



November 3rd, 2017

**Notice Of Meeting**

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

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 October 2017

[Council-02102017.pdf](#)

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### *Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing*

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## 4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2017

[Council Meeting-02102017.pdf](#)

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## 5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 September 2017

[Special Council-25092017.pdf](#)

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### *Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption*

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## 6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9th October 2017

[ERT Mins 09.10.17.pdf](#)

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## 7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12th October 2017

[SPR Minutes 12-10-2017.pdf](#)

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## 8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 24th October 2017

[AHC-24-10-2017.pdf](#)

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## 9.0 Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 18th October 2017

[RTS Minutes - 18 October 2017.pdf](#)

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## 10.0 Ireland 2040 "Our Plan" - Draft National Planning Framework for Republic of Ireland - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Consultation Response. (Attached).

 Draft National Planning Framework - Ireland 2040 - 06.11.17.pdf

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### Notices of Motion

## 11.0 Notice of Motion received from Councillor Trainor

"This council calls on the Education Authority to keep Ardnabannon outdoor education centre open and to reverse its decision to downgrade Killyleagh and Killowen outdoor education centres, as these decisions will disadvantage young people from this district and beyond."

## 12.0 Notice of Motion received from Councillors Clarke

"In the aftermath of the intimidation of families from a shared housing development in Cantrell Close Belfast that this council acknowledges the recent statement by the six main party leaders pledging their support for `citizens to live in a society without fear of intimidation, free from sectarianism and condemn all forms of sectarianism, intolerance and threats of violence`

That this council also affirms the principle of the Good Friday Agreement which promised to citizens `the right to freely choose one`s place of residence` and the `right to freedom from sectarian harassment` and pledges its support for;

- The right to employment free from sectarian discrimination, intimidation and attack.
- The right to housing and to live in your home free from sectarian attack, intimidation or any other discrimination.
- The right to free association, recreation and to socialise at places of choice free from sectarian attack, intimidation or other discrimination.
- The right to practice religious faith and worship free from sectarian attack, intimidation or other discrimination.
- The duty to report or challenge sectarian speech, attack, intimidation, or other discrimination when witnessed or heard"

## 13.0 Notice of Motion received from Councillors Murnin, Quinn and Brown

"This Council recognises the invaluable contribution of community transport, community groups, voluntary sector organisations and charities that operate transport under section 10b permits to the citizens of Newry Mourne and Down Council.

Consultations issued by the Department for Infrastructure regarding changes to Driver Licensing requirements and the use of section 10b permits puts transport in Newry Mourne & Down under threat. These proposed changes are being undertaken without an impact assessment of the effects of the proposed change and without contingency plans or resources being put in place to ensure transport for older people, disabled and the most vulnerable in society continues after 1st

January 2018.

This council calls upon the Department for Infrastructure to suspend this consultation process until such times that the Department can demonstrate that proper provision has been put in place to ensure citizens of Newry Mourne and Down Council continue to receive transport provision that best meets their needs."

## **14.0 Notice of Motion received from Councillor Devlin**

"This council notes the well documented and evidenced hardship caused in England, Scotland and Wales by the roll out of Universal Credit; this Council calls for an immediate halt to the rollout of Universal Credit across the North to protect the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged from poverty, rent arrears and homelessness; and commits to writing to party leaders calling on them to work together to deliver a system that is fair, practical and compassionate."



# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews	<a href="mailto:terry.andrews@nmandd.org">terry.andrews@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Naomi Bailie	<a href="mailto:naomi.bailie@nmandd.org">naomi.bailie@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Patrick Brown	<a href="mailto:patrick.brown@nmandd.org">patrick.brown@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Robert Burgess	<a href="mailto:robert.burgess@nmandd.org">robert.burgess@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Stephen Burns	<a href="mailto:stephen.burns@nmandd.org">stephen.burns@nmandd.org</a>
Lorraine Burns	<a href="mailto:lorraine.burns@nmandd.org">lorraine.burns@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Pete Byrne	<a href="mailto:pete.byrne@nmandd.org">pete.byrne@nmandd.org</a>
Mr Gerard Byrne	<a href="mailto:gerard.byrne@nmandd.org">gerard.byrne@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Michael Carr	<a href="mailto:michael.carr@nmandd.org">michael.carr@nmandd.org</a>
Mrs Dorinnia Carville	<a href="mailto:dorinnia.carville@nmandd.org">dorinnia.carville@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr charlie casey	<a href="mailto:charlie.casey@nmandd.org">charlie.casey@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr William Clarke	<a href="mailto:william.clarke@nmandd.org">william.clarke@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Garth Craig	<a href="mailto:garth.craig@nmandd.org">garth.craig@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Dermot Curran	<a href="mailto:dermot.curran@nmandd.org">dermot.curran@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Laura Devlin	<a href="mailto:laura.devlin@nmandd.org">laura.devlin@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Sean Doran	<a href="mailto:sean.doran@nmandd.org">sean.doran@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Cadogan Enright	<a href="mailto:cadogan.enright@nmandd.org">cadogan.enright@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Gillian Fitzpatrick	<a href="mailto:gillian.fitzpatrick@nmandd.org">gillian.fitzpatrick@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Glyn Hanna	<a href="mailto:glyn.hanna@nmandd.org">glyn.hanna@nmandd.org</a>
Mr Liam Hannaway	<a href="mailto:liam.hannaway@nmandd.org">liam.hannaway@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Valerie Harte	<a href="mailto:valerie.harte@nmandd.org">valerie.harte@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Harry Harvey	<a href="mailto:harry.harvey@nmandd.org">harry.harvey@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Terry Hearty	<a href="mailto:terry.hearty@nmandd.org">terry.hearty@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr David Hyland	<a href="mailto:david.hyland@nmandd.org">david.hyland@nmandd.org</a>
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew	<a href="mailto:roisin.mulgrew@nmandd.org">roisin.mulgrew@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Mark Murnin	<a href="mailto:mark.murnin@nmandd.org">mark.murnin@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Barra O Muiri	<a href="mailto:barra.omuiri@nmandd.org">barra.omuiri@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Pol O'Gribin	<a href="mailto:pol.ogribin@nmandd.org">pol.ogribin@nmandd.org</a>
Ms Patricia Oakes	<a href="mailto:patricia.oakes@nmandd.org">patricia.oakes@nmandd.org</a>

Cllr Brian Quinn	<a href="mailto:brian.quinn@nmandd.org">brian.quinn@nmandd.org</a>
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Cllr Michael Ruane	<a href="mailto:michael.ruane@nmandd.org">michael.ruane@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Michael Savage	<a href="mailto:michael.savage@nmandd.org">michael.savage@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Gareth Sharvin	<a href="mailto:gareth.sharvin@nmandd.org">gareth.sharvin@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Gary Stokes	<a href="mailto:gary.stokes@nmandd.org">gary.stokes@nmandd.org</a>
Sarah Taggart	<a href="mailto:sarah-louise.taggart@nmandd.org">sarah-louise.taggart@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr David Taylor	<a href="mailto:david.taylor@nmandd.org">david.taylor@nmandd.org</a>
Caroline Taylor	<a href="mailto:Caroline.Taylor@downdc.gov.uk">Caroline.Taylor@downdc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly	<a href="mailto:jarlath.tinnelly@nmandd.org">jarlath.tinnelly@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr John Trainor	<a href="mailto:john.trainor@nmandd.org">john.trainor@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr William Walker	<a href="mailto:william.walker@nmandd.org">william.walker@nmandd.org</a>
Mrs Marie Ward	<a href="mailto:marie.ward@nmandd.org">marie.ward@nmandd.org</a>
Mr Adam Wilkinson	<a href="mailto:adam.wilkinson@nmandd.org">adam.wilkinson@nmandd.org</a>

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2017

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/149/2017	Minutes of Council Meeting 4 September 2017	Minutes adopted.	D Services	Adopted.	
C/150/2017	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 August 2017	Minutes adopted.	D Services	Adopted.	
C/151/2017	Minutes of ERT Committee 11 September 2017	<b>ERT/154/2017 – Brexit Paper</b> Report to be brought to ERT Committee regarding the established cross discipline manufacturing group.  <b>ERT/152/2017 – Presentation from Mark O’Connell, Sports Tourism</b> Marie Ward to investigate works in conjunction with Waterways Ireland to open up the Newry canal and tow path to see the tourism aspect realised.	M Ward.  M Ward.	  Adopted.	
C/152/2017	Minutes of SPR Committee 14 September 2017	Minutes adopted. <b>SPR/156/2017 – Alcohol Bye-Laws</b> PCSP Manager to contact Cllr Reilly regarding details of the group providing late night counselling.  <b>SPR/158/2017 – Recording of Planning Committee Meetings</b> Agreed to Option 2 – to record the meetings of the Planning Committee and retain them at Council’s offices for a period of 6 years, providing copies to the public on request and potentially for a fee. A 12 month review of Option 2 to be carried out.  Minutes Adopted.	M Ward.  M Lipsett  L Hannaway/ Democratic Services  D Carville	Adopted.  Email sent to Henry Reilly from S Fearon on 20/10/17	Y
C/153/2017	Minutes of AHC	<b>AHC/147/2017 – Request to Match Fund an Invasive</b>		Adopted.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Committee 18 September 2017	<p><b>Species Eradication Programme in Daisy Hill Wood using Existing Resources</b> Officer to follow up with Councillor Reilly.</p> <p><b>AHC/144/2017 – Newry Leisure Centre Opening Sales Promotions</b> Officer to speak with Councillor Casey regarding membership pricing structure.</p>	L Hannaway  M Lipsett	R Moore spoke with Councillor Casey – 02/11/17	Y
C/154/2017	Minutes of RTS Committee 20 September 2017	<p><b>RTS/113/2017 – Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin – 31 August 2017</b> Legal opinion to be sought with regard to Council's commitment to signing up to Arc21's Residual Waste Project.</p> <p><b>RTS/106/2017 – Issues surrounding motor home/camper van usage of Council car parks in Newcastle, Co Down</b> Donard Park and Islands Park be investigated as suitable sites for campervan parking, with consultation being carried out with residents at Islands Park and that barriers be erected as per Committee decision.</p> <p><b>RTS/105/2017 – Action Sheet of the Regulatory &amp; Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 August 2017 – Matters arising</b> Director of RTS to advise Members on the queries below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stickers appearing on residents' black bins regarding food waste however they had yet to receive their brown bin.</li> <li>• Level of response from refuse department was very poor, would it be possible to have a contact for a member of staff in the department who would respond to Councillors' queries?</li> <li>• The provision of summary sheets were not clear as to housing estates or specific areas, could this be investigated?</li> <li>• Information on what can be placed into the different bins</li> </ul>	A Wilkinson  A Wilkinson  A Wilkinson	<p>In progress</p> <p>Adopted.</p> <p>All householders in the latest distribution of brown bins should have received their brown bin for food waste by now. Householders who have not should contact Customer Services and advise as to address. Delivery currently made within 7 days. Some householders from previous distribution areas, may have moved to their current address</p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>should be re-communicated to residents and Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would it be possible for bin operators to be given a roll of compostable liners to distribute when distributing the brown bins?</li> <li>• Information regarding bin collection was not working for people trying to access information for the Down side of the District.</li> </ul> <p>Minutes Agreed.</p>	A Wilkinson	<p>to find that previous tenant/owner have taken their bins when moving. Some householders may have chosen not to purchase a brown bin, as previous Council may not have provided bin free of charge. Such householders now find they require a bin. House holders in such a dilemma should contact Customer Services for delivery of a new bin, currently delivered within 7 days.</p> <p>In the absence of Joe Parkes, currently off ill Councillors should contact Head of Service. Refuse, Cleansing and Complaints re: Public toilets: contact Peter Whyte at <a href="mailto:Peter.whyte@nmandd.org">Peter.whyte@nmandd.org</a> Mobile. 07803832487.</p> <p>Civic Sites, Waste-processing and Enforcement: contact Liam Dinsmore at <a href="mailto:Liam.dinsmore@nmandd.org">Liam.dinsmore@nmandd.org</a>, mobile 07801676583.</p>	



Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/155/2017	To Appoint Members to NAC AGM and Conference in Glasgow 3-5 November 2017	Agreed that Members representing Council on the NAC be nominated to attend the NAC AGM and Conference in Glasgow on 3-5 November 2017, should they wish to attend: Councillors Andrews, Burgess, Carr, Casey, Curran, Harte, McMurray and Ruane being the Council's representatives.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/156/2017	Draft Corporate Response to the SEHSC and SHCS Trusts' Consultation on their 2017/18 Savings Plans	Responses to the Consultation agreed subject to amendments discussed.	E Devlin	Response sent 05.10.17	
C/159/2017	Notice of Motion received in the names of Cllrs Brown, Stokes, Tinnelly and Taylor	Motion referred to Strategic Projects Working Group.	L Hannaway/ Democratic Services	Matter discussed at SPWG 17.10.17 Report to SPR Committee - 16.11.17	
END					

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****NMD/C/**

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**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 October 2017 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor R Mulgrew**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	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 O McMahon	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B O'Múiri
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor W Walker

**(Officials)**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services

Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager

Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**C/146/2017****APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Doran, Hanna, Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities and Mr A Wilkinson, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services (Interim)

The Chairperson welcomed the successful sporting achievements across the District during the past month, in particular Kilkoo GAA who had beaten Burren in the Down County final, which she said she would be acknowledging along with other sporting achievements over the next few weeks.

The Chairperson congratulated Council's Events team on a fantastic weekend event with the City of Merchants, which was the fifth of Council's 5 giant epic adventures. She said the increase in tourism figures were reflected in the five festivals held since 4 June 2017.

**C/147/2017                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Burgess declared an interest in Item 7 – C/152/2017 – Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2017 and in Item 10 – C/155/2017 – To appoint Members to NAC AGM and Conference in Glasgow from 3-5 November 2017.

Councillor Andrews declared an interest in Item 10 – C/155/2017 – To appoint Members to NAC AGM and Conference in Glasgow from 3-5 November 2017.

**C/148/2017                    ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read:                            Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 September 2017 (copy circulated).

***C/136/2017 – Minutes of SPR Committee 17.8.17***

Mr Hannaway advised that the Local Development Plan Steering Group was scheduled and arrangements for the Council meeting with the Health Trusts was scheduled for 30 October 2017.

***C/135/2017 – Minutes of ERT Committee held on 14.8.17***

Councillor Quinn pointed out the site visit regarding a tidy up of Donard Park was between Council officers and the Mourne DEA Councillors, not Newcastle Councillors.

**AGREED:                    The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 September 2017 was agreed.**

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/149/2017                    MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read:                            Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 September 2017 (copy circulated).



**AGREED:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 September 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McMurray.

**C/150/2017** **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2017**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 29 August 2017 (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 29 August 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Harvey.

#### **COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/151/2017** **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read: Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2017 (copy circulated).

