



September 29th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 3rd October 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Team.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022. (Attached)

📎 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 05-09-2022.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022. (Attached)

📎 [Council Minutes 05-09-2022.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 12 September 2022. (Attached)

📎 [Minutes of Special Council re HM Queen Elizabeth II 12.09.2022.....pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2022. (Attached)

Amendment to Minute required as the incorrect recommendation had been read out on the recording:

51/2022: Update re: AONB and Geopark

On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed:

1. To approve the Service Level Agreement (SLA, Appendix 1) with Bluebell Lane Glamping for 2022 – 2023 at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report
2. To amend the SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023. SLA will be at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report for the following projects: SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023 for a maximum cost of as outlined in the officer's report for delivery against the below 3 projects.
 - Develop costed proposal for visitor management at Minerstown Beach.
 - Detailed visitor management survey and costed proposals for the Ring of Gullion
 - Camlough Mountain Access feasibility Study. SLA with ORNI for 2022 –

2023 for a maximum cost as contained within the officer's report for delivery against the below project, subject to funding being secured

- Develop costed programme of upgrade, repair and maintenance for the Lecale Way

[ERT Minutes 12 Sept 2022 \(v2\).pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2022. (Attached)

[Strategy Policy & Resources Meeting 15 -09-2022.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2022. (Attached)

[Sustainability and Environment Committee Minutes - 20-09-2022.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2022. (Attached)

[Minutes Audit Committee 22 Sept 2022.pdf](#)

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(i) Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22. (Attached)

[Audit Committee Annual Report 2021-22.pdf](#)

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10.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2022. (Attached)

[Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 22092022.pdf](#)

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11.0 Minutes of Special Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2022. (Attached)

[Special SPR 26092022.pdf](#)

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12.0 Planning Section. (Attached)

LDP Quarterly Report Update

[LDP - Quarterly Report \(August Planning Committee Meeting\).pdf](#)

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Correspondence

13.0 Letter from Department for Communities - Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings. (Attached)

Correspondence dated 26 September 2022 attached.

 [Letter to Chief Execs re Remote Meetings.pdf](#)

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Notices of Motion

14.0 Notice of Motion - Revenue from EV Charging Infrastructure

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:

"Council notes that last year's notice of motion seeking a target of between 80 and 181 EV charging points in NM&D car-parks resulted in a management report in May 2022 suggesting that such charging points would cost £12,000 each and as much as £2.7 million in total with no business case. Thus a target of 1% of parking spaces (80) or 1 per Council car-park (181) was unrealistic from a cost point of view.

Council notes that new information has emerged to back the suggestion that EV charging companies want to lease car-parking spots from Council throughout the District and are prepared to share charging revenue with Council. Far from costing money, EV infrastructure going forward can be seen as a new form of Council revenue.

Council resolves to seek long-term rental and revenue sharing opportunities with EV infrastructure companies to keep Newry Mourne and Down District Council competitive in Tourism , Business and to replace the rates being lost by the on-going closure of filling stations across the district.

Within 3 months of this motion, Council will make an open offer of 6 tranches of 20 parking spots to all 3 EV charging companies operating on the Irish/NI grid system as a trial run for a 2-year period.

Following the 2 year trial of the offerings by the different EV charging companies; and based on service and value for money to Council; long-term contracts should be made with companies offering the best solutions to residents and visitors alike to Newry Mourne and Down District Council".

15.0 Notice of Motion - Irish Passport Office in Northern Ireland

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Hanlon:

'This Council acknowledges the increased demand for Irish citizens in the North, particularly since the Brexit referendum and calls for additional services to be put in place to manage the demand.

This Council reiterates the call made in 2018 for an Irish Passport Office to be located in the North of Ireland.

Council will write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, expressing concern at the current backlog and delays for Irish Passport applications, and request a passport office to be established in the North of Ireland to help manage this demand.'

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
C/084/2022	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28.03.22 – with NIAS & SHSCT	It was agreed to bring forth problem solving solutions to the NIAS in all facets of their work and for this action to be retained on the Action Sheet to keep track of progress	Democratic Services		N

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 4 JULY 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/140/2022	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 01.08.22	The Action Sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/141/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 01.08.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/142/2022	Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 08.08.22	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>It was agreed that an investigation be launched into complaints regarding remarks made on stage at the Eats and Beats event.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>M Ward C Mallon</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
C/143/2022	Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11.08.22	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted subject to the following amendment:</p> <p><i>SPR/122/2022: Notice of Motion Livestreaming</i> On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to accept option 2 of the officer's report with in-house facilitation to live stream Council and Statutory Committee meetings. A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) will be completed and a review to be carried out in six months.</p> <p><i>SPR/120/2022: Draft Publication Scheme V2.4</i> It was agreed to amend paragraph one to read as follows: suggested-proposed it be reviewed in 1 years' time.</p>	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/144/2022	Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15.08.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/145/2022	Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 17.08.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/146/2022	Planning Minutes	There were no issues arising.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/147/2022	N.Ireland Housing Council Minutes 9 June 2022	The minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/148/2022	N.Ireland Housing Council Bulletin 11 August 2022	The Bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/149/2022	Response from Department for Communities re: C.136.2022 Crisis within Private Rented Sector	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/150/2022	NAC (NI Region) Conference – Tuesday 27 September 2022	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/151/2022	Notice of Motion – Hybrid Meetings	It was agreed that "This Council reaffirms its commitment to hybrid meetings which enable easier participation and strengthen democratic engagement, whilst also being more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Therefore, Council supports a continued commitment to hybrid meetings".	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/152/2022	Notice of Motion – Funding for Cross Border and Active Travel	The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/153/2022	Notice of Motion – Mother and Baby Institutions in Northern Ireland	<p>It was agreed that “This Council recognises the impact of Mother and Baby institutions in Northern Ireland. We further acknowledge the abuse, harrowing effects, mistreatment, cross-denominational and transgenerational trauma impacting many families across our district.</p> <p>This Council will encourage anyone impacted by the mother and baby institutions, Magdalene laundries and workhouses in Northern Ireland between 1922 to 1990 to come forward confidentially and seek assistance from the dedicated Police Service of Northern Ireland investigation team.</p> <p>We commit to ensuring information literature and the signposting of advice is available within our civic centres and public amenity buildings.”</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Moffett</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/**

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 September 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:

Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor McKee
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor K Owen	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor

In attendance via Teams

Councillor J Brennan	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor G Malone	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

C/138/2022**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors McEvoy, Stokes and Trainor.

C/139/2022**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairperson spoke of recent tragic road accidents and the passing of Rodney Powell and Oliver Hollywood and passed on thoughts and prayers to the families at this time.

The Chairperson, on behalf of Council, passed on condolences to former Councillor and Chairperson Mrs Naomi Bailie on the passing of her father Martin. Martin was an accomplished Down hurler and thoughts were with his family at this sad time.

The Chairperson spoke of a number of sporting successes for the District during the month of August including Commonwealth games medallists Bethany Firth and Ciara Mageean who also took the Irish record in recent days.

The Chairperson congratulated to Burren Minors team on winning the Down Championship with commiserations to a valiant Mayobridge team.

Congratulations were also given to Ballyholland Under 15's on securing the Down Division One title.

The Chairperson referred to two recent flagship events Wake the Giant and Eats and Beats and congratulated Council on the successful events that were well organised and well attended.

C/140/2022**ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2022**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 August 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed:

The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 1 August 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**C/141/2022 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2022**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 August 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 August 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**C/142/2022 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2022**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 August 2022 (copy circulated).

Councillor Mulgrew highlighted concerns about allegations placed on public platforms following the last Committee Meeting regarding the number of in-committee items and how the Chairperson had conducted the meeting. Councillor Mulgrew asked that it be noted that what was put on the public platform was dishonourable and untrue.

