



28 April 2015

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Tuesday 5 May** at **6.00pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.**

To mark the beginning of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, a group photograph of all elected members will be taken immediately prior to the commencement of the Council meeting. All Councillors are asked to assemble in the breakout area, adjacent to the Mourne Room, at **5.45 pm.**

Agenda

1 Apologies and Chairpersons Remarks

2 Declarations of Interest

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

**3 Minutes of (Shadow) Council Meeting held on 31 March 2015
(Copy attached)**

Shadow Council Meeting Minutes 31 03 2015.pdf

Page 1

**4 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 31 March 2015
(Copy attached)**

Annual General Meeting Minutes 31 03 2015.pdf

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**5 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 1 April 2015 (Copy
attached)**

Special Council Meeting Minutes 01-04-2015.pdf

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

**6 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Meeting held on 13 April 2015 (Copy attached)**

Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee Minutes 13 04 2015.pdf

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**7 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting
held on 16 April 2015 (Copy attached)**

8 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 April 2015 (Copy attached)

Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 20-04-2015.pdf

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9 Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2015 (Copy attached)

Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting 22-04-2015.pdf

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Reports from Officers

10 Constitution

Council Constitution.pdf

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11 Sealing Documents

1. Lease of Skip Site at Hilltown
2. Deed of Assignment - Land at Owenbeg Avenue, Downpatrick
3. Contract for Sale of Land at Newry Market, Hill Street, Newry to Brian Phillips
4. St Malachy's GAC, Castlewellan Deed of Covenant and Charge
5. Licence Agreement between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Pat Stranney for use of lands at Islands Park, Newcastle for Footgolf Facility
6. Contribution Agreement - Peadar O Doinin GFC

12 To Consider Council response to the Donaldson Report into the Governance of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland (copy to be circulated)

Donaldson Report pdf.pdf

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Notice of Motion

13 Notice of Motion received from Councillors Ó'Muirí and

Kimmins

"That this Council supports the overwhelming vote by the Constitutional Convention in September 2013 in favour of extending the right to vote for the President of Ireland to citizens in the North of Ireland and the diaspora, and calls on the Irish government to now set a date for a referendum on the matter during this Dáil term."

14

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Burns

"This Council understands the importance of mental health. That a policy will be drawn up to properly reflect the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of our staff is paramount within the new Council. Furthermore, this Council commits to collaborative working with relevant outside partners to develop a comprehensive districts-wide strategy on suicide. Finally, this Council reinforces the importance of the this issue by marking World Suicide Day each year".

15

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Walker

"That this Council has no confidence and totally condemns the actions of its Chairman Cllr Naomi Bailie in wearing the chain of office at the Irish Republican Easter rising event in Newry. And by doing so she is not being representative of the whole community."

Invitees

Cllr. Terry Andrews	terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Naomi Bailie	naomi.bailie@nmandd.org
Cllr. Patrick Brown	patrick.brown@nmandd.org
Cllr. Robert Burgess	robert.burgess@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Stephen Burns	stephen.burns@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Michael Carr	michael.carr@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. charlie casey	charlie.casey@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Patrick Clarke	patrick.clarke@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Garth Craig	garth.craig@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Dermot Curran	dermot.curran@downdc.gov.uk
Mr. Eddie Curtis	eddie.curtis@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Laura Devlin	laura.devlin@downdc.gov.uk
Mrs. Louise Dillon	louise.dillon@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Geraldine Donnelly	geraldine.donnelly@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Sean Doran	sean.doran@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Mr. Robert Dowey	robert.dowey@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Sinead Ennis	sinead.ennis@nmandd.org
Cllr. Cadogan Enright	cadogan.enright@downdc.gov.uk
Mr. John Farrell	john.farrell@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Gillian Fitzpatrick	gillian.fitzpatrick@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Glyn Hanna	glyn.hanna@nmandd.org
Mr. Liam Hannaway	liam.hannaway@nmandd.org
Cllr. Valerie Harte	valerie.harte@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Harry Harvey	harry.harvey@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Terry Hearty	terry.hearty@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. David Hyland	david.hyland@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Miss Veronica Keegan	veronica.keegan@downdc.gov.uk
Mrs. Shiela Kieran	sheila.kieran@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Liz Kimmins	liz.kimmins@nmandd.org
Cllr. Mickey Larkin	micky.larkin@nmandd.org
Mr. Michael Lipsett	michael.lipsett@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Kate Loughran	kate.loughran@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Mrs. Regina Mackin	regina.mackin@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Kevin Mc Ateer	kevin.mcateer@nmandd.org
Mr. Johnny Mc Bride	johnny.mcbride@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Mr. Gerard Mc Givern	gerard.mcgivern@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Colin Mc Grath	colin.mcgrath@downdc.gov.uk
Collette McAteer	collette.mcateer@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Declan McAteer	declan.mcateer@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Harold McKee	harold.mckee@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Ms. Heather McKee	heather.mckee@newryandmourne.gov.uk

Eileen McParland	eileen.mcparland@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Catrina Miskelly	catrina.miskelly@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Roisin Mulgrew	roisin.mulgrew@nmandd.org
Cllr. Mark Murnin	mark.murnin@nmandd.org
Mrs. Aisling Murray	aisling.murray@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Barra O Muiri	barra.omui@nmandd.org
Cllr. Pol O'Gribin	pol.ogribin@nmandd.org
Mr. Canice O'Rourke	canice.orourke@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Brian Quinn	brian.quinn@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Henry Reilly	henry.reilly@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Michael Ruane	michael.ruane@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Gareth Sharvin	gareth.sharvin@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Gary Stokes	gary.stokes@nmandd.org
Sarah Taggart	sarah-louise.taggart@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. David Taylor	david.taylor@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr. Jarlath Tinnelly	jarlath.tinnelly@nmandd.org
Cllr. William Walker	william.walker@nmandd.org
Mrs. Marie Ward	marie.ward@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Clarke William	william.clarke@downdc.gov.uk

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: NMD/SC

DRAFT Minutes of the final (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31 March 2015 at 4.00 pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Cllr. C Casey

In attendance: (Councillors)

Cllr. T Andrews	Cllr. N Bailie
Cllr. P Brown	Cllr. R Burgess
Cllr. S Burns	Cllr. M Carr
Cllr. P Clarke	Cllr. W Clarke
Cllr. G Craig	Cllr. L Devlin
Cllr. G Donnelly	Cllr. S Doran
Cllr. C Enright	Cllr. G Hanna
Cllr. G Fitzpatrick	Cllr. V Harte
Cllr. H Harvey	Cllr. T Hearty
Cllr. M Larkin	Cllr. D Hyland
Cllr. K Loughran	Cllr. D McAteer
Cllr. K McAteer	Cllr. C McGrath
Cllr. H McKee	Cllr. R Mulgrew
Cllr. M Murnin	Cllr. B Quinn
Cllr. H Reilly	Cllr. M Ruane
Cllr. G Sharvin	Cllr. G Stokes
Cllr. D Taylor	Cllr. J Tinnelly
Cllr. B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr M Llpsett. Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mrs M Ward, Group Chief Building Control Officer
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Mr P Green, Legal Officer
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

SC/89/2015: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor D Curran and Mr E Curtis.

SC/90/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

**SC/91/2015: MINUTES OF SHADOW COUNCIL MEETING –
3 MARCH 2015**

Read: Minutes of (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2015. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as an accurate record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Ruane, SECONDED by Councillor Hearty.

**SC/92/2015: MINUTES OF SPECIAL SHADOW COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2015**

Read: Minutes of (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as an accurate record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Ruane, SECONDED by Councillor Craig.

**SC/93/2015: MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING -
TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2015**

Read: Minutes of the Governance Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as an accurate record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Ruane, SECONDED by Councillor Craig.

**SC/94/2015: MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING – WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015**

Read: Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 2015. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as an accurate record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Hearty, SECONDED by Councillor Doran.

**SC/95/2015: MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING –
TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015**

Read: Minutes of the Development Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 March 2015. (Copy circulated).

DC/129/2015: Update on the Irish Open Preparations

NOTED: Mr Hannaway advised that the actual dereliction funding for the Irish Open received from the DSD was £21,500 and also £21,500 from the DoE.

DC/134/2015 – Hire Charges Leisure and Community Facilities

NOTED: Councillor McGrath referred to the above Minute and said that there was a lot of disquiet amongst the public and private swimming clubs in relation to the proposed hire charges particularly for the swimming pools. He said if these charges were implemented they would have a very substantial adverse impact on users of the service.

Councillor McGrath PROPOSED that this issue be referred back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for further consideration and review and that any proposed increase in charges be deferred until the end of June 2015.

Councillor Sharvin agreed with Councillor McGrath and said he had received a petition with over 500 signatures objecting to the proposed charges. He outlined the limited choice there would be for parents as he had been advised that the Council would not be doing 1 to 1 or 2 to 1 classes and he believed that this would adversely affect some users, such as children with autism who could not learn to swim in a group.

Councillor Walker, Councillor Devlin, Councillor Andrews, Councillor Quinn and Councillor Enright supported the comments made by the previous speakers and said that the matter should be referred back to Committee for further discussion.

Councillor Ruane said this issue had already been discussed and agreed at Committee and full Council meetings. He said under the new proposals the Council would be offering more swimming hours; a lower age profile for users and a pricing structure that was better than previously offered.

Councillor W Clarke agreed with Councillor Ruane. He said Newry, Mourne and Down District Council wanted to have a centre of excellence for all their leisure facilities and he would prefer to see maximum “in house” provision.

Councillor Clarke said there would be occasions when the Council would have to look at providing specialist training e.g. users with autism.

In response to queries raised by Members, Mr Lipsett advised that the Policy on the commercial use of the Council's swimming pools had been adopted at the Shadow Council Meeting on 3 March 2015. The issue of charges for facilities had also been tabled at a number of meetings and the Council had a policy in place in relation to subsidising commercial use of public owned facilities i.e. that commercial operators to pay the full cost for the use of the facility.

Mr Hannaway confirmed that the Council could not subsidise private businesses using Council owned facilities and said there must be full cost recovery for the commercial use of such premises.

Mr Lipsett confirmed that Down District Council had an agreement with private operators in Downpatrick Swimming Pool up until the end of June 2015 and as with other transfer arrangements with the Councils, this should be honoured. He further confirmed that the Council would not be providing 1 to 1 or 2 to 1 swimming lessons. If this service was to continue to be provided, it would be through a commercial operator which was allowed under current Council policy.

Councillor Burgess **SECONDED** Councillor McGrath's **PROPOSAL** that the issue of the private hire charges for Leisure and Community Facilities should be deferred back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for further consideration and that any existing contracts of Down District Council with private operators, including those private operators who may have already been contacted by the Council, be honoured until the end of June 2015 with their existing terms and conditions being applied.

AGREED: The proposal was put to the meeting and it was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor McGrath, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess, that the issue of the private hire charges for Leisure and Community Facilities should be deferred back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for further consideration and that any existing contracts of Down District Council with private operators, including those private operators who may have already been contacted by the Council, be honoured until the end of June 2015 with their existing terms and conditions being applied.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Sharvin, **SECONDED** by Councillor McGrath, to adopt the Development Committee Minutes of 24 March 2015 as an accurate record, and to approve all recommendations, subject to the above amendment to Minute DC/134/2015 – Hire Charges Leisure and Community Facilities.

SC/96/2015: PAYMENT OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

Read: Report dated 31 March 2015 from the Chief Executive agreement of the following recommendations in respect of the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances:-

- The schedule of Special Responsibility Allowances for 2015/2016 as set out in the **attached appendix 1**.
- Where issues of duplication arise, these be referred back to the Party Representatives' Forum for initial consideration, whereupon a recommendation will be presented to the Strategic Planning and Resources Committee for decision.
- Write to the Minister requesting that the maximum number of Members entitled to a SRA (currently set at 50% of full Council membership) be increased to reflect the new statutory Planning responsibilities.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hearty, to approve the above report and recommendations.

NOTED: Councillor Carr asked that it be noted that it had been agreed at the Finance and Resources Committee Meeting that the issue of the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances should be referred to the next Party Representatives' Forum Meeting for further discussion. He said this had been done and the Chief Executive had circulated a paper which he, Councillor Carr had prepared and which he believed made the review more meaningful.

SC/97/2015: SIGNING AND SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hearty, **SECONDED** by Councillor Ruane, that the Presiding Chair and the Chief Executive Designate be granted authority to sign and seal the following documents on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council:-

- **NILGOSC Apportionment Deed.**
- **Assignment of VAT Claims and Landfill Tax Claims.**
- **Indemnity to Northern Bank Limited (x2).**
- **Danske Bank- Transfer of Merchant services from legacy Councils to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.**
- **Corporate Current and Deposit Accounts with Santander.**
- **Barclays Bank- Business and Current Accounts and Investment Accounts.**
- **Ulster Bank- Investment Accounts.**
- **Bank of Ireland- Investment Accounts.**

- **Danske Bank- user authorisation business banking and direct debits.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 5.15pm.

For consideration at the Monthly Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Signed: Councillor C Casey
Presiding Chair

Mr L Hannaway
Chief Executive Designate

DRAFT

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2015 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor C Casey

In attendance: (Councillors)
 Councillor T Andrews
 Councillor N Bailie
 Councillor P Brown
 Councillor R Burgess
 Councillor S Burns
 Councillor M Carr
 Councillor P Clarke
 Councillor W Clarke
 Councillor G Craig
 Councillor L Devlin
 Councillor G Donnelly
 Councillor S Doran
 Councillor S Ennis
 Councillor C Enright
 Councillor G Fitzpatrick
 Councillor G Hanna
 Councillor V Harte
 Councillor H Harvey
 Councillor T Hearty
 Councillor D Hyland
 Councillor L Kimmins
 Councillor M Larkin
 Councillor K Loughran
 Councillor D McAteer
 Councillor K McAteer
 Councillor C McGrath
 Councillor H McKee
 Councillor R Mulgrew
 Councillor P Ó'Gribín
 Councillor B Ó'Muirí
 Councillor B Quinn
 Councillor H Reilly
 Councillor M Ruane
 Councillor G Sharvin
 Councillor G Stokes
 Councillor D Taylor
 Councillor JJ Tinnelly
 Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance
 (Deputy Chief Executive)
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services
 Mr J McBride, Change Manager
 Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs A Murray, PA to Chief Executive
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

C1/2015

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Curran.

The Presiding Councillor, Councillor Casey advised he would Chair the meeting for proceedings up to item 14 on the agenda. He said he had been honoured to serve as Presiding Councillor for the first year of the Council.

Councillor Craig thanked the Chief Executive and Mr McBride for their hard work and dedication in getting the Council ready to go live on 1st April 2015.

