Covid-19 Emergency Service can operate without difficulty and tackle issues around crew shortages; and writes to Finance Minister Conor Murphy requesting that adequate funding is provided to the Department of</p>	Democratic Services	Letters sent to: NI Ambulance Service C Murphy, Minister for Finance R Swann, Minister for Health	

		Health and NIAS to ensure Emergency Services can be restored to Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals in the timeframes outlined by the Southern and South Eastern Health Care Trusts.			
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 July 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/061/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Harte.

Councillor Devlin acknowledged it was the first Council Meeting since March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic and her first as Chairperson.

Councillor Devlin acknowledged all those who had lost their lives due to Covid 19 and paid tribute to frontline staff, key workers, volunteers and council staff who had delivered essential services during the pandemic and said it was vital everyone adhered to guidelines

as restrictions were lifted.

Councillor Devlin welcomed Councillor Finnegan to her first Council meeting.

Mrs Ward advised Members that two emergency Notices of Motion were to be tabled at the Meeting and would require 16.1 of the Standing Orders to be suspended under a qualified majority. She said there would be a short recess to allow Members to look over the Motions before discussion would take place.

C/062/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms Carville, on behalf of all senior officers declared an interest in Item 8, Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Meeting held on 11 June 2020 – SPR/77/2020 – Annual Leave (Chief Officers)

Councillor Owen declared an interest in any health related matters.

C/063/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 March 2020 (copy circulated).

C/051/2020 2020 CF BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Walker seconded that Councillors Burgess and Owen attend the 2021 CF Battlefield Tours as they had been unable to attend the 2020 event due to it being cancelled as a result of Covid 19.

Agreed: Councillors Burgess and Owen attend the 2021 CF Battlefield Tours on the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Walker.

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 March 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Savage.

C/064/2020 MINUTES OF EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2020

Read: Minutes of Emergency Council Meeting held on 16 March 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Emergency Council Meeting held on 16 March 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

C/065/2020 **RECORD OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED
AUTHORITY AT PARTY REPS MEETINGS - MARCH - JULY 2020**

Read: The record of decisions taken under delegated authority at Party Reps Meetings held from March to July 2020.

In response to a query regarding the phased reopenings of the leisure centres, Mrs Ward advised information would be circulated to Members when guidance was received as to how Council fitted into the amendment of regulations.

Mrs Ward advised that whilst Officers were keen to resume physical meetings, this could only be done following government guidelines and the current platform for committee meetings was properly constituted following an amendment that had been made to the regulations by the Executive. Mrs Ward said she would bring a paper regarding this issue to the August 2020 Council Meeting.

Agreed: **It was agreed to stand down Delegated Authority on the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

Agreed: **The record of decisions taken under delegated authority at Party Reps Meetings March – July 2020 were agreed and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/066/2020 **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2020**

Read: Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/067/2020 **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2020**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2020 (copy circulated).

ERT/062/2020 ***AONB MANAGEMENT REVIEW / GEOPARK***

Councillor McAteer said he had requested a meeting with the NI Agricultural Producers Association along with the Ulster Farmers Union and asked that the Minutes were amended to reflect this.

Councillor McKee asked if there had been any further engagement with farmers regarding the Geopark proposal and if a meeting could be arranged with Mrs Ward, Mr Mallon and the

Mourne AONB Residents Action Group.

In response, Mr Mallon said a meeting with the Ulster Farmers Union was being arranged to take place towards the end of July and he would ensure the NI Agricultural Producers Association were also invited to the meeting. Mr Mallon also said he would speak to Councillor McKee regarding a meeting with the Mourne AONB Residents Action Group to discuss key people who should be in attendance.

Agreed: **It was agreed to amend the Minutes to include the NI Agricultural Producers Association when arranging the Meeting with the Ulster Farmers Union.**

ERT/065/2020 NEWCASTLE HARBOUR: LEASE OF SLIPWAY

Councillor McKee asked if some form of clothing storage for swimmers could be provided. Councillor Clarke also asked if this would be possible. Mr Mallon replied he would investigate providing a facility for clothing storage for swimmers.

Agreed: **It was agreed that officers would investigate the possibility of providing clothing storage facilities for swimmers at Newcastle Harbour.**

ERT/047/2020 ERT SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Councillor Sharvin asked for assurance that no decisions had been taken to amend any of the Service Level Agreements and enquired as to when this item would be tabled at the SPR Committee Meeting.

Mr Mallon said no decision had been taken to amend the SLAs as they were currently subject to review and an update would be tabled at the SPR Committee Meeting in August 2020.

ERT/063/2020 CONSULTATION RE: FREE PORTS

Councillor Clarke stated he had concerns regarding free ports and although he acknowledged it was still at local consultation stage, asked that his objections be noted.

ERT/064/2020 WARRENPOINT BATHS

Councillor McAteer stated that more detail be brought forward from Officers regarding the restoration of the baths and proposed that discussions be had involving the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Historic Environment Division. Councillor Byrne seconded the proposal.

Mr Mallon stated the proposal would be taken forward at the ERT Committee Meeting.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne that Officers arrange to have discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Historic Environment Division regarding the restoration of the Warrenpoint Baths.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the**

proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews subject to the above amendments being made.

**C/068/2020 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2020**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2020, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor O'Muir.**

**C/069/2020 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2020**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2020 (copy circulated).

AHC/62/2020 REOPENING OF OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES – PHASE 2

In response to queries from Members, Mr Lipsett confirmed that those tennis courts that could accommodate bookings and where the track and trace initiative could be facilitated would be reopened from Friday 10 July. Mr Lipsett said the grass pitches would remain closed until September, this was normal practice to allow maintenance to be carried out, however individual cases could be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Members raised a number of queries not pertaining to the AHC Minutes, which, it was agreed would be addressed offline with Directors.

Mrs Ward advised that as soon as updated guidance regarding the reopening of all facilities was received from Stormont, it would be circulated to Members.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor O'Muir, seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

**C/070/2020 MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2020**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2020 (copy circulated).

NS/156/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG FOULING ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Councillor Andrews stated the incidences of dog fouling had increased significantly during

the Covid 19 period and proposed a review of the Council Bye Laws be undertaken with a view to naming and shaming offenders. Councillor Lewis seconded the proposal.

Councillor Hanna stated a lot of work had been done previously regarding this issue and more action was needed to address it. Mr Moore replied that findings from previous work carried out would be used in the process going forward.

Councillor Trainor agreed the issue of dog fouling needed to be addressed and proposed that Officers look at how other Councils tackled the issue, in particular Ards and North Down Council which had a high rate of enforcement and had undertaken a variety of initiatives. Councillor Trainor asked that a paper be brought back to NS Committee in this regard. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Councillor Mulgrew asked that Officers circulate to Members details of all successful penalties Council had issued for dog fouling and illegal dumping throughout the district.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lewis that a review of the Council Bye Laws be undertaken regarding dog fouling.**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor seconded by Councillor Andrews that Officers look at how other Councils tackle the issue of dog fouling and bring a paper back to the NS Committee.**

Agreed: **It was agreed that Officers circulate to Members details of all successful penalties Council had issued for dog fouling and illegal dumping throughout the district.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2020, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Owens subject to the amendments above.**

C/071/2020 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2020**

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 26 June 2020 (copy circulated).