The Chairperson reminded Members that each of them had a responsibility to the adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct. He pointed out that the minutes had been proposed and seconded as a true record of the meeting and that he hoped that with that, those who were incorrect in what they had said, would acknowledge that.

ERT/125/2022: Tourism Events

In referring to the Eats and Beats event that had taken place over the weekend, Councillor Hanna expressed his disappointment as both himself and his colleagues had received quite a number of complaints regarding sectarian remarks made from the stage on the Saturday evening about Orangemen and those who identified as British with republican music also being played. Councillor Hanna asked that an investigation be commenced as soon as possible to find out what did happen; whether the Council staff look at what material was coming up; who engaged the particular act that was on stage that came out with these remarks that created a sectarian atmosphere. He stated that unionists and people with British identity that were present went to see music and did not want to go to see a republican show. He asked therefore that an investigation take place into the incident as soon as possible and queried why the Council staff did not stop this as soon as it had started.

The Chief Executive advised it was the first she had been made aware of complaints and that the matter would be picked up with a report brought to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

It was agreed that an investigation be launched into complaints regarding remarks made on stage at the Eats and Beats event.

C/143/2022 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 AUGUST 2022

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2022 (copy circulated).

SPR/122/2022: Notice of Motion Livestreaming

The Chairperson highlighted an amendment to Minute was required as the incorrect recommendation had been read out on the recording:

On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to accept option 2 of the officer's report with in-house facilitation to live stream Council and Statutory Committee meetings. A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) will be completed and a review to be carried out in six months.

SPR/121/2022: Members of Party Representatives Forum

Councillor McMurray proposed that the original proposal be re-examined and the Alliance Party be admitted onto the Party Representatives Forum.

In seconding the proposal, Councillor Enright commented that there had been rule changes for membership of the Party Representatives Forum.

The Chairperson reiterated that the underwriting ethos of democracy was to refer back to the people and what people had voted for.

During a lengthy discussion Councillors Ó Muirí, Sharvin, Byrne and Andrews pointed out the recommendation made at Party Leaders and that the Party Representatives Forum was based on Party strength at the last election.

In response to a point raised by Councillor McKee about losing seats, the Chief Executive confirmed she would speak to him separately to go through the structure.

The Chairperson then put Councillor McMurray's proposal for the Alliance Party to be admitted onto the Party Representatives Forum to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 3
AGAINST: 34

The proposal was lost.

Councillor Finnegan joined the meeting during the above discussions – 6.43pm.

Due to technical issues the meeting took a recess at this point – 6.56pm to 7.12pm

SPR/120/2022: Draft Publication Scheme V2.4

Councillor Byrne pointed out an error and it was agreed to amend paragraph

one to read as follows:

~~“suggested~~ proposed it be reviewed in 1 years’ time.”

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis subject to the following amendment:**

SPR/122/2022: Notice of Motion Livestreaming

On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to accept option 2 of the officer's report with in-house facilitation to live stream Council and Statutory Committee meetings. A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) will be completed and a review to be carried out in six months.

SPR/120/2022: Draft Publication Scheme V2.4

It was agreed to amend paragraph one to read as follows:

~~suggested~~ proposed it be reviewed in 1 years’ time.

Councillor Malone left the meeting at this point – 19.14pm.

C/144/2022 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 AUGUST 2022

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2022 (copy circulated).

AHC/129/2022: Presentation from Mae Murray Foundation – Inclusive Beaches

Councillor Clarke commented that since he had brought his motion in relation to disability access onto beaches in 2019 it had been a long period of time to get this much needed facility and urged officers to push on with the project urgently. He further questioned why the commencement of the project was a year away.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 August 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

C/145/2022 MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2022

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/146/2022 **PLANNING SECTION – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

There were no issues arising.

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES

C/147/2022 **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES - 9 JUNE 2022**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes – 9 June 2022.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 9 June 2022 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

C/148/2022 **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – 11 AUGUST 2022**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin – 11 August 2022.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin dated 11 August 2022 was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

C/149/2022 **RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE:C.136.2022 CRISIS WITHIN PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR**

Read: Letter dated 22 August 2022 from Department for Communities regarding, Crisis within Private Rented Sector. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence dated 22 August 2022 from Department for Communities regarding Crisis within Private Rented Sector was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

C/150/2022 **NAC (NI REGION) CONFERENCE – TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: NAC (NI Region) Conference – Tuesday 27 September 2022

Agreed:

The NAC (NI Region) conference was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/151/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – HYBRID MEETINGS

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lee-Surginor:

"This Council recognises that hybrid meetings enable easier participation and strengthen democratic engagement, whilst also being more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Therefore, council supports a continued commitment to hybrid meetings, will write to the Department for Communities requesting legislation is brought forward to facilitate this, and will take all necessary steps to enable hybrid meetings on a permanent basis."

In proposing the motion, Councillor Lee-Surginor stated the motion would encourage a broader demographic to stand for, be elected and remain as local Councillors and enable easier participation for people with young families and caring responsibilities people with disabilities etc. He added that during these uncertain times there would be added environmental benefits with less need to travel and less burden on ratepayers.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Councillor Enright added the range of people participating on Council would be greatly enhanced with the motion as people with other jobs would find it easier to participate whilst driving down costs and expenses.

Councillor Byrne highlighted as a point of information that Councils' position had already been taken on the matter with a response already submitted to the Department for Communities consultation and proposed the following amendment:

This Council reaffirms its commitment to hybrid meetings which enable easier participation and strengthen democratic engagement, whilst also being more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Therefore, Council supports a continued commitment to hybrid meetings and rewrite to the Department for Communities on the basis of permanent legislation.

Councillor Andrews seconded Councillor Byrne's proposed amendment.

The Chief Executive took the opportunity to advise that Councillor Lee-Surginor had already been informed that there was a regional working group established to review the existing legislation and issues raised in the Department for Communities call for evidence for drafting the new regulations for consideration by the Minister Hargey and this was the basis of what Councillor Byrne was referring to.

Councillor Lee-Surginor accepted the amendment.

Councillor Ó Muirí then proposed a further amendment as his party did not feel it was necessary to write to the Department for Communities again when a regional working group had already been established.

Councillor Ó Muirí then put forward his proposed amendment to read as follows:

This Council reaffirms its commitment to hybrid meetings which enable easier participation and strengthen democratic engagement, whilst also being more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Therefore, Council supports a continued commitment to hybrid meetings.

Councillor Hanlon seconded Councillor Ó Muirí's proposed amendment.

Councillor Lee-Surginor accepted the amendment.

Councillor Reilly voiced opposition to the motion as it stood, on behalf of his party, stating in-person meetings can create a sense connection and empathy and more collaborative participation. He added in person meetings demonstrated to the electorate that their representatives were prepared to make the effort and allocate time to attend on their behalf.

Councillor Reilly proposed the following amendment:

All full Council and main Committee meetings are held in person whilst meetings that carry no executive decisions can be held hybrid.

Councillor Hanna seconded Councillor Reilly's proposed amendment.

Councillor Lee-Surginor did not accept the amendment.

Councillor Taylor commented the discussion had become complicated and suggested if Councillor Lee-Surginor would be willing to allow further discussion on the matter at another appropriate Committee.

Councillor Lee-Surginor rejected the request.

A lengthy discussion ensued following which Councillor Reilly's proposed amendment was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

For: 7

Against: 28

The amendment proposed by Councillor Reilly was lost.

The Chairperson then advised the amended motion, as follows was passed:

"that this Council reaffirms its commitment to hybrid meetings which enable easier participation and strengthen democratic engagement, whilst also being more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Therefore, Council supports a continued commitment to hybrid meetings."

