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

February 6th, 2017

<u>Notice Of Meeting</u>

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 6th February 2017** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2 Declarations of Interest

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

3 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 9 January 2017

4 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 9 January 2017

To set a District Rate for the financial year 2017/2018

5 To set a District Rate for the financial year 2017/2018 as required under Section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011.

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2017

7 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting

draft-knowledge-framework-january-2017.pdf | Page 92

Notices of Motion

15 Notice of Motion received from Councillor Ó Muirí

"That this Council agrees that the decision by DUP Minister Paul Givan to remove £50k bursaries from the Líofa initiative shows further disregard for the Irish language and he should immediately restore £50k of bursaries to the Líofa initiative"

16 Notice of Motion received from Councillor Stokes

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council calls on the Department for Infrastructure to reverse its decision to increase on street parking charges in Newry by 50% from 40p per hour to 60p per hour."

For Noting

17 Report of Efficiency Working Group Meetings

This item 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.

18th November 2016 - copy attached

30th November 2016 - copy attached

22nd December 2016 - copy attached

16th January 2017 - copy attached

1st February 2017 - copy to follow

Efficiency Working Group 18.11.2016.pdf — ***Not included***

Efficiency Working Group 30.11.16.pdf — ***Not included***

Efficiency Working Group 22.12.16.pdf — ***Not included***

Efficiency Working Group 16 01 2017.pdf — ***Not included***

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews	terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Naomi Bailie	naomi.bailie@nmandd.org
Cllr Patrick Brown	patrick.brown@nmandd.org
Cllr Robert Burgess	robert.burgess@nmandd.org
Cllr Stephen Burns	stephen.burns@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Pete Byrne	pete.byrne@nmandd.org
Cllr Michael Carr	michael.carr@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Mrs Dorinnia Carville	dorinnia.carville@nmandd.org
Cllr charlie casey	charlie.casey@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr William Clarke	william.clarke@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Garth Craig	garth.craig@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Dermot Curran	dermot.curran@downdc.gov.uk
Mr Eddy Curtis	eddy.curtis@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Laura Devlin	laura.devlin@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Sean Doran	sean.doran@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Sinead Ennis	sinead.ennis@nmandd.org
Cllr Cadogan Enright	cadogan.enright@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Gillian Fitzpatrick	gillian.fitzpatrick@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Glyn Hanna	glyn.hanna@nmandd.org
Mr Liam Hannaway	liam.hannaway@nmandd.org
Cllr Valerie Harte	valerie.harte@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Harry Harvey	harry.harvey@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Terry Hearty	terry.hearty@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr David Hyland	david.hyland@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Liz Kimmins	liz.kimmins@nmandd.org
Cllr Mickey Larkin	micky.larkin@nmandd.org
Mr Michael Lipsett	michael.lipsett@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Kate Loughran	kate.loughran@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Jill Macauley	jill.macauley@nmandd.org
Cllr Kevin Mc Ateer	kevin.mcateer@nmandd.org
Cllr Declan McAteer	declan.mcateer@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Andrew McMurray	andrew.mcmurray@nmandd.org
Eileen McParland	eileen.mcparland@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Roisin Mulgrew	roisin.mulgrew@nmandd.org
Cllr Mark Murnin	mark.murnin@nmandd.org
Cllr Barra O Muiri	barra.omuiri@nmandd.org
Cllr Pol O'Gribin	pol.ogribin@nmandd.org
Mr Canice O'Rourke	canice.orourke@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Brian Quinn	brian.quinn@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Henry Reilly	henry.reilly@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Cllr Michael Ruane	michael.ruane@newryandmourne.gov.uk

Cllr Gareth Sharvin	gareth.sharvin@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Gary Stokes	gary.stokes@nmandd.org
Sarah Taggart	sarah-louise.taggart@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr David Taylor	david.taylor@newryandmourne.gov.uk
Caroline Taylor	Caroline.Taylor@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly	jarlath.tinnelly@nmandd.org
Cllr John Trainor	john.trainor@nmandd.org
Cllr William Walker	william.walker@nmandd.org
Mrs Marie Ward	marie.ward@downdc.gov.uk

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 9 January 2017 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor G Fitzpatrick

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Burns	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

(Officials)
Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

C/001/2017 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Devlin, Councillor Bailie, Councillor Sharvin, Councillor Casey, Councillors Andrews, Councillor K McAteer, Councillor Ennis, Councillor O'Muiri and Councillor Mulgrew.

The Chairperson said that since the last Council Meeting, Councillor Naomi Bailie had been taken very ill. She said she had been in contact with Naomi who had undergone several surgeries and she asked that everyone keep Naomi in their prayers.

C/002/2017	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor McMurray declared an interest in item No. 17 on the agenda – "Notice of Motion received from Councillors Brown and Tinnelly regarding the proposed closure of 3 outdoor education Centres in the District". He advised he was an employee at one of the Centres.

Councillor Brown advised he would no longer be proposing this Motion as the matter could be discussed arising from the Active and Healthy Committee minutes.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/003/2017	**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2016**
Read:	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 December 2016 (copy circulated)
AGREED:	**The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hyland.**
C/004/2017	**ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2016**
Read:	Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 December 2016 (copy circulated)
AGREED:	**The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 December 2016 was agreed, subject to the action on C/221/2016 – Community Access to Dan Rice Hall being changed from "completed" to "on-going" (at the request of Councillor Murnin).**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/005/2017	**MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2016**
Read:	Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2016 (copy circulated)

ERT/196/2016 – Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2021

Councillor Curran referred to the Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 and said whilst he fully supported the Strategy he felt it was necessary to meet with the Consultants. He said he had made this request at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting on Monday 12 December but this had not been included in the minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Burgess said he supported Councillor Curran's request to meet with the Consultants regarding the Tourism Strategy.

Councillor Hanna said he supported the Strategy but wanted to highlight the fact that the Mournes and Ballynahinch areas, which were mainly Unionist areas, had not been targeted within the Strategy.

With regard to cultural tourism attractions, Councillor Hanna stated that events held by the Orange Order which attracted huge numbers of people into the District, should have more prominence within the Strategy and that Ulster Scots heritage also needed to be incorporated into the Strategy.

Councillor Reilly and Councillor Walker concurred with the comments made by Councillor Hanna regarding more recognition being given within the Tourism Strategy for cultural events and Ulster Scots heritage.

Councillor Walker asked that reference needed to be made to culture and heritage in the Saintfield, Killyleagh and Ballynahinch areas.

Ms Ward said recognising culture and heritage in the Mournes was a key strand within the Strategy and although specific areas were not mentioned in the document, further detail would be brought forward by way of the Action Plan. She assured Members that no areas were being ignored and the Council was engaging with the industry in order to bring to life the District's culture and heritage.

Councillor McAteer referred to the development and promotion of Carlingford Lough on a joint basis with Louth County Council and said this should have more prominence with the Tourism Strategy.

Councillor W Clarke said the Tourism Strategy was a strategic document and he paid tribute to all involved in developing the document. He stressed the importance of working with businesses in order to bring in overseas visitors. He referred to the rich coastal heritage and to activity tourism opportunities which existed in the District, and said it was important these aspects were incorporated going forward.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to arrange a meeting between Councillor Curran and the Consultants engaged on the development of the Councils Tourism Strategy.**

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Clarke.**

C/006/2017 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2016, including an up-dated draft response to Consultation on the future delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland. (copy circulated)

SPR/282/2016 – Correspondence from the Department for Communities re: Regeneration Bill

Councillor Taylor said it had been agreed at the SPR Meeting that Council write to the Minister for Communities asking him to reconsider the decision not to progress the Regeneration Bill. However he said it would also be beneficial for the Council to request a meeting with officials from the Department for Communities to discuss the Regeneration Bill.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Brown, that the Council also request a meeting with officials from the Department for Communities to discuss the Regeneration Bill.**

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record, subject to an apology being recorded for Councillor Murnin and adopted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Ruane.**

C/007/2017 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2016 (copy circulated)

AHC/174/2016 – Education Authority Review of Residential and Outdoor Centres

Councillor Brown referred to the decision taken at the AHC Meeting that a letter be sent to the Minister asking for a halt of the consultation on review of residential and outdoor centres until such times as the full review could be carried out, and that an urgent meeting be sought with the Minister in relation to the matter.

Councillor Brown said he would also like the Council to seek an urgent meeting with officials from the Education Authority and on this basis he would withdraw the Motion he had submitted, together with Councillor Tinnelly - agenda item 17.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that the Council also seek an urgent meeting with officials from the Education Authority regarding the Review of Residential and Outdoor Centres.**

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Walker.**

C/008/2017 **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 8 December 2016 (copy circulated)

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Ruane.**

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

C/009/2017 **COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS**

Read: Amended Standing Orders presented to Council in accordance with Council's Standing Order 27.2 (copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Curran to approve and adopt the amended Standing Orders as presented.**

AGREED: **At the request of Councillor Reilly it was agreed that he be provided with a tracked copy which showed the changes in comparison to the previous Standing Orders.**

AGREED: **At the request of Councillor Craig it was agreed that officials check with the Council's Legal Advisors that the clause in relation to Liquidation Damage Claims was meaningful and enforceable.**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

C/010/2017 **REVIEW OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS**

Read: Department for Communities Review of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors Public Consultation December 2016. (copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed not to make a corporate response on behalf of the Council as it was considered that this was a matter for consideration and response by Political Parties, the NAC and NILGA.**

C/011/2017 **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRANSFORMATION – CONSULTATION ON CRITERIA FOR RECONFIGURING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 9 January 2017 from Ms A Rennick, Investing for Health Officer, regarding Consultation on Criteria for Reconfiguring Health and Social Care Services and seeking approval for the draft response and the inclusion of the issues raised by both Downe and Daisy Hill Health Fora as an appendix to the Consultation Response Questionnaire. (Copy circulated).

Councillor Enright said he felt there should be two separate responses submitted by the Council on the issues which were raised in relation to the South Eastern Trust and the Southern Health and Social Services Trust. He said there were a series of different issues raised in relation to the Downe Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital.

Councillor Reilly supported Councillor Enright's comments and Councillor Hanna said the Mournes area was unique from other areas as it took in both Trust areas.

Councillors D McAteer, Burns, Craig, Trainor and Hyland said the Council should respond as a Corporate Body and the draft response, together with the appendix summary, incorporated all the issues raised.

Councillor McAteer proposed and Councillor Hearty seconded that the Council approve the draft response as circulated and that a summary of the issues raised by both Downe and Daisy Hill Health Fora be attached as an appendix to the response.

The motion was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

FOR: **29**
AGAINST: **1**
ABSTENTIONS: **Nil**

The motion was declared carried.

AGREED: **It was agreed to approve the draft response on Criteria for Reconfiguring Health and Social Care Services and to include a summary of the issues raised by both Downe and Daisy Hill Health Fora as an appendix to the Consultation Response Questionnaire.**

C/012/2017 **PHA DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2017-2021 – ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS**

Read: Details from the Public Health Agency on interactive workshops on the Public Health Agency Corporate Plan 2017-2021 to be held on Tuesday 24 January in Derry/Londonderry or 27 January 2017 in Newtownabbey. (copy circulated).

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

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

C/013/2017 **PLANNING REFORM IN NORTHERN IRELAND: PROGRESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FORWARD STRATEGY**

Read: Details from Policy Forum for Northern Ireland on the above Conference to be held on Thursday 23 March 2017 at a cost of £210 plus VAT. (details circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor K McAteer, to obtain a copy of the briefing document from the Conference at a cost of £95 plus VAT.**

SEALING DOCUMENTS

C/014/2017 **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

AGREED: **It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Macauley:**

1. Licence Agreement – Shimna Road Car Park, Newcastle.

Councillor Burgess left the meeting – 7.00 pm.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/015/2017 **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR ENRIGHT**

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

"Council notes that Councillors have never voted for the unofficial policy currently holding sway in Newry Mourne and

Down Council on not using the word 'Christmas' ('Nollaig' in Gaelic).

Similarly Councillors have not authorised the use of 'Kris Cringle' As a replacement for 'Saint or Santa Claus' or its Gaelic version of Daddaí na Nollag'. Council notes that Down Councillors repeated voiced complaints that Council staff were using Kris Kringle rather than the English or Gaelic versions and that this practice has now spread into the new council.

Council notes there are no section 75 reasons that require discontinuing traditional names or mis-naming of traditional festivals on the basis they have the word 'Christ' or 'Saint' in their names.

Council therefore directs management to cease politically correct banalities like 'seasonal reception' or 'Kris Kringle', 'Winterval' or 'season's greetings' or 'happy holidays' in Council business and events for Christmas or involving Santa Claus and bring forward a section 75 consultation on how we can properly recognise Christmas and all the traditional elements of this celebration."

In proposing the motion, Councillor Enright stated that Newry Mourne and Down District Council had developed a good reputation for looking after minorities, supporting the celebration of religious festivals and doing many good things in recognising diversity. Although, over the last year, he had noted with concern an unofficial policy regarding the non-use of the word Christmas.

Councillor Enright said he had been in contact with the Equality Commission, who had confirmed that there were no Section 75 issues with the use of "Christmas", "Happy Christmas", "Christmas Party" or "Christmas Celebration", and the Equality Commission had also been clear that there was no requirement to have "Season Receptions or Seasons Greetings" used as an alternative.

Councillor Enright went on to say that the Equality Commission had advised that if there was no official policy, there could be an unofficial policy, in which case Council would be required under law to bring forward a Section 75 report to Council and that Council's Equality Officer had confirmed that there was no official policy in this regard.

Councillor Harvey seconded the motion saying it was good that action was being taken on this issue. He said it would be interesting to know if the Christmas story was being diluted because of people not using the familiar Christmas words and their meaning.

Councillor Reilly gave his support to the motion, saying he had raised the issue previously with a number of agencies and bodies and had pointed out Christmas was marking the birth of Jesus Christ and it was unfortunate Christian values could not be upheld and acknowledged.

Councillor Carr queried why this Notice of Motion had come before Council in its current form, saying it was impossible to overturn a policy which did not exist.

Councillors Burns and Ruane said the motion was ridiculous.

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

FOR: **10**
AGAINST: **13**

The MOTION was declared LOST.

C/116/2017 **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR ENRIGHT**

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

> **"Council notes that many small community organisations do not have the cash flow to fund large projects that have been agreed for grant-aiding by Council. Council's policy of releasing 50% of grants to assist cash flow does not resolve this situation sufficiently for projects that involve several thousand pounds.**
>
> **Management are required to bring forward practical proposals to enable such projects to proceed without cash-flow issues."**

Councillor Enright proposed the motion which was seconded by Councillor Walker.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the Motion be referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee.**

C/018/2017 **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS HYLAND AND K MCATEER**

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

> **"The British Secretary of State, in conjunction with other unaccountable agencies, has ordered the incarceration of Derry Republican Tony Taylor without charge or trial. This Council calls for Tony's immediate release from prison."**

In proposing the motion, Councillor Hyland said that Derry man, Tony Taylor had been released from prison in 2014, having served 3 years in custody and a further 4 years on licence. He said Tony Taylor was a member of the Republican Network for

Unity and had contributed to local politics in Derry by peacefully raising the issue of benefits cuts, prison conditions and policing issues. He had complied with the terms of his licence but had been detained by the police in October 2015 and interviewed over 2 days regarding alleged Republican activity. He had been unconditionally released, but on 10 March 2016, whilst out shopping, had been arrested and returned to prison because of the risk he posed to the public.

Councillor Hyland went on to say that Tony Taylor's lawyers' had asked for his immediate release, but this had been refused. He said there was no objective evidence that Tony Taylor had breached his licence conditions and his recall was internment in all but name and was without justification.

Councillor Hyland pointed out that two other Councils in the north of Ireland had recently passed motions condemning the internment of Tony Taylor which were Derry & Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council.

Councillor Enright seconded the motion, saying this was a very worrying situation and that special powers were still in place which should have been done away years ago when the peace process came into being.

Councillor Craig said he would not be supporting the motion and said it was divisive and an attempt to legitimise terrorism and there was a stark reminder of those who committed the atrocities in the province.

Councillor Walker questioned why the motion was before Council, saying the individual was from Londonderry and motions should only relate to the District. He said the licence had been revoked for good reason as he was a threat to society and should remain behind bars until his trial.

Councillor Taylor referred to Council's Standing Orders and queried why the motion was being presented to Council, saying it had no relevance to Council.

Councillor McMurray advised that the Alliance Party would be voting against the motion.

Councillor Stokes said this was a human rights issue and the SDLP would be supporting the motion.