SPR/81/2020 **PAVEMENT CAFÉ AND PROVISION OF OUTDOOR SPACE**

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding extended alcohol licences for businesses, Mr Mallon advised there were three distinct options open to businesses:

1. Pavement Café Licence
2. Use of council land – where the existing liquor licence could be transferred for events
3. Occasional licences – would cover up to 30 events per year

Councillor Sharvin proposed Council write to Minister Naomi Long seeking clarity on licensing issues regarding the use of private lands. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed that Council write to Minister Long seeking clarity on licensing issues regarding the use of private lands.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 26 June 2020, were agreed as an accurate recorded and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

C/072/2020 **EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2020**

Read: Extract of Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2020. (copy circulated)

Noted: **There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2020.**

CORRESPONDENCE

C/073/2020 **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – MARCH & JUNE 2020**

Read: Bulletins dated March and June 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletins were noted.**

C/074/2020 **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE: MOTION C/058/2020 BENEFIT SYSTEM FOR TERMINALLY ILL**

Read: Correspondence dated 15 May 2020 from the Department for Communities in relation to Motion C/058/2020, Benefit System for Terminally Ill. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence from the Department for Communities was noted.**

C/075/2020 **FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE MOTION C/037/2020 –A1 JUNCTIONS**

Read: Correspondence dated 5 May 2020 from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in relation to Motion C/037/2020, A1 Junctions.

Agreed: The correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council was noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/076/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – PERIOD POVERTY CAMPAIGN

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanlon:

"That this Council supports the "Period Poverty" campaign and charities such as the Homeless Period and Red Box Project, the aim of these are to highlight the issue that sanitary products are not affordable for all females.

As an initial step, that this Council looks at the feasibility of the introduction of free sanitary products in all council public conveniences.

We should strive to proactively help efforts to tackle period poverty and be part of bringing about such positive change.

It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision.

We as a Council will also write to the to the relevant ministers to ask for an update on the introduction of free sanitary products in schools and education facilities. Currently the North is the only area of the UK where free products are not provided to those in need".

Councillor McEvoy seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

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

C/077/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanna:

"As next year is 2021, the 100th anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland. Newry, Mourne and Down Council should seek to secure any funding from Westminster, Stormont or elsewhere that becomes available in the current year, or in 2021, to support events in the council area".

Councillor Walker seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Good Relations Forum.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/078/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION - COARSE FISHING

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Enright:

'Recognising the importance of Coarse fishing to tourism and the local economy, particularly in the Quoile River, and noting the proactive approach taken by other Councils in Northern Ireland to restock fish on behalf of anglers, this Council will commit to fund restocking of fish in line with other Council areas, carry out a review of Coarse fisheries across the District, and work with DEARA and other councils to develop a best practice approach.'

Councillor Brown seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

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

C/079/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown:

'In the wake of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this Council recognises the need for a reformed, fairer welfare system that protects everyone in society.

It recognises the need to provide economic security for all and invest in people to protect livelihoods and kickstart the economy.

Therefore, it calls on the Departments of Communities and Finance and the UK Treasury to design and deliver a recovery Universal Basic Income (UBI) for Northern Ireland.

Additionally, this Council supports in principle the investigation of a full, permanent UBI for Northern Ireland, recognising the need for a radical overhaul of the welfare state and the positive impact this would have on poverty alleviation, inequality and mental health in particular. Council will commit to producing a plan for how a pilot of a full UBI would be implemented within the District, and formally expresses its support for said pilot.'

Councillor Trainor seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

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

C/080/2020: **NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID 19 IMPACT AND RECOVERY CAMPAIGN**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Mason:

"That this Council recognises the unprecedented impact that Covid-19 global pandemic is having on our society and economy; commends the invaluable contribution made by our front-line workers who have provided vital service, selflessly, throughout this pandemic; believes that a fair and just and green economic recovery strategy is required in the aftermath of this crisis; agrees that an economic recovery strategy must not only recognise but also demonstrate that we value our front-line workers and want to protect them, and the most vulnerable, through any impending recession; understands that workers' rights and public services must be protected; commits to existing economic challenges being tackled by a just and green transition to a more high-skilled, regionally balanced and sustainable economy which works for workers, their families, and businesses; and calls on the Executive to ensure that these principles underpin an economic and society-wide recovery guided by a social partnership approach involving government, Trade Unions, businesses and the Third Sector."

In proposing the motion Councillor Mason said the coronavirus pandemic had highlighted there was a need to plan for an economic and social recovery and a strategy to do so should be put in place.

Councillor Mason stated the outworkings of the crisis must not be further austerity, and an argument for economic stimulus had to be made, otherwise the interventions to date would have been in vain with escalating unemployment in the district, economic stagnation and greater inequalities. Covid had changed so much and decisions would need to be made as to how to move forward and re-open society.

Councillor Mason outlined the following key principles for a strategy for recovery:

- 1) Supporting workers and families.
- 2) Supporting businesses to create and sustain employment
- 3) A Just transition to a net zero carbon society

Councillor Clarke seconded the Motion and paid tribute to the valuable work of all frontline workers commenting that there needed to be investment in a just transition for all of society. The recent crisis had strengthened the argument for stimulus and the provision of a substantial green jobs programme with apprenticeship schemes fit for purpose working with colleges, support for a zero carbon society, renewable energy systems and the need for building blocks towards a new green economy. Councillor Clarke spoke of the need for an equal and green society.

Members from each of the political party's spoke in support of the motion and it was unanimously agreed.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Clarke that Council recognises the unprecedented impact that Covid-19 global pandemic is having on our society and economy; commends the invaluable contribution made by our front-line workers who have provided vital service, selflessly, throughout this pandemic; believes that a fair and just and green economic recovery strategy is required in the aftermath of this crisis; agrees that an economic recovery strategy must not only recognise but also demonstrate that we value our front-line workers and want to protect them, and the most vulnerable, through any impending recession; understands that workers' rights and public services must be protected; commits to existing economic challenges being tackled by a just and green transition to a more high-skilled, regionally balanced and sustainable economy which works for workers, their families, and businesses; and calls on the Executive to ensure that these principles underpin an economic and society-wide recovery guided by a social partnership approach involving government, Trade Unions, businesses and the Third Sector."

C/081/2020:

NOTICE OF MOTION – ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Clarke:

"Whilst this Council recognises the strategic importance of sustainable tourism as a local economic driver; it notes with growing concern that increasing numbers of visitors to the district is creating stress on our local environment, including many areas of ecologically sensitive importance. In recognition of this, this Council will bring forward options towards the establishment of Environmental Wardens - including delivery model, resource implications and partnership opportunities with existing organisations".

Councillor Mason seconded the motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

Agreed:

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

C/082/2020:

NOTICE OF MOTION – NEW CIVIC CENTRE PROJECT

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Malone:

In response to a query from Councillor Brown the Chief Executive confirmed officers continue to work on all projects.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

C/083/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD WASTE BINS

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Owen:

"As this Council is promoting recycling as a key strategic objective, we need to commit to how this is delivered operationally. Distribution of small brown bins for food waste throughout council area is an important part of achieving our objective by helping residents separate their waste. Under Covid 19 restrictions normal practice of residents collecting these bins in person from Greenbank cannot occur at the moment, or in the near future. To ensure effective delivery of this service, council staff should commit to delivery of these bins to local areas and work with local councillors to support delivery of this service where practical. All bins distributed should be to a recorded address"

Councillor Hanna seconded the motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Trainor to adjourn the meeting for Members to consider the two emergency motions that had been put forward.

Meeting was adjourned – 8.15pm.

Meeting resumed – 8.30pm.

The Chairperson advised Members that Councillors Hanlon and Savage wished to bring forward Emergency Notices of Motion at this stage, and in order to do so, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders, for which a qualified majority vote was required (80% of Members present and voting).

