



September 1st, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 4th September 2023** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 August 2023

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 07.08.2023.pdf](#)

Page 1

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 August 2023

 [Council Minutes 07.08.2023.pdf](#)

Page 7

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

5.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 August 2023

 [Enterprise_Regeneration_and_Tourism_Committee_Minutes_14-08-2023.pdf](#)

Page 25

6.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2023

 [Strategy Policy Resources Meeting Minutes 17-08-2023.pdf](#)

Page 36

7.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 August 2023

 [Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 21 August 2023.pdf](#)

Page 46

8.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 August 2023

 [Sustainabilty_and_Environment_Committee_Minutes_2023-08-22.pdf](#)

Page 68

9.0 Planning Section

There were no issues arising.

Correspondence

10.0 Response from Department of Education re: Notice of Motion C/133/2023 Study of Languages

Copy response dated 14 August 2023 attached.

 *Dept of Education - C1332023 - Notice of Motion - Study of Languages.pdf*

Page 74

11.0 Response from Department of Health re: Notice of Motion C/158/2023 Young Carers

Copy correspondence dated 24 August 2023 attached.

 *Dept of Health - C1582023 - Notice of Motion - Young Carers.pdf*

Page 76

12.0 Response from Home Office re: Notice of Motion C/137/2023 Seasonal Workers

Copy correspondence dated 7 August 2023 attached.

 *Home Office - C1372023 - Notice of Motion - Seasonal Workers.pdf*

Page 78

Notices of Motion

13.0 Notice of Motion - Ballynahinch By-Pass

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andrews:

"Noting that former Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon had progressed the Ballynahinch By Pass project to the Direction Order that was made in April 2021 with only funding and a contractor now required; expressing deep concern that due to the lack of an Executive and budget, the Department has paused preliminary works on a number of major road schemes, including the much needed Ballynahinch By Pass and expressing our solidarity with local ratepayers and residents for decades over stop start politics that have had a major impact on projects such as this by pass.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council reaffirms our total support for the Ballynahinch By Pass also agreeing to write to the Department for Infrastructure to determine firstly why the Ballynahinch By Pass has been halted when it is so advanced? Secondly what is the criteria for Road Schemes that will be prioritised?

Also acknowledging the need for political reform to restore the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive and calls on the DUP to end its policy of abstentionism and return to Stormont to deliver the best outcomes for ALL the people of Northern Ireland."

14.0 Notice of Motion - Warrenpoint Baths

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Ruane:

"That this Council regrets that Warrenpoint Baths continues to fall into a state of disrepair and has now become an eyesore on what is one of the most scenic views in Ireland. Welcomes the effort made by Council and local Councillors, who worked hard to ensure planning permission for the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths was retained in 2022. Expresses its disappointment that a recent funding application to the British Government's Levelling Up Fund to redevelop the Baths site was unsuccessful. Recognises the construction of Narrow Water Bridge is due to commence in early Summer 2024, and with it will come increased tourism and economic opportunities for the wider Warrenpoint and South Down region.

Further agrees that a viable and innovative project like Warrenpoint Baths will complement the much-anticipated Narrow Water Bridge. This will help to increase tourist numbers to Warrenpoint and drive the local economy.

Agrees that Newry Mourne and Down Council should make the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths a flagship Council project in the new term. Commits to actively seeking alternative funding for the project through avenues such as the Irish Government's Shared Island Fund."

15.0 Notice of Motion - Disabled Users Forum

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:

"That this Council recognises the importance of ensuring that the district's tourist attractions, services and products are fully accessible for all.

Will establish a disabled users forum to proactively engage with local residents & organisations who experience accessibility issues in the district to hear first hand how they experience council facilities and local attractions.

All Council facilities and promotional material will clearly display a list of local changing places and accessible facilities in the district.

All Council employees will be made aware of changing places, units and accessible features within council facilities.

Furthermore when an event is applied for that it includes the use of portable toilet facilities a mobile changing places unit must be provided also".

16.0 Notice of Motion - Restocking of Quoile River

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:

"Council recognises the importance of Coarse Fishing at the Quoile River and its positive impact on tourism, local economy, health, wellbeing and sports. Council recognises concerns of local angling and conservation groups over the diversity and quantity of the fish stock in the Quoile and the decline of native species. Council will request DAERA to restock the Quoile, prioritising a population increase for Pike, Roach, Rudd and Bream to a sustainable level".

17.0 Notice of Motion - Recent blooms of Algae - Establishment of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McMurray:

“This Council is concerned by the recent blooms of blue-green algae in our waters; notes the detrimental impact these blooms have had on local businesses; asks the Department of Agricultural, Environment and Rural Affairs to swiftly convene a cross party meeting between affected Council areas to discuss the issue & to develop an action plan to address it; and calls for the establishment of an independent Environmental Protection Agency in line with New Decade, New Approach commitments”.

18.0 Notice of Motion - Scheme for Medical Hair Loss

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Finnegan:

“This Council calls on the Department of Health to investigate the possibility of replicating the PRSI scheme in the South for those suffering from medical hair loss here in the north.

While the Council does acknowledge the immense financial pressure facing public services, including our health service, brought about by a decade of savage tory austerity, it also recognises the devastating impact that medical hair loss can have on a persons confidence, mental health and overall quality of life and believes that people living in the north should have access to the same dignity and quality of care that is offered to those in the South so that they can live their lives comfortably and confidently.

Therefore, this council will write to the Department of Health and urge them to look into the possibility of introducing this scheme for people in the north and also calls on the DUP to end their boycott of the Assembly and Executive which is exacerbating the current pressure on our public services, including our vital Health service”.

19.0 Notice of Motion - Funding Sub Committee

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Savage:

“Council recognises the challenges in securing funding for landmark capital and community projects across the district and agrees to establish a Standing Sub-Committee of Council Officers and nominated Councillors tasked with overseeing the identification of funding streams relevant to Council capital and community projects and the timely delivery of funding applications.

The Sub-Committee will meet monthly and report to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee which will agree the Terms of Reference of the Standing Sub-Committee in October 2023 for approval at the November 2023 Full Council Meeting”.

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 7 AUGUST 2023

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/140/2023</i>	<i>Chairperson's Remarks</i>	<i>It was agreed to establish a working group consisting of Mourne DEA Councillors and Council officer to support the planning for the Irish Open 2024.</i>	<i>C Mallon</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/142/2023</i>	<i>Action sheet from meeting held on 03.07.2023</i>	<i>The action sheet was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/143/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 03.07.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		It was agreed for Downpatrick DEA group to consider bonfire at Mount Crescent Car Park, Downpatrick.	<i>K Hynds</i>	<i>Item scheduled on the Downpatrick DEA Agenda - 10 October 2023</i>	
<i>C/144/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 03.07.2023</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/145/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 04.07.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
	<i>Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23</i>	The Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23 was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/146/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 24.07.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/147/2023</i>	<i>Planning Section</i>	It was agreed to note the extract from Minutes of Planning Committee held on 28 June 2023 in relation to the Local Development Plan.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/148/2023</i>	<i>Email response from NIO – Notice of Motion, C/075/2023 Reduction in</i>	The email was noted. It was agreed to write to all the political parties Conservative, Labour, Lib Dems, Greens, the Welsh, Scottish and parties represented at Council and	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i> <i>Letters issued</i>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	<i>minimum voting age</i>	seeking the support of Independents to so the same and copying in the 10 other Councils in Northern Ireland to write to all concerned parties calling for their commitment to reduce the voting age to 16.			
<i>C/149/2023</i>	<i>Response from Permanent Secretary – Notice of Motion, C/084/2023 Fixed Bridge Design for Newry Southern Relief Road</i>	The letter was noted. It was agreed that alongside the meeting with the Department for Infrastructure that Council invite the Shared Island Unit to come and discuss the possibility to potentially provide funding and provide detail on the Narrow Water Bridge Design.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>C Mallon</i>	<i>Noted</i> <i>Letter issued</i>	
<i>C/150/2023</i>	<i>Response from Department of Education – Notice of Motion, C/132/2023 School Sports Programme</i>	The letter was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/151/2023</i>	<i>Response from University of Ulster, Notice of Motion, C/136/2023 University Graduations</i>	The letter was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/152/2023</i>	<i>Responses from Department of Justice, Department for Communities and Department of Health, Notice of Motion C/138/2023</i>	The letters were noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	<i>Conversion Therapy</i>				
<i>C/153/2023</i>	<i>Response from Permanent Secretary, Notice of Motion, C/139/2023, Glebe House, Kilclief</i>	The letter was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Letter issued.	
<i>C/154/2023</i>	<i>Response from Department for Infrastructure, Notice of Motion, C/135/2023, Electronic copies of valid insurance.</i>	The letter was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Letter issued.	
<i>C/155/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Homelessness</i>	The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>A Robb P Tamati</i>	Noted Report to be tabled at AHC Committee.	
<i>C/156/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Newry Coty Park Funding Application</i>	The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>J Kelly</i>		
<i>C/157/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Back to School Costs</i>	It was agreed that Council notes the findings of the 2023 Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) survey on Back to School costs which show 41% of parents in this jurisdiction go into debt due to back to school costs, with the largest expense for both primary and secondary school parents being uniforms; is deeply	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Letters issued	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		concerned that the high cost of some school uniforms is a source of financial stress for many families impacting their health and wellbeing; acknowledges that the positive attributes of school uniforms, such as promoting equality amongst pupils, is at risk of being undermined by unaffordable costs; and calls for the urgent restoration of the Assembly and Executive so that legislation can be brought forward that will require schools to have competitive tendering processes, removes requirements for expensive branded items, and permits the use of cheaper high street alternatives.			
<i>C/158/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Young Carers</i>	<p>It was agreed that noting that there are currently 220,000 unpaid carers across the North; recognising the essential role that young carers in particular play within the community; expressing its concern that during holiday periods such carers can face increased stress, loneliness and isolation, and further noting that unpaid carers save the government an estimated £1million per year, this Council agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health calling for increased financial support for these unpaid carers to be used for respite, residential breaks or recreation for their health and well-being.</p> <p>It was agreed that Council officers investigate the amendment put forward by Councillor Truesdale and report back to the Strategic Finance Working Group: "And for this Council to investigate running consistent carer specific schemes within the district either online, in person or hybrid".</p>	<p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>J Kelly</i></p>		

<i>Minute Ref</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Decision</i>	<i>Lead Officer</i>	<i>Actions taken/ Progress to date</i>	<i>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</i>
<i>C/159/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Recycling</i>	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services A Cassells</i>		
<i>END</i>					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 August 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:

Councillor V Harte

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor P Campbell
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright	Councillor D Finn
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor S O'Hare
Councillor S Murphy	Councillor A Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Truesdale

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor T Kelly
Councillor C King	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor J Tinnelly	

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance via Teams:

Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture and Events
 Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

C/140/2023**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Howell, Magennis, D Murphy, K Murphy and Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services.

The Chairperson extended sincere sympathy to the family, friends and colleagues of the late former Councillor John McArdle. She spoke of how John played an important role representing his constituents for a number of years and placed on record her gratitude for his contribution to local politics.

Councillor Savage spoke at length and paid tribute to the late John McArdle and passed on condolences to his wife Patricia, sons Cathal and Ciaran and the wider family circle.

On behalf of Council, the Chairperson remembered Elaine Coffey, a Business Support Officer from the Downpatrick office who had sadly passed away.

Good luck was extended to all those travelling to Mullingar to compete in the various competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann including members of the Abhainn an Lagáin Ceili Band, Aislinn Fegan, Ciara Maguire, Niamh Howell and Ruairí Howell. The Chairperson advised the Senior Ceili Band Competition was the highlight of the Fleadh week and the prestigious competition was a sell out every year.

The Chairperson congratulated Evie Keown from Castlewellan on winning three gold medals at the Westfield Transplant Games in Coventry last month. Evie spent the first 14 months of her life in hospital but underwent a heart transplant in November 2019 and had never looked back.

Councillor Hanna requested the opportunity to welcome and congratulate Royal County Down on their successful achievement on hosting the Irish Golf Tournament for 2024. He spoke of the massive economic benefit it would bring to the area and how it would showcase South Down and the District.

Councillor Hanna proposed a group of Mourne DEA Councillors and Council officers be established to support in planning for this key event.

Councillor Hanna suggested records from the last time the Irish Open was held in South Down in 2015 be examined as it had been a massive success.

In seconding Councillor Hanna's proposal, Councillor Clarke spoke of his delight at the event returning to Newcastle and the legacy such an event had in showcasing the District not only on TV and those going to the golf course but also for those that revisit the area.

Councillor Clarke referred to a previous grant from the Department for Communities to enhance the town the last time the event was held in Newcastle and the importance of looking at opportunities to do that.

Councillor Devlin voiced her support for such an event to be held in Newcastle, one which was a massive accolade for the town and tourism product.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Clarke to establish a working group consisting of Mourne DEA Councillors and Council officer to support the planning for the Irish Open 2024.**

C/141/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/142/2023 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2023

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 July 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 July 2023 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/143/2023 COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2023

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 July 2023 (copy circulated).

