



September 5th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 5th September 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 August 2022

For Information

 *Action Sheet Council Meeting 01-08-2022.docx*

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 August 2022

For Approval

 *Council Minutes 01-08-2022.pdf*

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

5.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 August 2022

For Approval

 *ERT Minutes 08 August 2022final.pdf*

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6.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2022

For Approval

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

SPR/122/2022: Notice of Motion Livestreaming

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

 *Strategy_Policy_Resources_Committee_Minutes_11-08-2022.pdf*

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7.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee

Meeting held on 15 August 2022

For Approval

 [Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 15082022.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2022

For Approval

 [Sustainability and Environment Committee Minutes - 17-08-2022.pdf](#)

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9.0 Planning Section - Local Development Plan

Progress Report - Quarterly Update

Correspondence

10.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Minutes 9 June 2022


For Information

 [Housing Council Minutes - 9th June 2022.pdf](#)

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11.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Bulletin 11 August 2022

For Information

 [Members Bulletin - 11 August 2022.pdf](#)

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12.0 Response from Department for Communities re: C.136.2022 Crisis within Private Rented Sector

 [Response from Dept for Communities - Crisis within the Private Rented Sector.pdf](#)

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13.0 NAC (NI Region) Conference - Tuesday 27 September 2022

For Information

National Association of Councillors (NI Region) Conference taking place on Tuesday 27 September in the Glenavon House Hotel, 52 Drum Road, Cookstown, BT80 8JQ:

Details emailed to Councillors on 22 August 2022.

Notices of Motion

14.0 Notice of Motion - Hybrid Meetings

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Lee-Surginor:

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

15.0 Notice of Motion - Funding for Cross Border and Active Travel

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright

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

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

This will specifically include applications for

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

16.0 Notice of Motion - Mother and Baby Institutions in Northern Ireland

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Lewis:

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

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

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

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Mr Caolain Boyd

Cllr Jim Brennan

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Charlie Casey

Mr Andrew Cassells

Cllr William Clarke

Mrs Linda Cummins

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Mrs Catherine Hanvey

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Ms Catherine Hughes

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Declan McAteer

Colette McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee
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Patricia McKeever
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Cllr Karen McKeivitt
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Catrina Miskelly
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
.....
Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
.....
Cllr Gerry O'Hare
.....
Cllr Kathryn Owen
.....
Mr Andy Patterson
.....
Cllr Henry Reilly
.....
Cllr Michael Rice
.....
Ms Alison Robb
.....
Cllr Michael Ruane
.....
Cllr Michael Savage
.....
Mr Kevin Scullion
.....
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
.....
Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr John Trainor
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

ACTION SHEET - COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY 1 AUGUST 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/130/2022	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 04.07.22	The Action Sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/131/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04.07.22	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. Mr Cassells to email Members with a detailed briefing on expected timings of the fleet.	Democratic Services Mr Cassells	Noted Email sent to all Members on 4 August 2022.	
C/132/2022	Minutes of Audit Committee	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Meeting held on 19.07.22				
C/133/2022	Planning Minutes	The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 29 June 2022 was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/134/2022	National Energy Action Annual Conference and Exhibition	It was agreed that Councillors Reilly and Andrews attend the National Energy Action Annual Conference and Exhibition.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/135/2022	NILGA Regional Programme August 2022- January 2023	It was agreed that any Councillors wishing to attend events contained within the NILGA Regional Programme for August 2022 to January 2023 contact Democratic Services Department.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/136/2022	Notice of Motion – Crisis within Private Rented Sector	<p>It was agreed that Council calls on the Communities Minister to immediately act and assist with the crisis within the Private rented sector, which is particularly affecting our tourist towns and villages. That consideration be given to the reintroduction of the “Living Over the Shops Scheme” or other such initiatives that would allow for vacant properties to be brought back to life for private rental.</p> <p>It was also agreed that that a report be brought back on planning considerations on schemes such as the “Living Over the Shops Scheme” mentioned in the motion and that the report include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collate a list through the Department of 	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon</p>	Noted and correspondence issued - Response from Department for Communities received and included within agenda.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Communities of schemes that would assist with the motions intention. - What public land exists as to enable the most to be made of surplus assets for any potential in increasing housing stock within the District.			
C/137/2022	Notice of Motion – Amenity Site Height Restrictions	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Officer	Noted	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 August 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:

Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor C Enright	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor K Owen
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor

In attendance via Teams

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor G Malone
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor H Reilly	

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

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

C/128/2022

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran, Gallagher, Howell, Magennis, McKeivitt, Rice, Stokes, Tinnelly, Trainor and Walker.

The Chairperson passed on condolences of Council to the family and colleagues of former Down Councillor and member of the DUP, Mr John Finlay.

The Chairperson paid tribute to and passed on condolences to colleagues in the Ulster Unionist Party on the passing of Lord Trimble who had sadly passed away. He extended the sympathies of the Council to Lord Trimble's wife Daphne, children, grandchildren, party colleagues and friends at this sad time.

Councillors Taylor, Hanna, McMurray, Sharvin and Ó Muirí paid tribute to and joined in passing on deepest condolences to the families of John Finlay and Lord Trimble on behalf of their respective Parties.

The Chairperson congratulated Ethan O'Kane and Rachel Carville from Cathal Fegan's School of Taekwon-Do on securing the title of world champions in the Netherlands..

The Chairperson congratulated Killeavy Minor Ladies on securing the Armagh Division 3 title.

The Chairperson passed on condolences of all at Council to Councillor Rice on the passing of his grandmother.

C/129/2022

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/130/2022

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2022

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 July 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 July 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/131/2022 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2022

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Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 July 2022 (copy circulated).

C/122/2022: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 June 2022

Councillor McAteer enquired about an update in relation to the new vehicle bin lorry fleet.

The Chief Executive confirmed Mr Cassells would email Members with a detailed briefing on expected timings of the fleet.

Mr Cassells informed Members early indications were that the first refuse collection vehicles were due to arrive early September 2022. He added there was an expectation of a lead in time of 1 year from time of order with some mechanical street sweeping vehicles to be delivered imminently.

Councillors Hanna and Reilly voiced concerns about bin collection service and were advised to raise any issues with Mr Cassells directly.

The Chairperson added that a report would be presented to the Sustainability and Environment Committee on how Mr Cassells planned to improve the service and encouraged Members to attend that meeting with any concerns they may have.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to formally welcome Mr Cassells to Council and wished him well in his new role.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 July 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/132/2022 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2022

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 July 2022 (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin raised concerns at there not being a quorum at the Audit Committee Meeting and the Chairperson encouraged Members to attend as very important issues were considered by the Committee.

Agreed: The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 July 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Murphy.

C/133/2022

PLANNING MINUTES

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022. (Copy circulated)

Noted: **The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 29 June 2022 was noted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

CONFERENCES

C/134/2022

NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION (NEA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Read: National Energy Action Annual Conference and Exhibition from Monday 19th September to Wednesday 21st September 2022 - Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, Holiday Inn, Birmingham.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Owen that Councillors Reilly and Andrews attend the National Energy Action Annual Conference and Exhibition.**

C/135/2022

NILGA REGIONAL PROGRAMME

Read: NILGA Regional Programme August 2022 to January 2023.