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKee to suspend standing orders 16.1 at this point in the meeting to allow for the tabling of two emergency motions, due to the urgency of the issues and the importance to the District. The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	35
AGAINST:	0
ABSENTIONS:	0

It was unanimously agreed by qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1. (copy attached)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the emergency Notices of Motion received from Councillors Hanlon and Savage for those items only.

C/084/2020: EMERGENCY MOTION – REINSTATEMENT OF A&E AT DOWNE HOSPITAL

The following Emergency Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanlon:

“This Council supports the reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital. We recognise the tireless dedication and hard work of all the NHS staff during the COVID19 pandemic which is still ongoing. This Council however notes, with regret that the SE Trust have not been able to provide a date for the restoration of the Emergency Dept / A&E; further regrets that hospital staff, local representatives, nor the local community were consulted about the introduction of a 7 days-a-week Minor Injuries Unit; We will write to Minister for Health to request urgent intervention and make immediate plans to restore all services at the Downe”.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Hanlon voiced her disappointment that staff at the Downe Hospital had yet to be consulted regarding a date for the restoration of the A&E department however at recent meetings the Southern Trust had been able to provide a date for the restoration of services at the Daisy Hill Hospital. Councillor Hanlon stated it was not acceptable that there were no A&E services in this part of the constituency.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Trainor paid tribute to all NHS staff and those working within the healthcare sector during the Covid 19 Pandemic. He pointed out that for 3 months the people of South Down, Newry and Slieve Gullion had gone without local emergency cover and given the timeline of events it was important that the Minister made a commitment to the people of Newry, Mourne and Down that he would work with those within his department and the Trust to ensure the full reintroduction of Services at the Downe as soon as possible.

Members from each of the political party's spoke at length in support of the motion.

Councillor Walker proposed a minor amendment to the Motion which s follows:

"This Council supports the reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital. We recognise the tireless dedication and hard work of all the NHS staff during the COVID19 pandemic which is still ongoing. This Council however notes , with regret, that the SE Trust have not been able to provide a date for the restoration of the Emergency Dept / A&E; further regrets that hospital staff, local representatives, nor the local community were consulted about the introduction of a 7 days-a-week Minor Injuries Unit; We will seek a virtual meeting or in person with the Minister for Health to request urgent intervention and make immediate plans to restore all services at the Downe".

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Brown.

Councillors Hanlon and Trainor accepted the amendment to meet with the Minister of Health and requested that the meeting include the Health Working Group.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Trainor that Council supports the reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital. We recognise the tireless dedication and hard work of all the NHS staff during the COVID19 pandemic which is still ongoing. This Council however notes , with regret, that the SE Trust have not been able to provide a date for the restoration of the Emergency Dept / A&E; further regrets that hospital staff, local representatives, nor the local community were consulted about the introduction of a 7 days-a-week Minor Injuries Unit; We will seek a virtual meeting or in person with the Minister for Health to request urgent intervention and make immediate plans to restore all services at the Downe.**

C/085/2020: EMERGENCY MOTION – AMBULANCE COVER

The following Emergency Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Savage:

"This Council is deeply concerned that the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area has been left with no NI Ambulance Service cover in recent days and has been reliant on the support of St. John's Ambulance Service and Rapid Response vehicles to provide cover in the area; expresses anger at the unacceptable lengthy delays in getting ambulances to the scene of a serious road accident and other emergencies over the weekend and asks the Council Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service requesting an urgent meeting with Councillors to discuss the lack of ambulance cover across the district; writes to the Health Minister Robin Swann seeking assurances that adequate funding has been sought and secured to ensure any potential ambulance triaging as part of a new-look post Covid-19

Emergency Service can operate without difficulty and tackle issues around crew shortages; and writes to Finance Minister Conor Murphy requesting that adequate funding is provided to the Department of Health and NIAS to ensure Emergency Services can be restored to Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals in the timeframes outlined by the Southern and South Eastern Health Care Trusts”.

In proposing the motion Councillor Savage advised the emergency motion brought forward reflected the deep concerns of every elected representative and the people they represent.

Councillor Savage referred to a serious road traffic incident that morning and another incident over the weekend when ambulance crews were required and their response times were an hour and 2 hours following the emergency calls and that waiting times were unacceptable and due to lack of cover. He paid tribute to the heroic work of Ambulance crews who were being led by a system not fit for purpose.

Councillor Savage questioned why this area was being left with no cover during a pandemic and when there were no emergency departments in Daisy Hill or Downe Hospital as part of the response to Covid 19 and urged Members to support the motion.

In seconding the motion, Councillor McKeivitt expressed her disappointment that the District had been left with no emergency cover in the emergency departments and no ambulance cover. She pointed out the Health Service was a business of saving lives, not pennies and that it was time for investment in emergency services within South Down.

Councillor Andrews, Byrne, Hanna, Taylor, Trainor and Reilly spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Ó Muirí advised his party broadly agreed with the motion however it was the Northern Ireland Executive that decided a budget in March and that Council should write to the Executive as opposed to individual Ministers.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed an amendment to read as follows:

"This Council is deeply concerned that the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area has been left with no NI Ambulance Service cover in recent days and has been reliant on the support of St. John's Ambulance Service and Rapid Response vehicles to provide cover in the area; expresses anger at the unacceptable lengthy delays in getting ambulances to the scene of a serious road accident and other emergencies over the weekend and asks the Council Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service requesting an urgent meeting with Councillors to discuss the lack of ambulance cover across the district; *writing to the Executive requesting that adequate funding is provided to the Department of Health and NIAS to ensure Emergency Services can be restored to Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals in the timeframes outlined by the Southern and South Eastern Health Care Trusts.*"

Councillor Howell seconded the proposed amendment.

Councillor Savage did not accept the proposed amendment and the Chairperson then put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy of recorded vote

appended to these minutes)

FOR: 14
AGAINST: 16
ABSENT: 11

The proposal was LOST.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt Council is deeply concerned that the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area has been left with no NI Ambulance Service cover in recent days and has been reliant on the support of St. John's Ambulance Service and Rapid Response vehicles to provide cover in the area; expresses anger at the unacceptable lengthy delays in getting ambulances to the scene of a serious road accident and other emergencies over the weekend and asks the Council Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service requesting an urgent meeting with Councillors to discuss the lack of ambulance cover across the district; writes to the Health Minister Robin Swann seeking assurances that adequate funding has been sought and secured to ensure any potential ambulance triaging as part of a new-look post Covid-19 Emergency Service can operate without difficulty and tackle issues around crew shortages; and writes to Finance Minister Conor Murphy requesting that adequate funding is provided to the Department of Health and NIAS to ensure Emergency Services can be restored to Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals in the timeframes outlined by the Southern and South Eastern Health Care Trusts.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.02pm.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 6th July 2020

VENUE: Skype Meeting

MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Qualified Majority Vote to suspend Standing Order 16.1 to allow discussion for Emergency Notices of Motion

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
P Brown	2			
R Burgess				1
P Byrne	3			
C Casey	4			
W Clarke	5			
D Curran	34			
L Devlin	6			
S Doran	7			
C Enright				2
A Finnegan	8			
H Gallagher				3
M Gibbons	9			
O Hanlon	10			
G Hanna	11			
V Harte				4
R Howell	12			
M Larkin	13			
A Lewis	14			
O Magennis	15			
G Malone	16			
C Mason	17			
D McAteer	18			
L McEvoy	19			
H McKee	20			
K McKevitt	21			
A McMurray	22			
R Mulgrew				5
D Murphy	23			
G O'Hare	24			
B Ó Muirí	25			
K Owen	26			
H Reilly	27			
M Ruane	35			
M Savage	28			
G Sharvin	29			
G Stokes	30			
D Taylor	31			
J Tinnelly				6
J Trainor	32			
B Walker	33			
TOTALS	35	0	0	6