#### **ERT/154/2017 – Brexit Paper**

Councillor Savage advised many leading manufacturing companies in Dublin were considering opening up sub-divisions in UK cities post Brexit and asked that Council consider forming a manufacturing task force to work collaboratively to attract these manufacturing companies to the District through cross border engagement.

Mr Hannaway advised that a cross discipline sectoral grouping had been established, and this suggestion could be brought to Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee to further develop this grouping.

Councillor Reilly expressed concerns over the companies in the south of Ireland, saying that the EU Negotiator, Mr Verhofstadt wanted the border to be at the Irish sea ports. He said this would mean the UK would be subject to UK customs rules, which should be opposed and it should be ensured that the ROI had open trading with the UK.

The Chairperson advised Councillor Reilly he would be invited to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee to put forward his views on Brexit.

**AGREED:** It was agreed that a report would be brought to ERT Committee regarding the established cross discipline manufacturing grouping.

#### **ERT/152/2017 – Presentation from Mark O’Connell, Sports Tourism**

Councillor Casey referred to the Newry Canal and tow path, saying he had raised the issue of neglect in years past but with some investment to the canal and tow path, would be a huge asset. He asked that the tow path be regularly maintained, in particular because of health and safety reasons ie. over grown bushes and falling trees.

Councillor Casey asked that work would be undertaken with Waterways Ireland to open up the canal to see the tourism aspect realised.

Councillor Reilly concurred with Councillor Casey, saying if there was money for infrastructure works it would be good to open up the canal from Carlingford Lough.

**AGREED:** It was agreed that Mrs Ward would undertake to investigate works in conjunction with Waterways Ireland to open up the Newry canal and tow path to see the tourism aspect realised.

(Councillor Burgess having previously declared an interest in SPR/157/2017 – departed from the meeting)

**C/152/2017**                    **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**AGREED:** The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 14 September 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Walker.

**SPR/156/2017 – Alcohol Bye-Laws**

In response to Councillor Reilly's comments regarding the anti-social behaviour group from Dundee who had recently provided late night counselling in Newcastle and Kilkeel, Mr Hannaway advised the PCSP Manager would speak to Councillor Reilly to ascertain details.

**AGREED:** It was agreed that the PCSP Manager would contact Councillor Reilly regarding details of the group providing late night counselling in Newcastle and Kilkeel in respect of anti-social behaviour and a safer night time economy.

**SPR/155/2017 – Fair Employment Results**

In response to Councillor Craig's concerns regarding any religious imbalance in the Council's workforce, Mrs Carville advised that notification had been received from Economy NI, saying that an Article 55 review would be completed next year, which would review Council's employment composition and practices. This would allow Council to determine whether any further action was required regarding any imbalance. Mrs Carville advised that ahead of Article 55, if any posts were trawled externally, a statement was placed into the application forms saying applications were welcomed from members of the Protestant community.

Councillor Byrne advised he had raised a number of points at the meeting which had not been reflected in the minutes.

### **SPR/158/2017 – Recording of Planning Committee Meetings**

Councillor Brown said it had been unfortunate that a decision had not been made on the recording of Planning Committee meetings at the SPR Committee meeting on 14 September 2017. In proposing Option 1, Councillor Brown said this option was the most transparent giving accountability to the ratepayers.

Councillor Enright seconded Councillor Brown's proposal.

Councillor Walker proposed Option 3, saying the reason for this was due to the sensitive nature of the information presented at the Planning Committee meetings and there could also be legal challenges if the minutes were recorded.

Councillor Reilly seconded Councillor Walker's proposal.

Councillor Murnin proposed Option 2, advising that sensitive information was taken "in committee" and therefore would not be recorded and he alluded to the advice given by one of Northern Ireland's top Barristers, which was to record the meetings. He also said there was no rush of members of the public wishing to access recordings.

Councillor McAteer seconded Councillor Murnin's proposal, saying sensitive information was taken "in committee" and therefore not divulged and to record the meetings would give Councillors protection.

Councillor Clarke spoke in favour of Option 3, saying whilst he was in favour of being transparent and recording committee meetings, the Planning Committee was an extremely challenging Committee where medical information and applications involving family disputes were also discussed and a dangerous precedent could be set, especially in relation to Judicial Reviews, whereby ultimately the ratepayer could be expected to pick up the legal fees.

Councillor Byrne gave support to Option 2, saying certain information could be redacted.

Mr Hannaway clarified that information would be required to be redacted immediately, not at the time a recording was asked for.

Councillor Craig gave support to Option 3, saying it was very important Councillors did not pre-judge any planning application until the full debate was heard and feared to record the meetings could stifle debate.

Councillor Brown requested a recorded vote.

The Chairperson put Option 1, proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Enright to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

**FOR:                    5**

**AGAINST: 20**  
**ABSTENTIONS 12**

**The motion was declared LOST.**

Copy of recorded vote attached.

The Chairperson put Option 3, proposed by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Reilly to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

**FOR: 15**  
**AGAINST: 22**

**The motion was declared LOST.**

Copy of recorded vote attached.

Councillor Clarke asked that should Option 3 be carried, that a six month review would be built into the proposal. The proposer of Option 3, Councillor Murnin said he would agree to a 12 month review and Councillor McAteer agreed with the amendment.

The Chairperson put Option 2, proposed by Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor McAteer to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

**FOR: 23**  
**AGAINST: 14**

**The motion was declared CARRIED.**

Copy of recorded vote attached.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor McAteer, Option 2 was agreed: to record the meetings of the Planning Committee and retain them at Council's offices for a period of 6 years, providing copies to the public on request and potentially for a fee.

AGREED: It was further agreed that a 12 month review of Option 2 be carried out.

Mr Hannaway advised that in order to give sufficient time to put in place procedures, recording of Planning Committee Meetings would commence in January 2018.

**C/153/2017**      **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2017**

AGREED: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee held on 18 September 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Walker.

**AHC/147/2017 – Request to Match Fund at Invasive Species Eradication Programme in Daisy Hill Wood using Existing Resources**

Councillor Reilly advised he had reported a few instances of Japanese Knotweed, but the relevant officer he needed to speak with was currently on maternity leave.

Mr Hannaway advised he would follow up Councillor Reilly's query and report back to him.

**AHC/144/2017 – Newry Leisure Centre Opening Sales Promotions**

In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding membership of the Newry Leisure Centre, Mr Hannaway confirmed that Council had agreed to a pricing structure for the centres across the District, but undertook to ask an officer to speak with Councillor Casey on this issue.

**C/154/2017                    MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read:                                Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2017 (copy circulated).

**RTS/113/2017 – Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin – 31 August 2017**

Councillor Burns proposed that the Chief Executive and Director of Regulatory & Technical Services seek legal advice with regard to the commitment the Council has to signing up to the Arc21 Residual Waste Project. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

**Agreed:**                        **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that legal opinion be sought with regard to Council's commitment to signing up to Arc21's Residual Waste Project.**

**RTS/106/2017 – Issues surrounding motor home/camper van usage of Council car parks in Newcastle, Co Down**

Councillor Devlin proposed that Islands Park be investigated by officers for campervans to park and ensure that the investigations were expedited and timebound.

Councillor Clarke asked that an amendment be added to the proposal that Donard Park site also be investigated and consultation be carried out with residents at Islands Park. Councillor Devlin accepted the amendment.

The Chief Executive stated the barriers could be erected as per the decision of the Committee and an investigation into the sites be carried out in tandem.

**Agreed:**                        **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Clarke that Donard Park and Islands Park be investigated as suitable sites for campervan parking, with consultation being carried out with residents at Islands Park and that barriers be erected as per Committee decision.**



**RTS/105/2017 – Action Sheet of the Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 August 2017 – Matters arising**

Members raised the following issues regarding refuse collection:

- Stickers appearing on residents' black bins regarding food waste however they had yet to receive their brown bin.
- Level of response from refuse department was very poor, would it be possible to have a contact for a member of staff in the department who would respond to Councillors' queries?
- The provision of summary sheets were not clear as to housing estates or specific areas, could this be investigated?
- Information on what can be placed into the different bins should be re-communicated to residents and Councillors.
- Would it be possible for bin operators to be given a roll of compostable liners to distribute when distributing the brown bins?
- Information regarding bin collection was not working for people trying to access information for the Down side of the District.

The Chief Executive stated he would advise the Director of these issues and ask him to advise Members.

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

**CONFERENCES/EVENTS**

**C/155/2017                    TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO NAC AGM AND CONFERENCE IN GLASGOW – 3-5 NOVEMBER 2017**

**Read:**                        Details regarding National Association of Councillors (NAC) AGM and Conference being held in Glasgow, 3-5 November 2017 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Reilly that Members representing Council on the NAC be nominated to attend the NAC AGM and Conference in Glasgow on 3-5 November 2017, should they wish to attend: Councillors Andrews, Burgess, Carr, Casey, Curran, Harte, McMurray and Ruane being the Council's representatives.**

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**C/156/2017                    TO CONSIDER DRAFT CORPORATE RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH EASTERN HSC AND THE SOUTHERN HSC TRUSTS' CONSULTATIONS ON THEIR 2017/18 SAVINGS PLANS**

Read: Council's response to draft consultation on 2017/18 Savings Plans for South Eastern HSC and Southern HSC (copy circulated).

The Chairperson asked for comments on the South Eastern HSC response:

Councillor Sharvin stated the response was too limited.

Councillor Clarke advised Councillor Sharvin there was not a lot of detail and the Down Community Health Forum members felt the consultation and the presented cutbacks were an insult to the community and they were of the opinion this was a tick-box exercise.

Councillor Trainor highlighted the need to explore what would happen to services within Newry, Mourne and Down District when other Trusts cuts were implemented as this would also have a significant impact on the South Eastern Trust users.

The Chairperson then asked for comments regarding the Southern HSC response:

Councillor Byrne said he was not satisfied with the response as he stated it was sugar-coated and not robust enough. He requested the wording be amended in the response to replace the words: "welcomes" and "may" with "no disruption to services in rural areas".

**Agreed:** The responses to the consultation were agreed, subject to the above amendments, on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

**C/157/2017** **CHARITY COMMISSION FOR NI – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ANNUAL MONITORING RETURN 2018**

Read: Consultation received from Charity Commission NI regarding Proposed Changes to the Annual Monitoring Return 2018 (copy circulated).

**Noted:** The consultation was noted.

**C/158/2017** **NI AMBULANCE SERVICE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST – EQUALITY ACTION PLANS AND DISABILITY ACTION PLANS**

Read: Consultation received from NI Ambulance Service regarding Equality Action Plans and Disability Action Plans (copy circulated).

Councillor Byrne queried why this consultation was not presented to the Health Working Groups.

The Chief Executive advised the item would not have been received by the officer prior to the working groups taking place.

**Noted:                   The consultation was noted.**

**C/159/2017           NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED IN THE NAMES OF COUNCILLORS BROWN, STOKES, TINNELLY AND TAYLOR**

The Chairperson advised that the Notice of Motion received in the name of Councillors Brown, Stokes, Tinnelly and Taylor would, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6), be referred to the Strategic Projects Working Group for consideration and report.

The Chairperson then invited Councillor Brown to formally propose the Motion.

Councillor Brown said he wished to add an additional paragraph to his Motion and should be permitted to do so under Standing Order 17.2(d).

The Chairperson advised that as the Motion would not be debated at this Meeting of Council, the Motion would stand referred as submitted.

Councillor Byrne then proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow for full debate by Council of the Motion. He said the reason for this proposal was the ambiguity that existed, as the subject of the Motion could fall within the remit of three of the Council's Committees and, rather than have it sent in a number of different ways, it should be heard now by full Council. He said Council's Standing Orders allowed for such debate. This was seconded by Councillor Stokes.

The Chairperson said this was the process followed consistently on Motions that came within the remit of Committees and she emphasised she had been consistent on this.

The Chief Executive advised the suspension of Standing Orders required a qualified majority vote of not less than 80% of the Members present and must be taken by way of a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

**FOR:           22**  
**AGAINST:   13**  
**ABSTAIN:    0**

**The Chief Executive advised that as there were 35 Members present and voting, 22 Members voting for suspension of Standing Orders fell below the required 80% (28 Members) and Standing Orders could not therefore be suspended.**

The Chairperson said the Motion would be referred to the Strategic Projects Working Group and she asked Councillor Brown to formally propose the Motion.

Councillor Brown said he would formally propose the Motion but emphasised his total dissatisfaction that it would be referred and debate had been stifled, rather than being heard by Council.

**Councillor Brown then proposed that:**



**'This Council confirms its commitment to a full, 15-acre community park project on the Albert Basin site in Newry. The Council recognises that the Albert Basin site was given to the people of Newry in 1986 and that a commitment was given at that time to develop it as a recreation and amenity area for the generations of the future. It also recognises the work of community activists in presenting their plans for the park through a petition with over 10,000 signatures.**

**Council commits to delivering a park in parallel with other capital works projects in Newry within the next Council term. The Council shall within 3 months establish a task and finish group reporting to the Capital Projects Working Group, consisting of elected members, community representatives and a dedicated Council officer to establish plans to move the Albert Basin park project forward and investigate funding options'.**

**Councillor Stokes formally seconded the Motion.**

**The Motion then stood referred to the Strategic Projects Working Group (this Working Group reports to Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee).**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Executive**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 2 October 2017VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: C/152/2017 – Minutes of SPR Committee held on 14 September 2017 – Recording of Planning Committee Meetings – Option 1

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews			X	
N Bailie				X
P Brown	X			
R Burgess		X		
S Burns		X		
P Byrne			X	
M Carr		X		
C Casey		X		
W Clarke		X		
G Craig		X		
D Curran		X		
L Devlin			X	
S Doran				X
C Enright	X			
G Fitzpatrick			X	
G Hanna				X
V Harte		X		
H Harvey		X		
T Hearty		X		
D Hyland	X			
L Kimmins		X		
M Larkin		X		
K Loughran			X	
J Macauley		X		
D McAteer			X	
O McMahan		X		
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew		X		
M Murnin			X	
P O Gribin				X
B Ó Muiri		X		
B Quinn			X	
H Reilly		X		
M Ruane		X		
M Savage			X	
G Sharvin			X	
G Stokes			X	
D Taylor		X		
JJ Tinnelly	X			
J Trainor			X	
B Walker				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 2 October 2017VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: C/152/2017 – Minutes of SPR Committee held on 14 September 2017 – Recording of Planning Committee Meetings – Option 3