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Enright that this Council reaffirms its commitment to hybrid meetings which enable easier participation and strengthen democratic engagement, whilst also being more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Therefore, Council supports a continued commitment to hybrid meetings.

C/152/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – FUNDING FOR CROSS BORDER AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

This council recognises the opportunity presented by cross-border tourism and the importance of active travel for healthier, more sustainable lifestyles. It also recognises the key role that projects such as the Narrow Water Bridge and Albert Basin Park can play in supporting this.

Council will appoint an officer responsible for identifying funding for cross border tourism and active travel in the area within a month of this motion being passed. and Council will formally write to the Southern Government’s Shared Island Unit expressing their interest in submitting a formal application for a number of projects which will support cross border tourism and active travel in the area.

This will specifically include applications for

- 1. the remainder of funding for the Albert Basin Park project,*
- 2. an Omeath Road cycle expressway, and*
- 3. connective cycle lanes and greenways between Newry city centre and Rostrevor to link to the Mourne Way as part of restoring the Ulster Way.*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

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

C/153/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – MOTHER AND BABY INSTITUTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

“This Council recognises the impact of Mother and Baby institutions in Northern Ireland. We further acknowledge the abuse, harrowing effects, mistreatment, cross-denominational and transgenerational trauma impacting many families across our district.

This Council will encourage anyone impacted by the mother and baby institutions, Magdalene laundries and workhouses in Northern Ireland between 1922 to 1990 to come forward confidentially and seek assistance from the dedicated Police Service of Northern Ireland investigation team.

We commit to ensuring information literature and the signposting of advice is available within our civic centres and public amenity buildings.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Owen.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Lewis stated that the matter had come to light after speaking to a constituent whose family had suffered as a result of these institutions since 1956, which had had a lasting trauma and stigma attached to it as some of the relatives had actually been born within the institutions. The family had been further

impacted more recently as new information had been discovered since working closely with PSNI and investigative teams.

Councillor Mulgrew welcomed the motion, stating the treatment and judgement of women from all backgrounds and situations throughout the 20th century was unacceptable and highlighted that for many affected it was too late for any redress, but as a society we needed to be doing everything we could to support mothers and their children to come forward and anybody that could be found guilty of any wrongdoing brought to justice.

Councillor Mulgrew added more awareness was needed in signposting people wishing to come forward to get the answers and support they needed in a safe and supportive manner and that this was something Council could explore further. Reference was made to 'Safe Space' and work with PSNI and Women's Aid.

Councillors McMurray, Taylor, McKeivitt and McKee on behalf of their parties all voiced support for the motion.

The Chairperson welcomed the motion stressing a message of compassion and support was needed and the stigma associated be removed.

Councillor Lewis thanked Members for their support for his motion.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Owen that 'This Council recognises the impact of Mother and Baby institutions in Northern Ireland. We further acknowledge the abuse, harrowing effects, mistreatment, cross-denominational and transgenerational trauma impacting many families across our district.

This Council will encourage anyone impacted by the mother and baby institutions, Magdalene laundries and workhouses in Northern Ireland between 1922 to 1990 to come forward confidentially and seek assistance from the dedicated Police Service of Northern Ireland investigation team.

We commit to ensuring information literature and the signposting of advice is available within our civic centres and public amenity buildings."

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 October 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

17

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 12 September 2022 at 5.00pm, in the Mourne Room, Downshire and online via Microsoft Teams, to mark the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Chairperson: Councillor M Savage

In attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor W Clarke
 Councillor D Curran
 Councillor L Devlin
 Councillor C Enright
 Councillor A Finnegan
 Councillor H Gallagher
 Councillor G Hanna
 Councillor D Lee-Surginor
 Councillor A Lewis
 Councillor D McAteer
 Councillor H McKee
 Councillor A McMurray
 Councillor B Ó Muirí
 Councillor K Owen
 Councillor H Reilly
 Councillor G Sharvin
 Councillor D Taylor
 Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in Attendance: Ms M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

SP/023/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies.

The Chairperson welcomed all to the Special Council Meeting to mark the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and said it was evident from the reaction to her passing

both locally, nationally and internationally the huge respect in which she was held right across the world.

The Chairperson said regardless of political viewpoints or views on the monarchy, very few people would contest Her Late Majesty's dedication, devotion and selfless sense of duty that she had demonstrated throughout her long 70-year reign.

He said Her Late Majesty was a woman of immense integrity who showed a great sense of duty and affection for her people, who also had a sense of humour and a great love for horse racing.

The Chairperson acknowledged there would be a mixture of perspectives in the chamber, however he said he wished to specifically recognize the deep sense of loss felt by those Members and the community they represented who were from the British tradition, on the passing of Her Late Majesty. He expressed his deepest condolences to them and to the Royal Family at this difficult and sad time and said her passing not only marked the end of her long reign and the end of an era and a link to post war life but also decades of admiration and love from the Unionist Community across Newry Mourne and Down.

The Chairperson said citizens across the District who were from the Irish tradition and other traditions also had great admiration for Her Late Majesty and her ability to understand the complexities of Northern Ireland and demonstrate her desire to do all in her power to assist in the Peace Process was something, he, as a nationalist politician and many others in his community recognised and respected. Her Late Majesty's desire to reach out the hand of friendship and partnership to build stronger relationships east and west on these islands and her memorable words as Gaeilge on her visit to Dublin along with her visit to the Garden of Remembrance were a reflection of her role, not only as a monarch but as a peacemaker and earned her huge respect with Irish people.

The Chairperson concluded his remarks saying on behalf of the citizens of Newry Mourne and Down District, he offered deepest condolences to the Royal Family at this very difficult time.

He then invited the Party Group Leaders and any Independent Members to speak.

Councillor Taylor said the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II had been a very emotional and somewhat surreal experience. He said to have the same serving Monarch for a period of 70 years was truly historic and her reign had spanned 5 generations of his own family, which he said was truly remarkable and an indication of the remarkable service she had given.

Councillor Taylor said Queen Elizabeth II had visited Northern Ireland many times over the years and he said he had had the pleasure of attending a public party within the

grounds of Stormont to mark the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee where she had been present with the late Prince Philip.

Councillor Taylor said it was important to note that Queen Elizabeth II had conferred city status upon Newry during the year of her Golden Jubilee celebrations, this award, he said continued to offer both the City of Newry and the wider District the opportunity to regenerate, thrive and succeed and would benefit not just ourselves, but future generations. Councillor Taylor said this was her lasting legacy to us and it was one that should be embraced by all to ensure the delivery of prosperity for all citizens in the District.

Councillor Taylor said Queen Elizabeth II had been held in the greatest affection by so many and highly respected around the world. He said she was the ultimate testament of all that was exceptional about the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Councillor Taylor said Queen Elizabeth had had a deep and abiding commitment to the Christian faith which was evident throughout her life in her words and deeds.

He offered his deepest condolences to the Royal Family and he offered his allegiance to the new Monarch King Charles III as he assumed his reign.

Councillor Taylor concluded his remarks with the words 'God save the King'.

The Chairperson then invited Councillor Hanna to address the Members.

Councillor Hanna said on behalf of the DUP party, he wanted to convey sincere condolences and sympathies to King Charles III and all the royal family on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. He said Queen Elizabeth II had been an incredible person who was both diplomatic and discreet and who set an admirable example of leadership.

Councillor Hanna said during her reign, Queen Elizabeth II had met with many world leaders and represented the UK through many difficult and troubled times and she had been there to steady the nation in difficult times.