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 6th July 2020

VENUE: Skype Meeting

MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Amendment to Emergency Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		1		
P Brown		2		
R Burgess				x
P Byrne		3		
C Casey	1			
W Clarke	2			
D Curran		4		
L Devlin		5		
S Doran	3			
C Enright				x
A Finnegan	4			
H Gallagher				x
M Gibbons	13			
O Hanlon	5			
G Hanna		6		
V Harte				x
R Howell	6			
M Larkin	7			
A Lewis				x
O Magennis	8			
G Malone		7		
C Mason	9			
D McAteer		8		
L McEvoy	14			x
H McKee		9		
K McKevitt		10		
A McMurray		11		
R Mulgrew				x
D Murphy				x
G O'Hare	10			
B Ó Muirí	11			
K Owen				x
H Reilly		12		
M Ruane	12			
M Savage		13		
G Sharvin		14		
G Stokes		15		
D Taylor				x
J Tinnelly				x
J Trainor		16		
B Walker				x
TOTALS	14	16	0	11

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 06 July 2020 via Skype.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor K Owen
Councillor G Sharvin

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services
Mr K Montgomery Assistant Director,
Corporate Services (Finance)
Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager
Mr G Ringland IT Manager Information
Technology
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services
Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM
Mr B O'Neill NIAO
Mr P Barr NIAO

AC/021/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor M Ruane

AC/022/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in agenda Item 10 regarding the Annual Review of the Chairperson's Performance.

Ms Slevin declared an interest in agenda Item 10 regarding the Annual Review of the Chairperson's Performance.

AC/023/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 09 JANUARY 2020

Read: Action Sheet arising out of Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 09 January 2020.

(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Owen seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 09 January 2020.**

AC/024/2020: IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON AUDIT COMMITTEE

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services regarding implications of Covid-19 on the work of the Audit Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville presented the above report. She informed Members of details regarding the financial implications resulting from the Coronavirus Pandemic and explained the process going forward in terms of completion of the Council's Annual Audit and signing off of the Annual Accounts.

She referred to risk management within the organisation and the Council's Performance Improvement timetable. She said the Council's ability to achieve it's objectives had been significantly impacted by Covid-19 and that publishing of the 2020-21 Performance Improvement Plan would not be required by 30 June. However, management were awaiting further guidance on this matter from DfC.

She said the Council's financial position had been discussed at a recent Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting and she confirmed a going concern assessment had been undertaken.

She gave assurances to the Committee that all pre-existing risks would continue to be addressed.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 06 July 2020 from Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services regarding the implications of Covid-19 on the work of the Audit Committee.**

**AC/025/2020: DATE AND START TIME
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2020/21**

Read: List of agreed dates, and proposed start times for Audit Committee Meetings for 2020/2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed to note the Audit Committee dates, already approved by Council, and agree the start time, as follows, in respect of Audit Committee Meetings from July 2020 to April 2021:

- Monday 06 July 2020 at 2.00pm
- Thursday 24 September 2020 at 2.00pm
- Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 2.00pm
- Thursday 22 April 2021 at 2.00pm

It was also agreed to note a Special Meeting of the Audit Committee will be held on Monday 07 December 2020 to sign off Annual Accounts.

**AC/026/2020: AUDIT COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Read: Terms of Reference for Audit Committee.
(Approved by Council on 4 March 2019)
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to note the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee, as approved by Council on 4 March 2019.

AC/027/2020: AUDIT COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

Read: Audit Committee Timetable.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Audit Committee Timetable.

**AC/028/2020: ANNUAL REVIEW
CHAIRPERSONS PERFORMANCE
AUDIT COMMITTEE 2019/20**

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services, regarding the Annual Review of the Chairpersons Performance in respect of the Audit Committee 2019/20. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Annual Review of the Chairperson's Performance in respect of the Audit Committee for the period July 2019 to April 2020.

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)

**AC/029/2020: ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK / CODE OF
GOVERNANCE
AND
(DRAFT) ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Assurance Framework/Code of Governance and the (Draft) Annual Governance Statement.
(Copy circulated)

Mr Byrne presented the detail in the Assurance Framework and the (Draft) Annual Governance Statement, highlighting key areas to members. Mr Byrne noted that the Governance Statement would be subject to change up until the date the accounts were signed.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed:

(a) To note the Council's Assurance Framework (and the Code of Governance).

(b) To approve the (Draft) Annual Governance Statement 2019/20, including the disclosure of the significant Governance issues contained in the Statement.

AC/030/2020: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

It was noted all risks had been updated to reflect the implication of Covid-19.

Ms Carville explained the detail regarding new Risks Nos. CR13 and CR14 which related solely to Covid-19.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 06 July 2020 from Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services, regarding the Corporate Risk Register.

It was also noted training would be provided in due course regarding changes to The Orange Book Management of Risk – Principles and Concepts.

AC/031/2020: PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Prompt Payment Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the Report on Prompt Payment Statistics and that an annual comparison report be provided to a future Meeting of the Audit Committee.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Owen seconded by Councillor Gibbons, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during these items of business.

AC/032/2020: UPDATE RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding an update on Internal Audit Recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/033/2020: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Direct Award Contracts (DAC), (or Single Tender Actions STAs). **(Copy circulated)**

AC/034/2020: UPDATE RE: CYBER SECURITY

Read: Presentation document from Mr G Ringland IT Manager Information Technology, regarding Cyber Security. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/035/2020: FRAUD & WHISTLEBLOWING

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Fraud and Whistleblowing. **(Copy circulated)**

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/036/2020: ASM SUMMARY REPORT

Read: ASM Summary Report for period 10 January 2020 – 06 July 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/037/2020: ASM (DRAFT) INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2020-2021

Read: ASM (draft) Internal Audit Plan 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/038/2020: ASM ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORT 2019/20

Read: Correspondence dated 28 June 2020 from ASM regarding the Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report 2019/20. **(Copy circulated)**

- AC/039/2020: ASM REVIEW OF PRIOR YEAR RECOMMENDATIONS 2018/19**
- Read: Correspondence dated 09 June 2020 from ASM regarding a follow up review of prior year recommendations 2018/19. **(Copy circulated)**
- AC/040/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - LEISURE AND TIME RECORDING**
- Read: Correspondence dated 28 April 2020 from ASM Internal Audit re: Fieldwork visit 2019/20 – Leisure Services – timesheets; TOIL; Annual Leave. **(Copy circulated)**
- AC/041/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**
- Read: Correspondence dated 24 June 2020 from ASM Internal Audit re: Fieldwork visit – Contract Management. **(Copy circulated)**
- AC/042/2020: ASM ADVISORY REPORT RE: HEALTH AND SAFETY**
- Read: Correspondence dated 09 June 2020 from ASM regarding a Health & Safety facilities review for fire risk; asbestos; legionella checking. **(Copy circulated)**
- AC/043/2020: ASM REVIEW – BUILDING CONTROL RE: DURING PERFORMANCE INSPECTIONS**
- Read: Correspondence dated 08 March 2020 from ASM Internal Audit re: Fieldwork visit – Building Control – During Performance Inspections. **(Copy circulated)**
- AC/044/2020: ASM REVIEW OF FULL FIBRE NORTHERN IRELAND (FFNI)**
- Read: Report from ASM Internal Audit (dated 24 June 2020) re: Audit Fieldwork – Review of Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI). **(Copy circulated)**

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)

**AC/045/2020: NIAO
NMDDC AUDIT STRATEGY 2019/20**

Read: NIAO re Newry Mourne and Down District Council Audit Strategy 2019/20. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/046/2020: NIAO
DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Read: Correspondence dated 27 February 2020 from NIAO regarding NIAO Director Responsibilities.
(Copy circulated)

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

When the Committee came out of Closed Session the Director of Corporate Services reported the following decisions had been taken on the items discussed:

AC/032/2020: Update re: Audit Recommendations

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update regarding Audit Recommendations.