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		X		
N Bailie				X
P Brown		X		
R Burgess		X		
S Burns	X			
P Byrne		X		
M Carr		X		
C Casey	X			
W Clarke	X			
G Craig	X			
D Curran		X		
L Devlin		X		
S Doran				X
C Enright		X		
G Fitzpatrick		X		
G Hanna				X
V Harte	X			
H Harvey	X			
T Hearty	X			
D Hyland		X		
L Kimmins	X			
M Larkin	X			
K Loughran		X		
J Macauley		X		
D McAteer		X		
O McMahan	X			
A McMurray		X		
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin		X		
P O Gribin				X
B Ó Muiri	X			
B Quinn		X		
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane	X			
M Savage		X		
G Sharvin		X		
G Stokes		X		
D Taylor		X		
JJ Tinnelly		X		
J Trainor		X		
B Walker	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 2 October 2017VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: C/152/2017 – Minutes of SPR Committee held on 14 September 2017 – Recording of Planning Committee Meetings – Option 2

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
N Bailie				X
P Brown	X			
R Burgess	X			
S Burns		X		
P Byrne	X			
M Carr	X			
C Casey		X		
W Clarke		X		
G Craig		X		
D Curran	X			
L Devlin	X			
S Doran				X
C Enright	X			
G Fitzpatrick	X			
G Hanna				X
V Harte		X		
H Harvey		X		
T Hearty		X		
D Hyland	X			
L Kimmins		X		
M Larkin		X		
K Loughran	X			
J Macauley	X			
D McAteer	X			
O McMahan		X		
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew		X		
M Murnin	X			
P O Gribin				X
B Ó Muiri		X		
B Quinn	X			
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane		X		
M Savage	X			
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor	X			
JJ Tinnelly	X			
J Trainor	X			
B Walker		X		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: C/159/2017 Suspension of Standing Orders to hear Notice of Motion

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
N Bailie				X
P Brown	X			
R Burgess				X
S Burns		X		
P Byrne	X			
M Carr	X			
C Casey		X		
W Clarke		X		
G Craig				X
D Curran	X			
L Devlin	X			
S Doran				X
C Enright	X			
G Fitzpatrick	X			
G Hanna				X
V Harte		X		
H Harvey		X		
T Hearty		X		
D Hyland	X			
L Kimmins		X		
M Larkin		X		
K Loughran	X			
J Macauley	X			
D McAteer	X			
O McMahan		X		
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew		X		
M Murnin	X			
P O Gribin				X
B O Muiri		X		
B Quinn	X			
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane		X		
M Savage	X			
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor	X			
JJ Tinnelly	X			
J Trainor	X			
B Walker		X		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****NMD/SC/**

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**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 25 September 2017 at 6pm  
in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor W Clarke**In attendance:****(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor O McMahon
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor JJ Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor

**(Officials)**

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance:** Ms S McCauley, Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
Mr K Irvine, Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
Ms L Wilson, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

**SC/22/2017****APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Brown, Burns, Carr, Devlin, Doran, Hanna, Macauley, McAteer, Sharvin, Taylor and Walker.  
Apologies were also received from Mr Hannaway, Chief Executive and Mr Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

**SC/23/2017****DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SC/24/2017****NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE – HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN**

The Chairperson welcomed Siobhan McCauley, Loma Wilson and Keery Irvine and invited them to make their presentation.

Ms McCauley thanked the Chairperson for the invitation to attend the meeting and stated the Housing Investment Plan was to replace the traditional District Housing Plans and dealt with social, affordable and private housing. She outlined the proposed spend in 2017/18 which had increased to £19.70m and advised that capital improvements and planned maintenance schemes had been increased as well as response maintenance in response to customer requirements. She stated the Supporting People budget had decreased due to increasing pressure on the service. (a copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes).

The Chairperson thanked Ms McCauley for her presentation and invited questions from Members.

The following questions were asked by Members:

- Within the Saintfield area there were a lot of apartments, could these be bought off-the-shelf by NIHE?
- There were five derelict cottages on Ballygowan Road which the NIHE had up for sale, was there any movement on these?
- The lack of housing within rural areas, particularly Crossmaglen, Creggan area was very concerning with very few houses being built in the last ten years. Were there any plans to get schemes into the rural area as they were urgently required?
- Two bedroom houses were not becoming available, was there any way to speed up the turnover of houses?
- It was difficult to get maintenance work carried out on some houses in the rural area and when it was carried out, the standard was dreadful.
- Can NIHE not buy back properties that were previously sold?
- Would the current budget position have any impact on the maintenance budget?
- Would future housing schemes have to take cognisance of disability issues in order that the housing was suitable for disabled tenants?
- People had been on waiting lists for years with local people unable to get local housing – was this something that NIHE was investigating?
- There were many vacant properties over shops and offices in the District, would this be something that NIHE could investigate the possibility of a Living Over The Shop (LOTS) scheme?
- Was there any update on a site for travellers in Newry?
- The stats show that 99% of homeless applications were completed in 33 working days which is too slow, however, in extreme cases a lot more needed to be done. There were a number of vacant houses held in case people needed to be housed while upgrades were being completed however they sit vacant for long periods of time and this was something NIHE should look into especially when it could provide temporary accommodation in extreme cases rather than the use of B&Bs.
- Were there any plans in place for sheltered accommodation in the Rowallane area?
- Why has the budget for Supporting People decreased, was there less demand?

- There were serious gaps in the provision of social housing in the Ballyhorgan area with three separate latent demand tests having already been carried out, something needs to be done in the area to address the housing crisis.
- A scheme in Strangford had been assessed without seeking planning permission and was now rendered useless as a housing estate. A site exists which was in close proximity to the shops, school and playing fields however NIHE were not taking it under their consideration.
- The demand for social housing in Newry is huge, therefore why was the North Street flats demolished and what was being done on the site?
- NIHE need to examine where they place vulnerable people in terms of temporary accommodation and ensure the accommodation was suitable for the needs of that person. One case of a vulnerable young woman who sleeps in her car as she was too afraid to stay in the flat she had been allocated.
- Were the new build units identified in 2015 when the HIP was brought forward or was that the total required from this point?
- Private developers were creating poverty traps for people being placed in private rented accommodation by housing associations. Could something be done to stop this procedure?
- The boiler replacement scheme seemed to be slow to be implemented, could this be investigated?
- The Community grants that were available at £19k in the last year, will the same amount be available going forward?
- Ongoing issue with wood pellet boilers, could this be investigated?
- The shortage of housing was well documented in the Newcastle area and hopefully the 10 units in Bracken Avenue and the development at Donard Street would assist to alleviate the pressures.
- How was NIHE as an organisation preparing for Universal Credit?

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- NIHE would be tied in terms of the amount of money they would be able to pay for off-the-shelf properties however this could be looked at.
- The cottages in Ballygowan had been on the open market for a while with the feasibility of social housing being looked at however there were access issues at the site that needed to be investigated.
- In terms of rural housing, people were staying in properties for longer therefore there was a shortage of available housing. A land acquisition programme was being looked at to try to alleviate this issue.
- If maintenance programmes were not carried out properly, damages can be levied on the contractor. Willing to look at the issue if the Councillor provided the information on specific cases.
- NIHE were a public body therefore when previously owned properties were being sold the NIHE were not able to buy-back any of these. They were currently looking at the right to sell in order to retain existing housing.
- Disability adaptation was a very high priority and the process of this was being investigated with health care systems and occupational therapists to ensure the adaptations were carried out as quickly as possible.
- The waiting list process was currently under review and it may change going forward.



- There was a scheme in place for 5 units in Cullaville and the land was currently being transferred with the scheme being started this year.
- Heritage Lottery were currently providing 75% funding for renovation of some historic buildings and a small pilot scheme was underway by NIHE to provide 25% funding to provide additional housing. A LOTS scheme could be investigated.
- Site investigation studies had been carried out in Newry for a suitable site for travellers however this was still ongoing with no site being identified as yet.
- In terms of temporary housing, there were 33 days allocated to have applications processed however it was too long.
- There were 110 units of temporary accommodation however due to the lack of good new build programmes it was difficult to get people moved out of the temporary accommodation as quickly as NIHE would like. Decant housing, while could logically be used as temporary accommodation, was usually required for people who needed adaptation to their properties. The matter of decanted properties and the timelag between procurement and knowing when people would move into these would be investigated.
- The projected housing need in the Rowallane area was 125 units over the next five years and there does not seem to be significant need for supported housing in the area. Generally older people prefer to remain in their own home and can be facilitated in this manner rather than moving to sheltered accommodation.
- The Supporting People received £72.8m which was all spent. There were consistent demands on this money and NIHE need to look at reconfiguring and doing business more efficiently.
- A Housing Association was still interested in the scheme at Ballyhornan and NIHE were working hard with them to ensure fruition of the scheme.
- The landowner involved in Strangford was still in negotiations with NIHE.
- Happy to investigate the ongoing issues at Ballyhornan and Strangford especially since schemes had been passed from one housing association to another.
- There were major structural and anti-social behaviour issues at the North Street flats in Newry. NIHE would be happy to work in partnership with Council who own the land to discuss a way forward on the site.
- Happy to discuss separately outside of the meeting the specifics regarding the temporary accommodation in Sandy Street, Newry as no one should be living in their car.
- The new builds were identified for 2016-2021 over the next 5 year period.
- Top up payments were aligned to affordability and this was being investigated currently. A rental policy was not in place for the private sector across Northern Ireland however some small pilot schemes were being carried out at present to address this issue.
- Happy to look at specific cases as it should not take so long for a boiler replacement.
- The community grant was allocated £15k each year however last year NIHE were able to access an additional £4k for community groups to carry out schemes.
- Wood pellet boilers were used when oil or gas was not appropriate. Initially a technical inspection would be carried out and if gas were available the

property could be changed over. Happy to look at specifics of the case separately.

- A dedicated welfare reform team had been established with updates being provided through the many changes. The universal credit would be launched in Limavady initially therefore staff will be talking to colleagues there to try to be ahead of the game.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation and praised the work of the staff in the local offices who were very helpful to Elected Representatives.

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.05pm.**

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

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 October 2017 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor P Byrne

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor D Hyland

**In Attendance:** **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess  
Councillor C Casey  
Councillor D Curran  
Councillor G Hanna  
Councillor H Harvey  
Councillor T Hearty  
Councillor D McAteer  
Councillor O McMahon  
Councillor B Quinn  
Councillor M Ruane  
Councillor G Stokes  
Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor M Carr

**(Non Committee Members)**

Councillor M Savage  
Councillor P Brown  
Councillor W Walker  
Councillor G Craig  
Councillor R Mulgrew  
Councillor G Fitzpatrick  
Councillor M Murnin  
Councillor J Tinnelly  
Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive NMDDC  
Ms M Ward Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McGilly Asst. Director, Economic Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr A Patterson Asst. Director, Tourism Culture & Events  
Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer  
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

**ERT/168/2017: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No Apologies were received.

The Chairperson asked that congratulations be relayed to the Events staff responsible for the very successful events that took place throughout the summer months. The Chairperson also made reference to the visit to Rockwell Collins due to take place on the 18 October and said only those who had responded by Friday 13 October would be permitted to attend. Councillors Hyland, Carr, Harvey and Quinn asked that their names be put forward to attend.

**ERT/169/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Curran declared an interest in Item Number 7 on the Agenda – Union Priority 4 (SEAFLAG) **(copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in Item Number 6 - Rural Development Programme Broadband Application **(copy circulated)** and Item Number 8 – Application to Heritage Lottery Fund for Great Place Scheme **(copy circulated)**.

**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION****ERT/170/2017: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issue was raised:

**ERT/156/2017** Councillor McAteer raised the issue of overgrown grass in a lot of public areas in the District and asked if a letter could be written to Transport NI regarding this matter. Mrs Ward stated that Transport NI is to attend a Council Meeting on the 23 October 2017 and this issue can be raised at that meeting.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Hyland the following was agreed:**

- **The issue of overgrown grass public areas to be raised with Transport NI at the Council Meeting scheduled for 23 October 2017.**
- **To note the Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2017**

**ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION****ERT/171/2017: GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

Read: Report dated 9 October from Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director regarding Greenway Development Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hyland asked for an update to the Newry / Omeath Greenway. Mr McGilly advised that Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 is underway. A Steering Group has been set up to progress the next Phase from Victoria Lock, funding has been secured and completion should be in 2020.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Greenway Development Project**

- **Council approval to work up project bids and detailed designs for the Department of Infrastructure's Capital Grants Programme for Greenways should the Programme become available.**
- **Council explores how the work relating to the negotiation with landowners can be progressed**

**ERT/172/2017: NORTHERN IRELAND EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PROGRAMME 2014-2020**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Northern Ireland Social Fund Programme 2014-2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Concern was raised that there would not be suitable employment for young people on completion of their training. Councillor Quinn said that tool kits cost a lot of money and employers did not want to employ people without them and said a scheme was needed to try to help young people build up a toolkit. Mrs Ward replied that a Skills Audit was to be undertaken which would test needs and demands.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October from Mr J McGilly regarding Northern Ireland Social Fund Programme 2014 - 2020:**

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (a) authorise Council officials to engage with relevant organisations to develop potential ESF applications and report back to Council in due course and (b) provide £50,000 per annum within the 2018/19, 2019/20 & 2020/21 financial years to match fund and lever in potential new economic and employment projects under the European Social Fund programme 2014 - 2020. This would be made available within the economic development budget.**

**ERT/173/2017: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BROADBAND APPLICATION**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Rural Development Programme Broadband Application. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Rural Development Programme Broadband Application.**

- **Accept the RDP Letter of Offer from Rural Development Programme to conduct this feasibility study;**
- **Implement project as per application and report back to committee in February 2018 with a report on recommended outcome and way forward.**

**ERT/174/2017: UNION PRIORITY 4 (SEAFLAG)**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly, regarding Union Priority 4 (SEAFLAG) **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Clarke asked if Newcastle fishing communities could be included as part of this funding application. Mr McGilly replied that this was not possible but said it could be considered at a future date.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Quinn seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Union Priority 4 (SEAFLAG)**

**That Committee notes the SEAFLAG appointment and that consideration be given to including £100,000 in the 2018/19 budget to facilitate potential match funding requirements.**

**ERT/175/2017: APPLICATION TO HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND FOR GREAT PLACE SCHEME**

Read: Report dated October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Application for Heritage Lottery Fund for Great Place Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed as follows as per report dated October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Application for Heritage Lottery Fund for Great Place Scheme.**

- **To agree that the Council act as a lead partner for this application and submit the preliminary application.**



- **To pursue all relevant funding opportunities to match fund the application, if it is successful to the final stage.**
- **Recommend the on-going support from all relevant NMDDC departments for the applications.**

**ERT/176/2017: NEWRY CANAL LOCK GATE NO. 5 RESTORATION**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly, regarding Newry Canal Lock Gate No.5 Restoration. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed as follows as per report from Mr J McGilly, regarding Newry Canal Lock Gate No.5 Restoration.**

**Council accept the Letter Of Offer from the Landfill Communities Fund for £92,445 towards the 'Newry Canal Lock No.5 Restoration' and now proceed to commission the required procurement processes for consultants and contractors to have the scheme designed and delivered.**

**ERT/177/2017: OUTLINE REGENERATION FORWARD WORK PLACE - DFC**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Outline Regeneration Forward Work Place – DFC. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer said that although he was delighted regarding the plans for the urban regeneration of Warrenpoint Front Shore in 2019/20, he expressed concern that the £1m allocated would not be enough to cover all works needed to enhance the whole area. In particular he was concerned at the poor condition of the footpath from Warrenpoint towards Moygannon and Rostrevor and said in places it was less than one foot wide and was very dangerous. Councillor Carr agreed with Councillor McAteer and asked that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary to address this issue as a matter of urgency. Mrs Ward replied that a letter had already been sent requesting a meeting and a response was not yet received.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed as follows as per report from Mr J McGilly regarding Outline Regeneration Forward Work Place – DFC to Approve the attached 'Outline Urban Regeneration Public Realm Future Work Plan', to allow continued lobbying of DFC in regards their Newry Mourne and Down budget allocations.**

**ERT/178/2017: REGIONAL BID TO DIGITAL CATAPULT FOR LPWAN (LOW POWERED WIDE AREA NETWORK)**

**Read:** Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Regional Bid to Digital Catapult for LPWAN (Low Powered Wide Area Network). **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed as follows as per report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Regional Bid to Digital Catapult for LPWAN (Low Powered Wide Area Network).

