



October 7th, 2020

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 5th October 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Skype Call**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020

 *Action Sheet Council Meeting 7 Sept 2020.pdf*

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020

 *Council Minutes 07 09 2020.pdf*

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 2 September 2020

 *Minutes - Sp Council 02092020.pdf*

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2020

 *ERT Minutes 14 September 2020.pdf*

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2020

 *Minutes - SPR 17-09-2020.pdf*

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2020

 *Active & Healthy Communities Committee Minutes - 21-09-2020.pdf*

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2020

 *Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 22-09-2020.pdf*

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10.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 September

Planning

11.0 Extract from Planning Committee Minutes 23 September 2020

There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2020

Correspondence

12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 13 August 2020 *Housing Council Minutes 13082020.pdf**Page 72***13.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - September 2020** *Members Bulletin - September 2020.pdf**Page 82*

For Noting

14.0 Response from Mid Ulster Council re: C.098.2020 - Information regarding localised outbreaks of COVID cases *Response from Mid Ulster Council re C.098.2020.pdf**Page 85***15.0 Letter from R Pengelly dated 4 September 2020 ref. C.085.2020 / C.092.2020** *Letter from R Pengelly dated 04.09.2020 re NOMs C.085.2020 & C.092.2020.pdf**Page 86***16.0 Letter from D Dodds dated 15 September 2020 ref. C.099.2020** *Letter from D Dodds dated 15.09.2020 ref. C.099.2020.pdf**Page 87*

Notices of Motion

17.0 Notice of Motion - Increase in Vehicle Insurance Costs

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Magennis:

"Newry Mourne & Down District Council shares the concerns of residents living in the BT34 & BT35 postcodes about the drastic increase in their vehicle insurance costs. The Council agrees to immediately write to the Financial Regulator to request an investigation into the postcode lottery of car insurance and the outrageous rises in premiums that local drivers are experiencing."

18.0 Notice of Motion - Re-opening of A&E in Daisy Hill Hospital

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mulgrew:

The statement released by the Southern Trust on Friday 11th September notifying our community that the re-opening of the emergency department in Daisy Hill hospital has been delayed by almost a month has caused great concern for many. While we fully accept and appreciate the unique situation created by covid:19 and the logic behind the initial temporary closure, which has now lasted more than six months, we as a community cannot allow any further delays in the reinstating of this crucial service and indeed the services within the Downe hospital. The travel time for a significant percentage of our population to access services now exceeds an hour and this coupled with seasonal pressures and poor infrastructure has the potential to impact negatively on patients and indeed could mean the difference between life and death. We are asking that this Council contacts both Trusts and states in the strongest terms the concerns of our community and demands that there will be no further delays in the delivery of vital services. We also want to acknowledge the herculean efforts of all the staff within the health and care sector during this pandemic.

In light of the latest news that emergency surgery is to be withdrawn, from daisy hill hospital site and the fear that this has caused throughout our community and among staff we are asking that this council requests an urgent meeting with the trusts to clearly state that no downgrading of services is acceptable.

19.0 Notice of Motion - Fracking

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Ó Muirí:

"This Council, recognising we are in a climate emergency and being aware of the environmental damage caused by fracking and all forms of exploration and extraction of fossil fuels, calls on the Minister for the Economy to place an immediate moratorium on all licences and further calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to urgently implement changes to deny permitted development rights to any company seeking to prospect for oil and/or gas".

20.0 Notice of Motion - Covid 19 Outbreaks at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital

Notice of Motion received from Councillors Savage and Stokes:

"This Council notes with concern the recent outbreaks of Covid-19 at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital and offers our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the bereaved and wishes those suffering from Covid-19 a full recovery.

Council notes that the Minister for Health has appointed an RQIA-led team to carry out an independent investigation into the outbreaks and expresses its full support and admiration for all the staff across the health and social care service at this difficult time. Council also calls on the Minister for Health and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to ensure the concerns of staff, patients and their families are fully addressed and these concerns are central to the investigation.

Council welcomes the planned reopening of ED Services at Daisy Hill Hospital in the coming days but requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister and the Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust seeking assurances that there are no plans, as a result of the current Pandemic measures, to move Emergency Surgery and High Dependency from Daisy Hill to Craigavon and Daily Clinical Care from Daisy Hill to South Tyrone in Dungannon.

Council requests that the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust comes before Council to address the

concerns of Council and those we represent."

21.0 Notice of Motion - Racism

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:

"That this Council recognises that racism is a scourge across this society. This Council further recognises the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; deplores the discrimination Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities face regularly; condemns racism in all its forms, and calls on this Council to work together with the sector; local BAME representative groups; schools and colleges; private businesses and public enterprises to ensure that this Council area becomes a racism free zone".

22.0 Notice of Motion - COVID Prevention Messaging

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Byrne:

"Council affirms it's support for the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising as the first line of defence against C-Covid19. Furthermore, condemns attempts by politicians and other high profile members of the public to undermine the COVID prevention messaging by the Department of Health."

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt
.....
Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Catrina Miskelly
.....
Mr Ken Montgomery
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Mr Roland Moore
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Ms Carmel Morgan
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Mr Kevin Scullion
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/178/2019	Notice of Motion – C/131/2019: Live Animals in Circuses	At the request of Councillor McAteer it was agreed the motion remain on the action sheet.	Democratic Services		N

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/102/2020	Action Sheet Arising from Council Meeting held on 03.08.2020	The action sheet was agreed	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/103/2020	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 03.08.2020	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/104/2020	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 10.08.20	It was agreed that a meeting of the Brexit Forum be convened urgently to discuss the recent announcement regarding the decision made by the UK government to revoke a previous decision with regard to a hard border on the island of Ireland. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	J McGilly Democratic Services	Actioned – Meeting scheduled for 06.10.2020 Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/105/2020	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 13.08.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/106/2020	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 17.08.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/107/2020	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 18.08.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/108/2020	Minutes of NHS Committee Meeting held on 19.08.20	It was agreed to remove the plan for rewilding at Knockree Avenue, Kilkeel until such times as residents have been consulted with. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	R Moore Democratic Services	Noted Actioned	
C/109/2020	Extract from draft Planning Committee Meeting held on	There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 August 2020.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/110/2020	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 June 2020	It was agreed to hold a second Housing Needs Conference in February/March 2021 and for this to be organised via Community Planning and DEAs. The minutes were noted.	J McBride	Ongoing	
C/111/2020	Bulletin dated August 2020 from	The bulletin was noted	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Northern Ireland Housing Council				
C/112/2020	Correspondence dated 20 August from N. Ireland Ambulance Service ref. C/092/2020	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/113/2020	The Flooding Conference: Resilience, Management and Response Conference	It was agreed that on consideration of the validity of the Flooding Conference, the Council's Emergency Planning Officer would attend and report back.	K McNiff	Conference deemed not beneficial to the NI emergency and flood response.	
C/114/2020	Notice of Motion – Dog Euthanasia	It was agreed the motion would be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.	M Lipsett	Referred to Enterprise, Regeneration and Committee Meeting to be held on 12 October 2020	
C/115/2020	Notice of Motion – Social Value Strategy	It was agreed the motion would be referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.	D Carville	To be tabled at Strategic, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting to be held on 15/10/20	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

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

(Officials)

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

C/100/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Mason, McKee and Mulgrew.

The Chairperson expressed her sadness at the death of Brian Black in Strangford in August and passed on her condolences and that of the Council to his family.

The Chairperson offered condolences to Councillor Cathy Mason and her wider family on the sad passing of her grandmother Mrs Noade.

The Chairperson thanked the community of Newcastle for rallying around all those who had been adversely affected by the recent flood and said it was devastating with many houses destroyed and many people out of their homes for months.

The Chairperson thanked Minister Mallon for attending the scene and for pressing ahead with the much needed Shimna River Flood Alleviation Scheme and also thanked Council staff, agencies and voluntary organisations who worked together extremely well in very difficult circumstances.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to once again raise COVID-19. She reminded people the virus was still very much among us and there was a need to exercise extreme caution. She encouraged everyone that whilst indoors and, in a situation, where they could not socially distance, people should wear masks, keep their distance and regularly wash hands. She pointed out there remained an onus on all of us to exercise personal responsibility and that Covid-19 must be at the forefront of all that we do.

C/101/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/102/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/103/2020 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2020

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/104/2020 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2020

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 August 2020 (copy circulated).

ERT/096/2020: Exempt Information- Support Programme – Tourism Events & Arts Centre

In response to a query from Councillor Finnegan regarding support programmes for Halloween and Christmas events, Mr Mallon confirmed a report would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 14 September 2020.

ERT/099/2020: Brexit Forum

Councillor Stokes expressed concern at a recent announcement by the UK government regarding a decision to pass legislation to revoke a previous decision with regard to a hard border on the island of Ireland. Councillor Stokes proposed that a meeting of the Brexit Forum be convened urgently to discuss the potential impact of this. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Councillor Taylor asked that it be noted that the UUP was not happy with the current protocol regarding Brexit and would support changes and it was important to note there were differing points of view from the political parties in terms of Brexit. The Chairperson advised this would be a topic for further discussion at the Brexit Forum.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews that a meeting of the Brexit Forum be convened urgently to discuss the recent announcement regarding the decision made by the UK government to revoke a previous decision with regard to a hard border on the island of Ireland.

ERT/093/2020 – Warrenpoint Baths

Councillor Ruane referred to a report that was to be brought back to Council and asked for assurances the report would include details of the approved planning permission. Mr Mallon responded, saying a full assessment of all options including refurbishment and planning permission would be included in the report.

Councillor McAteer stated he had recently had a very positive meeting with the CEO of Tourism NI regarding Warrenpoint Baths and advised that the CEO of Tourism NI would be contacting senior council staff in the very near future to discuss further tourism potential of the baths.

Councillor Gibbons stated urgent action was needed with regard to Warrenpoint Baths.

ERT/084/2020 – Notice of Motion re Universal Basic Income

Councillor Clarke stated that whilst Sinn Féin appreciated the Motion was well intended, they considered part b of the Motion was not a matter for Council, but rather the British Treasury, and he proposed to remove part b. from the Motion. Councillor Ó'Muirí seconded the proposal.

The Chairperson put the proposal to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	15
AGAINST:	19
ABSTENTIONS:	3

The proposal was declared 'lost'. (copy attached).

Agreed:

The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 August 2020

were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Brown.

C/105/2020 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2020

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2020 (copy circulated).

SPR/90/2020: Notice of Motion referred from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020

Councillor Stokes referred to the proposed site for the new Civic Centre and suggested writing to other central government partners advising that a full public consultation take place. The Chair thanked Councillor Stokes for his comments.

Mr Mallon advised the list of stakeholder engagement would be circulated to all members tomorrow.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Doran.

C/106/2020 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2020

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2020 (copy circulated).

AHC/74/2020: Safe Cycling Initiatives

In welcoming the recommendations for the Safe Cycling Initiatives, Councillor McMurray requested a meeting with the Walking and Cycling Champion and asked for a briefing regarding the Newcastle, Downpatrick, Comber Greenway.

Mr Lipsett confirmed he would arrange a meeting with Councillor McMurray.

Councillor Clarke proposed that Council develop a cycling strategy for on road / off road cycling. Councillor McMurray seconded the proposal.

Mrs Ward stated that Mr Lipsett would bring a report to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting on 21 September regarding the issues that would have to be considered in developing a cycling strategy.

AHC/70/2020: Financial Assistance – Community Engagement

Councillor Sharvin referred to the agreed action and asked if there was a timeframe for this to be completed. Councillor Sharvin also asked if the call for capital projects could be put out as a priority to help kickstart the local economy.