C2/2015

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C3/2015

AGREE STANDING ORDERS

Read: Standing Orders for operation of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor T Hearty, **SECONDED** by Councillor T Andrews to adopt the Standing Orders for the operation of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

C4/2015 **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING COMMITTEE STRUCTURES, COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Read: Reports on Committee Structures, Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation (**Copies circulated**)

The Chief Executive outlined the governance arrangements for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council including the Committee Structures, Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation and asked that these be approved.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor C Enright, **SECONDED** by Councillor P. Clarke to approve the following:

- **Committee Structures to include Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, Strategy, Policy and Resources, Active & Healthy Communities, Regulatory & Technical Services, Planning and Audit;**
- **Committee Terms of Reference; and**
- **Scheme of Delegation for Officers**

C/5/2015 **METHOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Chief Executive confirmed that under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 a Qualified Majority Voting was required in relation to the Council's decision on the method for filling positions of responsibility. He advised that the default method was d'Hondt.

Councillor M Ruane proposed the approval of d'Hondt as the method for the appointment of statutory positions of responsibility. This was seconded by Councillor G Donnelly.

A recorded vote was then taken, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 39
AGAINST: 1
ABSENT: 1

The PROPOSAL was CARRIED by qualified majority vote.

Copy of recorded vote attached.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor G Donnelly to approve d'Hondt as the method for the appointment of statutory positions of responsibility.

C/6/2015

APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Executive sought nominations for appointments by applying the d'Hondt method and the following nominations were made:

Chairperson of Council

Sinn Féin: Councillor Bailie

Deputy Chairperson of Council

SDLP: Councillor Fitzpatrick

Chairperson of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

SDLP: Councillor Curran

Deputy Chairperson of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

SF: Councillor Mulgrew

Chairperson of Active and Healthy Communities

SF: Councillor Kimmins

Deputy Chairperson of Active and Healthy Communities

SDLP: Councillor Devlin

Chairperson of Regulatory and Technical Services

SDLP: Councillor Andrews

Deputy Chairperson of Regulatory and Technical Services

SF: Councillor Ennis

Chairperson of Strategy, Policy and Resources

UUP: Councillor Burgess

Deputy Chairperson of Strategy Policy and Resources

UKIP: Councillor Reilly

Chairperson of Planning Committee

Independent: Councillor Tinnelly

Deputy Chairperson of Planning Committee

SF: Councillor W Clarke

Partnership Panel for NI - 4 year term

SDLP: Councillor Curran

NI Housing Executive – 4 year term

SF: Councillor Casey

Reserve Forces & Cadets Association – 4 year term

ALL: Councillor Brown

Arc21 – 3 positions – 4 year term

SF: Councillor Burns

SDLP: Councillor Andrews

DUP: Councillor Craig

Policing and Community Safety Partnership – 10 positions – 4 year term

SF: Councillors W Clarke, Doran, Ennis, Larkin

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Devlin, Loughran, Quinn

UUP: Councillor Taylor

DUP: Councillor Harvey

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor T Hearty, **SECONDED** by Councillor W Clarke to approve the nominations for statutory positions of responsibility.

C/7/2015

METHOD FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Part 4 and Schedule 2 legislated for the appointment to Committees. He advised that a Qualified Majority Voting was required in relation to the Council's decision on the method for filling positions of responsibility and the default method was Quota of Greatest Remainder (QGR). He said the Council also needed to agree by a qualified majority vote the method for allocating those positions on Committees which remained after QGR had been applied at the first stage and he recommended d'Hondt be applied.

Councillor M Ruane proposed the approval of Quota of Greatest Remainder as the method for appointments to Committee, and that d'Hondt be used to fill those positions remaining after QGR had been applied at the first stage. This was seconded by Councillor T Hearty.

A recorded vote was then taken, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 40
AGAINST: 0
ABSENT: 1

The PROPOSAL was CARRIED by a qualified majority vote.

Copy of recorded vote attached.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor T Hearty to approve Quota of Greatest Remainder as the method for appointments to Committees, with QGR being used to fill those positions remaining after QGR had been applied at first stage.

C/7/2015**APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

The Chief Executive sought nominations for appointments to Committees by applying Quota of Greatest Remainder and with d'Hondt being applied to fill those positions remaining after QGR had applied at first stage.

Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

SF(6) – Councillors Mulgrew, W Clarke, Ennis, Harte, Hearty, Ruane

SDLP (6) – Councillors Curran, Andrews, Donnelly, D McAteer, Stokes, Quinn

DUP (2) – Councillors Harvey, Hanna

UUP (1) - Councillor Burgess

Active and Healthy Communities

SF (5) – Councillors O'Muiri, Burns, Doran, Harte, Kimmins

SDLP (5) – Councillors Devlin, Fitzpatrick, K McAteer, Carr, Loughran

DUP (2) – Councillors Walker, Harvey

UUP (1) – Councillor Taylor

Indp (2) – Councillors Hyland, Enright

Regulatory and Technical Services

SF (5) – Councillors O'Gribin, Casey, Doran, Harte, Ennis

SDLP (5) – Councillors Andrews, Sharvin, K McAteer, Fitzpatrick, Stokes

DUP (1) – Councillor Hanna

UUP (2) – Councillors Taylor, McKee

Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown

UKIP (1) – Councillor Reilly

Strategy Policy and Resources

SF (5) – Councillors W Clarke, O'Muiri, Ruane, Kimmins, Burns

SDLP (5) – Councillors Donnelly, Carr, Quinn, McGrath, Curran

DUP (2) – Councillor Craig, Walker

UUP (1) – Councillor Burgess

Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown

UKIP (1) – Councillor Reilly

Planning

SF (4) – Councillors W Clarke, Larkin, Ruane, Harte

SDLP (4) – Councillors D McAteer, Loughran, Devlin, Murnin

DUP (1) – Councillor Craig

UUP (1) – Councillor McKee

Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown

Indp (1) – Councillor Tinnelly

Audit

SF (3) – Councillors Hearty, O'Gribin, Casey

SDLP (3) - Councillors McGrath, Sharvin, Murnin

Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown

Indp (3) – Councillors Enright, Hyland, Tinnelly

C/8/2015 **METHOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND ORGANISATION (EXCLUDING STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY)**

Read: Report on appointment of representatives to external bodies and organisations (excluding statutory positions of responsibility) (**Copy circulated**)

The Chief Executive advised the report recommended arrangements for the proportionate allocation of members to external bodies and organisations which were agreed at Governance Committee Meeting on 10 March 2015.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor S Doran to approve the recommendations contained in the report to facilitate the proportionate allocation of Members to external bodies and organisations.

C/9/2015 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS (EXCLUDING STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY)**

The Chief Executive sought nominations for appointments to external bodies and organisations (excluding statutory positions of responsibility) as circulated to Members.

LAG Board

SF: Councillors Burns, W Clarke, Hearty, Mulgrew
 SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Donnelly, D McAteer, Murnin
 Unionist: Councillors Burgess, Harvey, Reilly
 Other: Councillor Tinnelly

Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (6 nominations for 3 positions)

SF: Councillors Doran, Ennis
 SDLP: Councillors Fitzpatrick, D McAteer
 DUP: Councillor Hanna
 UUP: Councillor McKee

Louth, Newry, Mourne and Down (LNMD) Joint Committee

SF: Councillors Hearty, Mulgrew, Ruane
 SDLP: Councillors Curran, Donnelly, D McAteer
 Others: Undecided

East Border Region

SF: Councillors Larkin, Ruane
 SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Loughran
 Others: Councillors Hyland, Reilly

NILGA

SF: Councillors Casey, Doran, O'Gribin

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Curran, Quinn

Others: referred to Strategic Planning and Resources Committee for consideration

National Association of Councillors (NAC)

SF: Councillors Casey, W Clarke, Mulgrew

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Carr, Curran

Others: referred to Strategic Planning and Resources Committee for consideration

Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues

SF: Councillor Kimmins

SDLP: Councillor K McAteer

Alliance: Councillor Brown

Northern Ireland Amenity Council

SF: Councillor Harte

SDLP: Councillor Andrews

Somme Advisory Council

Councillors Burgess, Reilly – for one year 2015-2016

Councillor M Ruane proposed the 'others' positions on LNMD, NILGA and NAC be referred back to Committee in order that a compromise can be reached. This was seconded by Councillor W Clarke.

AGREED:

It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor M Ruane, SECONDED by Councillor S Doran to approve the nominations for appointments to external bodies and organisations.

It was also AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor M Ruane, SECONDED by Councillor W Clarke that the 'others' positions on LNMD, NILGA and NAC be referred to the Strategic Planning and Resources Committee in order that a compromise can be reached.

C/10/2015

PARTY REPRESENTATIVES' FORUM

Read: Party Representatives Forum (**Copy circulated**)

The Chief Executive referred Members to a report which had been approved at the Governance Committee Meeting on 10 March and ratified at Shadow Council Meeting 31 March 2015. He asked that Members note the Terms of Reference for the Party Representatives' Forum.

AGREED:

It was AGREED to NOTE the Terms of Reference for the Party Representatives' Forum.

C/11/2015 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE INCOMING YEAR

Read: Report outlining schedule of meetings for Council and its Committee for the incoming year: - April 2015-April 2016(**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **The Schedule of Meetings for the incoming year was AGREED.**

C/12/2015 NOTE THE PAYMENT OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

Read: A Report on Special Responsibility Allowances(**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **It was AGREED to NOTE payment of Special Responsibility Allowances.**

C/13/2015 DESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

AGREED: **It was AGREED to approve the designation of the Chief Executive as the Chief Financial Officer of the new Council.**

C/14/2015 THE SOMME ASSOCIATION – APPOINTMENTS TO SOMME PILGRIMAGES

Read: Correspondence from Somme Association extending invitations for the Council to be represented at the following Somme pilgrimages;

- 99th anniversary from 28 June to 2 July 2015(estimated price is £580 per person)
- Gallipoli pilgrimage from 4th to 10th October 2015 (estimated price is £1350 per person)

AGREED: **It was AGREED, as discussed at Party Representative's Forum to appoint the Councils two representatives on the Somme Association to attend these pilgrimages.**

C/15/2015 CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Councillor N Bailie stated she was delighted to be appointed as first Chairperson for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and thanked Sinn Fein for entrusting her in the role and her family for their continued support and encouragement over the years. She stated it would be a privilege to represent her party in the role and she was very excited to be taking forward the baton as the Council moved into a new phase of local government.

The Chairperson expressed her appreciation to the outgoing Mayor and Chairperson respectively of Newry and Mourne Council and Down District Council for their service over the last year and their roles in the transition of the new Council arrangements.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this point – 6.40pm.

Councillor Bailie also thanked Councillor C Casey for Chairing the Shadow Council proceedings and all staff members who played a role in getting Council ready for the handover.

The Vice-Chairperson, Councillor G Fitzpatrick stated it was an honour and privilege to have been selected as Vice-Chairperson for the Council and said she hoped to repay the trust her party had placed in her by representing the whole community in the role. She paid tribute to Councillor C Casey and Councillor D McAteer and to the former Mayors/Chairman and Deputies and she wished everyone well for the work that lay ahead in establishing the new Council.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at **6.45pm.**

Signed:

Chairperson

Signed:

Chief Executive

RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 31 March 2015 VENUE: Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: AGM

SUBJECT OF VOTE: To approve d'Hondt as the method for the appointment of statutory positions of responsibility.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	✓			
N Bailie	✓			
P Brown	✓			
R Burgess	✓			
S Burns	✓			
M Carr	✓			
C Casey	✓			
P Clarke	✓			
W Clarke	✓			
G Craig	✓			
D Curran				✓
L Devlin	✓			
G Donnelly	✓			
S Doran	✓			
S Ennis	✓			
C Enright	✓			
G Fitzpatrick	✓			
G Hanna	✓			
V Harte	✓			
H Harvey	✓			
T Hearty	✓			
D Hyland	✓			
L Kimmins	✓			
M Larkin	✓			
K Loughran	✓			
D McAteer	✓			
K McAteer	✓			
C McGrath	✓			
H McKee	✓			
R Mulgrew	✓			
M Murnin	✓			
P Ó Gribín	✓			
B Ó Muirí	✓			
B Quinn	✓			
H Reilly		✓		
M Ruane	✓			
G Sharvin	✓			
G Stokes	✓			
D Taylor	✓			
JJ Tinnelly	✓			
B Walker	✓			
TOTALS	39	1		1

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 31 March 2015 VENUE: Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: AGM

SUBJECT OF VOTE: To approve Quota of Greatest Remainder as the method for appointments to Committees, with QGR being used to fill those positions remaining after QGR had been applied at first stage

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	✓			
N Bailie	✓			
P Brown	✓			
R Burgess	✓			
S Burns	✓			
M Carr	✓			
C Casey	✓			
P Clarke	✓			
W Clarke	✓			
G Craig	✓			
D Curran				✓
L Devlin	✓			
G Donnelly	✓			
S Doran	✓			
S Ennis	✓			
C Enright	✓			
G Fitzpatrick	✓			
G Hanna	✓			
V Harte	✓			
H Harvey	✓			
T Hearty	✓			
D Hyland	✓			
L Kimmins	✓			
M Larkin	✓			
K Loughran	✓			
D McAteer	✓			
K McAteer	✓			
C McGrath	✓			
H McKee	✓			
R Mulgrew	✓			
M Murnin	✓			
P Ó Gribín	✓			
B Ó Muirí	✓			
B Quinn	✓			
H Reilly	✓			
M Ruane	✓			
G Sharvin	✓			
G Stokes	✓			
D Taylor	✓			
JJ Tinnelly	✓			

B Walker	J			
TOTALS	40			1

DRAFT

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/SC/

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st April 2015 in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
 Councillor N Bailie
 Councillor S Burns
 Councillor M Carr
 Councillor C Casey
 Councillor P Clarke
 Councillor W Clarke
 Councillor G Craig
 Councillor G Donnelly
 Councillor S Doran
 Councillor G Fitzpatrick
 Councillor V Harte
 Councillor H Harvey
 Councillor T Hearty
 Councillor D Hyland
 Councillor M Larkin
 Councillor K Loughran
 Councillor D McAteer
 Councillor K McAteer
 Councillor B Ó'Muirí
 Councillor B Quinn
 Councillor H Reilly
 Councillor M Ruane
 Councillor G Sharvin
 Councillor JJ Tinnelly
 Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
 Mrs C Sweeney, Assistant Director of Administration (HR)
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/16/2015 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors L Devlin, S Ennis, G Hanna, L Kimmins, C McGrath, R Mulgrew and G Stokes

C/17/2015 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/18/2015 VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE SCHEME

It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor D Hyland, **SECONDED** by Councillor D McAteer to exclude the public and press during discussion on this matter which relates to except information by virtue of paragraph 4 of part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

Councillor M Larkin joined the meeting at this point – 4.30pm

When the Council came out of closed session Mr Hannaway reported that recommendations contained in report dated 19 March 2015 had been agreed on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Sharvin, SECONDED by Councillor Hyland and these related to:

- **Terminating employee contracts under the LGJRF Voluntary Severance Scheme, involving 9 members of staff with contract end date of 6 April 2015 and 4 members of staff with contract end date of 30 June 2015.**
- **The Council to take a 3 year loan to cover these costs.**
- **Approval to seek opportunities for voluntary severance to be implemented where there is a supporting business case, based on financial and managerial interests of the Council.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at **4.35pm**.