Councillor Ruane advised Sinn Fein would also be supporting the motion.

In response to Councillor Taylor's query, the Chairperson referred to Standing Order 16, and said she considered the case of Tony Taylor to be a human rights issue and her interpretation of Standing Orders was that the motion should come to Council.

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

FOR:	**20**
AGAINST:	**8**
ABSTENTIONS	**0**

The MOTION was declared CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Signed: ____________________________________

Chairperson

____

Chief Executive

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/003/2017	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 December 2016	Minutes agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	L Hannaway E McParland	**Actioned.**	
C/004/2017	Action Sheet arising from Council meeting held on 5 December 2017	Action Sheet from Council meeting held on 5 December 2016 agreed subject to the action on C/221/2016 – Community Access to Dan Rice Hall being changed from "completed" to "on-going" (at the request of Councillor Murnin).	M Lipsett	**Ongoing.**	
C/005/2017	Minutes of ERT 12 December 2016	Meeting to be arranged between Cllr Curran and the Consultants engaged on the development of the Council's Tourism Strategy. Minutes agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	M Ward		
C/006/2016	Minutes of SPR – 15 December 2016	Council to request a meeting with officials from the Department for Communities to discuss the Regeneration Bill. Minutes agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	M Ward	**Meeting to be organised – ongoing.**	
C/007/2017	Minutes of AHC – 19 December 2016	Council to seek an urgent meeting with officials from the Education Authority regarding the Review of Residential and Outdoor Centres. Minutes agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	M Lipsett	**Correspondence sent 17.1.17 to Education Authority seeking a meeting.**	
C/008/2017	Minutes of Audit Committee – 8 December 2016	Minutes agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	D Carville	**Agreed.**	
C/009/2017	Council's Standing Orders	Council's Standing Orders approved and adopted. Cllr Reilly to be provided with a tracked copy showing	E McParland E McParland	**Approved.** **Actioned.**	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		the changes in comparison to the previous Standing Orders. Officials to check with Council's Legal Advisors that the clause in relation to Liquidation Damage Claims was meaningful and enforceable.	 E McParland	 **Advice received from Head of Legal Administration confirms Council's interest are protected.**	
C/010/2017	Review of the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors	Response to be made on a party political basis, NAC and NILGA.	Members		
C/011/2017	Health & Social Care Transformation – Consultation on Criteria for Reconfiguring Health & Social Care Services	Draft Response on Criteria for Reconfiguring Health and Social Care Services approved. Include a summary of the issues raised by both Downe and Daisy Hill Health Fora as an appendix to the Consultation Response Questionnaire.	M Lipsett	**Draft response sent 16.1.17.**	
C/012/2017	PHA Draft Corporate Plan 2017 – 2021 Engagement Workshops	Correspondence noted.		**Noted.**	
C/013/2017	Planning Reform in NI Progress, Economic Development and Forward Strategy	It was agreed to obtain a copy of the briefing document from the conference at a cost of £95 plus VAT.	C O'Rourke	**Email sent by CT to Lorraine Burns to action.**	
C/014/2017	Sealing Documents	It was agreed to sign and seal the documents listed.	A Robb.	**Signed and sealed.**	
C/016/2017	Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright	It was agreed that the Notice of Motion be referred to the AHC Committee.	Democratic Services/M Lipsett	**NOM referred to AHC.**	
C/017/2017	Notice of Motion received from Councillors Hyland and K McAteer	It was agreed that Council calls for Republican Tony Taylor's immediate release from prison.	E McParland	**Letters sent to Justice Minister and Secretary of State.**	

Report to:	**Council**
Date of Meeting:	6th February 2017
Subject:	**District Rate 2017-18**
Reporting Officers (Including Job Title):	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ken Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance

Decisions required: Members are asked to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Efficiencies Working Group in relation to the 2017-18 rate setting process (see Appendix 1) and:

1. **Approve the 4 year capital programme budget of £100,396,852 (see Appendix 2);**
2. **Approve the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2017-18 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 3);**
3. **Approve financing severance costs of £987,104 from reserves in 2017-18;**
4. **Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017-18 (see Appendix 4);**
5. **Have regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (see 2.1 below);**
6. **Approve an increase in the district rate for 2017/18 of 2.66% based on an estimated penny product of 2,277,215 meaning a non-domestic rate of 22.9904 pence and a domestic rate of 0.3692 pence (Appendix 5);**
7. **Approve the 2017-18 estimates and authorise the expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 6).**

1.0	**Purpose and Background:**
1.1	The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires that a Council shall fix, for the next financial, the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates made by the Council.
2.0	**Key issues:**
2.1	**Chief Executive's submission to Council on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and robustness of the revenue estimates.** In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Chief Executive, as Chief Financial Officer is required to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves position as part of the rate setting process. Detailed estimates have been formulated, presented and scrutinised by members

	via the Efficiency Working Group meetings. These have taken into account past outturn, current spending plans and likely future demand and pressures. However, it should be highlighted that there are a number of significant uncertainties within the current estimates which have arisen due to current political instability. • At present there has been no agreed budget by the NI Executive. The absence of an agreed budget has the potential to impact on the ability of the Department for Communities (DfC) to issue rates support grant to Councils. However the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 27 states that "the Department shall for each financial year make a grant under this section to Councils". £2.5m has been included in the estimates for 2017-18 in anticipation of receipt, calculated on the basis of the total amount set aside by the Executive in 2016/17 for rates support grant divided by the percentage due to NMDDC for 2017/18 as advised by DfC earlier this year. • Furthermore, current political instability prevents the determination of a regional rate for 2017/18 and is likely to lead to delays in the collection of rates. However, Land and Property Services (LPS) have advised that Councils are protected in legislation and, therefore, are guaranteed payment of their rates in instalments. There may however be some delay to these payments, and we have been mindful of this potential delay in our calculations of working capital requirements as part of our Prudential Indicators and MRP Statement 2017/18. • Included within our 2017-18 estimates are various areas of funding received from central government. We have included amounts on the basis of our previous arrangements with central government. However, it is important to note that until such times as a budget is agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive these funding streams are uncertain. As a result of this process I am satisfied that the estimates presented, subject to the significant uncertainties noted above, should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2016/17 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to the Council have been made in the preparation of the estimates. The minimum prudent level of reserves that the Council should maintain is a matter of judgement. CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) guidance does not set a statutory minimum level so it is up to the Council itself, taking into account all the relevant local circumstances, to make a professional judgement on what the appropriate level of reserves and balances should be. This Council has historically considered 1 month's expenditure to be a prudent level of reserves to maintain. The Council's general fund balance is forecast to be in the region of £8m at 1 April 2017 representing 14% of its gross expenditure. I am therefore content that the current reserves held by the Council are adequate.
3.0	**Recommendations:**
3.1	It is recommended that members: 1. Approve the 4 year capital programme budget of £100,396,852 (see

	Appendix 2); 2. Approve the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2017-18 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 3); 3. Approve financing severance costs of £987,104 from reserves in 2017-18; 4. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017-18 (see Appendix 4); 5. Have regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (see 2.1 above); 6. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2017/18 of 2.66% based on an estimated penny product of 2,277,215 meaning a non-domestic rate of 22.9904 pence and a domestic rate of 0.3692 pence (Appendix 5); 7. Approve the 2017-18 estimates and authorise the expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 6).
4.0	**Resource implications**
4.1	Resource implications are as detailed in the appendices.
5.0	**Equality and good relations implications:**
5.1	None
6.0	**Appendices**
	Appendix 1: Summary of meetings of Efficiency Working Group to consider rate setting process 2017-18. Appendix 2: Four Year Capital Programme Appendix 3: Prudential Indicators and MRP Statement 2017-18 Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017-18 Appendix 5: Medium Term Financial Plan Appendix 6: Estimates of Expenditure

Back to Agenda

Report to:	**Council Meeting**
Date of Meeting:	6th February 2017
Subject:	**Efficiency Working Group consideration of rate setting process 2017-18**
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services

Decisions required:	
To note the considerations and recommendations of the Efficiency Working Group as part of the 2017-18 District Rate setting process.	
1.0	**Purpose and Background:**
1.1	It was previously agreed by SP&R Committee on 13 October 2016 that the Efficiency Working Group would give detailed consideration to the 2017-18 rate setting process. There have been five meetings of the Efficiency Working Group focused primarily on the detailed budget setting processes for the four year period commencing 2017-18. All Council members have been invited to attend each meeting. The meetings of the Efficiency Working Group are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information). The minutes of each meeting which considered the budget setting process underpinning the 2017-18 District rate are available at Agenda item 17 for members to note. In the interests of openness and transparency, a summary of each budget session is detailed below.
2.0	**Key issues:**
2.1	• Session 1 (18 November 2016) considered in detail the four year capital programme of Council and the associated costs of delivering the desired capital projects of Council. Members were also advised, via an amendment log, of all items proposed to be added to or removed from the capital programme. Key items included in the capital programme related to the delivery of Council's Corporate Plan. These included tourism projects, Council's Sports, Play and IT strategies, as well as a Newry Civic Centre project.

	• Session 2 (30 November 2016) further considered the capital programme. Members were also advised of a number of legislative changes in 2017-18 which would have a direct revenue costs to Council and, therefore, affect the District rate. These included the introduction of an Apprenticeship Levy, additional NILGOSC pension contributions, the roll out of brown bins to an additional 27,500 households in the District and incremental payroll increases. These legislative based costs were estimated at £1.1m and, therefore, would increase the District rate by approximately 2%. **It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr D. McAteer, seconded by Cllr Curran, that the Capital Programme be agreed in principle.** • Session 3 (22 December 2016) focused on the revenue budget for 2017-18. Members were provided with a detailed breakdown of the draft revenue budget and the corresponding prior year budget. **It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Byrne, seconded by Cllr Taylor, that the costs of the Crematorium (£3.5m) be taken out of the Capital Programme.** On 16 January 2017, members were provided with training on the Prudential Code by Council's treasury advisors Arling Close and the role of Council in determining an appropriate Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for Council. • Session 4 (16 January 2017) provided members with further information relating to the 2017-18 budget. Members were advised of action taken by Directorates to reduce budgets by 2%. Actions included the removal of a number of vacant positions from the budgeted payroll, efficiency savings from the centralisation of a number of contracts, reduced spend on certain items of maintenance equipment and additional income to be achieved in the AHC directorate. Members were advised that to achieve 2% budget reductions in the RTS directorate would affect front line services. **It was agreed that an options paper detailing the proposed 2% Savings in the RTS Directorate, would be brought back to the next Efficiencies Working Group meeting.** **It was agreed that officers investigate changing the MRP policy relating to the life of the asset and bring a paper back to the next Efficiencies Working Group.** **It was agreed that the request from East Border Region to allocate £20k towards the 2017/18 running costs, be included in the budget figures going forward.**

	• Session 5 (1 February 2017) considered further the draft estimates. Members were advised of the additional work undertaken by officers, and the advice provided by our Treasury advisors regarding Minimum Revenue Provisions (MRP), and the underlying assumptions to be adopted in determining an appropriate MRP policy for Council. Monthly Management Accounts were presented to members at three of the five meetings noted above and members were advised of significant variances to budget in the current year to date.
3.0	**Recommendations:**
3.1	Members are asked to note the considerations and recommendations of the Efficiency Working Group in the rate setting process 2017-18.
4.0	**Resource implications**
4.1	None
5.0	**Equality and good relations implications:**
5.1	None
6.0	**Appendices**
	None

NMDDC Four Year Capital Programme 2017-18 to 2020-21

Directorate	Officer	Project Group	2016/2017 Projected £	2017/2018 Budget £	2018/2019 Budget	2019/2020 Budget £	2020/2021 Budget	Total Budget	Total Budget £	Grant Income £
AHC	ED	Wellbeing Total	0	58,983	58,983	58,983	0	176,949		0
AHC	JH	Community Total	78,904	1,118,500	1,310,000	660,000	660,000	3,827,404		0
AHC	RM	Amenity Total	0	128,000	122,000	130,000	0	380,000		0
AHC	RM	Bowling Greens Total	0	255,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	360,000		0
AHC	RM	Leisure Centre Total	0	215,000	100,000	0	0	315,000		0
AHC	RM	Pavillion Total	0	261,000	0	0	0	261,000		0
AHC	RM	Playgrounds Total	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	120,000		0
AHC	RM	Playing Fields Total	301,347	1,712,000	1,310,000	1,246,000	980,000	5,549,347		0
AHC	RM	Sports Total	0	60,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	90,000		0
AHC	RM	Tennis Courts Total	15,000	77,000	95,000	0	0	187,000		0
ERT	DR/MB	Tourism Total	22,000	333,750	51,250	0	0	407,000		0
ERT	JMG	Enterprise Total	72,100	0	25,000	0	0	97,100		0
ERT	JMG	Heritage Total	23,000	517,000	20,000	0	0	560,000		0
ERT	JMG	Is this required Total	9,000	0	0	0	0	9,000		0
ERT	JMG	Public Realm Total	365,000	75,000	0	0	0	440,000		0
ERT	JMG	Regeneration Total	175,000	130,000	80,000	0	0	385,000		0
ERT	JMG	Tourism Total	3,283,149	1,726,000	591,000	166,000	0	5,766,149		0
ERT	MB	Enterprise Total	0	259,000	0	0	0	259,000		0
ERT	MB/SK	Tourism Total	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
ERT	MK/NC	Heritage Total	10,000	175,000	40,000	0	0	225,000		0
ERT	MP	Tourism Total	16,000	32,000	50,000	50,000	0	148,000		0
ERT	MO	Publi Realm Total	0	110,000	0	0	0	110,000		0
ERT	NC	Heritage Total	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
ERT	SB	Tourism Total	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
ERT	SC	Enterprise Total	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
ERT	SK	Tourism Total	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
ERT	SK	Enterprise Total	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000		0
RTS	JP	Bins Total	450,000	0	0	0	0	450,000		0
RTS	JP	Capping Total	385,925	128,000	0	0	0	513,925		(513,925)
RTS	JP	Utility Total	1,000	0	0	0	0	1,000		0
RTS	JP	Waste Total	680,000	2,747,306	0	0	0	3,427,306		0
RTS	KS	Bus Shelters Total	60,000	0	0	0	0	60,000		0
RTS	KS	Graveyard Total	280,000	0	0	0	0	280,000		0
RTS	KS	Toilets Total	0	120,000	0	0	0	120,000		0
SPP	EC	Admin Centre Total	530,858	100,000	100,000	5,000,000	15,000,000	20,730,858		0
SPP	EC	Enterprise Total	0	150,000	0	0	0	150,000		0
SPP	EC	Graveyard Total	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
SPP	EC	Sports Total	45,435	750,000	750,000	0	0	1,545,435		0
SPP	EC	Tourism Total	0	0	3,750,000	3,750,000	0	7,500,000		0
SPP	EMM	SPP	20,000	0	0	0	0	20,000		0
SPP	EMM	Leisure Centre Total	11,762,375	10,855,625	3,650,000	300,000	0	26,568,000		(440,000)
SPP	EMM	Leiure Centre Total	206,623	413,377	0	0	0	620,000		0
SPP	EMM	Playing Fields Total	0	150,000	0	0	0	150,000		0
SPP	EMM	Regeneration Total	860,016	100,000	300,000	0	0	1,260,016		0
SPP	EMM	SPP Total	25,000	50,000	0	0	0	75,000		0
SPP	KOG	Energy Total	155,000	0	0	0	0	155,000		0
SPP	MB	Regeneration Total	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000		0
SPP	EMM	Other SPP	238,000	0	125,000	0	0	363,000		0
		Grand Total	20,070,732	22,967,541	12,613,233	11,445,983	16,685,000	83,782,489		(953,925)
								0	0	
LAND & BUILDINGS			20,070,732	22,967,541	12,613,233	11,445,983	16,685,000	83,782,489	83,782,489	(953,925)
PLANT & Equipment			349,835	139,000	16,000	16,000	10,000	530,835	530,835	
VEHICLES			1,933,732	2,662,231	2,015,000	2,000,000	2,015,000	10,625,963	10,625,963	
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			1,071,490	2,750,000	2,540,000	50,000	0	6,411,490	6,411,490	
GRAND TOTAL			23,425,789	28,518,772	17,184,233	13,511,983	18,710,000	101,350,777	101,350,777	(953,925)

Prudential Indicators and MRP Statement 2017/18

Prudential Indicators 2017/18

The Local Government Act 2003 / Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable, and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice. To demonstrate that NMDDC has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out the following indicators that must be set and monitored each year.