AC/033/2020: Direct Award Contracts

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 06 July from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager, regarding Direct Award Contracts and that a detailed report from ASM investigating the process of Direct Award Contracts, to be tabled at the Audit Committee Meeting in September 2020.

AC/034/2020: Cyber Security

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided by Mr G Ringland IT Manager, regarding Cyber Security.

AC/035/2020: Fraud & Whistleblowing

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided regarding Fraud & Whistleblowing.

AC/036/2020: ASM Summary Report

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the ASM Summary Report for period 10 January 2020 – 06 July 2020.

It was also agreed Officers report back to the Audit Committee with clarification regarding a policy and implementation date in respect of time management procedures for Leisure Centres.

AC/037/2020: ASM (Draft) Internal Audit Plan 2020/21

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to approve the ASM Internal Audit Plan 2020/21.

AC/038/2020: ASM Annual Assurance Report 2019/20

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the ASM Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report 2019/20.

AC/039/2020: ASM Review of Prior year Recommendations 2018/19

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the ASM Review of prior year recommendations 2018/19.

AC/040/2020: ASM Internal Audit Report – Leisure & Time Recording

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Internal Audit Report from ASM (dated 28 April 2020) regarding Leisure Services.

AC/041/2020: ASM Internal Audit Report – Contract Management

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Internal Audit Report from ASM (dated 24 June 2020) regarding Contract Management.

AC/042/2020: ASM Advisory Report re Health & Safety

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the ASM Advisory Report regarding Health & Safety facilities review.

AC/043/2020: ASM Review of Building Control During Performance Inspections

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Internal Audit Report from ASM (dated 08 March 2020) regarding Building Control - During Performance Inspections.

AC/044/2020: ASM Review of Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report from ASM (dated 24 June 2020) regarding a Review of Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI).

AC/045/2020: NIAO NMDDC Audit Strategy 2019/20

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to approve the Newry Mourne and Down District Council Audit Strategy 2019/20.

AC/046/2020: NIAO Director Responsibilities

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note correspondence dated 27 February 2020 from NIAO regarding NIAO Director Responsibilities.

NIAO (OPEN SESSION)

**AC/047/2020: NIAO
RAISING CONCERNS – BEST PRACTICE GUIDE**

Read: NIAO Raising Concerns : A good practice guide for the Northern Ireland Public Sector. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the NIAO Raising Concerns: A good practice guide for the Northern Ireland Public Sector.

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)

**AC/048/2020: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
RE: SUSPENDED PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT
PLAN 2020/21**

Read: Correspondence dated 11 June 2020 from Department for Communities regarding suspension of publishing Performance Improvement Plans 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note correspondence from the Department for Communities regarding suspension of publishing Performance Improvement Plans 2020/21.

CIRCULARS

AC/049/2020: ACCOUNTS DIRECTIVE TO DISTRICT COUNCILS 2019/20

Read: Circular LG 03/20 - Correspondence dated 17 February 2020 from Department for Communities regarding Accounts Direction 2019/20: Northern Ireland District Councils.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Accounts Direction to District Councils 2019/20.

AC/050/2020: CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Read: Circular LG 08/20 - Correspondence dated 03 April 2020 from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Councillor Allowances . **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Councillor Allowances.

AC/051/2020: RATES STATISTICS

Read: Circular LG 09/20 - Correspondence dated 12 March 2020 from Department for Communities regarding District Council (Northern Ireland) Rate Statistics 2020/2021 . **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note correspondence from Department for Communities regarding District Council (Northern Ireland) Rate Statistics 2020/2021.

AC/052/2020: RECORD OF COUNCILLORS' AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FUNDED BY COUNCIL 2019/2020

Read: Circular LG 13/20 - Correspondence dated 12 May 2020 from Department for Communities regarding Record of Councillors' and Committee Members' Allowances funded by Council 2019/20. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Record of Councillors' and Committee Members' Allowances funded by Council 2019/20.

CHAIRPERSON ITEMS

AC/053/2020: AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF ASSESSMENT 2019/20

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Ms B Slevin Independent Chair of Audit Committee regarding the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2019/20.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to approve the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2019/20.

AC/054/2020: AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Read: Report dated 06 July 2020 from Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson of Audit Committee, regarding the Audit Committee Annual Report 2019/20. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to approve the Audit Committee Annual Report 2019/20.

It was also agreed the Audit Committee Annual Report 2019/20 will be reported to Council.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 August 2020.

Signed: Ms D Carville
Director Corporate Services

Signed: Ms B Slevin
Independent Chairperson

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Audit Committee
Annual Report for 2019/2020

1. Overview

This Annual Report provides an overview of the Audit Committee activities for the Financial Year 2019/20 and demonstrates how the Committee has met its key responsibilities. Any outstanding items of business not conducted in April 2020 were included in the next meeting in July 2020.

The Audit Committee met on three occasions during the year; on 3 July 2019, 24 September 2019 and 09 January 2020. The Meeting scheduled for 23 April 2020 did not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown. A programme of work has been agreed by the Audit Committee and is allocated over a schedule of four meetings during the year. Any outstanding items of business not concluded in April 2020 were included in the next meeting in July 2020.

The role of the Audit Committee is to support the Chief Executive (Accounting Officer) and Council by reviewing the comprehensiveness and reliability of assurances on governance, risk management, the control environment and the integrity of the financial statements.

2. Attendance

2.1 Members' attendance at committee meetings were as follows:

	Audit Committee	Audit Committee	Audit Committee	Audit Committee		Totals
	03-Jul-19	24-Sep-19	09-Jan-20	*23-Apr-20		
Ms B Slevin	✓	✓	✓			3 / 3
Cllr P Byrne	✓	✓	✓			3 / 3
Cllr W Clarke		✓	✓			2 / 3
Cllr L Devlin			✓			1 / 3
**Cllr T Andrews		✓				1 / 3
Cllr C Enright		✓	✓			2 / 3
Cllr M Gibbons	✓					1 / 3
Cllr O Hanlon	✓	✓	✓			3 / 3
***Cllr H Harvey	✓					1 / 3
Cllr K Owen			✓			1 / 3
Cllr A Lewis	✓		✓			2 / 3
Cllr G Sharvin	✓		✓			2 / 3
Cllr M Ruane	✓		✓			2 / 3

*Audit Committee Meeting scheduled for 23 April 2020 did not take place due to the Coronavirus Pandemic lockdown

******Cllr Andrews attended the Audit Committee Meeting 24 September 2019 only, as a replacement for Cllr L Devlin

*******Cllr Harvey left Council and was replaced by Cllr K Owen

2.2 Ms Brona Slevin was appointed as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee in March 2019 and in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference took up the role of Chairperson in July 2019 after the previous Chairperson Mr Joe Campbell, stepped down.

2.3 The Audit Committee meetings requires the attendance of the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and the Internal Auditors. The Audit Services Manager, Assistant Director of Finance and NIAO representatives also usually attend and the Senior Management Team and other Senior Officers attend by invitation.