Signed:

Chairperson

Signed:

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Ref: ERT/2015**

**Minutes of Inaugural Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Meeting held on Monday 13 April 2015 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan
Row, Newry**

In the Chair: Cllr D Curran**In attendance: (Councillors)**

Cllr T Andrews	Cllr R Burgess
Cllr W Clarke	Cllr G Donnelly
Cllr S Ennis	Cllr G Hanna
Cllr V Harte	Cllr H Harvey
Cllr T Hearty	Cllr D McAteer
Cllr R Mulgrew	Cllr B Quinn
Cllr M Ruane	Cllr G Stokes

(Non Committee Members)

Cllr P Clarke	Cllr H Reilly
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(Officials)

Mr G McGivern, Acting Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of District Development
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

(Blu Zebra Consultants)

Mr P McDonagh
 Ms T Hogg

ERT/01/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive.

Councillor Curran welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

ERT/02/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ERT/03/2015: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Read: Report on Terms of Reference for Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee

NOTED: It was agreed to mark the report on terms of reference noted.

Councillor Harvey jointed the meeting at this point – 3.05 pm.

PRESENTATIONS

ERT/04/2015: PRESENTATION FROM MR GERARD MCGIVERN – OVERVIEW OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM DIRECTORATE

Mr Gerard McGivern provided an overview of the Directorate advising the key areas it would be involved in were:

- tourism/development/facilities
- events/arts/museums
- economic development
- Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership

Mr McGivern advised the Committee agendas would be focused on economic development; tourism; urban and rural regeneration; culture and arts. He also highlighted some significant events which would be taking place across the District over the coming year namely:

- Irish Open from 28th-31st May 2015
- Gran Fondo Giro d'Italia – 20th-21st June 2015
- National Famine Commemoration – 26th September 2015

NOTED: The information contained within the presentation was noted.

ERT/05/2015: PRESENTATION FROM BLU ZEBRA CONSULTANTS – TO CONSIDER ISSUES EMERGING FROM DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Mr McGivern advised some work had been completed by the Shadow Council and Transition Management Team in relation to the Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy and the consultants were in attendance at the meeting to provide an update on the issues emerging from this work.

Therese Hogg and Philip McDonagh, Blu Zebra then gave a presentation on the issues emerging from the development of the Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy. (copy attached)

Councillors made the following comments:-

- Rates bills in small rural towns have increased significantly, in some places more than 55%, this is unacceptable and Council may need to address this issue.
- Council may need to investigate the retention and sustainability of existing jobs and businesses.
- Activity tourism could be huge business in the area attracting young people with high disposal incomes into the area.
- Activities could be tailored for different people and sectors.
- There were huge opportunities to showcase the District with the forthcoming Irish Open, and repeat business will be hugely important.
- An economic development conference should be convened in the area to encourage local business start-up and investment opportunities.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Stokes to note the contents of the presentation.**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Donnelly that the Committee write to the Minister asking for a meeting with a delegation from the Committee and members of the local Chambers of Commerce, along with representatives from the rural business community, to highlight the issue of the increase in business rates.**

Councillor Harte left the meeting at this point – 4.00 pm.

ERT/06/2015: REQUEST FOR MEETING

Councillor Reilly requested that a Mourne DEA meeting be convened to discuss an urgent issue regarding flooding in the area.

Mr McGivern advised that Council policy was not to convene ad-hoc meetings and Mrs McParland clarified that such matters could be referred to the quarterly meetings scheduled for each DEA.

Councillors Burgess and Reilly left the meeting at this point – 4.15 pm.

ERT/07/2015: SUPER FAST BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME

Read: Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr J McGilly recommending:-
(copy circulated)

- That Newry, Mourne and Down District Council approves in principle to be part of the scheme and work with partnering Councils to work up the best model of delivery within the budget as outlined.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the above report and recommendation.

ERT/08/2015: WARRENPOINT PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY REGENERATION PROJECT – OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Read: Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr J McGilly recommending:- (copy circulated)

- That Newry, Mourne and Down District Council submit a planning application based on agreed detail, subject to Officers finalising the position in respect of the tennis courts in consultation with funder and user groups.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the above report and recommendation.

ERT/09/2015: UPDATE RE: DERELICTION FUNDING FOR ANNALONG, KILKEEL, BALLYNAHINCH AND SAINTFIELD

Read: Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mrs M Quinn, Project Development Officer, recommending:- (copy circulated)

- That the funding which has been secured from DOE will be used to enhance derelict properties at:
 1. 145 Kilkeel Road, Annalong
 2. 138 Glassdrumman Road, Annalong
 3. Property beside 346 Newry Road, Kilkeel (junction at Benagh Road)
 4. Property beside 241 Newry Road, Kilkeel
 5. 2 Bridge Street, Kilkeel
 6. Property beside 170 Newcastle Road, Newry
 7. 10 Belfast Road, Saintfield
 8. 63 Main Street, Saintfield
 9. 18-20 Belfast Road, Ballynahinch (2 properties)
 10. 8-10 Windmill Street, Ballynahinch (2 properties)

The Chairman read a letter received from Councillor McGrath regarding the possibility of extending the scheme to include two properties in Downpatrick town centre.

Mr McGivern advised there was only a small amount of money and both legacy Councils had identified the above properties as those in most urgent need of repair ahead of the Irish Open. He suggested that the Committee could write to the Department asking for additional funds to carry out repairs on other properties.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor W. Clarke, to approve the above report and recommendation and to write to the Minister asking for additional monies in order to carry out repairs to additional properties in the District – should additional monies become available, the Council to prepare a list of properties to potentially avail of such funding.

ERT/10/2015: **TO DISCUSS PLANNED CUTS IN FUNDING TO:**
 (i) **Mourne Heritage Trust**
 (ii) **Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership**
 (iii) **Strangford Lough and Lecale Landscape Partnership**

Mr McGivern advised there were to be significant cuts to the above partnerships and a letter has been sent to the Minister seeking a meeting asking him to reconsider these proposed cuts.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Andrews to request a meeting with the Minister on this issue.

ERT/11/2015: **TO CONSIDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE GRAN FONDO GIRO d'ITALIA FOR 3 YEAR PERIOD**

Read: Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr G McGivern recommending the Council agree to become an official sponsor of the Gran Fondo Giro d'Italia for the next 3 years with costs being:

Year 1	2015/16	£6,000
Year 2	2016/17	£15,000
Year 3	2018/19	£20,000

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Quinn to accept the above recommendation, subject to review after year 1 and year 2 to ensure value for money is being achieved.

ERT/12/2015: **TO NOTE GRAPHICS FOR IRISH OPEN – 26-31 MAY 2015**

Read: Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr M Mohan recommending that Council note the graphics designed for the promotional activity for the Irish Open

Councillor Ruane asked officers to remember that a bilingual policy has been passed by Council and should be used in any literature designed by Council.

NOTED: It was agreed to note the above Report.

**ERT/13/2015: TO CONSIDER PROCUREMENT OF COASTAL
REGENERATION PROJECTS – SEA FLAG FUNDING AND
APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR MEELMORE
LODGE**

Read: Report dated 13 April 2015 from Mr J McGilly recommending the following:-

- To appoint the most economically advantageous quotation for the fabrication of 2 art pieces for the Mourne Esplanade Recreational and Amenity Improvement scheme. Detail of the successful contractor to be tabled at May 2015 Economic Regeneration & Tourism Committee.
- To note the appointment of McAvoy Contracts Ltd to undertake the Cranfield Beach Amenity Improvement Scheme at their tender value of £279,840.25 and their appointment to carry out the Cranfield Beach Shoreline Protection Works at a cost of £42,000.00.
- To appoint the most economically advantageous tender to carry out the Meelmore Lodge Amenity Block extension and new car park works. Detail of the successful contractor to be tabled at the June 2015 Economic Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Quinn to accept the above report and recommendations.**

ERT/14/2015: DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Read: List of future Committee Meeting dates.

NOTED: **The list of meetings was noted.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 5.00 pm.

For adoption at the Monthly Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Signed: Councillor D Curran
Chairperson

Signed: Mr L Hannaway
Chief Executive

Newry Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration Vision and Investment Strategy

Emerging Issues Presentation

13th April 2015

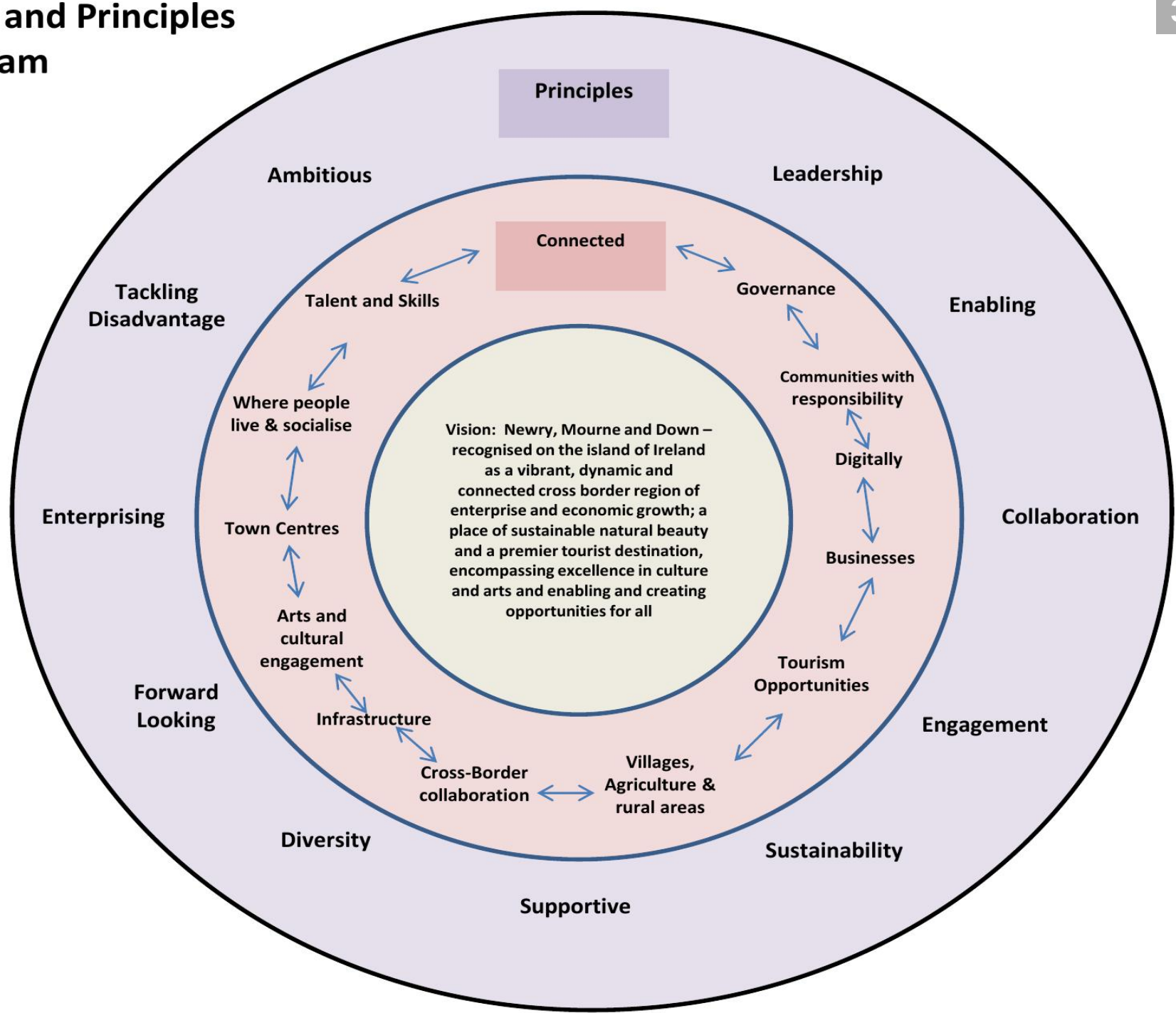
Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic importance of location on North / South economic corridor and Eastern Seaboard • Strong entrepreneurial tradition • Outstanding natural beauty of the area • Availability of wide range of outdoor activities • Strong agricultural and fishing tradition • Diverse cultural offering • Several key cultural assets and active local arts communities • Good cross border linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor connectivity – roads, broadband • Business networks fragmented • Aging workforce • Natural resources not creating business opportunities/jobs • Lack of strong, identifiable brand for the region • Some areas of disadvantage still remain • Over reliance on domestic and Irish visitor markets • Lack of cohesion of cultural sector and few links with tourism • Contribution of culture and arts to economy not recognised

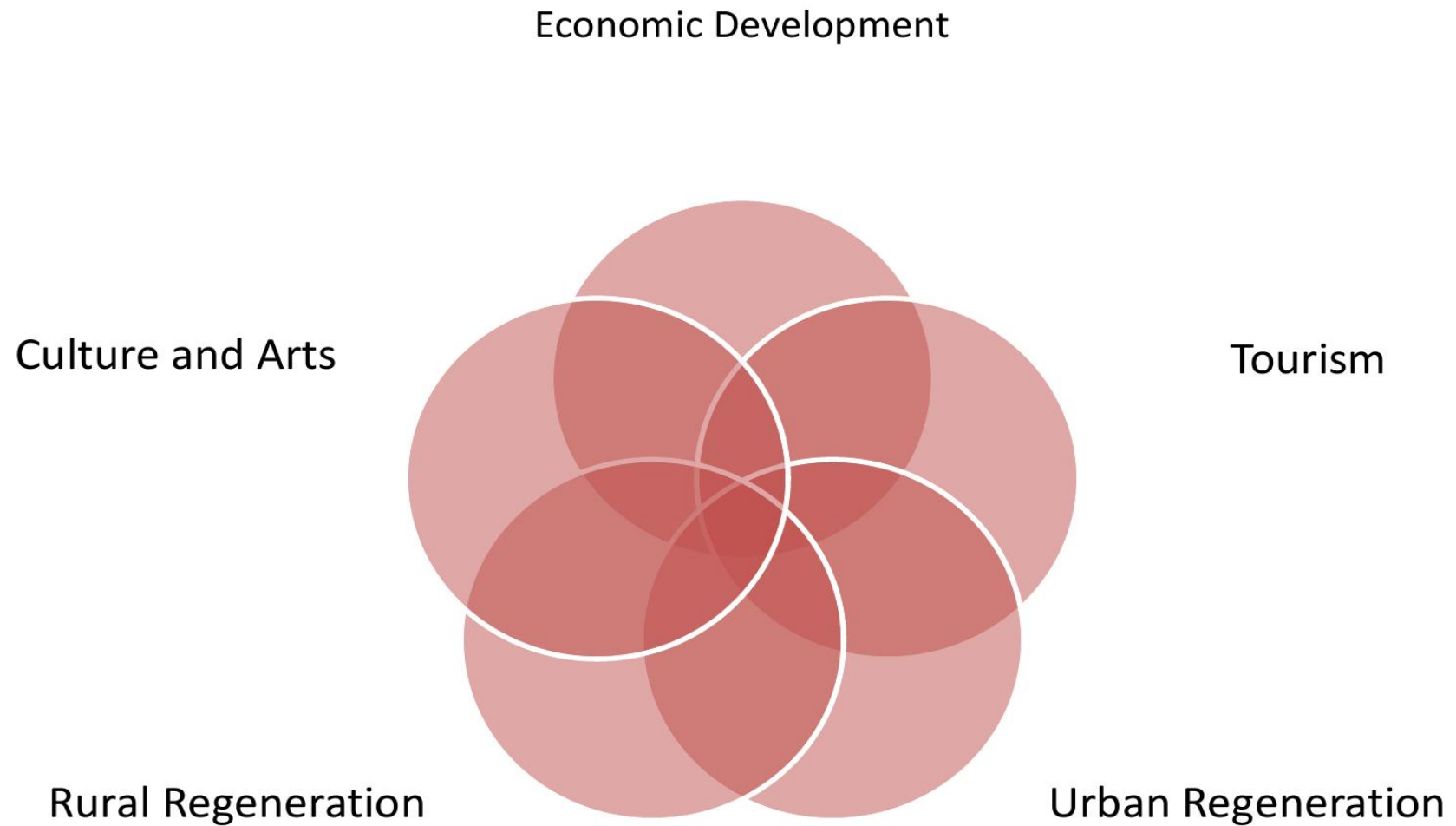
Opportunities and Threats

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic opportunities at Warrenpoint & Kilkeel Harbours • Business support for growing businesses • Collaboration with Invest NI & Tourism NI to attract investment • Use of the diaspora, local business champions • Engagement of Colleges & schools • Mournes as a tourism destination • Location for outdoor/adventure tourism & food tourism • Community asset transfer model • Public/private cultural and tourism partnerships • Stronger cross border linkages and partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow economic growth • Competition from Belfast and Dublin for new investment • Reduced public spending resources • Currency fluctuation creates uncertainty • Development pressures • Political legacy - need for rural regeneration • External negative perceptions of border area as area to visit or invest in • Concern that much of the focus will be on the 'Newry' part of the new Council