Councillors Burgess and Andrews encouraged Members to attend events contained within the programme.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Burgess that any Councillors wishing to attend events contained within the NILGA Regional Programme for August 2022 to January 2023 contact Democratic Services Department.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/136/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – CRISIS WITHIN PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Devlin:

"This Council calls on the Communities Minister to immediately act and assist with the crisis within the Private rented sector, which is particularly affecting our tourist towns and villages. That consideration be given to the reintroduction of the "Living Over the Shops Scheme" or other such initiatives that would allow for vacant properties to be brought back to life for private rental."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Devlin spoke at length of the housing crisis right across the District and how it had been magnified in recent months. She referred to Newcastle as an example and how it was the same for many of towns and villages with a marked increase in families seeking alternative accommodation as landlords had decided to sell property or opt for the holiday rental market. The supply of long term private rental had dried up significantly and families who lived in Newcastle, for example their whole life were facing a situation where they did not know where they would be in a few months' time and were unsure if their children would be able to return to their same school come September.

Councillor Devlin highlighted concerns regarding the long term viability of schools, clubs etc if private rented properties were being retained for tourists. She added that whilst she fully supported tourism and was certainly not discouraging tourism the Communities Minister must intervene and provide alternative options or schemes to deal with the housing crisis. More affordable and social housing was required, as well as schemes that tackled the dereliction in many towns and villages, as these were properties which could be utilised by families seeking accommodation.

Councillor Devlin pointed out that whilst the motion mentioned the former 'Living over the Shops Scheme' she was not focusing on this one scheme but rather calling for innovative solutions to tackle what was already a disastrous situation and one which was set to worsen greatly. She added that whilst she appreciated there was no Executive the Communities Minister had a duty to act to assist these local families who are very much in need.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Andrews stated it was relevant especially in the times we found ourselves in and that action was now needed to avert more homelessness as a result of what was happening. He added that Housing Executive and Housing Association and other such organisations should be lobbying for more funding to deal with the housing shortage.

Councillor Ó Muirí voiced support for the motion commenting that all Members acknowledged the identified need for housing right across the District especially in bigger towns and the City of Newry.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed an amendment that a report be brought back on planning considerations on schemes such as *the* "Living Over the Shops Scheme" mentioned in the motion and that the report include the following:

- Collate a list through the Department of Communities of schemes that would assist with the motions intention.
- What public land exists as to enable the most to be made of surplus assets for any potential in increasing housing stock within the District.

The Chief Executive advised she was happy to bring back a report and would need to establish which relevant Committee would present it.

The Chairperson welcomed the motion and hoped that previous papers and the work of Housing Conferences could be built upon.

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

Councillor McAteer referred to a previous scheme closed in 2009 due to budgetary pressure and never since then had there been as much pressure than now and that the motion was very timely with approx. 25% of vacancies within town centres. He referred to Councillor Ó Muirí's suggestion of looking at vacant space and suggested Council may have enough work already done within the Local Development Plan to put a paper to the Minister for Communities.

Councillor Devlin thanked Members for their support and advised she was happy to accept Councillor Ó Muirí's amendment for a paper to be returned to Committee with the current schemes that exist and were available at present, and an audit of public land at present within the District, but that Council should write now and register concerns to the Minister for Communities.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Andrews that Council calls on the Communities Minister to immediately act and assist with the crisis within the Private rented sector, which is particularly affecting our tourist towns and villages. That consideration be given to the reintroduction of the "Living Over the Shops Scheme" or other such initiatives that would allow for vacant properties to be brought back to life for private rental.

It was also agreed that that a report be brought back on planning considerations on schemes such as the "Living Over the Shops Scheme" mentioned in the motion and that the report include the following:

- **Collate a list through the Department of Communities of schemes that would assist with the motions intention.**

- **What public land exists as to enable the most to be made of surplus assets for any potential in increasing housing stock within the District.**

C/137/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – AMENITY SITE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Hanna:

"Council has installed height restriction on entry into amenity sites which prevents higher vehicles/vans exceeding amenity sites. Height restrictions should be removed immediately as they prevent a lot of rate payers disposing of domestic waste at the sites".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Reilly.

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 18.39pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 September 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 August 2022 at 6.00pm in the Chamber Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor C Enright (Teams)
 Councillor R Howell (Chamber)
 Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
 Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Chamber)
 Councillor R Mulgrew (Chamber)
 Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)
 Councillor J Trainor (Chamber)
 Councillor G Stokes (Chamber)
 Councillor H Reilly (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor A McMurray (Teams)

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

ERT/114/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor T Andrews.

ERT/115/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/116/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 13 JUNE 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 June 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 June 2022.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/117/2022: DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the establishment of a Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Curran said following the Notice of Motion he submitted to the ERT Committee Meeting, Officers were to look at the feasibility of a Town Centre Manager for Downpatrick and engage with key stakeholders. He said following this engagement it was agreed to establish a Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group representative of all sections working towards a shared vision of Downpatrick and whilst he expressed disappointment the appointment of a Town Centre Manager was not pursued, he stressed the importance of building the economy in Downpatrick. Councillor Curran proposed the approval of the recommendations contained in the officers report to establish a Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group.

Councillor Enright seconded Councillor Curran's proposal, albeit reluctantly as he felt the original masterplan for Downpatrick which was commissioned in the legacy Council, contained a number of elements which received support from the community and businesses. Councillor Enright expressed concerns that the key findings from the original plan would not be reflected in any new proposals going forward.

Councillor Lee-Surginor proposed inviting the 3 No. MLAs based in Downpatrick to join the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group. Councillor Enright seconded this proposal.

Councillor Reilly proposed an amendment that all 5 No. MLAs from the South Down constituency be invited. He also congratulated Councillor Curran on the work he had done for Downpatrick.

Councillors Lee-Surginor and Enright accepted Councillor Reilly's amendment to their proposal to invite all 5 No. South Down MLAs to join the Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group.

Councillor Ruane queried Councillor Lee-Surginor's proposal and sought clarification as to whether this was normal practice.

Mr Mallon said would be unusual to invite MLAs to join a Council Working Group of this nature nor was he aware of MLAs being members of any other Working Groups or project boards within Council.

Councillor Mulgrew proposed seeking further guidance and referring the matter to the SPR Committee to establish whether including MLAs on a Working Group would be setting a precedent, and adding as the work would be carried by Council, it would be assumed that updates on progress would be forwarded back to MLAs and MPs through party structures. Councillor Howell seconded the proposal.

Councillor Enright indicated he was not in agreement with Councillor Mulgrew's proposal and stressed the need for support from Stormont to bring forward the regeneration of Downpatrick and said he would like to see MLAs and the MP for the area being given the opportunity to feed into the process.

Councillor Curran said his original proposal to accept the recommendations contained in the officer's report remained as he believed this was the best way forward Downpatrick at the present time.

The Chairperson asked if all Members were in agreement with the first proposal, by Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Enright, to accept the recommendations contained in the officer's report dated 08 August 2022.

Members indicated their agreement for the above proposal with no objections.

The Chairperson therefore declared the original proposal carried with all subsequent proposals lost.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Enright it was agreed:

1. To establish a Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group with the key aim to develop and oversee the implementation of regeneration priorities identified as part of stakeholder engagement and new emerging priorities.
2. Approve the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/118/2022: NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC ARTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Newry Chamber Music Arts and Community Outreach Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to provide support via a Service Level Agreement between Council and Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an arts and community outreach programme in the 2022/23 season.