Councillor Hanna acknowledged that although Queen Elizabeth II had suffered great loss during the troubles, she demonstrated her commitment for love and peace and her visit to Dublin in 2011 where she laid a wreath in the Garden of Remembrance was testament to that.

Councillor Hanna said he had been in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II several times and she set an example all should aspire to.

Councillor Hanna said he wished King Charles III well as he commenced his reign and

concluded with the words 'God save the King'.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Sharvin to address the Members.

Councillor Sharvin said Queen Elizabeth II had dedicated her life to public service and had been loved and admired by many people around the world. He said the Queen was an important figure for many people on this island and she had been very well respected.

Councillor Sharvin said Queen Elizabeth II had played an important role in helping to improve British and Irish relations with her 2011 visit to Ireland being a watershed moment, where she made a number of significant gestures including speaking in Irish and visiting the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin.

Councillor Sharvin said Queen Elizabeth II had visited Rostrevor and Warrenpoint as a child and was familiar with the Newry Mourne and Down District.

He said his thoughts and that of the SDLP party were with everyone who held the Queen dear, especially those in the North at this difficult time.

Councillor Sharvin said regardless of peoples' view of the Monarchy, it was important that sensitivity was shown in the days and weeks ahead and to be mindful it was a sombre occasion for many across the North and indeed the world. He concluded by extending thoughts, prayers and sympathies to all those in mourning.

The Chairperson invited Councillor McKee to address the Members.

Councillor McKee said he had been very saddened to learn of the death of Queen Elizabeth II and said she had been the Head of the Monarchy for his lifetime. He said the television coverage since the news of her passing demonstrated the perfection, power and authority of the British Government.

Councillor McKee said he had been in the presence of the Queen several times and had met other members of the Royal Family, including the now King Charles III. He said Queen Elizabeth II had been a dedicated monarch for the 70 years of her reign and he believed the country would go from strength to strength under the reign of King Charles III.

Councillor McKee concluded with the words 'God save our gracious King and long live King Charles'.

The Chairperson invited Councillor McMurray to address the Members.

Councillor McMurray said his thoughts and prayers went to the entire Royal Family at this sad time, who were mourning a much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, but he said, while they had lost a matriarch, the entire country and indeed Commonwealth had lost a person who had been a figure-head and leader for 70 years and he said her loss would be keenly felt by many.

Councillor McMurray said she showed commitment and dedication to the country and commonwealth during her reign and it would be very strange not to see her carrying out her duties.

He said, regardless of constitutional views, she was an icon and a touchstone to various shared histories and the fact that her first Prime Minister was born in 1874, whilst her last one was born in 1975, a difference of 101 years, was worthy of historical note.

Councillor McMurray said Queen Elizabeth was woman of faith, who embodied grace and forgiveness, and this was apparent in her speech given in Dublin in 2011 and equally by her actions at the Belfast Lyric Theatre one year later. Throughout her reign, the Queen worked tirelessly in service to the country and Commonwealth receiving praise from all quarters for her selfless dedication to the role, which he said was only one of the aspects of her life that would remain as her lasting legacy and he said he hoped it would bring some comfort to all those grieving at this sad time.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Ó Muirí to address the Members.

Councillor Ó Muirí said the Sinn Féin Party, were in many ways diametrically opposed to the idea of Monarch, however, he said it was critical in the spirit of charity and good will to comment on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Councillor Ó Muirí, on behalf of Sinn Féin extended condolences on the death of Queen Elizabeth II whose sorrowful loss he said was deeply felt by her family, and many people across our society, particularly those of a unionist tradition whom with great pride and devotion held Queen Elizabeth and the Royal family very dear.

Councillor Ó Muirí said it had been a mammoth achievement to have marked 70 years of dedicated public service to the British people when Queen Elizabeth celebrated her Platinum Jubilee earlier this year.

Councillor Ó Muirí asked it be recorded the value and respect the Sinn Féin Party placed on the significant contribution Queen Elizabeth had made to the advancement of peace and reconciliation between the different traditions on our island, and between Ireland and Britain during the years of the peace process and he noted the memorable visit made by her to Dublin in 2011.

Councillor Ó Muirí said, on behalf of Sinn Féin he acknowledged the sorrow, and the huge sense of grief and loss that many people would be feeling at this time across our community, and particularly in the chamber today, elected representatives, council workers and those across the public and civil services.

He said he offered his sincere sympathies and condolences to all in true friendship and he concluded with the words 'may she rest in peace'.

The Chairperson thanked the speakers and said numerous books of condolences had been opened throughout the District, that would be forwarded on to the Royal Family in due course.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 October 2022.

Signed: Councillor M Savage
Chairperson of Council

Signed: Ms M Ward
Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

23

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 12 September 2022 at 6.30pm in the Mourne Room
Downshire Civic Centre Downpatrick, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor W Clarke (Chamber)
Councillor G Hanna (Chamber)
Councillor V Harte (Teams)
Councillor R Mulgrew (Teams)
Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Chamber)
Councillor H Reilly (Chamber)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor J Trainor (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor A McMurray (Chamber)

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment &
Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture &
Events
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer

ERT/137/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor T Andrews.
Councillor R Howell

ERT/138/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/139/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 08 AUGUST 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 August 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 August 2022.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**ERT/140/2022: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FLEXIBLE FUND (DTFF)**

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) To note contents of Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund.**
- 2) To approve a contribution in the sum of £95,707 over 4 financial years from 2022 to 2026, subject to approval of business case by Invest NI.**
- 3) To approve the establishment of DTFF procedures utilising the existing FFNI delivery team resource. This is required to support the pre-development work to be**

undertaken and enable the first funding call to be launched in Spring 2023.

**ERT/141/2022: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP
CHEF'S BOOTCAMP EMPLOYMENT ACADEMY**

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the Labour Market Partnership Chef's Bootcamp Employment Academy.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed to establish Service Level Agreements with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College for the delivery of 2 Chef Bootcamp's against the LMP 2022-23 Action Plan at a total cost of £30,000.

**ERT/142/2022: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS VISIT
LAMORLAYE FRANCE**

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the International Relations visit to Lamorlaye North France.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed to appoint the following Council representatives to attend as part of an outward trade visit to Lamorlaye North France:

- **Chairperson of Council**
- **Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**
- **1 No. Council Officer**

**ERT/143/2022: SOLACE WORKING GROUP
FUTURE BUSINESS START UP
BUSINESS GROWTH PROVISION**

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant

Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the SOLACE Working Group for Future Start Up and Business Growth. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lee Surginor seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to make available a budget of £10,000 payable as required to the SOLACE Working Group for Future Start Up and Business Growth Support to enable the development of a regional programme of support focusing on prestart, start up, growth to high growth.**

ERT/144/2022: WARRENPOINT BREAKWATER UPGRADE SCHEME

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the Warrenpoint Breakwater Upgrade Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Lee Surginor it was agreed to accept the following recommendations arising from the Task and Finish Steering Group:**

- 1) Note the Public Consultation process that has now been completed and update the concept design as required and agreed.**
- 2) Council work with Warrenpoint Burren and Rostrevor (WBR) Chamber to seek private sector feedback on the proposed Kiosks/Vendor spaces.**
- 3) Proceed to further RIBA stage 3 to complete the Economic Appraisal, undertake/update surveys and submit a Planning Application for the proposed Warrenpoint Breakwater Upgrade Scheme.**
- 4) Council continues to work in partnership with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority in regards the Breakwater Scheme and Lease.**

ERT/145/2022: FINNISH DELEGATION VISIT

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding a visit delegation visit to Warrenpoint on 22 September 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed the Chairperson of Council host a visit and lunch for a Finnish delegation in Warrenpoint on 22 September 2022.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS**ERT/146/2022: ARTISTS BURSARIES AND GRANTS**

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a series of Artist Bursaries and Individual Artist Grants to residents of the District.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee Surginor seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to establish a series of Artist Bursaries for residents in the District to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, John Hewitt Summer School and an Individual Artist Grant to further artistic practice and excellence in Newry Mourne and Down District.