- **Currently 10 other Councils have expressed an interest in the scheme and have been asked to provide £10,000 each to fund and coordinate challenge funds to launch small scale trials and explorations of the technology.**
- **It is recommended that Council commit £10,000 to fund the implementation of the network allowing SME's to develop innovative solutions using LPWAN technology to overcome the key challenges.**
- **Timescales: If the bid is successful, the network is required to be operational by March 2018**

**ERT/179/2017: CITY DEAL UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr L Hannaway regarding the City Deal Update. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr L Hannaway regarding the City Deal Update.

- **To commit to participation in the Belfast Region City Deal and its objective of creating for the region "more and better jobs, inclusive growth, improved skills and growth of the domestic business base and FDI"**
- **To approve an initial contribution of £10,000 towards phase 1 research for the development of a Skills Barometer and labour market analysis for the City Deal Region (part contribution with total costs shared among participation Councils)**
- **To note that additional costs will be incurred in developing and implementing the City Deal; as the Deal develops and detail of further costs become available these will be reported on through Councils normal procedures.**
- **Given the strategic importance of Council's involvement in the City Deal initiative, members may wish to consider a workshop with Full Council and KPMG (City Deal consultants) prior to the full Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov,**



**to enable the City Deal initiative and benefits to the area to be further discussed.**

**ERT/180/2017: BREXIT (VERBAL REPORT)**

For this Item, Councillor Savage joined the Members table from the public gallery and the following points were raised:

- Newry was in a very unique location, situated approximately sixty miles from Belfast and Dublin and with a port in the District. It was important therefore that we assert ourselves as a gateway post Brexit and not lose out on opportunities to other UK cities.
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council was very proactive in its preparations for Brexit.
- Concern that the Agri Food / Fisheries industry would be adversely affected post Brexit.
- The report conducted by University of Ulster had indicated that border councils were under a major threat.
- Important that Newry was not passed over in favour of Belfast in terms of employment opportunities
- It had been agreed previously to have an Advisory Group set up to discuss Brexit which would consist of various agencies and party representatives as follows - 2 x Sinn Fein, 2 x SDLP, 1x Unionist and 1 x DUP. Invest NI had done a presentation some time ago and they should be invited back to provide an update.
- A common sense approach as opposed to a political approach is needed and the focus needs to be what is best for the Island of Ireland.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Harvey it was agreed as follows as per verbal report on Brexit by Councillor Savage**

**The Chairperson to convey at the Launch of the Research Paper / Brexit in Brussels on 11 October 2017 that the priority for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is to focus on what is best for businesses and the farming industry both North and South of the Border.**

**Invite Invest NI back to a future Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to provide an update on investment opportunities and sites in the District.**

**ERT/181/2017: NEWRY CIVIC CENTRE REGENERATION**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Ms M Ward regarding Newry Civic Centre Regeneration. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown asked what sites were currently being considered as possible locations for the new Civic Centre. Mrs Ward replied that at present there were three potential sites under consideration, a vital factor would be the footfall stimulus, an update would be available at the next Strategic, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed as follows as per Report dated 9 October 2017 from Ms M Ward regarding Newry Civic Centre Regeneration**

**Public and Business Information Sessions to be hosted in Newry**

**TOURISM, CULTURE & EVENTS****ERT/182/2017: EVENTS VIDEO AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Due to an IT fault, Mr Patterson was unable to play the events video. However, He talked about the very successful Summer Events Programme that resulted in bringing 260,000 visitors to the area and securing £11.5m economic return to the District.

**AGREED: It was agreed to note update provided by Mr Patterson on the Events Video and Economic Impact.**

**FOR NOTING**

**On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to 'note' the following reports:**

**ERT/183/2017: MASTERPLANS – BALLYNAHINCH, DOWNPATRICK, NEWRY, SOUTH EAST COAST**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Masterplans – Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Newry, South East Coast. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: It was unanimously agreed that the presentation given to the Committee by Newry 2020 prior to the Meeting would be used to form the basis of discussion going forward.**

**ERT/184/2017: STRANGFORD AND LECALE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**ERT/185/2017: NEWRY BID**

**Read:** Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Newry BID. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding Newry BID.

**ERT/186/2017: RING OF GULLION UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding the Ring of Gullion Update. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October 2017 from Mr J McGilly regarding the Ring of Gullion Update.

**ERT/187/2017: PRIORITY 6 OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**Read:** Report dated 9 October from Mr J McGilly regarding Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note Report dated 9 October from Mr J McGilly regarding Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme.

**ERT/188/2017: LOUTH/NMD JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 2017**

**Read:** Report of Meeting of Joint Committee of Elected Members between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council Meeting dated 17 May 2017 **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note Report of Meeting of Joint Committee of Elected Members between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council Meeting dated 17 May 2017

**ERT/189/2017: ACTION TRACKER UPDATE SHEET**

**The following point was raised**

**ERT/107/2016 Closed Session Item – Killeavey Castle**

Mrs Ward advised that although all lease agreements were in place, the anticipated completion date of Christmas 2018 may be delayed.

**ERT/190/2017: SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Read: Scheme of Delegation for ERT from April 2017 to end March 2018

**Agreed: It was agreed to note Scheme of Delegation for ERT from April 2017 to end March 2018**

**ITEM TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION****ERT/191/2017: CAMLOUGH LAKE – LAND RELATED MATTERS**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hyland 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 dated 11 October from Mr A Patterson regarding Camlough Lake – Land Related Matters **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

**Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported it had been agreed on the Proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hearty:**

- **To enter into negotiations with Richardson Estate to settle any outstanding mortgage they hold pertaining to Camlough Lake**
- **To complete detail design and submit planning associated with multi purpose building at Camlough Lake to assist in informing land acquisition requirements**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.35 pm.

These minutes are being circulated in accordance with Standing Orders and will be tabled for adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2017.

**Signed: Councillor P Byrne**  
**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 12  
October 2017 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,  
Downpatrick.**

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In the Chair: Councillor T Hearty

In Attendance: Councillor P Byrne Councillor R Burgess  
Councillor M Carr Councillor S Doran  
Councillor C Enright Councillor O McMahon  
Councillor A McMurray Councillor M Murnin  
Councillor B O'Múiri Councillor M Ruane  
Councillor M Savage Councillor G Sharvin

Also in Attendance: Councillor P Brown

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (HR)  
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning & Performance  
Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director, Estates and Project Management  
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance)  
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration)  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**SPR/163/2017 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Walker and Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Policy & Performance and Mr A Wilkinson, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services (Interim).

**SPR/164/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Sharvin declared an interest in SPR/182/2017 – Action Sheet of the Strategic Projects Working Group held on 22 August 2017.

**SPR/165/2017      ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read:                      Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2017 (circulated).

**SPR/156/2017 – Alcohol Bye Laws**

Councillor Savage said he had requested at the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting in September that an education/marketing programme would be rolled out in conjunction with the alcohol bye laws.

Mrs Carville confirmed that the September Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee minutes had been ratified by Council and actions arising from the meeting would now be progressed.

Councillor Savage proposed that the community park project on the Albert Basin site in Newry be discussed.

Councillor Hearty said the matter was not on the agenda and would be discussed at the Strategic Projects Working Group on 17 October 2017.

Councillor Byrne said under Standing Orders, a proposal must be dealt with, and requested clarification.

Mrs McParland provided clarification on Standing Order 4.3 – Notice and Summons of Meetings –

*“Except in the case of business required by statute or, where in the opinion of the Chairperson at the meeting the business should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency, no business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Council, a Committee or Sub-Committee other than that specified in the summons relating thereto”.*

**Agreed:**                      **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 14 September 2017 be noted and the actions identified in the right hand column as completed be removed.**

**SPR/166/2017      GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY POLICY**

Read:                      Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 12 October 2017, regarding Gifts and Hospitality Policy (circulated).

In response to Councillor Byrne's queries regarding the Gifts and Hospitality Policy, Mrs Carville advised the following:

- A suggested method of declining gifts and hospitality was contained within the policy, although this may not be suitable



for all circumstances and individual judgement should be applied.

- The policy was suggesting any offers declined were recorded and a Gifts and Hospitality Register would be maintained.
- In relation to whether annual conferences were recorded, the policy was based on good practice and annual conferences should be recorded, although if any cost was involved, these are already being recorded at the request of the Department for Communities.
- The 2 legacy councils operated different procedures and this policy would ensure a consistent and best practice procedure across Council.

In response to queries from Councillor Burgess, Mrs Carville advised that training would be rolled out for Members after the policy had been agreed and that the policy was subject to review, as with all policies.

In response to questions from Councillor Sharvin, Mrs Carville said the upper limit of £25 was defined in the legacy Newry policy. Other councils' policies and civil service policies had also been explored and £25 had been an average. Mrs Carville said this amount would be monitored and reviewed as the policy was put into practice.

**Agreed:**                    **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the new policy on Gifts and Hospitality.**

**SPR/167/2017            RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Read:**                    Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 12 October 2017, regarding Risk Management Policy (circulated).

In response to questions from Members, Mrs Carville responded as follows:

- The Risk Management Policy was the overarching risk management document which set the risk management procedures for Council. Beneath this policy would be other policies ie. Health & Safety Policy, which would deal with risk assessments at events.
- The Risk Management Strategy recommendation referred to by the Internal Auditor was regarding the policy document itself, which they said was not user friendly. It had the potential to distract from the focus on risk, and what the key officers in the organisation needed to do with regard to risk management.
- Paragraph 31 had been added to the policy as Internal Audit had recommended Council needed to better define its risk appetite.
- Officers took guidance from Council's insurers regarding the level of insurance Council requires from community groups. Feedback had been obtained and a discussion held with Council's insurance broker around concerns from the DEA's, following which a report had been presented at Active & Healthy Communities Committee. There were certain circumstances which the insurance broker deemed to be high risk.



Councillor Sharvin suggested it would be useful to have a tracking mechanism in place to see where the old policy had changed in comparison to the new policy. Mrs Carville undertook to provide this on future updated policies.

In response to Councillor Carr's comments, Mrs Carville undertook to provide him with information on insurance claims.

In response to comments from Councillor Byrne, Mrs Carville undertook to investigate the level of insurance required for the Newry Pride event.

**Agreed:**                    **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the new Risk Management Policy.**

**SPR/168/2017            SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**Read:**                    Report from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding), dated 12 October 2017 regarding Safeguarding Policy (circulated).

Mrs Miskelly introduced Mrs Colleen Morrison, Council's Safeguarding Co-ordinator to Members, saying the post was shared with Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council.

In response to queries from Members, Mrs Miskelly and Mrs Morrison answered as follows:

- There was a distinction between Council business and Party business as highlighted in the flow chart. When Members were carrying out Council business, they were governed by Council's Safeguarding Policy but when for example, canvassing on behalf of a political party, they would be governed by their own Party's procedures.
- Confidentiality was paramount when processing information, but the reason for not guaranteeing absolute confidentiality was when a matter was escalated to the appropriate service, then it would necessitate the disclosure of information to those authorities.
- Mrs Morrison was identified as one of the trained operators as well as 2 Sports Development Officers – one Newry based and one Downpatrick based, who would be chosen due to the nature of their post and the amount of contact they had with children and adults at risk in the community.
- The Safeguarding Policy would become part of the induction process for new employees and training would be undertaken on a regular basis and at particular times ie. before the summer holidays.
- It was intended that all staff, including Members, would receive child protection training.
- If Council was supporting an event, but was not the organiser, it was expected that the organisers own procedures would be followed, but if they did not have any procedures, they would be expected to sign up to Council's Safeguarding Policy.

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor O'Muire, it was agreed to approve the Safeguarding Policy.**

**SPR/169/2017      TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

Read: Report from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, dated 12 October 2017 regarding Treasury Management (circulated).

Mr Montgomery provided Members with an overview of the Treasury Management.

In response to a question from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Montgomery explained that the loan profile of £59m was made up of individual loans which were set at fixed rates and following the inception of the Prudential Code, loans were not taken out project specific, but when required. He added that Arling Close provided Council with advice on the best way to borrow money if required.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor O'Muire, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the Treasury Outturn Report 2016/17 and the Prudential Indicator Outturn Report 2016/17.**

**SPR/170/2017      TRANSITION OF EXISTING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GROUP STRUCTURES**

Read: Report from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, dated 12 October 2017, regarding Transition of Existing Emergency Preparedness Group Structures from 5 existing areas to 3, Belfast, Northern & Southern Emergency Preparedness Areas (copy circulated).

In response to a query from Councillor Byrne, Mr Hannaway advised the PSNI was the blue light agency with primary responsibility for Emergency Planning and their decision was to reduce to 3 areas. Council was a facilitator in the process who responded accordingly.

In response to a query from Councillor Enright, Mr Mallon advised there was a Severe Weather Working Group which would take the lead on severe weather and emergency response plans which would deal with coastal flooding.

In response to a question from Councillor Carr, Mr Mallon explained that Council had its own internal emergency plans which fed into the groups and escalated if emergency planning was activated.