Mrs Ward advised she was very keen to promote growth within the district, but it would have to be within the constraints of Council finances. Mrs Ward continued, saying the matter

would be discussed at the SMT meeting this week with a set of proposals to be agreed and a report would be brought to the next Active and Healthy Community Committee on 21 September 2020.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Ó'Muirí.**

C/107/2020 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2020**

Read: Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/108/2020 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2020**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2020 (copy circulated).

NS/180/2020: Rewilding and Wildflower Areas across the Newry and Mourne District Council Estate

In response to Councillor Casey, Mr Moore confirmed an officer would contact him regarding the replacement of trees along the walkway at Newry Canal.

With regard to the central verge at Knockree Avenue, Kilkeel, Councillor Hanna proposed that residents be consulted prior to any rewilding work being undertaken. Councillor Doran seconded the proposal.

Councillor McAteer asked that Derryleckagh Bridge on the Newry to Mayobridge Road be examined for inclusion on the list. Mr Moore advised the relevant staff were liaising with DEAs and this could be taken on board for future development.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Doran to remove the plan for rewilding at Knockree Avenue, Kilkeel until such times as residents have been consulted with.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/109/2020

EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2020

Noted: There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 August 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE

C/110/2020

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 11 JUNE 2020

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 June 2020. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage welcomed the detail provided via the Housing Council Minutes and referred to a recent meeting with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. He stated it was clear there was still a huge housing problem within the District and whilst there had been an increase in sites and units, the reality was that there was still a shortfall of approximately 830 units for 2020/23.

Councillor Savage proposed that a second Housing Needs Conference be held in February/March 2021. He said it should be community led and due to the Covid pandemic, it could be a hybrid conference with Councillor Ruane providing a debrief from the Housing Council and Council engaging with the Communities Minister, the Permanent Secretary of the Department and the Chief Executive of the Housing Executive. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Councillor Clarke supported the proposal for a second symposium saying there was a chronic situation right across the District and asked that this be done through Community Planning and working with the DEAs. Councillor Savage agreed the DEAs could be used as shaping bodies for the conference that must be solution led.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews to hold a second Housing Needs Conference in February/March 2021 and for this to be organised via Community Planning and DEAs.

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 June 2020 were noted.

C/111/2020

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – AUGUST 2020

Read: Bulletin dated August 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted.

C/112/2020

CORRESPONDENCE DATED 20 AUGUST RECEIVED FROM N. IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE REF. C/092/2020

Read: Correspondence dated 20 August from N. Ireland Ambulance Service ref. C/092/2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted.**

C/113/2020

THE FLOODING CONFERENCE: RESILIENCE, MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE CONFERENCE

Read: Government Events
23 February 2021 - Central Manchester
Public sector rate: £389

Mrs Ward advised that the conference would be a virtual one and recommended the Council's Emergency Planning Officer attend and report back. Following a query regarding the cost of the conference, she stated, officers would look at the validity of it before committing to any attendance.

Agreed: **It was agreed that on consideration of the validity of the Flooding Conference, the Council's Emergency Planning Officer would attend and report back.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/114/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG EUTHANASIA

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

"Council welcomes reports from DAERA that incidences of dog euthanasia are down across Northern Ireland in 19/20, but is extremely concerned that in the same period our District has had substantially more dogs put down than any other council area. To address this Council will take the following actions:

- **Undertake an investigation into why these figures are so high in the District and bring a report back for consideration on this to the AHC committee.**
- **Write to the 10 other council areas asking what measures they took to successfully reduce the number of animals killed, particularly Derry & Strabane which has seen an 80% reduction and Ards & North Down which killed zero dogs this year**
- **Consider ways in which the Council can bring together strategic partners such as the Dog Warden, local kennels, Animal Welfare Officer, PSNI and animal rescue charities, to address the issue, including through tackling illegal and unethical breeding and sale of dogs, particularly online."**

Councillor Enright seconded the Motion.

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 7 September 2020

VENUE: Via Skype **MEETING:** Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: ERT/084/2020 – To remove Part B of the Notice of Motion re. Universal Basic Income

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 2 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor R Howell	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Owen
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr D Moore, Director Corporate Services, NIHE
Mr J Blease, Regional Manager, South Area, NIHE
Mrs L Wilson, Area Manager, South Down, NIHE
Mrs A Hickey, Head of Placeshaping, South Region, NIHE

SC/08/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gibbons, Hanlon, Harte, McKee and Stokes.

The Chairperson asked that a card be sent to the Deputy Chair of Council Councillor McKee and his wife wishing them best wishes following a recent illness.

The Chairperson thanked Loma Wilson and her local team for their support and assistance during the recent flooding in Newcastle. The multi-agency approach was very effective in what was a very difficult day for the town and its residents

SC/09/2020

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SC/10/2020

**PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND
HOUSING EXECUTIVE**

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland Housing Executive and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Moore thanked Council for the opportunity to meet and referred to the NIHE Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2020, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda.

Mr Moore then delivered a presentation on the Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2020 (copy of which is appended to these minutes).

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

- Could an updated list of relevant contact numbers be circulated to all Councillors.
- Thanks to all staff in the Downpatrick and Newry NIHE offices for the extra support provided during the current circumstances.
- Were there any plans to work with Housing Associations in helping, in particular, older people who may wish to downsize their current homes?
- What plans were in place to help those affected due to the recent economic downturn with rent arrears.
- Were there any plans to investigate the points system criteria as local people are being housed out of their local area away from family and friends and the system was open to abuse by some please in particular relating to discrimination and intimidation points.
- The housing needs identified within the Newry area identified only 24 units within a particular project, however whereas the building potential was 70 units. Could the need be looked at on phased or annual basis?
- Was there potential for the use of modular housing to meet temporary and emergency accommodation needs, especially for those with mental health and addiction issues?
- Was there potential to speak with developers regarding affordability with Housing Associations?
- A further Housing Conference should be arranged, perhaps even on a virtual basis, as the previous conference proved to be very successful.
- Could a update on the timescale for maintenance being carried out in the Slieve Croob, area and any upcoming schemes be provided?
- There were concerns raised about no control over housing association rents and tenant affordability.
- Some members raised concerns regarding single tenants being placed in 1 bedroom houses and not having space for their children to stay with them.

- Concerns raised about the lack of proper maintenance in entry ways and relevant authorities accepting ownership, also the collection of grass after cuts & maintenance of overhanging trees especially in the Ballynahinch and Saintfield area.
- Concerns raised in relation to the lack of 1 bedroom properties particularly in Killyleagh for single and young people leaving home for the first time.
- Concerns raised at the amount of broken pavements and roads that were being cracked due to tree roots in housing estates. These were causing trip hazards especially in the Shrigley area and concerns had also been raised by Transport NI officials.
- A request for an update on the current homeless situation?
- More information on any upcoming schemes in the Rowallane area.
- Lack of temporary housing in Newcastle, vulnerable people having to move away from their family support.
- More needed to be done with regard to support packages especially for vulnerable with the potential of providing a warden to some of the estates within Newcastle

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Relevant contact numbers would be forwarded onto Democratic Services for distribution.
- NIHE would look at the older people's strategy and tenant exchange programme again and focus more on the older people.
- NIHE would assist people seeking the benefits they were entitled too, providing advice and signposting. There was a surge plan in place especially as they were expecting a spike in homelessness. Housing Executive working closely with the Confederation of Community groups who were currently operating pilots around financial capability.
- Review of allocations had been done by the Department in relation to the points system and was currently with the Minister.
- A lot of work had been completed over the last few years that had highlighted the gaps and where accommodation was required. The challenge was in making sure there was a mix of housing options especially in the city centre.
- Housing Associations were being asked to set aside a portion of houses as affordable housing and NIHE were working with Co-Ownership and other associations to encourage this.
- Representations had been made in relation to an affordable housing policy as part of the new Local Development Plan.
- A strategic review of temporary accommodation was being carried out by the NIHE and one of the options was to look at progressing modular housing as a viable option.
- Support packages had been put in place and NIHE were content to participate in meetings working in collaboration with community and other groups.
- Due to Covid-19 a lot of maintenance schemes had been paused, these were now operational again, however there was a backlog which was being addressed. If there were any tenants that had urgent repairs or priorities, Members should forward the details onto NIHE for them to be assessed.
- A list of planned schemes would be circulated in relation to Slieve Croob.

- Issue with one beds was the bedroom tax issue and ensuring affordability.
- Increase in new build of 2 bed units in the next 2 years and more flexible housing. Within the Craigmores scheme there was 100 2 bed houses included with at least 10% accessible housing units included.
- NIHE prepare a programme every year to identify housing needs and sizes in areas working closely with the housing associations.
- Housing needs conference would be arranged before early January with each of the DEA's to be given the opportunity to see what had been delivered and what was planned through the 3 year programme.
- NIHE would liaise with the grounds maintenance teams to identify the issues raised and address any dangers.
- NIHE board gave approval to house rough sleepers in temporary accommodation, at present 12 have been rehoused, 6 have been repatriated and found employment in Prague. At present there were still 4 in temporary accommodation.
- NIHE had nominated the newly refurbished flats in Burrendale estate which will be completed at the end of September for a 'Housing First Programme' which would bring intense support for the new tenants through a provider which had already been nominated. A further update would be provided to Members following an upcoming meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.11pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 5th October 2020.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype.

Chairperson: Councillor A McMurray

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Councillor J Tinnelly

Non Members: Councillor T Andrews

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor A Finnegan

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture &
Events

Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment &
Regeneration

Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer

Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control &
Regulation

Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer

Ms L O Hare Democratic Services Officer

ERT/108/2020: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

ERT/109/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Andrews, Burgess and Ruane declared an interest in Item 3 Action Sheet – Minute Number: ERT/089/2020 – Carlingford Lough Greenway, as they were members of the Board of the East Border Region.

**ERT/110/2020: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2020**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 August 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 August 2020.**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS**ERT/111/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: SHOP LOCAL CAMPAIGN**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for discussion in the name of Councillor D Taylor:

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

Councillor Taylor formally proposed the Notice of Motion stating that given the issues facing businesses and producers due to the global pandemic the Council had a

responsibility and duty of care to ensure these businesses received support when purchasing products and undertaking projects across the District.

Councillor Burgess formally seconded the Motion.

Councillor Taylor highlighted the following points:

- Council assist in providing businesses with the necessary investment in turn protecting jobs.
- Expand the 'shop local' initiative as a corporate body.
- Council look at how procurement regulations can be adapted and how contracts are frameworked to support and encourage local producers and businesses to apply for contracts, provide procurement training and attend 'meet the buyer' events.
- Ensure full traceability on foods used on Council property/events to ensure it is locally sourced and take account of the environmental impact caused by food miles.
- Council take account of combatting climate change and buy local to reduce the amount of transport and energy used.

Mr McGilly referred to the Shop Local campaign which had been significantly ramped up to encourage people to shop local. He said the Council were working with local suppliers to assist with procurement and that the Council's Procurement team were actively attending seminars and events relating to procurement.

Record: Councillor Clarke asked it be recorded that the small businesses and frontline services guided us through this pandemic to deliver services, food and medicines and this showed how valuable these people were to society during a crisis.

Several Councillors gave their support for the Motion and raised the following points:

- Significant amount of Council spend is leaving the area. All efforts be made with regard to procurement to ensure our local businesses can benefit from contracts and tenders.
- Council to look at how businesses can access funding and help to improve their website profiles to compete with larger organisations in light of the increase in online shopping.

- Bars/restaurants will move towards serving customers outside and will require funding and assistance to do this.
- Council look at supporting local business through Rates.
- Introduce a local pricing system approach which will retain jobs and improve small businesses.
- Many local businesses are not benefiting under current Procurement rules and the Council should look at small scheme which can be carried out by local businesses and work towards local procurement
- Larger businesses should collaborate with small local business and establish a more trade local initiative.
- Development of a digital economy.

Councillor McMurray proposed an Amendment to the Motion to include the Council developing a Shop Local App to provide an incentive to spend local.

Councillor McAteer seconded the Amendment.