Collective Vision and Principles Diagram



Relationships between the Different elements of Newry Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration Vision and Investment Strategy



2015 Baseline Position from which to set Targets

Indicator	Newry, Mourne & Down	Relative to Northern Ireland
No of Jobs	51,000	7% of NI jobs
No of Businesses	7,500	11% of NI businesses
No of Medium/Large Businesses	85	7% of NI medium/large businesses
No of Business with 10+ employees	670	9% of NI businesses with 10+ employees
% Achieving NVQ Level 4+	28%	28.5% NI average
No of tourist visitors pa	453k	11% of NI total
% from outside NI	34%	NI average = 51%
Total spend pa by tourist visitors	£50m	7% of NI total

Theme 1: Economic Development

- Supporting the growth of the indigenous business base
- Promoting investment in the area
- Establishing business-friendly approaches to the planning process
- Working for investment in infrastructure
- Building links between business and education
- Addressing problems of employability

Theme 2: Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events

- Creating premier outdoor/adventure destination on the island - innovative Flagship Project?
- Focusing on a number of large scale Festivals and Events
- Networking, clustering and package initiatives
- Developing the evening economy
- Providing business supports and training for tourism stakeholders
- Working with the Diaspora to promote tourism

Theme 3: Urban Development and Regeneration

37

- Developing a joint urban and rural regeneration strategy
- Defining disadvantage
- Promoting high quality and well-designed public spaces and strategic urban realm schemes
- Using innovative financial instruments
- Reconfiguring Village Plans into clusters with Master Plan status
- Building on the Revitalisation work on initiatives like the Newry Cathedral and Creamery Quarters
- Developing speedily the Local Development Plan

Theme 4: Rural Development and Regeneration

38

- Complementing investment through the Rural Development Programme
- Exploring other EU cross border and EU wide funding opportunities
- Creating effective IT infrastructure & enabling communications for Rural Areas
- Creating Strategic Rural Activity Packages
- Building Village Networking Programmes
- Establishing a Rural Business Investment Scheme

Theme 5: Culture and the Arts

39

- Maximising the economic and social return on investment in cultural assets
- Co-ordinating and facilitating of networking
- Providing incubators and innovation hubs for creative and cultural industries
- Inspiring and motivating young people to develop cultural micro-businesses
- Developing marketing systems to promote events and opportunities
- Providing a cultural venue for Newry with 500 seat auditorium

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Inaugural Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2015 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room Downshire Civic Centre Downpatrick.

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess

Vice Chairperson: Councillor H Reilly

In Attendance:

- Councillor S Burns
- Councillor M Carr
- Councillor W Clarke
- Councillor G Craig
- Councillor D Curran
- Councillor G Donnelly
- Councillor C Enright
- Councillor H Harvey
- Councillor L Kimmins
- Councillor B O Muiri
- Councillor B Quinn
- Councillor M Ruane
- Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance:

- Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive
- Mr E Curtis Director of Strategic Planning & Performance
- Ms R Mackin Assistant Director of Administration (Equality)
- Ms H McKee Community Planning Manager
- Ms C Miskelly Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR)
- Ms E McParland Democratic Services Manager
- Ms V Keegan Marketing and Communications Manager
- Mr P Green Legal Officer
- Mr J McBride Change Manager
- Ms U Mhic An tSaoir Irish Language Officer
- Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

SPR/01/2015:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Strategy Policy & Resources Committee.

The following apologies were received from Councillor C McGrath and Mr R Dowey Head of Finance.

SPR/02/2015:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

SPR/03/2015:- TERMS OF REFERENCE

Read: Terms of Reference for the Strategy Policy & Resources Committee.
(Copy circulated)

Noted: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Muire seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to note the Terms of Reference for the Strategy Policy & Resources Committee which had been previously circulated to Members.**

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE

**SPR/04/2015:- REPORT
RE: CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY**

Read: Report from Ms R Mackin Assistant Director of Administration (Equality) dated 16 April 2015 regarding:
Corporate Planning
Corporate Policy
Equality Scheme
Disability Action Plan
Bilingualism (Copy circulated)

Officers presented the various sections of this Report and advised that:

Corporate Planning - The Corporate Plan for the new Council a Policy Development Framework has been provided in order to create a clear approach to the management of all Council policies. This is a fluid process and members will be kept updated on progress.

Agreed: Regular progress reports on Corporate Planning be presented at future meetings of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee to include progress indicators to allow for measurement against Plan.

Corporate Policy – A brief outline on the headline actions planned for the next 3 months was presented.

Equality Scheme – Outlined planned actions were presented.

Disability Action Plan – A brief outline on the headline actions planned for the next number of months was presented.

Agreed: At the request of Councillor Quinn officials to examine the provision of additional disability parking spaces at the Council offices, Monaghan Row, Newry.

Bilingualism Policy – This Report was presented.

Noted: A paper will be forwarded to the Management Team in due course regarding resourcing in respect of the Irish Language Policy – majority of structures will not be completed until mid/late summer 2015.

Agreed: Mr C Moffett Equality Officer to respond to a query from Councillor Walker seeking clarification as to whether bilingual signage at the entrance of villages and towns will be erected throughout the District.

Record: Councillor Reilly asked that it be recorded that he was extremely concerned at some of the comments contained in the Equality Impact Assessment in respect of the Irish Language Policy and said there should be a full Equality Impact Assessment carried out by the Council as currently he believed Unionists were being alienated from the Council.

The following issues were raised by Members:-

- Provision of additional resources to bring forward the development of the Irish Language Policy
- Details on plans for resources in respect of the development of the Irish Language Policy.
- Equality Impact Assessment.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor O’Muiri seconded by Councillor Kimmins it was agreed to approve the following reports:-
Report on Corporate Planning
Report on Corporate Policy
Report on Equality Scheme

**Report on Disability Action Plan
Report on Bilingualism**

Councillor Reilly objected to the above decision.

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

FOR: 8
AGAINST: 3
ABSTENTIONS: 2

(Note - Councillor Harvey was not a member of the SPR Committee).

The proposal was declared carried.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muiri seconded by Councillor Kimmins to adopt the following reports:-

**Report on Corporate Planning
Report on Corporate Policy
Report on Equality Scheme
Report on Disability Action Plan
Report on Bilingualism**

SPR/05/2015:- REPORT

RE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Read: Report from Ms V Keegan Marketing Manager dated 16 April 2015 regarding an update on Marketing and Communications. (Copy circulated)

Ms Keegan presented the above report.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor O Muiri seconded by Councillor Kimmins it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

Agreed: It was agreed Mr E Curtis arrange for a check to be carried out to ensure that a postal drop of postcards had been delivered to homes throughout all of the Council area giving communication details for the new Council.

SPR/06/29015:- REPORT ON EQUALITY SCREENING REPORT
RE: BILINGUISM POLICY

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett Equality Officer dated 16 April 2015 regarding an Equality Screening Report on the Bilingualism Policy. (Copy circulated)

Noted: It was noted the above report had already been tabled at the Shadow Council Governance Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2015 and formally ratified at the Meeting of Shadow Council Tuesday 31 March 2015.

Mr C Moffett presented the above report and explained the Bilingual Policy was about facilitating and encouraging promotion and use of the Irish and English Language.

Concerns were raised by several members regarding the issue of erecting bilingual signage.

Noted: **It was agreed to note the Report on Equality Screening regarding the Bi Linguism Policy.**

(Councillor Enright joined the meeting at this point – 6.35pm.)

(The meeting adjourned at 6.35pm for a 20 minute period due to IT problems and resumed at 6.55pm.)

SPR/07/2015:- REPORT FROM MS H MCKEE COMMUNITY PLANNING
MANAGER
RE COMMUNITY PLANNING

Read: Report from Ms H McKee Community Planning Manager regarding Community Planning:- (Copy circulated)

- Age Friendly Strategy
- Children & Young Peoples Youth Strategy
- Consultation & Engagement Framework

Community Planning

Ms McKee presented the report on Community Planning and outlined the 5 main areas as follows:-

- Economic development, regeneration, tourism
- Education
- Environment
- Health and wellbeing

- Planning
- Safety

The following issues were raised:

- The Strategy Policy & Resources Committee need to work closely with the Active Healthy Communities Committee in order that more contact and interaction is made with local communities in respect of community planning
- Need to increase the involvement of statutory communities in terms of community planning and engagement with the community
- Need to highlight that community planning is not a money saving exercise but about better delivery of services in communities.
- Seek a commitment from statutory bodies that they will become involved in community planning
- Need to identify priorities that are needed in certain areas
- Seek the views of people living in communities such as housing estates and from older people in the community and youth, ethnic minorities

Agreed: Ms H McKee to arrange an information session for Councillors on Community Planning.

Age Friendly Strategy **Children and Young Peoples Youth Strategy**

Ms Mackin presented the reports on Age Friendly Strategy and Children and Young Peoples Youth Strategy.

Ms Mackin pointed out officials would be working closely with the Active & Healthy Communities Committee on these strategies.

Consultation and Engagement Framework

Ms Mackin presented the report on Consultation and Engagement Framework.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to agree the Community Planning Report which incorporated:-

- Age Friendly Strategy
- Children and Young Peoples Youth Strategy
- Consultation and Engagement Framework

CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION**SPR/08/2015:- TENDER REPORT
- RE: INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 16 April 2015 from Mr R Dowey Head of Finance regarding the award of tender for Internal Audit services to be provided by external suppliers and recommending awarding of the tender to Company A for a period of 12 months expiring 31 March 2016. In the event that the first 12 months is satisfactory then the contract to be extended for a further 2 years. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Craig seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve the recommendation contained in report dated 16 April 2015 from Mr R Dowey Head of Finance regarding the award of tender for Internal Audit services to be provided by external suppliers, and that this tender be granted to Company A for a period of 12 months expiring 31 March 2016. In the event the first 12 months of this contract is satisfactory, the contract to then be extended for a further 2 year period.

Agreed: It was also agreed Mr R Dowey Head of Finance provide Councillor H Reilly with details of the re-evaluation of rate income for the legacy Down District Council.

SPR/09/2015:- REPORT RE SHARED PARENTAL LEAVE & POLICY

Read: Report from Ms C Miskelly Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources). (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to approve the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Shared Parental Leave Policy.

**SPR/10/2015:- LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION
- FINANCIAL SCHEME 2015/16**

Read: Report from Ms C Miskelly Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources) dated 16 April 2015 regarding the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Financial Scheme 2015/16. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note payment will be issued to the Local Government Staff Commission regarding the Financial Scheme 2015/16.

SPR/11/2015:- APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES:-

- LOUTH NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN JOINT COMMITTEE
- NILGA
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

It was noted outstanding appointments had to be made to the following bodies:-

- Louth, Newry, Mourne & Down Joint Committee (LNMD)
- NILGA
- National Association of Councillors

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Craig seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to appoint the following Members to the Louth, Newry, Mourne & Down Joint Committee:-

- Councillor B Walker
- Councillor D McAteer
- Councillor C Enright

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Craig seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to appoint the following Members to NILGA:-

- Councillor B Walker
- Councillor H Reilly

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Craig seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to appoint the following Members to the National Association of Councillors:-

- Councillor R Burgess
- Councillor P Clarke

SPR/12/2015:- APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

- EAST BORDER REGION

Read: Letter dated 19 February 2015 from P Arthurs East Border Region seeking appointment 3 No. Members of the East Border Region Forum to the position of Director of the East Border Region Board.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Kimmins it was agreed to appoint Councillor M Ruane as a Director of the East Border Region Board.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Carr seconded by Councillor Quinn it was agreed to appoint Councillor T Andrews as a Director of the East Border Region Board.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Carr seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to appoint Councillor D Hyland as a Director of the East Border Region Board.

SPR/13/2015:- COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Read: Report from Ms E McParland Democratic Services Manager regarding the Draft Constitution for the Council to be finalised and presented to the Monthly Meeting on Tuesday 5 May 2015. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve the Draft Council Constitution and that same be presented to the Monthly Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Following formal adoption of the Council Constitution, this document is to be put onto the Council's website.

CONFERENCES AND CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

**SPR/14/2015:- DSD
- DISABILITY ACTION PLAN – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

It was noted the Department for Social Development is carrying out a public consultation on the Disability Action Plan 2014-2017 for a 12 week period commencing 9 March 2015 until 31 May 2015. The public consultation document is available on the Department for Social Development's website.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Kimmins it was agreed the DSD consultation on the Disability Action Plan be referred to the individual Party Groupings on the Council for response.

SPR/15/2015:- REVALUATION – BUSINESS RATES

Read: Correspondence dated 26 March 2015 from Department of Finance & Personnel in response to the Council's letter of 4 March 2015 seeking a meeting with Simon Hamilton MLA Minister for Department of Finance and Personnel, to discuss the impact of the revaluation of business rates

on small businesses in the Council area. The Minister is unable to meet with Newry, Mourne & Down Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: Council officials arrange to carry out analysis of properties across the entire Newry, Mourne & Down District and do a rates comparison exercise for all of the towns contained in the District.

Agreed: It was agreed the Council arrange Information Seminars in both parts of the District to assist businesses undergoing the appeal process available for revaluation decisions.

Agreed: The views expressed by Members regarding the revaluation of business rates be forwarded to the ERT Committee.