Estimates of Capital Expenditure: NMDDC planned capital expenditure and financing may be summarised as follows. Further detail is provided in the Capital Programme report presented to Council on 6th February 2017.

Capital Expenditure and Financing	2016/17 Revised £m	2017/18 Estimate £m	2018/19 Estimate £m	2019/20 Estimate £m	2020/21 Estimate £m
General Fund	23.4	28.5	17.2	13.5	18.7
Total Expenditure	**23.4**	**28.5**	**17.2**	**13.5**	**18.7**
Borrowing	23.4	28.5	17.2	13.5	18.7
Leasing and PFI	0	0	0	0	0
Total Financing	**23.4**	**28.5**	**17.2**	**13.5**	**18.7**

Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement: The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.

Capital Financing Requirement	31.03.17 Revised £m	31.03.18 Estimate £m	31.03.19 Estimate £m	31.03.20 Estimate £m	31.03.21 Estimate £m
General Fund	80.3	104.1	115.8	123.1	135.3
Total CFR	**80.3**	**104.1**	**115.8**	**123.2**	**135.6**

The CFR is forecast to rise by £55.3m over the next four years as capital expenditure financed by debt outweighs resources put aside for debt repayment.

Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement: In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years. This is a key indicator of prudence.

Debt	31.03.17 Revised £m	31.03.18 Estimate £m	31.03.19 Estimate £m	31.03.20 Estimate £m	31.03.21 Estimate £m
Borrowing	75.1	98.6	110.6	118.9	132.1
Finance leases	0	0	0	0	0
Total Debt	75.1	98.6	110.6	118.9	132.1

Total debt is expected to remain below the CFR during the forecast period.

Operational Boundary for External Debt: The operational boundary is based on NMDDC's estimate of most likely (i.e. prudent but not worst case) scenario for external debt. It links directly to NMDDC's estimates of capital expenditure, the capital financing requirement and cash flow requirements. Other long-term liabilities comprise finance lease, Private Finance Initiative and other liabilities that are not borrowing but form part of the NMDDC's debt.

Operational Boundary	2016/17 Revised £m	2017/18 Estimate £m	2018/19 Estimate £m	2019/20 Estimate £m	31.03.20 Estimate £m
Borrowing	86.4	110.4	121.0	128.5	140.8
Other long-term liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Debt	86.4	110.4	121.0	128.5	140.8

Authorised Limit for External Debt: The authorised limit is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003 / Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. It is the maximum amount of debt that NMDDC can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements.

Authorised Limit	2016/17 Limit £m	2017/18 Limit £m	2018/19 Limit £m	2019/20 Limit £m	2019/20 Limit £m
Borrowing	110.2	122.1	128.3	140.7	145.0
Other long-term liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Debt	110.2	122.1	128.3	140.7	145.0

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream: This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs, net of investment income.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	**2016/17 Revised %**	**2017/18 Estimate %**	**2018/19 Estimate %**	**2019/20 Estimate %**	**2020/21 Estimate %**
General Fund	12.18	12.71	14.79	15.80	17.01

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions: This is an indicator of affordability that shows the impact of capital investment decisions on District Rate levels. The incremental impact is the difference between the total revenue budget requirement of the current approved capital programme and the revenue budget requirement arising from the capital programme proposed earlier in this report.

Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions	**2017/18 Estimate £**	**2018/19 Estimate £**	**2019/20 Estimate £**
General Fund - increase in annual District Rates	502	847	627

Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code: NMDDC adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition* in March 2015.

Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2017/18

Where the NMDDC finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Authority to have regard to the Department of Environment's *Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision* (the DOE Guidance).

The broad aim of the DOE Guidance is to ensure that debt is repaid over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Government Revenue Support Grant, reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of that grant.

The DOE Guidance requires NMDDC to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year, and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. The following statement only incorporates options recommended in the Guidance as well as locally determined prudent methods.

For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2012, MRP will be equal to the principal repayments of the associated borrowing

For capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2012, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset, either in equal instalments or as the principal repayment on an annuity with an annual interest rate equal to the average relevant PWLB rate for the year of expenditure. MRP will start in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over an appropriate period.

For assets acquired by finance leases or the Private Finance Initiative MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.

Capital expenditure incurred during 2017/18 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2018/19.

Based on NMDDC's latest estimate of its Capital Financing Requirement on 31st March 2017, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31.03.2017 Estimated CFR £m	2017/18 Estimated MRP £m
Capital expenditure before 01.04.2012	25.03	3.0
Capital expenditure after 31.03.2012	56.1	1.7
Finance leases and Private Finance Initiative	0	0
Total	**81.13**	**4.7**

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017/18

Introduction

At the Council Meeting on Wednesday 10th February 2016 the Authority adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year.

In addition, the Department for the Environment (DOE) issued *Guidance on Local Authority Investments* in October 2011 that requires the Authority to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year.

This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the *Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011* to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the DOE Guidance.

The Authority has and will be borrowing and investing substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.

External Context

Economic background: The major external influence on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2017/18 will be the UK's progress in negotiating a smooth exit from the European Union. Financial markets, wrong-footed by the referendum outcome, have since been weighed down by uncertainty over whether leaving the Union also means leaving the single market. Negotiations are expected to start once the UK formally triggers exit in early 2017 and last for at least two years. Uncertainty over future economic prospects will therefore remain throughout 2017/18.

The fall and continuing weakness in sterling and the near doubling in the price of oil in 2016 have combined to drive inflation expectations higher. The Bank of England is forecasting that Consumer Price Inflation will breach its 2% target in 2017, the first time since late 2013, but the Bank is expected to look through inflation overshoots over the course of 2017 when setting interest rates so as to avoid derailing the economy.

Initial post-referendum economic data showed that the feared collapse in business and consumer confidence had not immediately led to lower GDP growth. However, the prospect of leaving the single market has dented business confidence and resulted in a delay in new business investment and, unless counteracted by higher public spending or retail sales, will weaken economic growth in 2017/18.

Looking overseas, with the US economy and its labour market showing steady improvement, the market has priced in a high probability of the Federal Reserve increasing interest rates. The Eurozone meanwhile has continued to struggle with very low inflation and lack of momentum in growth, and the European Central Bank has left the door open for further quantitative easing.

The impact of political risk on financial markets remains significant over the next year. With challenges such as immigration, the rise of populist, anti-establishment parties and negative interest rates resulting in savers being paid nothing for their frugal efforts or even penalised for them, the outcomes of Italy's referendum on its constitution, the French presidential and general elections (April - June 2017) and the German federal elections (August - October 2017) have the potential for upsets.

Credit outlook: Markets have expressed concern over the financial viability of a number of European banks recently. Sluggish economies and continuing fines for pre-crisis behaviour have weighed on bank profits, and any future slowdown will exacerbate concerns in this regard.

Bail-in legislation, which ensures that large investors including local authorities will rescue failing banks instead of taxpayers in the future, has now been fully implemented in the European Union, Switzerland and USA, while Australia and Canada are progressing with their own plans. The credit risk associated with making unsecured bank deposits has therefore increased relative to the risk of other investment options available to the Authority; returns from cash deposits however continue to fall.

Interest rate forecast: The Authority's treasury adviser Arlingclose's central case is for UK Bank Rate to remain at 0.25% during 2017/18. The Bank of England has, however, highlighted that excessive levels of inflation will not be tolerated for sustained periods. Given this view and the current inflation outlook, further falls in the Bank Rate look less likely. Negative Bank Rate is currently perceived by some policymakers to be counterproductive but, although a low probability, cannot be entirely ruled out in the medium term, particularly if the UK enters recession as a result of concerns over leaving the European Union.

Gilt yields have risen sharply, but remain at low levels. The Arlingclose central case is for yields to decline when the government triggers Article 50. Long-term economic fundamentals remain weak, and the quantitative easing (QE) stimulus provided by central banks globally has only delayed the fallout from the build-up of public and private sector debt. The Bank of England has defended QE as a monetary policy tool, and further QE in support of the UK economy in 2017/18 remains a possibility, to keep long-term interest rates low.

A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is attached at ***Appendix A***.

For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that new investments will be made at an average rate of 0.2%, and that new long-term loans will be borrowed at an average rate of 2.7%.

Local Context

On 31st December 2016, the Authority currently held £55.5m of borrowing and £4.5m of investments. This is set out in further detail at ***Appendix B***. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary and Forecast

	31.3.16 Actual £m	31.3.17 Estimate £m	31.3.18 Forecast £m	31.3.19 Forecast £m	31.3.20 Forecast £m
Capital Financing Requirement	61.1	80.4	104.3	116.0	123.4
Less: Other debt liabilities *					
Borrowing CFR	61.1	80.4	104.3	116.0	123.4
Less: External borrowing **	58.2	75.1	98.6	110.6	118.9
Internal borrowing	2.9	5.3	5.7	5.4	4.5

Less: Usable reserves	8.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Less: Working capital	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
Investments	**8.4**	**5.5**	**5.1**	**5.4**	**6.3**

* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Authority's total debt
** shows only loans to which the Authority is committed and excludes optional refinancing

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

NMDDC has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme, but minimal investments and will therefore be required to borrow up to £140.8m over the forecast period.

CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that NMDDC's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that NMDDC expects to comply with this recommendation during 2017/18.

Borrowing Strategy

NMDDC currently holds £55.5 million of loans, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that NMDDC expects to borrow up to £23.5m in 2017/18.

Objectives: NMDDC's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should NMDDC's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

Strategy: Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, NMDDC's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead.

By doing so, NMDDC is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist NMDDC with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether NMDDC borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2017/18 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

Alternatively, NMDDC may arrange forward starting loans during 2017/18, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

In addition, NMDDC may borrow further short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

Sources: The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- Government Loans Fund (via the Department of Finance, DOF)

- any institution approved for investments (see below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- UK public and private sector pension funds.
- capital market bond investors
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues

In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- operating and finance leases
- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

NMDDC has previously raised all of its long-term borrowing from the DOF but it continues to investigate other sources of finance, such as local authority loans and bank loans, that may be available at more favourable rates.

Debt Rescheduling: The DOF allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. NMDDC may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk.

Investment Strategy

NMDDC holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, NMDDC's investment balance has ranged between £3.5 and £4.5 million, and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year.

Objectives: Both the CIPFA Code and the DOE Guidance require NMDDC to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. NMDDC's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, NMDDC will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested.

Negative Interest Rates: If the UK enters into a recession in 2017/18, there is a small chance that the Bank of England could set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term investment options. This situation already exists in many other European countries. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.

Strategy: Given the increasing risk and falling returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, NMDDC aims to diversify into more secure and/or higher yielding asset classes during 2017/18. This is especially the case for the estimated £8m that is available for longer-term investment. All of the NMDDC's surplus cash is currently invested in short-term unsecured bank deposits.

Approved Counterparties: NMDDC may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table 2 below provided a credit rating above BBB.

Table 2: Approved Investment Counterparties and Limits

Credit Rating	Banks Unsecured	Banks Secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
AA and above	£3m 5 Years	£3m 10 Years	£3m 25 Years	£1m 5 Years	£1m 5 Years
BBB to AA-	£2m 2 Years	£2m 3 Years	£3m 5 Years	£1m 3 Years	£1m 5 Years

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

Credit Rating: Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

Banks Unsecured: Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail.

Banks Secured: Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Government: Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is an insignificant risk of insolvency. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made for up to 25 years.

Corporates: Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made as part of a diversified pool in order to spread the risk widely.

Registered Providers: Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of Registered Providers of Social Housing, formerly known as Housing Associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency and, as providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Pooled Funds: Shares in diversified investment vehicles consisting of the any of the above investment types, plus equity shares and property. These funds have the advantage of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a fee. Short-term Money Market Funds that offer same-day liquidity and very low or no volatility will be used as an alternative to instant access bank accounts, while pooled funds whose value changes with market prices and/or have a notice period will be used for longer investment periods.

Bond, equity and property funds offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile in the short term. These allow NMDDC to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting NMDDC's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Risk Assessment and Credit Ratings: Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by NMDDC's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn [on the next working day] will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

Other Information on the Security of Investments: NMDDC understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may meet the credit rating criteria.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2011, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, NMDDC will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest NMDDC's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, via the Debt Management Office or invested in government treasury bills for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned, but will protect the principal sum invested.

Specified Investments: The DOE Guidance defines specified investments as those:

- denominated in pound sterling,
- due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement,
- not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- invested with one of:
  - the UK Government,
  - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
  - a body or investment scheme of "high credit rating", and

- where the principal sum to be repaid at maturity is the same as the initial sum invested, other than investments in the UK Government.

NMDDC defines "high credit rating" organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds "high credit rating" is defined as those having a credit rating of A- or higher.

Non-specified Investments: NMDDC does not intend to make any investments in non-specified investments.

Investment Limits: NMDDC's revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £8 million on 31st March 2017. In order that no more than 37.5% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £3 million. A group of banks under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes. Limits will also be placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts, foreign countries and industry sectors as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Table 4: Investment Limits

	Cash limit
Any single organisation, except the UK Central Government	£ 3m each
UK Central Government	unlimited
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£3m per group
Money Market Funds	£3m in total

Liquidity Management: NMDDC uses purpose-built cash flow forecasting to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of NMDDC being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to NMDDC's medium term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

Treasury Management Indicators

NMDDC measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

Security: NMDDC has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	A

Liquidity: NMDDC has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling six month period, without additional borrowing.

	Target
Total cash available within 6 months	£5m

Interest Rate Exposures: This indicator is set to control NMDDC's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on fixed and variable rate interest rate exposures, expressed as the proportion of net principal borrowed / interest payable will be:

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Upper limit on fixed interest rate exposure	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%
Upper limit on variable interest rate exposure	n/a	n/a	n/a

Fixed rate investments and borrowings are those where the rate of interest is fixed for at least 12 months, measured from the start of the financial year or the transaction date if later. All other instruments are classed as variable rate.

Other Items

There are a number of additional items that the Authority is obliged by CIPFA or DOE to include in its Treasury Management Strategy.

Policy on Use of Financial Derivatives: Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in Section 79 of the *Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014* removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).

The Authority will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Authority is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria. The current value of any amount due from a derivative counterparty will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

Investment Training: The needs of the Authority's treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed regularly and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.

Staff regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. Relevant staff are also encouraged to study professional qualifications from CIPFA, the Association of Corporate Treasurers and other appropriate organisations.

Investment Advisers: The Authority has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers and receives specific advice on investment, debt and capital finance issues.

Investment of Money Borrowed in Advance of Need: The Authority may, from time to time, borrow in advance of need, where this is expected to provide the best long term value for money. Since amounts borrowed will be invested until spent, the Authority is aware that it will be exposed to the risk of loss of the borrowed sums, and the risk that investment and borrowing interest rates may change in the intervening period. These risks will be managed as part of the Authority's overall management of its treasury risks.

The total amount borrowed will not exceed the authorised borrowing limit of £122.1 million for 2017/18. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be two years, although the Authority is not required to link particular loans with particular items of expenditure.

Financial Implications

The budget for investment income in 2017/18 is minimal, based on an average investment portfolio of £5 million at an interest rate of 0.2%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2017/18 is £2.4 million, based on an average debt portfolio of £98.6 million at an average interest rate of 3.67%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, and actual interest rates differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Other Options Considered

The DOE Guidance and the CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Chief Financial Officer, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest

		costs may be less certain

Appendix A – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast November 2016

Underlying assumptions:

- The medium term outlook for the UK economy is dominated by the negotiations to leave the EU. The long-term position of the UK economy will be largely dependent on the agreements the government is able to secure with the EU and other countries.

- The global environment is also riddled with uncertainty, with repercussions for financial market volatility and long-term interest rates. Donald Trump's victory in the US general election and Brexit are symptomatic of the popular disaffection with globalisation trends. The potential rise in protectionism could dampen global growth prospects and therefore inflation. Financial market volatility will remain the norm for some time.

- However, following significant global fiscal and monetary stimulus, the short term outlook for the global economy is somewhat brighter than earlier in the year. US fiscal stimulus is also a possibility following Trump's victory.

- Recent data present a more positive picture for the post-Referendum UK economy than predicted due to continued strong household spending.

- Over the medium term, economic and political uncertainty will likely dampen investment intentions and tighten credit availability, prompting lower activity levels and potentially a rise in unemployment.

- The currency-led rise in CPI inflation (currently 1.0% year/year) will continue, breaching the target in 2017, which will act to slow real growth in household spending due to a sharp decline in real wage growth.

- The depreciation in sterling will, however, assist the economy to rebalance away from spending. The negative contribution from net trade to GDP growth is likely to diminish, largely due to weaker domestic demand. Export volumes will increase marginally.