C/125/2023: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2023 - Bonfire at Mount Crecent Car Park, Downpatrick

Councillor Sharvin advised that despite work from Council Officers and PSNI to remove items from the site, significant damage had been caused to the Council car park.

Councillor Sharvin proposed the matter be considered by Downpatrick DEA group to prevent it happening next year.

In seconding the proposal, Councillor Hanlon confirmed the matter would also be considered by the Bonfire Sub Group.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 July 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin,

seconded by Councillor Hanlon for Downpatrick DEA group to consider bonfire at Mount Crescent Car Park, Downpatrick.

C/144/2023 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2023

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 3 July 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 3 July 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/145/2023 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2023

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 4 July 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 4 July 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

Read: Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23 (copy circulated),

Agreed: **The Audit Committee Annual Report was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the Audit Committee Annual Report 2022/23.**

C/146/2023 MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2023

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 24 July 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 24 July 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

C/147/2023 PLANNING SECTION

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 June 2023 in relation to the Local Development Plan (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Campbell to note the extract from Minutes of Planning Committee held on 28 June 2023 in relation to the Local Development Plan.**

CORRESPONDENCE

C/148/2023 EMAIL RESPONSE FROM NIO RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/075/2023 – REDUCTION IN MINIMUM VOTING AGE (Copy circulated)

Read: Correspondence from NIO regarding a reduction in minimum voting age dated 20 July 2023. (Copy circulated)

Read: Correspondence from Scottish Government regarding a reduction in minimum voting age dated 3 July 2023. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Andrews thanked Councillors for their support since presenting the motion for a reduction in minimum voting age and voiced his disappointment once again at the response received.

Councillor Andrews proposed Council write to all the political parties Conservative, Labour, Lib Dems, Greens, the Welsh, Scottish and parties represented at Council and seeking the support of Independents to do the same and copying in the 10 other Councils in Northern Ireland to write to all concerned parties calling for their commitment to reduce the voting age to 16.

Councillor Quinn seconded Councillor Andrew's proposal.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the email response from NIO regarding Notice of Motion C/075/2023, Reduction in Minimum Voting Age.**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Quinn to write to all the political parties Conservative, Labour, Lib Dems, Greens, the Welsh, Scottish and parties represented at Council and seeking the support of Independents to do the same and copying in the 10 other Councils in Northern Ireland to write to all concerned parties calling for their commitment to reduce the voting age to 16.

C/149/2023

RESPONSE FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/084/2023 – FIXED BRIDGE DESIGN FOR NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD

Read: Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary regarding the Fixed Bridge Design from Newry Southern Relief Road dated 14 July 2023. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage spoke at length about the campaign to secure a lifting bridge to enable tall ships to enter the Albert Basin and protect the long term future viability of opening up what was the oldest navigational canal. He expressed his disappointment at the sentiments from the Permanent Secretary and how the potential budget that could be available through the Shared Island Unit had not been explored.

Councillor Savage proposed that alongside the meeting with the Department for Infrastructure that Council invite the Shared Island Unit to come and discuss the possibility to potentially provide funding and provide detail on the Narrow Water Bridge Design.

Councillor King seconded Councillor Savage's proposal.

Councillor Finn commented that it was great to see tall ships and vessels navigating the canal recently and asked that it be put on record her party's opposition to any form of fixed bridge.

Councillor McMurray supported the comments by previous speakers and stated it was very important to have it navigational by tall ships and vessels.

Councillor Hanna expressed concern that all this was delaying the Southern Relief Road and talked at length about the need for it to proceed.

Councillor Taylor commented that he was someone who supported the concept of a lifting bridge, however the points raised by Councillor Hanna were also valid with a lot of challenges that needed to be considered going forward. He welcomed the meeting with DFI and the opportunity to question them on it.

The Chairperson pointed out there was an opportunity for Members to come along to the meeting with DFI and make their feelings known.

Councillor Finn asked that it be put on record that it was not a matter of causing delay but as a representative it was vitally important that everything was done to look into the historic preservation of the area.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the correspondence received from the Permanent

Secretary regarding Notice of Motion C/084/2023, Fixed Bridge Design for Newry Southern Relief Road.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor King that alongside the meeting with the Department for Infrastructure that Council invite the Shared Island Unit to come and discuss the possibility to potentially provide funding and provide detail on the Narrow Water Bridge Design.

Councillor Savage left the meeting at this point – 6.33pm.

C/150/2023 RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/132/2023 – SCHOOLS SPORTS PROGRAMME

Read: Correspondence from the Department of Education regarding the Schools Sports Programme dated 17 July 2023. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Campbell advised Sinn Féin was disappointed by the Department's decision not to maintain funding for the Schools Sports Programmes and that children's health and wellbeing was being adversely impacted by the loss of this additional support.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the correspondence received from the Department of Education regarding Notice of Motion C/132/2023, Schools Sports Programme.

C/151/2023 RESPONSE FROM UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/136/2023 – UNIVERSITY GRADUATIONS

Read: Correspondence from the University of Ulster regarding University Graduations dated 10 July 2023. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the correspondence received from the University of Ulster regarding Notice of Motion C/136/2023, University Graduations.

C/152/2023

**RESPONSES FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND DEPARTMENT FOR
HEALTH RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/138/2023 –
CONVERSION THERAPY**

Read: Correspondence from the Department of Justice, Department for Communities and Department for Health dated 17, 19 and July 2023 respectively. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the correspondence received from the Department of Justice, Department for Communities and Department for Health regarding Notice of Motion C/138/2023, Conversion Therapy.**

C/153/2023

**RESPONSE FROM TEO PERMANENT SECRETARY RE:
NOTICE OF MOTION C/139/2023 – GLEBE HOUSE,
KILCLIEF**

Read: Correspondence from TEO Permanent Secretary dated 25 July 2023. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Campbell stated funding for the voluntary sector was becoming increasingly under pressure and the strain of budgetary restrictions was impacting the most vulnerable in society and that organisations such as Glebe House that provided valued support must be maintained and welcomed the meeting with Executive Office representatives.

Councillor Galbraith echoed Councillor Campbell's comments and expressed disappointment that the decision on funding had not changed. Staff of Glebe House had asked that it be put on record that this was another example of the impact of a non-functioning Government and extended their thanks and gratitude to Council for their support over the last number of weeks.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the correspondence received from TEO Permanent Secretary regarding Notice of Motion C/139/2023, Glebe House.**

**C/154/2023 RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/135/2023 – ELECTRONIC
COPIES OF VALID INSURANCE**

Read: Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure dated 26 July 2023. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure regarding Notice of Motion C/135/2023, Electronic Copies of Valid Insurance.

C/155/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – HOMELESSNESS

The following motion was received from Councillor Truesdale:

"That this Council notes that the number of households with homelessness status on the social housing waiting list across NI has increased from 9,878 to 26,310 households in the last ten years, an increase of 166%; notes the enormous strain the homelessness system is under with the number of households in temporary accommodation at unprecedented levels; agrees that this council has a role to play in preventing homelessness in this district alongside other organisations and bodies in the Public, Statutory and Voluntary sectors; calls on this Council to assess how it contributes to homelessness prevention through carrying out an audit of its services and requests that Officers bring back a report detailing the homelessness prevention work currently supported as well as how the Council's community planning function can further support homelessness prevention work in the local area".

The motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

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

C/156/2023

NOTICE OF MOTION – NEWRY CITY PARK FUNDING APPLICATION

16

In response to a query raised by Councillor Lee-Surginor, the Chairperson advised Mr Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism would provide a verbal update once the Motion had been read.

The following motion was received from Councillor Lee-Surginor with a slight amendment to read as follows:

*"Noting the Council has failed to deliver on previously agreed motions to submit funding bids for the Newry City Park to the Levelling up and Shared Island Fund, council will now urgently prepare a capital funding bid to the Peace plus programme for the remainder of funding required to complete all phases of the project and deliver the world class park that was promised to ratepayers; and for full Council to approve this motion as deadline for this application is **Thursday 7th September 2023 at 5pm.**"*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Mr Mallon advised in terms of Phase 1 of the park the outline business case had been completed and submitted to the Department for Communities. He had attended and presented to the Case Work Committee of DfC on 3 July 2023, and received confirmation on 5 July that the Committee had approved the presentation and the OBC submission. This was then approved by the DfC Permanent Secretary on 6 July and forwarded to the Department of Finance for consideration and approval for funding for Phase 1.

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

Councillors Jackson and Lewis left the meeting at this point – 6.41pm.

Councillor Tinnelly left the meeting during the following item – 6.44pm

C/157/2023

NOTICE OF MOTION – BACK TO SCHOOL COSTS

The following motion was received from Councillor McEvoy:

"That this Council notes the findings of the 2023 Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) survey on Back to School costs which show 41% of parents in this jurisdiction go into debt due to back to school costs, with the largest expense for both primary and secondary school parents being uniforms; is deeply concerned that the high cost of some school uniforms is a source of financial stress for many families impacting their health and wellbeing; acknowledges that the positive attributes of school uniforms, such as promoting equality amongst pupils, is at risk of being undermined by unaffordable costs; and calls for the urgent restoration of the Assembly and Executive so that legislation can be brought forward that will require schools to have competitive

tendering processes, removes requirements for expensive branded items, and permits the use of cheaper high street alternatives."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Finnegan.

In presenting the motion, Councillor McEvoy stated workers and families were already struggling with the cost of living with fuel costs, electricity bills and mortgage interest rates and now in the days and weeks ahead families were to be faced with soaring back-to-school costs.

Members were advised a survey on back-to-school costs from the Irish League of Credit Unions found that parents could expect to spend £837 per primary school child, a rise of £81 on last year; and £989 per secondary child, an increase of £163 on last year and that research commissioned by the Irish League of Credit Unions in 2020 found that one third of parents were plunged into debt each year when buying school uniforms.

Councillor McEvoy outlined figures relating to the average debt encountered by parents when buying uniform and how it was extremely concerning that 20% of parents said they sacrificed spending on food to cover costs. Uniforms were the top expense for parents followed by lunches, extracurricular activities, transport and books.

Councillor McEvoy pointed out the Children's society research found that where branded items or specific suppliers were stipulated by a school, this increased costs by an average of 50% (The Children's Society, 2020) and that branded items in the north of Ireland were now the norm and most schools required bespoke blazers from limited suppliers.

Councillor McEvoy added that in the North the cost of uniform remained high whilst in England and Wales there had been an attempt to deal with the cost through statutory intervention. She added that if parents were falling into significant debt year-on-year to buy school uniforms, it was clear that the current system of voluntary guidance was not working.

Members were informed alternative remedies had already been exhausted and support afforded by the Uniform Grant was helpful, but the rate had not been increased to keep pace with inflation over the years nor did it support working families.

In Autumn 2021, the Education Minister announced a review would take place into the eligibility criteria and thresholds for Free School Meals and Uniform Grants and there had been no update in terms of this review.

Councillor McEvoy spoke of how school uniforms had changed very little in the last 50 years with the only major change to uniform policy being an increase in mandatory branded sportswear and a use of limited suppliers. Current guidance surrounding uniform policy was not on a statutory footing therefore there was nothing to compel relevant bodies to adhere to it.

Members were advised there needed to be an introduction of statutory guidance requiring schools to have competitive tendering processes, to remove the requirement for branded items, and to permit the use of cheaper high street alternatives and that

the legislative objectives of this proposal were to put guidance on uniform affordability on a statutory footing within the Department of Education.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Finnegan stressed the importance of the motion with parents under stress through the cost of living crisis without struggling to pay hundreds of pounds for school uniform. She added she had received feedback from parents and carers who had received expressions of disapproval from teachers when a child did not have the specified PE uniform to wear because the parents could not afford it.

As a Councillor and a mother Councillor Finnegan urged the DUP to end the blockade to the Executive and stop holding up important work and get this Motion passed.

Councillor Bowsie advised his party supported the spirit of the motion and that the DUP had urged the Government to remove VAT on school specific uniform items as the cost of school uniform items were extortionate and unaffordable. School uniforms were like a tax on people and caused both financial difficulties and unnecessary concern to many families across Northern Ireland, with one third of parents getting into debt each year when buying school uniforms.

He added schools also had a duty to not allow monopolies to develop and should not be instructing parents to only buy from specified suppliers or certain brands and thereby giving suppliers the ability to demand high prices for school uniforms. The price of school-specific uniforms should not become a barrier for children to attend the school of their choice.

Councillor Bowsie advised that currently under VAT rules, school uniforms for young children who are less than 14 years of age, attract a zero-rate of VAT. Members were advised the DUP's Sammy Wilson had tabled a question to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he planned to remove VAT on school-specific uniforms in the UK and his response had been there were no current plans to extend the existing zero rate.

He advised Members the DUP was urging the Government to recognise the extortionate price of school uniform and to implement an extension of the zero rate or to introduce a price cap on the price of school specific uniforms to support our families and children within Northern Ireland and the UK.