ERT/119/2022: HOSPITALITY EXCHANGE

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Hospitality Exchange Conference and Exhibition in October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to provide Council sponsorship of £1,200 for the Hospitality Exchange conference and exhibition to be hosted in October 2022.

ERT/120/2022: NEWRY ARTS FESTIVAL

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Newry Arts Festival. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve that officers develop proposals and deliver the Re:Image Arts Festival to be hosted in Newry this year that will celebrate the rich history and legacy of the Arts in Newry.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/121/2022: INTERIM BUSINESS GROWTH SUPPORT

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Interim Business Growth. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/122/2022: AONB AND GEOPARK – UPCOMING PROJECTS

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding AONB and Geopark – upcoming projects. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/123/2022: DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK TRAILS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Delamont Country Park Trails Enhancement Project. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/124/2022: REQUEST TO USE COUNCIL LAND – KILBRONEY PARK

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding request to use Council land, Kilbroney Park on 15/16 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/125/2022: TOURISM EVENTS

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism Events. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

ERT/121/2022: Interim Business Growth Support

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

- 1. To approve the procurement and implementation of an interim business growth support programme which delivers a suite of business growth support interventions in 2023/24.**
- 2. To approve the procurement of the above during 2022/23 in order to ensure provision is in place for January 2023.**

ERT/122/2022: AONB and Geopark – Upcoming Projects

Following a query from Councillor Enright, Mr Mallon agreed to convene a meeting with all relevant groups to examine options available to develop off-road trails.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed as follows:**

- 1. To approve the business case for the Environment Fund Challenge Fund 2022, and subject to a Letter of Offer**

- being secured, approval to proceed to procurement and implementation of the individual projects outlined.
2. To approve the business case for Slieve Gullion Erosion Control and Path Repairs PHASE 3, and subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, approval to proceed to procurement and implementation of the individual projects outlined.
3. To approve the implementation of the Global Geoparks Councils recommendations from their meeting in December 2021.
4. To approve establishing a Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) for 2022-2023.

ERT/123/2022: **Delamont Country Park Trails Enhancement Project**

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

1. To proceed with the delivery of the project subject to funding approval.
2. To approve a Capital contribution as set out in Section 4.1 of above Report.
3. To utilise the existing Council Framework for construction works.
4. To undertake the necessary procurement exercise to appoint a suitable company to carry out design, supply and installation of all signage, interpretation and furniture/seating.

ERT/124/2022: **Request to use Council land – Kilbroney Park**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to approve the event subject to the conditions set out in 3.1 of the Report.

ERT/125/2022: **Tourism Events**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant

Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism Events.**FOR NOTING****ERT/126/2022: LEVELLING UP FUND**

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Levelling Up Fund.
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Enright referred to a Notice of Motion which had been tabled regarding the inclusion of the Albert Basin in the Levelling Up Scheme.

Noted: Mr Mallon explained the Notice of Motion being referred to had not been approved in it's original form when presented to Committee, but instead had been amended by the ERT Committee to have a meeting with the Economic Forum to discuss the Notice of Motion. He said there had been no agreement to have the Albert Basin included in any available funding and he said he would update Councillor Enright with the details.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the contents of the above Report.**

ERT/127/2022: UPDATE RE: AONB AND GEOPARK

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism providing an update on the AONB and Geopark initiatives being delivered by NMDDC AONB and Geopark staff. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the update provided on the AONB and Geopark initiatives being delivered by NMDDC AONB and Geopark staff.**

ERT/128/2022: PSNI (DOWNPATRICK) STATION SITE WORKING GROUP

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding a meeting of the Former Downpatrick PSNI Station site Working Group held on 20 July 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note Report of the Former Downpatrick PSNI Station site Working Group Meeting held on 20 July 2022 and Irish Street Development Scheme (Downpatrick) Co-operation agreement between NMDDC and Department for Communities.**

ERT/129/2022: REVIEW OF BATHING WATER NOMINATIONS

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a review of Bathing Water Nominations. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the contents of this Report on Council's nominations to DAERA to consider Camlough Lake and Warrenpoint's Sandy Bottom as a designated 'Bathing Waters' for further consideration and surveys.**

ERT/130/2022: UPDATE RE: FULL FIBRE NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Full Fibre Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed:**

- 1. To note the contents of the update on Department for Digital Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) projects managed under Full Fibre NI.**
- 2. To note that the Council are now exploring through various service areas how Digital Transformation projects can be facilitated through the installation of Full Fibre.**

ERT/131/2022: NMD WAYFINDING PROJECT 20/21

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding NMD Wayfinding Project 20/21. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the contents of the above Report.

ERT/132/2022: WARRENPOINT BOATING CLUB BUILDING TEMPORARY LEASE

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a temporary Lease for Warrenpoint Boating Club building. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note that a legal Lease Agreement is to be put in place between Council and Public Realm Contractors (Gibson Banbridge Ltd) for part of the Warrenpoint Boating Club Building for the period of on-site works along Warrenpoint's Front Shore.

ERT/133/2022: UPDATE RE: NEW PLANNING IT SYSTEM

Read: Report dated 08 August 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the implementation of the new Planning IT System. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the above Report.

ERT/134/2022: ERT SCHEME OF DELEGATION (01 OCTOBER – 31 MARCH 2022)

Read: Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Department Scheme of Delegation 01 October 2021 – 31 March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Department Scheme of Delegation 01 October 2021 – 31 March 2022.

ERT/135/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/136/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

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

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

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 September 2022.

Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

22

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 11 August 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams &
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber Councillor P Byrne
Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Rice
Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor D Taylor

**Also in Attendance
via Teams:** Councillor H McKee
Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in Attendance
In chamber:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(Administration)
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Ms E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/114/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gibbons, Ó Muirí and Trainor.

SPR/115/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McMurray declared an interest in Item 12 – Land ownership and slipway at Delamont Country Park.

The Chief Executive declared an interest on behalf of all officers in Item 15 – Voluntary Redundancy and advised all relevant officers would be asked to leave the meeting at that point.

**SPR/116/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 16
JUNE 2022**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 June 2022.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/117/2022: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – MEMORIAL COVID PANDEMIC

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding, report on Notice of Motion – Memorial Covid Pandemic. **(Copy circulated)**

Following a request from Councillor Sharvin to identify an appropriate site in the Northern end of the District to plant a memorial tree for families to pay their respects, Mrs Ward reminded members that Councillor Devlin during her time as Chairperson 2021/2022 had planted trees throughout all 7 DEA areas. She stated this was in memory and hope of Covid, in partnership with communities across the DEAs, however a specific site could be considered.

Councillor Sharvin then proposed if a memorial plaque could be erected beside one of the trees in the Northern end, seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Mr Moffett advised that Council policy in terms of planting a tree on Council property did not allow for a plaque, but erection of an information panel at the tree already planted in Warrenpoint could possibly be facilitated if deemed a suitable site.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that Elected Members approve the planting of a tree within the grounds of the Downshire Civic Centre and an accompanying interpretive / information panel be an appropriate means to acknowledge the impact of the pandemic. It was also agreed that a site identified in the Northern end of the District, potentially in Warrenpoint, would have to have an interpretive/information panel erected at the tree that had already been planted in recognition of Covid-19.