- Given the pressure on household spending and business investment, the rise in inflation is highly unlikely to prompt monetary tightening by the Bank of England, with policymakers looking through import-led CPI spikes to the negative effects of Brexit on economic activity and, ultimately, inflation.

- Bank of England policymakers have, however, highlighted that excessive levels of inflation will not be tolerated for sustained periods. Given this view and the current inflation outlook, further monetary loosening looks less likely..

Forecast:

- Globally, the outlook is uncertain and risks remain weighted to the downside. The UK domestic outlook is uncertain, but likely to be weaker in the short term than previously expected.

- The likely path for Bank Rate is weighted to the downside. The Arlingclose central case is for Bank Rate to remain at 0.25%, but there is a 25% possibility of a drop to close to zero, with a very small chance of a reduction below zero.

- Gilt yields have risen sharply, but remain at low levels. The Arlingclose central case is for yields to decline when the government triggers Article 50.

	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Average
Official Bank Rate														
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.12
Arlingclose Central Case	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Downside risk	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
3-month LIBID rate														
Upside risk	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.18
Arlingclose Central Case	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.29
Downside risk	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.34
1-yr LIBID rate														
Upside risk	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.23
Arlingclose Central Case	0.60	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.85	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.65
Downside risk	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.24
5-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.25	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.39
Arlingclose Central Case	0.50	0.40	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.45
Downside risk	0.30	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.47
10-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.39
Arlingclose Central Case	1.15	0.95	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	0.96
Downside risk	0.30	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.47
20-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.25	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.39
Arlingclose Central Case	1.70	1.50	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.70	1.75
Downside risk	0.40	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.57
50-yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.25	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.39
Arlingclose Central Case	1.60	1.40	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.41
Downside risk	0.40	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.57

Appendix B - Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	31 January 2017 Actual Portfolio £m	31 January 2017 Average Rate %
External Borrowing:		
Government – Fixed Rate	55.5	3.97
Government – Variable Rate	0.0	0.00
Total Gross External Debt	**55.5**	**3.97**
Investments:		
Monies on Bank Deposit/Call	4.5	0.2
Total Investments	**4.5**	**0.2**
Net Debt	**51.0**	

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Four Year Plan
Final

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Net Spend per figs as listed					
Expenses excl Payroll & Loans	16,019,609	16,377,466	16,541,241	16,706,653	16,873,720
Payroll	28,765,273	31,416,176	32,358,661	33,329,421	33,996,010
MRP	5,699,025	4,680,635	5,527,815	6,155,351	6,452,657
Loan Interest	2,503,561	2,419,743	3,132,253	3,279,592	3,974,347
Loans - Severance	747,112	987,104	987,104	239,992	0
Total Net Spend	53,734,580	55,881,125	58,547,074	59,711,009	61,296,733
%	107.34%	103.99%	104.77%	101.99%	102.66%
Rate Support Grant	(2,596,719)	(2,540,040)	(2,540,040)	(2,540,040)	(2,540,040)
Savings	0	0	(977,998)	(1,000,721)	(1,017,395)
From Reserves	(410,000)	(987,104)	(987,104)	(239,992)	0
Net to be raised	50,727,862	52,353,982	54,041,933	55,930,257	57,739,299
Est'd product of 1 penny	2,265,129	2,277,215	2,277,215	2,277,215	2,277,215
Non Domestic District Rate (pence)	22.3951	22.9904	23.7316	24.5608	25.3552
%		2.66%	3.22%	3.49%	3.23%
Conversion factor for Domestic Rates	0.016059	0.016059	0.016059	0.016059	0.016059
Domestic Rate (pence)	0.3596	0.3692	0.3811	0.3944	0.4072
%		2.66%	3.22%	3.49%	3.23%

Department for Communities - General Estimates of Rates

Annex 1

2017/2018

Council:- Newry , Mourne and Down District

Services	Estimated Gross Expenditure £	Estimated Gross Income £	Estimated Net Expenditure £
Leisure and Recreation Services			
Culture and Heritage	1,978,492	248,516	1,729,976
Recreation and Sport	7,981,744	2,262,516	5,719,228
Tourism	3,309,561	270,727	3,038,834
Community Services	2,578,974	837,505	1,741,469
Environmental Services			
Cemetery, Cremation and Mortuary	144,547	36,000	108,547
Environmental Health	2,785,517	379,600	2,405,917
Flood Defence and Land Drainage			0
Public Conveniences	170,384	3,850	166,534
Licensing	288,252	115,710	172,542
Other Cleaning	2,300,606	0	2,300,606
Waste Collection	12,431,610	804,850	11,626,760
Waste Disposal	27,700		27,700
Other Community Assets			0
Minor Works	244,323		244,323
Planning and Development Services			
Community Planning	377,309	17,518	359,791
Economic Development	2,272,526	760,031	1,512,495
EU Rural Development	387,711	390,611	-2,900
Urban Regeneration and Community Development			0
Planning Policy	2,046,212	1,499,220	546,992
Development Control			0
Building Control	1,284,233	1,093,600	190,633
Environment Initiatives			0
Highways and Transport Services			
Off-Street Parking Services	404,758	600,000	-195,242
Corporate and Democratic Core			
Democratic Representation and Management	1,493,364		1,493,364
Corporate Management	458,685	29,116	429,569
Other Services			
Trading Services	162,940	72,380	90,560
Non Distributed Costs	1,105,799	77,427	1,028,372
Central Services to the Public	1,095,451	652,541	442,910
Other Operating Expenditure/Income			
Gains or losses on the repurchase or early resettlement of borrowings			0
Bank interest and Investment Income	3,924,853		3,924,853
Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets			0
Support Costs	12,687,847	591,190	12,096,657
Net Operating Expenditure	**61,943,398**	**10,742,908**	**51,200,490**
Transfers to/from Other Funds			
Capital Fund			0
Renewal & Repairs Fund			0
Capital Adjustment Account (Formally Capital Financing Reserve)	0		0
Pensions Reserve			0
Other			0
Sub-Totals	**61,943,398**	**10,742,908**	**51,200,490**
Deduct Depreciation Charges			0
Add Minimum Revenue Provision	4,680,635		4,680,635
Totals	**66,624,033**	**10,742,908**	**55,881,125**

Total Amount to be Raised (c/f)	55,881,125	
Reduced by Rates Support Grant	-£2,540,040	Zero or negative amount to be entered
+/- Balance Applied	-987104	
Amount to be Raised *(via District Rates, De-rating and Transferred Functions Grants)*	52,353,981	
Total Penny Product *(from table below)*	2,277,215	
Non-Domestic District Rate	22.9904	
Council Specific Conversion Factor	0.016059	
Domestic District Rate	0.3692	

Penny Product Information	
Estimated Penny Product (Rateable) - *(To be based on figure provided by LPS which is total of non-domestic and domestic penny products, with rating policy reductions applied; as this is for rate setting the council specific conversion factor will have been applied to domestic capital values)*	2,162,310
Estimated Penny Product (De-rated) *(To be based on figure provided by DfC)*	88,566
Derived Penny Product (Transferred Functions Grant) (Fixed amount)	26,339
Total Penny Product	2,277,215

Grants payable by DOE	
Estimated De-rating Grant (DRG) *(De-rating Grant payable by DOE during year will be Estimated PP (De-rated) x Non-domestic District Rate)*	2,036,168
Transferred Functions Grant (TFG)	605,544
Rates Support Grant	2,540,040

Amount payable by DFP	
Amount to be Raised via District Rates (Rateable)	49,712,269

NB Income and Expenditure are to be shown gross, but,
- **(a) in group arrangements (eg. Waste Groups) only those amounts to be borne by the Council should be shown.**
- **(b) expenditure and income figures should not be inflated by internal reallocations between services.**

I certify that at a meeting of the council held on ______________________ these estimates.

Signed ______________________________ **Date** ______________

Chief Executive

Please return to:

Lynne McCann
Local Government Policy Division
Department for Communities
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Causeway Exchange
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Town Parks
BELFAST
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NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 January 2017 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson:	Councillor R Burgess	
Vice Chairperson:	Councillor D Curran	
In Attendance:	**(Committee Members)** Councillor T Andrews Councillor W Clarke Councillor G Hanna Councillor H Harvey Councillor T Hearty Councillor D McAteer Councillor G Stokes Councillor M Ruane	
	(Non Committee Members) Councillor A McMurray	
Officials in Attendance:	Ms M Ward	Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
	Mr J McGilly	Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
	Mr M Mohan	Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager
	Mr A Hay	Principal Planning Officer
	Ms L Dillon	Democratic Services Officer

ERT/001/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor N Bailie

ERT/002/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

ERT/003/2017: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2016

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 December 2016. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 December 2016.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/004/2017: NI BUSINESS START PROGRAMME (NIPSP)

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding the NI Business Start Programme – Go For It Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed, as per Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, to note that Newry Mourne & Down District Council have received and signed a Legal Agreement for the NI Business Start Up Programme and will also accept and sign the associated Letter of Offer to be received from Invest NI, in line with the details of the Programme as

outlined under Option 1 of the project assessment, and detailed in the Legal Agreement.

ERT/005/2017: <u>MARINE TASKFORCE</u>

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms C Nolan, Manager SLLP regarding the Marine Taskforce Working Group Meeting held on 19 December 2016.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor W Clarke it was agreed as per Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms C Nolan, Manager SLLP, to approve the following recommendations agreed at the Marine Task Force Working Group Meeting held on 19 December 2016:

(a) Newry Mourne and Down District Council should respond to DAERA consultation to support the designation of Kilclief and Ballyhornan as EU Bathing Waters as proposed by DAERA and seek to have Killough reconsidered for designation in 2017.

(b) The Council should allocate resources to the designated sites to cover the one off capital costs of signage and the on-going annual costs of £540. The Council should keep the health and safety requirements at these sites under review, including the potential requirement for lifeguards.

(c) The Council should pursue the potential for using community lifeguards and volunteers at these sites and other amenity beaches.

(d) Community engagement with communities in Kilclief, Ballyhornan and Killough with litter collection and shore activities included in the AONB Management Action Plan.

TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/006/2017: INTERNATIONAL ICE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION BID

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding the Camlough Lake Water Festival hosting the International Ice Swimming Association World Championships in 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed as follows as per Report from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer, regarding the International Ice Swimming Association Bid:

(a) The Council to provide a letter of support to the Camlough Lake Water Festival (CLWF) to host the International Ice Swimming Association (IISA) World Championships 2019 in Newry Canal or at Camlough Lake.

(b) ERT and AHC Departments will work in partnership with CLWF Festival to facilitate this project.

ERT/007/2017: MOORING LICENCE – NEWCASTLE HARBOUR

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M McKeown, Assistant Tourism Development Officer regarding allocation of Mooring Licence at Newcastle Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

It was noted Mooring Licences for Newcastle Harbour had been considered at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in October 2016 at which the following had been agreed:

(a) Allocation of mooring at Newcastle Harbour will be done on a 3 yearly basis in future.
(b) A report to be submitted to the next Meeting of the ERT Committee meeting regarding the following:
   (i) Options on what process can be used to allocate mooring at Newcastle Harbour.
   (ii) Details of mooring charges for Newcastle Harbour.
   (iii) Provision of moorings, float and pontoon during summer

Months to facilitate disabled people as per request from Disability Sailing.

Discussion took place during which it was suggested Council Officials to meet with the organisers of the Skiffies event in terms of the pontoon and to carry out the allocation process by `drawing of lots'.

Ms Ward said a drawing of lots process could not be recommended in this instance as it was important a vessel was allocated a mooring in the correct location to ensure everyone had a mooring which suited their type of boat. She said a waiting list would be drawn up and the allocation of a mooring would be subject to the provision of appropriate paperwork.

Councillor Clarke proposed and Councillor Ruane seconded to accept the recommendations contained in Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer, regarding allocation of Mooring Licences at Newcastle Harbour.

The above proposal was put to a vote and voting was as follows:

For: 4
Against: 3
Abstentions: 2

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed as follows, as per Report date 16 January 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding the allocation of Mooring Licence at Newcastle Harbour:**

(a) The allocation of Mooring Licences at Newcastle Harbour to be a 3 yearly process to be carried out in 2017 and continued for 2018 and 2019.

(b) Mooring charges for 2017 to be approved and approved on a yearly basis thereafter, on a basis of a 5% increase per annum.

(c) No pontoon provision at Newcastle Harbour during the summer.

ERT/008/2017: LIGHTING OF HOLM OAK TREE KILBRONEY PARK, ROSTREVOR

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M McKeown, Assistant Tourism Development Officer regarding lighting of Holm Oak Tree at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. **Copy circulated)**

Discussion took place regarding possible alternative options to provide lighting at the Holm Oak Tree including solar lighting and sponsorship of lighting.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to take no action at present, in respect of the provision of lighting at the Holm Oak Tree in Kilbroney Park Rostrevor, as the Council currently have no budget in place for this Expenditure, as per Report dated dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M McKeown, Assistant Tourism Development Officer.

ERT/009/2017: SEA FLAG 2 PROGRAMME UNION PRIORITY 4

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding delivery of SEA FLAG Programme – Union Priority 4. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed authority be granted to Council Officers to proceed with the submission of a bid to DAERA to deliver the new round of funding and to proceed with procurement of the necessary consultancy work, as per Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.

ERT/010/2017: HOLIDAY WORLD
DUBLIN & BELFAST 2017

Read: Report dated 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding Holiday World Dublin/Belfast 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed that any Councillor who wished to attend Holiday World in Dublin (20-22 January 2017) and Holiday World (27-29 January 2017) should contact Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer.**

NOTED: Two members of Council staff will be in attendance at both events.

ERT/011/2017: KILBRONEY PARK CAFÉ
LICENCE AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer regarding Licence Agreement for Kilbroney Park Café. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding the Licence Agreement for the Kilbroney Park Café, as per Report dated 16 January 2017 from Ms M Boyle, Tourism Development Officer:**

(a) To advertise the licence for the renewal of the Kilbroney Park Café for a 3 year period.

(b) To provide a new Licence Agreement to the existing operator at the Kilbroney Park Café to operate the Café from 1 February 2017 – 30 September 2017 to facilitate the procurement exercise to complete.

(c) To undertake a valuation to establish a Licence Fee reflective of the current market for the licence period 1 February 2017 – 30 September 2017.

ERT/012/2017: <u>PARTNERSHIP RE: DERRYMORE ESTATE</u>

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding Partnership for the regeneration of Derrymore Estate. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to submit an application for a Trail facility development to SEUPB before the Stage 1 deadline of 25 January 2017, and if successful at Stage 1, to progress a Stage 2 application by the relevant deadlines.

<u>FOR NOTING</u>

ERT/013/2017: TOUR "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PATRICK" <u>STATE ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM WARSAW</u>

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M King, Museum Curator regarding an invitation from the State Archaeological Museum Warsaw to tour the "In the Footsteps of St Patrick" Exhibition in Poland in 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M King, Museum Curator regarding an invitation from the State Archaeological Museum Warsaw to tour the "In the Footsteps of St Patrick" Exhibition in Poland in 2017.

ERT/014/2017: <u>MERCHANT TOWN PROJECT</u>

Read: Report dated 12 December 2016 from Ms N Cunningham, Museum Curator regarding funding for Conservation of items for exhibition on local businesses – "Merchant Town Project." **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 12 December 2016 from Ms N Cunningham, Museum Curator regarding funding for Conservation of items for exhibition on local businesses – "Merchant Town Project."

ERT/015/2017: NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN <u>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – TOURISM</u>

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding Newry, Mourne & Down Local Development Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding Newry, Mourne & Down Local Development Plan.

ERT/016/2017: <u>MOURNE MOUNTAINS GATEWAY STUDY</u>

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding the Mourne Mountains Gateway Study. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding the Mourne Mountains Gateway Study.

ERT/017/2017: <u>GROW YOUR HORIZONS PROGRAMME</u>

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding Grow Your Horizons Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding Grow Your Horizons Programme.

ERT/018/2017: <u>GREEN TOURISM PROGRAMME</u>

Read: Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding Green Tourism Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed to note Report dated 16 January 2017 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding Green Tourism Programme.**

ERT/019/2017: **ACTIONS TRACKING UPDATE**

Read: Actions Tracking Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the Actions Tracking Update Report.**

The Meeting concluded at 5.25pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 February 2017.

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

Signed: **Ms M Ward**
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2017 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.