ERT/147/2022: TOURISM TRADE & CONSUMER SHOWS

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Council representation at tourism trade/consumer shows. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed Council Officers attend the tourism/trade shows in conjunction with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to support the tourism industry and promote the destination.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/148/2022: DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK VISITOR FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Delamont Country Park Visitor Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/149/2022: HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2022

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Event regarding Halloween and Christmas Events 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/150/2022: NARNIA EXPERIENCE – KILBRONEY PARK ROSTREVOR

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the Narnia experience at Kilbroney Park Rostrevor. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/151/2022: UPDATE RE: AONB AND GEOPARK

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, regarding an update on the AONB and Geopark. **(Copy circulated)**

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

When the Committee came out of closed session Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism reported on the following decisions taken:

ERT/148/2022: Delamont Country Park Visitor Facilities

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Lee Surginor it was agreed to approve the Business Case to progress development of the concept, design, outline business case, survey reports and PAD submission for the development of enhanced visitor facilities at Delamont Country Park.

ERT/149/2022: Halloween and Christmas Events

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed as follows:

- 1) To approve Service Level Agreement funding to named groups for the delivery of Halloween and Christmas Events in the District in October to December 2022.
- 2) To issue calls for an Expression of Interest to community/development groups in Newcastle and Newry for the delivery of Halloween and Christmas Illumination Events, with Service Level Agreements to be established with a named group for the delivery of events utilising allocated budgets as set out in this report.

ERT/150/2022: Narnia Experience – Kilbroney Park Rostrevor

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Lee Surginor it was agreed to approve the business case to progress development of the concept, design, outline business case and PAD submission for the development of the Narnia Experience at Kilbroney.

ERT/151/2022: Update re: AONB and Geopark

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Larkin seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to note the Environment Fund will open for funding applications for an estimate 4 week period between September – October 2022; Officials will prepare and submit an application for funding for a 4 year period commencing 2023/24 and concluding 2026/27, which deliver against eligible priorities identified in the AONB Management Plans developed with the AONB Partnerships during the summer of 2022.

FOR NOTING**ERT/152/2022: AONB AND GEOPARK ENVIRONMENT FUND**

Read: Report dated 12 September 2022 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding AONB and Geopark Environment Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Environment Fund will open for funding applications for an estimate 4 week period between September – October 2022; Officials will prepare and submit an application for funding for a 4 year period commencing 2023/24 and concluding 2026/27, which deliver against eligible priorities identified in the AONB Management Plans developed with the AONB Partnerships during the summer of 2022.

ERT/153/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/154/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for July 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for July 2022.**

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 October 2022.

Signed: **Councillor R Burgess**
 Chairperson
 Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: **Mr C Mallon**
 Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair:	Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)
In Attendance in Chamber	Councillor G Hanna Councillor A Lewis Councillor A McMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor B O'Muirí Councillor G Sharvin
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor R Howell Councillor M Rice Councillor D Taylor
Non Committee Members:	Councillor G Malone
Officials in Attendance In chamber:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Procurement Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Teams:	Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration)

SPR/134/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Trainor.

SPR/135/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**SPR/136/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY
11 AUGUST 2022**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 August 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Magennis to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2022.**

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/137/2022: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2021-22

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director Finance and Performance regarding Assessment of Performance 2021-22. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne said in-roads needed to be made in the Sustainability Directorate in terms of recycling and street cleansing as currently the Council was below the 2020 target and were nowhere near reaching the 2030 target. He referred to the very successful Everybody Active Campaign which finished in 2020, and said the targeted programme figures were not as good. Councillor Byrne asked that AHC and the Director, Michael Lipsett, liaise to see if the Everybody Active Campaign be returned to the way it was pre-covid.

Councillor Byrne also referenced the free play sessions and said areas of deprivation would suffer if they were not brought back and he asked this issue was looked at for the year ahead.

Councillor Byrne referred to Business Support and said the gap of £176K would need to be filled and various funding streams would need to be explored.

Councillor Byrne referred to the Take it Home Campaign, which, he said was a cross border campaign aimed at tackling litter and fly-tipping. He said a recent meeting of the Louth and Newry Strategic Alliance had highlighted that engagement was less than ideal, however, he said they were looking at ways to improve public engagement.

Councillor Sharvin asked if visitor trackers could be installed at Delamont and Castlewellan. Ms Ward said tracking was carried out in terms of income generated by cars entering the forest parks, however she said she would liaise with Mr Lipsett regarding the installation of footfall indicators in both locations.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Elected Members approve the Assessment of Performance 2021-22, including the summary document 'Our Performance Looking Back Going Forward'.**

Noted that the Assessment of Performance 2021-22 is published by 30 September 2022, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SPR/138/2022: CONACRE AGREEMENTS IN RESPECT OF CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK, TYRELLA BEACH, DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK AND DERRYBEG BANKS, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Conacre Agreements on respect of Castlewellan Forest park, Tyrella Beach, Delamont Country Park and Derrybeg Banks, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray referred to 1.1 in the report and asked if the word 'only' contained in the sentence 'only Irish rare breed cattle to be grazed on the lands' could be replaced with 'preferably'. Mr O'Connor said he would 'note' this.

Councillor McMurray said the field would be taken by Castlewellan Show from 1 July – 31 July and the use of heavy machinery had left the field in a poor state of repair and asked if the tenant would be made aware of this. Mr O'Connor said the incumbent tenant would be made aware of all issues before any agreement entered into.

Mr O'Connor said historically the conacre agreements for the lands had been for a 5-year period and they did not take account of the rate of inflation, but were based on bids by prospective tenants.

Councillor Lewis asked the fencing at Tyrella be checked to avoid any cattle escaping. Mr O'Connor said he would 'note' this.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of conservation grazing of the lands at Castlewellan Forest Park and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement for a period of 5 years with the highest bidder.**
- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of conservation grazing of the lands at Tyrella and that Council enter into a Winter Grazing Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for one year with the option to extend for a further year.**
- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Delamont Country Park and that Council enter into a**

Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of five years.

- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Derrybeg Banks and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of five years**

SPR/139/2022: CAR-PARK AT CHURCH HILL, JONESBOROUGH

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding, Car-Park at Church Hill, Jonesborough.
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Byrne said the access into the carpark was shared with the graveyard and a private residence and he said it was important to clarify who was responsible for maintaining the barrier and the access. Mr O'Connor said he would liaise with DfI and come back to Councillor Byrne.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Magennis that Elected Members agree to the transfer of the carpark from DfI.**

SPR/140/2022: WARRENPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE: PROJECT GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Janine Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Warrenpoint Community Centre: Project Governance Proposal. **(Copy circulated).**

Mr Boyd acknowledged it had been a lengthy process to date, however, he said a paper was being brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee on 22 September and stakeholder engagement would commence following approval of the paper.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the project governance arrangements for the Warrenpoint Community Centre as detailed in the report.**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the**

Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/141/2022: LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION – DISSOLUTION FUNDING AND CONTINUING OPERATIONS 2022/23

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Marie Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Local Government Staff Commission – Dissolution Funding and Continuing Operations 2022/23. **(Copy circulated).**

SPR/142/2022: LEASE OF STORAGE UNIT AT GREENBANK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor/Mr K Scullion regarding lease of storage unit at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry. **(Copy circulated).**

SPR/143/2022: RENEWAL OF LEASE OF HILLTOWN HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor/Mr L Dinsmore, regarding renewal of lease of Hilltown Household Recycling Centre. **(Copy circulated).**

SPR/144/2022: BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION – 6 HARBOUR CLOSE, KILKEEL – AMENDMENT TO RECTIFICATION MAP PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor regarding Boundary Rectification – 6 Harbour Close, Kilkeel – amendment to rectification map previously approved. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported on the following decisions taken:

SPR/141/2022 - Local Government Staff Commission - Dissolution Funding and Continuing Operations 2022/23

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to approve the**

payment as recommended in the report and also to write to the Department for Communities asking for confirmation as to when these payments would cease.