SPR/118/2022: NEW IRELAND WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding New Ireland Working Group Terms of Reference. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Taylor objected to the proposal, advising that his party did not support the establishment of the committee in the first instance and therefore would not be supporting the terms of reference. He raised concerns that, as there had been no budget set aside, a request to provide funds was likely to occur in the future. He stated this would lead Council down a particular constitutional route which unionists would be uncomfortable with and requested the matter be put to a vote. The results of which were as follows:

FOR: 7
AGAINST: 3
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was **CARRIED**.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne that Elected Members approve the draft New Ireland Working Group Terms of Reference.

SPR/119/2022: **NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN PIONEERING THE POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding, Newry Mourne and Down Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Sharvin that Elected Members approve the recommendations as per the officer's report.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/120/2022: **DRAFT PUBLICATION SCHEME V2.4**

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services, regarding, Draft Publication Scheme V2.4. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne welcomed the report for its openness and transparency, having previously raised concerns that 9 other Councils didn't publicly publish the record for senior officers or Councillors and suggested it be reviewed in 1 years' time.

Councillor Taylor concurred with Councillor Byrne and acknowledged that there had been movement on the matter and asked for clarity that the public would be able to access the information in the same way they could check Councillor's 'Register of Interest's'?

Mrs Robb confirmed that it would be published on the Council website, in taking that step Council was fully complying with ICO guidance and in doing so would be the first Council to complete for both officers and Councillors.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that Elected Members note the clarification provided in section 2 and approve the updated draft publication scheme V2.4 and the proposed way forward as set out in 2.11 of the officer's report.

SPR/121/2022: **MEMBERSHIP OF PARTY REPRESENTATIVES FORUM**

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Membership of Party Representatives Forum, **(Copy circulated)**

The Chief Executive noted for the record that a recommendation was put forward by Party Representative's meeting in May 2022 regarding the membership based on strength at election and the paper was being tabled at this point for consideration.

Councillor Sharvin in proposing the paper congratulated the Alliance Party for bringing Councillor Enright to the party.

Councillor McMurray proposed that the membership be based on the seats held and as Alliance Party had 3 seats they should be entitled to a place on Party Representatives Forum. There was no seconder for the proposal. He also queried if Party Rep's was the only forum that could not attend if not a member.

The Chairperson highlighted that the decision was made in May 2022 and the Alliance Party had an opportunity to include Councillor Enright as a member back then but chose not to until more recently when the decision had already been ratified.

Councillor Byrne said he could not support the proposal as it was not a matter for a group holding 3 seats to be a member of the forum, it was based on strength at the time of election and consistency was required in all scenarios. No group is precluded from the forum and there were mechanisms for all groups to join the forum if all Independents agreed to form a technical grouping.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that Elected Members agree to the updated Terms of Reference for the Party Representatives' Forum as attached at Appendix 6.**

Councillor Gallagher joined the meeting at 18.19pm

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

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

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following items SPR/121/2022 – SPR/127/2022 had been agreed:-

SPR/121/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION LIVESTREAMING

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Ms E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance, regarding Notice of Motion Livestreaming. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to maintain the current arrangements of publishing the audio recording of Council and Committee meetings on the Council website based on the ICO's advice at point 2 of the officer's report, with a review in 6 months.**

SPR/122/2022: PROPOSED PERMISSIVE PATH AGREEMENTS AT GLENDESHA FOREST

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Proposed Permissive Path Agreements at Glendessa Forest. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to enter into Permissive Path Agreements with each of the owners of the private laneway for a term of 25 years.

SPR/123/2022: THEATRE CONFERENCE – LAND ASSEMBLY

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Theatre Conference – Land Assembly **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- To progress the transfer of the parcels of land as outlined in the officer's report, subject to an updated valuation and the necessary legal requirements.
- The RIBA Stage 3 detailed design progresses on the assumption the land transfer transaction is completed.

SPR/124/2022: LAND OWNERSHIP AND SLIPWAY AT DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Land Ownership and Slipway at Delamont Country Park **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed that Elected Members approved to proceed with Option 1:

- Accept the terms for Council use of the proposed new slipway at Delamont by Council users, on the terms suggested at para 1.3 of the officer's report and to bring a report back to Strategy Policy and Resources on the Terms of Reference.

SPR/125/2022: SEAN HOLLYWOOD ARTS CENTRE TRANSITION PLAN

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events, regarding Sean Hollywood Arts Centre Transition Plan **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members

approve the recommendation agreed by Newry City Centre Programme Board meeting on 4 August 2022 to undertake intrusive surveys on the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre and permanently close the site in preparation for the next stages of the project.

Councillor Hanna joined the meeting at 18.53pm

SPR/126/2022: NILGA ANNUAL PAYMENT

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding NILGA Annual Payment. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to pay the NILGA annual subscription at a cost as outlined in the officer's report.

SPR/127/2022: VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Planning for the future Tier 3 Voluntary Redundancy Call. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

1. Note the contents of the report and to agree, in principle, that SMT can progress with the 7 voluntary redundancy 'Expression of Interest' applications. As detailed in the report any VR recommendations will be subject to formal consultation and all applicants will be required to make a formal voluntary redundancy application, which will be subject to further SPRC approval.
2. Recruit into the remaining Tier 3 posts via an internal recruitment process focused in the 4 current substantive post holders expressing an interest to remain in the organisation.
 - Once these processes have concluded Tier 3 posts remaining will proceed to recruitment via public advertisement. This will offer opportunity for employment into the organisation and for current employees to progress.

Councillor Lewis left the meeting at 19.03pm

Business Administration Voluntary Redundancy Call

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Business Administration Voluntary Redundancy Call. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that SMT can progress with the 40 voluntary redundancy applications. As detailed in the report any VR recommendations will be subject to formal consultation.

FOR NOTING – This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following items SPR/128/2022 – SPR/129/2022 had been noted:-

SPR/128/2022: **STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 16 JUNE 2022**

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 16 June 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 16 June 2022.

SPR/129/2022: **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2022/23 QUARTER 1**

Read: Management Accounts – 2022/23 Quarter 1 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the Management Accounts – 2022/23 Quarter 1.

FOR NOTING

SPR/130/2022: **SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2022 & NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC AUTHORITY STATUTORY EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS DUTIES ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2021-22**

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from, Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2022 & Newry Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relation's duties Annual progress report 2021-2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2022 & Newry Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relation's duties Annual progress report 2021-2022.

SPR/131/2022: OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – PAT JENNINGS STATUE

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding, Officer report on Notice of Motion – Pat Jennings Statue.
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Sharvin highlighted an accuracy matter that it stated on the report the Notice of Motion was in the name of Councillor Lewis and should read Councillor Savage.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the notice of motion had been considered and discussed at the Councillor's Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 17 June 2022 and that members of the Reference Group were supportive of the notice of motion.