3. Performance Evaluation

3.1 In accordance with best practice, the Audit Committee self-assessed its performance against the National Audit Office Checklist for Audit Committees during the year and the results were presented to the meeting on 06 July 2020. This was unavoidably delayed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Committee agreed the following actions/recommendations to build effectiveness:

Principle 2: Skills

- (a) Political parties to be asked to give consideration to appointing Elected Members for a term greater than one year where possible which will enable knowledge and skills to be built up in this area

Principle 3 and 4: The role and scope of the Committee

- (b) The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference should be approved by the Audit Committee annually. This will be completed in July 2020.
- (c) A report on Cyber Risk Management to be presented to the Audit Committee. This will be presented in July 2020.
- (d) A paper on Assurance mapping to be presented to the Audit Committee. This will be presented to the July 2020 Audit Committee meeting.
- (e) A paper on the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing Risk of Fraud and Corruption will be presented to the Audit Committee in July 2020.

Principle 5: Communication and Reporting

- (f) Officers to strive to ensure Internal Audit reports and the Financial Statements are completed and reported on a timely basis to the Audit Committee.

- (g) Officers to strive to ensure that all papers are provided on a timely basis to Democratic Services so that papers are issued in compliance with standing orders so that Members have sufficient time to review them.

Members can take reassurance from the number of good practice questions that have been answered 'yes' demonstrating that the Audit Committee is following best practice and operating effectively.

3.2 An appraisal of the Chairperson performance was also completed by the Chief Executive and Councillor Byrne and was deemed satisfactory.

4. Terms of Reference

A review of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference was undertaken and approved by Council on 5 March 2019 as part of the review of the terms of references of all Committees of Council. The Audit Committee noted the approved Terms of Reference at its meeting on 15 April 2019. The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference was approved at the Audit Committee Meeting in July 2020. The delay was due to the cancellation of the Audit Committee Meeting April 2020 resulting from the Coronavirus lockdown.

5. 2018/19 Financial Statements and External Audit

The Council's Audited Financial Statements for 2018/19 including the Annual Governance Statement were reviewed by the Audit Committee on 24 September 2019. The Committee also reviewed the draft report to those charged with governance.

The Audit Committee was pleased to note that the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) had certified the financial Statements with an unqualified audit Opinion and the Audit Committee approved the Accounts for signing within the statutory deadline of 30 September 2019.

The Audit Committee noted the contents of final report to those charged with governance with management responses and the Annual Audit Letter at its meeting on 09 January 2020.

6. Risk Management

The Committee welcomed the continued good progress made by Officers on Risk Management and the structure put in place to ensure ownership and management of risk at all levels of the organisation.

The Council has a Corporate Risk Register which identifies the key corporate level risks faced, and to be managed. Each corporate risk is linked to specific priorities set out by the Council in its Corporate Plan. The Corporate Risk Register and mitigating actions are

scrutinised at each Audit Committee meeting. Risk management is also a standing agenda item at monthly meetings of the SMT.

There were 14 corporate risks on the Corporate Risk Register at July 2020 (information at April 2020 is not available due to the Audit Committee meeting not taking place as a result of the Corona Virus) and the corporate risks with the highest residual scores (shown in brackets) were as follows:

CR. 02 Breach of legislation in relation to the procurement of goods and services and works (20)

CR. 04 Failure to effectively manage waste (20)

CR. 05 – Failure to provide timely planning decisions (20)

CR. 06 - IT Services do not support the Statutory, Strategic or Operational requirements of Council (16)

CR. 09 – Failure to implement an economic development programme to regenerate the district and attract inward investment due to financial uncertainties caused by the current economic and political climate (20)

CR. 11 – Accidents/injuries may occur if health and safety of service users and staff is not considered, with a particular focus on Fire Risk Assessments (15)

CR. 12 - If sickness absence is not kept to a minimum, this may affect the delivery of services, staff morale and lead to increased costs (16)

CR. 14 - Risk that Council does not assist the post COVID 19 recovery of the district, therefore failing in its objectives to regenerate and build a prosperous district due to the inability of Council to be financially sustainable in the long term (20)

7. Internal Audit

7.1 ASM Limited were reappointed on 01 April 2019 as Internal Auditors for a period of 4 years.

7.2 From the Internal Audit Plan 2019/20, 6 Internal Audit Reports were reported to the Audit Committee during the year, 5 of which received a satisfactory assurance rating. One service, Contracts Management, received a limited assurance rating.

In agreement with the Audit Committee Internal Audit undertook an advisory piece of work, final report dated June 2020, in respect of Health and Safety (facilities – considering fire risk, asbestos and legionella checking). This report was considered at the 06 July Audit Committee. The review identified a large number of recommendations for improvement. The Audit Committee will follow up progress on these improvements during the year.

On 16 March 2020, the UK Government announced it's response to the Covid-19 outbreak. The impact of this announcement meant Internal Audit was unable to complete the planned review of fuel management. This review has been deferred to the 2020/21 year. Except for the fuel management audit, all of internal audit assurance work as detailed in the final Internal Audit Plan 2019/20, and as approved by the Audit Committee, was completed.

7.3 Internal Audit Annual Assurance Opinion

The Committee reviewed the Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report for 2019/20 at its meeting on 06 July 2020 and noted the Auditor's overall opinion that the Council's systems in relation to internal control, risk management and governance were in general adequate and operated effectively and they were able to provide satisfactory assurance in relation to the effective and efficient achievement of the Council's objectives.

The Audit Committee welcomed the overall opinion of Satisfactory Assurance and commended Officers for their good work. The Committee also requested regular progress updates on the actions taken to address the significant issues referred to in Annual Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report.

7.4 Follow up Review of Internal Audit Recommendations

The Committee also reviewed on 6th July 2020 a follow up report from Internal Audit on the Implementation of Prior Year Internal Audit Recommendations for 2018/19. The review identified that, out of the 58 accepted recommendations, 30 recommendations were fully implemented, 10 recommendations were partially implemented, 12 recommendations were not implemented, 3 recommendations were no longer accepted and the remaining 3 recommendations were unable to be tested due to access restrictions from the Corona Virus to the Council's facilities.

The Audit Services Manager also reported during the year the progress on the implementation of the Internal Audit Recommendations in the years prior to 2018/19. This included an update on the risk facing the Council when these recommendations were not implemented on a timely basis which enabled the Audit Committee to have a fuller understating of the implications of these recommendations not being in place. Due to the Corona Virus this work was completed up to January 2020 with the focus for the Council on the Covid 19 risk taking priority during the March 2020 to July 2020 period.

The Audit Committee is committed to ensuring the prior year Internal Audit recommendations are completed and reported to the Audit Committee at each meeting.

7.5 Tender for Internal Audit Services

The current contract with ASM ended on 31 March 2019. The Council completed a public tendering competition for the next Council term and ASM have been successful and reappointed on a 4 year contract commencing 1 April 2019.

7.6 Approval of Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 and Internal Audit Strategy

The Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 was brought to the Audit Committee meeting in July 2020 for approval. This would normally be presented in April, however this was not possible due to the Coronavirus lockdown.

8. External Audit Strategy

The NIAO presented their Annual Audit Strategy for the Year Ending 31 March 2020 to the Audit Committee on 06 July 2020. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Audit Certification deadline for certifying local government bodies' Accounts is 31 December 2020 and to ensure compliance a meeting of the Audit Committee will be scheduled for December 2020 to review and approve the Audited accounts so they can be signed by the deadline.

NIAO have identified two significant risks, Weaknesses in Procurement and Contract Management and Weaknesses in Controls over the Completeness and Valuation of Fixed Assets which they will review as part of their audit plan.