SPR/142/2022 - Lease of Storage unit at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to approve the lease of the storage unit at Greenbank Industrial Estate for a period of 12 months at the agreed rental cost subject to full lease terms.**

It was further agreed a caveat be added to include this issue be reviewed at SMT level prior to entering into any lease agreement and that Councillors be updated before the Council meeting in October 2022.

SPR/143/2022 - Renewal of Lease of Hilltown Household Recycling Centre

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to enter into a lease in respect of the HRC at Hilltown on the terms as set out in the report.**

SPR/144/2022 – Boundary Rectification – 6 Harbour Close, Killeel – amendment to rectification map previously approved

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to note the content of this report.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 October 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Marie Ward**
Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

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

Non-Committee Members: Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Reilly

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

SE/126/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Taylor and Malone.

SE/127/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/128/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 August 2022. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 August 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION

SE/129/2022: FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Read: Report dated 20 September 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Fleet Replacement Programme Update. ***(Circulated)***.

Mr Cassells clarified a further three vehicles had gone through the evaluation process and should be ordered by the end of the month.

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

SE/130/2022: HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE USAGE AND ACCESS POLICY

Read: Report dated 20 September 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Household Recycling Centre Usage and Access Policy. ***(Circulated)***.

Councillor Casey referred to bulky collections saying there had been a lot of complaints regarding delays with the booking system and asked if a commitment could be given regarding the timeframe for collections. Ms Murphy acknowledged there had been significant issues during COVID, however she said, there were slots available and she would continue to review and revert back to Councillor Casey outside of the meeting.

Members expressed concern at the potential for extra cost to the public, the issues that may arise from the online booking system and the risk of an increase in fly-tipping as a result of going with the preferred Option 3.

To clarify Ms Murphy highlighted the following points:

- There would be no charge to residents availing of the HRC sites
- There was a statutory obligation to charge for commercial waste
- The height restriction of 1.95m was in the 2019 Guidance Document and had previously been agreed by the Committee in 2019.

- Feedback from staff at HRC sites indicated regular users accessing the sites to dispose of commercial waste.
- There would not be a cost for the online booking system as current software and equipment available to the Council would be used.
- Blue Badge holders did not have to pre-book, on arrival to the HRC site and showing their badge, the barrier would be lifted.
- The online booking system would be kept under review, currently the IT systems would need to be further developed to offer instantaneous bookings and this would take time, currently 24 hours notice would be required.
- The option of an 'online only' booking system would be kept under review.
- Induction and refresher training courses were on-going for staff and staff were clearly identifiable by their council branded uniforms.

Mr Cassells said the current mechanism for charging for commercial waste was on volume rather than weight basis, he considered a fairer method would be to pay per weight and he said the recommendation was to explore options for pay per weight for commercial waste at those sites that currently had weigh bridges.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to proceed with Option 3 contained within the Report dated 20 September 2022 as follows:**

Option 3:

- **Introduce an online booking system to allow access by residents disposing of household waste in to vehicles greater than 1.95 metres high across the sites.**
- **Develop and introduce an online booking system to allow access by commercial users disposing of commercial waste in any vehicles greater than 1.95 metres high across the sites. Future options for weighing commercial waste at sites to be considered to better manage cost recovery. Review current charging structure for commercial waste to be accepted at designated HRSs in light of significant increase in waste disposal costs to Council.**

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

Items 6, 7 and 8 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Mc Kevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.

SE/131/2022: BUSINESS CASE FOR DRIVER CPC TRAINING AND ASSESSMENTS AND LOADER TRAINING

Read: Report dated 20 September 2022 from Ms S Murphy (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management, regarding Business Case – Procurement of Driver CPC training and assessment. *(Circulated)*

SE/132/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 25 AUGUST 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 25 August 2022. *(Circulated)*.

SE/133/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 30 JUNE 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 26 May 2022. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor McKevitt proposed, and Councillor Curran seconded, to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:-

SE/131/2022 – Business Case – Procurement of Driver CPC training and assessment

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1, for the procurement of driver training including Driver CPC, induction and refresher training and assessment.

SE/132/2022 – ARC21 Joint Committee Members’ Monthly Bulletin dated 25 August 2022

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note this bulletin.

SE/133/2022 - Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting `in Committee’ Minutes of 30 June 2022

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

FOR NOTING

SE/134/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2022

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 30 June 2022.
(Circulated)

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

SE/135/2022: REVIEW OF SUMMER CLEANSING ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Summer Cleansing Arrangements *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the Summer Cleansing Arrangements.

SE/136/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 18:54.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 October 2022.

Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22 September 2022 in the Mourne Room Downshire Civic Centre Downpatrick and via Microsoft Teams.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor P Byrne via Teams
 Councillor C Casey via Teams
 Councillor L Devlin via Teams
 Councillor A Lewis via Teams
 Councillor D McAteer via Teams
 Councillor D Murphy via Teams
 Councillor K Owen via Teams

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
 Mr A Cassells Director Environment & Sustainability
 Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance & Performance
 Ms C Hughes Head of Performance (Acting)
 Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
 Ms C McAteer Democratic Services

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM
 Ms D McKim NIAO via Teams
 Ms K Costley NIAO via Teams

AC/069/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

AC/070/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**AC/071/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 28 APRIL 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 2022.
(Copy circulated)

Note: This item was deferred from the Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 July 2022.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Action Sheet for Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 2022.**

**AC/072/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 19 JULY 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to note the Action Sheet for Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 July 2022.**

AC/073/2022: AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Read: Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 from Ms B Slevin Independent Chair of Audit Committee.
(Copy circulated)

Note: This item was deferred from the Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 July 2022.

Ms Slevin explained the Annual Report summarised key audit activities and issues that arose during the year therefore informing the Annual Governance Statement as included in the Annual Accounts. She said based on feedback the Council can be reassured the Audit Committee is working effectively with an unqualified opinion received from NI Audit Office and a satisfactory assurance from Internal Audit.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Devlin seconded by Councillor Byrne It was agreed to note the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22.**

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)**AC/074/2022: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Read: Report dated 19 July 2022 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register including the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Note: This item was deferred from the Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 July 2022.

The Corporate Risk Register had been reviewed by Senior Management Team on 14 June 2022 and he gave an overview on all 10 No. Corporate Risks as detailed at Appendix 1.

CR 1 – Capital Investment Programme for District

- residual risk score increased due to a difficult market for Contractors; reliance on a small number of suppliers; utility price increases; high inflation increasing costs.

CR 7 – Economic Development Programme & Regeneration/Inward investment

- residual risk score increased due to inflation pressures; political uncertainty.

CR 9 - Economic shocks emerging from Covid 19 pandemic

- residual risk score increased due to Covid 19 and rising costs of living/inflation pressure.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed as follows:

(a) To approve the updates to the Corporate Risk Register highlighted within the summary at Appendix 1. (Full Corporate Risk Register can be evidenced at Appendix 2)

(b) To note the revised NS Directorate Risk Register at Appendix 3.