**AGREED: It was agreed to note the report regarding the Transition of Existing Emergency Preparedness Group Structures from 5 existing areas to 3; Belfast, Northern & Southern Emergency Preparedness Areas.**

**SPR/171/2017      ACQUISITION OF LAND AT SUGAR ISLAND, NEWRY**

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration), dated 12 October 2017, regarding Acquisition of land at Sugar Island, Newry (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Carr, that Council proceed with the proposed acquisition of land at Sugar Island, Newry on the terms assessed by Land and Property Services

**SPR/172/2017**      **SUB-LEASE OF BOAT HOUSE, MARINE PARADE, WARRENPOINT TO CARLINGFORD LOUGH CURRACH CLUB**

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration), dated 12 October 2017, regarding Sub-Lease of Boat House, Marine Parade, Warrenpoint to Carlingford Lough Currach Club (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Savage, that an application be made to the Department for Communities to permit Council to sub-let the Boat House, Warrenpoint, to Carlingford Lough Currach Club at a peppercorn rent.

It was agreed item SPR173/2017 and item SPR174/2017 would be discussed together.

**SPR/173/2017**      **REGULATING LEASE OF FORESHORE FOR NEWRY AND MOURNE**

**SPR/174/2017**      **PROPOSED CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY – VICTORIA LOCK TO THE BORDER – LEASE FROM CROWN ESTATE**

Read: Reports from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration), dated 12 October 2017, regarding Regulating Lease of Foreshore for Newry and Mourne and Proposed Carlingford Lough Greenway – Victoria Lock to the Border – Lease from Crown Estate (copy circulated).

Councillor Carr said he understood that the issues regarding the rights of way along the sea front at Ballyedmond and Killowen had not been resolved.

Mrs Robb said she had met with the Agent for the Crown Estate and the recommendation was to proceed with the renewal of the lease of the foreshore and any adjustments required would be dealt with separately.

In response to a question from Councillor Enright, Mrs Robb confirmed that the legacy Down lease for the foreshore was in place for the next 15 years and once the legacy Newry foreshore lease was resolved, it was hoped to work towards having one lease for the District.

In response to Councillor Carr's concerns, Mrs Robb advised that the Council had agreed to renew the lease of the foreshore at the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee in August and undertook to update Councillor Carr on the status of the Rights of Way at Ballyedmond and Killowen.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the reports regarding regulating the lease of Foreshore for Newry and Mourne and the proposed Carlingford Lough Greenway – Victoria Lock to the Border – Lease from Crown Estate.

### **FOR NOTING**

**SPR/175/2017**      **SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY – SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read: Report from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, dated 12 October 2017, regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2017.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2017.

**SPR/176/2017**      **LOCAL AUTHORITY DEED – DRUMNAKELLY LANDFILL SITE**

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 10 October 2017, regarding Local Authority Deed – Drumnakelly Landfill Site (circulated).

In response to a query from Councillor Byrne, Mr Montgomery confirmed that the total discounted amount provided for Drumnakelly Landfill site was approximately £2m.

In response to a query from Councillor Enright, Mrs Carville advised that until there was a defined income available the renewable energy stream would not be accounted for from the Drumnakelly site.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the report on Local Authority Deed – Drumnakelly Landfill Site.

**SPR/177/2017**      **LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION (LGSC) CONTINUING OPERATION 2017/18**

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 12 October 2017, regarding Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Continuing Operation 2017/18 (circulated).

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mrs Carville advised that correspondence had been sent to the Department for Communities recording Council's dissatisfaction, to which a response had been received, saying the Department had

noted Council's concerns. She added this issue was also raised through the Finance Working Group.

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

**SPR/178/2017      SURVEILLANCE & MONITORING OF TOWN CENTRE CCTV**

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

**Read:**              Report from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning & Performance, dated 12 October 2017 regarding Surveillance & Monitoring of Town Centre CCTV (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 Murnin, seconded by Councillor Ruane, by a vote of 6 FOR and 2 AGAINST and 3 ABSTENTIONS to note the content of the Report, approve the recommendations in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 and the decision listed in the first paragraph of the Officer's Report.

**SPR/179/2017      MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 AUGUST 2017**

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

**Read:**              Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 12 October 2017 regarding Management Accounts to 31 August 2017 (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 it had been agreed to note the Management Accounts for the first five months of the 2017-2018 financial year; the five months ending 31 August 2017.

**Noted:** Additional information requested by Councillors would be provided.

**SPR/180/2017**      **PROGRESS REPORT ON NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE PHASE 2**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Read:** Report from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, dated 12 October 2017 regarding Progress Report on Newry Leisure Centre Phase 2 (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 Murnin, to note the progress report on Newry Leisure Centre Phase 2 and approve the recommendations in Section 3.1 and 3.2 of the Officer's report relating to the expenditure on this project.

**SPR/181/2017**      **RECRUITMENT OF RTS DIRECTOR**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**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 Savage, seconded by Councillor Carr, to note the verbal update presented by the Chief Executive in relation to the recruitment of the Director of Regulatory & Technical Services and approve the recommendations as outlined by the Chief Executive in his verbal report to Committee, having taken account of the views put forward by the Members, with a further report being presented to SPR Committee in December 2017.

*Councillor Sharvin, having previously declared an interest in Agenda Item 20, departed from the meeting – 6.46pm.*

**SPR/182/2017      ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGIC PROJECTS WORKING GROUP HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2017**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**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 note the contents of the Action Sheet of the Strategic Projects Working Group meeting of 22 August 2017, and approve the recommendations relating to removal of some matters from the action sheet.

**AGREED:** It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that at the meeting of the Strategic Projects Working Group on 17 October 2017, a full report on the Albert Basin Park Project be presented in Minute format and presented as a separate report to SPR Committee and this to apply to any other project if requested by Members



at the Working Group and taking account of the Council's obligations under Part 1 of Schedule 6 of Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

**NOTED**

It was noted the Chief Executive's clarification that all Council Members are entitled to attend the Working Group and participate in the debate.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.35pm.

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

**Signed:**                    **Councillor Terry Hearty**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:**                    **Dorinnia Carville**  
**Director of Corporate Services**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2017

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 24 October 2017 at 6.00pm in the Commedagh Room,  
Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor Walker

**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**  
 Councillor Andrews Councillor Brown  
 Councillor Burns Councillor Doran  
 Councillor Enright Councillor Kimmins  
 Councillor Loughran Councillor McMurray  
 Councillor Taylor

**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active & Healthy Communities  
 Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Active & Healthy Communities (Health & Wellbeing)  
 Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of Active & Health Communities (Community Engagement)  
 Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Active & Healthy Communities (Leisure & Sports)  
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**AHC/153/2017: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Fitzpatrick, Harte, Quinn and Ó Muirí

**AHC/154/2017: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Item 15 - Social Investement Fund – Update**

Councillor Burns declared an interest if Castlewellan Community Centre was discussed under the above item.

**AHC/155/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Read: Action Sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting

held on Monday 18 September 2017. **(Copy circulated)**

### **AHC/139/2017 – Community Centre Effectiveness**

Mrs Hillen advised officers would like to consult with the DEAs prior to making a presentation to the Committee on the Community Centre Effectiveness. She stated the presentation would be made at the Committee Meeting in January 2018.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that the presentation on Community Centre Effectiveness would be heard at the January Committee Meeting, following consultation with the DEAs.

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the action sheet.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### **AHC/156/2017: REPORT ON PEACE IV**

**Read:** Report from Ms J McCabe, Programmes Manager, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan (copy circulated)

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Doran to agree to the recommendations of the Peace IV Partnership as follows:

- **Management Support:**  
Approval to submit an application to SEUPB for the BMX project in Camlough Road, Newry.  
Approval to tender for the Bank of Facilitator subject to SEUPB approval.
- **Shared Spaces and Services: Shared Spaces Engagement Programme:**  
To procure and appoint a facilitator to carry out an audit and mapping of existing shared spaces and complete community dialogue – estimated cost £25,000
- **Building Positive Relations:**  
Capacity Building & Engagement Programme for groups across the District:  
Service Engagement events in Mournes DEA between local community organisations - £1000  
Public advertisement for Expressions of Interest to recruit groups to this programme - £2000  
To procure and appoint a facilitator for the Newry, Mourne and Down Intercultural Forum – estimated cost £5000

#### **AHC/157/2017: DEA FORA - UPDATE**

**Read:** Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement and Ms S Rice, DEA Coordinator (Crotlieve), dated 16 October 2017, regarding DEA Fora Update (copy circulated).

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to approve the actions outlined in the action sheets from the following DEA Forum meetings:
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017
  - Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017
  - Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017
  - Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

**AHC/158/2017: BARNMEEN COMMUNITY CENTRE CAR PARK**

**Read:** Report from Mrs J McCann, Head of Community Services Facilities and Events, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Proposed Legal Agreement between NM&DDC and Barnmeen Primary School in relation to use of Community Centre car park (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Loughran to agree to proceed with a legal agreement for five years with the option to extend between NMDDC and Barnmeen Primary School, regarding permitted use of the Council's Community Centre car park during school operating hours.

**AHC/159/2017: COMMUNITY HUB FOR WARRENPOINT**

**Read:** Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of Community Engagement, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Warrenpoint Community Hub (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Brown to agree to convening meetings with agencies to update on progress and reaffirm support for the Warrenpoint Community Hub initiative.

**LEISURE AND SPORTS**

It was agreed to take the next two items together.

**AHC/160/2017: OPTIONS FOR EXTENDED OPENING TIMES WITHIN INDOOR LEISURE**

**Read:** Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 16 October 2017 regarding Options for Extended Opening Times within Indoor Leisure (copy circulated).

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Brown to:
- Continue to open DLC and NLC in line with previously approved opening hours;
  - Undertake further research through customer surveys at each of the facilities concerned to determine the level of interest in opening from 10am on Sundays, in addition, staff surveys should be undertaken to determine level of interest in additional opening hours to help ascertain HR implications;
  - Bring back a report with all implications as detailed in the recommendations and to be reviewed as part of the 2018/19 rates estimates process.

**AHC/161/2017: OPTIONS FOR EXTENDED OPENING TIMES WITHIN COMMUNITY CENTRES**

**Read:** Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of , dated 16 October 2017 regarding Options for Extended Opening Times within Community Centres (copy circulated).

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Brown to:
- Undertake further research through customer surveys at each of the facilities concerned to determine the level of interest in increasing the opening hours of community centres on a Saturday and Sunday;
  - Bring back a report with all implications as detailed in the recommendations and to be reviewed as part of the 2018/19 rates estimates process.

**AHC/162/2017: BANK HOLIDAYS FOR 2018/19**

**Read:** Report from Mr K Gordon, Head of Indoor Leisure, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Indoor Leisure Facility Arrangements for 2018/19 Public Holidays (copy circulated).

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Doran to continue to open specific facilities for specific public holidays for 2018/19 as per table attached subject to the forthcoming rates estimates process and subject to change with any future agreements through management and trade unions.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**AHC/163/2017:      THE NICOTINE INHALING PRODUCTS (AGE OF SALE AND PROXY PURCHASING) REGULATIONS (NI) 2017  
THE TOBACCO RETAILER (FIXED PENALTY) (AMOUNT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NI) 2017**

Read:            Report from Ms G O'Callaghan, Senior Environmental Health Officer, dated 16 October 2017, regarding the Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations (NI) 2017 and the Tobacco Retailer (Fixed Penalty) (Amount) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2017 (copy circulated).

Councillor Burns queried whether there was guidance in place regarding when and where e-cigarettes could be smoked.

Mr Devlin advised the smoking restrictions were only in relation to tobacco and it was not illegal to smoke e-cigarettes anywhere.

**Agreed:            It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Andrews to agree that Council responds to the consultation in accordance with the circulated template.**

**AHC/164/2017:      LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

Read:            Report from Ms S McEldowney, Senior Environmental Health Officer, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) (copy circulated).

Councillor Enright stated there did not appear to be a budget in place with the Action Plan and did not outline how it would support community groups completing wildlife programmes. He offered his assistance to officers to produce a more comprehensive plan for the way forward.

Mr Devlin stated all comments were welcome from Members.

Mr Lipsett advised there was currently no budget in place and asked Members to be mindful of this when taking part in the rate setting process over the next few months.

**Agreed:            It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Doran to agree to the adoption of Draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan.**

**FOR NOTING**

**AHC/165/2017:      PCSP REPORT**

Read:            Report from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, and Ms S Fearon, PCSP Manager dated 16 October 2017 regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership. (copy circulated).

**Noted:**                    **The report on Policy and Community Safety Partnership was noted.**

**AHC/166/2017:        EUROPEAN PROJECTS**

**Read:**                    Report from Ms J McCabe, Programmes Unit, dated 16 October 2017, regarding European Projects (copy circulated).

**Noted:**                    **The report on European Projects was noted.**

**AHC/167/2017:        PROGRESS REPORT ON THE AREAS AT RISK PROGRAMME IN CROSSMAGLEN AND BESSBROOK**

**Read:**                    Report from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Progress Report on the Areas at Risk Programmes in Crossmaglen and Bessbrook (copy circulated).

**Noted:**                    **The report on the Areas at Risk Programmes in Crossmaglen and Bessbrook was noted.**

**AHC/168/2017:        SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND - UPDATE**

**Read:**                    Report from Ms J McCabe, Programme Manager, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Social Investment Fund - Update. (copy circulated).

**Noted:**                    **The update report on Social Investment Fund was noted.**

**AHC/169/2017        WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH/DOWN**

**Agreed:**                    **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

**Read:**                    Report from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, dated 16 October 2017, regarding Women's Aid, Armaghdown (copy circulated)

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



**Agreed:**                    **The Chairperson advised that while in closed session it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, to accept the officer's recommendation and to agree to the Director seeking a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Trust to discuss the issue. It was also agreed that the subject of the management of the Trust's Estates be added to the agenda for a future health forum meeting.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.32pm.

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

Signed:                    Councillor W Walker  
Chairperson

Signed:                    Mr M Lipsett  
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

## NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

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### **Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor J Trainor

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor V Harte

**Members:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor S Burns
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
 Mr A Wilkinson, Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services  
 Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer  
 Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations  
 Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
 Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support  
 Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing  
 Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

### **RTS/117/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Stokes.

### **RTS/118/2017: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

There were no declarations of Conflicts of Interest.

Councillor Trainor congratulated staff, particularly those in the refuse collection section, for their hard work in providing a continuous service during a period of great change and also during the recent storm. He also praised the Emergency Services who had provided such a great service across the District during ex-hurricane Ophelia.

**RTS/119/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017. *(Circulated)*.

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

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – BUILDING CONTROL**

**RTS/120/2017: STREET TRADING DESIGNATION AT STRANGFORD VILLAGE**

**Read:** Report dated 18 October 2017 from Fintan Quinn, Head of Services for Licensing and Enforcement, re: street trading designation at Strangford Village. *(Circulated)*.

In response to queries from Members, Mr Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations, confirmed that the trader who made the initial enquiry about the street trading designation at Strangford Village had confirmed that he wished to trade in a tea, coffee, vending business.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Craig, it was agreed to approve the report and recommend:-

- 1. To approve the designation of Quay Road, Strangford Lower, Strangford for Street Trading in the Trading Area Option 3 as circulated at the meeting.**
- 2. Council to proceed to advertise for potential traders with a licensing condition that the successful trader would trade in a tea, coffee, vending business only and also to physically mark out the trading bay.**

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING**

**RTS/121/2017: SEPTEMBER 2017 - PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Read:** Report on Planning Committee Performance for September 2017 *(Circulated)*.