Councillor Taylor said he accepted the Amendment to the Motion, and he asked Council Officials to look at all the points and suggestions raised by Members and bring forward a report to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee in due course outlining how the Council can build upon these ideas to help local business and industries.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion regarding the Shop Local Campaign, and the Motion also to include that the Council proceed with the development of a Shop Local App.

BUSINESS PLANS/GOVERNANCE

ERT/112/2020: ERT EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the ERT Emergency Business Plan April – September 2020.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Mulgrew, it was agreed to note the update on the 1st quarter performance of the ERT Department against the objectives set out in the Emergency Business Plan April-September 2020.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/113/2020: C21 THEATRE COMPANY - CARE HOME PROJECT

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events Enterprise regarding a financial allocation towards the Care Home Project by C21 Theatre Company. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to approve the allocation of £1,000 towards the cost of project production for the C21 Theatre Company Care Home Project.

ERT/114/2020: ANNALONG HARBOUR - EI SCHEME

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Public Health Enhancement Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issues were raised:

- Provision of ladders to boats
- Ensure consultation is carried out with local people
- Focus needed on regenerating arts and crafts

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to accept the Business Case for the Annalong Harbour Environmental Improvement project costing £95,613 with 80% funding of the total costs being sourced from the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF), ie, £76,490, and match funding of 20% from Council, ie, £19,123. This budget is available within the Capital Programme.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matter 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/115/2020: DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the Down County Museum Forward Plan 2020-2023.
(Copy circulated)

ERT/116/2020: LEASE OF ALBERT BASIN CHRISTMAS STAFF CAR PARKING

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the lease of lands at Albert Basin for temporary car parking.
(Copy circulated)

ERT/117/2020: LEASE AND LICENCE KILBRONEY CARAVAN PARK & FOREST DRIVE

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Ms M Boyle Head of Product Development & Visitor Experience regarding renewed lease for Kilbroney Caravan Park and revised licence for Kilbroney Forest. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/118/2020: MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Mountain Bike Trails.
(Copy circulated)

ERT/119/2020: HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Halloween Events. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

ERT/115/2020: Down County Museum

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve the Down County Museum Forward Plan 2020-2023, as included in Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events.**

ERT/116/2020: Lease of Albert Basin: Christmas Staff Car Parking

Councillor Stokes proposed as an amendment to the recommendation that the Council proceed with the lease of lands at Albert Basin to the Quays Management Company Limited for the stated period at a 10% reduction on the rate previously agreed. Councillor Mulgrew seconded the Amendment.

A vote was taken on the Amendment by way of a Recorded Vote and voting was as follows: (Attached)

For:	10
Against:	3
Abstentions:	0

The Amendment was declared carried.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew, it was agreed to approve the provision of lands at Albert Basin for temporary car parking for the Quays Management Company Limited for the period 02 November 2020 to 09 January 2021, at a 10% reduction on the rate previously agreed.**

ERT/117/2020: Lease and Licence – Kilbroney Caravan Park and Forest Drive

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

- (a) To enter into a 20 years lease with Forest Service for Kilbroney Caravan Park at current rent level reviewed five yearly thereafter. The lease to be extended to include Phase 2, as per attached map in Appendix 1.
- (b) To enter into a 20 year licence with Forest Service for Rostrevor Forest to include MTB Trails, Walking Trails, Forest Drive and top carpark as per Appendix 2. The annual maintenance budget to include an annual provision for remedial maintenance tarmacing at both Rostrevor and Slieve Gullion Forest.
- (c) To enter into a work licence with DAERA for the Fallows Walking Trail.
- (d) The poor condition of the top Car Park be raised during discussion with Forestry Service,

ERT/118/2020: Mountain Bike Trails

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

- (a) Approve capital expenditure on the Downhill trails at Kilbroney to the required standard, to improve trail flow and encourage increased usage.
- (b) Undertake the necessary tender exercise for the provision for trail head provision in Kilbroney Forest Park for a 3 year period with the option for renewal for a further 2 years annually.
- (c) Mountain Bike Trail users to be provided with an opportunity to offer input/comments into the proposed improvements to the mountain bike trails at Kilbroney Forest Park once a contractor is appointed.

ERT/119/2020: Halloween Events

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed that due to the current restrictions on mass gatherings and the need to ensure the safety of residents and visitors, that events in Newry and Newcastle are cancelled this year, but that Community Groups be given an opportunity to submit proposals to Council by 25 September 2020, for Covid compliant creative Halloween events that will be of benefit to the local community.

It was also agreed Council officials to examine possibility of a Firework Display event for Newcastle where the public could view the fireworks from their cars.

FOR NOTING**ERT/120/2020: BUILDING CONTROL – 6 MONTHLY REPORT**

Read: 6 Monthly Report from Building Control
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note the 6 Monthly Report from Building Control.

ERT/121/2020: LICENSING – 6 MONTHLY REPORT

Read: 6 Monthly Report regarding Licensing from 01 March 2020 – 31 August 2020. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note the 6 Monthly Report for Licensing from 01 March 2020 – 31 August 2020.

ERT/122/2020: INVEST NI REGIONAL BRIEFING

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Invest NI Regional Briefing. (Copy circulated)

Record: Councillor Savage asked it be recorded he believed more could

be done by Invest NI to address the issues regarding Brexit.

AGREED: To note the Invest NI Newry Mourne and Down District Council Regional Briefing which will form part of the evidence base when developing future strategies and programmes of work in efforts to grow the local economy.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed Council arrange to meet with Invest NI to discuss a strategy to look at business and entrepreneurial opportunities in light of Brexit.

ERT/123/2020: CO-OPERATION NORTH SOUTH GRANT LACE REPORT

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Co-operation North South Grant Lace. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note that Council have successfully secured €10,000 from Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for a North South Lace Collective project. This project is in partnership with the South Armagh Lace Collective and Borris Lace in Carlow.

ERT/124/2020: UPDATE RE: SEAFLAG 2

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on SEAFLAG 2. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on SEAFLAG 2.

ERT/125/2020: PRIORITY 6 – RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Priority 6 Rural Development Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Priority 6 Rural Development Programme.

ERT/126/2020: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Business Development Programmes.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note the update provided under the below business development initiatives between June 2020 and July 2020:

- (a) Go for It – producing 54 business plans, between April 2020 and July 2020.
- (b) NMD Growth - supporting 111 individual businesses with a total of 550 mentoring hours delivered between June 2020 and July 2020. In addition to 24 ½ day workshops and 7 Thematic programmes launched / implemented from Programme commencement.
- (c) Digital Growth – supported individual 17 businesses in June and July with 38 hours mentoring support, along with the delivery of 1 workshop and 2 masterclasses.
- (d) Tender for Growth – new procurement and supply chain programme appointed, launched in June 2020, with recruitment presently ongoing to support 170 businesses up to December 2022.
- (e) New Letter of Offer secured for continued business start support from April 2021 for a 2 year period.
- (f) Development of an 11 Council digital transportation bid to ERDF.
- (g) Update on Covid-19 Business Grant Support programmes.

ERT/127/2020: ARTISAN MARKETS

Read: Report dated 14 September 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Artisan Markets for Downpatrick, Newcastle and Warrenpoint. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the update provided on the relaunch of artisan markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle and Warrenpoint following covid-19.

ERT/128/2020: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES – AUGUST 2020

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for August 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for August 2020.

**ERT/129/2020: HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER
ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM**

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

The following issues were raised arising out of the Action Tracker Sheet:

ERT/065/2020: Newcastle Harbour

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed a paper be brought to a meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting outlining proposals to move forward with the regeneration of Newcastle Harbour.

AGREED: To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/044/2020: Artisan Markets

AGREED: **On receipt of the details, Mr J McGilly Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment & Regeneration to update Councillor McAteer regarding booking of a stall on the Artisan Market.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.25pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 October 2020.

Signed: **Councillor A McMurray**

 Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: **Mr C Mallon**

 Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 14 September 2020 **VENUE:** _____ Via Skype _____ **MEETING:** ERT

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 9 – Lease of Albert Basin

To approve provision of lands at Albert Basin for temporary parking for the Quays Management Company Limited for the period 2nd November 2020 to 9 January 2021 at a 10% reduction of the previously agreed rate.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R Burgess		√		
W Clarke	√			
D Curran	√			
G Hanna		√		
V Harte	√			
R Howell	√			
M Larkin				
D McAteer		√		
A McMurray	√			
R Mulgrew	√			
H Reilly				
M Ruane	√			
M Savage	√			
G Stokes	√			
J Tinnelly	√			
TOTALS	10	3	0	

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 17 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre
(hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Savage	Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor J Trainor

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration)
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events
 Mrs L Fitzsimmons, HR Manager
 Mrs E McGrath, HR Business Partner
 Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
 Mrs C Hanvey, PA to Director of Corporate Services
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance:

Mr T Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy
 Ms A Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy

SPR/121/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher & McKee.

SPR/122/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive and Councillor Byrne declared an interest in item 20 – The Chief Executive Appraisal 2019-2020

The Chairperson wished both Kilcoo GAC and Carryduff GAC good luck for the upcoming Senior football championship, in particular, DJ Morgan, Council's Outdoor Leisure Officer, who managed the Carryduff team. He also wished the best of luck to Saul GAC and Drumgath GAC playing in the Intermediate Championship along with Aughlisnafin GAC and St Paul's GAC who were playing the Junior Football Championship match.

SPR/123/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2020 AND TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2020

Read: Action Sheets of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 13 August 2020 and 18 August 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the action sheets from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 13 August 2020 and 18 August 2020, be noted, and actions removed as marked.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/124/2020 ALBERT BASIN - PRESENTATION

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin, Public Consultation Update and presentation from Otium Leisure Consultancy in relation to Albert Basin 15 Acre City Park Public Consultation Exercise **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Tony Morrison and Ms Alison Keenan from Otium Leisure Consultancy and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Morrison thanked Members for the opportunity to deliver the presentation on the Albert Basin highlighting that it covered the terms of reference for the consultation, the public consultation process and findings, key components, opportunities, considerations and challenges (copy of presentation appended to these minutes).

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

- Members welcomed the detailed report and thanked the team from Otium Leisure Consultancy for an excellent piece of work.
- The project was an ever-evolving public space for the public to enjoy and a pivotal moment in the campaign to develop the 15-acre park.
- Council had passed a motion to deliver a park at the Albert Basin within this Council term.
- Acknowledgement of community groups that have fed into the process.
- This would be a flagship project for Newry city.
- The National Shared Prosperity Fund was looking for spade-ready schemes, and the Albert Basin Project may be eligible for the fund.
- Councillor Reilly put on record his thanks to Councillor Savage and Stokes on a tremendous job for pushing this forward and getting the project this far.

Councillor Savage proposed an amendment to the officer's recommendation, that Council move to the appointment of a project board so that it was in situ when the appointed design team commenced. He proposed the project board set out a phased approach to the project with phase one to be delivered with the capping and greening of the site, installation of a regional playpark and a pathway link to the Greenway, within the current Council term. This was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that members approve the following recommendations:

- Accept the public consultation as a basis for the development of a City Park at the Albert Basin in Newry.
- Appoint a fully integrated design team to provide initial concept proposals with schematics of the park and detailed final designs.
- Appoint a project board to be in place when the appointed design team commences.
- The project board to set out a phased approach to the project with phase one being delivered within the current Council term with the capping and greening of the site, installation of a regional playpark and a pathway link to the Greenway, within the current Council term.
- Appoint an economist to carry out an initial business case and full economic appraisal.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/125/2020

ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2019-20

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Assessment of Performance 2019-20 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne commended officers for the report stating the document was a great tool to reflect on some of the successes of Council. He highlighted that recycling and street cleanliness required more focus in the coming years especially with the planned changes to the Neighbourhood Services directorate.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran, that Members approve:

- The Assessment of Performance 2019-20.
- The publication of the Assessment of Performance by 30 September 2020, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline.
- That the publication of 'Our Performance Looking Back Going Forward' is delayed and incorporates the strategic objectives within the Corporate Plan 2020-23.
- Members approve the draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2023 & draft Equality Action Plan 2020-2023.