Councillor Bowsie proposed the following amendment for the motion to read as follows:

"That this Council notes the findings of the 2023 Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) survey on Back to School costs which show 41% of parents in this jurisdiction go into debt due to back to school costs, with the largest expense for both primary and secondary school parents being uniforms; is deeply concerned that the high cost of some school uniforms is a source of financial stress for many families impacting their health and wellbeing; acknowledges that the positive attributes of school uniforms, such as promoting equality amongst pupils, is at risk of being undermined by unaffordable costs; and calls for legislation to be brought forward that will require schools to have competitive tendering processes, removes requirements for expensive branded items, and permits the use of cheaper high street alternatives."

Councillor Hanna seconded the proposed amendment.

Councillor McEvoy did not accept Councillor Bowsie's proposed amendment.

The amended motion was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR:	3
AGAINST:	28
ABSTENTIONS:	1

The proposal was lost.

In voicing support for the motion on behalf of SDLP, Councillor Byrne referred to the number of holding letters being sent back to Council on matters that were being raised stating nothing could be done without an Assembly and Executive and expressed his disappointment. He spoke at length about the costs and statistics regarding school uniforms and the need to get in line with other devolved assembly's and a central solution was needed and that required getting everyone around the table.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Taylor said the reality was the Assembly and Executive was needed as they had the legislative authority to deal with the problems outlined in the motion and a way must be found to alleviate the costs to parents.

Councillor McMurray on behalf of Alliance voiced support for the motion and spoke of the need for the Assembly to be up and running.

Councillor Hanna spoke of the massive problems and challenges being faced by parents. He voiced his disappointment at it being turned around into a DUP bashing session and whilst his party agreed with the motion he asked Members to show respect the DUP position.

Councillor Reilly commented that it was a very good motion and that it was a pity it had been politicised and used to damage DUP position.

Councillor Hanlon spoke about the need for a functioning government to have the legislation passed during a time of a cost of living crisis.

Councillor McEvoy summed up by thanking those Members for their support of the motion and reiterating the importance of introducing measures to make school uniforms more affordable as it was a primary expense for families.

Councillor McEvoy stated Sinn Féin wanted to legislate to make uniforms more affordable for all families and reinstate vital holiday hunger payments to the tens of thousands of families who rely on them.

The Chairperson then put the Motion to a vote by way of a show of hands, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	29
AGAINST:	3
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The Motion was carried.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan that Council notes the findings of the 2023 Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) survey on Back to School costs which show 41% of parents in this jurisdiction go into debt due to back to school costs, with the largest expense for both primary and secondary school parents being uniforms; is deeply concerned that the high cost of some school uniforms is a source of financial stress for many families impacting their health and wellbeing; acknowledges that the positive attributes of school uniforms, such as promoting equality amongst pupils, is at risk of being undermined by unaffordable costs; and calls for the urgent restoration of the Assembly and Executive so that legislation can be brought forward that will require schools to have competitive tendering processes, removes requirements for expensive branded items, and permits the use of cheaper high street alternatives.**

Councillors Reilly and Gibbons left the meeting at this point – 7.11pm and 7.12pm respectively.

C/158/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – YOUNG CARERS

The following motion was received from Councillor Devlin:

"Noting that there are currently 220,000 unpaid carers across the North; recognising the essential role that young carers in particular play within the community; expressing its concern that during holiday periods such carers can face increased stress, loneliness and isolation, and further noting that unpaid carers save the government an estimated £1million per year, this Council agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health calling for increased financial support for these unpaid carers to be used for respite, residential breaks or recreation for their health and well-being."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Devlin spoke of how Carers were essential within the social care system with their role often undervalued and unappreciated by Government.

Members were informed there were about 8,000 young people in Northern Ireland who undertook unpaid caring roles, with the latest census showing 2,600 of them are under-15. These carers could be caring for parents, siblings or other family members and during the summer and other holiday periods they can feel isolated and this was often magnified over the summer break when they got little or no time away from the family unit.

Councillor Devlin pointed out Government must recognise that these children often give up a significant chunk of their own childhood whilst caring for a loved one.

Councillor Devlin referred to a report from Action for Children and Carers Trust that found 86% of young carers were more stressed or worried during the summer holidays than during term-time. There were 260 young carers in the South Eastern, Belfast and Southern Trusts who needed increased support during this time of year.

She spoke of organisations such as Barnardo's NI and Action for Children who do incredible work across to support carers with local organisations such as the ADHD Hub, Unit T, Unit T Stars doing their utmost to support carers and young carers but this should not come down to charity.

This group of carers were often hidden and save the Government over £1m per year as they are too young to claim Carers Allowance. So, at the very least, Government must recognise this financial saving and look at ways to reward these young carers.

Councillor Devlin stated this was a much bigger issue than people thought and one for a local Minister in Stormont to consider now.

In voicing support for the motion, Councillor Andrews asked that correspondence be circulated to the 10 other Councils to seek support.

In supporting the motion Councillor Kearns stated the number of people caring for loved ones, working long hours unpaid was deeply concerning and that families needed support as the health service faced huge challenges due to lack of resources and understaffing and that this needed to be urgently addressed.

She added families and health workers needed a Health Minister in place and an Executive working together to invest in the health service to hire more staff, deliver more care packages and tackle waiting lists now. Members were provided with statistics on unpaid carers and told of how were forced to sacrifice their own wellbeing every day as the price of supporting their loved ones.

In speaking in support of the motion on behalf of the Alliance party Councillor Truesdale detailed funding received for the Support for Carers Fund and given that this funding had come to an end following the allocation of £1.6m in the fourth and final round of grants from the Support for Carers Fund on 3 August 2023 there was a need

to build sustainability into the motion and for Council to take a more proactive approach.

Councillor Truesdale proposed an amendment to the motion to read as follows:

"And for this Council to investigate running consistent carer specific schemes within the district either online, in person or hybrid".

In response for clarification from Councillor Devlin, Mr Mallon advised it was not something Council was responsible for or that Council delivers as part of its statutory function and without further detail on what it would entail it would be difficult to make a decision and commitment on behalf of Council at this time.

It was agreed at the suggestion of Councillor Devlin that Council officers investigate the amendment put forward by Councillor Truesdale and report back to the Strategic Finance Working Group.

Councillor Taylor thanked Councillor Devlin for bringing forward the motion and spoke of the hope that the Permanent Secretary would look on the request favourably and ensure an increase in financial support for young carers.

Councillor Devlin thanked Members for their support for the Motion.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Andrews that noting that there are currently 220,000 unpaid carers across the North; recognising the essential role that young carers in particular play within the community; expressing its concern that during holiday periods such carers can face increased stress, loneliness and isolation, and further noting that unpaid carers save the government an estimated £1million per year, this Council agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health calling for increased financial support for these unpaid carers to be used for respite, residential breaks or recreation for their health and well-being.

It was agreed that Council officers investigate the amendment put forward by Councillor Truesdale and report back to the Strategic Finance Working Group: *"And for this Council to investigate running consistent carer specific schemes within the district either online, in person or hybrid".*

C/159/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – RECYCLING

The following motion was received from Councillor McAteer:

"Noting with concern estimations that while 9 in 10 people in the North recycle at home only 4 in 10 recycle while outdoors; further notes with concern DAERA estimates that consumers in the North use 420 million plastic bottles and 90 million cans every year, and welcomes that across the North the successful Hubbub CircleCity programme which has run across the UK and seen an additional 2.5million plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans recycled while outdoors, this Council agrees that more work is needed across out District to encourage recycling while outdoors, will seek a meeting with Hubbub to recommend Newry, Mourne and Down for a similar CircleCity scheme, will undertake an education programme for District residents on the benefits of outdoor recycling and will commence a pilot scheme for new recycling bins to be installed across key public spaces and parks."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Finn.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.24pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 September 2023.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 August 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
 Councillor C Bowsie (Chamber)
 Councillor P Campbell (Chamber)
 Councillor W Clarke (Chamber)
 Councillor C Galbraith (Chamber)
 Councillor G Hanna (Chamber)
 Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
 Councillor S Murphy (Chamber)
 Councillor M Savage (Chamber)
 Councillor J Truesdale (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr C Mallon, Director: Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism
 Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes
 Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
 Ms L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/089/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor C King
 Councillor A Quinn
 Councillor J Tinnelly

ERT/090/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

ERT/091/2023: ACTION SHEET ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 June 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/092/2023 – Ballykinlar Hut Relocation

Councillors Andrews and Hanna raised concerns regarding the removal of the Ballykinlar Hut, given its historical significance, and the exploration of other options to have this hut preserved. It was noted that a proposal had been made at the Council Meeting in July 2023 for Council to

work with any groups who had expressed an interest in re-establishing the hut at another site. Officers to pursue this and report back to Members.

AGREED: **ERT/092/2023 – Ballykinlar Hut Relocation: it was agreed that officers pursue the potential interest from groups and report back to members.**

On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 June 2023.

NOTICE OF MOTION

**ERT/093/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: DISPOSABLE BARBEQUES**

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding a Notice of Motion on disposable barbeques. **(Circulated)**

It was noted the following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration at the Council Meeting July 2023, in the names of Councillors Clarke and Truesdale and had been referred to the ERT Committee for consideration.

"Council notes with concern the damage caused by the irresponsible use of disposable barbecues to some council facilities as well as to vulnerable environmental areas; In response to the situation, Council should explore options to reduce the use of disposable barbecues in all Council facilities and on Council land which is deemed to be environmentally sensitive; Council should also seek to develop an awareness programme in partnership with relevant stakeholders to highlight the potential harm that disposable barbecues can cause to sensitive environmental areas".

Councillor Clarke presented the Notice of Motion.

He said given the wildfire situation around the world, we needed to promote responsible use of disposable barbeques and encourage people to be mindful and aware of their surroundings and environment within our 3 AONBs. Councillor Clarke accepted the officers report which he felt covered the points within the Motion, in particular an awareness programme to highlight the potential harm from disposable barbeques to wildlife, people and the environment.

He also referred to cost implication to Council as a result of people lighting barbeques on wooden furniture in many of its park sites, and the need for proper disposable units for these barbeques. He stressed the need to work with all stakeholders to implement management plans to protect our fragile environment.

Councillor Truesdale supported the Motion and stressed that disposable barbeques should be referred to as 'one time use barbeques' adding that many Councils and national parks in the UK, and Ireland's Office of Public Works Heritage sites have now banned the use of these barbeques.

She stated the safety and protection of people and the environment must be the primary consideration on the issues around one time use barbeques, and whilst she would be supportive

of a complete ban on this product, which would not be an option supported by some, she instead called on the implementation of basic safety standards given the following:
 These barbeques can reach temperatures of 400 degrees centigrade plus;
 Flames and heat cannot be contained;
 They cannot be easily moved or disposed of;
 Can cause significant injury and massive environmental destruction and landfill waste.

She stated that Council could immediately address the above by examining picnic benches in parks to establish if they have a metal plate. She also added that construction safety standards could also dramatically reduce risk with these products by ensuring they have legs, lids and can be lifted.

Councillor Andrews confirmed the SDLP grouping supported the Motion.

Councillor Hanna confirmed the DUP group supported the Motion, calling for the erection of appropriate signage.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed that:**
 1) **Council adopts the motion on the irresponsible use of disposable barbecues.**
 2) **Officers explore options to reduce the use of disposable barbecues in all Council facilities and on Council land which is deemed to be environmentally sensitive.**
 3) **Officers develop an awareness programme in partnership with relevant stakeholders to highlight the potential harm that disposable barbecues can cause to sensitive environmental areas.**

ECONOMY, GROWTH & TOURISM

ERT/094/2023: CONSUMER TRADE SHOWS 2023-24

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Consumer Trade Shows 2023-24.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to attend tourism trade/consumer shows in conjunction with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to support the tourism industry and promote the destination.**

ERT/095/2023: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FLEXIBLE FUND

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF).
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed officers procure and appoint suitable delivery agents and external expertise to deliver the Digital**

Transformation Flexible Fund.

ERT/096/2023: DOWNPATRICK LIVING HIGH STREET FRAMEWORK

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding the Downpatrick Living High Street Framework.

(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed the Council adopt the Living High Street Framework as the new regeneration masterplan for Downpatrick.**

ERT/097/2023: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – GRANT AWARDS

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Financial Assistance Grant Awards.

(Copy circulated)

Councillor Bowsie said he had previously raised concerns with the Appeals Panel and said he could not approve the recommendations of the Appeal Panel, nor could he approve recommendations that were not included within a report for Councillors to review. He proposed that officers should bring the report back to Committee with details of the recommendations. Councillor Hanna seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken on the above proposal, and voting was as follows: **(Copy attached)**

For	2
Against	10
Abstentions	0

The proposal was declared lost

Councillor Andrews referred to those applications that were not successful, and asked if further workshops were planned for potential applicants in the future.

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded, to accept the recommendations contained within the officer's report regarding Financial Assistance grants.

A recorded vote was taken on the above proposal and voting was as follows: **(Copy attached)**

For	10
Against	2
Abstentions	0

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed:**

- **To approve the FMA award to 4963 value of £4,900**

- To approve appeal panel recommendations of upheld and not upheld. This includes awarding Sports Programmes theme 4754 £2,500 (scored and ranked) and PCSP 4626 £2,000 are recommended for funding.
- That pre-letter of offer conditions must be met for project 4626 prior to issue full letter of offer.