SPR/132/2022: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022 & 4 AUGUST 2022

Read: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 20 June 2022 & 4 August 2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked for the date of the next Workshop to be circulated to members before the next SPR meeting.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 20 June 2022 & 4 August 2022.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.22pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 September 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Marie Ward**
Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 15 August 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate
and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor J Brennan
Councillor D McAteer

Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor G Sharvin

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor C Casey
Councillor G Malone
Councillor G O'Hare

Councillor A Lewis
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor B Ó Muirí

Also in attendance:

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor H McKee

Councillor C Enright

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance
via Teams:**

Ms K Lough, Mae Murray Foundation
Ms A Chambers, Mae Murray Foundation

AHC/126/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Finnegan, McKevitt, Owen and Tinnelly.

AHC/127/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/128/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 JUNE 2022

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 June 2022. **(Copy circulated).**

AHC/122/2022: Ukraine Assistance Centre

In response for an update from Councillor Lewis, Mrs Hillen confirmed correspondence had been dispatched to the Executive Office as requested and there had been no response received as yet.

AHC/011/2022: Leasing of Council land, Expression of Interest, Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick

Councillor Sharvin asked that completion of the assessment process be prioritised to establish if it met criteria. The group that had expressed an interest in the land were seeking external funding and had already lodged a planning application.

Mrs Hillen confirmed she would endeavour to do so and would revert to Councillor Sharvin.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 June 2022.

PRESENTATIONS

AHC/129/2022: PRESENTATION FROM MAE MURRAY FOUNDATION – INCLUSIVE BEACHES

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Alix Crawford and Ms Kyleigh Lough from the Mae Murray Foundation and invited them to make their presentation.

Ms Crawford thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet and delivered her presentation (copy of which is appended to these minutes).

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members which were responded to as follows:

- In terms of timescale, the inclusive beach project would be starting from the beginning and would be dependent on the securing of funding (up to a year) and sourcing of equipment. Before committing to applying for funding matters such as staffing, changing places facilities and Council commitment would need to be in place.
- Clarification was provided as to why Newcastle Beach was suitable instead of Tyrella and Ballyhornan beaches. Reasons included parking infrastructure issues with the provision of and safety for parking, toilet provision, accessibility and connectivity onto the beaches with the decline and incline being problematic.
- Wheelchair loan schemes with chairs positioned in local communities could be an alternative for beaches such as Tyrella and Ballyhornan where infrastructure issues requiring huge investment existed.
- The use of a complementary service running alongside the Inclusive Beach Model.
- In terms of promoting the loan service, Mae Murray Foundation advertised that through their membership and encouraged Members to promote the resources currently available at Cranfield at this time.

- Tides and sand movement were a real challenge in Northern Ireland.
- Temporary matting to enable people to reach the water's edge is based at Cranfield as an example. It was highlighted this was required to be positioned at the start of the day and taken away at night.

Mr Tamati advised Members a report on inclusive beaches would be tabled at the September Committee Meeting .

Agreed: It was agreed by all the note the presentation provide by the Mae Murray Foundation with a report to be tabled at the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting in September 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/130/2022: **TEMPORARY GATE ACCESS FOR A PEDESTRAIN ROUTE TO THE WINDMILL FIELD FROM SAINFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding temporary gate access for a pedestrian route to the Windmill Field from Saintfield Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve Saintfield Development Association (SDA) to install a temporary gate for pedestrian access from Saintfield Community site to Windmill Field.

AHC/131/2022: **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding the Financial Assistance Report **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming all the successful awards for Christmas illuminations and events being allocated money, Councillor Sharvin expressed concern at only 9 of 31 of the successfully completed defibrillator applications being awarded a financial contribution. He spoke of the importance of defibrillators and referred to a recent notice of motion brought to Council by Councillor Taylor highlighting the need for defibrillator access across the District.

Councillor Sharvin expressed concern at how little investment was being provided and requested that officers seek to identify the shortfall in defibrillator funding to award all successful applicants for the defibrillator access theme.

Mr Lipsett confirmed officers would examine the budget and bring a report back to the Committee.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the recommendations for Call 3 as contained within the officer's report and for Groups who were successful within the Defibrillator access theme to be scored and

ranked with letters of offer to be issued as budget become available.

It was further agreed to seek to identify the shortfall in defibrillator funding to award all successful applicants for the defibrillator access theme.

AHC/132/2022: PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Hillen asked Members to note that the Peace IV Partnership Meeting referred to within the report had been held on 19 May 2022.

By way of update Mrs Hillen informed Members there had been discussions with Peace IV around the Derrybeg BMX track and it had gone out for additional community consultation on the back of concerns raised. These concerns had been considered and were in talks with SEUPB to review the feasibility of the location of that project. Mrs Hillen advised Committee Members would be kept informed of any decisions made.

Councillor Ó Muirí welcomed the Urban Sports Track and how it would be a massive boost to the Newry area and insisted there needed to be a full public consultation with community groups on the location for this project.

Mrs Hillen confirmed she would forward the recommendation to the Peace IV Partnership.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy that Committee agree to the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as set out within section 2.1 of the officer's report that the Shared Spaces & Services Discussions are ongoing with SEUPB with regards to budget, timescales and location of the remaining projects and Officers are fully engaged in consultation to inform the decision making process.**

AHC/133/2022: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS - UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report and approve the actions for:**

- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 14 June 2022.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022.**

- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 21 June 2022.**
- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 30 June 2022.**

AHC/134/2022

COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Co-ordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 20 July 2022.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/135/2022

SHIP SANITATION INSPECTION CHARGES

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing regarding Ship Sanitation Inspection Charges. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to implement the new pricing structure (2022/23) for charging for the issuing of Ship Sanitation Exemption and Control Certificates from 1 April 2022.

AHC/136/2022

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR KEEP NI BEAUTIFUL IN THEIR BID FOR FUNDING FOR A CLIMATE CLEVER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing regarding a request for support for Keep NI Beautiful in their bid for funding for a Climate Clever Communities Programme. (Copy circulated)

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding sites identified in Newry, Lisburn, Strabane and Omagh, Mr Devlin advised Keep NI Beautiful chose the highlighted areas and that Council had no input.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer, that Council pledge support and if needed provide a letter of support to Keep NI Beautiful's bid for funding for the Climate Clever Communities programme and that financial support was not required.

AHC/137/2022

LEISURE PUBLIC HOLIDAY AND STAFF TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport regarding leisure public holidays and staff training arrangements.

Councillor McAteer queried the principle for some of reduced hours and Mr Tamati advised it was consistent with previous years and based on numbers attending.

Councillor McKee advised he wish to highlight concerns regarding Kilkeel Swimming Pool.

Mr Tamati agreed to speak with Councillors McAteer and McKee directly regarding any the queries they had.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the leisure public holiday and staff training arrangements for 2022 and 2023 as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 13-15 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

AHC/138/2022

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AND FUNDING FOR CARBON OFFSETTING FEASIBILITY STUDY

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing regarding request for approval and funding for Carbon Offsetting Feasibility Study. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve Council to contribute to funding the project as outlined within the officer's report.

AHC/139/2022 MULLAGHBAWN COMMUNITY CENTRE – TERMINATION OF LEASE

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Mullaghbawn Community Centre (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Casey to proceed to terminate the lease for Mullaghbawn Community Centre.

AHC/140/2022 BALLYNAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE - REFURBISHMENT

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Internal Refurbishment of the Market House, Ballynahinch (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to increase the capital budget required as outlined within the officer's report for:

- Completion of maintenance and repair work as per Condition Survey carried out by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited in July 2022 (Appendix 1).
- Replacement of current PVC coated corrugated sheet metal covering at estimated costs.
- Carry out both necessary & desirable works at an estimated.
- Consultant Fees.

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/141/2022 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note the report and the Minutes of Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Meeting held on Wednesday 23 March 2022, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 27 April 2022.

AHC/142/2022 POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP). (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2022, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 26 July 2022.

FOR NOTING – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/143/2022 ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing regarding an update on Active Travel. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to points raised by Councillors McAteer and Enright, Mr Devlin undertook to meet with them outside the meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note Active Travel Update.

FOR NOTING – LEISURE & SPORTS

AHC/144/2022 NEWCASTLE CENTRE – AUDITORIUM DEMOLITION WORKS

Read: Report dated 15 August 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport regarding Newcastle Centre, Auditorium Demolition

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the report and the following:

1. The commencement of the demolition works of the Newcastle Centre auditorium extension area from the 5th September 2022.
2. Due to essential electrical works by NI Electricity (NIE) as part of the demolition, the Newcastle Centre will be closed for between 5-10 days from the 5th September 2022.
3. Due to contractor access requirements, the car parking next to the Newcastle Centre will also be closed during this period however public toilets in this car park will remain open.
4. Essential bookings (e.g. child care services) will not be disrupted, with alternative arrangements in place for all other bookings and services.
5. Signage as per appendix 1 will be erected to promote the commencement of the phase 1 development of the Newcastle Centre.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.15pm.

Signed: Councillor H Gallagher
 Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
 Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 August 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Casey (Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)
Councillor G Malone (Teams)
Councillor K McKevitt (Teams)
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
Councillor D Murphy (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)

Non-Committee Members: Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H McKee
Councillor H Reilly

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

SE/113/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Owen and Stokes

SE/114/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/115/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2022. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION

SE/116/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION RE: HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS AT AMENITY SITES

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor G Hanna and Councillor H Reilly:

"Council has installed height restriction on entry into amenity sites which prevents higher vehicles/vans exceeding amenity sites. Height restrictions should be removed immediately as they prevent a lot of ratepayers disposing of domestic waste at the sites."

Note: It was agreed at the Council Meeting held on Monday 1 August 2022 to defer the above Notice of Motion for consideration at the Sustainability & Environment Committee.

Councillor Hanna formally proposed the Notice of Motion, advising that the amount of complaints received was colossal and the height restraints had significantly reduced ratepayers access to amenity sites, having an impact in reduction in service provided by Council. Higher vans are often required to transport particular types of waste.

Councillor Hanna highlighted that a disabled person was not able to access the amenity site as their vehicle was too high to go under the barriers. Stating that the matter needed rectified as soon as possible and called on all Members to support the motion.

Councillor Reilly seconded the Motion.

During discussion the following points were made:

- Height restrictions was an issue raised regularly across the District at Recycling Centres.
- Barriers had been installed so that Recycling Centres were not exploited by commercial users, however domestic users were being negatively impacted.
- Recycling Centres generated a fair amount of income from commercial users.
- A lot of domestic vehicles are higher i.e: jeeps, people carriers, campervans and disability vehicles which cannot access recycling centres due to height restrictions.

- Was there an update on previous request for permits.
- More promotion required that sites are Recycling Centres and not dumping grounds.
- Opening times especially since Covid had been restricted and traffic issues was a problem, especially access issues at Bann Road, Castlewellan and Chapel Road, Newry.
- A lot of residents don't drive or don't have access to a car and have to hire a van or their only means of transport is a van. How do they dispose of goods?
- More flexibility in staff controlling the use of sites and maybe having an inspection point when it is clear its domestic goods.
- Abuse of staff was not acceptable.
- It was highlighted when height restrictions barriers were introduced it could cause an increase in dumping across the District.
- Domestic items had been turned away at Recycling Centres.
- Collection service for bulky items was unreliable at times if the service was under pressure.
- Not all work vans have builders waste they may have domestic waste of their own.

Ms Murphy responded as follows:

- Height restrictions were introduced to deter commercial waste coming into sites.
- Decision to install height restriction barriers was based on a policy decision in 2019 by Council.
- A bulky collection service to residential properties was available.
- Disabled drivers should be granted access and barriers opened to facilitate this.
- It was important to increase recycling rates and getting out the message of sorting and receiving commercial waste is key, given the difference in the cost of the disposal of the unsortable residual opposed to the recyclable goods, which provided an income.
- Ms Murphy agreed to review Council policy on waste acceptance at the Household Recycling sites.
- Permits – Was a previous recommendation which needed to be implemented and would be addressed in next report.
- Opening times and traffic would be addressed as part of the HRC review.
- Staff abuse was a regular issue before barriers introduced when they challenged people what they were bring to the site, officers welcomed Elected Members support on a no tolerance policy on abuse of staff.
- Bann Road site visibility, access and accidents at barrier was being looked at an extra signage had been increased and kept under review.

Councillor Murphy said he understood reasons why barriers had been introduced however problems that had risen for domestic users was unforeseen and needed to be addressed. Councillor Murphy proposed an amendment to include "a report to be brought back to the next Sustainability and Environment committee meeting on Tuesday 20 September 2022 on how to readdress the problem with domestic users." This was seconded by Councillor Magennis.

Councillor Hanna accepted the amendment stating that he wanted a detailed report addressing concerns raised.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed Council officers examine options regarding height restrictions at Council Amenity sites and report back with recommendations to the next meeting of the Sustainability & Environment Committee to be held on Tuesday 20 September 2022.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

SE/117/2022: QUARTERLY PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES JANUARY – MARCH 2022

Read: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics – quarterly provisional estimates for January to March 2022. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Cassells advised members that Newry Mourne and Down District Council sends a very small percentage of waste to landfill sites and should be commended as it had the second lowest landfill figures out of 11 Councils.

Councillor Clarke stated that he had previously and was still opposed to an incineration plant within the District, recycling was the best way forward and finding new uses for recycled products.

AGREED: It was agreed to note Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics – quarterly provisional estimates for January to March 2022.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

SE/118/2022: UPDATE RE: CHEWING GUM CLEAN UP FUND

Read: Report dated 17 August 2022 from Ms S Murphy (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management regarding an update on the Chewing Gum Clean Up Fund. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: It was proposed by Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Magennis to nominate Councillor Andrews as Ambassador to champion the fund.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the Report and nominate Councillor Andrews as an Ambassador to champion the fund.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 6, 7, 08 and 09 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

SE/119/2022: BUSINESS CASE – REPLACEMENT 4X4 VEHICLES FOR CLOSED LANDFILL SITES

Read: Report dated 17 August 2022 from Ms S Murphy (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management, regarding Business Case – replacement of 4x4 vehicles for Closed Landfill sites. *(Circulated)*

SE/120/2022: CONTRACT EXTENSIONS – NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 22 June 2022 from Ms S Murphy (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management, regarding contract extensions as identified in the Neighbourhood Services Contract Action Plan. *(Circulated)*

SE/121/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 30 JUNE 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 30 June 2022. *(Circulated)*.

SE/122/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 26 MAY 2022

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

Councillor McKeivitt proposed, and Councillor Murphy seconded, to come out of closed session.

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

SE/119/2022 – Business Case – replacement of 4x4 vehicles for closed Landfill Sites

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1, for the replacement of one Four Wheel Drive Vehicle for use by the Waste Processing section to access and service closed landfill sites across Newry Mourne and Down District Council area.

SE/120/2022 – Contract Extensions – Neighbourhood Services Action Plan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 17 August 2022 from Ms S Murphy (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management, regarding contract extensions as identified in the Neighbourhood Services Contract Action Plan.

SE/121/2022 - Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin dated 30 June 2022

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

SE/122/2022 - Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting 'in Committee' Minutes of 26 May 2022

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

FOR NOTING

SE/123/2022: ACTION SHEET: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES WORKING GROUP MEETING – MONDAY 08 AUGUST 2022

Read: Action Sheet arising from Neighbourhood Services Working Group Meeting held on Monday 08 August 2022.
(Circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the above Action Sheet and actions removed as marked.

SE/124/2022: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY 26 MAY 2022**

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 26 May 2022.
(Circulated)

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

SE/125/2022: **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.04pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 September 2022.

Signed: **Councillor O Magennis**
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: **Mr A Cassells**
Director of Sustainability & Environment



**Minutes of the 491st Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 9th June 2022 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry & Strabane Borough
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & District

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight, Department for Communities
Kieran Devlin	Department for Communities
Martin Boyd	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, NIHE
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (NIHE Secretariat)

Apologies:

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
David Polley	Director, Housing Supply Policy, Department for Communities

1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price, Kieran Devlin and Martin Boyd from the Department for Communities and from the Housing Executive, Grainia Long.</p> <p>It was noted that the Secretary had been in contact with Ards & North Down Council, to replace Nick Mathison who had recently been elected as an MLA, the Council will be appointing in due course.</p> <p>Members noted that unfortunately Alderman John Finlay is very unwell it was agreed that a card and flowers to be sent to him thanking him for all his hard work and dedication over the years for the Housing Council.</p>	Secretary
2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations were received</p>	

3.0	<p>To adopt the Minutes of the 490th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 12th May 2022</p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Bresland and seconded by Alderman Speers and resolved, that the Minutes of the 490th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 12th May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	Chair
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Chartered Institute of Housing All Ireland Housing Awards Friday 27th May in the Europa Hotel Belfast.</p> <p>Mr Speers commended the successful evening at the CIH All Ireland Housing Awards. He added that the Chair of the Housing Executive, Professor Peter Roberts was presented with a lifetime achievement award.</p> <p><u>HAPPI Principles scheme in Monkstown</u></p> <p>As the HAPPI principles scheme in Monkstown had now been completed, it was agreed that a short meeting would take place followed by a site visit either in August/September.</p>	Secretary
5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The forward workplan was noted.</p>	

6.0

Report from the Housing Executive's Chief Executive, Grainia Long on Housing Executive Business

Ms Long spoke in detail to her circulated report, which provided the Housing Council with an update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues were outlined under the headings as follows:-

- NIHE Revitalisation Programme - Progress Update
- Finance - Budget Update 2022/23
- Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Services for Women experiencing Chronic Homelessness
- Supporting People Funding 2022/23
- Covid Funding
- COVID-19 Update and Return to the Workplace
- NIHE Pay and Grading Review
- Industrial Action
- 2021/22 Performance Report
- Cost of Living Crisis
- Ukraine Resettlement Budget

The Chair thanked Ms Long for her detailed report. She added that it is recognised of the several difficult challenges for everyone, in particular the financial hardship being faced throughout.

<p>8.0</p>	<p>Presentation on Labour Market Recovery Invention</p> <p>Andrew Irwin from the Department of Communities (DfC) gave Members a presentation on the Labour Market Recovery Invention. (Copies of the Presentation are appended to these minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>It was noted that DfC’s main employment programme to assist people into work, One of the key components of the new offer is Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs), which aims to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions. Designed to provide support for eligible benefit recipients to find and sustain employment by delivering a personalised service to meet individual needs.</p> <p>Mr Irwin highlighted some of the schemes/programme to enable those back into employment, such schemes as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job start • Adviser Discretion Fund • Work experience programme & Opportunity Guaranteed • Work Ready Employability Services (WRES) • Labour Market Partnerships (LMP's) • Disability Health Intervention <p>Several Members commended the work being carried out and the importance and benefits these schemes have on people’s lives and mental well-being.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Irwin or his attendance and for a comprehensive presentation.</p>	
<p>9.0</p>	<p><u>Housing Starts February 2022</u></p> <p>Members noted the Report.</p>	

10.0	<u>Any Other Business</u>	
10.1	<u>Update by Department for Communities on the European Regional Development Funding (ERDF)</u> Members noted the update.	
10.2	<u>Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) Year End losses 2022</u> Members noted the information.	
10.3	<u>Account of Local Councils role in Ukraine Arrangements</u> Members noted the brief.	
10.4	<u>Update on the Demolition of the Tower Blocks in Larne</u> Alderman Nicholl requested an update on the demolition of the Tower Blocks in Larne.	G Long
11.0	<u>Date of next Meeting</u> The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 11 th August 2022 at 10 am venue to be confirmed.	

The Meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

DfC Labour Market Provision Update for Northern Ireland Housing Council

Martin Boyd
9th June 2022

JobStart

Who Is the Scheme For?

16 – 24 year olds *at risk of long term unemployment* get into the job market by providing funding for employers to create 6 month job opportunities. 9 month job opportunity available for young people with Disabilities, Looked After Children and Returning Citizens

What does the young person get?

- A quality job opportunity where they will develop their skills
- Training plan – comprising of 5 x occupational skills alongside employability skills
- Any additional equipment, uniforms, accredited training employer deems appropriate for the job

What happened?

- 1,427 young people participated
- 391 young people have completed their opportunity (including 77 completing the 9 month route)
- 75% of completers retained employment or found alternative employment
- 10% of participants left the scheme

Current Status? Scheme closed to new applications at end of April 2022

JOBSTART 
www.ridirect.gov.uk/jobstart

Adviser Discretion Fund

Who is the scheme for?

Adviser Discretion Fund (ADF) is a solution based product to assist customers in removing a barrier towards and into employment, retaining employment, increasing hours of employment, progressing within employment so as to increase earnings, assisting with self-employment and / or recommencing former self-employed businesses.

Support through ADF can include: job interview clothing, driving lessons, childcare costs, enhanced disclosure checks (e.g. Access NI checks), travel costs, short training courses, marketing for self-employment, professional registration fees, tools or equipment (incl IT).

Key changes since April 2021:

- an increase in the annual limit available, from £300 to £1500 per person
- broadening of the guidance to allow for an increased range of support
- introduction of the payment of upfront childcare costs (25 Oct 2021).

What happened?

- 2,970 successful applications for assistance (304 for childcare costs)
- 65% of applicants had positive work related outcome (into work or increased hours)

Current Status? Scheme continues

Work Experience Programme & Opportunity Guarantee

Who is the scheme for?

There are two separate strands:

- 2-8 Weeks Work Experience for 18-65 year olds and
- 13 Weeks Opportunity Guarantee for 18 to 24 year olds.

What does the participant get?

- an incentive payment of £10 per day (£50 per week) per participant which will be paid alongside existing assistance for travel and childcare expenses
- an incentive payment of £250 to employers after a participant has been on a placement for 1 week
- Opportunity Guarantee pays an additional employer incentive of £250 when placement is completed with opportunities are linked to the guarantee of an interview for a job or an apprenticeship

What happened?

- 110 Work Experience placements
- 57 Opportunity Guarantee placements
- 40% into work outcomes

Current Status? Scheme continues

Work Ready Employability Service (WRES)

Who is the scheme for?

Work ready individuals who have no other development needs. Primarily focused at newly unemployed who had limited recent experience of finding work.

What do participants get?

Short training modules on 6 areas of core employability skills:

- CV Building
- Job Search Techniques
- Interview Skills
- Mock interviews
- Confidence Building and Personal Development
- Digital Skills and Social Media

Participant travel and childcare costs reimbursed



What happened?

- 1391 modules delivered to participants
- 95% participant satisfaction rate

Current Status? Contract terminated

Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs)

- LMPs are multi-agency partnerships at local (LGD) and regional levels.
- Local LMPs are required to develop Action Plans detailing proposals within key high level themes set by the Department
- Local Action Plans for 2022 -23 include
 - **Academy for unemployed** - 6 week academy in partnership with employers, focus on sectors with available jobs;
 - **Reskilling for job vacancies** - Engagement with local employers to ascertain potential job vacancies and to ensure training is provided that match job vacancies (eg HGV drivers, hospitality workers, health and social care workers);
 - **Gateway to choice for long term unemployed** - Provide a bespoke, personalised, job search and careers service covering BCC area for those 18+ who are LTU;
 - Development of **Digital Badges** which capture learning in employability and skills sector and world of work - Recognising non-accredited training and experience;
 - **Work placements and work experience** - Target group is 16-18 year olds in full time education to enable them to gain work experience in local companies; and
 - **Provide support and training for disabled people** – aimed at those who are currently out of work, enabling them to examine their aspirations alongside a specialist mentor, address any training needs and secure a flexible placement with a suitable employer.



Theme	No. of Participants
Economic Inactivity	2,257
Economic Shock	195
Long-term Unemployed	1,578
Skilled Labour Supply	1,205
Youth	2,659
Disability	168
Total	8,062

The Department also offers three Labour Market Provisions aimed at assisting citizens with a disability or health condition stay in or move closer to the labour market:

54

Access to Work Programme (NI) (AtW)

- Access to Work (NI) provides flexible forms of support to help customers with disabilities move into or retain employment. Assistance includes adaptations to premises and equipment, communication support at interview, special aids and equipment, support workers and travel to work. Help will be approved for as long as it is required and will be reviewed annually.

Condition Management Programme (CMP)

- Condition Management Programme (CMP) is a work-focused rehabilitation programme, delivered by experienced Health Care Professionals from the 5 Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, which helps customers understand and manage their health condition(s) to enable them to progress towards, move into and/or stay in employment. It is designed to be completed within 12 sessions usually over a 3 month period, but a short extension of up to 6 sessions is available if necessary. It is entirely voluntary and has no impact on benefits.

Workable NI

- Workable (NI) offers a flexible range of long-term support to help people with disabilities who have barriers to employment to find and keep work.



CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

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AUGUST HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 11th August 2022 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom Housing Centre of alternatively via Conference Call

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Present in person or by Video Conferencing

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Michael Ruane	Newry & Mourne District

Apologies

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Paul Price & David Polley from the Department for Communities on the Housing Top Issues.

A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined *as follows*:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- NIHE Rent Increase
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework

- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents

Members then went on a Site Visit to the very impressive HAPPI principles scheme in Monkstown. The development is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland as it has been designed in line with the HAPPI (Housing Ageing Population Panel for Innovation) Principles which focus on designing high quality housing which caters for the needs of older person's as their circumstances change.

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the September Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8th September 2022 at 10.00 am via conference call.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

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From: Kieran Devlin
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Your ref: C/136/2022
Our ref: CORR-2318-2022
Date: 22 August 2022

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
O'Hagan House
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Email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Ms Ward

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL – CRISIS WITHIN PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

I refer to your letter of 5 August to Minister Hargey which has been passed to me to reply.

In your letter you mentioned Members' concerns about the shortage of housing in the Council area, in particular in the rented private sector and mentioned concerns regarding the number of properties now being used as short term holiday accommodation. You asked for action and assistance and for consideration to be given to the reintroduction of the "Living Over the Shops Scheme" and for other ways of bring vacant properties into the private rented market.

In broader terms a strategic programme of work is planned to deliver transformative change across housing, through the delivery of the Housing Supply Strategy. The



Strategy includes a number of long term commitments and actions including looking at adaptive reuse of existing assets and developing policies for regeneration supported by residential development. Options for progressing the Strategy are being considered in the continuing absence of an Executive and agreed budget.

Specifically in terms of short term tourist accommodation terms you will be aware that policy responsibility lies with the Department of Economy, and that holiday lets are regulated by Tourism NI, and are required to be licenced.

You also highlight the re-introduction of the Living Over the Shops scheme as a potential solution. An independent review of the scheme was carried out in 2016 and a copy of the report can be accessed online at the following link: [here](#)

In summary however the review identified numerous issues with creating homes in vacant spaces above retail units which the provision of a small grants scheme did not significantly overcome. It also noted that the Scheme had not significantly contributed to housing supply or regeneration therefore there are currently no plans to invest resources in a future scheme.

The Department is implementing a series of policy and legislative changes to reform the Private Rented Sector (PRS), based primarily on proposals for change published in 2017. Reform will provide improvements to the safety, security and standards in the Private Rented Sector, will assist tenants struggling to afford their rent and ensure a better regulated and fairer private rented sector offering greater protection to private renters.

There are two phases of reform - the first phase is covered by the provisions in The Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 which received Royal Assent on 27th April and includes electrical safety, energy efficiency, notice to quit, rent increases and deposit limits.



Section 11 of the Act increases the Notice to Quit (NTQ) periods that a Landlord must provide to a tenant which are much longer than previous notice periods, up to seven months in some cases. However it will take several years to implement these longer notices, so in the meantime transitional arrangements are in place from May 2022 which increase the NTQ a landlord has to give to 8 weeks for tenancies over 12 months and up to 10 years. This increased notice period will allow more time for tenants to secure new accommodation if asked to leave their existing rented property.

The Housing Supply Strategy sets out the Department's policies for increasing supply and we are aware of the current supply issues in the private rented sector, with an overall decrease of properties registered in the last two years of around 6%. In your council area there were 4991 registered properties in July 2021, increasing to 5082 in July 2022.

Alongside work to deliver the Supply Strategy the Department is committed on encouraging town and city centre living generally and finding new and innovative ways to increase the supply of affordable housing and on addressing broader issues, for example through the Local Development Plan process.

Various interventions are being considered by the Department alongside the High Street Task Force with the aim of increasing residential supply and taking forward regeneration initiatives to help create vibrant town and city centres in which people may choose to live.

I hope that this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely

KIERAN DEVLIN
Assistant Director of Housing Supply Policy