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

**RTS/122/2017: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES 2017-2018**

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

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

**RTS/123/2017: CURRENT APPEALS – OCTOBER 2017**

**Read:** Report of current appeals in October 2017 *(Circulated)*.

**Agreed:** **The report of current appeals in October 2017 was noted.**

**RTS/124/2017: CONTACT FROM PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES 3 JULY TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Read:** Contact from Public Representatives 3 July to 29 September 2017. *(Circulated)*

**Agreed:** **The report on contact from Public Representatives from 3 July to 29 September 2017 was noted.**

**RTS/125/2017: NI PLANNING STATISTICS 2017/2018 FIRST QUARTER STATISTICAL BULLETIN**

**Read:** Report from the NI Statistics and Research Agency on Northern Ireland Planning Statistics 2017/2018 First Quarter Statistical Bulletin (April-June 2017: Provisional Figures). *(Circulated)*.

Mr McKay, Chief Planning Officer, went through the report with Members and explained it contained comparisons between all Planning Departments across Northern Ireland. The "applications received" section showed that Belfast City Council received the most (448) followed by Newry, Mourne and Down (402). This gave an idea how busy the Council's Planning Department was.

In percentage terms Newry, Mourne and Down District Council was one of three who had recorded an increase in planning applications received in Q1 with the other 7 Councils recording a decrease.

The "applications decided by Council" section showed that Newry, Mourne and Down Council had the highest number of decisions issued across Councils when compared to the same period last year (459) Belfast (451) with some Councils issuing in the region of 200 applications. This was an indication of the significant amount of work being done by the Council's Planning Department.

In relation to approval rates per Council, Newry, Mourne and Down had dropped but this was largely as a result of the applications inherited from the legacy Council. Newry, Mourne and Down also had the greatest reduction in the proportion of live cases that were in the system for over one year.

Mr McKay referred to Enforcement performance and said the Council was not at the level they would like to be but there were a number of reasons for this, including staff not being available for work. However significant progress was being made and the level of enforcement activity had increased.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated Mr McKay and the Planning staff for all their hard work.

**Agreed: It was agreed to note the above report.**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed a report on the number of planning applications received and approved over the past 5 years for renewable energy proposals in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and how any approvals contributed to the renewable energy targets within our District, be presented to the next Committee Meeting for consideration.**

#### **FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – WASTE MANAGEMENT**

##### **RTS/126/2017: PERFORMANCE OF SOLAR POWERED LITTER BINS IN NEWCASTLE**

**Read:** Report dated 18 October 2017 from Mr Peter Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing, re: performance of Solar Powered Litter Bins in Newcastle. *(Circulated)*.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Craig, it was agreed a report be presented to the R&TS Committee detailing options and costs for future replacement of litter bins across the District, including the provision of recycling bins and solar powered bins to be located in identified remote areas where there would be potential collection efficiencies.**

(6.40 pm – Councillor Taylor left the meeting).

##### **RTS/127/2017: REPORT RE: FOOD WASTE EXPANSION PROJECT**

**Read:** Report dated 18 October 2017 from Mr Peter Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing (presented by Mr L Dinsmore) re: food waste expansion project. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support, went through the report with Members and outlined the key issues namely reduction in disposal costs with opportunity for further cost reduction; meeting 50% recycling target by 2020; the significant challenges faced by the project for the supply of bin, caddy and liners to properties that currently did not have this facility and the provision of compostable liners to residents.

**Agreed:                    On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the report and recommend: -**

- 1. Council to provide additional compostable liners as required by residents at a cost of £94,000 in the current year based on the provision of two further rolls of liners for each property in the district. This cost can be met from savings in disposal costs for the current year. In anticipation that scheme will be continued next year, and to provide for future purchase of compostable liners, the Council anticipate a reduction in disposal costs and set aside a portion of the anticipated savings, estimated at £133,000, for purchase of compostable liners in 2018/19. Scheme to be reviewed in March 2018.**
- 2. Option 1 in the appraisal paper on the mechanism used to supply compostable liners be implemented and that liners be made available from an increased number of Council facilities including the main civic buildings, household recycling centres, leisure centres and community buildings.**
- 3. Residents currently in receipt of an assisted lift collection service will have liners delivered to them on a regular basis.**
- 4. The cut off period to request a bin free of charge be the end of December 2017.**
- 5. Scheme to be reviewed in March 2018.**
- 6. Officials to investigate the cost of providing a small kitchen caddy to those households that do not have them and report back to Committee in due course.**
- 7. Councillors were in agreement as to the need for recycling aspects to be regularly revisited and it was agreed that a Strategy to include education, further recycling initiatives and enforcement be drawn up and considered by Council in due course.**

Members commented that it was very positive to hear about the improvements in recycling rates and thanked the staff in the refuse section who had worked hard to



roll out the new bins. They said the recycling of food waste had proven to be a successful initiative and people had really bought into it.

### **FOR NOTING**

#### **RTS/128/2017: SPECIAL REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2017 TO DISCUSS AN APPLICATION FOR AN AMUSEMENT PERMIT AT 4 MARGARET STREET, NEWRY**

**Read:** Report of Special Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting dated Wednesday 27 September 2017 to discuss an application for an Amusement Permit at 4 Margaret Street, Newry. *(Circulated)*

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2017 as a true and accurate record.**

(7.00 pm – Councillor S Burns left the meeting)  
Councillor J Tinnelly left the meeting)

#### **RTS/129/2017: REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

**Read:** Report dated 18 October 2017 from Mr K Scullion and Ms G Kane, re: review of Public Conveniences. *(Circulated)*.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated the officers on the work they put into it.

**Noted:** In response to Councillor Casey, Mr Scullion agreed to change the location of the Newry Public Conveniences to John Mitchel Place and not John Mitchel Street.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the contents of the above Report with a view to the matters being considered further during the forthcoming setting of rates, including comments from Members that due to the impact on tourism, the initial focus should be on the PC's in Newcastle but that all PC'S across the District should be included, with a view to spreading the cost over a period of time.**



**It was also noted that a request had been made to consider the needs of those with autism when considering replacement PCs.**

**RTS/130/2017: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2017**

**Read:** Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 31 August 2017 (*Circulated*)

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 31 August 2017.

**RTS/131/2017: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Read:** Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 28 September 2017 (*Circulated*)

**Noted:** It was agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 28 September 2017.

**RTS/132/2017: HISTORIC ACTION SHEET**

**Read:** Historic Action Sheet (*Circulated*).

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the historic action sheet and the actions identified in the right hand column as being completed be removed.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.20 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2017.

**Signed: Councillor John Trainor**  
**Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee**

**Signed: Mr A Wilkinson**  
**Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services**

<b>Report to:</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	6 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ireland 2040 – Draft National Planning Framework
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Andrew Hay, Principal Planning Officer

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
To agree the Council response to Ireland 2040 Our Plan Draft National Planning Framework.	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	The Council as a Public Body with interest in the Planning Framework should respond to the above document. Its response should reflect the issues which are important to the District from an economic infrastructure and planning context.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	See attached NM&D draft response - appendix (1)
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	To agree the Council response to Ireland 2040 Our Plan: Draft National Planning Framework.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	None
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix I: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response Appendix 2: Overview of Ireland 2040 Our Plan: Draft National Planning Framework Appendix 3: Draft response from Louth County Council



## **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council: Response to the NPF**

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) welcomes that the NPF acknowledges the special relationship Ireland has with Northern Ireland as its closest neighbour. It also welcomes that the NPF seeks to address the shared challenges it has with Northern Ireland in the preparation and implementation of the NPF through the setting of a number of specific National Policy Objectives to build and develop this relationship in the strategic planning and development of both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In reference to the section of the NPF that specifically deals with Ireland's relationship with Northern Ireland, NMDDC accepts and agrees with the direction being established through the development of the National Planning Objectives 45 to 52. In doing so NMDDC wishes to make the following comments:

- Newry, Mourne and Down District shares a land and sea border with Ireland. It borders both County Louth and County Monaghan. In terms of the Regional Assemblies in Ireland, County Louth forms part of the Eastern and Midland Region (which includes Dublin), while County Monaghan forms part of the Northern and Western Region. The city of Newry together with the neighbouring port of Warrenpoint is strategically positioned on the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor.
- It is vitally important that in the preparation of and implementation of the NPF, and the forthcoming regional plans (Regional Spatial Economic Strategies), that through cross border co-operation and collaboration that the economic, social, and environmental interests of Newry, Mourne and Down District are fully taken in to account in the strategic planning and development of Ireland. In guiding future development and sustainable growth, and in the co-ordinated delivery of strategic development, infrastructure and services, the NPF must recognise, acknowledge and be ever mindful of the role and position of Newry, Mourne and Down District as it borders Ireland, in particular its placement on the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor and the contribution it makes to the whole of the island of Ireland.
- It is further requested that a diagram showing the Dublin/Belfast Corridor spatially is included in the final document. It is proposed that the diagram would show the economic corridor aligned with the linear rail and road network and would include the location of County Louth with reference to the large towns of Drogheda and Newry/Dundalk.
- Newry/Dundalk as the spatial location on the economic corridor to develop critical mass to compete with other larger cities. It is considered that the designation of Newry / Dundalk can potentially realise the objective of a gateway between the Dublin metropolitan region and the north east of the island as a counter action to BREXIT, as part of a linear network of urban centres strategically located along the corridor. We believe this important as Newry, Mourne and Down District Council the ambition of a Belfast Growth Region to include this Council area.

- **National Policy Objective 45:**
  - ***Work with the relevant Departments in Northern Ireland for mutual advantage in areas such as spatial planning, economic development and promotion, co-ordination of social and physical infrastructure provision and environmental protection and management.***

NMDDC welcomes the reference that the NPF will work in tandem with the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland (RDS) in addressing shared challenges. And also that this collaborative work will be supported by the Framework for Co-operation on Spatial Strategies between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The Spatial Framework of the RDS recognises that in times of economic downturn places cannot afford to compete with each other, and that co-operation is important to reduce unnecessary duplication of services and facilities.

The European Spatial Development Perspective states:

*'The creation of networks of smaller towns in less densely settled and economically weaker regions is also important. In these areas, co-operation between urban centres to develop functional complementarities may be the only possibility for achieving viable markets and maintaining institutions and services which could not be achieved by the towns on their own.'*

The Spatial Framework of the RDS therefore promotes co-operation between places and encourages clustering of Hubs so that services do not need to be duplicated but rather shared.

The Spatial Framework of the RDS identifies Newry City as a Main Hub. Newry is the main settlement in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Its setting close to the Mourne Mountains makes it an attractive tourist destination. Newry is a significant employment centre with a strong retail offering and an acute hospital. It is well connected to both Belfast and Dublin being on the main road and rail links. Newry is identified in the RDS as the South Eastern City gateway due to its proximity to the land border and the major port of Warrenpoint. The RDS also acknowledges that in the delivery of services and functions it has the potential to cluster with Dundalk. They are both strategically located on the Dublin – Belfast corridor which has the potential to become a significant axis of development within the wider European context. This has provided the impetus for joint working to develop their roles as regional Gateways and to develop the wider eastern seaboard corridor. A joined-up approach assists in creating a critical mass to compete in the global economy and will support efforts to attract funding for wider regional infrastructure and regeneration initiatives. Such an approach to the strategic planning of the cross border relationship of Newry-Dundalk will enable it to collectively promote the development of a progressive and competitive twin centre sub region and promote sustainable development. Developing two strong sustainable centres will play a key role in regeneration strategies, transport infrastructure and connectivity, economic development and job creation, and in the delivery of services.

It is considered that the designation of Newry / Dundalk in the Draft Plan acknowledges the latent potential of creating centres of scale along the Dublin / Belfast corridor that will attract reciprocal flows of highly skilled employees from both the Dublin and Belfast labour markets. Thus would be optimised existing transport infrastructure and potential



new investment by fully utilising the capacity of the road and rail network in both directions.

In cognisance of the above the NPF should make reference to the 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) that exists between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council, which commits the region to increased cross border co-operation. The MOU underpins the pivotal role of the greater Newry region. It establishes a strategic alliance between the two bodies and seeks to support and promote the economic development and competitiveness of the region.

The 2 Councils have developed an Action Plan which sets out the key projects which the Council are working on. These include infrastructure links, bathing water quality in Carlingford and tourism links as well as economic development initiatives.

It is also noted that the NPF makes specific reference to 'Cross Border Local Initiatives' and the opportunities for collaboration, in particular for the sub-regional areas on the Dublin - Belfast corridor, and recognises that the economic, infrastructural and developmental ties in these areas will be supported through local leadership and co-operation arrangements such as the coordination of statutory planning functions and corresponding infrastructural investment. The NPF states that the three key areas of focus include:

- Regional co-operation arrangements.
- Joint initiatives.
- Co-ordinated spatial planning.

However, while making this reference, it is disappointing that the NPF does not include any National Planning Objective in this respect. Building on the collaboration that already exists between NMDDC and County Louth Council it is considered that similar to the National Planning Objective 47, that the NPF should develop/include an additional National Planning Objective that promotes the development of the Newry - Dundalk sub region of the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor.

- **National Policy Objective 46:**

- ***In co-operation with relevant Departments in Northern Ireland, to further support and promote the sustainable economic potential of the Dublin-Belfast Corridor and enhance its international visibility.***

As referenced above the RDS identifies Newry together with Warrenpoint as the South Eastern City Gateway with a port and strategic links to Dundalk and on to Dublin.

As a Gateway, Newry/Warrenpoint is a strategically important transport interchanges which is important for economic development, freight distribution activities and additional employment generation. The quality of connection from the sea port of Warrenpoint to the internal transport network is crucial for economic competitiveness and the convenience of commercial freight. Economic and social development depends on modern, efficient infrastructure.

Warrenpoint Port is an important commercial freight gateway and key employment generator strategically placed on the corridor. Warrenpoint Port is a central harbour for businesses in the midlands of Ireland. 70% of timber from the EU which enter the port go to the South of Ireland. 50% of animal feed coming into the port go to the South. Kilkeel fishing harbour is also a major processor of fish from Howth Dunmore East and

## Appendix 1

Clougherhead. This level of economic connectiveness needs to be supported within the economic strategy.

In its reference to the Dublin – Belfast Economic Corridor, the NPF, as well as referring specifically to the three major airports, should also refer to the major sea ports, including Warrenpoint. This should include details of passenger numbers in respect of their operation as ferry terminals and more importantly as commercial ports for freight services. Transport infrastructure, in particular improved road connectivity (e.g. proposed Newry Southern Relief Road) will continue to play a crucial role in the future growth and development of the port and Newry as a regional hub and as a gateway to both Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland.