In the Chair:	Councillor P Brown	
In Attendance:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
	Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B Ó'Múiri
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance:

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Policy and Performance
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Transformation, Innovation & Performance
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration)
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer
Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer
Mr E McManus, Capital Projects
Ms J McCabe, Diversity and Inclusion Projects Coordinator
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/1/2017 **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Baille, Carr, Quinn and Sharvin.

The Chairperson asked that Management accounts be brought to the next meeting and presented as an item at the beginning of the agenda.

SPR/2/2017 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Directors and Assistant Directors declared an interest in Item 25 – Proposed Changes to Management Structures.

SPR/3/2017 **ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2016 (circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 15 December 2016 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran.**

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPR/4/2017 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION DRAFT**

Read: Report from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer dated 19 January 2017 regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Draft Statement of Community Involvement (copy circulated)

Mr Hay presented the report stating its purpose was to outline how the Council proposed to engage with the community and stakeholders in exercising its planning function and recommended that Member noted the content of the report and agree to the following:

- The draft Statement of Community Involvement
- That the draft Statement of Community Involvement be subject to a 4 week public consultation period during which representations would be invited using the Council website and a note in the local press for 2 consecutive weeks.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the content of the report and agree the draft Statement of Community Involvement and the 4 week public consultation process.**

SPR/5/2017 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PREPARATORY STUDIES – PAPER 7 - TOURISM**

Read: Report from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer dated 19 January 2017 regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 7: Tourism (copy circulated)

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

SPR/6/2017 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PREPARATORY STUDIES – PAPER 9 – PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Read: Report from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer dated 19 January 2017 regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 9: Public Utilities (copy circulated)

Councillor Enright asked that the issue of energy be separated out of the report and looked at specifically in terms of the need for an increase going forward in the South Down area.

Mr Hay advised Appendix C of the report showed the parts of the District that had a deficiency in grid accessibility and that Council was engaging with SONI and NIE on this issue continuously.

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

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND WELLBEING

SPR/7/2017 **CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSALS FOR THE UPDATED MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION MEASURE (NIMDM 2017)**

Read: Report from Mr A Beggs, Head of Evidence and Research dated 19 January 2017 regarding Proposals for the Updated NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017) (copy circulated)

Mr Beggs presented the report stating the consultation invited views on the responses to each of the NIMDM 2010 recommendations and the proposed indicators within each of the NIMDM 2017 domains. He recommended that Council accept the draft response included within the papers.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Byrne to accept the draft response to the consultation on proposals for the updated Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017)**

COMMUNICATION

SPR/8/2017 **NMD CITIZENS MAGAZINE**

Read: Report from Ms R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy dated 19 January 2017 regarding NMD Citizens Magazine (copy circulated)

Mr Moffett presented the report which recommended that Council approve the naming of a new publication – NMD Connect, A Citizens

Magazine for Newry, Mourne and Down and to agree the content of the publication to include a range of articles.

Councillor Clarke welcomed the introduction of the publication as a way of engaging with the community and asked that officers ensure a digital version of the magazine was available, particularly for younger people.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Doran to accept the officer's recommendation to name the new publication NMD Connect and agree the content of the publication.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SPR/9/2017 **VISIT FROM SCHOOL 7, KIROVSK IN MARCH 2017**

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Diversity and Inclusion Projects Coordinator dated 19 January 2017 regarding visit by School Number 7 to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Doran to accept the officer's recommendation to approve relevant officers to draw up a programme of events particularly around Education Institutions, Arts and Leisure for a visit by School Number 7 from Kirovsk to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in March 2017.**

SPR/10/2017 **GARDEN AREA AT JUNCTION OF KILMOREY STREET/RIVER STREET, NEWRY**

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration) dated 19 January 2017 regarding Garden Area at junction of Kilmorey Street/River Street, Newry (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Byrne to accept the officer's recommendation that Council write to the Department for Infrastructure, Transport NI to seek their agreement to renewal of lease of this land for a further five year period and at a similar rent of 5pence per year.**

EQUALITY AND POLICY

SPR/11/2017 **EQUALITY 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, dated 19 January 2017 regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October-December 2016 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Ruane to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October-December 2016.**

CORPORATE SERVICES – HUMAN RESOURCES

SPR/12/2017 **NORTHERN IRELAND CHARTER FOR ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT**

Read: Report from Ms H McElroy, Learning & Development Manager, dated 19 January 2017 regarding Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development (copy circulated).

Councillor Andrews commended the Members and officers involved in the recent accreditation assessment and all the efforts made in achieving this accreditation.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Burgess to note the contents of the report in relation to Accredited Training undertaken by Employees and Elected Members during the period of January 2015-date.**

CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/13/2017 **REVIEW OF NON-DOMESTIC RATING SYSTEM IN NI – ROUNDTABLE MEETING**

Read: Correspondence received from Assistant Assembly Clerk, Committee for Finance regarding Review of Non-Domestic Rating System in Northern Ireland (copy circulated).

Mrs Carville advised meetings had been arranged to discuss the Review of Non-Domestic Rating System however due to the political instability these had now been cancelled.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the update provided on the review of non-domestic rating system in Northern Ireland.**

SPR/14/2017 **ALLOCATION OF ONE OUTSTANDING SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE**

Read: Report from Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager dated 19 January 2017 regarding allocation of one outstanding SRA allowance (copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised that as Councillor Ruane had taken the role of Party Leader of Sinn Fein, an outstanding special responsibility allowance was available and, when this previously occurred in 2015/16 it had been agreed that 50% of the unallocated SRA was to be paid to the Chair of the Planning Committee, with the remaining 50% being divided among the remaining positions which receive SRA payments.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran to accept the officer's recommendation to pay 50% of the unallocated SRA to the Chair of the Planning Committee, with the remaining 50% being divided among the remaining positions which receive SRA payments.**

SPR/15/2017 **INVITATION TO PARTNERSHP PANEL MEETING – 31 JANUARY 2017**

Read: Correspondence received from Department for Communities regarding Partnership Panel for Northern Ireland Meeting (copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised the Partnership Panel meeting had now been postponed until May.

Noted: **The update on the invitation to Partnership Panel Meeting was noted.**

GRANT AIDED PROGRAMMES

SPR/16/2017 **PEACE IV**

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Coordinator dated 19 January 2017 regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan (copy circulated).

Ms McCabe advised Council had submitted an application for the Peace IV Local Action Plan and had been offered a grant with an under allocation consisting of programme and staff/administration costs. She recommended that Council approve the list of projects to be submitted to SEUPB by 14 February to utilise the under-allocated money.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Byrne to accept the officer's recommendation.**

SPR/17/2017 **PEACE IV CAPITAL SHARED SPACES AND SERVICES APPLICATION**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 19 January 2017, regarding Shared Spaces and Services Application (copy circulated).

Mr Curtis advised Clanrye Abbey Developments had requested a letter of support from the Council for the submission of an application to SEUPB for funding under their Shared Spaces and Services financial assistance call. He stated Council already agreed to take the lead role in the submission of an application to the Peace IV Shared Spaces call for the development of a Community Hub in Camlough and therefore Council must decide whether it wanted to support one or two applications to the same funding body.

Members discussed the issue at length and it was agreed to continue to support the Camlough scheme and write to Clanrye Abbey Developments advising them Council could not offer a letter of support however would assist the group in investigating other methods of funding.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Ó'Muirí that Council continue to support the Camlough scheme and write to the Clanrye group advising them Council could not offer a letter of support however would assist the group in investigating other methods of funding.**

SPR/18/2017 **SISTER CITIES PROGRAMME**

Read: Report from Ms J McCabe, Diversity and Inclusion Projects Coordinator, dated 19 January 2017, regarding Visit by Mayor of Sioux Falls, Sister Cities Programme (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burgess to accept the officer's recommendation to approve officers to draw up a programme of events around business, arts, culture, sports/leisure in line with Council's International Relations Policy.**

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

SPR/19/2017 **SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 19 January 2017, regarding Saintfield Community Centre Project (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: **When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the recommendations in the officer's report to:**

1. **Proceed with the development of the Saintfield Community Centre Project utilising Council's own funding secured in the 2017/18 budget.**
2. **It is proposed that enterprise units are included as part of the scheme to generate income, subject to the requirement of the public and in line with Saintfield Community Trust's ethos.**
3. **Commence a new tender process to appoint an integrated design team, followed by an integrated supply team to deliver the scheme in accordance with Council project plan.**
4. **Statement to be issued to press on the project, at an appropriate time.**

Agreed: **It was further agreed to erect a sign at Saintfield Community Centre site detailing the proposed new scheme and the inclusion of a possible 3G pitch in Saintfield.**

SPR/20/2017 **REPORT ON FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR VICTORIA LOCK REFURBISHMENT SCHEME**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act**

	(Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).
Read:	Report from Mr E McManus, Estates/Capital Project Manager, dated 19 January 2017 regarding Reports on Final Accounts – Victoria Lock Refurbishment Scheme (copy circulated).
Agreed:	**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**
Agreed:	**When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran to:** **1. Approve the final account for the dredging contract at Victoria Lock for the sum as detailed in the Officer's report.** **2. To approve the final account for the refurbishment of the sea gates at Victoria Lock for the sum as detailed in the Officer's report.** **3. To approve additional payments for Consultancy services provided by the appointment Consultants for the sum as detailed in the Officer's report.**
SPR/21/2017	**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A REVIEW OF THE BIG SCREEN, NEWRY**
Agreed:	**On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).**
Read:	Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 19 January 2017, regarding Terms of Reference for a review of the Big Screen, Newry (copy circulated).
Agreed:	**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**
Agreed:	**When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor**

Burgess to approve the Terms of Reference contained within the Officer's report, for the review of the Big Screen in Newry, to be undertaken by ASM, Chartered Accountants, and for their report to be subsequently considered by the Audit Committee.

SPR/22/2017	**PROPOSED SALE OF LAND AT SAVAL PLAYING FIELDS TO SAVAL GFC**
Agreed:	**On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).**
Read:	Report from Mrs C McKenna, dated 19 January 2017, regarding proposed sale of additional land at Saval Playing Fields to Saval GFC (copy circulated).
Agreed:	**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**
Agreed:	**When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Clarke to approve the recommendation in the Officer's report to proceed with the sale and granting of sight lines to Saval GFC subject to the conditions outlined in the Officer's report and to approval from the Department for Communities.**
SPR/23/2017	**LPS VALUATION – LAND ADJACENT TO BALLYHORNAN FAMILY CENTRE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BALLYHORNAN 3G SPORTS PITCH**
Agreed:	**On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).**
Read:	Correspondence received from LPS, dated 14 December 2016, regarding Valuation of Land adjacent to Ballyhornan Family

Centre for construction of Ballyhornan 3G sports pitch. (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: **When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Enright to note the valuation report dated 14 December 2016 received from Land and Property Services in relation to land adjacent to Ballyhornan Family Centre for construction of Ballyhornan 3G sports pitch.**

SPR/24/2017 **EMPLOYEE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

Read: Report from Ms A Magorrian, Learning and Development Manager dated 19 January 2017 regarding Employee Learning and Development Policy (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: **When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the Learning and Development Policy contained within the Officer's report, recognising that it puts in place systems and processes to support the delivery of the Council's vision, purpose and values.**

Having previously declared an interest in the following item, the following officers departed from the meeting: Mr E Curtis, Mrs D

Carville, Mr M Lipsett, Mr C O'Rourke, Mr J McBride, Mrs A Robb, Mr C Moffett, Mr E McManus and Ms J McCabe.

SPR/25/2017 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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 Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to any individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive dated 19 January 2017 regarding Proposed Changes to Management Structures (copy circulated)

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

Agreed: **When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 3.1 of Chief Executive's Report on proposed changes to management structures and the new structure contained in appendix 2 of the report.**

The meeting concluded at 6.33pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 6 February 2017

Signed: **Councillor Patrick Brown**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2017

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 January 2017 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

Chairperson:	**Councillor L Kimmins**	
In attendance:	**(Councillors)**	
	Councillor S Burns	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor S Doran	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
	Councillor V Harte	Councillor H Harvey
	Councillor K Loughran	Councillor A McMurray
	Councillor B Ó'Muirí	Councillor D Taylor
	Councillor J Trainor	Councillor W Walker
Non-Committee Members:	Councillor Andrews	Councillor Enright

Officials in attendance:
Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active & Healthy Communities
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities (Health and Wellbeing)
Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities (Leisure and Sport)
Ms J Hillen, Assistant Director of Community Engagement
Mr C Haughey, Parks and Grounds Officer
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/1/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor M Carr.

Mr Lipsett said a number of Councillors had contacted him regarding a request from Ballynahinch RFC to sign a letter of support. He suggested that Councillors change the wording of the letter to ensure it was sent on an individual Councillor basis, as Council had not yet considered supporting the organisations proposals.

Councillor Enright suggested Council recommended supporting Ballynahinch RFC in obtaining LED lights from Alpha.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council recommends supporting Ballynahinch RFC in obtaining LED lights from Alpha.**

AHC/2/2017: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

AHC/3/2017: **ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Action Sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 December 2016. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/112/2016 Delegation to Minister

Councillor Harte raised concerns regarding the extended funding provision for personal, social development and mental health for young people which was to cease on 31 March 2017. She requested Council write to the Minister for Education to reinstate these funds.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, that Council write to the Minister for Education requesting the extended funding provision which was to cease on 31 March 2017, be reinstated.**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 December 2016.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/4/2017 **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DfC) FOR FRONTLINE ADVICE SERVICES**

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, regarding Additional Funding from Department for Communities (DfC) for Frontline Advice Services (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the award of additional DfC funding to Citizens Advice Newry, Mourne and Down, be approved.**

AHC/5/2017 **DEA FORA UPDATE**

Read: Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement and Ms S Rice, DEA Co-ordinator (Crotlieve), dated 23 January 2017 regarding DEA Fora Update (Copy circulated).

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

outlined in the action sheet from the Slieve Gullion DEA Forum private meeting held on 14 December 2016 and approve the 7 DEA one year interim action plans (previously circulated).

AHC/6/2017 **INSURANCE REQUIREMENT FOR GROUPS REQUESTING EVENTS LOGISTICAL SUPPORT**

Read: Report from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities & Events, dated 23 January 2017 regarding Insurance requirement for groups requesting events logistical support (Copy circulated).

Mrs Hillen advised this insurance related specifically to equipment for community events.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran, to agree to amend the Supporting Community Events Policy and Procedures (as detailed in Appendix 2); thereby removing the need for community associations to provide evidence of insurance cover prior for the loan of equipment for community events.**

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/7/2017 **REPORT ON EVERYBODY ACTIVE 2020**

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 23 January 2017 regarding Everybody Active 2020 (Copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ó'Muirí to approve the Every Body Active 2020 Programme for 2017-2018.**

AHC/8/2017 **LEISURE WATCH SCHEME**

Read: Report from Mr K Gordan, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 23 January 2017 regarding Extension of Leisurewatch Scheme within Indoor Leisure Section (Copy circulated).

Councillor Trainor welcomed the Leisure Watch Scheme, saying it was important for protecting young people and vulnerable adults.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Trainor to approve the extension of the Leisurewatch Scheme within the Indoor Leisure Section.**

AHC/9/2017 **PLAY STRATEGY**

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 23 January 2017 regarding the Play Strategy Update (Copy circulated).

In response to queries from Councillor Ó'Muirí, Mr Moore advised that all of the items for the Slieve Gullion DEA would be recommended to be taken to the DEA meetings for further discussion. He also said priorities within the strategy had been based on criteria of the more popular areas and where areas and villages had not meet the criteria, the recommendation was not to preclude, but at this stage Council would not be providing financial support.

In response to a query from Councillor Burns, Mr Moore advised that before any decision was taken regarding a facility, he would recommend it would be discussed at the local DEA meeting and there would be consultation with the community.

Councillors Kimmins, Ó'Muirí, Harvey and Byrne thanked Mr Moore and his team for their work on the Play Strategy.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Burns, that Council's Play Strategy, be approved.**

AHC/10/2017 **SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY**

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 23 January 2017 regarding the Sports Facility Strategy Update (Copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Council's Sports Facility Strategy Update, be approved.**

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

AHC/11/2017 **RELEASE OF HELIUM BALLOONS AND CHINESE LANTERNS**

Read: Report from Mr P McShane, Environmental Co-ordinator, dated 23 January 2017 regarding the Release of Helium Balloons and Chinese Lanterns (Copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Doran, to extend the policy with regard to the release of balloons and Chinese lanterns to cover the entire new Council District.**

AHC/12/2017 **AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGIC ALLIANCE**

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing dated 23 January 2017 regarding the Age Friendly Action Plan 2016-2019 (Copy circulated).

Noted: **The Age Friendly Strategic Alliance was noted.**

AHC/13/2017 **STANDARDISED LICENCE CONDITIONS FOR CARAVAN SITES WITHIN THE NEW COUNCIL DISTRICT**

Read: Report from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing dated 23 January 2017 regarding the Standardised Licence conditions for Caravan Sites within the new Council District (Copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that the appended Caravan Site Licence Conditions for the operation of Residential, Holiday and Touring Caravan Sites in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, be adopted.**

AHC/14/2017 **BALLYHORNAN COASTAL IMPROVEMENT**

Read: Report from Ms D Begley, Biodiversity Officer, dated 23 January 2017 regarding the Ballyhornan Coastal Improvement (Copy circulated).

Councillor Enright said whilst he was in support of the proposal, it was important to be aware of the loss of marram grass on the seaward side and suggested officers look at the seaward side in order to allow the small sand dune plants to grow.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the use of Down Your Street/Live Here Love Here Funding to erect a fence at Ballyhornan to protect the amenity grass area from further erosion, be approved.**

Agreed: **It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker, that an interpretation panel be included explaining to the public why the fence had been erected.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.25pm.

For consideration at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 6 February 2017.

Signed: Councillor L Kimmins
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 25 January at 5.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson:	Councillor R Mulgrew	
Members:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor S Burns
	Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
	Councillor V Harte	Councillor P Ó'Gribin
	Councillor J Macauley	Councillor G Stokes
	Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
	Councillor J Trainor	

Officials in Attendance: Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/1/2017: **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey and Fitzpatrick and from Joe Parkes.

Councillor Mulgrew advised a Cleaner Neighbourhoods Conference, organised by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful was being held on 7th March in Queen's University, Belfast and that if any member of the Committee wished to attend, they should inform officers as soon as possible.

RTS/2/2017: **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

RTS/3/2017: **ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2016**

Back to Agenda

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2016. ***(Copy circulated).***

RTS/185/2016 – Review of Transport NI land maintained by Council's Grounds Maintenance Department
Councillor Curran queried whether a response had been received from the Minister.

Mr O'Rourke advised it had been agreed to bring the matter to the Partnership Panel and NILGA.

Councillor Curran advised the Partnership Panel would be meeting on 31st January 2017 and the information should be sent prior to this meeting.

RTS/187/2016 – Conference on the Future of Energy Policy in NI – including issue relating to Councils – Tuesday 6 December 2016
Councillor Craig asked whether the transcript from the Conference would be available electronically or in hard copy.

Mr O'Rourke advised when the transcript was available it would be forwarded onto Members in whichever format they would like to receive.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – BUILDING CONTROL

RTS/4/2017: **ROADS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT – ROAD CLOSURES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS**

Read: Report from Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, dated 25 January 2017 regarding Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act – Road Closure for Special Events ***(Copy circulated).***

Mr Jackson advised the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 was due to come into effect in 2013 however this had been deferred and would now be enacted in September 2017 which would provide Councils with the power to prohibit or restrict traffic using roads to facilitate special events taking place on the roads.

Mr Jackson advised the report recommended that the Committee note the previous decisions taken by Council in 2013 to:
1. Charge a fee of £400 for administration costs and an advertising cost of £200 for a large event and a fee of £200 for administration cost and an advertising fee of £200 for a small event.

2. Review fees after 6 months to determine if fees were appropriate. The legacy Newry and Mourne District Council had approved the above fees, however the new Newry, Mourne and Down District Council would have to approve the policies, procedures and fees at a later meeting.

Members discussed the issue and raised the following questions:

- During events, would stewards all be first aid trained and would the steward in charge have some identifying clothing?
- Small community festivals may not be able to afford to pay the fees, would community parades fall into this category?
- If villages apply for the order and subsequently it was decided the order was not required, would the fees be refundable?
- If villages that have events within their village square, would this be considered a road closure?
- Would community groups be fined if an event that was being held in a village square spilled out onto the road?

Mr Jackson responded to the queries as follows:

- All road closure applications would need to have event safety plans in place and nominated officials should be identified as the person in charge.
- Even small community events and celebrations would need to apply for an order as if emergency services required access, they would be forewarned that an event was taking place in the area. It would be up to Council to set the fees. Community Parades would still be dealt with through the parades commission.
- Guidance documents had been drafted and would be circulated to all community associations to provide advice on whether they would need to make an application or not.
- It would be a matter for Council to decide if they wanted to fine the community groups. It may be more appropriate to look at their applications for next year and decide whether to grant the order if rules had not been adhered to.

Noted: **It was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

RTS/5/2017: **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LICENSING OF PAVEMENT CAFES ACT (NI) 2014 POLICY**

Read: Report from Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, dated 25 January 2017 regarding Implementation of the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 Policy ***(Copy circulated).***

Councillor Curran asked what staffing would be required to implement this policy.

Mr Jackson advised the licensing and enforcement team within the Building Control section would be responsible for the implementation which would obviously have some resource implications.

Councillor Craig welcomed the implementation of the Act however asked that enforcement be proportionate while the policy was being implemented.

Mr Jackson advised a softly/softly approach would be taken throughout the first year of implementation.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to accept the officer's recommendation regarding Implementation of the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 Policy.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING

RTS/6/2017: **2016 PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Read: Report on Planning Committee Performance ***(Copy circulated).***

Noted: **The Planning Committee Performance Report was noted.**

RTS/7/2017: **RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES**

Read: Report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives. ***(Copy circulated).***

Noted: **The report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives was noted.**

RTS/8/2017: **MEETINGS WITH PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES Q3 OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Report of meetings with public representatives Q3 October-December 2016 ***(Copy circulated).***

Noted: **The report of meetings with public representatives Q3 October-December 2016 was noted.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/9/2017: **REPORT – POTENTIAL VISIT TO RE-GEN PROCESSING PLANT**

Read: Report from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Regulatory & Technical Services dated 25 January 2017 regarding Potential Visit to Re-Gen processing plant ***(Copy circulated).***

Mr O'Rourke advised that many Members had received personal invitations to visit the Re-Gen processing plant, however, in order that the potential for the perception of bias to be reduced, Council should formally organise their own education visit.

Councillor Taylor queried whether Members on the Planning Committee could be compromised in any way if they were accept the invitation to attend the Re-Gen Processing Plant visit.

Mr McKay advised that Re-Gen had a couple of planning applications currently under investigation.

Mr O'Rourke recommended that Planning Committee Members don't attend any visit to Re-Gen processing plant.

Councillor Burns asked that any visit be organised prior to the Committee Meeting.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed that Council officials organise an education visit to the Re-Gen waste processing site, open to all elected members prior to a Committee Meeting.**

RTS/10/2017: **MOVING TO A SINGLE STANDARD OF NO GLASS IN BLUE RECYCLE BINS**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management regarding moving to a single standard of no glass in blue recycle bins ***(Copy circulated).***

Mr O'Rourke advised the purpose of the paper was to inform Committee on the implementation plan to remove glass from the blue bin collections in the legacy Newry area and to ensure awareness of the issues and potential costs associated with doing so. He advised the recommendations were:

1. That as of 1st April 2017, no glass was accepted in blue recycling bins;
2. Council implement the required environmental education and communication programme, which will require two students for six months;
3. Additional glass bottle banks were procured and placed across the Newry Legacy area.

Members discussed the issue at length with some expressing their concerns with regard to disabled people or those without access to transport. Members also stated they felt this was a backward step, especially for those residents in the Ballyward area whose blue bin collection had been quite progressive.

Some Members felt that education was the key issue stating that schoolchildren and young people should be targeted as they will in turn educate their parents.

Mr O'Rourke responded to some of the above concerns as follows:

- It may be an option to make arrangements for back door collections as was currently in place.
- Bottle banks could be placed in carparks as Council now control most of these and they usually are not too close to residential properties.
- The method for collection would be standard across the whole District, Ballyward would not be treated any differently.
- Glass collection was incredibly expensive and may be something that Council wished to proceed with in the future but currently would not have plans to do so.
- Council would not meet its recycling targets without implementing a change such as this.
- The planned education programme would be District-wide as there were still low blue bin percentages across the whole of the District.

Agreed: **The proposal to remove glass from the blue bins was agreed in principle, but this should be via a phased approach. While it was agreed that an environmental education and a communication programme should be implemented, and additional bottle banks should be procured and placed across the legacy Newry area, it was further agreed that officers would bring back more options to Committee at a future date taking regard of the concerns raised and indicating a time-table for implementation.**

FOR NOTING

RTS/11/2017: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN 1 DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin 1 December 2016 (***Copy circulated)***

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Members' Bulletin dated 1 December 2016.**

RTS/12/2017: **ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016.**

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 27 October 2016. (***Copy circulated)***

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 27 October 2016.**

RTS/13/2017: **REPORT RE. CHANGES TO BUILDING REGULATIONS – PART M**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017, from Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director, Regulatory and Technical Services regarding Changes to Building Regulations – Part M (***Copy circulated)***

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the report presented on changes to Building Regulations – Part M.**

RTS/14/2017: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO PLANNING COMMITTEE OPERATIONS**

Read: Planning Committee Operating Protocol and Scheme of Delegation – Proposed Changes to Planning Committee (***Copy circulated)***

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the proposed changes to Planning Committee Operations.**

RTS/15/2017: **REPORT RE. NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARATORY STUDIES, PAPER 9: PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities (***Copy circulated)***

Councillor Craig asked whether the Committee would be kept abreast of any developments of this scheme and whether the Members could have an input into same.

Mr O'Rourke advised the local development plan had been presented and approved at SP&R Committee however relevant studies were to be circulated at relevant Committees for comment and feedback.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the report regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities**

RTS/16/2017: **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING UPDATE**

Read: Report re: Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Action Tracking Update. ***(Copy circulated).***

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the above Report.**

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

RTS/17/2016: **REPORT RE. PREFERRED BORROWING METHOD FOR ARC21 INFRASTRUCTURE**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Regulatory and Technical Services regarding Preferred Borrowing Method for Arc21 Infrastructure (copy circulated)

Agreed: **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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).**

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to agree the preferred method of funding this land acquisition, (assuming Council agree to the purchase) is for Arc21 to borrow the money and for Council to pay off the debt over a period of 20 years.**

RTS/18/2016: **REPORT RE. CONSIDERATION FOR REVISION OF CEMETERY/BURIAL CHARGES FROM APRIL 2017**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance, regarding revision of cemetery/burial charges from April 2017 (copy circulated)

Agreed:	**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 Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).**
Agreed:	**It was unanimously agreed that a report containing revised figures of the Cemetery/Burial Charges for Council's Municipal Cemeteries from April 2017.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.25pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 February 2017.

Signed: **Councillor Roisin Mulgrew**
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

Signed: **Mr C O Rourke**
Director Regulatory &Technical Services

G kulu

Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

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Mr Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

22nd December 2016

Dear Mr Hannaway,

I refer to your letter of 12 October 2016 with regard to the decommissioning of the Sellafield nuclear waste site.

A comprehensive report (in the form of a Probabilistic Risk Assessment, or "PRA") on the risks to Ireland from Sellafield, was completed in 2012. The PRA was a very comprehensive and detailed scientific exercise which established that there was no threat to the health of the public in Ireland arising from activity at the Sellafield site. I am is satisfied with the level of progress made in the intervening years in dealing with the legacy issues at the site and with the level of cooperation being provided by the UK Authorities in this ongoing matter. Having discussed this matter with the relevant officials in my Department, it is not considered that the investigation by the Panorama programme has uncovered any new significant matters which would cause concern for Ireland.

What Ireland wants to see in relation to Sellafield is that the current levels of progress being made on the site on the various projects dealing with the legacy issues are maintained and that there is a continued commitment, financial and otherwise, by the British Government to this work.

To ensure Ireland's input into this process there is on-going engagement at a technical and regulatory level through the UK-Ireland Contact Group on Radiological Matters. This Group allows Ireland unprecedented access to documentation, personnel and reports about the Sellafield facility. This access, including site visits, has informed our understanding of work and developments at Sellafield and how each individual facility on the site interacts at a technical level. This has led to a better awareness of the challenges facing the UK authorities in managing the safe decommissioning of operations at the site. The last site visit, by officials and experts, took place in April 2015. Technical experts from our Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Radiological Protection are scheduled to meet with the UK's Office for Nuclear Regulation shortly to discuss the issues raised in the Panorama programme and any remedial actions proposed to strengthen the safety culture at Sellafield.

Senior officials from my Department will also meet their counterparts in the UK through the UK-Ireland Contact Group on Radiological Matters, as part of their regular series of meetings. The general issue of safety at the Sellafield site, which includes those issues specifically highlighted by the Panorama programme, will be discussed as part of the agenda of that forum.

You may wish to note that the officials from the UK's devolved administrations including Northern Ireland are invited to attend this forum, however I understand Northern Ireland officials are unable to attend the next meeting of the group but have asked to be circulated with meeting materials.

I trust you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Naughten T.D.,

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment

1 Emerald - Athletic
2. Democratic Services - Info.

Glu...

Department for Work & Pensions

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Mr Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Our ref: POS(3)4056/920

6 January 2017

Dear Mr Hannaway

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2016 to the Secretary of State about the increases in women's State Pension age. I am replying as the Minister for Pensions.

The gradual equalisation of State Pension age at 65 for both men and women was first set out in the Pensions Act 1995 (and the increase to 66 set out in the Pensions Act 2007) following our obligations under a directive from the European Union on gender discrimination. Rather than simply increase State Pension age overnight, rises were introduced incrementally by various governments – Conservative, Labour and the Coalition Government.

People living healthier, longer lives, however, also meant that the Coalition Government could not ignore the pressure that this placed on the State Pension system and, in 2011, brought about State Pension age equalisation and the rise to 66 sooner. Our European counterparts such as Germany, Denmark, and Greece have already equalised State Pension age for men and women – much earlier than us.

The Department for Work and Pensions wrote to all those individuals affected, informing them of the change to their State Pension age. We have also legislated for a regular review of State Pension age, the first of which will conclude next year and take into account the latest life expectancy data. Independent analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies has shown us that the rise in women's State Pension age has been accompanied by increased employment for the women in this group.

Even after equalising women's State Pension age with men's, women will spend on average around two years more in receipt of their State Pension because of their longer life expectancy. Women reaching 65 in 2018 are expected to live until 88.9 years whilst the figure for men is 86.7 years. Crucially, the equalisation of State Pension age brought the average proportion of time spent in retirement by men and women more in line with one another, with women spending slightly longer in retirement due to a higher life expectancy. Without equalisation, women would spend on average 41 per cent of their adult lives in retirement, compared to men at 31 per cent.

It should be noted that estimates provided to the Work and Pensions Select Committee in February showed that the costs of undoing current legislation for women are greater than £77 billion up to 2020/21, and that costs would continue to build after that point.

It is also important to note that parliamentary process was fully followed during the passing of the Pensions Act 2011. This change occurred following a public Call for Evidence and extensive debates in Parliament. As you might be aware, a substantial concession worth over £1 billion was made, meaning that no individual will face an increase to their State Pension age of more than 18 months, relative to the Pensions Act 1995 timetable. There are no plans to make further transitional arrangements for this group.

Furthermore it is important to point out that women who have had their State Pension age increased will have the same eligibility to working-age in work, out of work and disability benefits as a man with the same date of birth. Those who are not in work can make initial enquiries about what support may be available to them by calling the Department's claim line on 0800 055 6688, or by checking the information on claiming benefits on the Government website at www.gov.uk.

In addition, the Government has reformed the State Pension system to make clearer what people can expect from the State when they retire.

From April this year, we have introduced a simpler State Pension that will give people a clear picture of what the State will provide so that they can build their own savings. The new State Pension will let people know exactly how much they earn for each qualifying year and, furthermore, it will be above the level of the basic means test in Pension Credit, helping to support private saving and, will give 650,000 women reaching State Pension age, in the first ten years, an increase on average of £416 a year due to the new State Pension valuation.

Automatic enrolment will also complement the new State Pension by helping to ensure that as many people as possible can build a private pension on top of the amount they receive from the State. This will give around 11 million people the opportunity to save into a workplace pension and we expect this to lead to 10 million people newly saving or saving more.

The combination of the new State Pension, automatic enrolment, the protection of benefits and giving people power over their pension pots will ensure pensioners and future pensioners have security in retirement whilst making pensions sustainable for decades to come.

I hope this helps to explain the position.

Yours ever

Richard Harrington

RICHARD HARRINGTON MP
MINISTER FOR PENSIONS

m/2 ; SB/21

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil**
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government

Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

16 January 2017.

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir
Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council
Date 19 JAN 2017
Chief Executive
Liam Hannaway

Mr. Liam Hannaway,
Chief Executive,
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council,
O'Hagan House,
Monaghan Row,
Newry,
BT35 8DJ.

RE: REP70/SC/17

Dear Mr Hannaway,

I have been asked by Mr Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to refer to your correspondence regarding the recent motion passed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in support of the recommendation of the Convention on the Constitution to extend the right to vote at Presidential elections to Irish citizens resident outside the State, which was forwarded to this office from the office of the Taoiseach.

The Government considered the Convention's recommendation in February 2015 and decided that it would be necessary to analyse the full range of legal, practical and policy issues arising before any decision could be made on the holding of a referendum on the matter. A referendum to amend the Irish Constitution would be required to implement the recommendation. The Government has asked the Minister, in co-operation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister of State with responsibility for diaspora affairs, to analyse these issues and to report back to the Government in due course. This work is ongoing with a view to its completion as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond,
Private Secretary

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil, Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath D01 W6X0
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin D01 W6X0
Teil/Tel: 353 1 888 2000 Faics/Fax: 353 1 878 8640
Ríomhphost/e-Mail: minister@housing.gov.ie
www.tithiocht.gov.ie www.housing.gov.ie

northern ireland
local government association
the voice of local government

Mr L Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
District Council Offices
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT35 8DJ

9th January 2017

Dear Liam

I have pleasure in enclosing NILGA's Summary Product & Work Plan for 2017/18, together with the associated investment subscription.

2017/18 will be a major year for local government in Northern Ireland, and our collective resolve will be needed to sustain and develop councils as key public service providers and place shaper.

The Work Plan regionally (all councils) and specifically aims to meet the requirements of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, but is also designed to adapt to the wider political and fiscal environment you and the other 10 councils are operating within regionally, nationally and trans-nationally.

It draws on service requests and feedback from Newry, Mourne & Down members and officers together with your fellow member councils, the impact of which has been very constructive and substantial during 2016/17.

Members of the Association, NILGA Vice-President Councillor Dermot Curran along with Executive colleagues, Councillors Robert Burgess, Michael Ruane and Charlie Casey, are valued members who participate fully in the direction and work of NILGA, following the Association's major review and our modernisation.

Of equal importance has been the direct involvement of individual members and officers across the 11 councils in terms of developing the core product requirements from NILGA during this electoral period.

In 2017/18, all of our work will

- Ensure an All Party initiative is established to develop and resource Local Government in NI now and beyond the new electoral period from May 2019;
- Ensure the development of a New Burdens Framework for NI, to fully resource and indemnify councils for any material transferred function or additional responsibility;
- Ensure the delivery of a new, Regionally Co-ordinated, locally delivered elected member training and awareness programme, gaining expertise and resources externally;
- Develop new Code of Conduct, Partnership Panel, Policy Guidance and Evidence provision within the new Programme for Government's delivery period and ethos.

NILGA will continue to develop its very strong relationship at corporate level with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, including, I trust, the aspiration of your council to gain the Charter Plus award and taking advantage of new investment opportunities for the local economy.

We will continue to use the council's venues such as Bagenal's Castle and Downshire Civic Centre for member and officer awareness events on matters as important, yet diverse, as the Code of Conduct, new economic investment opportunities, Waste, Rates and planning and the emerging Programme for Government.

NILGA has and will continue to explicitly demonstrate high levels of performance and value for money, despite the modest size of the Association's resources and team. We draw on a much wider team across these islands, due to our credibility and network which has demonstrably impacted on Newry, Mourne and Down District Council this year.

NILGA looks forward to continuing to engage in an overall strategic set of outcomes for and with you and to realising some of your corporate and member development aspirations, promoting your successes and championing the sustainability of the wider local government sector in Northern Ireland.

Acceptance of the attached Work Plan and Investment for 2017/18 is requested by 28th February 2017, and I really look forward to working with you, your members and officers in 2017/18.

Yours sincerely

Derek McCallan
Chief Executive

Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB
Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

All Council NILGA, Product & Work Plan 2017/18

1. Legislation, Investment & Transfers of Functions:

NILGA, working with all 11 councils and the wider 450 local authority Local Government Group, will commission and present a **New Burdens Framework** to the NI Executive, designed to adapt the Local Government Act NI (2015) and to fully resource and indemnify councils for all transfers of functions including Regeneration.

NILGA will advocate and with evidence present proposals on Rates Reform to embed a more localised investment and asset management role for all councils in Northern Ireland.

Following the passing of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 in England / Wales, NILGA will enable an **All Party, Central – Local Government Group on Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution** to strengthen the role and sustainability of councils and enhance the democratic, efficient work of local government in Northern Ireland.

2. Statutory Representation and Co-ordination

NILGA will provide a full Secretariat Service for the 11 member Councils to ensure an effective, productive Partnership Panel for Local Government, in tandem with the Department for Communities and all NI Executive Ministers / Departments.

NILGA will ensure effective, productive representation drawing on members and officers from the 11 councils, on key Monitoring & Investment mechanisms including the Committee of the Regions, Interreg V, the NI Rural Development Programme, Jobs and Growth, Ministerial Planning Group, Waste Management Co-ordination Group and the Future Skills Group.

3. National and Regional Policy, Lobbying, Guidance, Publications, Representation:

NILGA will provide essential Policy Guidance and submit evidence spanning all NI Executive Departments, Westminster, all island bodies and within EU Referendum Outcome mechanisms, to **protect, advocate and sustain** local councils in Northern Ireland. Policy Guidance will include the development of working groups drawn from **the Committee for the Executive Office** (TEO) and the **Committee for Communities** (DfC).

The Association will co-ordinate NI local government's input in National strategic work of the Local Government Group UK and Ireland wide, drawing down investment and collating best practice for NI councils on matters including member development, enterprise and job development, coastal erosion, infrastructure and community planning. This work will include the **National Pay Spine Review** and National Pay Consultations and a NI Councils co-ordinated response.

NILGA will run a **Planning Refresher Series** of awareness events, produce contemporary, user friendly **Planning Guidance**, and ensure that revisions to the **Councillor Code of Conduct** are (i) fully understood within all councils, (ii) fully tested through scenario training & awareness events and (iii) do not disadvantage councils or councillors in NI comparative to neighbouring jurisdictions.

4. **Regional and Sub Regional Events, Awareness, Flagship Annual Conference:**

NILGA will co-ordinate 20 key events in 2017/18 on Planning, Community Planning, New Burdens, the Economic, Social, Investment Strategies and Rates Consultations, applying the General Power of Competence, induction on new parts of the Code of Conduct, New Burdens policies to better resource and protect councils in NI, and the roles of local authorities in the new Programme for Government.

These bespoke events will be free to the 11 member councils.

NILGA's **Annual Flagship Conference** will take place on Thursday 12th October 2017, in La Mon Hotel and Country Club, Castlereagh Hills. The Conference this year will launch the **"Excellence in Local Government"** Awards Evening, which will recognise across the 11 councils those members, staff, businesses and community bodies providing exemplary public service in NI. **The Flagship Conference and Excellence Evening will have an allocation of 4 NILGA Council Guest Passes per local authority, allocated by the First Citizen.**

5. **Elected Member Development including Charter / Charter Plus:**

NILGA will co-ordinate and support the effective delivery of the accredited **National Charter** and **National Charter Plus Awards** for Elected Member development by NI's 11 councils.

In partnership with councils and the NAC, NILGA will drive a **Regional Member Development Programme for 2017 – 2019**, to enable regionally co-ordinated and procured, locally delivered, added value, cost effective, member learning toolkit.

NILGA in partnership will deliver a **Councillor Development Network** co-ordinated by its all Council elected member steering group, producing capacity building, learning and e-learning events, products and publications.

NILGA will retain the procurement benefits for NI councils of membership of the National Association of Regional Employers (NARE) and input councils' requirements to NARE on work force, member development and related issues.

6. **International & European Policy, Investment, Representation:**

NILGA will bid for Northern Ireland's councils to be showcased through hosting the 53 nation **Commonwealth Local Government Forum 2019 International Conference.**

NILGA will deliver the **European Entrepreneurial Region Programme** of work, directly with participating councils' economy and investment teams, Catalyst Inc, Young Enterprise, University of Ulster Business School, Belfast Met, Queens University, Invest NI, Department of the Economy, Colleges NI, Federation of Small Businesses NI and Enterprise Northern Ireland.

NILGA will co-ordinate input into the EU's Committee of the Regions, all relevant Monitoring Committees (e.g. Peace IV, SEUPB), and related bodies.

7. **Regional Communication, Bulletins, Information Portal, Member Liaison:**

NILGA will launch a new, interactive, modern media platform, with improved website, social media and information library links for all member councils and our strategic partners.

It will produce 10 NILGA Member Council Bulletins, related Press Releases, provide presentations to councils, group leaders and SOLACE as required, attend Party Conferences, represent councils best interests in national and regional media and ensure through and effective local community and Council promotion within Ulster in Bloom 2017/18.

8. **Strategic, Regional Working Groups:**

NILGA will enable a minimum of 16 task and finish sessions during 2017/18 for all councils, of NILGA Action Groups for Planning, Community Planning, Economic Development, Interreg, Growth & Jobs, Regional Improvement, Audit & Risk, Rural Development and Waste. These will be convened in partnership with councils, SOLACE and government departments, including Department of Finance, Department of Economy, Department for Communities, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

These will have specific work plans tailored exclusively to councils' requirements and can be further shaped to assist the emerging Programme for Government, modernisation and shared services agendas.

9. **NI Council Important Research and Development:**

Work on Council required initiatives such as Devolution, New Financial Models, Coastal Erosion, Economic Policy, Un-adopted Roads, developing a Programme for Local Government, Local Democracy, Place Shaping, Commissioning, new Programme for Government outcomes, and additionally **as required by councils.**

10. **Corporate Planning & Performance Management:**

NILGA will provide a new Corporate Plan for the period June 2017 – May 2019, to succeed the present Plan and in accordance with member councils needs, at its 2017 AGM, together with performance measurement and management aligned to this.

11. **Back Office:**

Support for member & council liaison, Full Members and Executive Meetings, Personnel, Finance and Office Management, Ulster in Bloom and Audit Committee.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Subscription* to enable investment in the above for 2017/18 is £48,914 (excluding VAT), which equates to 2016/17 plus 1% to accommodate National Pay implementation. An invoice will be sent to your Council on 1st April 2017.

NB: NILGA will maintain the link with National Pay machinery (NJC) but will not engage in workforce or industrial relations work pending outcomes of the independent review of such matters. Maintaining this link is part of the above costs, but the investment to Local Government Employers to benefit from wider policy, negotiation and fiscal work performed by the LGE (about £3,900 per Council) is billed separately as agreed with SOLACE.

* Newry, Mourne & Down District Council along with Ards & North Down, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon and Derry & Strabane, is a Band B Council, which is a Council with a population between 145,000 – 300,000.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association
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#teamlocgovni

CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division

Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Room 809
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast BT4 3SB
Telephone: 028 9052 4427

Date 16 January 2017

Dear Stakeholder,

CONSULTATION – DAERA KNOWLEDGE FRAMEWORK (EDUCATION STRATEGY)

The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has opened a public consultation on the Department's Knowledge Framework (Education Strategy).

A copy of the consultation document is attached, however alternative formats can be made available by contacting policy.development@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephoning (028) 9052 4355.

The consultation will close on Monday 27 February 2017 and we would welcome your comments by this date.

Purpose of the consultation

The draft DAERA Knowledge Framework is a succinct, high level framework that sets out the rationale for the Department's involvement in education, knowledge and skills, what the Department seeks to achieve and the nature of its interventions.

The Framework is broader than solely education and also encompasses training and technology exchange provision. All of these elements should be central to the Department's policy objectives and strategic goals, and wherever possible, knowledge and skills acquisition should be integral components of all policy interventions and programmes aimed at delivering the Department's strategic objectives.

It is intended that the Framework will act as the point of reference against which all of the Department's future knowledge interventions can be tested and anchored. It is this latter aspect (i.e. the testing of what we do against the Framework) that will both drive change and guide the nature of future knowledge interventions.

A body of background information, together with the findings from research, has been collated within a single document to provide the context and underpinning evidence base to inform the development of the Framework. This Evidence document will be published on the Departmental website in due course.

How to respond

If you wish to make a response to this consultation exercise a consultation response pro forma is available on the DAERA website at the following link (link).

Responses to this consultation should be sent to:

CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Room 361A
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Or by e-mail to: policy.development@daera-ni.gov.uk

Timetable

Responses to the consultation should be sent to the postal or e-mail addresses above and should arrive no later than **Monday 27 February 2017**. It may not be possible to consider responses received after this date. An acknowledgement will be sent to confirm receipt of each response.

Equality Screening

Equality screening was undertaken and has been published as part of this consultation exercise. The Knowledge Framework sets out the longer-term goals of the Department in relation to its involvement in education and knowledge, what it seeks to achieve, and the nature of its interventions and so it is not yet possible to specify the likely impact of future policies that may arise as a consequence of the Framework. However S75 issues will be kept under review as the Framework evolves, and equality screening will be undertaken on all related future policy as part of the normal policy development process.

Yours faithfully

Paul Caskie

Paul Caskie
Acting Director
CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Knowledge Framework

1. Introduction

The future success of the Northern Ireland agri-food industry, like any other industry, will be determined largely by the ability of its people to acquire, assimilate and deploy knowledge that equips them to prosper in changing markets and trading conditions and how quickly and efficiently they can do this in comparison with competitors in other regions.

Knowledge is the means by which challenges are overcome and opportunities exploited, and its acquisition is a continuous process and represents on-going investment.

Similarly, the difference between the economic or environmental performance of any two businesses will be determined primarily by the skills, competences, attitudes and behaviours of operators within those businesses.

This Knowledge Framework sets out the rationale for DAERA's involvement in education, training and technology exchange, the nature of its interventions and what the Department seeks to achieve.

This Framework proposes that involvement in education, training and technology exchange provision should be driven by DAERA's policy objectives and strategic goals. Wherever possible, encouraging knowledge and skills will be included within all of DAERA's work.

Back to Agenda

2. Background

The Department's statutory authority for involvement in education and training comes from the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949[1] as amended by the Agriculture (Northern Ireland) Order 2004[2]. Section 5(1) of the 1949 Act states that "*the Department may provide, equip and maintain colleges and other institutions for the purpose of instructing persons in agriculture and related subjects*"[3] and Section 5(2) states that "*the Department may a) provide instruction in agriculture and related subjects; (b) arrange for the provision by others of such instruction;*".

The Department provides a range of full time and part time education as well as industry short courses at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE). CAFRE is responsible for the competence development of those entering and those already working in the agri-food industry through the development and delivery of lifelong learning programmes and knowledge exchange provision.

In 2012 the Department (then Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)) made a commitment to create and deliver a targeted strategy for education and lifelong learning. The key driver for this was to help the agri-food industry prepare for future market opportunities and economic challenges. This commitment was reaffirmed in the Going for Growth Action Plan in September 2014.

Adaptability is vital to the sustainability and growth of not just agri-food, but any industry. This will be especially true given that the agri-food industry will be faced with great change in the coming decades, operating in a changing trading landscape with tough competition and increasing environmental demands.

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[1] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/apni/1949/2
[2] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2004/3327/contents
[3] "related subjects" includes (in so far as they do not fall within the definition of agriculture)—
(a) the manufacture, processing, packaging, marketing and supply of food; (b) veterinary science and the keeping and care of animals; (c) the use of equipment, technology and business practices in the carrying on of agricultural activities; (d) the protection of the natural rural environment; (e) rural development and enterprise; (f) [forestry within the meaning of the Forestry Act (Northern Ireland)2010;] (g) fisheries; (h) any science or applied science relating to any of the above; and (i) any other subject appearing to the Department to conduce to a knowledge of the science and practice of agriculture.]

The commitment to develop an Education and Lifelong Learning Strategy has therefore been taken further, to encompass not only education, but also training and technology exchange provision. This document has therefore been categorised as a '**Knowledge Framework**' and will be used by the Department to shape future interventions.

Whilst this framework focuses on the agri-food industry, given the Department's objectives for the environment and wider rural issues, the framework also addresses how the Department will ensure associated knowledge needs for these objectives will be met.