SPR/126/2020:

PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 'PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT' 2019-20

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding, Performance Audit and Assessments Progress Report – Implementation of the 'Proposals for Improvement' 2019-20 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, that Members approve the Performance Audit and Assessments Progress Report – Implementation of the 'Proposals for Improvement' 2019-20.

SPR/127/2020:

ASSESSMENT AND UPDATE OF EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLANS

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding, Assessment and Update of Emergency Business Plans **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne stated that some activities that had been postponed or delayed due to Covid needed advancement over the next 6 months. He advised the Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group had recently met and momentum was needed to build actions into the Community Plan.

Councillor Byrne praised the establishment of the Strategic Finance Working Group stating that the first meeting was very productive. He asked that online tools be used for capacity building training and commended the excellent work of officers during lockdown.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, to approve the:

- Mid Term Assessments of the Chief Executive's Department and Corporate Services Directorate Emergency Business Plans
- Assessment of Emergency Business Plans April-September 2020 (in October)
- Development of Emergency Business Plans October 2020-March 2021 (in October 2020)
- Annual assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2019-20 (in October 2020)
- Assessment of Emergency Business Plans October 2020-March 2021 (in March 2021)
- Business Planning and Performance Management Cycle to consider & approve the new Conditions of Hire Policy for implementation across all Council Facilities as relevant.

SPR/128/2020: CONSULTATION ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services regarding, Consultation on the Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Miskelly confirmed a meeting had been arranged for Monday 28 September 2020 with Local Government Staff Commission and the National Association Councillors and the matter would be progressed.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Members agree to the revised Consultation Response Questionnaire at Appendix 1.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/129/2020 PRESENTATION OF 2021 ANNUAL REPORT/NMD CONNECT

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy regarding, Presentation of 2021 Annual Report/NMD Connect **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query, Mrs Carville confirmed there was funding available in the budget to continue to circulate NMD Connect to schools and acknowledged officers would engage with schools early in the new year as to their acceptance of print media in the wake of Coronavirus regulations permitting at that time.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, that Council continue to publish the Annual Report/NMD Connect as one document, with versions in Irish and English published on the website and supported by a limited print run. This strategy had the advantage of ensuring the widest distribution across the District as well as ensuring value for money. The strategy would be supported by a marketing campaign.

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/130/2020

MEMBERSHIP OF PARTY REPRESENTATIVE'S FORUM

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding, Membership of Party Representatives Forum **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown proposed the inclusion of the technical grouping with Councillor Tinnelly as group leader on the Party Representative's Forum, providing the group membership remained at 5 members as outlined within the circulated appendix document. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Councillor Brown stated over 10% of elected members had been excluded from an 'agenda-setting body' that discussed vitally important matters which was a huge democratic deficit. He also confirmed legal advice would be sought as a grouping, depending on the outcome of the report and asked for clarification as to why there had been no 'Equality Impact Assessment' noted as being carried out on the report.

Mrs Ward stated that the Equality Impact Assessment omission on the report was an administrative oversight. She stated however that legal advice had been sought and she was content that equality was not an issue.

Councillor Brown requested sight of the legal opinion before a decision was made.

Mrs Ward confirmed, in order to discuss the legal opinion, the Committee would need to go into closed session.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter 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 a 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 Brown, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Following the overview of the legal advice provided by the Chief Executive, Members discussed the matter at length with the following comments:

Councillor Walker confirmed DUP were against the proposal, as it was not inclusive of all Independent Members. He stated the Party Reps Forum was not a decision-making body, with discussions on matters being presented to full Council or the relevant Committee which was the mechanism for Independent Members/Alliance to challenge same.

Councillor Lewis stated he would accept the Alliance Party becoming members on the forum, however not as part of a technical grouping.

Councillor Byrne confirmed the SDLP could not support the terms of reference that had been circulated, particularly the wording 'other relevant positions' as this could mean the technical grouping would then be above both Unionist Parties in importance. He stated the terms of reference did not make sense compared to the previous set that had been used in the past and as it stood, the technical grouping could reduce to 1 Member and stay as a grouping, therefore his Party would not be supporting the proposal.

Councillor Ó Muirí stated the grouping made up of independents, all elected on their own mandate, with diverse Political opinions, along with the Alliance Party did not meet the criteria set and therefore Sinn Féin would not be supporting Councillor Brown's proposal. He stated Sinn Féin would be content to welcome the Alliance Party if they had a third Councillor to meet the criteria.

Councillor Enright spoke in support of the proposal stating the Committee for the Administration of Justice had been consulted, who were of the opinion not having an Equality Impact Assessment on discontinuing the original terms of reference for Independents and Alliance warranted a potential Judicial Review. He stated the terms of reference had previously been used, worked well, and the previous Chief Executive had advised that all Independent Councillors should be given the right to be a member in order to avoid the possibility of having more than one group formed.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal to include a technical grouping with Councillor Tinnelly as group leader on the Party Representative's Forum, providing the group membership remained at 5 members, to a recorded vote (copy of which is appended to these minutes), the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	2
AGAINST:	11
ABSTENTIONS	0

The proposal was LOST

Councillor Brown proposed that the 2 Alliance party members become Members of the Party Rep's Forum. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Councillor Byrne suggested that Alliance and Independent members should reconvene and bring a report back when they had agreement and meet the set criteria for membership of the Forum. Councillor Savage concurred with this viewpoint.

Councillor Ó Muirí, for the benefit of Councillor Brown, explained he had stated he would welcome Alliance Members onto the Party Reps Forum if they had a third Councillor, as per the set criteria.

Mrs Ward clarified that the proposal being put forward would require an amendment to the terms of reference that currently exist as it stated a grouping of 3 or more. She suggested Councillor Brown may wish to consider further and bring a paper to the next SPR Committee Meeting.

Councillor Brown confirmed he would rather put the matter to a vote at this stage, and if the proposal was passed, the terms of reference would need to be amended.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal, that the 2 Alliance Party Members become Members of the Party Reps Forum, to a recorded vote (copy of which is appended to these minutes), the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	3
AGAINST:	10
ABSTENTIONS	0

The proposal was LOST

Agreed: It was agreed to retain the current membership of the Party Reps Forum.

FOR NOTING

SPR/131/2020 **ACTION SHEET FOR ALBERT BASIN TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP MEETING – 20 AUGUST 2020**

Read: Action Sheet for the Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group Meeting held on 20 August 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the content of the report.

SPR/132/2020 **ACTION SHEET FOR STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP – 10 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategic Finance Working Group Meeting held on 10 September 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the content of the report.

SPR/133/2020 **SICKNESS ABSENCE – 3 YEAR REVIEW**

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager regarding, Sickness Absence – 3 Year Review **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the content of the report.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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 a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/134/2020 DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding, Director Recruitment **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and agree to nominate 3 Elected Members to the Shortlisting and Interview Panel for the recruitment of two new Directors.

That Members note it is the intention to put in place interim arrangements, to facilitate the release of the incumbent Neighbourhood Services Director.

Mrs Ward left the meeting at this point – 7.30pm.

SPR/135/2020 ENCROACHMENT ON COUNCIL LANDS AT CIRCULAR ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting) regarding, Encroachment on Council lands at Circular Road, Castlewellan **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, to approve the following recommendations:

- i) That Elected Members approve a transfer of the lands shaded yellow on the map attached hereto to Mr and Mrs McCartan at the market value of five hundred pounds (£500.00) with the occupiers being responsible also for any legal and valuation costs.

- ii) That no further action be pursued to obtain possession of the lands shaded pink on the map attached hereto.
- iii) That Council's internal legal team recommend to the owner of no. 40 that her ownership of the area shaded pink be regularised, and that approval be given to a formal transfer of the area to her at no cost.

SPR/136/2020: LANDS AT WINDMILL BUSINESS PARK, SAINTFIELD – (DEFERRED)

Agreed: It was agreed that this item be deferred.

SPR/137/2020 SHIMNA ROAD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting), regarding Shimna Road Flood Alleviation Scheme
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Hanlon wished to put on record, on behalf of Councillor Clarke, thanks to officials in relation to the quick response regarding the Hardship Funding, and to staff on site for their assistance during the recent flooding in Newcastle.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Council facilitate access as per the proposed agreement to allow DFI to undertake the flood alleviation works.

SPR/138/2020 TOURISM SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding, Tourism Service Level Agreements
(Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:

1. Service Level Agreements that were approved in March 2020 with Mourne Heritage Trust, St Patrick's Visitor Centre and Outdoor Recreation NI for the delivery of projects and services within the 2020/21FY, are continued with Council funding continued as planned.
2. Service Level Agreements with Downpatrick Railway Society and Kilkeel Development Association receive no further payments at this time and officers continue to

work with both groups to identify opportunities to deliver against objectives and therefore avail of funding.

SPR/139/2020 REOPENING MUSEUMS

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding, Reopening Museums **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the reopening of the Council's two museums, in compliance with current Government guidelines, in a phased manner commencing in October 2020.

FOR NOTING

SPR/140/2020 CHIEF EXECUTIVES APPRAISAL 2019-2020

Read: Report dated 17 September 2020 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services regarding, Chief Executives Appraisal 2019 - 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.

SPR/141/2020 REFERS TO ITEM 4 ON THE AGENDA – DULY NOTED

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 8.27pm.

Signed: Councillor Gareth Sharvin
Chairperson

Signed: Dorinnia Carville
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 17/09/2020 **VENUE:** Microsoft Teams – Hybrid **MEETING:** SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Councillor Brown's proposal to include a technical grouping with Councillor Tinnelly as group leader on the Party Representative's Forum, providing the group membership remained at 5 members

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown	X			
P Byrne		X		
S Doran		X		
C Enright	X			
H Gallagher				X
O Hanlon		X		
R Howell		X		
A Lewis		X		
H McKee				X
O Magennis		X		
D Murphy		X		
B Ó Muíri		X		
M Savage		X		
G Sharvin		X		
W Walker		X		
TOTALS	2	11	0	2

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 17/09/2020 **VENUE:** Microsoft Teams – Hybrid **MEETING:** SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Councillor Brown's proposal that 2 Alliance Party Members become Members of the Party Reps Forum

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown	X			
P Byrne		X		
S Doran		X		
C Enright	X			
H Gallagher				X
O Hanlon		X		
R Howell		X		
A Lewis	X			
H McKee				X
O Magennis		X		
D Murphy		X		
B Ó Muíri		X		
M Savage		X		
G Sharvin		X		
W Walker		X		
TOTALS	3	10	0	2

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2020

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 21 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor L McEvoy

In attendance: **(Councillors)**
 Councillor T Andrews
 Councillor A Finnegan
 Councillor G Malone
 Councillor K McKevitt
 Councillor G O'Hare
 Councillor D Taylor
 Councillor C Casey
 Councillor M Gibbons
 Councillor C Mason
 Councillor McMurray
 Councillor B Ó Muirí
 Councillor W Walker

Also In Attendance: Councillor Brown
 Councillor Reilly
 Councillor Byrne

Officials in attendance: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
 Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
 Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
 Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
 Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director, Building Control and Regulation
 Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director, Estates and Project Management
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/85/2020: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Trainor.

The Chairperson extended condolences on behalf of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee to Councillor Trainor and his family following the passing of his father at the weekend.

The Chairperson congratulated Mr Ian Bailey an Irish runner from Kilcoo on his tremendous sporting achievement in setting a new world record by 'everesting' Slieve Donard Mountain.

AHC/86/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gibbons declared an interest in item 24 regarding No 16, The Square, Rostrevor.