- NMDDC acknowledges that Brexit poses a number of challenges. Despite the uncertainty surrounding Brexit and the implications this may have, the NPF recognises the strong economic, cultural ties between Ireland and Northern Ireland. It is vitally important that cooperation and joint development of cross border areas, particularly the Dublin – Belfast corridor is strengthened now if it is to be resilient and maintained. Post Brexit, it will be important that the NPF along with the RDS under the Framework of Co-operation between Ireland and Northern Ireland maximises the potential of the whole of the island of Ireland's economy, including initiatives to improve connectivity and integration of transport.



## **Ireland 2040 Our Plan: Draft National Planning Framework**

This paper provides an overview of Ireland 2040 Our Plan: Draft National Planning Framework (NPF). It also makes specific reference to the section of the NPF that considers how the Republic of Ireland (Ireland) will work with its neighbours, in particular the shared challenges with Northern Ireland. In considering the relevance of the NPF to Newry, Mourne and Down District, the paper concludes with some comments, representing the Council's proposed response.

### **Background and Overview**

The NPF represents one document that will guide, at a high level, strategic planning and development for Ireland over the next 20+ years, so that as the population grows, the growth is sustainable (in economic, social and environmental terms). It is the Irish Government's plan to cater for the extra one million people that will be living in Ireland, the additional two thirds of a million people working in Ireland and the half a million extra homes needed in Ireland by 2040. The NPF focuses on:

- Growing Ireland's regions, their cities, towns and villages and rural fabric.
- Building more accessible urban centres of scale.
- Better outcomes for communities and the environment, through more effective and coordinated planning, investment and delivery.

As a strategic development framework, the NPF sets the long-term context for Ireland's physical development and associated progress in economic, social and environmental terms and in an island, European and global context. It will be followed and underpinned by supporting policies and actions at sectoral, regional and local levels.

Finalisation of the NPF later this year alongside Ireland's 10 year National Investment Plan, will essentially put together one plan to guide strategic development and infrastructure investment at national level.

The NPF and the National Investment Plan will also set the context for each of Ireland's three regional assemblies\* to develop Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies taking account of and co-ordinating local authority County and City Development Plans in a manner that will ensure national, regional and local plans align.

*\*Note: Newry, Mourne and Down District shares a land and sea border with Ireland. It borders both County Louth and County Monaghan. In terms of the Regional Assemblies in Ireland, County Louth forms part of the Eastern and Midland Region (which includes Dublin), while County Monaghan forms part of the Northern and Western Region.*

The NPF includes a vision and strategy that is supported by a series of National Policy Objectives. The ultimate objectives of the NPF are to:

- Guide the future development of Ireland, taking into account a projected 1 million increase in its population, the need to create 660,000 additional jobs to achieve full employment and a need for 550,000 more homes by 2040;
  - Of the 1 million extra people:
    - 25% is planned for Dublin, recognised as Ireland's key international and global city of scale and principal economic driver,

- 25% across the other four cities combined (Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford), enabling all four to grow their population and jobs by 50-60%, and become cities of greater scale, i.e. growing by twice as much as they did over the previous 25 years to 2016,
  - With the remaining 50% of growth to occur in key regional centres, towns, villages and rural areas, to be determined in the forthcoming regional plans – Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.
- Enable people to live closer to where they work, moving away from the current unsustainable trends of increased commuting;
  - Regenerate rural Ireland by promoting environmentally sustainable growth patterns;
  - Plan for and implement a better distribution of regional growth, in terms of jobs and prosperity;
  - Transform settlements of all sizes through imaginative urban regeneration and bring life/jobs back into cities, towns and villages;
  - Co-ordinate delivery of infrastructure and services in tandem with growth, through joined-up NPF/National Investment Plan and consistent sectoral plans, which will help to manage this growth and tackle congestion and quality of life issues.

Among the other key points highlighted and addressed within the NPF are:

- Proposals to significantly strengthen regional growth and connectivity, particularly in and between the four cities outside Dublin, within the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area, and more broadly within the Southern and Eastern Region;
- Proposals to secure more compact forms of urban development in all types of settlements, to reduce sprawl and to provide more choice, with a new national infill development target to accommodate 40% of the urban growth within existing built-up areas on brownfield lands;
- Proposals to counteract the decline of small towns and rural areas throughout Ireland, especially those located outside the catchment area of cities and larger towns;
- Recognition of the importance of the countryside as a living and lived-in landscape and community requiring careful planning to ensure it is sustained;
- A major emphasis on quality of life issues and how places can be better developed and designed to respond to the challenges of fast-changing and more diverse communities, including a significant increase in the proportion of the national population aged over 65;
- Identification of key north-south, all-island interactions and relationships to be maintained and further developed for the benefit of both jurisdictions, notwithstanding Brexit outcomes;
- Policies aligning with the National Mitigation Plan on climate change, enabling Ireland's transition to a low-carbon economy and reaping the rewards of sustainable economic progress;
- Proposals to ensure the effective joint management of Ireland's on-shore and off-shore resources and recognition of the need for a consistent and effective policy and regulatory approach for terrestrial and marine planning;
- Investment principles to guide the development and implementation of the new National Investment Plan, to accommodate the planned level of growth needed and unlock major future economic potential and signalling a new 'smart growth' competitive fund for rural and urban areas; and
- A range of environmental assessments as required under EU and national legislation requirements in relation to matters such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Directive and 'Floods' Directive, which will significantly strengthen the planning process from an environmental legislation alignment perspective.

## **The NPF and Northern Ireland**

Chapter 7 of the NPF entitled 'Working with Our Neighbours' specifically considers Ireland's membership of the European Union, and its relationship with Northern Ireland. Before considering what the NPF has to say about Northern Ireland, it is worth acknowledging what it says about Ireland in the context of the European Union.

## **Ireland and the European Union**

The NPF advises that its preparation and implementation must take account of and address Ireland's changing position in a European and global context. Acknowledging that the world is getting more diverse and more interconnected, the NPF advises that Ireland is one of the most globalised economies in the world, with established trading and investment in and from European, US, and Asians markets. This has resulted in a transformation and rapid transition of Ireland's economy in terms of jobs, skills, innovation.

The NPF states, for example, that Ireland has reaped major benefits from its membership of the European Union. It further advises that Ireland has also capitalised upon its EU membership as a major investment destination into the EU from both US and wider global contexts because of its strategic position, economic agility, improving infrastructure and an English-speaking business friendly environment.

Being an open economy means that Ireland is dependent on trade with its major trading partners and exports are a key component of economic growth. The NPF states that Ireland will need to continue to improve the resilience of the economy to deal with potential changes in the global financial environment and interest rates, greater competition for foreign investment, and changes in the operations of multinationals. To do this, it advises that the Irish Government will need to position Ireland to be flexible to change and external influences.

The NPF recognises Ireland as one of the most open and trade-based economies in the world, how it interacts with its nearest neighbours in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, its wider European and global context will have a major bearing on shared prospects for progression and development.

The UK referendum vote on Brexit has commenced a process that has the potential to significantly change the nature of Ireland's relationships with its nearest neighbours. While the precise nature of these impacts will not be known until after the NPF is finalised, future iterations of the NPF will have the opportunity to take on board their practical ramifications.

In the meantime, a withdrawal of the UK from the European Union would leave Ireland as the principal English-speaking country within the EU24 with both significant opportunities and challenges to address in a number of areas. These include the potential for increased economic investment into Ireland while at the same time continuing to harness the potential of the island economy and maintaining the trade, infrastructural and many other linkages with its nearest neighbours.

It is likely that, in the event of a withdrawal of the UK from the EU, in transport and energy infrastructure terms for example, Ireland's direct linkages with other EU countries by both air and sea and subsea energy connections may become significantly more important, given their advantages in terms of resilience and ease of movement across internal borders. As a result, ports and airports facilitating faster transit times between Ireland and the EU will need to be effectively connected into its land-based transport systems.

As more becomes known about the overall shape and implications of the Brexit process, implementation of the NPF will be adjusted to take account, leading ultimately to informing the next review of the NPF.

## **Ireland and Northern Ireland**

Around 6.6 million people live on the island of Ireland, 4.75 million people in Ireland (72% of total) and 1.85 million people in Northern Ireland (28% of total) (Census of population 2016/NISRA). By 2040, the island of Ireland will be home to almost 8 million people. Notwithstanding the context of Brexit, planning for nearly 1.4 million extra people on this island, their homes and places of work and the infrastructure required to support this growth, while at the same time ensuring good outcomes in terms of physical and community development and environmental quality, poses several shared challenges, including:

- Managing Ireland's growth strategically for long term benefit in terms of economic and social development and environmental quality.
- Working together for mutual advantage in areas such as economic development and promotion, co-ordination of social and physical infrastructure provision and environmental management.

**National Policy Objective 45** (within the NPF) states:

- ***Work with the relevant Departments in Northern Ireland for mutual advantage in areas such as spatial planning, economic development and promotion, co-ordination of social and physical infrastructure provision and environmental protection and management.***

Implementation of the NPF in tandem with the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) for Northern Ireland will assist in addressing these challenges. This collaborative work will be supported by the Framework for Co-operation on Spatial Strategies between Ireland and Northern Ireland, which will be updated and reviewed as required.

There are three key areas and for practical cooperation between relevant Departments and local authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland that will both support, and be supported by, the implementation of the NPF:

### ➤ **1: Working Together for Economic Advantage**

#### (i) Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor

The Dublin to Belfast Corridor is the largest economic agglomeration on the island of Ireland, with the cities and towns along the corridor home to a population of around 2 million people, exclusive of wider catchments. The corridor links the two largest cities on the island by high capacity road and national rail links and plays a critical role in supporting economic growth and competitiveness.

The corridor is also the national entry point to the island through its airports and ports. Three major airports - Dublin Airport, Belfast International Airport and Belfast City Airport - collectively manage over 35 million passengers each year and this is set to continue to rise.

As part of NPF, the Irish Government wishes to capitalise upon and further support and promote the inherent economic potential of the corridor, building upon existing strengths. To do this, there will be a focus on developing the corridor as a distinct spatial area with international visibility by:



- Effectively planning and developing existing large designated centres along the main economic corridor.
- Improving and protecting key transport corridors such as the TEN-T network and strategic function of the Dublin to Belfast road network from unnecessary development and sprawl.
- Protecting distinctive landscapes and rural activities which act as key green spaces and food producing areas between built-up areas.

**National Policy Objective 46** states that:

- ***In co-operation with relevant Departments in Northern Ireland, to further support and promote the sustainable economic potential of the Dublin-Belfast Corridor and enhance its international visibility.***

(ii) North-West Strategic Growth Partnership

This concerns the development of the North-West City region focussed on Derry City, which is considered essential to achieving the potential of the North West and maximising its contribution to regional and all-island economic growth. While this does not directly concern Newry, Mourne and Down, the Plan recognises that with Government support in Ireland and Northern Ireland, new cross-border collaborative arrangements have recently been developed to provide strategic leadership in the development of the region.

(iii) Cross Border Local Initiatives

Reconfiguration of local authority and council structures on both sides of the border presents opportunities for collaboration, in particular for the sub-regional areas on the Dublin-Belfast corridor and more central border areas. Building up the economic, infrastructural and developmental ties in these and similar areas will be supported through local leadership and co-operation arrangements such as the coordination of statutory planning functions and corresponding infrastructural investment. Three key areas of focus include:

- Regional co-operation arrangements.
- Joint initiatives.
- Co-ordinated spatial planning.

It is noted that in respect of this area, the NPF promotes no National Planning Objective.

➤ **2: Co-ordination of Investment in Infrastructure**

Both the NPF and the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland provide a basis for long-term co-ordination on infrastructure development including transport, energy and communications and social and community infrastructure.

(i) Mobility and accessibility (Transport)

While there has been significant investment in transport over the past 20 years, the island's growing population together with the continued growth in tourism numbers and freight traffic will place further demands on transportation infrastructure. Over the life of the NPF, increased transport connectivity, including bus and rail services, between the main cities, to the north-west region and along the border region allied to development and promotion of cross border blueways, greenways and walking trails will harness the potential of the island.

**National Policy Objective 48** states:

- ***Support enhanced public transport connectivity between large urban areas in Ireland and Northern Ireland.***

(iii) Energy

Collaboration in the energy sector, driven by the single electricity market and combined with the development of interconnection (the East West Interconnector (EWIC) in Ireland and the Moyle Interconnector in Northern Ireland), has reduced energy prices, enhanced energy systems resilience and diversification away from a near total reliance on fossil fuels and supported the all-island economy.

The need for a new interconnector between the electricity grids of Northern Ireland and Ireland has been identified by the Irish Government and Northern Ireland Executive as a project of common interest, with the southern section of the project already granted permission. Ireland is also working with other countries such as France to explore potential for electricity interconnection and will continue to support relationships with our European neighbours to enhance our international connectivity.

In order to support the NPF, additional electrical grid strengthening will be required for parts of the border, subject to the necessary planning consents, to enhance energy security through further reductions in dependence on fossil fuels moving towards wind, gas with carbon capture and sequestration, biomass and other renewable sources.

In the meantime, the South-North gas pipeline completed in 2006, enhanced East-West interconnection between the island, wider UK and European gas networks and ongoing work to harmonise gas transmission arrangements on the island support our efforts in meeting EU requirements for gas market integration.

Future enhancement of energy security and resilience to support a population of 8 million people will also be supported through progression of further north-south interconnection of electricity grids.

**National Policy Objective 49** states:

- ***Strengthen all-island energy infrastructure and interconnection capacity to enhance security of electricity supply.***

(iv) Communications

In the information age, telecommunications networks play a crucial role in enabling social and economic activity. Modern lifestyles also demand services irrespective of location, but their roll-out can pose challenges in peripheral areas.

The development of Project Kelvin, an extensive submarine and terrestrial cable deployment that directly connects Northern Ireland to North America, provides critical telecommunications infrastructure through towns and cities throughout the border region.

Further action to strengthen communications links in an island and border context will support the NPF, such as further enhancement of links between the North



American continent and the island of Ireland and Europe, direct access to international backbone data systems and the roll-out of appropriate public policy and investment interventions such as the National Broadband Plan.

**National Policy Objective 50** states:

- ***Develop a stable, innovative and secure digital communications and services infrastructure on an island basis.***

(v) Tourism

Both Ireland and Northern Ireland are attracting the same top four markets from visitors outside of domestic markets, with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland seeking to capture greater international interest by promoting strategic attractions of scale and signature tourist attractions such as the Wild Atlantic Way and the Titanic Quarter in Belfast.

Further opportunities to maximise market exposure exist through co-operation and themed 'branding bundles' including linking the Causeway Coast with the Wild Atlantic Way and the lakelands border region with Ireland's Ancient East brand development of our blueways, such as the Shannon-Erne Blueway and greenways such as the Ulster Canal Greenway also offer potential for an enhanced tourism offering throughout the border areas.