9. Performance Improvement Arrangements

The Audit Committee were presented with the Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2019/20 by NIAO at its meeting on 09 January 2020 which audited the Council's assessment of its performance for 2018/19 and its 2019/20 improvement plan.

The Committee welcomed that the Councils Performance Improvement and Assessment Arrangements had been certified with a standard unqualified opinion by the NIAO Audit having discharged its performance and reporting duties under Part 12 of the Act and acted in accordance with the Guidance issued by the Department for Communities.

Whilst the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has responsibility for Performance Improvement, NIAO have also recommended that the Audit Committee track progress on their implementation.

10. Acknowledgments

As Chair of the Audit Committee, this is my first Annual Report and I wish to extend my thanks to the Members for their support during my first year and to the political parties for ensuring continuity of membership on the Committee from year to year. On behalf of the Audit Committee I wish also to thank officers, the Internal and External Auditors for their openness and engagement with the Committee, thereby allowing it to meet its responsibilities.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Joe Campbell for his excellent work as Chair of the Audit Committee during his term of office.

Brona Slevin
Independent Chairperson
06 July 2020

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Via e-mail:

Patricia.McKeever@nmandd.org

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556

Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: INV-1606-2020

Your ref: C/084/2020 & C/085/2020

Date: 20th July 2020

Dear Marie,

Thank you for the two letters of 7 July 2020, on behalf of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, regarding the reinstatement of the Emergency Department (ED) at Downe Hospital and concerns about ambulance cover for the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area.

As you may be aware, I launched the Strategic Framework for Rebuilding the Health and Social Care (HSC) System on 9 June 2020, which will underpin the development of incremental service plans by Trusts, including for ED services. The key aim will be to incrementally increase HSC service capacity as quickly as possible across all programmes of care, within the prevailing COVID-19 conditions. Subsequent phases will see these service activity plans and targets updated in three monthly cycles.

The South Eastern HSC Trust's Phase 2 Rebuilding Plan, covering the period July – September 2020, which was published on 10 July, confirms that the Trust will explore the feasibility of reopening the Downe Hospital ED – the first phase being the provision of a Minor Injuries Unit.

In addition, the Trust issued a Press Release on 3 July, assuring the local community that it remains the intention to restore the full ED at the Downe Hospital to the levels delivered pre-COVID-19. Furthermore, the Press Release states that the Trust will advise of a date for the re-opening of the ED once it is known and also commits to regular meetings with elected representatives going forward.

With regards to ambulance cover for the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area, although there have been recent challenges in the provision of ambulance cover across these areas, at no stage was the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) Southern Division area without ambulance cover.

To address occasions when staffing proves difficult, NIAS continually assess the level of cover in place across the Southern Division and put in place a number of mitigating actions to address reduced cover. These include the provision of additional crews from other stations within the division, extended rapid response paramedic hours, increased ED support vehicles provided by non-emergency crews and increased use of voluntary and private ambulance services to deal with lower acuity calls in order to keep emergency crews free to attend more serious, life threatening calls.

While a reduced level of cover can lead to increased response times for patients waiting for an ambulance, those patients with the most life threatening conditions are always prioritised to ensure crews get to the sickest patients quickest and call handlers are available to provide telephone advice to callers.

In terms of future funding for NIAS, following an extensive demand and capacity review, NIAS has developed a new Clinical Response Model (CRM) which identified a need for significant additional investment in order to meet current and future demand. An outline business case for the CRM currently under consideration.

Whilst you asked for a meeting to address the issues you raised, as I am sure you can appreciate, the many competing pressures on my diary, including the response to the current pandemic, have placed significant pressures on my diary for the foreseeable future and I must therefore respectfully decline your request to meet. However, I trust this response provides you with reassurance over the issues you have raised.

Yours sincerely



Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

The Somme Association

233 Bangor Road
Newtownards, Co. Down, BT23 7PH
United Kingdom
Telephone: 02891823202
Mobile 07712833082
Email sommeassociation@btconnect.com

Invoice To:

SALES INVOICE

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Invoice Date	Due Date	Reference	Customer Code	Invoice Number
17/04/2020	17/05/2020	SAMEM2021001	New002	SI-1826

Code	Description	Qty/Hrs	Price/Rate	VAT %	Net Amt
Membership/Subscript ion Fees	Council Membership Apr20-Mar21	1.00	1,000.00	20.00	1,000.00

VAT Rate	Net	VAT	Net Amount	1,000.00
Standard 20.00% (20.00%)	£1,000.00	£200.00	VAT Amount	200.00
			TOTAL	£1,200.00

Notes:

Make all cheques payable to: Somme Association

BACs: Account Name: The Somme Association, Somme Association Account

Bank: First Trust
Sort Code: 93-84-91
Account No. 13603367



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSrátha Báin
Derry Citty & Strabane
District Council

Our Ref: TJ

10 July 2020

Mr Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Dear Mr Hannaway

At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 28 May 2020, the following Motions were passed:

That Council believes that care homes and the organisation and operation of domiciliary care services across the North should be brought back into the public ownership as part of the National Health Service.

That the COVID-19 crisis presents an unprecedented threat to public health. The scale of the crisis clearly demonstrates the critical role of a fully funded and protected public health service.

Council agrees that two divergent public health strategies to deal with a pandemic on the island of Ireland, North and South, is irrational, impractical and dangerous. Council calls for a fully integrated all-Ireland public health strategy.

Council supports the campaign for an all-Ireland health service free at the point of delivery from the cradle to the grave.

Council agrees to invite representatives from the all-Ireland health service campaign to make a presentation to Council.

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter would be grateful for a response in relation thereto.

Yours sincerely

Derry
C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane
C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE.,
MIEI
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council

+44 (0) 2871 253 253
chiefexecutive@derrystrabane.com
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcsdcouncil

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Kelpie'.

John Kelpie
Chief Executive

**DFI Roads
Southern Division**



Department for
Infrastructure
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

The Clerk

Newry, Mourne & Down
District Council Office
Downshire Civil Centre
Downshire Estate
Ardglass Road
DOWNPATRICK BT30 6GQ

Southern Division
Rathkeltair House
Market Street
Downpatrick
BT30 6AJ

Our Ref: 6/P/2011/0394/02 NM428

Date: 2 July 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

THE PRIVATE STREETS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1980

DEVELOPMENT AT: HILLCREST VILLAGE, MCKNIGHTS HILL, BESSBROOK

STAGE 02

DEVELOPER: Lotus Homes (U K) Limited

I wish to inform you that the streets at above development as shown on the attached Plan No. NM428 have now been adopted by DfI Roads.

Yours faithfully


Authorised Officer

**DFI Roads
Southern Division**



Ref No: 6/P/2011/0394/02 NM428

DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIVATE STREETS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1980

ARTICLE 32 - CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF STREETS

DEVELOPMENT AT HILLCREST VILLAGE, MCKNIGHTS HILL, BESSBROOK

STAGE 02

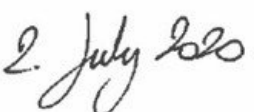
Applicant: Lotus Homes (U K) Limited

**DESCRIPTION OF STREET: HILLCREST VILLAGE, MCKNIGHTS HILL, BESSBROOK
and
PLAN REF No.NM428**

The Department hereby certifies as provided in Article 32(1)(b) of the Private Streets (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 that the street described above has been completed in accordance with an Agreement made 26/07/2017 between the Department and Lotus Homes (U K) Limited of Quadrant House, Floor 6, 4 Thomas More Square, London, E1W 1YW under Article 32 of the Order and has been maintained for at least 12 months and the terms and conditions of the Agreement have been duly complied with.