ERT/098/2023: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Labour Market Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- a) To accept the Department for Communities (DfC) Letter of Offer for delivery of the 2023/24 LMP Action Plan.
- b) To undertake procurement processes and award SLA funding to appoint external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives in the 2023/24 LMP Action Plan.

ERT/099/2023: MUSEUM ACCREDITATION

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Museum Accreditation. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Galbraith, it was agreed to approve the NMD Museums 2023-2026 Accreditation policies and plans to the Northern Ireland Museums Council as a central part of the Council's Museums Accreditation application in October 2023.

ERT/100/2023: DAERA FUNDING FOR AONBs and MPAs

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding DAERA funding for AONBs and MPAs. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to accept a Letter of Offer from DAERA for funding of the Ring of Gullion and Strangford & Lecale AONBs; and the Strangford Lough, Murlough and Carlingford Lough MPAs 2023 – 2028.

ERT/101/2023: PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Peace Plus Programme Action

Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to progress the submission of the NMDDC Action Plan 'Thriving Together' to SEUPB.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Truesdale, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

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

ERT/102/2023: ADDITIONAL CAMPSITE SECURITY

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding security provision at campsites. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Truesdale, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to approve additional expenditure to continue with security provision at Council campsites in 2023 as set out in this report.

ERT/103/2023: AONB SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding AONB & Geopark Environmental Fund Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve funding Letters of Offer for the delivery of the series of projects as set out in this report.

ERT/104/2023: CROSS BORDER M1 AXIS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Cross Border M1 Axis Business Improvement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to approve a Service Level Agreement

with WIN (EU) / Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency to deliver a Cross Border M1 Axis Business Improvement Programme.

ERT/105/2023: NATIONAL TRUST SLA EXTENSION – MURLOUGH BEACH

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism,, regarding National Trust SLA extension re Murlough Beach. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve an additional budget allocation for the Service Level Agreement with National Trust for Murlough Beach in the 2023/24 Financial Year, as detailed in this report.**

ERT/106/2023: NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding a Service Level Agreement for Newry Chamber Music. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to provide support via a Service Level Agreement between Council and Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an arts and community outreach programme in the 2023/24 season.**

ERT/107/2023: ST PATRICK’S DAY COMMUNITY PARADE NEWRY

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding St Patrick’s Day Community Parade, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to appoint a supplier via a tender process to design and deliver artistic content and community participation programmes for the St Patrick’s Day parade in Newry over the next three years.**

ERT/108/2023: WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed:**

- 1) To approve the updated Business Case to deliver the Warrenpoint Front Shore Car-Parks Scheme
- 2) To approve to re-engage consultants via existing frameworks to progress the project design and to progress contractor procurement and appointment for scheme delivery.

EXEMPT INFORMATION - FOR NOTING

ERT/109/2023: EATS AND BEATS FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP 2023

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Eats & Beats Festival Sponsorship 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

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

ERT/110/2023: HALLOWEEN & CHRISTMAS EVENTS FUNDING

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Halloween & Christmas events funding. **(Copy circulated)**

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

FOR NOTING

ERT/111/2023: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES UPDATE

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Business Development Programmes Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to note the contents of the above Report.

ERT/112/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/113/2023: INTERIM BUSINESS MENTOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism,, regarding Interim Business Mentor Support Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to note the contents of the above Report.**

ERT/114/2023: LITTLE FREE LIBRARY BOXES – KILBRONEY PARK

Read: Report dated 14 August 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Little Free Library Boxes at Kilbroney Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to note the contents of the above Report.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 September 2023.

Signed: **Councillor M Ruane**
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 14.08.2023 **VENUE:** Chamber MR **MEETING:** ERT

SUBJECT OF VOTE: ERT/097/2023 - On proposal of Cllr Bowsie seconded by Cllr Hanna - bringing the Report back to Committee with an outline of the recommendations.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		√		
C Bowsie	√			
P Campbell		√		
W Clarke		√		
C Galbraith		√		
G Hanna	√			
G Kearns		√		
C King				√
D Lee-Surginor		√		
S Murphy		√		
A Quinn				√
M Ruane		√		
M Savage		√		
J Tinnelly				√
J Truesdale		√		
TOTALS	2	10	0	3

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 14.08.2023 **VENUE:** Chamber MR **MEETING:** ERT

SUBJECT OF VOTE: ERT/097/2023 - On proposal of Cllr Andrews seconded by Cllr Lee-Surginor - to accept officer recommendations.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	✓			
C Bowsie		✓		
P Campbell	✓			
W Clarke	✓			
C Galbraith	✓			
G Hanna		✓		
G Kearns	✓			
C King				✓
D Lee-Surginor	✓			
S Murphy	✓			
A Quinn				✓
M Ruane	✓			
M Savage	✓			
J Tinnelly				✓
J Truesdale	✓			
TOTALS	10	2	0	3

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

36

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 August 2023 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair: Councillor L McEvoy (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber:

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor T Kelly	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor A Quinn Councillor D Taylor

Non-Members:

Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Bowsie (via Teams)
Councillor J Truesdale (via Teams)

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital Projects and Procurement
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director: Finance & Performance
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director: Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding)
Mr C Moffett, Assistant Director: Corporate Planning and Policy (Acting)
Ms E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance
Mr P Rooney, Legal Advisor
Mr G McBride, Head of Administration & Customer Services
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in Attendance via Teams: Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure & Sports

SPR/095/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor J Brennan, Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism.

SPR/096/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/097/2023:

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 June 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2023.**

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

SPR/098/2023

OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – MEMORIAL TO CROSSGAR'S TITANIC VICTIM, JAMES MCGRADY

Read: Report dated 11 August 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Assistant Director: Corporate Planning & Policy (Acting), regarding Memorial to Crossgar's Titanic Victim, James McGrady **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Moffett presented the report stating there were cost implications such as the cost of purchasing and designing a 'Titanic-style' bench and information panel, installation and ongoing maintenance. He stated there were three Council policies involved i.e. Naming Council Facilities; Policy regarding Artwork and Sculptures; and Policy on Request to Plant Trees on Council Property. Council policy indicates that applications were not accepted to memorialise individuals or families.

Councillor Bowsie presented the motion stating Mr McGrady was the last victim of the titanic that was found and he had resided at Rockschapel Road in Crossgar. He stated the intention behind a bench was to fill a need in the square in Crossgar as there was no public bench sited there presently and he felt tying in the Titanic links to Crossgar would be beneficial.

Members discussed the issue at length with the following comments being made:

- Had any further investigation taken place with regard to other victims of the titanic that had come from the local area?
- If Council were to approve this request, would we be veering outside of Council policy and setting a precedent which may insult those people who had been turned down in the past.
- Rowallane was an appropriate location for this type of recognition as the designer of the Titanic actually lived in the Rowallane area.
- There was a precedent set with Council having recognised maritime disasters at Newry canal.

Mr Moffett responded to the queries as follows:

- Council policy does not accept applications to memorialise individuals or families. Discussions at the working group were around an information panel referencing the titanic and explaining the link to the local area.
- Following discussions with the Titanic society he was unable to provide any further names but would continue to follow this up.

Councillor Byrne advised there was another victim of the Titanic from the District namely, Mr James Heslin who came from Jonesborough. He stated Mr Heslin had died on the Titanic and his body was not recovered, his wife lived in the local area until her death at aged 104. Councillor Byrne suggested rather than a bench to one person, perhaps the museums could document the people referenced and their links to the Titanic.

Councillor Reilly proposed to accept the officer's recommendation to progress the motion as per Council's Policy on Naming Council Facilities. This was seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Following further discussion, Councillor Byrne proposed to bring the report back to the Equality and Good Relations Reference Group for further investigative work given the revelations that there was at least one other person from the District involved in the tragedy. This was seconded by Councillor Howell.

Councillor Reilly was asked if he was willing to withdraw his proposal which he assented to. He stated in order to assist the process the word 'memorial' could be removed from the original notice of motion.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, to bring the report back to the Equality and Good Relations Reference Group for further investigative work. It was also agreed that the word 'memorial' be removed from the original notice of motion.**

SPR/099/2023

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COUNCILLORS' EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS REFERENCE GROUP

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Assistant Director: Corporate Planning & Policy (Acting), regarding Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, the revised Terms of Reference of the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group were agreed.**

SPR/100/2023:

NEW COUNCIL COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURE – IMPLEMENTATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC SECTOR OMBUDSMAN (NIPSO) MODEL COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURES PARTS 1-3

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr G McBride, Head of Administration and Customer Services, regarding New Council Complaints Handling Procedure – Implementation of Northern Ireland Public Sector Ombudsman (NIPSO) Model Complaints Handling Procedure Parts 1-3 **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the report, Councillor Enright welcomed the implementation of a clear procedure as he had found in the past it was difficult to bring complaints regarding Council for investigation to Ombudsman level.

On a point of information, Councillor Sharvin advised this was not a new procedure, there had always been a complaints system in place with reporting to the Ombudsman if appropriate.

Mr McBride clarified under the existing arrangements, it was a 3-stage complaints procedure, and this new method would be a 2-stage procedure thereby reducing the time a complainant may have to wait on a resolution.

Councillor Byrne welcomed the public-facing document and thanked officers for its clarity. He raised a query regarding where the statistics regarding complaints would be published.

Mr McBride advised guidance would be forthcoming from NIPSO, however internally there would be quarterly reports and externally there would be an annual report available to the Ombudsman and members of the public to scrutinise the type and number of complaints received.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Kelly, to adopt the model MCHP as published by NIPSO and replace its current policy documents with the customised version attached to the officer’s report within the period of 6 months from the publication date as required.**

SPR/101/2023: **REVISED RECORDS MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Ms E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance, regarding Revised Records Management Policy and Procedure **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne raised an issue around the e-learning module training and the fact that the e-mail inviting Members to take part in training looks like a fraudulent e-mail therefore Members are afraid to click on same. He stated the training numbers would increase if this was addressed.

Ms Cosgrove thanked the Member for his comment and advised this was being looked at currently. She advised she was in liaison with the Democratic Services Manager regarding training on Access to Information and Records Management.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to approve the revised Records Management Policy and Procedure.**

SPR/102/2023: **COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting), regarding Council Decision-Making Process **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin asked that the wording on NM3 be changed from 'available' to 'suitable' to ensure officers have adequate time to prepare reports for committees. He also asked that the word 'moved' be replaced by 'present'.

Councillor McAteer suggested NM9 could be moved to earlier in the process.

Members asked if they could have time to scrutinise the report and bring any amendments back. Ms Taggart advised the wording etc could be amended however the premise of the document couldn't be amended as it is based on Council's Standing Orders.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to note the process maps and narratives for dealing with Notices of Motion at both Council and Committee Meetings. It was also agreed to bring back updated maps to reflect the discussions at the meeting and any further changes to wording or the order of the flowchart that Members have they should email through to the Democratic Services Manager.**

SPR/103/2023: BUSINESS CONTINUITY POLICY

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital Projects & Procurement, regarding Business Continuity Policy (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Byrne highlighted the name of the Director on the report should be amended from Dorinnia Carville to Josephine Kelly.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to approve the Business Continuity Policy as attached to the officer's report.**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 10-19 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 Howell, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

SPR/104/2023: SALE OF NO 13 AND NO 15, THE SQUARE, BALLYNAHINCH

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director: Estates and Capital Projects, regarding Sale of No 13 and No 15, The Square, Ballynahinch **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to accept the highest offer and proceed with the sale of the site.**

SPR/105/2023: PROPOSED RENEWAL OF A LICENCE OF LANDS AT CASTLE PARK, NEWCASTLE TO NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK FOR A MOBILE BANK UNIT

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Proposed Renewal of a Licence of Lands at Castle Park, Newcastle to National Westminster Bank for a Mobile Bank Unit **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to grant a Licence to National Westminster Bank permitting them to operate a mobile banking unit at Castle Park each Thursday from 10am until 12pm for a further 2 year period subject to a yearly Licence Fee as set out in the officer's report.**

SPR/106/2023: PROPOSED LEASE OF AREA FOR MOBILE PHONE INSTALLATION AT DOWNPATRICK HRC SITE

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Proposed Lease of Area for Mobile Phone Installation at Downpatrick HRC Site **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to defer decision to establish whether a planning application has been submitted on the site.**

SPR/107/2023: KILKEEL BOWLING PAVILION

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport, regarding Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, the final cost estimate was agreed for the refurbishment and upgrade of Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion as per section 4.1 of the officer's report.**

SPR/108/2023:

DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

Read:

Report dated 17 August 2023 from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director: Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Director Recruitment **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, the following was agreed:

- a. Approve the recruitment for Director: Sustainability & Environment;**
- b. Confirm decision in relation to 2.4 of the officer's report;**
- c. Confirm to human.resources@nmandd.org nominations to the selection panel for Director: Sustainability & Environment and Director: Active & Healthy Communities, by Monday 4 September 2023, together with availability for training.**
- d. Agreed also to seek permission for 3 Elected Members to be appointed to both recruitment panels.**
- e. In the case of more than 3 nominations, it was noted that a Party Leaders meeting be called.**

SPR/109/2023:

CONSENT TO ASSIGN LEASE OF LANDS AT BALLYKINLAR

Read:

Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Consent to Assign Lease of Lands at Ballykinlar. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to consent to the assignment of the lease from the Playgroup to the Group identified in the officer's report, subject to the consent of the Head Landlord. It was also agreed to amend or waive the clauses in the Sublease to permit the new tenant to use the lands as an office to carry out its functions.