Agreed: It was agreed to continue to lobby the Minister for Department of Finance and Personnel regarding Business Rates Relief and to ask that the scheme be extended for a further year after March 2016.

SPR/16/2015:- 2015 NILGA CONFERENCE
- THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2015

Read: Correspondence dated 2 April 2015 from NILGA regarding the 2015 NILGA Conference to be held in the La Mon Hotel, Thursday 18 June 2015. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Craig seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed Council representatives on NILGA attend the 2015 NILGA Conference in the La Mon Hotel on Thursday 18 June 2015:-

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Doran
Councillor P O'Gribin
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor B Walker
Councillor H Reilly

**SPR/17/2015: REQUEST FROM NI WATER
RE: MAINTENANCE WORKS - NEWRY STREET CAR PARK,
WARRENPOINT**

Read: Report from Ms Marie Ward Group Chief Building Control Officer dated 16 April 2015 regarding a request from NI Water seeking approval to close the car park at Newry Street, Warrenpoint for a 1 day period on the 22 April 2015 to facilitate essential maintenance works in connection with a pumping station located at Newry Street, Warrenpoint. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Carr seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to grant NI Water permission to close the car park at Newry Street, Warrenpoint for a 1 day period on the 22 April 2015 to facilitate essential maintenance works relating to the pumping station.

It was also agreed to request NI Water to provide the Council with an update regarding works at the pumping station located at Newry Street, Warrenpoint and to request that in future they give adequate notice of essential works which may result in the closure of this car park.

**SPR/18/2015:- PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
RINGHADDY ROAD AND QUARTERLAND ROAD, KILLINCHY**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting to allow consideration of this matter as it contains information considered exempt under Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to an individual.

Read: Report from Mr P Greene Legal Advisor, dated 16 April 2015 regarding a judicial review pre action protocol letter in respect of Down District Council's assertion of a public right of way between Ringhaddy Road and Quarterland Road, Killinchy.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Council came out of closed session Mr Curtis reported that on the proposal of Councillor Walker seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to note the legal proceedings which will commence in respect of a judicial review on pre action protocol in respect of Down

District Council's assertion of a public right of way between Ringhaddy Road and Quarterland Road, Killinchy.

SPR/19/2015: FUTURE MEETINGS OF SPR COMMITTEE

Read: Listing of future Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meetings to be held up until April 2016. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed officials look at the possibility of providing a video conferencing facility for Members who are unable to attend committee meetings due to work commitments, subject to such an arrangement complying with the Council's Standing Orders.

The Meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Signed: **Councillor Robert Burgess**
Chairperson

Signed: **Eddy Curtis**
Director of Strategic Planning and Performance

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2015

Minutes of Inaugural Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 April 2015 at 6.00pm in the Commedagh Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

Chairperson: Cllr L Kimmins

Vice Chairperson: Cllr L Devlin

In attendance: (Councillors)

Cllr S Burns	Cllr M Carr
Cllr G Fitzpatrick	Cllr V Harte
Cllr H Harvey	Cllr D Hyland
Cllr K Loughran	Cllr B Ó'Muirí
Cllr D Taylor	Cllr B Walker

(Non Committee Members)

Cllr T Andrews

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Mr P Green, Legal Advisor
 Mr D Brannigan
 Ms S Burns
 Mr J Campbell
 Mr E Devlin
 Ms S Fearon
 Mrs J Hillen
 Mrs G McEwen
 Mr R Moore
 Ms K Morrow
 Mr P Power
 Ms S Rice
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/01/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors S Doran and B Quinn.

Councillor Kimmins welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. She stated, if Members were in agreement, she

intended that each Member would only speak on items once and non-Committee Members would not be permitted to speak, in order to complete the business more efficiently.

AGREED: **Members agreed that they would speak once on items and non-Committee Members would not be allowed to speak, in order to complete the business more efficiently.**

AHC/02/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were put forward as follows:

Councillor S Burns declared an interest in Item 9 – Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities as he was a member of a community group in receipt of funding from Council.

Councillor V Harte declared an interest in Item 9 – Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities as she was a member of a community group in receipt of funding from Council.

The Chief Executive declared an interest in Item 9 – Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities as he had family members involved in community groups in receipt of funding from Council.

AHC/03/2015: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Read: Report on Terms of Reference for Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

NOTED: It was agreed to mark the report on terms of reference noted.

It was agreed to take item 5 at this stage.

AHC/05/2015: ESTABLISHMENT OF SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR NEW COUNCIL DISTRICT

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr P Power, Sports Officer recommending: (copy circulated)

- The proposed new name of the association is: Sports Association Newry & Mourne (SAND). The Core Committee will consist of
 - Chairperson (elected at AGM from membership)
 - Vice Chairperson (elected at AGM from membership)
 - Secretary (elected at AGM from membership)
 - Treasurer (elected at AGM from membership)

- Public Relations Officer (elected at AGM from membership)
- Up to 4 Councillors
- Up to 3 Council Staff
- Sports Club Membership (max of one representative from each sport)

Mr Lipsett provided some background information on the establishment of the Sports Association advising that the Association is a company limited by guarantee which means they can avail of grants and funding schemes that are not available to Council. The Association will also have charitable status which assists sports clubs wishing to develop their facilities to avail of reduced planning fees.

Members discussed the issue asking if there would be any scope for increasing the Sports Club Membership for the larger sports such as soccer, GAA and rugby. Mr Lipsett advised the reason for limiting to one per sport was in order to keep some control over the size of the Association so that it does not become unworkable.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Walker, seconded by Councillor D Hyland to approve the above report and recommendation.**

It was agreed to take item 4 at this stage.

PRESENTATIONS

AHC/04/2015: PRESENTATION FROM MR MICHAEL LIPSETT – OVERVIEW OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Mr Michael Lipsett provided an overview of the Directorate advising the key areas it would be involved in were:

- Community Engagement including:
 - Community Engagement and Social Exclusion
 - Peace and Good Relations
 - Community Services, Facilities & Events
 - Community Development & Voluntary Contributions
 - PCSP
- Leisure & Sport including:
 - Leisure and Recreation
 - Parks and Open Spaces
 - Sports Development
- Health & Well Being including:
 - Environmental Health
 - Environmental Education & Biodiversity
 - Health Promotion and Prevention

Mr Lipsett outlined the current Strategies and Development Plans advising of their current status and planned start dates. He also advised Members of the Committee of the Current Leisure Centre Developments. (Copy attached)

NOTED: The information contained within the presentation was noted.

AHC/06/2015: PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP THE PITCH AND PUTT AREA IN NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 19 March 2015 from Mr M Bryce, Assistant Director, Leisure & Recreation Services recommending that Council approve the Licence Agreement for FootGolf in Newcastle Pitch and Putt area. (Copy circulated)

Mr Lipsett advised Down District Council had approved a 5 year lease agreement for FootGolf facility to be put in place in Newcastle and asked that this be noted.

Members discussed the issue questioning if it would be possible for some funding to be made available to allow local golf clubs to smarten their clubs up before the Irish Open and whether Council are in a position to develop the existing Pitch and Putt facility in Newry.

The Chief Executive advised Council had written to the Minister and £21,000 had been received from DSD and DRD, however there was no further funding available. He stated the Pitch and Putt facility in Newry was not contained within the capital programme and had not come before the Shadow Council, however he would follow this up.

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the report. It was further agreed that the Chief Executive would investigate the position with the Pitch and Putt facility in Newry.**

AHC/07/2015: HIRE CHARGES FOR PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director, Waste Management /Technical & Leisure Services recommending: (copy circulated)

- That the new Leisure Services Department of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council adopt the same principles to swimming tuition. All leisure facilities within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area to have their own swim programmes for aged 4 years and above and do not offer their facility to commercial organisations on a private group hire basis.
All group swim programmes aged 4 years and above would be delivered directly by the Council. Where this is not

possible, the procedure detailed in the report would be implemented.

- It is recommended that the new Leisure Services Department of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council adopt the same principles to private individual swimming lesson as detailed in the report.

Members discussed the issue at length with Councillor W Walker stating his opposition to the recommendations contained in Mr Moore's report.

Mr Lipsett advised the reason for the recommendations was to have more programmes, more frequency of lessons at a cheaper price for parents who will use it and to have a fair and consistent pricing policy across the District. He stated that when the public understand the level of programme and the increased standard in service available across the District, they would be satisfied with the new programme. Mr Lipsett also stated the current position within Down Leisure Centre was to remain until 30th June 2015 and this would facilitate the Council is communicating the revised arrangements to the public.

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

FOR:	8
AGAINST:	3
ABSTENTIONS:	1

The vote was CARRIED.

Councillor Burns proposed that a tour be organised to inform Members of the Committee what facilities exist within the District. This was seconded by Councillor Hyland.

Councillor Walker proposed that Officers talk to the parents of the children who currently use Down Leisure Centre in order to advise them of the benefits of the new programmes. This was seconded by Councillor Burns.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burns, to approve the above report and recommendation.**

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hyland that a tour of the facilities within the District be organised.

It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burns that Officers talk to the parents of the children who currently use Down Leisure Centre in order to advise them of the benefits of the new programmes.

AHC/08/2015: FIXED CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION CAPITAL SCHEMES

- Read:** Report dated 20 April 2015 from Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager and Mr D Brannigan, Community Relations & Development Manager recommending:- (copy circulated)
- That the Council issues a call for capital scheme applications for financial assistance for match funding towards capital projects in community, sporting and recreation only.
 - The fixed call opens on Monday 27th April 2015 and closes on Friday 15th May 2015.
 - Capital Scheme to follow Financial Assistance Procedure with additional capital scheme basic eligibility criterion.
 - Adopt the updated Review Procedure.

Mr Lipsett advised £350,000 has been provided by the Shadow Council for capital scheme applications and as these need to be utilised before the end of the year, the Committee should approve the above recommendations. He stated the schemes must have a minimum spend of £20,000 and a maximum of £100,000 and 50% match funding would be the maximum available from Council. He advised the schemes need to have planning permissions in place and be ready to begin as the funding needs to be used before the end of the year.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor S Burns, seconded by Councillor G Fitzpatrick to approve the above report and recommendations.**
On the advice of the Chief Executive, it was noted that Council approval to the recommendations contained in the above report would be required before any matters in relation to report can be actioned.

Having previously declared an interest in the next item, The Chief Executive and Councillors Burns and Harte left the meeting at this stage – 7.55 pm

AHC/09/2015: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Read:** Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr P Green, Legal Advisor recommending:-
- The Committee agrees to the Council entering into SLA's with the list of groups as listed for a period of one year to allow for a review of these funding arrangements to be carried out:

Councillor G Fitzpatrick asked the Officers to investigate if Mayobridge Community Centre received funding.

Members discussed the issue and Councillor D Hyland proposed that the Committee should visit the centres to see what they provide within the local areas, this was seconded by Councillor B Ó'Muirí.

Councillor W Walker proposed that the Committee should also approve the Officer's recommendation, as well as visiting the various community centres. This was seconded by Councillor L Devlin.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Hyland, seconded by Councillor B Ó'Muirí to visit the centres to see what they provide within the local areas.**
It as agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Walker, seconded by Councillor Devlin to approve the above report and recommendations.

The Chief Executive, Councillors Burns and Harte re-entered the meeting at this stage – 8.05pm

AHC/10/2015: PCSP TRANSITIONAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mrs J Hillen, District Partnership Manager recommending:-

- That Council approves the Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP Transitional Action Plan.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor B Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor D Taylor to approve the above report and recommendation.**

AHC/11/2015: LETTER FROM HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY DHSSPS - EVALUATION

Read: Letter dated 3 March 2015 from Alastair Campbell, Deputy Director Secondary Care from Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the correspondence.**

AHC/12/2015: ADDITIONAL ITEM – FOOD STANDARD AGENCY GRANT FUNDING TO DISTRICT COUNCILS

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr J Farrell recommending:-

- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council accept the Food Standard Agency's food grant proposal.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor M Carr, seconded by Councillor W Walker to approve the above report and recommendation.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.10pm.

For adoption at the Monthly Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Signed: Councillor L Kimmins
Chairperson

Signed: Mr L Hannaway
Chief Executive

20.04.2015

Active & Healthy Communities

Michael Lipsett

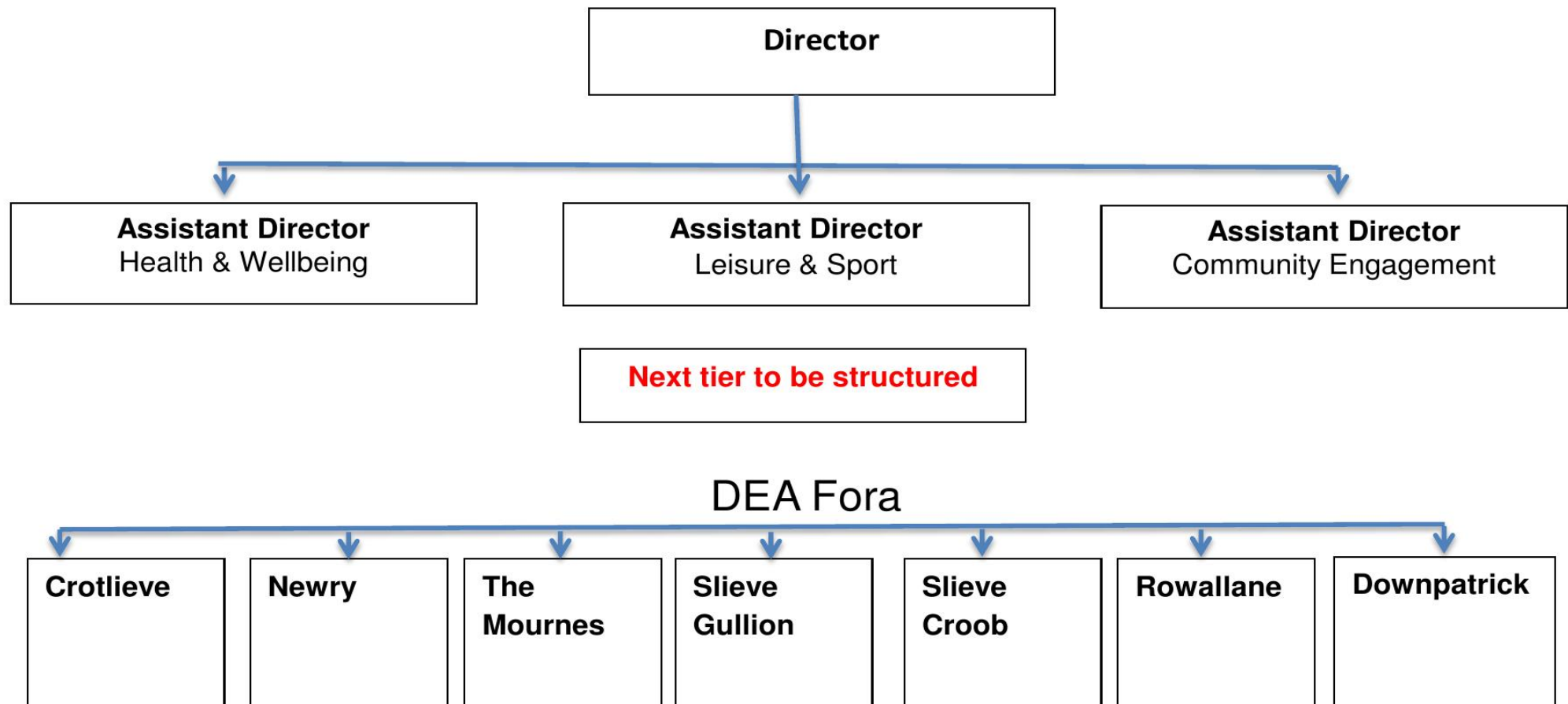
Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down and South Armagh