AHC/87/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2020

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 August 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/148/2019 Healthy Vending Machines in Leisure Centres

Councillor Ó Muirí spoke of the importance of having healthy vending machines in leisure centres established as soon as possible particularly in respect to trying to tackle the increasing issue of childhood obesity.

Mr Tamati confirmed officers were awaiting the Food Standards Agency to establish the minimal nutrition standards and were looking to progress the tender exercise for new machines in the next couple of months.

Agreed: It was agreed by all to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 August 2020.

AHC/88/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG EUTHANASIA

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown, referred from Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020.

“Council welcomes reports from DAERA that incidences of dog euthanasia are down across Northern Ireland in 19/20, but is extremely concerned that in the same period our District has had substantially more dogs put down than any other council area. To address this Council will take the following actions:

- Undertake an investigation into why these figures are so high in the District and bring a report back for consideration on this to the AHC committee.***
- Write to the 10 other council areas asking what measures they took to successfully reduce the number of animals killed, particularly Derry & Strabane which has seen an 80% reduction and Ards & North Down which killed zero dogs this year.***
- Consider ways in which the Council can bring together strategic partners such as the Dog Warden, local kennels, Animal Welfare Officer, PSNI and animal rescue charities, to address the issue, including through tackling illegal and unethical breeding and sale of dogs, particularly online.”***

Members were advised the notice of motion should have been referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

Councillor Brown confirmed he was content to postpone discussion on the motion until it was presented before the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Notice of Motion was referred for consideration at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Committee Meeting to be held on 12 October 2020.

BUSINESS PLANS/GOVERNANCE

AHC/89/2020 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr M Lipsett regarding the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Mid-term Emergency Business Plan April – September 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson and Councillors Andrews and Ó Muirí commended the work and support provided through the Community Hubs in response to COVID-19.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the Active and Healthy Communities mid-term Emergency Business Plan April-September 2020.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/90/2020 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums update. **(Copy circulated)**

Members commended DEA co-ordinators for all their work and support in dealing with COVID-19.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason, to note the report provided and approve the actions in the actions sheets for:

- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 4 June 2020
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 11 August 2020
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2020.
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2020.

AHC/91/2020 DfC 2nd TRANCHE COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUNDING

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding DfC Tranche COVID-19 Community Support Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the report and to allocate the 2nd Tranche of COVID-19 Community Support Funding of £143,674.86 as follows:

- £123,674.86 be directed to support a second 'COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery' theme under Financial Assistance Call 3. (This theme was approved under the Financial Assistance Report that was considered at the AHC Committee Meeting on Monday 17 August 2020 but the amount allocated to the theme was not because DfC's letter of variance advising of the 2nd Tranche of COVID-19 Community Support Funding was not received until Wednesday 19 August 2020).
- £10,000.00 be awarded each to Confederation of Community Groups and County Down Rural Community Network through their existing SLA's with Council to support eligible activity and associated costs in response to COVID-19 by community and voluntary organisations. (2 awards of £10,000.00 = £20,000.00).
- Grant permission to top up the amount allocated to the Confederation of Community Groups and County Down Rural Community Network should the £10,000.00 allocated to each organisation not be sufficient to help them meet community needs.

AHC/92/2020

DfC COVID-19 FUNDING – ACCESS TO FOOD FUND AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP FUND

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the DfC COVID-19 Funding, Access to Food Fund and Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí enquired about the support being provided from Department for Communities regarding funding. Mrs Hillen confirmed meetings were currently taking place and Council officials were being asked to put forward detailed proposals and, in turn, they were meeting with partners on the Community Co-ordination Hub.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the report and provide approval to make a draft submission to the Department for Communities (DfC) on behalf of the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub as to how the amounts awarded to Council under the 'COVID-19 Access to Food Fund' and 'COVID-19 Financial Inclusion Fund' would be utilised.

AHC/93/2020

PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to approve the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as follows:
- To extend projects impacted by Covid-19 to March 2022 to ensure all outputs were delivered in line with the Letter of Offer (subject to SEUPB approval);
 - To re-allocate any identified underspend between projects and to staff costs if required (subject to SEUPB approval).

AHC/94/2020

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the financial assistance update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason, to approve the proposed revised thresholds, as listed within the officer's report, for Capital, Minor Works and Minor Capital items funding and the amendments to the guidance notes.

AHC/95/2020

UPDATED REPORT ON REOPENING OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding an updated report on the reopening of Community Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

Whilst providing an overview of the revised report, Mrs Hillen advised officers had held conversations with community volunteers and there remained a healthy fear in terms of the virus, therefore volunteers had confirmed they did not intend to open a number of centres until November 2020 and in some cases January 2021.

Mrs Hillen also advised it had just been confirmed Derrybeg Community Centre would not be opening until after Halloween at the earliest.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Walker regarding the opening hours of the Ballynahinch Centre, Mrs Hillen advised it was due to the negative impact of being unable to take casual bookings, however the block booking system had seen an increase in bookings at the Market House, Ballynahinch.

Mrs Hillen confirmed officers were working hard to get contractors on site to deal with the ventilation system in Saintfield Community Centre.

In response to a query regarding what support was available to community-run facilities reopening during this time, Mrs Hillen confirmed money was available within the budget to cover the measures required such as signage and hand sanitising. She also confirmed part of the funding received from Department for Communities was being used for groups to apply for up to £1500 to help support them with loss of income sources.

Mrs Hillen acknowledged the frustrations regarding the reopening of community centres however Council was taking a slow measured approach to reopening following guidelines.

Mr Lipsett referred to announcements that were due to be made regarding measures to deal with COVID-19 from the Prime Minister and the NI Executive which may still impact the reopening plan. He advised there may be further restrictions that may impact on plans and if so he would report these to Council.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Andrews to approve the updated Community Centre re-opening plan as detailed within Appendix 1 of the officer's report and agree to officers amending the procedures documents as and when restrictions changed.

Councillor Casey left the meeting during the above discussion – 6.40pm

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/96/2020 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – DERRYLECKAGH ROAD

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding expression of interest, Derryleckagh Road. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that the business case submission from Newry Rugby Club for Derryleckagh Field, had been evaluated and met the minimum threshold under the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016). It was also agreed to progress to a public expression of interest process in line with the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016).

AHC/97/2020 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – GENERATOR HOUSE, NEWCASTLE & VACANT LAND ADJACENT TO BURREN VILLAGE GREEN

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding expression of interest, Generator House, Newcastle and vacant land adjacent to Burren Village Green. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, that the expression of interest for leasing of the Generator House and Vacant Land Adjacent to Burren Village Green was progressed in line with Councils Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy (2016).

AHC/98/2020 INDOOR LEISURE REOPENING – PHASE 4

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the reopening of indoor leisure facilities plan, phase 4. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to queries raised by Councillors Andrews and Ó Muirí, Mr Tamati confirmed Newry Water Polo Club would be able to return in line with governing body guidance and satisfactory submission of activity risk assessments from 5 October 2020.

Mr Tamati also confirmed he was meeting with Newry Water Polo Club on 22 September 2020.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the contents of the officer's report and Phase 4 of the indoor leisure reopening plan as per appendix 1 including the below recommendations:

- Contact Sports Clubs in a block booking capacity could return from the 5th October 2020 in line with governing body guidance and satisfactory submission of an activity risk assessments.
- Non-Contact Sports could return in a casual capacity from the 5th October 2020.
- School Swimming Lessons could return from the 5th October 2020 in a restricted capacity.
- Council Swimming Lessons could return from the 12th October 2020 in a restricted capacity.
- Private Swimming Tuition by designated 3rd Party Providers could return from the 19th October 2020, in a restricted capacity and via a new online booking process.
- Standardisation of pricing for designated activities to be introduced as per appendix 2 to ensure online/contactless bookings could be implemented, track and trace was in place for bookings and to simplify processors.
- Soft play and health suites to remain closed until further notice.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/99/2020 DEVELOPMENT OF WALKING/CYCLING STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding the development of a walking/cycling strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Mason to approve Council Officers examining the development of a Walking and Cycling Strategy for the District.

AHC/100/2020 CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON PROPOSED GUIDANCE ON THE SUPPLY OF WILD GAME FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response on proposed guidance on the Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to approve the response as presented being submitted to the Food Standards Agency on proposed guidance on the Supply of Wild Game for Human Consumption. The response had been returned by the specified date with the condition that it was subject to Council approval.

AHC/101/2020 **CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON AMENDMENTS TO RETAINED EU LAW FOR FOOD AND FEED SAFETY AND HYGIENE FOR THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response on amendments to retained EU Law for food and feed safety and hygiene for the end of the transition period. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí approve the response as presented being submitted to the Food Standards Agency on Amendments to Retained EU Law for Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene for the end of the Transition Period.

FOR NOTING – LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/102/2020 **AUTISM SWIMMING SESSIONS UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Autism Swimming Sessions Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the introduction of the Autism Friendly Swimming Session pilot in Newry and Kilkeel Leisure Centre and recommencement at Downpatrick Leisure Centre week commencing the 5th October 2020 as per the below timetable:

- Newry Leisure Centre: Sundays 10:30am – 11:30am.
- Kilkeel Leisure Centre: Friday's 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
- Downpatrick Leisure Centre: Thursdays 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

FOR NOTING – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/103/2020 **SUICIDE DOWN TO ZERO**

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding 'Suicide Down to Zero'. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Devlin provided a verbal update in relation to the ongoing work relating to the notice of motion regarding suicide prevention and emotional wellbeing including:

- Council had formally adopted the approach to Suicide Down to Zero with associated media coverage in February 2020.
- Financial call was issued in June 2020 with £10,000 allocated to 11 groups within the District, an update on which would be provided at the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.
- Awaiting response from the Health Trusts regarding how to progress the working group in the current situation with COVID-19.
- Since 7 September 2020 Council was running a 5 week campaign on mental wellbeing and on World Suicide Prevention Day had lit up Newry Town Hall and Downpatrick Leisure Centre. Council was also promoting zero suicide training, sharing messages, links and support contacts, life line cards and ending the campaign on World Mental Health Day by lighting to Newry Town and Hall and Downpatrick Leisure Centre.

Councillors McMurray, Gibbons and McKevitt commended officers for the work undertaken in relation to suicide prevention within the District.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the verbal update.

AHC/104/2020 UPDATE ON CURRENT SITUATION WITH AFFORDABLE WAMRTH SCHEME

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, in relation to an update on the current situation with the Affordable Warmth Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the update report and the correspondence sent to Department for Communities setting out Newry Mourne and Down District Council's support for the Affordable Warmth Scheme and the Councils continued involvement in helping the vulnerable in our District.

FOR NOTING - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/105/2020 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Social Investment Fund, Capital. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed by all to note the update report on Social Investment Fund.

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

AHC/106/2020

NEWTOWNHAMILTON AGED DEBT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Newtownhamilton Aged Debt. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Taylor, to remove Newtownhamilton Community Association from the aged debt list at a cost to Council as identified within the officer's report.

AHC/107/2020

YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CLUB UPDATE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding an update on Your School Your Club. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to note the update

provided on Your School Your Club Funding as per the contents of the officer's report and appendix 1.

Having previously declared an interest, Councillor Gibbons left the meeting at this point – 7.27pm.

AHC/108/2020

NO 16 THE SQUARE, ROSTREVOR

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director, Estates & Project Management, regarding No 16 The Square, Rostrevor. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the officer's report and appendix and to approve the awarding of contract to the preferred supplier identified within same.

Councillor Gibbons re-joined the meeting at this point – 7.32pm.

AHC/109/2020

CASTLE PARK SEASONAL OPERATIONS – PUBLIC TENDER

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Castle Park Seasonal Operations, Public Tender. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the following:

- that the current tender process for seasonal operations at Castle Park was terminated.
- a new tender process for seasonal operations at Castle Park for up to 5 years was commissioned with COVID-19 now considered.
- that officers undertake the appropriate evaluation of the new public tender in line with procurement guidelines, appoint a preferred bidder and enter into a contract.