FOR NOTING – The following items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the October 2022 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

SPR/110/2023:

QUARTER 1 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2023/24

Read:

Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director: Finance & Performance, regarding Quarter 1 Management Accounts – 2023/24 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the Quarter 1 2023-24 Management Accounts.

SPR/111/2023: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL – ANNUAL REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Ms J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Belfast Region City Deal – Annual Report **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the BRCD Annual Report for 2022/23.

SPR/112/2023: STAFF MATTER – SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director, Sustainability & Environment, regarding Staff Matter: Sustainability & Environment. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report, including the closure of the canteens since March 2020.

SPR/113/2023: NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE (NLC) – SWIMMING POOL

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport, regarding Newry Leisure Centre (NLC) – Swimming Pool **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report with a further report to be tabled at Council to agree a programme of works and closure arrangements of Newry Leisure Centre swimming pool.

FOR NOTING

SPR/114/2023: STATUTORY REPORTING - SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2023 AND NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC AUTHORITY STATUTORY EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS DUTIES ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022-23

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Assistant Director: Corporate Planning and Policy (Acting) regarding

Statutory Reporting – Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for Period April – June 2023 and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2022-23 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2023. It was further agreed to note Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report for the period 2022-2023 for submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland by 31 August 2023.**

SPR/115/2023: SICKNESS ABSENCE

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Mr P Preen, HR Operations Manager, regarding Sickness Absence. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin queried whether any work had been undertaken to discover the cause of the increase in sickness levels. He also asked whether sickness absence as a risk to the Council was tracked by the Audit Committee?

Ms Miskelly advised analysis was carried out regularly however as the information is personal and sensitive it would not be able to be shared. She stated the health and wellbeing group seek feedback on a regular basis with regard to staff morale etc. She advised she would revert to Members with figures as to the numbers of staff engaged in the process.

Mr Byrne advised sickness absence was tracked as a corporate risk on the register which was tabled quarterly at the Audit Committee.

Councillor McAteer stated some staff had advised him they weren’t able to work flexibly the same as others and suggested this maybe a way of reducing sickness absence.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to note the contents of the report and to note the following measures in relation to sickness absence:**

- **Absence data is analysed and reported on a quarterly basis to both the Senior and Corporate Management Teams to identify opportunities for targeted interventions.**
- **Sickness Absence forms part of the Corporate Risk Register and performance monitored on the Corporate Dashboard.**
- **A tender for a new Occupational Health Service is due to close on 17 August 2023.**

SPR/116/2023: DRAFT NILGA CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2027

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting), regarding Draft NILGA Corporate Plan 2023-2027 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to note the officer's report and members to respond with any feedback to NILGA regarding Corporate Plan 2023-2027 by Thursday 31 August 2023.**

SPR/117/2023: **CLOSED/OPEN REPORTING**

Read: Report dated 17 August 2023 from Ms J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Closed/Open Reporting. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne thanked officers for bringing the report however proposed that the recommendation be amended to read "Officers should do all in the power to..." rather than "consideration should also be given.." This was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Ms Taggart advised there was a trial at the Active and Healthy Community Committee Meeting with regards separating reports and appendices and this may be something that could be incorporated by other Committees if successful.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to note that staff have been reminded of the need to review the contents of each report in line with the relevant sections of the legislation. It was agreed that officers should do all in their power to bring matters that can be brought into open session, but with legal, commercial information being considered in closed session.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 September 2023.

Signed: **Councillor Leeanne McEvoy**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2023

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 21 August 2023 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic
Centre and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor L Devlin
Councillor D Finn
Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor J Jackson
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Murphy
Councillor S O'Hare

In attendance via Teams: Councillor O Magennis
Councillor A McMurray

**Non-Members
in attendance on Teams:** Councillor T Andrews
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Truesdale

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport
Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure and Sport
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr P Weston, Outdoor Recreation NI

AHC/078/2023: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Gibbons.

AHC/079/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/080/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2023

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 June 2023. **(Copy circulated).**

AHC/200/2022: Newry Leisure Centre Swimming Pool

In response for an update in relation to the swimming pool at Newry Leisure Centre from Councillor Finn, Mr Tamati confirmed a report had been presented at the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting on 17 August 2023 and the Minutes of this meeting had been circulated to Members.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Galbraith, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 June 2023.

AHC/081/2023: ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding revised Terms of Reference for Active and Healthy Communities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Galbraith, to adopt the proposed changes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Terms of Reference as detailed within appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/082/2023: PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY TRAILS OUTDOOR RECREATION NI

The Chairperson welcomed Mr P Weston from Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Weston thanked Members for the opportunity to meet and proceeded to deliver the presentation on a review of the Service Level Agreement for 2022/23. (copy of which is attached to these minutes)

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

- A request was made for an update on Tipperary Wood, Newcastle and Lough Island Reavy, Kilcoo
- Does the review expedite Council policy for beach accessibility for all?
- Some villages in Rowallane were marked as priority 2 e.g. Darraghcross, Derryboye. What happened with villages such as that?
- The importance of trails within communities was highlighted and so too was the importance of trails linking communities with reference made to link from Portadown to Newry.
- What were the visitor numbers?

- Was there scope to hold a workshop?
- Does it need to be publicly owned land for community trails? Reference was made to examples in Fermanagh.
- Reference was made to a request from Councillor Tinnelly prior to the ORNI report being commissioned (in April 2022) that beach access at Rostrevor promenade be examined and it was disappointing that it was not contained within the report.
- Important to recognise that whilst Newcastle Harbour and sea swimming was included within the report all areas used by sea swimmers should be included.
- Disappointment at the Newcastle pump track at Islands Park being turned down due to it being within a floodplain despite £millions being provided for flood prevention scheme.
- Concerns were raised that the planning application for the community trail at Tipperary Wood, Newcastle would be turned for the same reason as it was within a flood plain and had ORNI any thoughts with regards to Planning and Rivers Agency.
- What did the prioritisation framework mean for those community trails that already had planning permission e.g. Bright GAC and Teconnaught GAC?
Some priority 1 trails do not have planning permission.
Should Council not proceed with those that did have planning permission in place and were shovel ready? And whilst there maybe challenges around funding such trails they should be prioritised and funding from the SEUPP stream explored.

Mr Weston and Mr Tamati responded to queries as follows:

- Lough Island Reavy would need to be revisited to establish where it was in the hierarchy. It was not one identified in the last year and trails had not been identified within the framework as yet.
- ORNI had been working with both ERT and AHC departments regarding the development of an accessible trail to link Kinghill Road through to Tipperary Wood, Newcastle. A flood risk assessment was being undertaken and it was progressing well with the hope to have it to Planning Department in next two weeks.
- The review would help inform Councils position on beach access across the District and the findings of the Beach Access Framework reinforced some of the work already ongoing by Council.
It was important to note that not every beach had the ability to become an inclusive beach. There was one in Cranfield, there were aspirations through the public toilet strategy to deliver one in Newcastle and through ERT and capital projects there were aspirations to deliver one at Tyrella Beach.
- Priority 1 trails would be worked on first and ORNI would develop and/or exhaust all the options within that and once that was done work would move to the areas within priority 2.
Priority 1 included areas where the main focus was on settlements with no trails within 5km radius.
- ORNI Visitor numbers were not to hand however Council performance indicators had shown a huge increase in community trail usage during and since Covid (215,000 annually) and with more emphasis on health and wellbeing and the change in peoples mindset community trails were a great asset for Council and well used.
- The framework showed where there was a need to target the highest priority areas but that did not mean other trails could not be investigated.
- The Community Trail Development Plans were related to each of the 7 DEA forums. DEAs were the forum to have discussions and ORNI regularly attended those forums and would continue to do so if the new Service Level Agreement was endorsed.
- Public and private land were both welcome however private lands had more constraints. There were successful community trails on private land including Tivenadarragh in Seaforde.
- ORNI to come back to Councillor Tinnelly directly asap in relation to his previous

query regarding access at Rostrevor promenade and reasons as to why it had been excluded from the report.

- There were two issues in relation to the pump track in Newcastle including drainage and that the development of a children's play facility within a floodplain was against current policy.
Mr Weston confirmed he would check the detail and come back to Councillor Clarke directly in relation to the constraints for the pump track.
- The Community Trail at Tipperary Wood was considered differently than the pump track within policy and the provision of recreation facilities. A submission to Planning and carrying out flood risk assessment was being undertaken and a response from Rivers was awaited.
- The Prioritisation framework should not be used as a tool to say no or to hinder progress but rather prioritise trails. Any trail including those at Bright GAC for example, could be looked at on a case by case basis, with as much focus as possible given to priority 1 settlements. There was a period of transition in terms of prioritisation and a positive for those trails already identified such as Bright GAC was that they had planning permission. Council would continue to work towards the delivery of those projects and work with the community, ORNI and examine different options on how to progress those and external funding.

The Chairperson advised Members items 16, 17 and 18 on the agenda would be taken after item 9 on the agenda later in the meeting.

AHC/083/2023:

COMMUNITY TRAILS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding an update on Community Trails. **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson highlighted the importance of including sea swimming within the report with increased numbers of sea swimmers at the likes of Rostrevor, Kilclief, Tyrella and Ballyhornan.

Reference was made to Newcastle Harbour and how there were a collection of activities not just sea swimming to be facilitated. The Chairperson highlighted that there was lack of a holistic approach and a need for a Harbour Management Plan.

The Chairperson, Councillor Howell proposed a Task and Finish Group for Newcastle Harbour be established to include DEA Councillors from the area, local businesses and stakeholders to take the masterplan forward as a matter of priority.

Councillor Howell's proposal was seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

Councillor Devlin spoke at length about Newcastle Harbour and thanked ORNI for the research undertaken, however she felt it was not massively further forward and supported the conclusion that a Harbour Management Group be formed. She stated she recognised the issues associated with the slip at the Harbour and asked that access to the water and the introduction of benches, hooks and huts in another area to entice some people away from the slip area be examined. She asked if this aspect could form part of the recommendation of the Coastal Access and Water Based Recreation Strategy.

Councillor Devlin voiced her concerns for the safety of young people using the Newcastle pier and asked Council to consider as part of the estimates process the provision of a lifeguard for the pier in the summer period during times of high tide.

Councillors Devlin and McMurray mentioned the rock pool in Newcastle with Councillor McMurray commenting that Council did need to take account of it and as part of the solution along with the need for inland waterways to be included.

Councillor O'Hare welcomed the Beach Access Report and spoke of the need for capital to be ringfenced and a timeline developed to deliver the recommendations within it.

Councillor Clarke spoke of the need for urgency with regards to the Harbour Management Forum and the need to link in with the ERT department which was leading on the Regeneration and Management Forum. He also highlighted the need to link to north and south pier in Newcastle as a priority.

In welcoming the reports finding in relation to Newcastle beach, Councillor Clarke spoke of the frustration at how long the process was going on in relation to inclusive beaches having brought a motion to Council in 2019.

Mr Tamati thanked Members for their comments and pointed out it was important to note that these were documents that Council did not have before and were now a foundation to build upon.

Members were advised that endorsing the report included the formation of the Harbour Management Forum as per the recommendation of Sea Swimming review at the Newcastle Harbour and that was key to what was a cross departmental forum.

Mr Tamati advised a report would be brought back to Committee on any further engagement regarding the wider beach access issues that had been raised.

Councillor McMurray pointed out there were many issues aside from Newcastle Harbour and whilst the establishment of the group was important there were so many other issues to be taken into account e.g. quality of bathing water.

Councillor Devlin asked that timeline be presented to Members as soon as possible and reiterated the need for a lifeguard at the pier in Newcastle.

Mr Tamati advised lifeguards for the following year were under the ERT Directorate.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Howell that provision be made for a lifeguard at the Newcastle pier in the summer period during times of high tide within the estimates and that request be forwarded to the ERT Directorate.

Mr Tamati confirmed all feedback would be considered and a report brought back to Committee.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, that AHC Committee:

- **Consider Outdoor Recreation NI's (ORNI) presentation on the 2022/23 SLA.**
- **Agree Community Trail Development Priorities as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.**

- Agree the NMDDC Beach Access Framework as per appendix 2 of the officer's report.
- Agree the Review of Sea Swimming at Newcastle Harbour as per appendix 3 of the officer's report.

It was agreed that a report would be brought back to Council to consider the feedback from the report including:

- proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, that a Task and Finish Group for Newcastle Harbour be established to include DEA Councillors from the area, local businesses and stakeholders to take the masterplan forward as a matter of priority.
- proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Howell, that provision be made for a lifeguard at the Newcastle pier in the summer period during times of high tide within the estimates and that request be forwarded to the ERT Directorate.