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



Active & Healthy Communities Structure





Community Engagement

Community Engagement and Social Exclusion

Develop Strategies to:

- Consult, involve, listen and respond to communities
- Enable communities participation in the shaping and designing of policies and services
- Address social exclusion issues across the district
- Strengthen community cohesion through programmes and activities
- Improve access to council services across all activities
- Oversee the maximisation of funding opportunities to deliver programmes and initiatives
- Invest in the skills, knowledge resources that Communities use to engage



Peace and Good Relations

- Build and sustain inclusive and objective community programmes
- Build and sustain positive relationships through community dialogue
- Enable social inclusion & engage with local groups and stakeholders in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors
- Develop specific policies and programmes on safe/shared spaces, community cohesion, diversity and respect
- Oversee the maximisation of funding opportunities to deliver programmes and initiatives
- Invest in sustainability of local communities through enhancement of knowledge, skills and resources



- Community Services, Facilities & Events

- Oversee the effective management of community facilities
- Engage key stakeholders to inform and enhance community services throughout the district
- Explore partnership opportunities in joint provision to ensure sustainability of community services
- Develop an events programme to build community cohesion and confidence



- **Community Development & Voluntary Contributions**

- Develop policies to deliver grant aid and other support to community and voluntary bodies against agreed performance targets
- Monitor and evaluate grant aid to voluntary bodies
- Develop a programme to build and support community cohesion and civic pride
- Community Capacity Build, empowering local people to effect change within their communities



- **PCSP**

- Establish a multi-agency strategic partnership to address crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour across the district
- Consult and engage with the local community on issues that impact on policing and community safety
- Identify and prioritise issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled
- Deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety directly through the implementation of safety related projects, programmes and interventions
- Build the capacity of local community groups/bodies to effectively implement local solutions to local problems
- Monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime



Leisure & Sport

- **Leisure and Recreation**
 - Develop policies and services with a common theme of increasing participation in leisure, recreation and sporting activities
 - Oversee capital projects to ensure they are completed within budget and time frame
 - Explore alternative opportunities to deliver leisure and recreation services and projects across the district
 - Engage with all key stakeholders



- Parks and Open Spaces

- Develop relationships with all key stake holders
- Develop with others a leisure and events programme
- Oversee capital projects to ensure they are completed within budget and time frame



- Sports Development

- Develop policies and undertake outreach activities to advance the development of sport and in particular to target minority sports
- Ensure compliance with council Health and Safety policies and legislation
- Establish and develop sports development partnerships
- Develop and participate in regional, sub regional and cross border sports partnerships
- Oversee the maximisation of funding opportunities



Health & Well Being

- Protect the environment of our district and the health of those people who live, work and visit it
- Engage with all the stakeholders on health, education and biodiversity policies and issues
- Promote sustainability and biodiversity through the development and implementation of an environmental education programme

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
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- Environmental Health

- Food Safety
- Health & Safety at Work
- Public Health Nuisances
- Housing
- Pollution Control
- Planning Consultations
- Radiation Monitoring
- Consumer Protection



- **Environmental Education & Biodiversity**
 - Develop and deliver environmental education programmes to the community
 - Implement Local Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Promote sustainable communities



- Health Promotion and Prevention

- Create awareness of healthy lifestyles choices and ill health prevention
- Oversee the Directorate's participation in health promotion and well being through effective partnership working
- To deliver Home Safety and Home Accident prevention
- Organise and deliver health educational programmes
- To reduce fuel poverty by delivering the Affordable Warmth Scheme



- Strategies & Development Plans

	Reporting Period	Status
Community Centre Strategy	Autumn	Work Started
Playing Fields Strategy	Summer	Work Started
Play Strategy	Summer	Work Started
Sports Development Strategy	Summer	Work Started
Facilities Strategy	Summer	Work Started
Recreation Strategy	Autumn	To be started
Department Business Plan	Autumn	To be started
PCSP Action Plan	Autumn	To be started
DEA Action Plan	December	To be started



- Current Leisure Development

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Newry Leisure Centre Phase II | On site January 2016 |
| • Downpatrick Leisure Centre | On site January 2016 |
| • Saintfield Community & Sports Centre | On site January 2016 |
| • Newcastle Tourism Leisure & Gateway Centre | Final design & Business
Case December 2015
Agree site summer 2015 |

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

**Minutes of Inaugural Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held
on Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 3.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council
Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor S Ennis

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor C Casey
Councillor S Doran	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H McKee	Councillor P O'Gribin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor

Officials in Attendance:

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
 Mr A McKay, Head of Planning
 Mr T Daly
 Mr L Dinsmore
 Mr C Jackson
 Mr R Moore
 Mr J Parks
 Mr K Scullion
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/01/2015:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee and said he looked forward to working with the Vice-Chair, Councillor Ennis, and also with the Director and Officers.

Apologies were received from Councillor G Sharvin.

RTS/02/2015:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

RTS/03/2015:- TERMS OF REFERENCE

Read: Terms of Reference for the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee. (Copy circulated).

NOTED: Mr O'Rourke advised that due to changes in the structure of the Organisation, a previous function of the Committee i.e. Emergency Planning had been removed from the Terms of Reference for the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Doran, to note the terms of reference for the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee.**

Councillor O'Gribin joined the meeting at 3.05 pm.

PRESENTATION

RTS/04/2015: PRESENTATION ON THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Mr O'Rourke gave a presentation on the Regulatory and Technical Services Directorate and the services which the Directorate would provide. **(Copy of presentation attached).**

The following actions were agreed:-

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that officials prepare a report on the costs of the Council providing a pest control service for consideration at the May Meeting of the RTS Committee.**

AGREED: **It was agreed, in response to a query from Councillor O'Gribin, that Mr O'Rourke would provide a breakdown of the costs of maintaining the Council owned cemeteries in the Newry, Mourne and Down District and circulate this to Members for their information.**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Harte, that officials prepare a paper/business case on the possibility of providing a crematorium in the Newry, Mourne and Down District and that this report be brought to the next appropriate RTS Meeting for consideration.**

NOTED: It was noted that Councillor McKee asked for an update in relation to enforcement action on dangerous buildings on the Harbour Road

Kilkeel and Councillor Harte had asked for an additional water tap and bins to be provided at Monkshill Cemetery, Newry.

Officials advised they would investigate these matters and update the individual Councillors.

Councillor Ennis, Vice Chair of the Committee, said that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee would be encouraging Members not to raise individual matters at the Committee Meeting but instead to contact the officers directly. She said this would be particularly important as the work of the Committee increased.

NOTED: Mr O'Rourke said that he hoped to be in a position to present a Business Plan to the June Meeting of the Committee which would lay out the planned work of the Directorate over the coming year. Thereafter he would be presenting this report to the Committee on a quarterly basis which would allow Members to measure and monitor progress of the Department.

PLANNING

RTS/05/2015: ANIMAL WELFARE AGREED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report dated 13 March 2015 from the Local Government Chief Executives Group providing Councils with an overview of the governance arrangements from 1 April 2015 to enable Local Authorities to comply with the enforcement requirements of the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2012 for non-farmed animals.

The report detailed the four-centre sub regional model and gave a breakdown of the staff numbers involved; the proposed governance arrangements and recommended that each Council agrees to the governance arrangements identified in this Animal Welfare governance paper in preparation for the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act (NI) 2011 from 1 April 2015. (Copy circulated).

NOTED: Mr O'Rourke advised that these arrangements were fully funded and there would be no cost to the Council.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor McKee that the Council agrees to the governance arrangements identified in this Animal Welfare governance paper in preparation for the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act (NI) 2011 from 1 April 2015.**

RTS/06/2015: RIVERS AGENCY – REQUEST TO DELIVER A PRESENTATION ON FLOOD MAPS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Letter dated 18 March 2015 from Rivers Agency offering a presentation on the Flood Maps (NI) to the Council. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Hanna to invite the Rivers Agency to the appropriate meeting of the RTS Committee to give this presentation.**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

RTS/07/2015: DRUMGATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY – REQUEST RELATING TO DRUMGATH OLD GRAVEYARD, DRUMLOUGH, NEWRY

Read: Background briefing paper on a request from Drumgath Ladies Group to commence a project to preserve Drumgath Old Graveyard. The report recommended that the Council gives approval in principle to Drumgath Ladies Group subject to:-

1. The site's monument status being clarified by DoE Built Heritage.
2. Details of the proposed project being pre-approved by both Council and Built Heritage, prior to any works commencing on site.
3. The Group obtaining EHS grant funding to cover the costs of the proposed works.
4. The Group providing proof of Public Liability Insurance and indemnifying the Council against any claims or costs arising directly from these Works.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Doran to approve the above recommendations.**

FOR NOTING

RTS/08/2015: NIEA – AREAS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST NOTIFICATIONS

Read: Correspondence from the NIEA giving notification of the delineation of the following areas as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (Notification Under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) 2002:- (Copy circulated):-

- NIEA - Aughnavallog Area of Special Scientific Interest notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.
- NIEA - Shannaghan Hill Area of Special Scientific Interest notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.
- NIEA - Carrivemaclone Area of Special Scientific Interest notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.
- NIEA - Gransha Area of Special Scientific Interest notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.
- NIEA - Goraghowood Quarry Area of Special Scientific Interest notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.
- NIEA - Aughnagun Quarry Area of Special Scientific Interest notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.
- NIEA - Ardglass Area of Special Scientific Interest notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002.

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the above correspondence.**

RTS/09/2015: **DoE PASSENGER TRANSPORT LICENCING DIVISION – APPLICATION TO RENEW A ROAD SERVICE LICENCE**

Read: Correspondence dated 8 April 2015 from the Driver and Vehicle Agency advising that the Department had received an application to renew the Road Service Licence for the under-mentioned operators:-

- B360 – O Rooney Coach Hire Ltd, 4 Dana Place, Hilltown
- B2217 – Car Park Services Ltd, t/a Cosmo Car Park, Airport Road, Crumlin
- B2599 – Budget Bus Ltd. Dungannon

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the above correspondence.**

RTS/10/2015: **APPLICATION TO RENEW A ROAD SERVICE LICENCE**

Read: Correspondence dated 30 March 2015 from the Driver and Vehicle Agency advising that the Department had received an application to renew the Road Service Licence for the under-mentioned operators:-

- B1916 – Frontier Bus Hire, Jonesborough
- B598 - Kelly Coaches, Omagh

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the above correspondence.**

RTS/11/2015: LETTER OF THANKS – NEWRY AND DISTRICT ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Read: Letter dated 10 April 2015 from Newry and District Anglers Association thanking the Council for the tree management work carried out at Carnbane Industrial Estate. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/12/2015: SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR FUTURE RTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM APRIL 2015 TO MAY 2016

Read: Schedule of dates for future RTS Committee Meetings from April 2015 to May 2016. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above Schedule.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS – FOR NOTING

RTS/13/2015: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO WASTE BATTERIES REGULATIONS 2009, THE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY OBLIGATIONS (PACKAGING WASTE) REGULATIONS 2007, THE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY OBLIGATIONS (PACKING WASTE) REGULATIONS (NI) 2007 AND CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON THE IMPACT OF THE NEW PLASTIC FLOW FIGURES AND LINKS WITH HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING TARGETS

Read: Letter dated 27 March 2015 from the DoE Policy Division advising of the above named consultation (any responses by 22 May 2015).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/14/2015: CONSULTATION ON AMENDING THE FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Letter dated 27 March 2015 from the DoE Policy Division advising of the above named consultation (any responses by 19 June 2015).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED**RTS/15/2015: INTERIM PROCESSING OF DRY RECYCLABLES**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Hanna to exclude the public and press from the meeting to allow consideration of this matter as it contains information considered exempt under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Read: Report dated 22 April 2015 from Mr C O'Rourke seeking approval from the Committee on a course of action for the Interim Processing of Dry Recyclables. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Doran, to come out of closed session.

AGREED: When the Committee came out of closed session Mr O'Rourke reported that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the recommendation made for the processing of the dry recyclables from the old Newry and Mourne area, until such times as the new District wide arc21 contract is established, subject to Mr C O'Rourke establishing that there is no implications for this course of action as a result of an email received from local Solicitors in relation to this matter.

The Meeting concluded at 3.45 pm.

For ratification by the Council at their Meeting to be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Signed: Councillor Terry Andrews
Chairperson

Signed: Mr Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive

22.04.2015

The Regulatory & Technical Services Directorate

Canice O'Rourke



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

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

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

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Regulatory and Technical Services

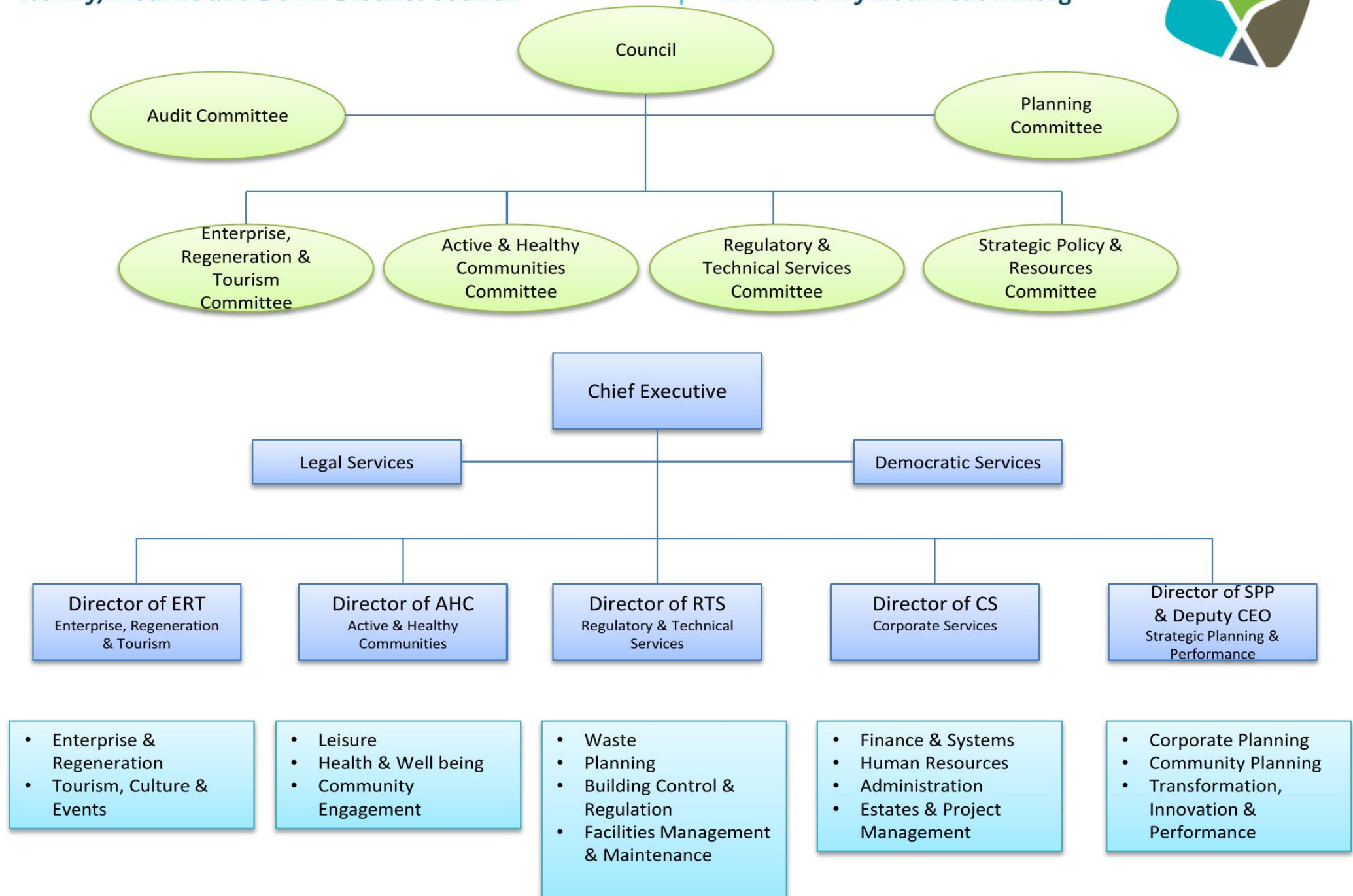
Protecting both the natural and the built environment.