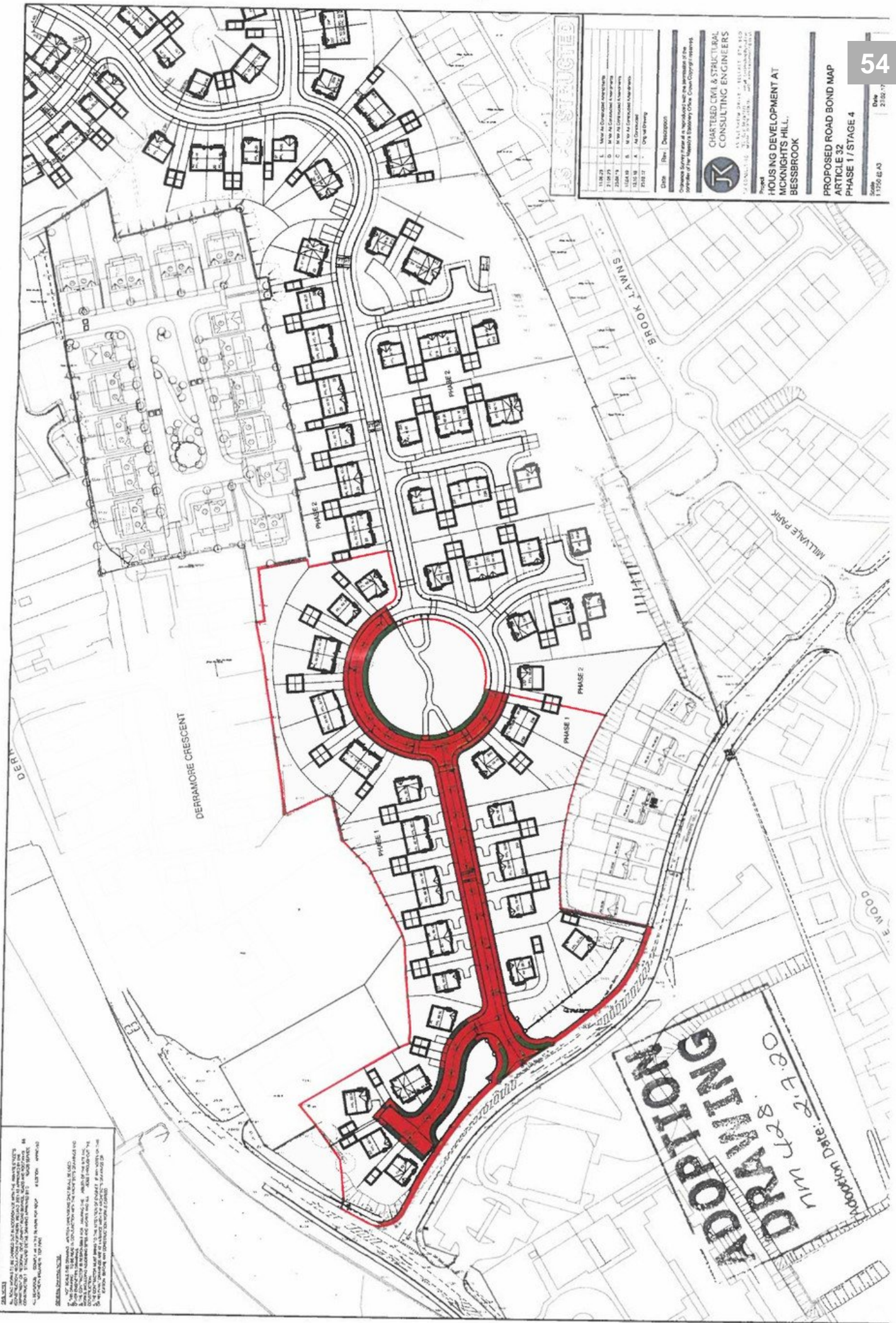
Signed 

(Authorised Officer)

Date: 

NM 428

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NOT STAGED

Date	File	Description
11/01/21	B	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	C	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	D	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	E	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	F	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	G	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	H	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	I	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	J	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	K	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	L	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	M	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	N	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	O	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	P	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	Q	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	R	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	S	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	T	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	U	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	V	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	W	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	X	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	Y	Issue for Construction
11/01/21	Z	Issue for Construction

CHARTERED CIVIL & STRUCTURAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Project: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT MCKNIGHTS HILL, BESSBROOK

PROPOSED ROAD BOND MAP ARTICLE 32 PHASE 1 / STAGE 4

Adoption Date: 21.07.20

11/01/21

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Minister's Office Block B,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 9076 5725
private.office@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Via email: Donna.Starkey@nmandd.org

Our ref: CORR/1558/2020
30 July 2020

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2020 regarding pavement cafes and the use of private land for the consumption of alcohol.

Matters relating to liquor licences is governed by 'The Licensing (NI) Order 1996' and in terms of the designation of outdoor spaces the legislation specifies that certain alterations to licensed premises require an application to, and approval from, a County Court.

In addition the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014 enables a district council to consider and grant a licence for the operation of a pavement café or beer garden on public land and pavements.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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The Minister for Communities is responsible for both these pieces of legislation and I am copying your email and my response to her for consideration.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

Naomi Long MLA
Minister of Justice

cc. Carál Ní Chuilín MLA,
Minister for Communities



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH

County Buildings, Athy Road,
Carlow, R93E7R7
Oifigí an Chontae, Bóthar Átha Í,
Ceatharlach, R93E7R7

Tel: 059 9170300
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Email: secretar@carlowcoco.ie
Web: www.carlow.ie

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19th June 2020

To: Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

At the June Meeting of Carlow Municipal District, held on Monday 15th June 2020, the following resolution was adopted by the Members of Carlow Municipal District.

“This Council condemns the action of the PSNI in disrupting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest in Guildhall Square in Derry on June 6th by issuing fines and threatening court action against organisers and participants. This contrasted with the inaction of the PSNI in face of large gatherings on beaches and in major retail outlets over prior weeks.

The organisers of the protest, the North West Migrants’ Forum, enforced strict rules to maintain social distancing. Very clear social distancing marks were drawn on the ground, in the same way many stores manage crowds queuing.

Council notes that Amnesty International and the Northern Committee on the Administration of Justice have expressed concern about the way application of the regulations arising from the Covid-19 pandemic were altered on the evening prior to the Black Lives Matter protest, clearly suggesting that the point of the changes was to facilitate the PSNI in taking action against protesters.

Council backs the call for a full review of how policing was conducted at the BLM events. Council supports the demand for a public apology to the BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) Community. Council calls for the withdrawal of all fines and threats of court action against BLM protesters.

Council will send a copy of this motion to every council, North and South, in this country.”

Mise-le Meas,

Eamonn Brophy
Senior Executive Officer
Phone: (059) 9170345
Email: ebrophy@carlowcoco.ie

DIRECT LINES: CODE 059

Carlow MD Area Engineer 9136272
Planning 9170346
Human Resources 9170314
Muinebhag MD Area Engineer 9172415
Local Enterprise Office 9129783
Register of Electors 9170313
Roads / Transportation 9170379

Information Technology 9136215
Housing 9136296
Waste & Environment 9136231
Rates 9172489
County Library 9129705
Community 9136204
Loan Payments 9172491

Fire Service & Building Control 9131144
County Museum 9131554
Rent Payments 9172497
Recreation & Amenity 9170377
Arts 9136203
Motor Taxation 9170342



carlow
through the waters of time