Mr Weston from ORNI left the meeting at this stage.

AHC/084/2023: COMMUNITY TRAILS – OUTDOOR RECREATION NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2023/24

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland for 2023/24. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor McMurray, Mr Tamati confirmed that whilst there was a prioritisation plan for community trails as outlined in the presentation from ORNI, Members were able to put forward proposals through the their DEA Forums for consideration.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to enter into new Service Level Agreement with ORNI for the 2023-2024 financial year as per appendix 1 and the budget outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/085/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION – INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE LEISURE FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a Notice of Motion regarding inclusive and accessible leisure facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the contents of the officer's report which reaffirmed Council's commitment to ensuring all leisure facilities were inclusive and accessible for everyone in our community.

AHC/086/2023: LEISURE CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS 2023/24

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Leisure Closure Arrangements for 2023/24. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the approval of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the leisure closure arrangements for 2023/24 period as per appendix 1.

AHC/087/2023 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding expressions of interest for leasing of Council land at Cloughreagh Playing Fields & Car Park, Millvale Road, Bessbrook, BT35 7NL. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Mathers enquired if a community group who leased land from Council would be able to have land extended or would they have to go through the process of applying to Council.

Mr Haughey advised he would come back to Councillor Mathers on the matter of extending footprint as he would have to take guidance from the legal department.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to progress an expression of interest process in line with Councils Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy (2016) for Cloughreagh Playing Fields & Car Park, Millvale Road, Bessbrook, BT35 7NL.

AHC/088/2023 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement and presented by Mr P Tamati, regarding an update on the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finn voiced her disappointment at there being no Community Assistance Centre for Ukrainian Refugees in Newry and that the Welcome Hub at Newry Leisure Centre not having attendees and enquired if the facilities could be better advertised.

Mr Tamati advised that in Mrs Robb, Assistant Director Community Engagement's absence, he would request Mrs Robb to get back to Councillor Finn directly on the matter.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached to the officer's report for the following:

- Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 21 June 2023.
- Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2023.

AHC/089/2023 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES FOR FRONTLINE ADVICE SERVICES

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement and presented by Mr P Tamati, regarding additional funding from the Department for Communities for frontline advice services. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the report and to award the additional funding of £135,147.68 from the Department for Communities (DfC) to 'Community Advice Newry, Mourne and Down', alongside funding of £292,539.00 for Generalist Advice Services for 2023/2024.

AHC/090/2023: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT INCLUDING APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO DEA FORUMS

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding an update on the District Electoral Area Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews asked for the opportunity to thank former independent Members to DEA Forums.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Howell to send letters of thanks to former independent members DEA Forums.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the update report on the DEA Forums.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 19 and 20 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. Three 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 Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/091/2023 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO DEA FORUMS

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding the appointment of independent members to DEA Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to approve the recommendations of the Assessment Panel in Appendix 2 in respect of the appointment of Independent Members to the DEA Forums.

AHC/092/2023 LEISURE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the Leisure Maintenance and Servicing Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to approve the additional spend on servicing and maintenance contracts as per section 4.1 of this report.

AHC/093/2023 FITNESS EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING - PUBLIC TENDER

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the Leisure Maintenance and Servicing Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve the following:

1. The Business Case as per appendix 1 for Fitness Equipment Maintenance, Servicing and Software upgrades and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.
2. To progress a Public Tender in line with Councils procurement policy, appoint a preferred bidder and enter into a contract for up to 3 years.

AHC/094/2023 PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNER

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Programme Delivery Partner. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to approve the additional spend as outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/095/2023 PROCUREMENT OF METAL FABRICATION

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding procurement of metal fabrication. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to approve the spend for metal fabrication works as per section 4.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/096/2023 NEWCASTLE CENTRE – EXTERNAL PAINTING

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding external painting for the Newcastle Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to progress the external painting of the Newcastle Centre as per 4.1 of the officer's report and approve the business case as per appendix 1 of the report.

End of Closed Session

FOR NOTING

AHC/097/2023 POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement and presented by Mr P Tamati, regarding the Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Lewis advised he was no longer on the PCSP and took the opportunity to thank Council staff and the PCSP team for their work.

Councillor Lewis enquired about the upcoming recruitment campaign for PCSP Members and explained the number of independent members had dropped in the last term and asked if there had been any discussions with the Department of Justice about extending the reserve list for independent members to avoid this happening again.

Mr Tamati advised he would ask Mrs Robb to get back to Councillor Lewis in relation to the his query regarding PCSP on her return.

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

Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 28 March 2023, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 25 July 2023.

AHC/098/2023 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finn enquired about the Ballybot Community Association being charged £247 per day and asked if they had received clarity on what the charges were for as it was a lot of money to be charged especially given the cost of living crisis.

Mr Tamati advised he believed the cost was related to the community centre scale of charges however he would ask Mrs Robb to get back to Councillor Finn in relation to the her query.

Councillor Murphy mentioned problems Members were having in sharing posters from Council for community groups and such like that were in pdf format and asked if this could be changed to assist Members being able to circulate such information. Councillor Finnegan suggested posters such as that should go on to the Councils Facebook page for Members to share and that there should be more emphasis on social media.

Mr Tamati advised he would ask Mrs Robb to revert to members regarding the points raised from Councillors Murphy and Finnegan on her return.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to note the report and the Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 24 May 2023, approved at Newry NRP meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2023.

AHC/099/2023 DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership **(Copy circulated)**

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

- Minutes of Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2022, approved at Downpatrick NRP meeting held on Wednesday 29 March 2023.
- The Downpatrick NRP Action Plan for 2019-2022 (updated November 2022).

AHC/100/2023

LETTER OF OFFER FOR AREAS OF RISK 2023/24

Read: Report dated 21 August 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Engagement and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding 2023/2024 DfC Areas at Risk Funding for Bessbrook and Crossmaglen. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finnegan enquired if local communities had any input into the types of educational programmes for residents through consultation with local groups and suggested that this should happen.

Councillor Finnegan commented that the Area at Risks Programme should complement the DEAs Action Plans and that the DEA Forum should agree the content of courses offered. She added some programmes were already funded through the areas of need funding however there were additional charges for participants. She asked if those charges could be lifted to make sure the people who needed the programmes delivered to them were able to go to them.

Mr Tamati advised he would ask Mrs Robb to get back to Councillor Finnegan on the points raised on her return.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to note that NM&DDC have received letters of offer from the Department for Communities for a continuation of the Areas at Risk programme for the period 2023 / 2024 - Council have secured £24,000 per location to run community educational programmes for residents of the Crossmaglen and Bessbrook areas, a total of £48,000.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.01pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 September 2023.

Signed: Councillor R Howell
Chairperson

Signed: Paul Tamati
Assistant Director Leisure and Sport


Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Active and Health Communities

Review of Service Level Agreement

(2022-23)

August 2023
Philip Weston



**OUTDOOR
RECREATION**

NORTHERN IRELAND



1

SLA 2022-23



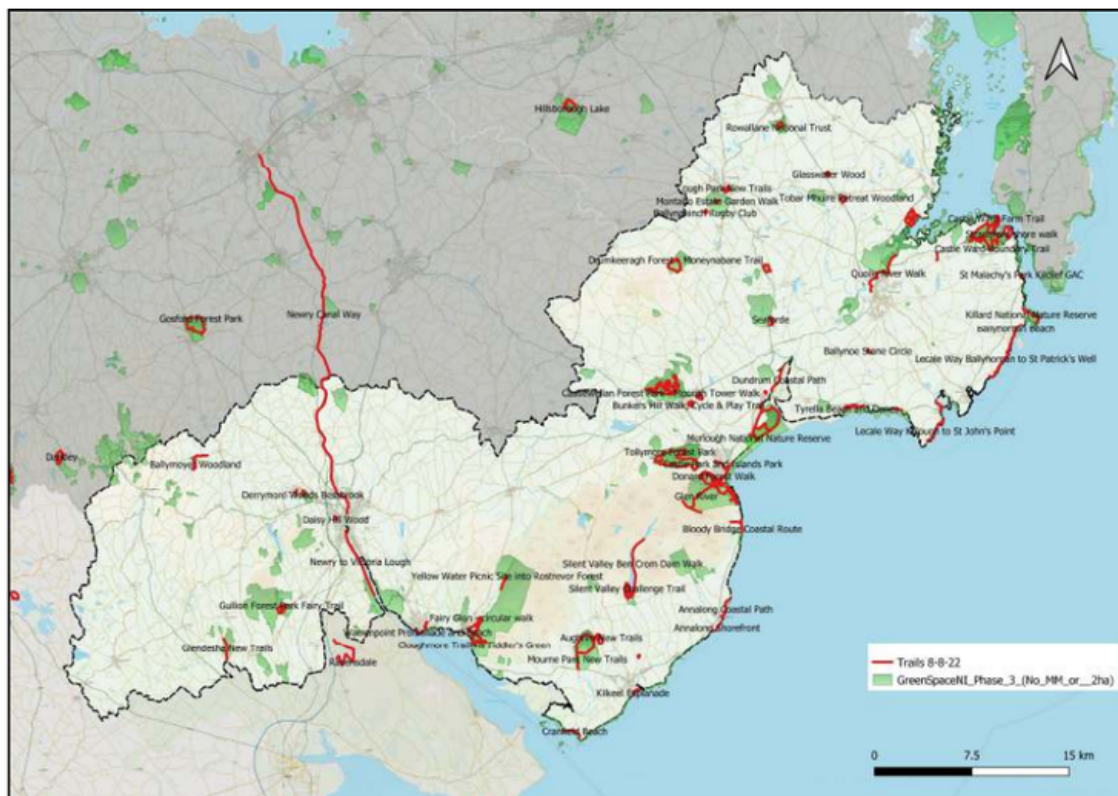
ITEM 1

Develop a community trail management and prioritisation framework for the Council area

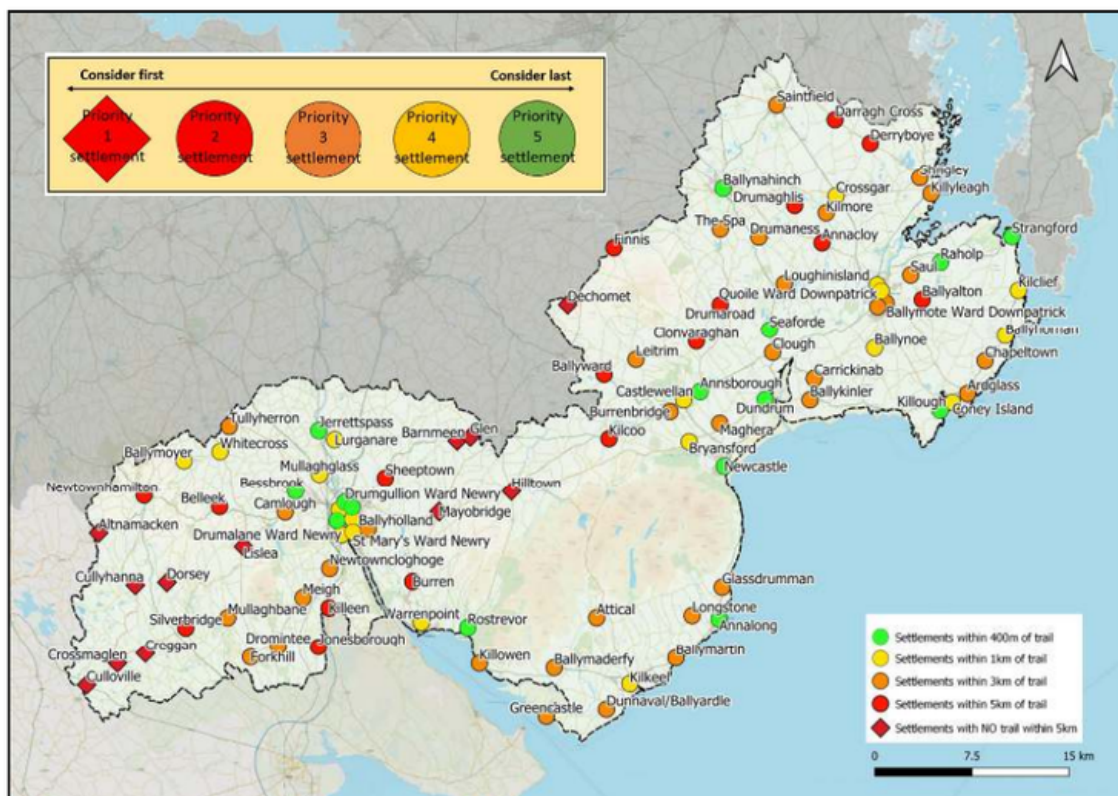
- Develop a district-wide planning tool to inform community trail development priorities
- Sets out a long-term plan for development aligned with Government targets
- Methodology:
 - Understand current position
 - Overlay settlements
 - Carry out proximity and population analysis
 - Prioritisation for future development