AHC/110/2020 PROCEED TO TENDER BUSINESS CASES – POOL PLANT, POOL CHEMICALS AND AIR CONDITIONING & VENTILATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Proceed to Tender Business Cases - Pool Plant Servicing, Repairs and Maintenance; Pool Chemicals and Air Conditioning and Ventilation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the following:

1. The Business Case as per appendix 1 of the officer's report, for Pool Plant Servicing, Repairs and Maintenance and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.
2. The Business Case as per appendix 2 of the officer's report, for Pool Chemicals and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.
3. The Business Case as per appendix 3 of the officer's report, for Air Conditioning and Ventilation and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.

4. That officers undertake the appropriate evaluation of the above public tenders in line with procurement guidelines and appoint a preferred bidder and enter into a contract for up to 3 years to the value outlined on each business case.

AHC/111/2020

LEISURE CAPITAL SCHEME APPROVALS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 21 September 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Leisure Capital Scheme Approvals. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Walker, to approve the following Capital projects to be commissioned as outlined in Councils Capital Programme:

1. Derrybeg Pathway Trail, Newry – Progress Upgrade Works
2. NLC external works/ Jennings Park, Newry – Progress Upgrade Works
3. Loanda Crescent/Martins Lane Play Park, Newry – Progress New Build
4. Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion, Kilkeel – Progress to tender and appointment of contractor at the costs as identified within the officer's report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.45pm.

Signed: Councillor L McEvoy
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

Deputy Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members:	Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G Stokes
	Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor K Owen
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor D Taylor

Non-Committee Members: Councillor Tinnelly

Officials in Attendance:

- Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
- Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
- Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management
- Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
- Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/198/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor McKee.

The Chairperson extended condolences to Councillor Trainor on the death of his father, John.

She also advised that this was recycling week and encouraged Members to share recycling information to raise awareness.

NS/199/2020: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/200/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2020

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2020. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

NS/201/2020: PRESENTATION ON THE "FUTURE RECYCLING AND SEPARATE COLLECTION OF WASTE OF A HOUSEHOLD NATURE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPORT ON DRAFT RESPONSE TO DAERA

Mr R Moore, Director, gave a presentation on the Future Recycling and Separate Collection of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland Public Discussion Document.

At the end of the presentation Mr Moore said if members had any feedback or comments they should email them to him by 30th September.

Issues raised

- Central Government should be putting financial support in place to support the proposals in the Discussion Document.
- The current MRF contract clearly separates dry recyclables and the residents of the area have bought into the food collection and dry recyclable services that are currently available in the Council area.
- Could not see the need to have a weekly food waste collection.
- Important that there is a collective message sent out from all 11 Councils particularly around education.
- The carbon footprint if there was any increase in bin lorry collection services – this would not benefit the environment.

Noted: The closing date for responses was 4 October 2020 and Mr Moore advised he would take on board any comments made by Members and would submit the response under the Scheme of Delegation.

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr J Parkes, re: DAERA – Draft response on future recycling and separation of waste of a household nature in Northern Ireland. (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed that the Council approve the submission of the response to DAERA's discussion document as circulated at the meeting and also that authority be given to submit the response by 4th October

under delegated authority and to include comments submitted by Members.

**NS/202/2020: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE MID TERM ASSESSMENT EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN
APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Neighbourhood Services Directorate Mid Term Assessment Emergency Business Plan April-September 2020. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Mid Term Assessment Emergency Business Plan April-September 2020.**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/203/2020: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF PARTNERING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN DFI ROAD AND NMDDC FOR CLEANING BUSY TOWN CENTRE, FOOTWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS OF SNOW AND ICE

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion seeking agreement from the Council to a review of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and the Department for Infrastructure regarding the clearance of snow and ice from town centre footways and pedestrian areas. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the proposal and extend for a further three years, in accordance with the "Scope of the Agreement" Clause 3 and Appendix 1 as amended, and to sign the updated MoU with additional locations.**

It was also agreed Council Officials discuss the following issues with DFI Roads which were raised by Members during the discussion:-

- **A request that the areas of coverage be extended to also include Annalong, Saintfield, Crossgar, Killough, Mayobridge and Rostrevor.**
- **As the lead Partner Agency, DfI be asked to consider the involvement of community/voluntary organisations to assist within their communities during prolonged periods of snow and ice.**

Noted: Mr Scullion said he would find out why there was two designations for Ballynahinch i.e. Priority One and Priority Two and update Councillor Owen who had requested this information.

NS/204/2020: REPORT ON REQUEST TO EXTEND COUNCIL CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: requests to extend the Council Christmas display for 2020. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- Were there any proposals for Newtownhamilton Christmas displays – Mr Scullion advised there was currently an EI scheme ongoing in Newtownhamilton and it was unlikely to be finished until the New Year. Officers had been in contact with Newtownhamilton Community Association to advise of this and to say that proposals for future Christmas displays would be brought to Committee in the new year.
- A special effort be made this year to mark the season in terms of Christmas illuminations given the recent announcements on restrictions on families meeting up due to the COVID situation.
- Consideration be given to a small cut tree with lights being provided at North Promenade Newcastle given that it was not cost effective to provide lights to the oak tree.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve Officers recommendation to proceed with the request for Ross Monument, Rostrevor, and with request at Newcastle Harbour (subject to agreement with the Commissioner of Lights) and not to proceed with request to provide lights to oak tree at North Promenade Newcastle.**

It was agreed officers consider a request that a small cut tree, with lights, be provided at North Promenade, Newcastle, and report back to the next Committee meeting with options/costs.

NS/205/2020: SHIMNA RIVER WALL REPAIRS

Mr Scullion said it had been hoped to bring a report on this issue to Committee but negotiations were still on-going with Rivers Agency to agree an acceptable solution to the repairs needed to the river wall at Shimna. He outlined the solutions being proposed and advised once agreement had been reached, a report would be brought back hopefully to the October Committee Meeting.

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the verbal update provided.**

NS/206/2020: **PHASE 3 REOPENING OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Phase 3 of reopening of public conveniences. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- Local businesses, especially those in popular tourist areas, were finding it difficult to facilitate the increasing number of requests from walkers/tourists to use their toilet facilities, when Council owned conveniences were closed. Such requests were difficult as it was hard to keep track and trace records and there were higher costs involved with having to thoroughly clean the facilities after use. Consideration should be given to Council extending the opening hours of their public conveniences in such areas (e.g. Warrenpoint and Newcastle).
- In response to a query Mr Scullion confirmed Council PCs were cleaned in cognisance with Public Health advice – thoroughly cleaned 3 times daily (or twice daily depending on usage). Sanitisation stations were also placed outside the facilities for users.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the 6 No. additional public conveniences as part of the phased recovery plan be reopened from 1 October 2020.**

NS/207/2020: **PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY – 12 WEEK PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Public Convenience Strategy – 12-week public consultation. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- Mr Moore confirmed the Council could take a decision to provide literature on domestic violence in their PCs without this having to be part of the public consultation.
- Members put on record the appreciation for work that had gone into this Strategy.
- Mr Scullion confirmed officers were working on a business case for a PC at Castle Park Newcastle and this would be brought to a future Committee Meeting.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the content of the report and the update from Mr Scullion that the findings from the consultation would be brought back to Committee for review.

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/208/2020: ANNUAL COST OF DISTRICT CLEANSING AND ENFORCEMENT

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr J Parkes, providing an update on financial information on annual cost of District cleansing and enforcement services, following a request made by the Committee at the August meeting. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Parkes advised that a report on benchmarking information from all 11 Councils would be available for the Committee meeting in October.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above report.

NS/209/2020: UPDATE ON HRCs REOPENING PLAN

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr J Parkes providing an update to the Committee on the re-opening of the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), in accordance with the relaxation of social distancing measures by the NI Executive and resource availability. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Parkes advised the 10 sites would open 6 days a week from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm from Monday 28 September 2020 (except Hilltown which normally closed on a Tuesday) and Saturday opening would commence on 3 October 2020 (subject to operational issues/resources). He said if there were any changes in operating procedures Elected Members would be informed.

Members welcomed the update on Saturday opening and in response to a query, Mr Moore said even in the event of further announcements around COVID 19, he did not foresee there would be a need to close the HRCs.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update in relation to the next phase of the re-opening of the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).

FOR NOTING

NS/210/2020: NIEA – LANDFILL ALLOWANCE SCHEME (NI) REGULATIONS 2004 (AS AMENDED) 15TH SCHEME YEAR 2019/2020 – DRAFT RECONCILIATIONS

Read: Letter dated 13 August 2020 from NIEA re: The Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 (As amended) 15th Scheme Year 2019/20 – Draft Reconciliation. *(Circulated)*.

NS/211/2020: DAERA – CIRCULAR ECONOMY PACKAGE POLICY STATEMENT

Read: Correspondence from DAERA dated 17 August 2020 re: Circular Economy Package Policy Statement. *(Circulated)*.

NS/212/2020: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – AUGUST 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – August 2020. *(Circulated)*.

NS/213/2020: Arc21 JC MINUTES – JULY 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 30 July 2020. *(Circulated)*.

NS/214/2020: Arc21 CONSULTATION RESPONSE PLASTIC PACKAGING TAX

Read: Arc21 Consultation Response on Plastic Packaging Tax. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was unanimously agreed to note the above items.**

NS/215/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

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

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Item 19 is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/216/2020: BUSINESS CASE FOR REPLACEMENT DIGGER AND DUMPER

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for replacement digger and dumper. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Owen 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:-

Item 19 – Business Case for replacement digger and dumper

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case to proceed to tender to procure a replacement digger, dumper and associated plant.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.35pm.

Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: Mr R Moore
Director of Neighbourhood Services

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2020 via Skype.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor P Byrne
 Councillor L Devlin
 Councillor O Hanlon
 Councillor A Lewis
 Councillor K Owen
 Councillor G Sharvin

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward, Chief Executive
 Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance)
 Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager
 Ms K Bingham, Head of Performance and Improvement
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

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

AC/055/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor C Enright.

AC/056/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest received.

AC/057/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 06 JULY 2020

Read: Action Sheet arising out of Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 06 July 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issues were raised arising out of the Action Sheet for Audit Committee Meeting July 2020:

AC/033/2020: Direct Award Contracts

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed a Special Meeting of the Audit Committee Meeting be arranged in November 2020 for ASM Internal Auditors to present a Report regarding investigation into the process of Direct Award Contracts.

AC/030/2020: Corporate Risk Register

AGREED: It was agreed to note that Minute No AC/030/2020 regarding Corporate Risk Register remain on the Action Sheet until such times as training is provided for Members regarding changes to The Orange Book Management of Risk – Principles and Concepts.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 06 July 2020.

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)

AC/058/2020: ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019-20

Read: Statement of Accounts for Newry Mourne & Down District Council for year ended 31 March 2020 Annual and Annual Governance Statement. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Montgomery explained Council had been required to submit Draft Accounts to the Department before the end of August this year as opposed to the normal timeline of before the end of June, and he began a presentation of the Annual Accounts raising a number of significant points as follows:

- All Council land and buildings underwent re-valuation by Land & Property Services thus altering the Balance Sheet.

- General Power of Competence (which was introduced in March 2010 giving Councils power to do anything an individual could do provided it was not prohibited by any legislation) was not used during 2019 – 2020.
- No changes to Accounting Policies.
- Pages 3-19 outlines what had happened financially during the year linking strategic objectives to outcomes, giving an organisational overview of the external environment and the operational model the Council use detailing how Council spend ratepayer's money.
- Table of structure of Governance Arrangements highlighting areas the Council concentrate on: financial control; performance management; risk management; health & safety arrangements; internal and external audit; management assurances.
- Performance report – refers to the Corporate Plan setting out the Council's missions and values and progress achieved.
- Council's main achievements details improvements, objectives, progress and status of same.
- Financial Performance shows:
underspend in staff costs of £285,000; a positive Rates finalisation of £655,000; received Covid 19 support from Department for Communities of £220,000; insurance costs £117,000 less than budget £220,000 for EDRF Schemes was not accrued due to delays in the schemes; £552,000 underspend in Tourism Culture & Events.
These figures were offset by an overspend sum of £1.190,000 in Waste Management costs.
- Significant completed Capital projects during the year: Saintfield Community Centre £1.4m; Downpatrick Household Recycling Centre £1m; Kitty's Road Community Centre £300,000; Play Strategy x 5 new Play Parks £860,000.
- The financial landscape for the Council is likely to remain challenging for the foreseeable future due to ramifications of Covid 19 and Brexit and will have an effect when striking EPP later in the year. In December the Chief Executive will demonstrate the Council is in a going concern basis and showing adequate reserves going forward.
- Expected Funding Streams during the year – Belfast City Deal; NI Full Fibre; Peace 4 Programme.
- Remuneration Reports – shows reduction in Councillors Allowances.

- Significant issues within the Governance Statement: procurement; contract management; IT transformation project; economical and political climate due to Covid 19 and Brexit; Belfast Region City Deal; planning backlog; absenteeism figures.
- Balance Sheet shows – increase in net fixed assets; increase in long term borrowing; increase in long term liabilities; reduction in Capital fund; reduction in general fund.
- Payment statistics show 90% of invoices have been paid within the 30 day target.
- Contingencies – only one contingency remains in relation to procurement of Residual Waste Treatment Project.

Mr Montgomery concluded the presentation advising the Council's Draft Annual Accounts had been submitted to the Department for Communities and NIAO and that these accounts will be available for public viewing between 20 October and 16 November 2020.

He said the NIAO Audit will be completed by mid-November after which the Council's final Accounts will be presented to the Audit Committee Meeting on 07 December 2020 for consideration and signing.

In response to queries raised by Members regarding the Capital Fund and financial provision for restructuring, Ms Carville explained the legacy Down District Council had a Capital Fund of £1.2m which was released on a 2 year basis which reduced the MRP charge and benefitted the rates process. She added that the sum provided for restructuring was an estimated amount for the planning for the future project.

Regarding a query concerning the level of reserves the Council are required to hold and reserve comparisons with other Councils, Ms Carville explained the reserves level currently showing are as at 31 March 2020 and given events that have happened since then the full financial impact of Covid will not become clear in this format until next years' accounts are available. She said the Council were very fortunate to have had the amount of reserves it held when the effects of the pandemic hit at the end of March and explained the Council are required to have adequate reserves to meet medium term commitments and any other known commitments, and Officials examine these commitments on an ongoing basis to ensure the Council is financially viable.

In response to a query from the Chairperson regarding clarity on why the pension fund increased, Mr Montgomery explained the main variances each year were actuarial gains and losses on financial assumptions but that the main driver for this increase was the remeasurement of assets.

AGREED: **To note the Statement of Accounts for Newry Mourne & Down District Council for year ended 31 March 2020 Annual and Annual Governance**

Statement with final Accounts being presented to the Audit Committee Meeting on 07 December 2020 for consideration and signing.

It was agreed to circulate a paper from NIAO regarding reserve comparisons between Councils in Northern Ireland, to the Members of the Audit Committee for information.

A report on going concern and future liabilities to be tabled at the next Audit Committee Meeting in December 2020.

AC/059/2020: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 24 September 2020 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Corporate Risk Register including minor changes, new actions updating the progress of actions and new detail included within certain risks as per above Report and to note all Directorate Risk Registers will be updated for the impact of COVID19 which will be completed during October 2020.

AC/060/2020: PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS

Read: Report dated 24 September 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Prompt Payment Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne presented the Report explaining that in 2019/2020 89.9% of Council invoices were paid within 30 days, 17.2% paid within 10 days and 10.1% of invoices were paid outside the 30 day target. He said statistics for the period July to September 2020 should show an improvement as all staff were now fully operating remotely.

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 24 September 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Prompt Payment Statistics.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

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

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

**AC/061/2020: UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: Report dated 24 September 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding an update on Internal Audit Recommendations made since formation of Newry Mourne & Down District Council; review of progress on NIAO recommendations; progress on legacy outstanding audit recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/062/2020: UPDATE
RE: FRAUD AND WHISTLEBLOWING**

Read: Report dated 24 September 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Fraud and Whistleblowing. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/063/2020: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 24 September 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Direct Award Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/064/2020: ASM SUMMARY REPORT / INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Read: ASM Summary Report dated 24 September 2020 and Internal Audit Plan 2020-2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/065/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Read: ASM Internal Audit Report regarding Audit Fieldwork on Complaints Handling. **(Copy circulated)**

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)

**AC/066/2020: ADDITIONAL RISK
FINANCIAL RESILIANCE OF COUNCIL**

Read: Correspondence dated 27 August 2020 from NIAO advising that in light of the Covid 19 pandemic and financial pressures on Councils as a consequence, NIAO will include an additional significant risk to consider the financial resilience of the Council as part of the NIAO audit of the 2019/2020 Accounts and the Chief Executive will be required to undertake an assessment on the use of the going concern basis for preparation of Accounts.
(Copy circulated)

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

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

AC/061/2020: Update re: Audit Recommendations

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 24 September 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding an update on Audit Recommendations.

AC/062/2020: Fraud & Whistleblowing

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 24 September 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding an update on Fraud & Whistleblowing.

AC/063/2020: Direct Award Contracts

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 06 July from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Direct Award Contracts.

AC/064/2020: ASM Summary Report / Internal Audit Plan 2020/2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to note the ASM Summary Report dated 24 September 2020 and Internal Audit Plan 2020/2021.

To note it is proposed to bring 4 No. Reviews on the following areas, to the next meeting of the Audit Committee to be held on 07 December 2020:

- Planning
- Community Engagement
- Neighbourhood Services
- Refuse

AC/065/2020: ASM Internal Audit Report – Complaints Handling

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Owen it was agreed to note Report dated 18 September 2020 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Complaints Handling.

ASM Internal Audit to prepare a paper showing a breakdown on the areas of complaints received by Council, to be available at the Audit Committee Meeting to be held on 07 December 2020.

AC/066/2020: Additional Risk – Financial Resilience of Council

AGREED: It was agreed to note correspondence dated 27 August 2020 from NIAO regarding the inclusion of an additional significant risk to consider the financial resilience of the Council, as part of the NIAO audit of NMDDC 2019/2020 Accounts.

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)

AC/067/2020: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

Read: Report dated 24 September 2020 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding an Assessment of Performance 2019/2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note Report dated 24 September 2020 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding an Assessment of Performance 2019/2020.

AC/068/2020: **PROGRESS REPORT**

**RE: NIAO PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT
2019/2020**

Read: Report dated 24 September 2020 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services outlining progress relating to 'Proposals for Improvement' as submitted by NIAO as part of the 2019-2020 Performance Audit and Assessment. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 24 September 2020 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services outlining progress relating to 'Proposals for Improvement' 2019-2020 as per NIAO Performance Audit and Assessment.

CIRCULARS

AC/069/2020: **CIRCULARS**

Noted: No new relevant circulars have been received from departments since the last Audit Committee Meeting in July 2020.

The Chairperson extended best wishes to Mr Byrne, Audit Services Manager on his secondment to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 October 2020.

Signed: Ms D Carville
Director Corporate Services

Signed: Ms B Slevin
Independent Chairperson



Minutes of the 471st Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council
Conference Call via Webex
Thursday, 13th August 2020 at 10.30 am

The Officers joined the Meeting at 10.50 am

Present:

Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Cllr Anne Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Cllr Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Ald John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City

In Attendance:

Clark Bailie	Chief Executive (NIHE)
David Polley	Housing Division (DfC)
Judith Woodburn	Housing Division (DfC)
Elma Newberry	Assistant Director (NIHE)
Karly Greene	Head of Research & Equality Services (NIHE)
John Gowdy	Business Manager (NIHE)
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (NIHE, Secretariat)

Apologies:

Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
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1.0	Declarations of Interest	
	None.	

3.0	<p>To adopt the Minutes of the 470th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2020</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor N Mathison, seconded by Alderman A Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 470th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 11th June 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p><u>Item 4.2 – Adaptation Performance and OT waiting times and assessments</u></p> <p>It was reported that a joint presentation by representatives from the Department of Health & Social Services and the Housing Executive would be re-arranged for a future meeting to revisit and monitor the Adaptation Performance and OT waiting times and assessments.</p> <p><u>Item 9.0 – NI Water</u></p> <p>A presentation by representatives from NI Water to be re-arranged for a future meeting in relation to wastewater capacity issues.</p> <p>NOTED: Members were asked to submit a list of questions to the Secretary on the current waste water capacity issues within their areas, in order to be forwarded to Mr Des Brown from the Water Service in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>All Members</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p>The Housing Executive's Board Bulletin Board Meeting – Wednesday, 24th June 2020</p> <p>Mr Bailie reported on the Housing Executive Board's deliberations as follows:-</p> <p>Update on COVID-19</p> <p>Mr Bailie gave Members a brief update on the current situation within the Housing Executive and the impact of its services, due to COVID-19 operating as normal as possible.</p> <p>Corporate Risk Register (COVID-19)</p> <p>Finance Report as at 31 May 2020</p>	

<p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p> <p>5.7</p> <p>5.8</p> <p>5.9</p>	<p>NIHE Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023 and summary responses received from the public consultation exercise</p> <p>The Board had approved the updated Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023 'Working Together for Safer Communities' and associated Action Plan which had both been revised to take account of comments received as part of the 2019/20 public consultation.</p> <p>Mr Bailie offered Members a future presentation on this Strategy.</p> <p>Extension of Queens Quarter Housing Ltd (QQH) – Dispersed Intensively Managed Emergency Accommodation (DIME) and Housing Management facility (Contract Variation) including associated housing support requirements</p> <p>The Board had approved the paper (which is subject to funding). It was noted that there is currently insufficient funding for all the required homeless measures in phase 2 in the current £3.3million allocation. The extension of these activities will require confirmation of further funding from the Department for Communities (DfC).</p> <p>Wellington Street, Lurgan</p> <p>The Board approved to award a contract for multi elemental improvement works to 31 dwellings located at Wellington Street, Lurgan,</p> <p>CT071 – External Cyclical Maintenance Tender</p> <p>The Board approved the award of contract for External Cyclical Maintenance Works in Housing Executive properties to successful contractors, subject to government guidance and for period of 12 months subject to the guidance on COVID-19 at point of award.</p> <p>CT079 - Kitchen Replacement Tender</p> <p>The Board approved the award of contract for Kitchen Replacement Works in Housing Executive properties to successful contractors, subject to government guidance and for period of 12 months subject to the guidance on COVID-19 at point of award.</p> <p>CTU324 - Double Glazing Replacement Scheme - South Region</p> <p>The Board approved the award of contract for Replacement Double Glazing Windows in Housing Executive properties to successful contractors, subject to government guidance and for period of 12 months subject to the guidance on COVID-19 at point of award.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
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<p>5.10</p> <p>5.11</p> <p>5.12</p> <p>5.13</p> <p>5.14</p> <p>5.15</p> <p>5.16</p>	<p>Office Cleaning Services and Washroom Services - Approval to award a contract to Aramark Ireland Holdings Ltd</p> <p>It was reported that the Board had approved the award of a contract to Aramark Ireland Holdings Ltd (Aramark) for Office Cleaning Services. This contract will also provide Washroom Services. The contract will be for the period September 2020 to March 2023 with an option to extend for up to 24 months.</p> <p>Supporting People Programme-Annual Report 2019-2020</p> <p>The Board had approved the 2019-2020 annual report for the Supporting People Programme. The Department for Communities Social Housing Policy and Oversight Division requires the Housing Executive to prepare and submit a detailed annual report by June of each year. This is in line with the Operational Level Agreement between the Department for Communities and the Housing Executive.</p> <p>Undeveloped Land Schedule 2019-20</p> <p>Approval had been given by the Board on the Undeveloped Land Schedule 2019/20 and the classification of sites to be transferred to Housing Associations, retained for future use, declared surplus to requirements for disposal and reclassified as existing open space.</p> <p>Other papers were noted by the Board, as follows:-</p> <p>Update on TIU Recommendation 3.4 (b) / DfC IM 12: Major Adaptations (MAPD)</p> <p>The Strategy for delivering fixed electrical inspection programme and the commencement of a procurement competition for electrical contractors to support DLO</p> <p>Update on provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Framework</p> <p>Supporting People Programme Update</p> <p>DfC Final Report – (1) Inspection of GDPR Arrangements (2) Inspection of Procurement Arrangements in Housing Services Division</p> <p>Other Matters Arising from the Board Bulletin</p>	
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<p>6.0</p>	<p>Housing Issues, Department for Communities</p> <p>Mr David Polley and Mrs Judith Woodburn gave Members an update on the Department for Communities Housing Issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Newbuild starts • Co-ownership • Programme for Social Reform <p>Mr Cooper stated that the 'New Decade, New Approach' has to be formed by the Programme for Government, which unfortunately is not being progressed. In response Mrs Woodburn explained that the Department can seek Ministers approval to progress certain areas, but added that the investment requirement for the Housing Executive structure would require Reform with Executive agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy <p>In response to Mr Coopers question, Mrs Woodburn undertook to confirm the 20 proposals in response to the Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy, if this will be put it out for Consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers • Supporting People Delivery Strategy • Homelessness Strategy • St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena <p>It was agreed that the above item should be removed from the list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of the Private Rented Sector <p>In response to Mr Mathison's question, Mr Polley explained that due to the impact of the COVID emergency consideration is being given to extend the 'notice to quit' pilot period to 12 weeks and an announcement on the Ministers decision, will be made in the near future.</p> <p>Whilst Mr Mathison welcomed the protections that were provided were for people that are struggling financially, but subsequently in cases where there are severe anti-social behaviour he felt that there should be exceptions to this rule.</p> <p>Mr Polley undertook to provide Mr Mathison with the consultation document January 2017 titled 'Private Rented Sector in Northern Ireland Proposed for Change, for his information.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>J Woodburn</p> <p>Mr Polley</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Housing Supply • Affordable Warmth Scheme <p>Mr Polley informed Members that the capital budget for the Scheme was confirmed at £12m. Councils have been informed that funding is available to allow 44 referrals per council per month from August has been secured. Mr Polley highlighted that some Councils are not engaging with the scheme, due to staffing issues in councils (e.g.furlough) and ongoing Covid concerns which poses a threat to full delivery of the Scheme.</p> <p>Several Members asked for clarification on their individual Councils status and Mr Polley undertook to give an update on each Council at next month's meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHE Rent Scheme • Welfare Reform Mitigation payments <p>It was agreed that the above item should be removed from the list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investment • Tackle the maintenance backlog for NI Housing Executive properties • Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework • Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax • Long term rent trajectory • Affordability of social rents • Fresh Start Agreement <p>It was agreed that the above item should be removed from the list.</p>	D Polley
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7.0	<p>Presentation by John Goudy on the Housing Executive's Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21 – 2025/26</p> <p>Members received a presentation on the Housing Executive's draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21-2025/26. (Copies of the Slide are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>It was noted that the percentage of older people within Northern Ireland's population will perpetually increase over the next 25 years. Subsequently, there will be implications for the types of services that the Housing Executive will deliver alongside increasing social and healthcare pressures.</p>	
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	<p>This draft Older People's Housing Strategy has been developed to ensure the evolution is response to the projected growth in the number of older people in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Housing Executive need to consider the dynamics of change in the population need and to promote active housing stock management. This approach would benefit older people and other members of the community through ensuring that people live in homes best suited to their needs.</p> <p>It is also important that they explore flexible housing solutions, which allow people to transition from one type of housing to another in later life, as their circumstances dictate. These solutions can range from being able to 'age in place' with the assistance of adaptations to the home and/or care support, to helping to downsize to other accommodation, including sheltered housing and extra-care housing. The collaboration of a number of service providers will be essential to create places where older people feel safe and connected to their community, helping to prevent loneliness and isolation.</p> <p>The draft Strategy is set out under the following four key themes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for the future • Promoting and Maintaining Dignity • Providing Housing Advice for Older People • Promoting Participation <p>Agreed - Members should forward any comments on the Consultation document to the Secretary, in order for a corporate response to be compiled.</p> <p>Noted: Closing date for response to this document is Friday, 25th September</p>	<p>All Members Secretary</p>
8.0	<p>Presentation on Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2020-2025</p> <p>Elma Newbery and Karly Greene gave Members a joint presentation on the Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2020-2025. (Copies of the slides are appended to these minutes – Appendix B).</p> <p>The Irish Traveller community is long established in Northern Ireland and its history and traditions stretch back many years.</p>	

	<p>However, Irish Travellers are also among the most disadvantaged and marginalised people living in Northern Ireland and can face multiple deprivations in relation to health and well-being, housing, education, racism, mortality and discrimination.</p> <p>The Housing Executive supports the right for everyone to have access to decent adequate housing. The Strategy sets out how we plan to provide Irish Travellers with access to good quality, culturally appropriate housing accommodation which fosters a sustainable, vibrant Traveller community and promotes inclusion, a sense of belonging and security.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a number of key actions and includes an implementation plan laying out a work programme over the next five years to achieve these. The Strategy's four objectives, are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a Traveller Specific Accommodation Needs Assessment; • To provide safe and culturally appropriate accommodation for Irish Travellers to reside and travel to; • To support the Irish Traveller community to remain in their accommodation of choice through easily accessible housing services; • To create mechanisms that foster good relations for the Irish Traveller community. <p>Agreed - Members should forward any comments on the Consultation document to the Secretary, in order for a corporate response to be compiled.</p> <p>Noted - Closing date for response to this document is Wednesday 23rd September.</p>	All Members Secretary
9.0	<p>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions</p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
10.0	<p>The Housing Executive's Scheme Starts June & July 2020</p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	

11.0	Any Other Business	
11.1	Joint Board/Housing Council Workshop Members were reminded that following comments from Mrs Grehan, the Chair of the Housing Executive Board had suggested a joint workshop with the Housing Council regarding the SHDP, New Build and any other issues of mutual interest. Noted: that the joint workshop will take place on Thursday, 3 rd September at 10.00 am in the Housing Centre Boardroom or alternatively via Webex.	Secretary
12.0	Date and Venue of Next Meeting – 10th September 2020 at 10.30 am. It was agreed that the meeting could possibly be held in Ardeevin, Ballymena for those who wish to attend the meeting in person. It was recognised that other Members may prefer to continue to participate through the video/conference call facility.	Secretary

The Meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.



SEPTEMBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 10th September 2020 at 10.30 am in the Ardeevin, Ballymena or via Conference Call.

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

Members Present

Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Cllr Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Ald John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Members Apologies

Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough

The Housing Council's considered various routine items at the Meeting, followed by detailed discussions on the undernoted matters:-

The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on **Housing Executive's Business from the August Board Meeting**, which included the following items:-

- Update on Housing Executive work during COVID-19
- CT055 Planned Maintenance Procurement Strategy
- Supporting People Programme Update
- Supporting People Services greater than £500k for approval
- Homelessness Strategy 2017/2022 - Year 3 Annual Report
- Tenancy Fraud Update
- Community Safety Strategy Action Plan Update August 2020
- Land Acquisitions & Disposals Quarterly Update - August 2020
- Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Annual Report 2019-20
- Complaints Annual Performance 2019/20

Members then received an update from Paul Price and David Polley Department for Communities, on the **Departments' Housing Top Issues** to date, which included:-

- 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 – A detailed discussion took place on this issue.
- NIHE Rent Scheme
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investment
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework
- Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents
- Review of the Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland

Members received the following presentations:-

- Presentation by Dr Steve Blockwell, Northern Ireland Water on Waste Water Capacity Issues;
- Presentation by Paul Isherwood, Director of Asset Management (NIHE) on ARTES Project.

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8th October at 10.30 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre, Belfast.

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

Contacts

Chair

Alderman Tommy Nicholl MBE

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Secretary

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Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Our ref: C160/20

4 September 2020

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Council Offices
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT35 8DJ

Dear Ms Ward

I refer to your letter of 4 August 2020 on a motion passed by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council in relation to the provision of District Electoral Area specific information and or a helpline for elected members for to localised outbreaks of COVID-19.

The letter was presented to Council at its meeting of 27 August 2020. I wish to confirm that members supported the motion and agreed to write to the Department of Health and the Public Health Agency requesting the aforementioned.

Yours sincerely

Philip Moffett
Head of Democratic Services

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



Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, South Down and South
Armagh District Council

council@nmandd.org

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559

Fax: 02890520573

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP5497
SCORR-0267-2020

Date: 4 September 2020

Dear Marie

In September 2018 the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) launched a public consultation on the introduction of proposed new Clinical Response Model. Support for the proposed new model during the consultation was very positive.

Implementation of the new Clinical Response Model will require a programme of change to address the increase in demand for ambulance services through the introduction of new clinically appropriate response times, the monitoring of service performance using new standards and indicators, and investment in ambulance service staff and services. The new model will prioritise the sickest patients and ensure that we incentivise clinically and operationally efficient behaviours.

The Department is currently working with NIAS to progress the Strategic Outline Case for the Clinical Response Model (CRM) and ensure that it meets the requirements of the Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY

From the Office of the Minister
Diane Dodds MLA



Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
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Netherleigh
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Our Ref: CORR-4483-2020

15 September 2020

Dear Marie

Job losses at Collins Aerospace, Kilkeel

Thank you for your communication dated 4th August 2020, regarding the job losses at Collins Aerospace, Kilkeel. I fully recognise the importance and impact of Collins Aerospace to the local economy in Kilkeel and the wider South Down area.

I want to say that I share your concern that COVID-19 represents an existential crisis for the international aerospace industry, with severe and long-term impacts beyond any other threat that has preceded it. Companies are experiencing significantly reduced production rates, global supply chain interruptions, and future orders are being deferred.

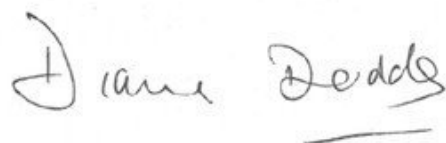
Aerospace has been, and remains, a high priority sector for the Northern Ireland Executive. Industry and Government have been working closely together in the implementation of the Northern Ireland Aerospace strategy "Partnering for Growth", launched 2014. This is a commitment by the industry and Government to double the annual revenues from £1bn to £2bn and increase employment from 8000 highly skilled staff to 10000 by 2024. In 2019 the performance of the sector indicated revenues of £1.9bn and employment of 10000 staff. COVID-19 has significantly affected the sector and the global aerospace market analysis are forecasting limited growth, at least over the medium term.

I have been engaged with representatives of Northern Ireland Aerospace including Collins Aerospace and will continue to meet businesses so that I can fully understand the issues that confront the sector. I have also met trade unions representatives to discuss the issues facing the industry.

I continue to work with my colleagues in the Northern Ireland Executive as well as Ministers from the other Devolved Administrations and Whitehall to present a strong case for co-ordinated support for the Aerospace Sector.

I recognise that this is a company that has built up valuable skills and capabilities over decades and I want to see that knowhow preserved and secured for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Dodds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

DIANE DODDS MLA
Minister for the Economy