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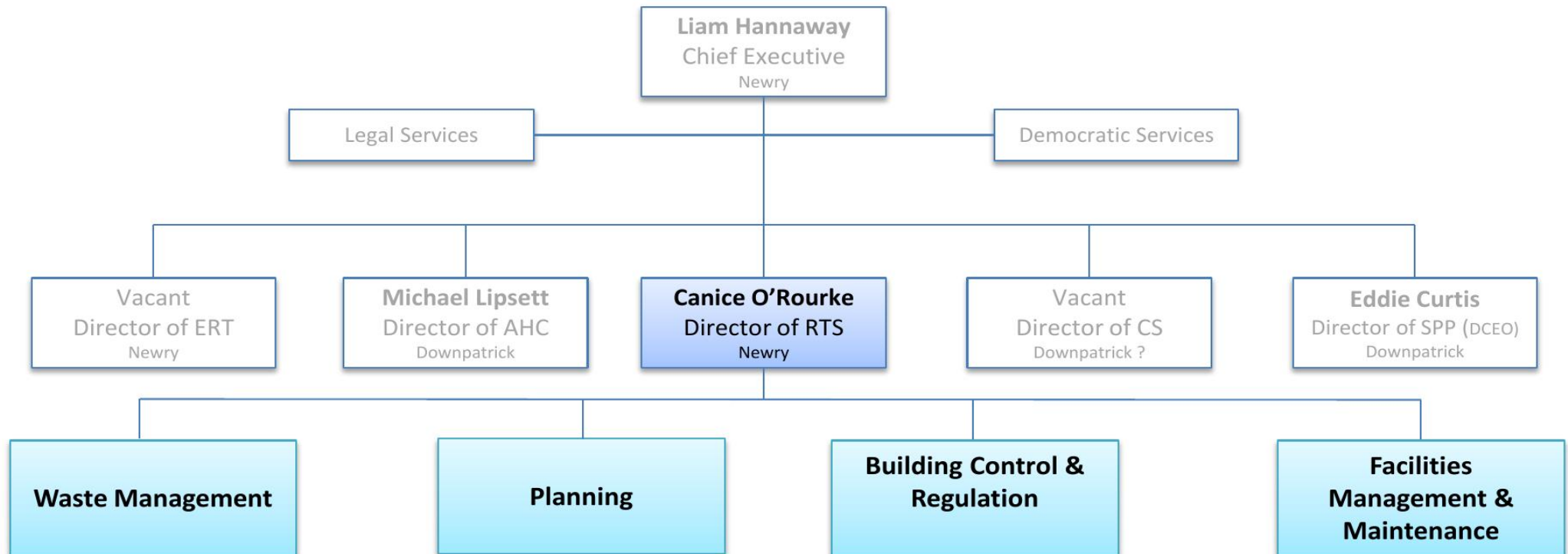


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Approximate 443 Staff

Approximate Budget £20,100,106



Waste Management Activities:

- Refuse Collection
- Recycling
- Waste Disposal
- Environmental Cleansing
- Fleet Management

Staff = 210

Budget = £15,226,244



Planning Activities:

- Processing Planning Applications (Development Management)
 - Planning Enforcement
 - Production of a local Development Plan
 - Approving Planning Applications
-
- The first two sit within Regulatory & Technical Services
 - The third does not (Strategic Planning & Performance)
 - The fourth does not (Planning Committee)

Staff = 44

Budget = £459,000



Building Control and Regulation Activities:

- Building Regulations
- Licensing
- Animal Welfare and Dog Control
- Postal Numbering
- Safety in Built Environment
- Transferred Roads Functions

Staff = 55

Budget = £248,057



Facilities Management and Maintenance Activities:

- Grounds Maintenance
- Cemeteries
- Building Maintenance
- Energy Efficiency
- Public Conveniences
- Facilities Management
- Domestic Services
- Caretakers/Security
- Canteens
- Switchboard, Reception

Staff = 133

Budget = £4,043,184

Report to Council Meeting – 5 May 2015

Subject: Council Constitution

Date: 27 April 2015

Reporting Officer: Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Eileen McParland, Democratic Services Manager

Decisions required:

Members are asked to approve the contents of the Report and consider and agree to the Constitution for the Council.

1.0 Purpose and Background:

Section 2 (1) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 places a duty on Councils to prepare and keep up to date a Constitution. The Act places a statutory duty on Councils to include within the Constitution: -

- (a) A copy of the Council's Standing Orders
- (b) A copy of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors
- (c) Such information as the Department may direct
- (d) Such other information (if any) as the Council considers appropriate.

With regards to paragraph (c) above, the Department (DOE) has now also issued a Direction with a list of additional content that Councils are required to include within their Constitutions.

2.0 Key Issues:

2.1 Attached is a copy of the Council's recommended Constitution (Part 1)

Parts 2-6 will contain the following documentation:-

Part 2 - Responsibility for functions ie	Scheme of delegation Details of Council Committees and their responsibilities for Council functions Council's rights in relation to formation of joint arrangements (eg Arc 21)
Part 3 - Rules of procedures ie	Standing Orders Access to information procedure rules Financial procedure rules

Part 4 - Codes and protocols ie

Code of Conduct for Councillors
Code of Conduct for Officers
Local Government Employee and Councillor
working relationship protocol

Part 5 - Members Allowance Scheme

Part 6 - Officers Management Structure ie Chief Executive and Directors as confirmed in
Corporate Plan

It should be noted that all of the above documents have previously been presented to the Council and approved.

2.2 The Constitution will be an evolving document in the first term of the Council, particularly the first year, and Officers will be alert to any changes in legislation/DOE developments which may necessitate a change to contents.

3.0 Resource Implications:

There are no additional resource implications contained within this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft Constitution



Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Constitution of the Council

April 2015

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Part 1

Summary, Explanation and Articles of the Constitution

The Council's Constitution

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is required, under Section 2 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, to prepare and keep up to date a Constitution. This Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures the Council follows to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

The Constitution is divided into 13 Articles and these set out the basic rules governing the Council's business. More detailed procedures and codes of practice are set out at Parts 2-6 of the Constitution.

What's in the Constitution?

Article 1 sets out the powers of the Council and the purpose of the Constitution. Articles 2 to 13 explain how the key parts of the Council operate, and the rights of our citizens.

These Articles are:

- Members of the Council (Article 2)
- Citizens and the Council (Article 3)
- The Council (Article 4)
- Chairing the Council (Article 5)
- Decision making structures (Article 6)
- Regulatory and other Committees (Article 7)
- Joint arrangements (Article 8)
- Officers (Article 9)
- Procedures for decision making (Article 10)
- Finance contracts and legal matters (Article 11)
- Review and revision of the Constitution (Article 12)
- Suspension, interpretation and publication of the Constitution (Article 13)

Our Mission, Vision and Values

The Council has a population of around 171,500 and it is the third largest Council area in Northern Ireland. Following Local Government reorganisation in Northern Ireland, the Council formally assumed its full powers and statutory responsibilities on 1 April 2015 and its mission is to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable.

The Council aims to create opportunities for local people and local communities to thrive by supporting sustainable economic growth over time and helping people to lead fulfilling lifestyles. The Council has adopted 5 core values, which are;

- We will be citizen focused and actively encourage citizen and community engagement, as well as being a listening and responsive Council.

- We will be accountable and make decisions based on an objective assessment of need and operate in a transparent way as well as openly reporting on our performance.
- We will be collaborative and actively encourage and pursue working in partnership, and at all levels, to deliver for our district.
- We will be sustainable and will take into account the social, economic and environmental impacts of our decisions on current and future generations.
- We will be fair at all times and will proactively target actions at those who are marginalised within our community.

How the Council operates

The Council is made up of 41 Councillors who are elected every 4 years and the current Councillors will serve until May 2019.

Councillors have to agree to follow the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties and role as a Councillor.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Meetings of the Council, its Committees and sub Committees are open to the public, except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and it is here that decisions are made on the Council's overall policies.

How decisions are made

The full Council, which is a meeting of the 41 Councillors, is held every month, except on one summer month as determined by the Council. The Council also has 4 standing Committees which meet on a monthly basis, with the exception of July. These Committees make recommendations which must be approved by the full Council before any actions they are recommending can put in place.

The Council also operates a Planning Committee which meets normally on a 4 weekly basis and which has its own decision making powers.

Additionally the Council has an Audit Committee which is chaired by an independent member who has been recruited following a public recruitment exercise.

The Council's Employees

The Council employees, "Officers", give advice to the Councillors, implement decisions and manage the day to day delivery of its services. All Officers must ensure that they act within the law when carrying out the Council's work. The Councillor/Employee Code of Conduct is set out at Part 4 of this Constitution and this governs the relationships between employees and Councillors.

Citizen's Rights

Citizens have a number of rights in their dealings with the Council and in particular in terms of participation, rights to information and complaints. These are set out in more detail in Article 3 and include the right to;

- Vote at local elections if they are registered
- Contact their local Councillors about matters of concern to them
- Obtain a copy of the Constitution
- Attend meetings of the Council and its Committees
- See reports, background papers and records of decisions made by the Council and its Committees
- Complain to the Council about service delivery
- Complain to the Northern Ireland Commission for Complaints if they think the Council has not followed its procedures properly. However they should do this only after using the Council's own complaints process
- Exercise their rights under the Data Protection Act 1998 to request their own personal data/information held by the Council.
- Exercise their rights under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to obtain information held by the Council.
- Inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor during a statutory period.

The Council always welcomes participation by citizens in our work.

Article 1

The Constitution

1.1 Powers of the Council

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution. This Constitution complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, related Regulations and Government Guidance on constitutional matters.

1.2 The Constitution

This Constitution (including all its appendices) is the Constitution of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- a) Enable the Council to provide clear political and managerial leadership to the community, in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations;
- b) Support the act of involvement of citizens in the process of Council decision making;
- c) Help Councillors to efficiently and effectively represent and support their constituents;
- d) Enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- e) Create a powerful and effective means of holding decision makers to public account;
- f) Ensure that no-one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- g) Ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that the decision makers explain the reasons for decisions;
- h) Provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

1.4 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the statements of purpose in paragraph 1.3 above.

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution.

Article 2

Members of the Council (Councillors)

2.1 Composition and Eligibility

The Council comprises 41 members, called Councillors. Councillors are elected by the voters of each of the district electoral areas which make up Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland.

Where an individual ceases to be a Councillor, whether by resignation or through other circumstances, the vacancy on the Council will be filled by the co-option of an individual nominated by the political party in whose name the previous individual stood, at the last local general election. In the case of Councillors who are Independent Members and not Members of any political part, their vacancy will be filled by the co-option of an individual nominated by them when they stood at the last local general election.

Only registered voters of the district or those living or working there, will be eligible to hold the Office of Councillor.

2.2 Election and terms of Councillors

The regular election of Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every 4 years. The next Local Government election is scheduled to be held in 2019. The term of office of Councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

2.3 Role and duties of all Councillors

Key roles

- a) All Councillors will have the following key roles:
 - I. Councillors will collectively be the ultimate policy makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions for the Council;
 - II. Councillors will represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision making process;
 - III. Councillors will deal with individual issues and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances;
 - IV. Councillors will balance different interests identified within the district electoral area and represent that area as a whole;
 - V. Councillors will be involved in decision making;

VI. Councillors will be available to represent the Council on other bodies;

VII. Councillors will maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics

Rights and Duties:

b) All Councillors will have the following rights and duties

- I. Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents, information, lands and buildings of the Council as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.
- II. Councillors will not make public, information which is confidential or exempt (as defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 3 of this Constitution), without the consent of the Council or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or Officer entitled to know it.

2.4 Conduct

Councillors will at all times adopt high standards of conduct and abide by the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors issued under Section 53 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and the Local Government Employee and Councillor Working Relationship protocol.

2.5 Allowances

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances scheme set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

Article 3

Citizens and the Council

3.1 Citizens' Rights

Residents and others who avail of the Council's services have the following rights in relation to the operation of the Council. Their rights to information and to attend meetings of the Council or its Committees are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Information

- a) Citizens have the right to:
 - I. Attend meetings of the Council and its Committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
 - II. See reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council.

Complaints

- b) Citizens have the right to complain to:
 - I. The Council itself under its Complaints Scheme; or
 - II. The NI Commissioner for Complaints in respect of an allegation that a Councillor (or former Councillor) has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors. Guidance on making a complaint to the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints is available on the website of the Office of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints.

3.2 Citizens' Responsibilities

Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Councillors or Officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the Council, Councillors or Officers.

Article 4 **The Council**

4.1 Meanings

Policy Framework

- a) The policy framework means the following plans and strategies:
 - I. Those prescribed in legislation to be adopted by the Council:
 - Community Plan
 - Area Development Plan
 - Equality Scheme
 - Disability Action Plan
 - II. Those other plans and strategies which the Council may decide, should be adopted by the Council as a matter of local choice:
 - Corporate Plan
 - Scheme of Delegation

Budget

- b) The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, the Council rate base, setting the district rate and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the vetting of virement limits.

4.2 Functions of the Council

Only the full Council will exercise the following functions;

- a) Making a District Rate under the Rates (NI) Order 1977
- b) Making a determination under Section 13 (1) of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2001 (Affordable Borrowing Limit) and monitoring an amount determined under that subsection
- c) Borrowing money
- d) Acquiring or disposing of land
- e) All other matters, which by law, must be reserved to Council

4.3 Council Meetings

There are three types of Council meeting:

- a) the annual meeting;
- b) ordinary meetings and
- c) extraordinary meetings;

and they will be conducted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

4.4 Responsibility for functions

The Council will maintain the tables in Part 2 of this Constitution setting out the responsibilities for the Council's functions.

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Article 5

Chairing the Council

5.1 Title of the person chairing the Council meetings

The Chairperson of the Council will chair Council meetings.

5.2 Role and Function of the Chairperson

The Chairperson and, in their absence, the Deputy Chairperson will have the following roles and functions:

Ceremonial role

- a) The Chairperson, as the “first citizen of Newry, Mourne and Down” will uphold and preserve the dignity and honour of the Office. In particular the Chairperson will remain apolitical and attend civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.

The Chairperson will:

- I. Encourage and support all aspects of life in Newry, Mourne and Down by attending civic and public events;
- II. Receive distinguished visitors to the district;
- III. Act as host on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down at civic functions;
- IV. Act as a spokesperson to the local, national and international media.
- V. Support and encourage charitable and other appeals;
- VI. Promote Newry, Mourne and Down’s business, commercial, cultural and social life;
- VII. Promote Newry, Mourne and Down as a place of excellence in which to live, invest and create new jobs;
- VIII. Promote Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination.

Chairing the Council Meeting

- b) The Chairperson will be the person presiding over Council meetings.

The Chairperson will have the following responsibilities:

- I. To uphold and promote Newry, Mourne and Down, the Council’s Constitution, and to give rulings on the Constitution and Standing Orders during Council meetings;

- II. To preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out in an effective, orderly and efficient manner and in the interests of the citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down;
- III. To promote public awareness, knowledge and participation in the business of the Council.

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Article 6

Decision making structures

The full Council, which is a meeting of the 41 elected members, takes place monthly, with the exception of one summer month if Council so determines.

The Council also holds an Annual General Meeting every year.

The Council operates a traditional Committee structure.

6.1 Role

The Council has selected a traditional Committee structure as its form of decision making. The Council organises its business through 4 standing Committees. A standing Committee is a group of Councillors appointed by the Council who meet to review, scrutinise and make recommendations to the Council on a range of functions within its particular remit. These Committees sit monthly, with the exception of July. Each of the Committees consists of 15 Councillors. Officers advise Councillors on issues addressed by Committees. The Standing Committees do not have any decision making powers but they make recommendations which are then considered by the full Council.

The Council operates a Planning Committee which meets normally on a 4 weekly basis and consists of 12 Councillors. The Planning Committee has full decision making powers in the matters that fall within its remit.

The Council also has an Audit Committee which meets at least 3 times per year, the Chairperson of which is an independent person who is not a Councillor. The Audit Committee consist of 10 elected members. It does not have decision making powers and reports to the full Council.

6.2 Form

The Council has a traditional Committee structure. It operates four standing Committees which are:

Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council

Active and Healthy Communities Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council

Regulatory and Technical Services Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council

Strategic Planning and Resources Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council

The Council's Planning Committee consists of 12 members and has full decision making powers in relation to the Planning matters that fall within its remit.

It also operates an Audit Committee – a 10 member Committee that reports to full Council

6.3 Proceedings of the Committees

Proceedings of the Committees shall take place in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

The Council also has the power to establish sub Committees and working groups.

Article 7 **Policy and other Committees**

7.1 Policy and other Committees

The Council will appoint the Committees set out in the left hand column of the Table of Responsibility for Council Functions in Part 2 of this Constitution to make recommendations for the functions list described under in the right hand column of that table.

7.2 Regulatory and other Committees

The Council will appoint the Committees set out in the left hand of the Table of Responsibility for Council Functions in Part 2 of this Constitution to discharge the functions described in the right hand column of that table.

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Article 8

Joint arrangements

8.1 Joint arrangements

The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise functions, or to advise the Council. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a joint committee with these other local authorities.

Appointment of Members to joint Committees will be made by the Council in accordance with any relevant legislation and in line with the Council's Standing Orders.

8.2 Access to information

The Access to Information Rules in Part 3 of this Constitution apply.

8.3 Delegation to and from other Councils

The Council may delegate the discharge of functions to another Council or, in certain circumstances, the executive of another Council.

8.4 Contracting out

To be completed.

Article 9 **Officers**

9.1 Management structure

The management structure of the Council is set out in Part 6 of this Constitution.

9.2 Functions of the Clerk to the Council

The Chief Executive is the Council's Head of the Paid Service and principal adviser on policy issues.

The Chief Executive has responsibility for implementing the Council's strategic objectives and ensuring the efficient, effective and equitable discharge of responsibilities of the Council as detailed in legislation.

Key Roles:

- To provide the leadership, vision and strategic direction necessary to manage the interface between elected members and officers and work in partnership with them to create the Council's Strategic Plan and develop policies and relationships which will fulfil the Council's objectives.
- To work in partnership with elected members to define the corporate culture of the Council and promote its core values.
- To ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations and that the highest standards of probity and good conduct are maintained at all times.
- To ensure that appropriate governance arrangements, including risk management measures, are in place.
- To actively promote both the Council and its area locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, taking account of the various communities within the area.
- To provide support to the democratic decision making processes at all levels and to promote the active participation of local people and communities in the Council's affairs.
- To lead in ensuring that the Council's strategic plans and policies are matched to a common purpose across the organisation and the area.
- To take overall responsibility for ensuring that the Council's decisions and policies are implemented.

- To promote equality of opportunity and access in service delivery and in the employment of staff.
- To ensure that service planning and delivery reflect the Council's priorities and take account of the views of citizens, communities and all other stakeholders.
- To lead on partnership working through the Community Planning process, ensuring that through this the Council maximises opportunities for the area so that its citizens attain their full potential.
- To actively foster and enhance positive relationships with all local communities, agencies and partners, including the voluntary sector and local business, as well as with other statutory bodies at regional and national levels.

9.3 Functions of the Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Executive of the Council also holds the role of Chief Finance Officer and is responsible for leading and directing a finance function that is recourses and fit for purpose.

Key Roles:

1. To make arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs.
2. To lead the Council in fulfilling its duty to strike a district rate on an annual basis to meet the costs of local services.
3. To keep the Council advised on a regular basis on the robustness of its rate estimates.
4. To develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the Council's strategic objectives sustainability and in the public's interest.
5. To ensure immediate and larger term implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and aligned with the Council's financial strategy.
6. To lead the promotion and delivery by the Council of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.

9.4 Duty to provide sufficient resources to the Chief Financial Officer

The Council will provide the Chief Financial Officer with such Officers, accommodation and other resources as, in its opinion, sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

9.5 Conduct

Officers will comply with the Officer's Code of Conduct and the Local Government Employee and Councillor Working Relationship Protocol set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

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Article 10

Decision making

10.1 Responsibility for decision making

- a) The Council will issue and keep up to date a record of what part of the Council or which individual has responsibility for particular types of decisions or decisions relating to particular areas or functions. This record is set out in Part 2 of this Constitution.

10.2 Principles of decision making

Decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following guiding principles;

- a) Legality/power to make decisions
- b) Proportionality (meaning the action must be proportionate to the results to be achieved)
- c) A proper consideration of available options for action and/or inaction.
- d) Due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers.
- e) Due regard to equality and respect for human rights.
- f) A presumption in favour of openness and transparency in decision making.

Clarity of aims and desired outcomes

Due consideration to be given to alternative options.

Avoidance of conflicts of interests

Reasons for the decisions to be given provided there is no breach of confidentiality.

10.3 Decisions to be taken by a qualified majority

The decisions of a Council that must be taken by a qualified majority – i.e. by 80% of the votes of the members present and voting, are set out in the Council's Standing Orders in Part 3 of this Constitution.

10.4 Decision making by the Council

The Council meeting will follow the Council's Standing Orders set out in Part 3 of this Constitution when considering any matter.

10.5 Decision making by other Committees and sub Committees established by the Council

Council Committees and sub Committees will follow those parts of the Council's Standing Orders set out in Part 3 of this Constitution as applied to them.

10.6 Reconsideration of decisions

Decisions of the Council or a Committee of the Council will be subject to reconsideration if 15% of the Members of the Council present to the Clerk of the Council a requisition on either or both of the grounds specified in section 41 (1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. These are:

- that the decision was not arrived at after a proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues;
- That the decision would disproportionately affect adversely any section of the inhabitants of the district. The procedures to be followed in relation to a requisition for the reconsideration of a decision are set out in the Council's Standing Orders (standing order number 21) in Part 3 of this Constitution.

Article 11

Finance, Contracts and Legal Matters

11.1 Financial management

The management of the Council's financial affairs will be conducted in accordance with the Financial and Contract Procedure Rules set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

11.2 Contracts

Every contract made by the Council will comply with the Contracts Procedure Rules set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

11.3 Legal proceedings by and against the Council

The Clerk of Council is duly authorised to institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council or, in any case where the Council's legal advisors consider that such action is necessary to safe guard and protect the Council's interests. The Clerk of Council may also delegate all or part of this authority to any other Officers responsible for the provision of legal services to the Council or to any legal advisors instructed by the Council to act on its behalf.

11.4 Authentication of documents

Where any document is necessary to any legal procedure or proceedings on behalf of the Council, it will be signed by the Clerk of Council or some other person duly authorised by the Council unless any enactment otherwise authorises or requires.

11.5 Common Seal of the Council

The common Seal of the Council will be kept in a safe place in the custody of the Clerk of Council. A decision of the Council, or any part of it, will be sufficient authority for sealing any document necessary to give effect to the decision. The common Seal will be affixed to those documents which in the opinion of the Council's legal advisors should be sealed. The affixing of the common Seal will be attested by the Council.

Article 12

Review and Revision of the Constitution

12.1 Duty to keep the Constitution up to date

The Clerk of Council will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect. The Council will reform this role with support of such Officers as the Council considers necessary.

12.2 Changes to the Constitution

All proposed changes to the Constitution will be debated and agreed by a majority of the Council.

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Article 13

Publication of the Constitution

13.1 Suspension of the Constitution

Limit to suspension

- a) The Articles of this Constitution may be not be suspended. The Procedure Rules specified below may be suspended by the full Council to the extent permitted within those Procedure Rules and the law.

Procedure to suspend

- b) A motion to suspend any Procedure Rules will not be moved without notice unless it least one half of the total number of Councillors are present. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved, taking account of the statements of purpose of the Constitution set out in Article 1.

Procedure Rules capable of suspension

- c) The following Procedure Rules may be suspended in accordance with Article 12.1.
 - All of Standing Orders with the exception of the following: Standing Order 20.3; 21; 22 and 23. Suspension must have the support of a qualified majority vote within the meaning of Section 40 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

13.2 Interpretation

The ruling of the Chairperson in relation to the interpretation or application of this Constitution, or as to any proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purpose of this Constitution contained in Article 1.

13.3 Publication

A printed copy of this Constitution will be given to each Member of the Council upon delivery to the Clerk to the Council of that individual's declaration of acceptance of Office on the Member first being elected to the Council. Copies of the Constitution will be made available at the Council's Headquarters in Downpatrick and Newry and will be published on the Council's website.

Report To:	Council meeting – 5 May 2015
Subject:	Consultation Response Donaldson Report into Governance of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland
Date:	30 April 2015
Reporting Officer:	Michael Lipsett, Director AHC
Contact Officer:	Aisling Rennick, Investing for Health Officer

Introduction

Sir Liam Donaldson was commissioned to examine the arrangements for assuring and improving the quality and safety of care in NI, to assess their strengths and weaknesses and to make proposals to strengthen them

Sir Liam states that the health service in NI is based on a very traditional and quite bureaucratic model.

He acknowledges that the time frame for the review meant it was not possible to undertake research, extensive data analysis, large scale surveys of opinion or formal evidence-taking sessions.

The report states A striking feature of the provision of care in Northern Ireland is the wide distribution of hospital-type facilities outside the major city, Belfast, some serving relatively small populations by United Kingdom standards and that this leads to specialist expertise being too thinly spread.

The report notes that despite its small size there is less cooperative working across NI than would be expected with too much working in silos. It particularly mentions the split between care providers and commissioners which increases the complexity of the system.

Consultation on the Report closes on 22 May 2015.

Decisions Required

The Council respond to the Donaldson Report Consultation as follows:-

General Response

The Council is delighted to learn that the Review found no evidence that the health system in NI has fundamental problems that are not seen elsewhere, that it is less safe than other parts of the UK or comparable countries or that there is a lack of transparency more broadly..

Newry, Mourne and Down Council is strongly supportive of our 2 local hospitals, Daisy Hill and Downe, which provide excellent services to the population of our area. We believe services at both hospitals need to be retained and enhanced to serve the needs of our community.

Consultation Questions

1. Do you agree that a panel of experts should be appointed to make recommendations on the configuration of Health and Care Service in Northern Ireland? If so should this panel be made up of international experts

Response

If such a panel of experts is to be set up it must consist of individuals experienced in the delivery of health care in a rural environment. It is essential that the specific difficulties in terms of infrastructure, transport etc experienced by the rural population of Northern Ireland are given due consideration and that any proposed model in particular of hospital services takes account of the need for rural dwellers to have equity of access to acute services.

2. If such a panel is appointed, should political representatives have the final say in accepting any recommendations?

Response

Decisions with such important implications for the wellbeing of the community are the responsibility of the elected representatives of the population.

3. Are there alternative ways for Northern Ireland to determine a configuration of health and social care services commensurate with ensuring world-class standards of care?

Response

Any process should take account of the needs and views of the people of Northern Ireland.

4. Do you agree that the commissioning system in Northern Ireland should be redesigned to make it simpler and more capable of reshaping services for the future?

Response

The current commissioning system is complex and could be made simpler and more efficient.

5. Do you agree with the recommendation for a new Transforming Your Care implementation plan?

Response

Transforming Your Care has been slow to embed in the health service and a new plan for implementation would be welcome. However, any new plan must be properly resourced to ensure that new services are in place before changes are made to existing ones.

6. Do you agree that alternative models of working for healthcare professionals, including pharmacists and paramedics, should be examined to help address the pressure on hospital services? If so which staff groups do you feel could have an expanded role?

Response

It is important that any such changes do not lead to reduced levels of service for patients.

7. Do you agree with the proposed focus on enabling people with long term conditions with the skills to manage their conditions?

Response

Yes, as long as sufficient support and resources are put in place to ensure such patients are able to live as full a life as possible.

18. Do you agree that Northern Ireland should seek to put itself in a position where it has the best technology and innovation from all corners of the world and is recognised as the best in Europe?

Response

Yes

19. Should this include the development of a technology hub to identify the best technological innovations?

Response

Yes

20. If you are unhappy with the response of a care provider regarding your care do you agree that the substance of it should be looked at by people who are genuinely independent?

Response

Yes

21. Do you agree with the proposed changes to the Patient Client Council making it more independent?

Response

Yes