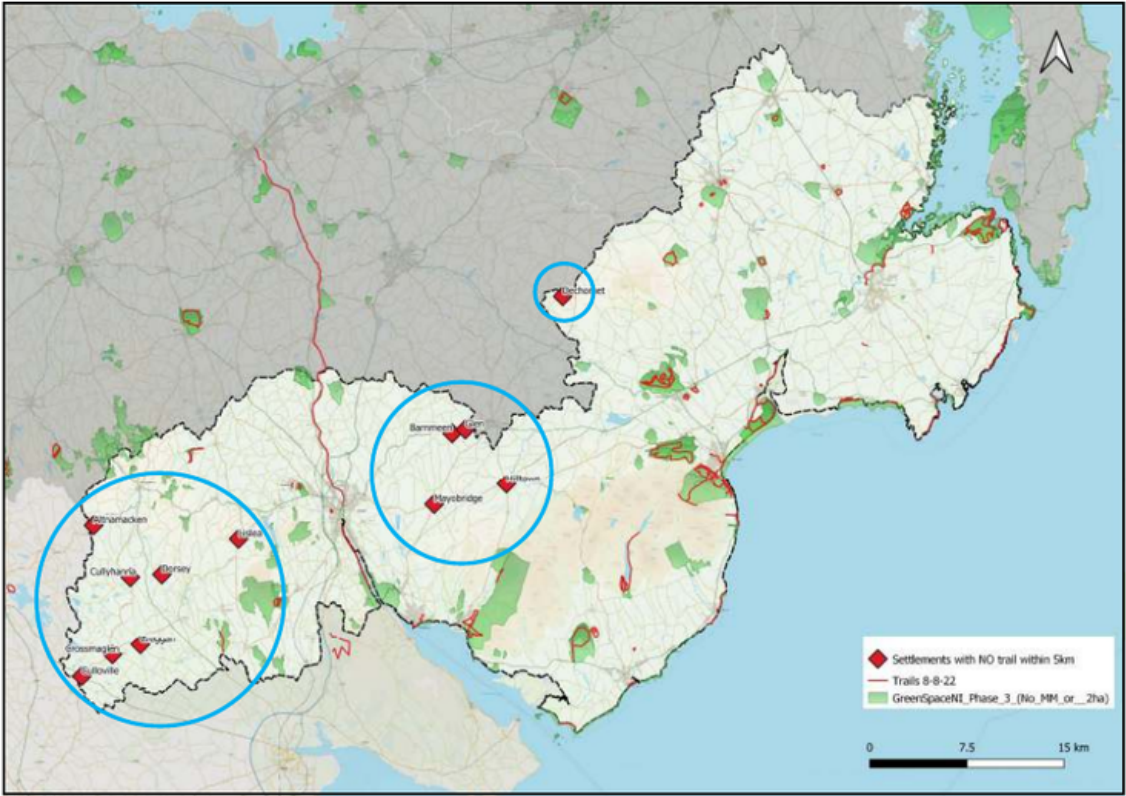
2




3



4



5



Trail Name	Location	Trail Type	Trail Length (km)	Trail Status	Trail Description	Trail Status	Trail Status	Trail Status
1. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
2. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
3. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
4. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
5. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
6. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
7. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
8. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
9. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
10. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
11. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
12. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
13. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
14. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
15. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
16. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
17. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
18. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
19. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open
20. Carrickfergus	Carrickfergus	Walking	2.0	Open	Trail is open and available for use.	Open	Open	Open

6

SLA 2022-23



ITEM 2

Extension of Corry Wood Community Trail - Secure Planning Permission and take project through to delivery on the ground

- Planning permission secured
- Project delivery on hold until availability of funding

ITEM 3

Delivery on the ground of an extension to Drumkeeragh Car Park and trail upgrade

- Procurement documents and specification completed
- Project delivery on hold until availability of funding

7

SLA 2022-23



ITEM 4

Project development work of a further 4 Community Trails to 'shovel ready' status - Teconnaught GAC, Bright GAC, Jacksons Folly (Glendesha) and Glendesha Link

- Concept and specifications developed
- Planning permission secured or in progress

ITEM 5

Project development work of a pump track in Island Park to 'shovel ready' status

- Project identified as unfeasible due to flooding constraints

8

SLA 2022-23



ITEM 6

Project development work of a water access facility at Jane's Shore to 'shovel ready' status

- Concept and specifications developed
- Planning permission in progress



9

SLA 2022-23

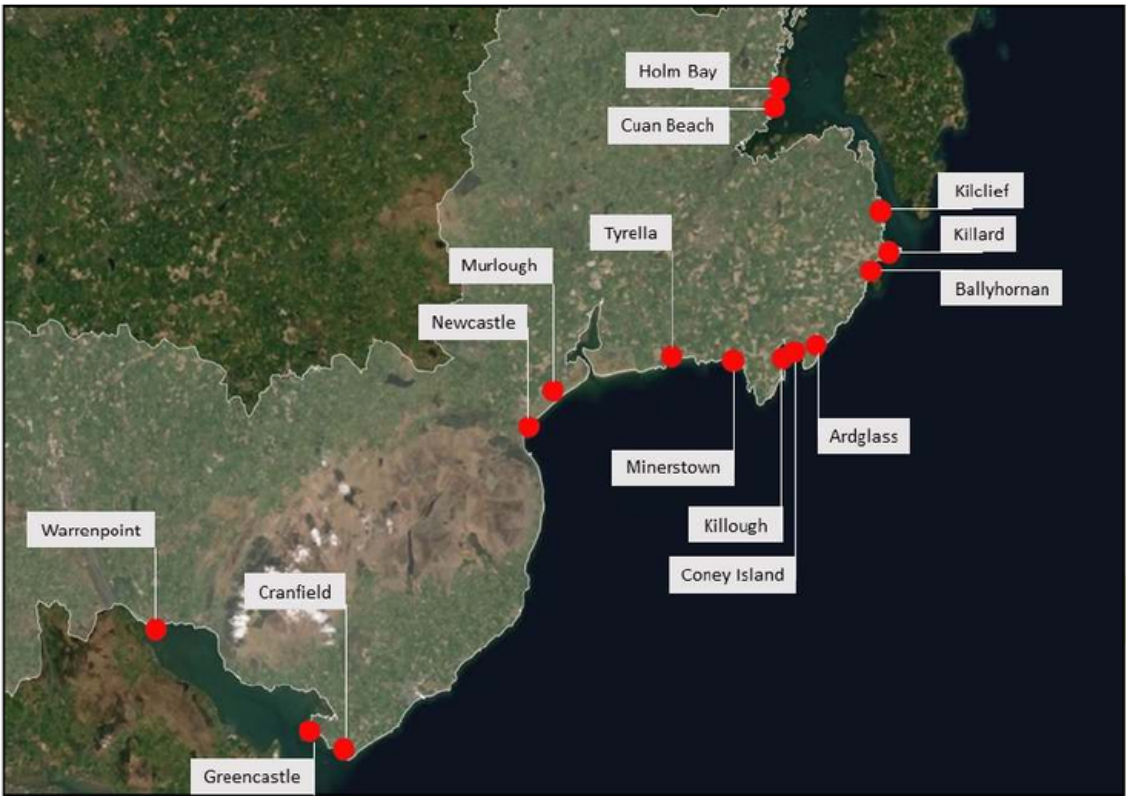


ITEM 7


Feasibility Study on Beach Accessibility across the Council area

- Development of a framework to inform the development of beaches based on accessibility
- Methodology:
 - Benchmarking – current trends and practice - Cranfield
 - Baseline review of current position
 - Preparation of recommendations for future development and prioritisation

10



11



- Baseline Review included tiering each beach into;
 - Flagship
 - Inclusive Destination
 - Local Accessible Beach
 - Limited Accessibility

	Quality and Services										
	Blue Flag	Accessible Connection to Beach	Toilets (Accessible)	Changing Places	Car Parking (Blue Badge)	Attractive Location	First Aid	Well connected	Local attractions (inclusive access)	Lifesaving Facilities	Equipment Hire
Tier 0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tier 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Tier 2		✓			✓	✓					
Tier 3											

12



13



14

SLA 2022-23



ITEM 8 A review of sea swimming at Newcastle Harbour


- To assess current sea swimming at Newcastle Harbour and explore opportunities for improvement
- Surge in sea swimming at Newcastle Harbour has created a demand for improvements and created issues of user conflict and congestion
- Review allowed for a greater understanding of the site and its issues and potential:
 - Intensive use of the main slipway – referred to as Slipway B
 - Lack of management of access - no partnership approach amongst landowners and managers

15



16

SLA 2022-23



- Recommendations were made in relation its management

Proposed to improve the safety, experience and functioning of the Harbour as a whole

Micro Solutions

Macro Solutions

Fundamentals

Relating to: Slipway B only

Relating to: Whole Harbour

Relating to: Governance

17

SLA 2022-23

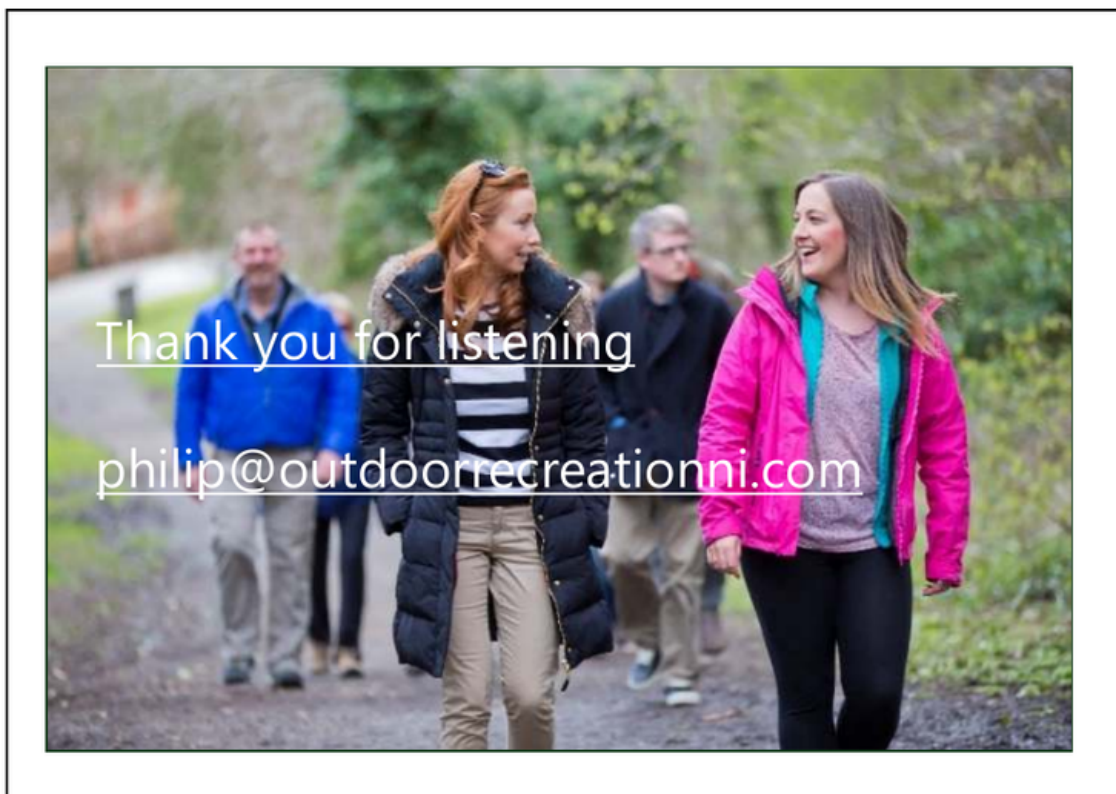


ITEM 9

Data collection for all community trails (14 sites)

- Monthly visitor counter data ongoing at all sites

18



NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 August 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber:

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Finn
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor K Murphy	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Rice	Councillor M Savage

In Attendance via Teams:

Councillor T Kelly	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Truesdale

Non-Members in Attendance
In Chamber: Councillor D McAteer

Officials in Attendance:

Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
 Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director Waste Management
 Mr A Mallon, Acting Assistant Director: Facilities and Maintenance
 Ms G Kane, Acting Assistant Director: Facilities and Maintenance
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

SE/066/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

SE/067/2023: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/068/2023: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2023

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2023. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2023 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/069/2023: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION IN RELATION TO RECYCLING

Read: Report dated 22 August 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment regarding a Notice of Motion on Recycling. **(Circulated).**

Councillor McAteer presented the following Notice of Motion which was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee from the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 August 2023:

"Noting with concern estimations that while 9 in 10 people in the North recycle at home only 4 in 10 recycle while outdoors; further notes with concern DAERA estimates that consumers in the North use 420 million plastic bottles and 90 million cans every year, and welcomes that across the North the successful Hubbub CircleCity programme which has run across the UK and seen an additional 2.5million plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans recycled while outdoors, this Council agrees that more work is needed across out District to encourage recycling while outdoors, will seek a meeting with Hubbub to recommend Newry, Mourne and Down for a similar CircleCity scheme, will undertake an education programme for District residents on the benefits of outdoor recycling and will commence a pilot scheme for new recycling bins to be installed across key public spaces and parks."