AC/075/2022: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance & Performance, regarding the Corporate Risk Register, including the Corporate Services Directorate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne explained the Corporate Risk Register had been reviewed and updated by the Senior Management Team on 14 September 2022 and added that a new risk had been added to the Register.

He referred to the summary of risks as outlined in Appendix 1 and said no amendments had been made to the residual risk scores.

He referred to the new risk, CR 11, regarding the threat of industrial action and confirmed Management were currently liaising with both members and Trade Unions to achieve a successful outcome.

He also referred to the Risk Register for the Corporate Services Directorate, which was being presented to the Audit Committee for Noting.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to approve the updates to the Corporate Risk Register highlighted within the summary at Appendix 1. (Full Corporate Risk Register can be evidenced at Appendix 2)**

AC/076/2022: **PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance & Performance regarding Prompt Payment Statistics – Quarter 1 2022-23. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne explained percentage statistics were down from the previous 2021/22 year which was due to the introduction of a new purchase to pay system. He said all processes were now in place with further staff training being provided and that statistics should improve going forward.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Quarter 1 2022-23 Prompt Payment statistics.**

AC/077/2021: **A) NMDDC STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**
B) ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance & Performance regarding NMDDC Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne said the Draft Statement of Accounts were presented to the Audit Committee Meeting on 19 July 2022. He explained the NI Audit Office audit for year end 31 March 2022 is almost at completion and added that arising from the NIAO Report to Those Charged with Governance, that no material year end adjustments have been reported therefore no changes to the figures presented to Committee in July 2022.

He referred to a number of disclosure issues raised by NI Audit Office which have been included in the new Accounts, and 2 non-adjusting errors for which it is recommended not to include in the Accounts as they are not material to overall figures.

He added that following completion of the NI Audit Office audit, that should any material issues arise, or adjustments be required to the Annual Governance Statement, that Members will be informed.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed, subject to approval of the NI Audit Office Report to Those Charged with Governance, to approve the Statement of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2022 for signing by the Chief Executive and Chairperson.**

NIAO (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 McAteer 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/078/2022: **DRAFT**
REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

Read: Correspondence dated regarding the Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance.
(Copy circulated)

AC/079/2022: **PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Verbal update from NIAO regarding performance.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)**AC/080/2022: UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne
Assistant Director Finance & Performance regarding an
update on Audit Recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/081/2022: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne
Assistant Director Finance & Performance, regarding the
Quarter 2 update on Direct Award Contracts (DACs) /
Single Tender Actions (STAs). **(Copy circulated)**

AC/082/2022: FRAUD & WHISTLEBLOWING

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne
Assistant Director Finance & Performance, regarding an
update on Fraud and Raising Concerns.
(Copy circulated)

AC/083/2022: PROCUREMENT ACTION PLANS

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne
Assistant Director Finance & Performance, regarding
Procurement Action Plans. **(Copy circulated)**

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)**AC/084/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
SUMMARY REPORT**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 22 September
2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/085/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan.
(Copy circulated)

AC/086/2022: NMDDC TOIL PAYMENT REVIEW

Read: ASM Internal Audit regarding NMDDC Toil Payment Review.
(Copy circulated)

AC/087/2022: INFORMATION GOVERNANCE AUDIT

Read: ASM Internal Audit – Audit Fieldwork re: Information Governance dated 21 September 2022.
(Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

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

AC/078/2022: Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Report and agree not to make any changes in respect of unadjusted mis-statements.

AC/079/2022: Performance Update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Devlin it was agreed to note the Performance Audit Update.

AC/080/2022: Update re: Audit Recommendations

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to note the update in relation to legacy audit recommendations.

AC/081/2022: Direct Award Contracts

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Quarter 2 Update in relation to Single Tender Actions.

AC/082/2022: Update re: Fraud & Whistleblowing

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed:

- a) To note the update in relation to Fraud and Raising Concerns cases which have been detailed at Appendix 1.
- b) To note progress on actions arising from the NIAO Internal Fraud Risk Self-Assessment.

AC/083/2022: Procurement Action Plans

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to note the update in relation to the Procurement Action Plans for each Directorate.

AC/084/2022: ASM Internal Audit – Summary Report

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Devlin it was agreed to note the Report.

AC/085/2022: ASM Internal Audit – Strategy and Annual Plan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to approve the updated Audit Plan.

AC/086/2022: NMDDC Toil Payment Review

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to note the Report.

AC/087/2022: Information Governance Audit

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor McAteer It was agreed to note the Report.

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)**AC/088/2022: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2021-22**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance & Performance. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Hughes explained the Assessment of Performance monitors the Council's achievement of improvement objectives for 2021-22.

She said the Assessment of Performance 2021-22 Report was approved at the Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting on 15 September 2022.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Assessment of Performance 2021-22, including the summary document 'Our Performance Looking Back Going Forward'.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.00 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 October 2022.

Signed: Mr G Byrne
Assistant Director Finance & Performance

Signed: Ms B Slevin
Independent Chairperson

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 19 July 2022
Subject:	Audit Committee Annual Report 2021-22
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Brona Slevin Independent Chair of Audit Committee
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Brona Slevin Independent Chair of Audit Committee

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision **For noting only**

Members are asked to consider and approve the contents of this report prior to Reporting to Council.

1.0	Purpose and Background The Annual Report summarises the key activities and highlights any key issues arising throughout the year. This Report will inform the Governance Statement contained within the Council's Annual Accounts.
2	Key Issues The Annual Report of the Newry Mourne and Down Audit Committee for 2021-22 is attached.
3.0	Recommendations Members are asked to consider and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2021-22. The approved Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2021-22 to be reported to Council.
4.0	Resource implications None.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Rationale:</i>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices	
	Appendix 1 – Audit Committee Annual Report for 2020-21	
8.0	Background Documents	

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NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22 September at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate and via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)**In attendance in Chamber:**Councillor J Brennan
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor G O'HareCouncillor A Lewis
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor G Sharvin**In attendance via Teams:**Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor J TinnellyCouncillor A Finnegan
Councillor G Malone
Councillor K Owen**Non-Members in attendance:**Councillor D Curran
Councillor W Clarke**Officials in attendance in Chamber:**Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer**Officials in attendance via Teams:**

Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Procurement

AHC/145/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

AHC/146/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lee-Surginor declared an interest in item 10 – Consultation Response: The Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display) Regulations (NI) 2023 – as the owner of a café.

AHC/147/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 AUGUST 2022Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 August 2022. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Casey, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 August 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/148/2022: **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS - UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and approve the actions for:

- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 9 August 2022.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 18 August 2022.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 25 August 2022.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 6 September 2022.
- Slieve Gullion Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 13 September 2022.
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 14 September 2022.

Agreed: Mr Lipsett also agreed to seek clarification from the Chief Executive as to whether DEA open public meetings could now resume without restrictions.

AHC/149/2022: **COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Co-ordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 17 August 2022.

AHC/151/2022 **REPORT ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update on Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

A number of Members expressed concern regarding several groups who had been

unsuccessful in securing financial assistance, particularly for community events and festivals, despite them completing the application form in a similar manner to previous years. Members queried that if there was any underspend on any other themes, could that be transferred to those that had been successful under stage 2 of the process.

Ms Hillen said officers continually reviewed the financial assistance budgets as they came up against this every year where the number of successful groups continued to rise but budgets remained the same. She said Committee had approved a previous action to review the Capital budget and this would be done with revenue also. However there was no guarantee that there would be underspend in other areas.

Ms Hillen also said she would encourage any group who were applying for financial assistance to seek help and assistance from the DEA Co-Ordinators and Programme Unit staff before submitting the application form, to ensure all relevant information was included and also to seek feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Ms Hillen also agreed to carry out a review and spot checks on applications that had been submitted and which had not been successful.

In response to a query, Mr Devlin advised that a report on defibrillator access and funding would be brought to the October AHC Committee for decision.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note the report on Financial Assistance with Capital report(s) to be brought to the October Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.**

AHC/150/2022 **PEACE IV – UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for PEACE IV. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note this report.**

AHC/151/2022 **UKRAINIAN CRISIS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update on the Ukrainian Crisis and Ukrainian Assistance Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note the update report on the Ukrainian Crisis and Assistance Centres.**

Agreed: **It was also agreed to:-**

- **Note a request that any changes to the operational hours of the Newry Ukrainian Crisis Assistance Centre be communicated to users of the facility well in advance.**

- A follow-up letter be sent to the Executive Office regarding the £350 payment to be given to families hosting Ukrainian refugees.
- Note that consideration be given to establishing a second Crisis Assistance Centre in the Downpatrick area.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/152/2022 CONSULTATION ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES ON THE USE OF FAST CRAFT AND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a consultation on proposed management measures in marine protected areas designed to reduce the risk of disturbance to marine species from fast craft and personal watercraft. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Casey, to approve the Consultation response and note that the response was submitted by the required date (1st September 2022) on the proviso that it would be subject to Council Approval.**

Agreed: **It was also agreed that officers seek clarification on where Carlingford Lough sits with the proposed protected areas.**

AHC/153/2022 CONSULTATION RESPONSE – THE FOOD HYGIENE RATING (ONLINE DISPLAY) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2023

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a consultation on the Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve the Consultation response and note that the response was submitted by the required date (9th September 2022) on the proviso that it would be subject to Council Approval.**

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/154/2022 INCLUSIVE BEACH – NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding infrastructure and resources to upgrade Newcastle to 'Inclusive beach' status should be established as per the recommendations of the Mae Murray Foundation (MMF) and be progressed as part of Council's Public Toilet strategy via Neighbourhood Services department. **(Copy circulated)**.

Members welcomed the update report and said it was essential now that all relevant Departments worked together to progress the establishment of Newcastle Beach as an Inclusive Beach and that this should be progressed through the Sustainability and Environment Directorate as soon as possible through the Council's Public Toilet Strategy.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note that officers had completed feasibility and scoping work in relation to 'Inclusive Beaches' and to progress with the option as per point 2.1.D of the officer's report through the Neighbourhood Services directorate as part of the Council's Public Toilet Strategy.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 12-16 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

AHC/155/2022

WARRENPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr Michael Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities regarding an update on the development of Warrenpoint Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the report and associated appendices and approve the project moving to the next stage namely RIBA Stage 3, to secure full planning approval, commence the IST and PQQ process to identify suitably qualified Design & Build Contractors.

AHC/156/2022

DONARD PARK CAR PARKING

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr Michael Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities regarding Donard Park, Car Parking Capital Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve additional works for Donard Park Car Parks as per the budget outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.

(Councillor McAteer left the meeting)

AHC/157/2022 **KILKEEL LEISURE CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr Michael Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities regarding Kilkeel Leisure Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to progress the appointment of an integrated design team for the Kilkeel Leisure Centre capital project at a cost outlined within 4.1 of the officer's report and as per appendix 1. It was also agreed to progress with the procurement and appointment of a contractor for the project on completion of integrated design team works.

AHC/158/2022 **LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding expressions of interest for the leasing of Council land and facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the contents of the report and that Expressions of Interest for the following land and facilities would progress to stage 3 of the Sport and Leasing Policy 2016:

1. Lisdrumliska Recreation Area, Glen Hill, Newry
2. Section of Land at St. Anne's Park Recreation Area, Mayobridge

AHC/159/2022 **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE LEASING OF LAND AT OLD KILLOUGH ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE, DOWNPATRICK**

Read: Report dated 19 September 2022 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding expression of interest for the leasing of land at Old Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to approve to issue a lease agreement between Council and Downpatrick Autism Family Support Group in relation to land at Old Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 October 2022.

Signed: Councillor H Gallagher
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Monday 26 September 2022 at 5.30pm via Microsoft Teams & Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair:	Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)	
In Attendance in Chamber	Councillor G Hanna Councillor O Magennis Councillor D Murphy Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor A Lewis Councillor A McMurray Councillor B O’Muirí
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor R Howell Councillor D Taylor	Councillor H Gallagher Councillor M Rice
Non Committee Members in chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor H McKee Councillor H Reilly	Councillor A Finnegan Councillor K Owen Councillor M Savage
Non Committee Members Via Teams:	Councillor J Brennan Councillor V Harte Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor L McEvoy Councillor M Ruane Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor W Clarke Councillor M Larkin Councillor G Malone Councillor G O’Hare Councillor G Stokes
Officials in Attendance In chamber:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)	

SPR/145/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Burgess, Casey and McKeivitt.

SPR/146/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on item 3 which related to exempt information by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council, and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

SPR/147/2022: TRADE UNION DISPUTE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 26 September 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding Industrial Relations Update (**Copy circulated**).

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported on the following decision that had been taken:

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin and following a recorded vote (copy of which is appended to these minute), the results of which were 11 FOR and 2 AGAINST, it was agreed to approve the local pay offer in full and final settlement of this current dispute.

It was also agreed to note the cost implications as set out in the officer's report and further agreed to an efficiency programme as set out at paragraph 2.6 in the officer's report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.26pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 October 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
 Chairperson

Signed: **Marie Ward**
 Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 26th September 2022 VENUE: Mourne Room & Teams MEETING: SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Trade Union Dispute Update _____

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Byrne	x			
H Gallagher	x			
M Gibbons				x
O Hanlon	x			
G Hanna		x		
R Howell	x			
A Lewis		x		
O Magennis	x			
A McMurray	x			
D Murphy	x			
B O'Muirí	x			
M Rice	x			
G Sharvin	x			
D Taylor	x			
J Trainor				x
TOTALS	11	2	0	2

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 at 10.00am in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry and via Microsoft Teams

P/081/2022**LDP: Progress Report - Quarterly Update**

Read: Report dated 24 August 2022 by Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan: Progress Quarterly Update

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

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

P/081/2022:**LDP: Progress Report - Quarterly Update**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed to note the quarterly update provided in the report dated 24 August 2022 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan.**



To: Council Chief Executives

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Our ref:
Date: 26 September 2022

Dear Chief Executive

Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings

Further to my letter of 25 March 2022,

Section 78 (local authority meetings) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 contained provision to provide councils with the flexibility to hold meetings by remote or hybrid means during the Coronavirus emergency. This included an enabling power for the Department to make subordinate legislation regarding remote/hybrid meetings and the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 were subsequently made and came into operation on 1 May 2020.

The expiry date of section 78 (Local Authority Meetings) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 was previously extended until 24 September 2022 by the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022. This allowed councils to continue to hold remote/hybrid meetings under the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020.

That extension order was intended as an interim measure until such time as proposals for more permanent legislation, to be made under section 2 of the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021, could be developed for considered by the Communities Minister. Work on the drafting of new regulations is ongoing, however, in the absence of the Assembly, it would not be possible to make regulations under the 2021 Act.



A further extension order has therefore been made to extend section 78 of the Coronavirus Act for a further 6 months, until 24 March 2023. The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings) (No2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 was made on 22 September. This Order is subject to the confirmatory procedure in the Assembly which means that whilst it comes into operation once made, it will cease to have effect 40 days from the date of making unless it has been approved by resolution of the Assembly (the 40 day period does not include any time in which the Assembly is dissolved, in recess for more than 4 days or adjourned for more than 6 days).

Yours sincerely

Anthony Carleton
Director
Local Government & Housing Regulation