3. Strategic Policy Context

The Northern Ireland Executive made the economy a top priority in its draft Programme for Government 2016-2021[4], which states an overall purpose of 'Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage, and driving economic growth. This purpose is underpinned by 14 objectives and 42 associated indicators, which include;

- Increase the competitiveness of the economy
- Improve the skills profile of the population

This is supported by the overarching goal of the current Northern Ireland Economic Strategy[5],[6] to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. Within that Strategy, the economic vision for 2030 is '*An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all*'.

In order to deliver the longer term priority of the Executive, five strategic rebalancing themes have been developed. These themes are:

- **Stimulating innovation, R&D and creativity;**
- **Improving employability and the level, relevance and use of skills;**
- **Competing in the global economy;**
- **Encouraging business growth; and**
- **Developing our economic infrastructure.**

The Strategy recognises agri-food as one of the areas in Northern Ireland which has the greatest potential for growth. It highlights the need to develop a world class education and skills system which is critical for economic growth, and indicates that improving the skills and employability of the entire workforce will allow people to

[4] https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/newnigov/draft-pfg-framework-2016-21.pdf
[5] https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/topics/work-executive/economic-strategy
[6] The Northern Ireland Executive is currently considering a refreshed Economic Strategy

progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion.

The draft DAERA 2020 strategic plan is in line with the wider Strategic context, noting the following strategic outcomes;

- **Sustainable agri-food, fisheries, forestry and industrial sectors**
- **A clean, healthy environment, benefiting people, nature and the economy**
- **A thriving rural economy, contributing to prosperity and wellbeing**

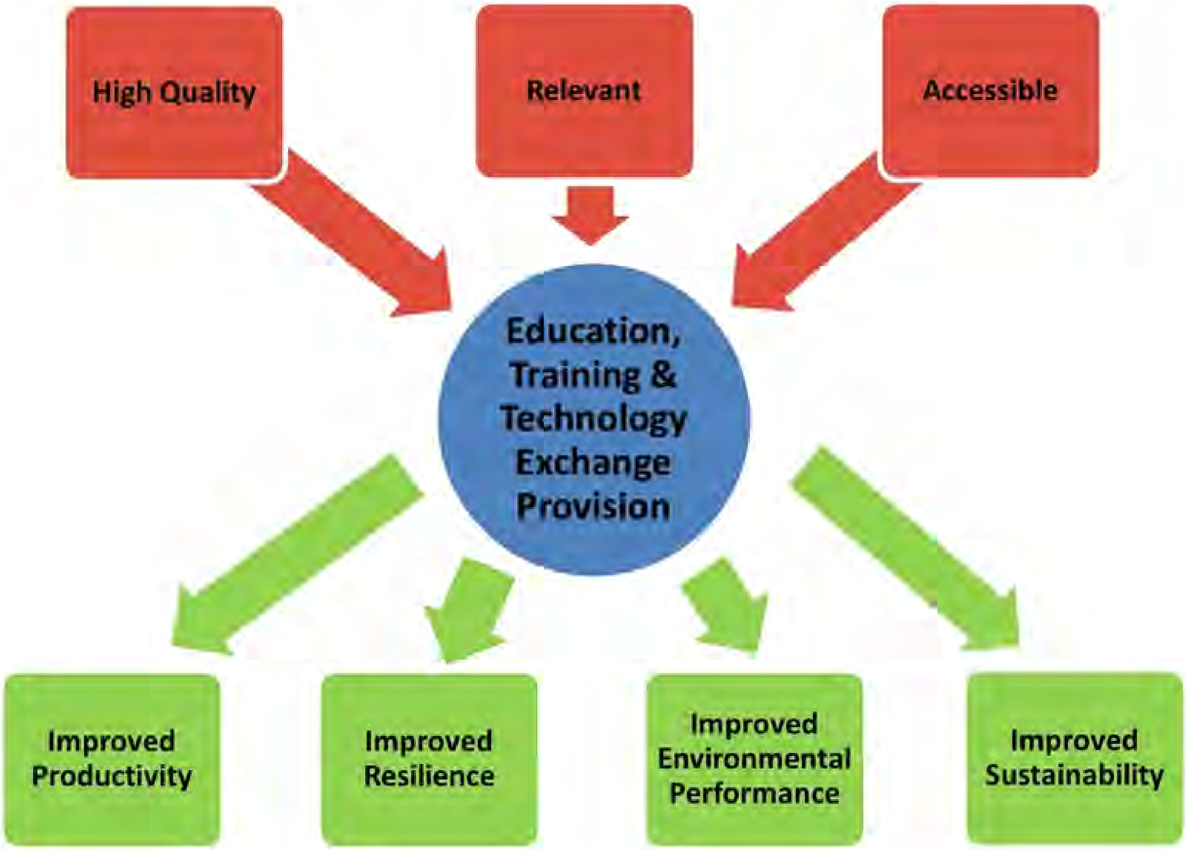
and an underlying outcome in relation to how DAERA operates;

- **A well led, high performing organisation focused on outcomes**

The Framework has been informed by an evidence base, which will be published on the DAERA website [*web link will be inserted when available*).

4. Objective

The Framework aims to ensure that individuals, organisations, and businesses within the agri-food industry[7] have access to **high quality**, **relevant and accessible education, training and technology exchange provision** to improve **productivity**, **resilience**, **environmental performance** and **sustainability**.



This objective will be achieved by;

- Focussing the Department's investment in knowledge on **delivering its strategic goals**, and ensure knowledge interventions are **directly relevant to the achievement of its policy agenda**. Investing only where there is **evidence** to **support the rationale** for that intervention. (This may require some re-focussing of existing education programmes).

[7] i.e. the complete agri-food supply chain, including those enterprises engaged in agriculture and the processing of food and drink into value-added food items

- Ensuring that there is an appropriate **balance of investment and impact** across the Department's strategic policy interests.
- The enhancement of knowledge and skills will be an integral component of any policy intervention. Interventions may include; promotion and marketing (to tackle the lack of value attached to education), incentivisation (e.g. subsidising the cost of acquiring skills where appropriate, improving accessibility, making education and knowledge a mandatory gateway to entering other programmes) or regulation (e.g. requiring certain minimum skills levels to be achieved by operators).

5. Key Principles

i. Remit

- The focus will be on the education, training needs and technology exchange requirements of the agriculture, horticulture and food sectors. Knowledge interventions for other sectors and activities will be addressed in a variety ways:

- The main educational and training needs of the fisheries sector are addressed by Seafish[8].

- The main educational and training needs for environmental sciences are addressed by Higher and Further Education institutions. Knowledge interventions in relation to the environment will primarily be focussed on the target groups of land managers and the food processing sector.

- Knowledge interventions in furtherance of the rural affairs agenda will be delivered via the rural champion role i.e. influencing educational policy and delivery in the Departments of Education and Economy.

- Education, training and technology exchange provision delivered by DAERA will contain components across a range of disciplines relevant to the safe, environmentally sustainable and animal welfare compliant conduct of agri-food businesses.

ii. Access to Life Long Learning

- DAERA will maximise the use of channels and methods that meet the particular needs of the target audiences – balancing ease of access, quality of offering, cost of delivery and cost recovery.

- DAERA has an obligation to ensure equality of opportunity for all – for example those with dependents and those with particular needs. This will mean

[8] http://www.seafish.org/

delivering in alternative and new ways where appropriate, for example in relation to location, timing and delivery channel.

- DAERA will seek to encourage continuous life-long learning. Access to training will be designed to be flexible and formal education programmes will, wherever possible, allow progression.

iii. **Partnership and Collaboration**

- DAERA will seek to work with providers and encourage provision that will help the Department achieve its strategic objectives. DAERA will work to avoid duplication of provision and avoid displacement. It will also be open to the possibility of directing training provision which would be undertaken by a suitable delivery agent.

- DAERA will seek to build stronger and closer ties with the local Further Education and Higher Education sectors and stakeholders at a policy level to ensure that there is shared understanding of need and complementarity in terms of provision.

- DAERA invests significantly in research and development with the aim of improving productivity and supporting innovation and this investment can only ever generate a return if its outcomes are communicated through education and lifelong learning and adopted by industry. DAERA will work to ensure that Knowledge Exchange maximises its potential to make a significant positive economic impact on agri-food businesses and on their environmental performance.

- There will be close engagement between CAFRE and the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in identifying research/evidence needs and communicating these through the DAERA Evidence and Innovation commissioning processes, and in facilitating and encouraging the uptake of research findings by industry.

- CAFRE will ensure that it engages with other relevant research providers and sources of innovation nationally and internationally to capitalise on the knowledge and opportunities flowing from research.

iv. **Quality**

- DAERA will protect and further enhance the reputation of its education, training and technology exchange provision.

- DAERA, in conjunction with the Department for the Economy, will strive to ensure that education, training and technology exchange provision adhere to educational Quality Assurance (QA) systems.

- DAERA will employ the systematic use of benchmarking and reporting data to monitor performance.

- DAERA will provide assurances about quality and standards through the use of a relevant governing body.

v. **Affordability**

- Provision of knowledge represents a significant investment by DAERA therefore, this investment will be targeted so that it delivers the best possible returns in terms of achieving DAERA's strategic objectives.

- Prioritisation of DAERA's allocation of resources for knowledge provision will be informed by its strategic objectives and by evidence of market failure. The main focus of DAERA funding will be the Northern Ireland agri-food sector in terms of enhancing its economic and environmental performance.

- DAERA has no strategic interest in funding education, training and technology exchange provision in response to demands not linked to its policy objectives and strategic goals. Any such provision will be cost neutral.

- DAERA will seek to avoid crowding out private sector provision through inappropriate cost recovery arrangements and will encourage alternative, high quality provision where applicable.

6. Target Groups

Land Managers and Workforce

i. Managers and workers in the agriculture and horticulture sectors must be equipped with the appropriate business and technical skills to operate a business that can be economically and environmentally sustainable, and in certain instances to meet regulatory requirements. It is recognised that some holdings are operated on the basis of other motivations, such as lifestyle choice, and commercial success is not the primary objective. However all workers should possess at least the basic competences so that they will not present a risk to themselves (health and safety), to consumers (food safety), to the environment (pollution and habitat and species degradation) or to other business (e.g. through the spread of animal or plant diseases).

ii. The horticulture sector is becoming increasingly complex with ongoing technological advances and it needs well qualified and versatile people to utilise these advances. The future success of the Northern Ireland horticulture sector depends on the development of young people with the ability, training and leadership skills to realise the opportunities for the industry to grow.

iii. Evidence indicates that education, both mainstream and vocational, is undervalued by those in the agriculture sector, with disengagement from mainstream education in particular by young farm family members who are planning to work on the family farm. However, evidence also shows that a 'trained' agriculture worker has higher levels of output compared with an untrained agriculture worker and that family farm income is higher for agriculturally educated workers.

Food Processing Workforce

iv. The Northern Ireland food processing industry comprises a diverse range of business operations, from small scale, family owned food production and processing enterprises with a domestic or niche market orientation to larger firms focused on the national retail and food service markets and the exploitation of wider international markets.

v. The food sector requires a broad spectrum of knowledge to meet its needs, such as food technology, science, engineering, logistics, information technology, marketing and business management. The arguments relating to under-investment and market failure in terms of knowledge acquisition and deployment are not as obvious in the food processing sector compared with the primary production sector. Although employers can engage individuals with the specific skills that they require or train existing employees to meet business objectives, many food businesses are small and have similar challenges to sole traders operating on family farms.

vi. From a knowledge perspective, DAERAs interest in the food sector is to ensure that it has adequate access to the necessary sources of knowledge to enable it to meet its needs and capitalise on opportunities. The food sector is part of the manufacturing sector and generic knowledge provision for manufacturing is delivered primarily by the Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) sectors, as well as manufacturers themselves investing in relevant and necessary training. Any investment that DAERA may make in food education at FE or HE level needs to be carefully targeted at meeting clearly identifiable gaps in provision that are not being or likely to be met by other educational establishments. The Department will not duplicate or displace that which is on offer by other providers

vii. The cost of investment in lifelong learning and operative skills within the food processing sector primarily falls to employers. Where there is evidence of barriers to participation DAERA should consider if targeted financial supports, or other interventions, are required.

7. Intended Outcomes

Individuals, organisations, and businesses within the agri-food industry will see improvements in **productivity**, **resilience**, **environmental performance** and **sustainability**.

i. By 2025, DAERA will seek to ensure that anyone taking over as head of a commercial farm or horticulture business (i.e. one where the farm represents the primary source of income) should have at least a Level 3 relevant qualification (equivalent to 'A' Level or level 3 NVQ), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position.

ii. By 2025 DAERA, working with other providers, will seek to ensure that all new manager level appointees in the food processing sector should have at least a Level 5 qualification in a relevant discipline (equivalent to foundation degree or higher national diploma (HND), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position.

iii. Increased educational attainment across DAERA provision.

iv. Provision of a quality service, independently recognised through relevant awarding bodies.

v. Improved customer satisfaction across all agreed programmes.

vi. Researchers will be involved in the delivery of knowledge at CAFRE, especially in higher education programmes, thereby helping to ensure the direct flow of research into the education and knowledge exchange programmes.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

i. DAERA's knowledge interventions will be based on evidence to drive sustainable economic and environmental outcomes. To that end, there will be on-going investment in research to inform the direction and delivery of the knowledge agenda (e.g. who and how we educate and the long term impact of the education). This will also be informed by the on-going monitoring of programmes, as well as stakeholder engagement and feedback. It will be subject to periodic review and assessment to gauge need, quality of provision, measure impact, assess value for money and guide any on-going provision.

ii. The Department will identify and systematically capture information to help inform its interventions. In this respect:
    - It will establish a baseline from which the Department can monitor and evaluate the impact of intervention measures going forward.
    - Instead of recording information of educational attainment at different levels, attainment should be recorded so that there is information available to benchmark and to assist in identifying the long term benefits of the education provided.
    - The Department will track the outcomes of its investment in knowledge, ensuring that resources are directed towards interventions that have tangible and quantifiable outcomes.

Consultation Response Template

Please use this template for submitting your responses and comments. The template should be read in conjunction with the draft Knowledge Framework.

To request a hard copy of the consultation papers please write, or email, as detailed below or telephone 028 9052 4355. The deadline for responses to this consultation is **Monday 27 February 2017**. All responses should be received by then to ensure they can be fully considered.

DAERA welcomes any comments you wish to make on all of the proposals or just on those issues that are of particular interest to you in the consultation.

If you are completing an electronic version of this form, it should be emailed to: policy.development@daera-ni.cov.uk.

Alternatively you can post a hard copy of the completed form to:

CAP Policy, Economics and Statistics Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Room 361A
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

All responses should be received by **Monday 27 February 2017**.

Publication of responses

The Department will publish a summary of responses following the closing date for receipt of comments. Your response, and all other responses to this publication, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of responses and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this publication. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

The Data Protection Act states that information provided by respondents to this consultation exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public, please include an explanation in your response.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;

The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and

Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/).

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately.

1. Name / Organisation

Position within organisation

Title Mr ☐ **Ms** ☐ **Mrs** ☐ **Miss** ☐ **Dr** ☐ **Please tick as appropriate**

Surname

Forename

2. Postal Address

Postcode	**Phone**	**Email**

If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public, please provide an explanation below;

Consultation Questions

1) Do you agree that DAERA's involvement in education, training and technology exchange provision should be driven by DAERA's policy objectives and strategic goals?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't Know

Please give a reason for your choice;

2) The suggested focus of the draft Framework is on the education, training needs and technology exchange provision of the land based and food processing sectors. Do you agree with this specific focus and approach?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't Know

Please give a reason for your choice;

3) Do you agree with the objective of the draft Framework?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't Know

Please give a reason for your choice;

4) Do you agree with the key principles of the draft Framework?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't Know

Please give a reason for your choice;

5) **Do you agree the intended outcomes of the draft Framework?**

6) **A key outcome proposed in the draft Knowledge Framework is that anyone taking over as head of a commercial farm or horticulture business (i.e. one where the farm represents the primary source of income) should have at least a Level 3 relevant qualification (equivalent to 'A' Level or level 3 NVQ), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position. Do you agree with that approach? Does the qualification level seem appropriate and by what date (year) should this be implemented?**

7) **A key outcome proposed in the draft Knowledge Framework is that DAERA, working with other providers, will seek to ensure that all new manager level appointees in the food processing sector should have at least a Level 5 qualification in a relevant discipline (equivalent to foundation degree or higher national diploma (HND)), i.e. the minimum qualification for anyone in a managerial position. Do you agree with that approach? Does the qualification level seem appropriate and by what date (year) should this be implemented**

8) **Do you have any views on the conclusions reached by DAERA to screen out further assessment in respect of Equality Impact Assessment;?**

9) **Is there any other aspect of the proposals you wish to comment on?**