There are currently no dedicated long-distance cycling/walking routes which link Northern Ireland and Ireland, though INTERREG V EU funding is assisting in their development in particular the Newry Carlingford Greenway being developed by Louth County Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will be open to the public next year. There is the potential for further existing way-marked trails within border areas in Ireland, to link into existing established trails within Northern Ireland.

Natural assets and landscapes such as the uplands (and lakelands) amenities stretching along the border, literary trails and the historic towns' networks are also important not just for tourism but our shared built and natural heritage. The enhancement and enjoyment of these places and features are important for regional and local development in the border areas.

**National Policy Objective 51** states:

- ***Support the coordination and promotion of all-island tourism initiatives through continued cooperation between the relevant tourism agencies and Tourism Ireland.***

➤ **3: Managing our Shared Environment**

National and other administrative boundaries do not reflect the trans-boundary nature of the environment and its stewardship. Catchment based strategies require management by both jurisdictions and a number of jointly funded North-South Implementation Bodies have roles and responsibilities in these areas in addition to co-ordination through the North South Ministerial Council.

As an example, the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires Member States to coordinate their efforts in relation to international river basin districts. On the island of Ireland:

- Substantial areas lie within cross-border river basins.
- Some waters in each jurisdiction flow into or through the other jurisdiction.

- The rivers and lakes of the island of Ireland are designated as being within a single eco-region (eco-region 17) requiring a high degree of coordination between the authorities in both jurisdictions, to ensure consistent management of the entire aquatic environment.
- All coastal and transitional waters surrounding the island of Ireland are also included in one eco-region (eco-region 1) and their management must be closely coordinated.
- There are also 37 cross-border groundwater bodies which are shared between the two jurisdictions and require coordinated management.

In supporting environmental responsibilities under the NPF, shared action on our shared environment will ensure coordination between the two jurisdictions by:

- Aligning planning policies and river basin catchment management plans for whole river systems under the Water Framework Directive.
- Co-ordination in landscape character assessment including management and marketing of world heritage sites and candidate world heritage sites.
- Protection and enhancement of nationally important habitats including adjoining and cross-border protected sites.
- Co-ordination of relevant planning policies affecting shared coastal waters and seas.

**National Policy Objective 52** states:

- ***Ensuring effective management of shared landscapes, heritage, water catchments, habitats, species and trans-boundary issues in relation to environmental policy.***

#### ➤ **4: NPF and UK Spatial Planning**

Under the European Spatial Development Perspective in 1999, Ireland was one of the first countries in Europe to publish a national scale spatial plan through the National Spatial Strategy in 2002. Since then, this approach to national planning has become the norm across Europe.

The NPF acknowledges that each of Ireland's closest neighbours in the UK have spatial plans for their constituent administrative areas including the Regional Development Strategy in Northern Ireland.

In the face of multiple global challenges, cross-border working is of importance to greater territorial cohesion and highlighting opportunities for future growth and development. At a national level the Irish Government is committed to working with its neighbours on national issues of common interest.

The Irish Government recognises that from a national planning perspective, the work of the British-Irish Council provides an important forum through which practical co-operation and information sharing amongst the respective Governments and devolved administrations is helping to co-ordinate development in areas such as spatial planning, infrastructure connectivity, transboundary environmental issues and renewable energy.

**National Policy Objective 53** states:

***In co-operation with the United Kingdom Government and devolved Governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Ireland will support mutually beneficial development in the areas of spatial and infrastructure planning and other related areas***

## Introduction

Louth County Council welcomes the scope and content of the Draft Ireland 2040: Our Plan. The primacy of the Dublin / Belfast corridor in the urban network on the island and the unique opportunity afforded by two of the largest towns in the State of Drogheda and Dundalk, as sustainable national growth centres along the Corridor, is the basis of the Louth County Council submission of the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. The explicit inclusion in the Draft Plan of the pivotal economic role of the Dublin / Belfast Corridor, the acknowledged largest economic agglomeration on the island of Ireland, and the objective to enhance its international visibility, is of exceptional note. Objective 46 states:

*In co-operation with relevant Departments in Northern Ireland, to further support and promote the sustainable economic potential of the Dublin-Belfast Corridor and enhance its international visibility.*

## Observation on the Draft Ireland 2040: Our Plan

The Draft Plan designation in Chapter 7 under *joint initiatives* of the Newry / Dundalk area, as an economic growth centre to *develop the critical mass of the Newry-Dundalk area to compete with other larger cities* is welcomed. It is considered that the designation is supported by the potential to develop a wide range of employment and service opportunities that can appeal nationally and internationally equidistant between the metropolitan areas of Dublin and Belfast. The latent economic potential of the Corridor is evident, with the cities and towns along the corridor home to a population of around 2 million people. The development of the Corridor in co-operation with relevant Departments in Northern Ireland is supported by Louth County Council. Furthermore, Louth County Council will continue to pro-actively engage with other landuse managers along the Corridor including cross border collaboration in order to realise the objective of creating a distinct spatial area with international visibility.

It is anticipated that the requirement for *effectively planning and developing existing large designated centres along the main economic corridor* will ensure a significant role for Drogheda, as an employment and residential growth centre, within a linear urban network of sustainable growth centres extending north along the east coast from Drogheda to Newry and beyond.

## **Draft Ireland 2040: Our Plan response to the Louth County Council submission of the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017**

The Louth County Council submission of the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 concluded with five bullet points in response to the Issues and Choices Papers. It is proposed to make observation on the Draft Ireland 2040: Our Plan with reference to the concluding bullet points of the previous submission:

### Bullet Point 1 of the previous submission stated:

- *The NPF must acknowledge the pivotal geographic location of County Louth within the primary economic corridor on the island of Ireland – the Dublin / Belfast Corridor, and the significant potential of the strategic locations of Drogheda and Dundalk to attract sustainable employment and settlement.*

The Draft Ireland 2040: Our Plan Section 7.3 clearly states the significance of the Dublin / Belfast Corridor as the primary economic corridor on the island of Ireland. Furthermore, Figure 7.2 is explicit in defining the status of Dundalk jointly with Newry as a designated urban location *to develop critical mass to compete with other larger cities*. It is argued that the potential of Drogheda as a sustainable growth centre within the developing *distinct spatial area* of the Dublin / Belfast Corridor is implicitly acknowledged. Drogheda is one of the *existing large designated centres along the main economic corridor*. It is requested in the context of Section 7.3 that Drogheda is explicitly stated in the final document Ireland 2040: Our Plan, as an identified location in the development of the Corridor. It is further requested that a diagram showing the Dublin / Belfast Corridor spatially is included in the final document. It is proposed that the diagram would show the economic corridor aligned with the linear rail and road network and would include the location of County Louth with reference to the large towns of Drogheda and Newry / Dundalk.

### Bullet Point 2 of the previous submission stated:

- *The NPF has the opportunity to realise the potential of Drogheda and Dundalk as complementary consolidated urban growth centres forming a*

*linear gateway between the Dublin metropolitan region and the north east of the island as a counter action to BREXIT.*

In response the Draft Ireland 2040: Our Plan under *joint initiatives* designates Newry / Dundalk as the spatial location on the economic corridor to *develop critical mass to compete with other larger cities*. It is considered that the designation of Newry / Dundalk can potentially realise the objective of a gateway between the Dublin metropolitan region and the north east of the island as a counter action to BREXIT, as part of a linear network of urban centres strategically located along the corridor including Drogheda.

Bullet Point 3 of the previous submission stated:

- *Drogheda and Dundalk are logical sustainable employment growth centres because of their location proximate to Dublin City and airport and their accessibility by rail and motorway. Drogheda and Dundalk as locations for business start ups and business relocations from Dublin and its suburbs, including international service and technology companies, is an established dynamic. Investment in public transport and support facilities and services is required to copper-fasten this sustainable dynamic.*

In response, Chapter 3 of the Draft Ireland 2040: Our Plan identifies 44 large towns at sub-city level with a population in excess of 10,000. It is strongly argued that building accessible centres of scale while making stronger urban places will require a targeted approach at national level in order to effectively define the optimum urban centres for sustainable growth and agglomeration. It is recommended that the sub-city level towns be allocated into 3 sub categories defined by their population size comprising 10,000 +, 20,000+ and 30,000+, respectively, in order to acknowledge the proportionality of scale of larger Irish towns and to recognise where agglomeration is an established dynamic.

Furthermore, Chapter 3 states:

*As well as scale and density, this is dependent [agglomeration of firms] on the attractiveness of places to highly skilled potential employees as*



*well as having a steady stream of local talent and innovation associated with third level research institutions. International connectivity is also important, where short travel times to an airport with a good choice of destinations is a crucial factor.*

Drogheda and Dundalk are towns of significant scale in the Irish urban hierarchy by population size. Drogheda has a population of 42,347 (2016) and Dundalk and Environs Plan Area has a population of 39,004 (2016). They are the largest towns in the State outside the existing Dublin metropolitan area designation. In tandem they are uniquely located between the Dublin and Belfast metropolitan areas with access to the deep labour markets in both city regions. It is strongly argued that the realisation of the concept of reciprocal commuter flows is best realised nationally in the locations of Drogheda and Newry / Dundalk. It is considered that the designation of Newry / Dundalk in the Draft Plan acknowledges the latent potential of creating centres of scale along the Dublin / Belfast corridor that will attract reciprocal flows of highly skilled employees from both the Dublin and Belfast labour markets. Thus would be optimised existing transport infrastructure and potential new investment by fully utilising the capacity of the road and rail network in both directions.

In the matter of developing and retaining local talent and fostering innovation the towns of Drogheda and Dundalk / Newry achieve the objective through DIT in Dundalk and in the instance of Drogheda proximity to third level institutions in Dublin. The retention of indigenous talent can be achieved by providing appropriate and career advancing employment opportunities locally. The proximity of Drogheda and Dundalk / Newry to the deep labour markets of Dublin and Belfast, the availability of local talent, the potential for business to grow in locations proximate to Dublin City Centre but without the growth constraints evident in the City core and the availability of international connectivity through Dublin airport, an international hub airport, ensures that Drogheda and Newry / Dundalk are target investment locations. It is strongly argued that the potential for agglomeration is greatest in Drogheda and Newry / Dundalk by reason of proximity to deep labour markets, national accessibility to centres of population, international connectivity and availability of third level education. It is requested in the final document to show in a clearly



defined urban hierarchy the centres of scale that have the potential to achieve agglomeration with reference to Chapter 3 of the Draft Plan to include the performance indicators of agglomeration cited on Pg. 42 (Economy / Prosperity).

Bullet Point 4 of the previous submission stated:

- *In 2040 the urban centres of Louth have the potential to be sustainable centres for employment and settlement, as part of a network of growth centres within a poly-centric metropolitan Dublin City region, with a high level of reciprocal commuter flows between Dublin and its suburbs and Drogheda and Dundalk rather than dormitory towns for Dublin. However, a spatial plan for Dublin and its metropolitan region combined with investment in infrastructure in specific public transport infrastructure is required for this potential to be realised.*

In response, Chapter 9, Objective 63, of the Draft Plan proposes the preparation of Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans (MASPs) for the identified cities and their metropolitan regions including Dublin. Louth County Council welcomes the proposal to prepare a 12 year strategic plan for Dublin and its metropolitan hinterland. However, for reasons of efficacy an evidence-based functional metropolitan area is the relevant spatial planning designation for the Dublin Metropolitan plan (MASP) rather than a dated or arbitrary designation defined by historical boundaries. It is noted that County Louth is part of the Eastern Midland Regional Area (EMRA) and that the current Dublin metropolitan designation does not include County Louth, as Louth administratively was not part of the eastern region when the spatial metropolitan designation was originally defined. It is strongly argued that the functional Dublin metropolitan area includes significant parts of County Louth in specific but not exclusively the large urban centre of Drogheda with a CSO population as stated of 42,347 (2016). Drogheda is cited as the location where agglomeration is evidenced in population growth over recent census periods with increases within the CSO designated urban area and significant increase in the surrounding hinterland. It is further argued that Louth is unique by reason of its recent inclusion in the EMRA, which justifies a redefinition of the metropolitan designation north of Dublin.

Bullet Point 5 of the previous submission stated:

- *The comparative advantages of Louth in terms of its geographic location, accessibility, universal fibre broad band availability, education and experienced workforce, youth demographic and overall quality of live will ensure in a market economy that growth will locate in the County. The NPF needs to facilitate and plan for that growth in the sustainable locations of Drogheda and Dundalk by recognising these complementary large towns as national, regional and local growth centres.*

In response, Chapter 9, Objective 64, of the Draft Plan proposes the preparation of urban area plans for towns and their environs with a population of more than 15,000 people. Louth County Council welcomes the preparation of urban plans for Drogheda and Dundalk. The Dundalk and Drogheda urban plans have the potential to provide for the sustainable and strategic development of these large urban centres and their suburban hinterlands. However, it is acknowledged that the efficacy of the urban plans for Drogheda and Dundalk and their requirement to satisfy *inter alia* a suite of objectives including Objective 3a, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9b, 10 is dependent on the preparation of a regional spatial and economic strategy which will prioritise the potential of these urban centres given their unique scale and geography.

The requirement of Objective 3a to develop at least 40% of all new homes nationally within the built-up envelope of existing urban settlements is acknowledged as a significant challenge given the cost and complexity of brownfield / infill development proposals in comparison to virgin development on green fields. In response to the challenge, the National Smart Growth Initiative and the criteria for inclusion in the Smart Growth Urban Initiative are welcome. It is noted that Drogheda and Dundalk have significant brownfield / infill development opportunities. Louth County Council while acknowledging the objective to deliver at least 40% of all houses within the envelope of existing settlements is challenging will with the financial support of central government through the National Smart Growth Initiative successfully plan principally through urban regeneration to satisfy the objective.

## Conclusion

The stated objective of Louth County Council in its submission of the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 is the development of the linear urban network of large towns, principally Drogheda, Dundalk and Newry, between the Dublin metropolitan and the Belfast metropolitan areas as a logical and sustainable national growth strategy. The subsequent recognition in the Draft Plan of the Dublin / Belfast corridor as the primary economic agglomeration on the island and the objective to make the Corridor transparent internationally is welcomed. Ireland 2040: Our Plan is an opportunity to forward plan for the sustainable development of the Dublin / Belfast Corridor as an internationally identifiable location for investment. To achieve this objective requires the development of urban centres of significant scale, individually in the instance of Newry / Dundalk and collectively in the instance of Drogheda, in a linear network of complementary centres. It is argued that it is evidence-based that agglomeration is potentially greatest along the Corridor. However, to develop urban centres of significant scale will require prioritisation in the EMRA regional spatial and economic strategy and subsequent public investment.