Mr Cassells then presented the officer's report advising that he had included information from Hubbub. He said Hubbub have worked with a number of local Authorities and Belfast City Council along with Hubbub are rolling out a new initiative in Belfast City Centre, this has been made possible with funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation. Mr Cassells said the three-month trial aims to make it easier for residents and visitors to recycle their empty plastic bottles and cans, the bins have been installed in high-footfall locations and if they prove successful at increasing recycling, they will consider expanding them further across the city.

Members raised the following issues:

Councillor Truesdale said anything to do with recycling was to be welcomed but the overarching aim should be to phase out plastic altogether. She said Hubbub were a registered charity but also a Private Ltd Company. She stated the Circle City Scheme started in Belfast in July for a 3 month trial period but had been running in Dublin for 3 years and she suggested Council Officials liaise with Dublin and Belfast to find out more about the scheme.

Councillor Clarke said anything that improved recycling had to be welcomed. He said the scheme running in Belfast was a good model to follow and we should be looking at the areas in the district that had high footfall.

Councillor Reilly said anything to do with recycling to reduce the amount of plastic had to be welcomed. He said Fermanagh and Omagh Councils, as part of their summer collections, had plastic bins tied to railings which were collected by bin lorries. Councillor Reilly said the Council should also liaise with Fermanagh and Omagh to find out about their scheme.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that officers liaise with officials in Belfast

City Council, Dublin and Fermanagh & Omagh County Council with regard to the Hubbub scheme and that a report would be brought back to the Committee.

SE/070/2023: OFFICE OF PRODUCT SAFETY AND STANDARDS (OPSS) GRANT FUNDING

Read: Report dated 22 August 2023 from Ms S Trainor, Head of Environmental Health (Commercial) re: Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Grant Funding *(Circulated)*.

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly regarding food sampling, Ms Murphy, Assistant Director, Environment confirmed she would provide relevant reports to Councillor Reilly.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to accept the offer of OPSS Grant Funding for 2023/24.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 6-12 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 Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

SE/071/2023: UPDATE FROM PSNI ON UPGRADE TO PUBLIC SPACE CCTV IN NEWRY, WARRENPOINT AND KILKEEL

Read: Report dated 22 August 2023 from Ms G Kane, Acting Assistant Director, Facilities Management & Maintenance, re: Upgrade to Public Space CCTV Systems. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the report and associated

correspondence from PSNI and approve the findings of the Business Case presented at S&E Committee on 21st June 2023.

SE/072/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADE TO PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, NEWCASTLE AND INSTALLATION OF CHANGING PLACE FACILITY

Read: Report dated 22 August 2023 from Ms G Kane, Acting Assistant Director, Facilities Management & Maintenance, re: Business Case for Refurbishment and Upgrade to Public Conveniences, Newcastle and Installation of Changing Place Facility. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Truesdale, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to proceed with Option 5 of the officer's report i.e. Upgrade to Donard Park and Central Promenade Public Toilet facilities in Newcastle. Refurbishment of public toilets at Downs Road, Newcastle together with the installation of a Changing Places facility was also agreed.**

SE/073/2023: WASTE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director, Waste Management (Acting) re: Waste Contract Extensions *(Circulated)*

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the contract extensions as outlined in Appendix 1 of the officer's report for contracts 017/2021, 030/2021 (Lot 3), 045/2021 and 046/2021. It was also agreed to note an anticipated increase to contract rates in line with contractual provision for increases at the Consumer Price Index (CPI%) at associated contract extension dates as appropriate.**

SE/074/2023: ARC21 BRING SITE SERVICE CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director, Waste Management (Acting) re: Bring Site Service Contracts *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the award of the contracts, as applicable to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, to the entities named in the officer's report for a period of four years plus options to extend for a further four years:**

- **Lot 1 – Mixed Glass: Enva Northern Ireland Ltd, 1 Cloonagh Rd, Downpatrick, BT30 6LJ, County Down.**
- **Lot 2 – Textiles: Hotpursuits Enterprises T/A Cookstown Textile Recycling, 36 Magheralane Road, Randalstown, BT41 2NT, County Antrim**
- **Lot 3 – Mixed Paper: McQuillan Environmental, 15 Sycamore Rd, Belfast, Crumlin, BT29 4JE**

- **Lot 4 – Mixed Cans: Enva Northern Ireland Ltd, 1 Cloonagh Rd, Downpatrick, BT30 6LJ, County Down.**

FOR NOTING – The following items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

SE/075/2023: UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATION ADDITIONS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Mr A Mallon, Acting Assistant Director: Facilities Management & Maintenance re: Update Report on Provision of Christmas Illuminations 2023 *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.**

SE/076/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 29 JUNE 2023

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 29 June 2023. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the Bulletin.**

SE/077/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2023

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes held on 30 March 2023. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the minutes.**

FOR NOTING

SE/078/2023: SUSTAINABILITY SECTION UPDATE

Read: Report dated 22 August 2023 from Mr B Rankin, Head of Sustainability, re: Sustainability Section Update. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the update on areas of work being carried out by the Sustainability Section.**

SE/079/2023: LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE RE: PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF A STRETCH OF THE U6025 DONAGHMORE ROAD, JERRETT PASS, NEWRY

Read: Correspondence received from Department of Infrastructure re: Proposed Abandonment of a Stretch of the U6025 Donaghmore Road, Jerrettpass, Newry *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the correspondence.

SE/080/2023: OIL SPILL IN NEWRY CANAL AT WIN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Read: Report dated 22 August 2023 from Mr A Mallon, Acting Assistant Director: Facilities Management & Maintenance re: Oil Spill in Newry Canal at WIN Industrial Estate. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.

SE/081/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2023

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on 30 March 2023. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to note the above minutes.

SE/082/2023: HISTORICAL ACTION SHEET

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

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 September 2023.

Signed: Councillor T Andrews
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment

**From the Permanent Secretary
Mark Browne**



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Tel: 028 9127 9309
Email: mark.browne@education-ni.gov.uk

Marie Ward
Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Sarah-louise.taggart@nmandd.org

Our Ref: SCORR-0402-2023
14 August 2023

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter of 7 July expressing concern that Northern Ireland has the shortest time for compulsory language learning of any country in the continent of Europe, as published in the British Council Language Trends Northern Ireland 2023 report.

I would like to point out that there have been numerous academic reports published both in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK, relating to the decrease in the numbers studying languages, identifying challenges, and making recommendations as to how they should be addressed. The removal of compulsory modern languages at KS4 and associated decline in uptake at GCSE and A level [or equivalents across the Four Nations] is a UK-wide problem.

Clearly, as you state in your letter, the development of language skills has an important role in economic prosperity, social cohesion and the acceptance of diverse cultural identities. Research highlights that additional language acquisition offers significant cognitive development as well as social and economic benefits and that young learners have a particular capacity to learn a new language successfully. That is why modern languages are a compulsory element of the Key Stage 3 NI curriculum. The flexibility of the curriculum provides post-primary schools with the opportunity to provide additional languages at Key Stages 3 and 4, depending on available teaching resources and the level of pupil demand.

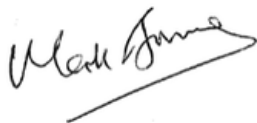
Whilst language teaching is not a compulsory element of the primary curriculum, many primary schools currently offer additional language opportunities where the necessary expertise is available either during core teaching hours or as an extra-curricular activity.

Modern Languages has been identified as a priority area for further development within the NI Curriculum. My officials are working closely with key stakeholders and other education partners to improve provision and the uptake of modern languages. They have also engaged with the Four Nations Fora (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) to begin to scope curriculum policy implications in addressing and supporting modern languages. Within this forum, the application of current policy interventions and other

language initiatives are discussed along with collaboration opportunities and signposting to resources.

I trust that this response outlines the Department's current position.

Yours sincerely,



MARK BROWNE (Dr)

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
donna.starkey@nmandd.org

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559

Email: peter.may@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: C/158/2023

Our ref: SCORR-0998-2023

Date: 24 August 2023

Dear Marie

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 August 2023 regarding young carers, the issues they may face especially during the holiday periods, and the need for increased support.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the role of young carers, particularly those under the age of 18. It is important that they should be seen as children first, and unpaid carers second. Indeed, many children may not even see themselves as an unpaid carer, such is the love and dedication they have for those they care for. The Department is committed to continue raising awareness of the role that young carers play in our society and ensuring they are supported and valued, while protecting their health and development.

Since the launch of the 2006 Carers Strategy, there has been an increased focus on identifying and supporting young carers, who may be caring for a parent or sibling, by way of building on new links developed with colleges of further education to promote signposting and access information and support services.

The Northern Ireland Regional Young Carers Service (NIYCS), established in 2007, is delivered in partnership with Action for Children and Barnardo's Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Department's Strategic Planning and Performance Group. This is a regional service and offers young carers individual support, information about illness, peer support groups, personal development, short breaks, advocacy, advice, and signposting. The service supports young carers to address issues identified through Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) assessments.

Young people are eligible to access this service if they are aged between 8 and 18 years and have a substantial caring role for a member of their family that affects their health and/or development. Referrals to the service can come from the five Health and Social Care Trusts, the Education Authority, Schools, and self-referral. Young carers are assessed and registered by either Barnardo's NI or Action for Children on behalf of the Trusts through UNOCINI.

NIRYCS offers young carers a much needed and deserved break from caring duties, a listening ear, and aims to raise awareness of the impact a caring role can have on a young carer, whilst providing a safe environment to express concerns, worries, anxieties or fears around their responsibilities and daily caring tasks. Outdoor and group work activities are offered as well as one-to-one work. These activities, including away days, and respite trips with other young carers, are offered throughout the whole year and provide opportunities to participate in physical activity, giving a regular break from their caring role. During the school summer holidays, NIRYCS endeavour to provide a 2–3-day residential opportunity for up to 30 young carers. Where it is difficult for young carers to attend, given the daily demands of their caring role, a summer activities programme is offered, along with family fun days.

Action for Children have noted that through the support of volunteers and charity fundraising, the service has been able to offer more support this year than in previous years.

The identification of young carers can be difficult, as many do not consider themselves to be an unpaid carer, and there is no specific register for young carers. The number of young carers known to the Health and Social Care Trusts is monitored as part of the Directed Delegated Statutory Functions (DDSF), with data primarily sourced through the current service providers. Figures from the Northern Ireland Census from 2011 and 2021 show that we have around 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland, with 2,588 under the age of 15 providing some form of unpaid care.

The Department launched the Support for Carers Fund in March 2021, in recognition of the wider need to continue and enhance the supports available to unpaid carers, including young carers under 18 years of age. Charities and organisations directly involved in supporting young/ child carers have been successful in all four rounds, securing funding totalling £301,400 with funding awards ranging from £8,717 to £74,900 to support and fund activities for young carers including wellbeing support, young carers in primary schools' projects, and towards the provision of a Support Worker for Action for Children to focus on response services for young carers.

Finally, we will continue with our ongoing efforts to support our young carers in Northern Ireland, and we are committed to working collectively to invest in further supports, both practical and financial, for young carers, where pressures allow.

I hope you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Peter May



Home Office

Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Marie Ward
Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate,
Ardglass Road
Downpatrick
BT30 6GQ

Sarah-Louise.Taggart@nmandd.org

DECS Reference: TRO/0964683/23

Your ref: C/137/2023

7 August 2023

Dear Marie Ward

Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2023 addressed to the Minister of State for Immigration about the Seasonal Worker. I have been asked to reply.

The Government is committed to supporting the agricultural industry and ensuring that it continues to develop and thrive. The Seasonal Worker immigration route is specifically designed to support the UK horticulture and poultry sectors – both sectors which typically require higher volumes of labour, for relatively short-term periods of time, in line with seasonal production peaks. The route is not designed to support non-seasonal roles, operating on a year-round basis.

The Seasonal Worker route currently has 45,000 visas available, to support our farmers growing fruit and vegetables, as they adapt to changes in the UK labour market. On 15 May, the Government confirmed at the Food Summit that they will be introducing a range of measures to help strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the food and farming sector. This included providing greater certainty for farmers by confirming that the current quota of 45,000 visas for Seasonal Workers will be available again to the horticulture sector in 2024, enabling them to plan for the year ahead.

The Government continues to closely monitor the number of Seasonal Worker visas needed by working with the scheme operators to assess the evidence of migrant welfare and working conditions, and demand for labour. A further 10,000 visas will be released if there is sufficient evidence of need, and contingent with improvements in worker welfare. However, the Government has no plans to extend the scope of the Seasonal Worker route or the maximum visa grant beyond the existing six month maximum.

The Government is fully supporting the UK fishing sector to recruit workers through the Skilled Worker visa route. On 23 May the Government announced a that some occupations in the fishing sector have been added to the shortage occupation list, benefitting from lower fees and salary requirements. It builds on a comprehensive package of support for the sector, which includes:

- guiding them through the visa and sponsor application process as well as the broader immigration system
- ensuring there is sufficient capacity for English language testing slots
- expediting visa and sponsor applications, further quickening the decision-making process for no extra charge
- dedicated points of contact in UK Visas and Immigration for the sector

S. Carson

Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk