



December 4th, 2015

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 7th December 2015** at **6:00 pm** in **Downshire Civic Centre**.

# Agenda

1 **Apologies & Chairpersons Remarks**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

3 **Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 November 2015**

[Council-02112015.pdf](#)

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*Minutes for Adoption*

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4 **Minutes from Council Meeting held on 2 November 2015**

[Council Meeting 02-11-2015.pdf](#)

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5 **Minutes from Special Council Meeting held on 23 November 2015**

[special council meeting 23 november 2015.pdf](#)

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*Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption*

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6 **Minutes from Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 November 2015**

[ERT Mins November 15.pdf](#)

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7 **Minutes from Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2015**

Note: Minute Reference SPR/226/2015 to be considered under item 26 on agenda - restricted matter.

[Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting 12-11-2015.pdf](#)

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- 8 **Minutes from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2015**  
*[Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 16 11 2015.pdf](#)* Page 60
- 9 **Minutes from Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2015**  
*[Minutes 18 November 2015 KS.pdf](#)* Page 67
- 
- Reports from Officers*
- 
- 10 **Newry/Louth MOU Committee re: Narrow Water Bridge and Government Support for same**  
*[Council - Report on Narrow Water Bridge.pdf](#)* Page 78
- 11 **To Appoint Representatives to the Board of Carlingford Lough Commissioners**  
*[carlingford lough commissioners council december 15.pdf](#)* Page 79
- 12 **Rates support Grant Delegation 11th November 2015 - Minutes and Proposal**  
*[Rates Support Grant meeting notes.pdf](#)* Page 80  
*[Draft cross party all council Motion re Rates Support Grant.pdf](#)* Page 85
- 13 **Proposed Review of Planning (Development Management)**  
*[Review of Planning - Dec 2015.pdf](#)* Page 89
- 14 **Strangford Ferry Timetable - Consultation Research Report**  
*[Report to Full Council - Response to Strangford Lough Ferry consultaiton.pdf](#)* Page 91  
*[Appendix 1 - Response to the Strangford Lough Ferry Timetable changes.pdf](#)* Page 93

**14a Retention and Disposal Schedule**

Full schedule available:

Menu -> Documents -> Council Meeting -> Retention and Disposal Schedule

[Retention and Disposal Schedule.pdf](#)

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*Community Planning and Well-being*

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**15 To consider appointments to the NILGA Planning and Regeneration Working Group and Community Planning Working Group**

(1 member to be appointed to each working group)

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*Correspondence*

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**16 Correspondence from Post Office regarding Notice of Changes to Post Offices - Altnamackin, Crossgar, Ardglass and Killyleagh**

[Altnamackin PO.pdf](#)

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[Crossgar PO.pdf](#)

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[ardglass PO.pdf](#)

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[Post Office, Killyleagh.pdf](#)

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**17 Correspondence from DRD TransportNI re: Proposed A24 Ballynahinch ByPass Environmental Statement Direction Order and Vesting Order - Public Inquiry**

[ballynahinch bypass.pdf](#)

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**18 M/2 - Letter from Home Office (Syrian Resettlement Correspondence Team) re: Response to offer to support at least 100 refugees on behalf of NMDDC (Ballykinlar Camp)**

[Refugees - Ballykinlar Camp.pdf](#)

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- 19 **G/4/1- Letter from Roads Service re: Bull's Road, Newry - personal injury collision records from PSNI**

[Bull's Hill Road11112015.pdf](#)

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- 20 **Northern Ireland Social Care Council Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15**

<http://www.niscc.info/index.php/16-general/158-publications>

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*Consultation Documents*

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- 21 **Consultation on NI Local Government Code of Conduct - Alternative Action Proposals**

[1b510125-d5e9-4163-bf89-34f2b126414b.pdf](#)

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- 22 **Report on the Access to Justice Review Part II**

<https://www.dojni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/doj/access-to-justice-review-consultation.pdf>

- 23 **Public Consultation on the Penalty Fares (Increase) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

[Consultation Letter - Consultation - Penalty Fares Increase Order 2016.pdf](#)

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[Consultation Document - Penalty Fares Increase Order \(NI\) 2016.pdf](#)

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- 24 **Consultation on the Key Issues Related to the Establishment of a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for Northern Ireland**

<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dhssps/hems-consultation-document.pdf>

[helicopter letter.pdf](#)

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*Items Restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014*

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- 25 **Francis Hamill v NMDDC RoW Case**

26 **Report on SPR Minute Reference SPR/226/2015 - Voluntary Severance Scheme**

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*Sealing Documents*

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27 **Sealing Documents**

1. Client Support Agreement - Rock Merchanting Limited and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Provision of Gym Equipment at Newry Sports Centre) - **Minute AHC/56/2015 of AHC Committee Meeting 17 August 2015 provides background.**
2. Assisted Car Purchase - Environmental Health Officer - **this is an assisted car purchase loan agreement in line with Council policy.**
3. Loan Agreement - Elected Member Training - **Minutes SPR/216/2015 of SPR Committee Meeting 12 November 2015 provides background.**

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*Notices of Motion*

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28 **Notice of Motion received from Councillor T Andrews**

" Newry, Mourne & Down District Council expresses through this motion its total support and solidarity with the 58 residents and 74 staff members who due to the recent announcement by its owners that Oakridge Care Home , Ballynahinch is to close. We pledge to work tirelessly with Departments and Agencies to secure the long term future of this much loved home for its residents and staff who work so hard and tirelessly to provide such a high standard of care towards those in their charge "

# Invitees

Cllr. Terry Andrews	<a href="mailto:terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk">terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk</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@downdc.gov.uk">robert.burgess@downdc.gov.uk</a>
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Cllr. Michael Carr	<a href="mailto:michael.carr@newryandmourne.gov.uk">michael.carr@newryandmourne.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. charlie casey	<a href="mailto:charlie.casey@newryandmourne.gov.uk">charlie.casey@newryandmourne.gov.uk</a>
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**ACTION SHEET- COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2015**

1

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DECISION</b>	<b>FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed</b>
<b>C/131/2015</b>	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 October 2015	<b>C/127/2015: Notice of Motion – Dedicated Health Committee</b> It was agreed to amend the minutes to read: “This Forum will incorporate representation from the Down Community Health Forum and an equivalent fully representative organisation from the Newry area.”	Actioned
<b>C/133/2015</b>	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 October 2015	<b>SC/12/2015: Presentation by Chief Executive on Organisational Design</b> It was agreed to amend the minutes to read “to accept the following recommendations, in principle, subject to consultation with the Trade Unions and staff.”	Actioned
<b>C/134/2015</b>	Minutes from ERT Meeting held on 12 October 2015	<b>Kindle Primary School</b> It was agreed that Council officials work with the community association representatives to develop other funding streams.	Ongoing
<b>C/136/2015</b>	Minutes from AHC Meeting held on 19 October 2015	<b>AHC/72/2015: Outcome of the Facilities Strategy Consultation by Phillip Barefoot</b> It was agreed that the sub-standard work carried out at Derrybeg Boxing Club be investigated.  <b>AHC/73/2015: Update on Capital Projects List</b> It was agreed that the minute be amended to read “Councillor Enright stated that projects which made money for Council should be prioritised, such as the wind turbine at Drumanakelly.”  <b>AHC/75/2015: Defibrillator Provision</b> It was agreed that the minute be amended to read that “Council proceed with the purchase of 11 defibrillators and that the costs would be identified from the 2015/16 budget.”	Ongoing.  Actioned  Actioned

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
C/138/2015	Strangford Ferry Timetable – Proposed Amendment	<p><b>It was agreed that Council consult with Ards and North Down Borough Council and that Community Planning officers carry out research and bring their findings back to Council.</b></p> <p><b>It was also agreed that a letter be written to DRD to ask for an extension to the consultation response end date.</b></p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Letter sent – 9/11/15</p>
C/139/2015	Consultation on Human Trafficking – Secondary Legislation	<p><b>It was agreed to endorse and note the contents of the report as Council's response to the Consultation on Human Trafficking.</b></p>	Actioned
C/140/2015	To consider matters in relation to an appeal to the High Court	<p><b>It was agreed that Council will consult with those who supplied witness statements in the case to ascertain if they support the proposed alternative Right of Way and this information would be brought back to Council for consideration.</b></p>	Actioned.
C/141/2015	Belfast City Council Resolution re Animal Cruelty	<p><b>The resolution was agreed.</b></p>	Letter sent – 9/11/15
C/142/2015	Correspondence from Roads Service – Proposed Accessible Parking Bay at 13 Dundrum Road, Newcastle	<p><b>It was agreed that a meeting of the Mournes DEA and Roads Service be organised to discuss possible road improvements at Dundrum Road, Newcastle.</b></p> <p><b>It was also agreed to send a letter to Roads Service advising them of Council's concerns of the siting of an accessible parking bay due to congestion issues in the area.</b></p>	<p>Actioned.</p> <p>Letter sent 18.11.15.</p>
C/143/2015	Correspondence from Special EU Programmes Body on Peace IV Co-operation Programme	<p><b>The report was noted.</b></p>	Actioned

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
C/144/2015	APSE Northern Ireland Seminar – Sustainable Development and the role of Local Authorities	<p><b>It was agreed that any Member who wished to attend the APSE Seminar should inform the Democratic Services Officers.</b></p> <p><b>Councillors Harvey, McAteer and Reilly indicated they would like to attend the seminar.</b></p>	Actioned
C/145/2015	Correspondence received from TransportNI re: Proposed Abandonment at Rann Road, Annacloy Road, Downpatrick	The correspondence was noted.	Letter sent – 9/11/15
C/146/2015	Correspondence received from Post Office re: Branch Relocation and Modernisation – Saintfield Post Office, Ballynahinch	It was agreed that Council write to the Post Office confirming its support for the relocation and modernisation of Saintfield Post Office	Letter sent – 9/11/15
C/150/2015	Sealing Documents	<p><b>It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Deed of Confirmation and Release between The Crown Estate Commissioners and NMDDC, Land at Annesley Mansions, Newcastle, Tourism Information and Wet Weather Centre (MS/4290)</b></li> <li><b>2. Memorandum for Sale and Lease in triplicate relating to ownership of land at Shimna Park, Newcastle (MS/3815)</b></li> <li><b>3. Disposal of Land at 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield - NMDDC and Andree Rea (L/P/38)</b></li> <li><b>4. Purchase of Land adjacent to 45 St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick - Conveyance x2 (L/P/27)</b></li> <li><b>5. Deed of Conveyance and Licence Agreement - Sale of Portion of</b></li> </ol>	Signed and sealed

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
		<p><b>Land at 16 The Square, Rostrevor</b>  <b>6. Agreement for Car Loan - Staff Member</b></p>	
C/151/2015	Notice of Motion – Invitation to Pope Francis to visit Newry, Mourne and Down District	<p><b>It was agreed that the Council extend an invitation to Pope Francis to visit Newry, Mourne and Down District and to be invited to celebrate a Mass or event in Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor on his visit to Ireland.</b></p>	Actioned
C/152/2015	Notice of Motion – Extension of Shopmobility Scheme	<p><b>It was agreed that Council work with the relevant bodies to ensure the extension of the shopmobility facility in Kilkeel and Warrenpoint and that an evaluation of the ongoing shopmobility schemes be carried out across the District.</b></p>	Actioned
C/153/2015	Notice of Motion – Cuts to Tax Credits	<p><b>It was agreed that Council calls on the British Government's Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure that working households on low wages are not financially worse off following the introduction of the Government's changes.</b></p>	Actioned



**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

NMD/C/

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**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 November 2015 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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In the Chair                      Councillor N Bailie

**In attendance:****(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor Donnelly	Councillor S Doran
Councillor S Ennis	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer	Councillor McGrath
Councillor H McKee	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor P Ó'Gribín
Councillor B Ó'Muirí	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor B Walker	

**(Officials)**

Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance  
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism  
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services  
Mr R Moore, Assistant Director, Active and Healthy Communities.  
Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
Ms R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Policy  
Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities (Leisure and Sport)  
Mr P Green, Legal Advisor  
Mr E McManus, Capital Projects Manager  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**C/128/2015      APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Burgess, Councillor Burns, Councillor Carr, Councillor P Clarke, Councillor Devlin, Councillor Hyland and Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive.

**C/129/2015      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C/130/2015      ACTION SHEET FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 October 2015 (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** The Action Sheet was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING****C/131/2015      MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:** Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 October 2015 (Copy circulated).

**C/127/2015: Notice of Motion – Dedicated Health Committee**

Councillor McGrath referred to the amendment which had been made during discussion on the above Motion and said the minutes did not reflect what was agreed and instead the word "Committee" should be changed to "Forum". Councillor Enright, as proposer of the Motion, agreed with Councillor McGrath's comments.

**AGREED:** The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record subject to the above amendment being made to read:

"This Forum will incorporate representation from the Down Community Health **Forum** and an equivalent fully representative organisation from the Newry area".

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Craig.

**C/132/2015**                    **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

**The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Harvey.**

**C/133/2015**                    **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2015**

**SC/12/2015: Presentation by Chief Executive on Organisational Design**

Councillor McGrath, as a matter of accuracy, requested the words “*in principle*”, be added to the agreed decision to read “to accept the following recommendations **in principle**, subject to consultation with the Trade Unions and staff. Councillors Casey and Enright concurred with Councillor McGrath’s request.

In response to queries from Councillors Curran and Stokes, Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, advised that cost evaluations for the proposed structures would be brought back to Council and that in future, reports would be sent out to Members well in advance of the meeting to give sufficient time for consideration.

**AGREED:**                    **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record subject to the amendment above.**

**The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Curran.**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/134/2015**                    **MINUTES FROM ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:**                        Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2015 (Copy circulated).

**Kindle Primary School**

On the request of Councillor McGrath, Mr Curtis provided an update on the status of the Kindle Primary School, Ballykinler.

Councillor McGrath requested that Council officials would work with the Department on the Kindle Primary School to develop a critical community hub in Ballykinler.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McGrath, seconded by Councillor Curran, that Council officials work with the community association representatives to develop other funding streams.

**ERT/115/2015: Economic Conference**

Councillor Casey said he had concerns about the approach adopted by the person chairing the Conference, particularly his attitude to MEP, Martina Anderson, which he considered to be unacceptable.

Ms Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, undertook to bring these comments back to the Chair of the conference.

Members congratulated the Director for the success of the conference.

In response to comments from Councillor Reilly, the Chairperson explained that the conference had arisen out of a Greater Newry Vision meeting. It had been a Council run even and led in conjunction with Newry and Mourne Chamber of Commerce.

**ERT/118/2015: Annalong Harbour Stormgate**

Councillors McKee and Quinn requested the Director to ensure that the fishermen were kept up to date with the design, funding and progression of repairs to the Annalong Harbour Stormgate.

**ERT/117/2015: Transfer of Forest Assets to Council**

In response to a question from Councillor Tinnelly, Ms Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, advised that the camping facilities at Castlewellan and Tollymore Forest Parks were run by the Forestry Service. Council was exploring options to run them along with Rostrevor, which would be brought back to Council for decision.

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

**C/135/2015 MINUTES FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:** Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2015 (Copy circulated).

**SPR/173/2015: Request from the Quays Shopping Centre to use St. Christopher's Park at Newry Albert Basin for Staff Car Parking for 6 weeks at Christmas 2015**

Councillor Casey referred to the traffic problems which had occurred during the Halloween Festival on the Drumalane Road, Newry.

Mr Curtis advised a tractor and trailer had broken down on the road, but the matter had been reported to the PSNI and event management supervisors had been despatched to the area where the matter was resolved as quickly as possible.

Councillor Harte confirmed she had met with DRD Roads Service regarding the Drumalane Road which would be receiving double yellow lines in the New Year.

### **SPR/189/2015: 2016 Decade of Centenaries Grant Programme**

In response to a query from Councillor D McAteer regarding a Council event to mark the 2016 Decade of Centenaries, the Chairperson advised this work was progressing through the Equality Forum.

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

### **C/136/2015            MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:**                Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held 19 October 2015 (Copy circulated).

### **AHC/72/2015: Outcome of the Facilities Strategy Consultation by Phillip Barefoot**

Councillor Taylor requested that the sub-standard work carried out at Derrybeg Boxing Club, be investigated.

### **AHC/73/2015: Update on Capital Projects List**

Councillor Enright requested that the minute be amended to read:

*“Councillor Enright stated that projects which made money for Council should be prioritised, such as the wind turbine at Drumnakelly”.*

### **AHC/75/2015: Defibrillator Provision**

Councillor Sharvin said it was his opinion that Council was to proceed with the purchase of 11 defibrillators and that the costs would be identified from the 2015/16 budget. Councillor Taylor concurred with these comments.

Mr Curtis said this would be amended, although there was no provision for this spend in the 2015/16 budget.

**AGREED:**            **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record subject to the amendments above and adopted on the proposal of Councillor O’Muir, seconded by Councillor Loughran.**

**C/137/2015            MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:**                Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2015 (copy circulated)

**RTS/105/2015: Report on Council’s Scheme of Delegation**

In response to queries from Councillors O’Gribin and Casey, Mr O’Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, explained that officers would be bringing back a report on townland naming to the November Regulatory and Technical Services Committee.

**RTS/113/2015: Proposed Installation of a Large Display Screen in Hill Street, Newry as part of 2015/16 Christmas Illuminations Budget**

In response to Councillors’ queries regarding the Christmas Illuminations, Mr Curtis advised that there was sufficient funding to provide all the lighting, plus the cost of the erection of the TV. He said the screen scheme was not part of the Christmas lighting, but part of a revitalisation scheme. He added that the project had been brought forward in association with the private sector, DSD and Council, and that the private sector had contributed a significant amount of money to the scheme. Council would receive 6 hours of free advertising per week and the operator would utilise the screen for major events in Newry City centre. The screen had received planning permission for 2 years, but would be erected for 5 years (subject to planning).

Councillor Casey raised the issue of the recent destruction of blue, black and brown bins. He referred to the replacement costs, which some economically challenged residents could not afford.

Mr O’Rourke advised that Council had a policy in place around bins, which were required to be paid for unless a PSNI crime number was produced, whereby, there was then a reduced cost. He also advised second hand bins were sometimes available at a reduced cost. He undertook to ensure that residents requesting new bins were provided with all of the bin options available.

Councillor Sharvin referred to anti-social behaviour in the Downpatrick area regarding bins and requested this be placed as an agenda item onto the next Regulatory and Technical Services Committee.

**AGREED:**            **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor O’Gribin.**

### **DISCUSSION/DECISION**

#### **C/138/2015            STRANGFORD FERRY TIMETABLE – PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

Read:                    Correspondence received from TransportNI regarding proposed amendment to Strangford Ferry Timetable (copy circulated)

The Chairperson advised the proposals were to provide an additional ferry service in the mornings, which she supported, and to remove 2 sailings in the evenings, which she opposed.

The Chairperson proposed that Council consult immediately with Ards & North Down Council asking them to support and endorse Council’s opposition to the removal of the 2 evening ferries. She also asked that Council’s Community Planning officers carry out research with the aid of pop-up clinics and consulting ferry users, and bring this research back to Council.

Councillor Sharvin seconded the proposal and suggested Council should write to DRD asking them to carry out the consultation process. The Chairperson advised she would rather Council would undertake the consultation in order that sufficient, detailed consultation was gathered.

Mr Curtis advised a letter could be written to DRD asking for an extension of 10 days to the consultation response end date in order that a report and recommendation can be brought to the next Council meeting.

**AGREED:**            **It was agreed on the proposal of the Chairperson, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that Council consult with Ards and North Down Borough Council and that Community Planning officers carry out research and bring their findings back to Council.**

**It was also agreed that a letter be written to DRD to ask for an extension of 10 days to the consultation response end date.**

#### **C/139/2015            CONSULTATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – SECONDARY LEGISLATION**

Read:                    Report dated 2 November 2015 from Mr P Green, Legal Advisor regarding consultation received from Department of Justice on Human Trafficking (copy circulated)



Mr Green advised the circulated response had been submitted to the Department of Justice on behalf of the Council due to the consultation end date being 22 October 2015. However, if any Member wished, their comments could be put forward and added to the response.

Mr Green's report stated that Council welcomed proposals that seek to improve the effectiveness of legislation combating human trafficking and modern slavery in Northern Ireland.

Councillor D McAteer queried if a loophole existed in terms of Statutory Rule 2 whereby there was a requirement for those subject to Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders to notify the PSNI of any travel outside the UK except to the Republic of Ireland, save where such travel to the Republic of Ireland is for a period of 3 days or longer. He asked whether people subject to these Orders would still be able to operate, so long as they did not spend longer than 3 days across the border.

Mr Green advised there is no requirement at present for those subject to Orders to notify PSNI so this was an improvement and that some people may be required to go across the border for work etc. He stated a reduction could be asked for in the number of days.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to endorse and note the contents of the report as Council's response to the Consultation on Human Trafficking.**

**C/140/2015** **TO CONSIDER MATTERS IN RELATION TO AN APPEAL TO THE HIGH COURT**

**Read:** Report dated 28 October 2015 from Mr Eamon McManus, Capital Projects Manager regarding matters in relation to an Appeal to the High Court (copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Brown, 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 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew, 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 Hearty, seconded by Councillor O'Gribin that Council will consult with those who supplied witness**



**statements in the above case to ascertain if they support the proposed alternative Right of Way and this information would be brought back to Council for consideration.**

**C/141/2015 BELFAST CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION RE ANIMAL CRUELTY**

**Read:** Resolution received from Belfast City Council's Chief Executive regarding Animal Cruelty (copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **The resolution was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew.**

**C/142/2015 CORRESPONDENCE FROM ROADS SERVICE – PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE PARKING BAY AT 13 DUNDRUM ROAD, NEWCASTLE**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 15 October 2015 received from Roads Service regarding proposed accessible parking bay at 13 Dundrum Road, Newcastle (copy circulated)

Mr Curtis advised correspondence had been received from Roads Service regarding a proposed accessible parking bay at 13 Dundrum Road, Newcastle.

Members discussed the issue with many stating perhaps it was not the correct place to site an accessible parking bay due to congestion issues.

Mr Curtis advised a letter could be written to Roads Service advising them of Council's concerns.

Councillor W Clarke proposed that a meeting of Mournes DEA and Roads Service could be organised to discuss possible road improvements at that junction. This was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanna that a meeting of the Mournes DEA and Roads Service be organised to discuss possible road improvements at Dundrum Road, Newcastle.**

**It was also agreed to send a letter to Roads Service advising them of Council's concerns of the siting of an accessible parking bay due to congestion issues in the area.**

**C/143/2015 CORRESPONDENCE FROM SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY ON PEACE IV CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME**

**Read:** Report dated 23 October 2015 from Mr E Curtis, Director Strategic Planning and Performance regarding Peace IV Co-operation Programme. (Copy circulated)

Mr Curtis advised Council had been contacted by Special EU Programmes Body to advise that Peace IV Programme was submitted to the EU Commission on 2 October 2015 and they hope to have an agreed Programme by the end of December 2015.

**Noted:** The report on Peace IV Co-operation programme was noted.

**C/144/2015**      **APSE NORTHERN IRELAND SEMINAR – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**Read:** Correspondence from APSE Northern Ireland regarding Seminar on Sustainable Development and the role of Local Authorities. (Copy circulated)

Mr Curtis advised an invitation had been extended from APSE Northern Ireland to a seminar on Sustainable Development and the role of Local Authorities. He advised this was a free event for APSE members and if Members wished to attend they should inform the Democratic Services Officers.

Councillor Craig reminded Members that a Community Planning Event had been organised on the same day.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that any Member who wished to attend the APSE Seminar should inform the Democratic Service Officers.

**Councillors Harvey, McAteer and Reilly indicated they would like to attend the seminar.**

**C/145/2015**      **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM TRANSPORTNI RE: PROPOSED ABANDONMENT AT RANN ROAD, ANNCLOY ROAD, DOWNPATRICK**

**Read:** Correspondence from TransportNI re: Proposed Abandonment at Rann Road, Annacloy Road, Downpatrick (Copy circulated)

**Noted:** The correspondence was noted.

**C/146/2015**      **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM POST OFFICE RE: BRANCH RELOCATION AND MODERNISATION – SAINTFIELD POST OFFICE, BALLYNAHINCH**

**Read:** Correspondence from Post Office re: Branch Relocation and Modernisation – Saintfield Post Office, Ballynahinch (Copy circulated)

Councillor Walker welcomed the proposed relocation and modernisation and proposed that Council support the relocation by Post Office. This was seconded by Councillor Harvey.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Harvey that Council write to the Post Office confirming its support for the relocation and modernisation of Saintfield Post Office.**

### **FOR NOTING**

#### **C/147/2015      LETTER FROM OFMDFM RE: REFUGEE CRISIS**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 19 October 2015 from OFMDFM regarding the Refugee Crisis (copy circulated)

**Noted:** **The correspondence received from OFMDFM was noted.**

#### **C/148/2015      LETTER FROM DARD RE: DAIRY FARMERS**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 13 October 2015 from DARD regarding Dairy Farmers (copy circulated)

**Noted:** **The correspondence received from DARD was noted.**

#### **C/149/2015      LETTER FROM MR PHIL HOGAN, EUROPEAN COMMISSION RE: MILK QUOTAS**

**Read:** Correspondence received from Mr Phil Hogan from European Commission regarding Milk Quotas (copy circulated)

**NOTED:** **The correspondence received from Mr Phil Hogan, European Commission, was noted.**

### **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

#### **C/150/2015      SEALING DOCUMENTS**

Councillor Hanna asked if more information could be provided to Members on the documents that were being sealed.

Mr Curtis advised all of the documents presented for Sealing had been through rigorous checks by officers however, he would ensure additional information on each document was provided to Members in future.

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

1. Deed of Confirmation and Release between The Crown Estate Commissioners and NMDDC, Land at Annesley Mansions, Newcastle, Tourism Information and Wet Weather Centre (MS/4290)
2. Memorandum for Sale and Lease in triplicate relating to ownership of land at Shimna Park, Newcastle (MS/3815)
3. Disposal of Land at 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield - NMDDC and Andree Rea (L/P/38)
4. Purchase of Land adjacent to 45 St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick - Conveyance x2 (L/P/27)
5. Deed of Conveyance and Licence Agreement - Sale of Portion of Land at 16 The Square, Rostrevor
6. Agreement for Car Loan - Staff Member

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **C/151/2015 NOTICE OF MOTION – INVITATION TO POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillors Andrews and Curran:

**"We would like to extend a very warm invitation to Pope Francis to visit Newry, Mourne and Down District and during his time with us to follow in the footsteps of St Patrick who landed near Saul in 432AD at the very start of his mission to bring Christianity to Ireland."**

In proposing the motion, Councillor Andrews stated it had been announced that the Pope was due to visit Ireland in 2016 therefore it would be an opportune time to invite him to visit the District to follow in the footsteps of St Patrick.

Councillor Curran seconded the motion stating it would highlight the District immensely with the huge amount of television coverage a visit such as this would generate.

Councillor Brown proposed the following Amendment:

**"And if Pope Francis were to visit, he would be invited to Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor for an open air Mass or such event."**

Councillor Enright seconded the amendment.

Members discussed the issue at length highlighting the following:

- Due to a differing faith, would be unable to support the motion however would not vote against the motion.
- Respect the Members' views however the chamber was not the place for a religious debate therefore could not support the motion.
- If the Pope were to visit Ireland, it would ultimately be up to himself to decide which areas he would be visiting.

Councillors Andrews and Curran accepted Councillor Brown's amendment, and the amended motion was put to a vote.

Councillor Reilly called for a recorded vote, the results of which are attached to these minutes.

<b>FOR</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ABSENCES</b>	<b>4</b>

**THE MOTION, AS AMENDED WAS CARRIED.**

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, that the Council extend an invitation to Pope Francis to visit Newry, Mourne and Down District and to be invited to celebrate a Mass or event in Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor on his visit to Ireland.

**C/152/2015**      **NOTICE OF MOTION – EXTENSION OF SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillors Reilly and Hanna.

**"That this Council works with relevant bodies to ensure the extension of the shopmobility facility in Kilkeel and Warrenpoint in order to allow people with mobility problems access to town centre shopping and related facilities."**

Councillor Reilly proposed the motion stating the scheme had worked well in Newcastle and he would like to see its extension to Kilkeel and Warrenpoint.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Hanna stated the scheme would be very beneficial to the people in Kilkeel and Warrenpoint to assist them with access to town centre shopping and facilities.

Councillor W Clarke proposed an amendment to the motion stating an evaluation of current shopmobility provision be carried out across the District. This was seconded by Councillor Hearty.

Members discussed the issue at length, raising the following points:

- Perhaps the scheme could be rolled out to other towns across the District also.
- Shopmobility does not just deal with disability scooters, it also includes wheelchairs and assisted walking frames.
- Warrenpoint may not be the most suitable location as it was very difficult to navigate the streets due to double parking and poor infrastructure.

Councillors Reilly and Hanna accepted the amendment.

The motion, with the amendment, was put to a vote and was unanimously agreed.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanna that Council work with the relevant bodies to ensure the extension of the shopmobility facility in Kilkeel and Warrenpoint and that an evaluation of the ongoing shopmobility schemes be carried out across the District.

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Brown to suspend Standing Orders to allow discussion on the next item. The suspension of Standing Orders required a qualified majority (not less than 80% of the Members present and voting) and a recorded vote was called and agreed unanimously, the results of which are appended to these minutes.**

#### **C/153/2015            NOTICE OF MOTION – CUTS TO TAX CREDITS**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillors W Clarke and Brown.

**"That this Council is concerned that the impact of cuts to the tax system is much greater than the increase proposed in the minimum wage which falls significantly short of the wage required for someone to have a decent standard of living. Furthermore calls on the British Government's Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure that working households on low wages are not financially worse off following the introduction of the Government's changes."**

In proposing the motion, Councillor W Clarke highlighted that 120,000 homes would lose up to £20 a week if the proposed cuts took place and with a lot of people already struggling, these cuts would be a further blow. He stated the Government was attacking those who were going out to work and any reduction in income would impact on families.

Councillor Brown seconded the motion stating it was hypocritical of the Government to cut benefits to those earning under £15,000 a year, especially since 90% of child tax credits were paid to women.

Members across all Parties spoke in support of the motion stating these cuts would devastate families and businesses across the District.

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Brown that Council calls on the British Government's Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure that working households on low wages are not financially worse off following the introduction of the Government's changes.**

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9pm**

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7 December 2015.

**Signed:**

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

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

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

DATE: 02-11-2015 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 23 – Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andrews

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
N Bailie	X			
P Brown	X			
R Burgess				X
S Burns				X
M Carr				X
C Casey	X			
P Clarke				X
W Clarke	X			
G Craig		X		
D Curran	X			
L Devlin				X
G Donnelly	X			
S Doran	X			
S Ennis	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			
D McAteer	X			
K McAteer				X
C McGrath				X
H McKee		X		
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin	X			
P Ó Gribín	X			
B Ó Muirí	X			
B Quinn	X			
H Reilly		X		
M Ruane			X	
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor			X	
JJ Tinnelly				X
B Walker			X	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>



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

DATE: 02-11-2015 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Recorded Vote to Suspend Standing Orders

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
N Bailie	X			
P Brown	X			
R Burgess				X
S Burns				X
M Carr				X
C Casey	X			
P Clarke				X
W Clarke	X			
G Craig	X			
D Curran	X			
L Devlin				X
G Donnelly	X			
S Doran	X			
S Ennis	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			
D McAteer	X			
K McAteer				X
C McGrath				X
H McKee	X			
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin	X			
P Ó Gribín	X			
B Ó Muirí	X			
B Quinn	X			
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane	X			
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor	X			
JJ Tinnelly				X
B Walker	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>



**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****NMD/SC/****Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 23 November at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick****In the Chair:** Councillor N Bailie**In attendance:****(Councillors)**

Councillor S Burns	Councillor C Casey
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor K McAteer
Councillor C McGrath	Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor B Ó'Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker	

**(Officials)**

Mr E Curtis, Deputy Chief Executive  
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer  
 Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance:** Mr R Ballentine, Network Operations Manager, NIE  
 Ms C Kelly, NIE

**SC/16/2015****APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Andrews, Burgess, Brown, P Clarke, W Clarke, Fitzpatrick, Harte, Harvey, Loughran, Stokes and Taylor. Apologies were also received from the Chief Executive, Liam Hannaway.

The Chairperson extended condolences to the family of Mr Hannaway following a recent bereavement.

The Chairperson advised she had visited an elderly woman who had been the victim of a horrendous attack in her home in Downpatrick, during which she had presented a bunch of flowers on behalf of the Council and the people of the district.

**SC/17/2015****DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SC/18/2015                      PRESENTATION BY NI ELECTRICITY**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Rodney Ballentine and Ms Christine Kelly from NIE and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Ballentine thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity to present to the Council. He stated there had been some confusion in recent times as the organisation has been rebranded to NIE Networks with responsibility for looking after the physical assets of the organisation such as pylons and powerlines. (Copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes).

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation and invited questions from the Members.

Members asked the following questions:

- The South East of Northern Ireland was not getting enough electricity supplied for large scale factories, were there any plans to upgrade in this area?
- Was the meter replacement scheme anything to do with smart meters?
- How active was the interconnector with Scotland?
- How far has the work progressed on the interconnector with the South of Ireland?
- Rural diversification is suffering due to the lack of capacity on the grid. With the South East of Northern Ireland having the best renewable energy resources, why are farmers being forced to use diesel generators instead of being able to connect to the electricity supply?
- The electricity network has not been well maintained over the years and people in the rural areas were having to pay colossal amounts of money to get connected, how are people supposed to be able to afford this?
- Were NIE working with any other bodies to try to assist with the grid infrastructure problems?
- Due to the high costs of connection, would NI Electricity Networks consider a phased payment system?
- Was the connection provided to the customer on the cheapest quote?
- Which other providers could provide a quotation for a connection?
- As there was a deficit of 3 phase connections in the rural areas, which small businesses would benefit from, would NI Electricity Networks consider voluntarily identifying the areas which would benefit from transformers?
- Had the general public been informed of the Utility Regulators decision to charge domestic customers 100% for a connection instead of 40%?
- Would NI Networks consider it advantageous to voluntarily identify the areas in which transformers would be required?
- Could the customer pay for a connection on a phased basis?
- What happened if a customer did not pay their electricity bill?
- Could representatives from NI Networks come out on site prior to a planning application being submitted to provide the customer with an idea of cost?
- Had there been a reduction in fossil fuels which supplied the big generators in Belfast?

- What were the reasons for Northern Ireland having so much overhead cable?
- Did NI Networks have any plans for other metering systems in the built up areas where there was congestion of meters?
- Were there any opportunities to retro-fit smart meters?

Mr Ballantine, Networks Operations Manager, NI Electricity Networks, responded to queries as follows:

- There was a sub-station in Ballynahinch and one in Newry and if there was potential for large scale industry to come into the District, the increase in demand would require building the infrastructure.
- Smart meters are separate from the meter replacement scheme. There currently were no plans to have smart meter trails within Northern Ireland.
- The interconnector with Scotland was currently working at half its capacity due to a fault in the line which may be repaired in 2016/17.
- The North/South interconnector was required urgently however there were significant challenges and the underground option would cost 5 times more which NIE customers may have to pay for.
- NIE Networks were happy to speak with any farmer or organisation who would like to improve, increase or expand their business, however, the issue was money and where would this money be found.
- Hundreds of millions of pounds were spent maintaining the Network, however in the rural areas the need has increased significantly compared to 20-30 years ago and this was now causing difficulties for customers in the rural areas to get connected.
- NIE were working with contractors and technical providers on a connection pilot in order to get more generation onto the District network, however NIE Network have a responsibility to maintain and operate the network safely.
- The connection was provided to the customer by the least cost solution.
- If the Planning department within NI Electricity Networks would identify areas which would benefit from 3 phase transformers.
- Historically 3 phase power had not been required in the rural areas of Northern Ireland, although single phase could be upgraded to 3 phase power.
- The general public had been notified of the Utility Regulators decision for domestic customer to pay 100% rather than 60% for a connection.
- NI Electricity Networks were a commercial organisation and had to treat all customers the same.
- Domestic customers could not be cut off for non-payment.
- The Utility Regulator had said there would be competition regarding new connections coming to Northern Ireland in 2016. Quotations could also be obtained from other suitably qualified organisations.
- An onsite assessment of customer applications was undertaken by NI Networks for a number of jobs, but for simple jobs, desk top quotations were provided using geographical systems, maps and knowledge of infrastructure. If the way-leaves which had been initially assumed by NI Networks could not be achieved, the costs could be significantly increased.
- There were existing coal fired power stations in the East and North of Northern Ireland which fed into the transmission network. Other feeds went into rural lines which had been built in the 1960s based on load. The capacity had been used

up in some areas and therefore the distribution was not able to reach the East of Northern Ireland. Coal fired thermal plants had the generation feeding out into the network across Northern Ireland but there were capacity problems.

- If the network had little or no capacity, NI Electricity Networks would contact the customer to inform them the connection may cost more money.
- Northern Ireland had 3.5 times the overhead cables of Great Britain, the main reason for which, being the large number of single dwellings in Northern Ireland.
- If a fault occurred, it was easier and quicker to locate in overhead cables, than if they were underground. Also, to put the cables under-ground, could be up to five times more expensive.
- Smart metering pilots had been completed, but the opinion of the Utility Regulator was that Northern Ireland was too small to have its own smart metering pilot. Findings from Great Britain and southern Ireland would be used to talk to the Utility Regulator regarding Northern Ireland.
- Some meters could be retro-fitted and a small number of pilots had been done.

Mr Ballantine, Networks Operations Manager, NI Electricity Networks, undertook to come back to Members with answers to the following questions:

- Was the transformer sited at the Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel, going to be moved?
- Why had south Armagh and south Down not had a grid upgrade, when areas such as Tyrone, Derry and south Antrim had recently been upgraded?
- Were there any opportunities to retro-fit meters in the District?

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation.

Councillor McGrath asked officers to identify those businesses within the District that may require large scale electricity supply.

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.10pm**

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7 December 2015.

**Signed:**

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

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

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 9 November 2015 at 3.00pm in the Mourne Room Downshire Civic  
Centre Downpatrick**

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Councillor D Curran	
<b>Deputy Chairperson:</b>	Councillor R Mulgrew	
<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>(Committee Members)</b>	
	Councillor T Andrews	
	Councillor W Clarke	
	Councillor G Donnelly	
	Councillor S Doran	
	Councillor G Hanna	
	Councillor V Harte	
	Councillor H Harvey	
	Councillor T Hearty	
	Councillor D McAteer	
	Councillor B Quinn	
	Councillor M Ruane	
	Councillor G Stokes	
	<b>(Non Committee Members)</b>	
	Councillor S Doran	
<b>Officials in Attendance:</b>	Mr L Hannaway	Chief Executive
	Ms M Ward	Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
	Mr J McGilly	Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
	Mr K Scullion	Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance
	Mr M Mohan	Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager
	Ms M Boyle	Tourism Development Officer
	Mr G McVeigh	Estates Surveyor
	Ms E McParland	Democratic Services Manager
	Ms L Dillon	Democratic Services Officer

**ERT/126/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor Curran extended congratulations to Ms M Ward Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism and to everyone involved in organising the Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy – The Brexit Debate, which was held on 29 October 2015 in the Canal Court Hotel Newry and added he found the event very professional indeed.

The following apology was received:

Councillor S Ennis

### **ERT/127/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were received:

### **ERT/128/2015: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2015.**

**NOTED:** Ms Ward explained that a report on forthcoming Consumer Promotion events would be reported back to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee in December 2015.

### **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS**

#### **ERT/129/2015: UPDATE – REGIONAL START INITIATIVE**

**Read:** Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism providing an update on the Regional Start Initiative and the Service Level Agreement. (Copy circulated)

**NOTED:** It was agreed to note the following in relation to the Regional Start Initiative:

- (a) To continue to deliver the RSI programme under the SLA with Invest NI to 31 March 2016 and beyond if required. Any extension on a the SLA beyond 31 March 2016 will be extended on a month by month basis up to October 2016. (SLA contract includes both service delivery and PR activity).
- (b) To continue in conjunction with other NI Councils, to finalise the Economic Appraisal for a new Regional Business Start Programme.
- (c) To progress a funding application for a new Regional Business Start Programme through the ERDF EU Investment for Growth and Jobs programme. Application for funding is being led by



Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council on behalf of NI Councils.

- (d) To progress preparation of tender documents for a new Regional Business Start Programme. The tender for a new Service Delivery model is being led by Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council on behalf of NI Councils, and will be issued when EU funding is in place.

**ERT/130/2015: UPDATE**  
**RE NEWRY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Mr McGilly explained the Council received formal notification that Newry Business Improvement District had been approved following a voting procedure. He said an action plan of activity had been agreed as to how the bid would be implemented for year one and it related to marketing and other business development programmes.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism arrange to circulate details of the Newry Business Improvement District to ensure the public were informed on this initiative.

**ERT/131/2015:NEWRY LINKAGES PUBLIC REALM SCHEME**  
**- RELEASE OF BOND**

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding the release of the Bond taken out by the Contractor regarding delivery of the Newry Linkages Public Realm Scheme. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the recommendation contained in Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, that as the defects liability period had expired and all elements had been adopted by the relevant authorities, that the Council proceed to release the Bond in regard to Earney Contracts Ltd for works completed in delivering the Newry City Linkages Public Realm Scheme.

**TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS ITEMS**

**ERT/132/2015: ARTS COUNCIL NI FUNDING PARTNERSHIP**

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism advising the Arts Council has agreed to establish a Local Government Challenge Fund for each of the 11 Council areas with the provision that it is matched and is additional to current levels of funding provided by each Council. The

proposal is to delegate a part of Arts Council Lottery Funds to each Council, which would in the first instance be a sum of £150,000. Newry Mourne and Down District Council would then be responsible for distribution to local Arts organisations/activities.

Members raised a number of queries including details of the amount of match funding that would be offered to other Councils such as Derry and Belfast, and also the risks involved with partnership funding arrangements whereby the Council could potentially be left to meet costs if other bodies did honour their part of the arrangement.

Ms Ward explained Officials would only be investigating the offer for partnership funding from the Arts Council NI at this stage.

With regard to the level of funding offered to other Councils, Ms Ward said that funding amounts would depend on the revenue available in a Council and that a Council could opt to accept a lower amount of funding if it wished to do so. She added that details on the level of capital funding in other Councils could be obtained and would be reported back to Councillors for information.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to note contents of Report dated 9 November 2015 from Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, and that the Council to reply to Roisin McDonagh Chief Executive Arts Council NI advising the Council welcome the opportunity for a funding partnership with the Arts Council NI and that this proposal will be considered by Council via the rates process 2016/17.**

**It was also agreed to obtain details on levels of Capital funding from other Council areas, ie Derry City & Strabane Council and Belfast City Council and report back for information, via the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in due course.**

**ERT/133/2015: TENDER**  
**RE: NEWRY TOWN HALL PHASE II**

Read: Report dated 2 November 2015 from Mr G McVeigh regarding Tenders in respect of works at Newry Town Hall – Phase II.  
 (Copy circulated)

Members asked for clarification on the figures contained in the Report and if the proposed works would include connecting the Town Hall and Arts Centre buildings.

Mr McVeigh provided clarification on the figures for Phase II works at Newry Town Hall. He also explained Phase II consisted of two sections, ie:

- Internal working, operation for staff and stage rigging
- To address the Disability Discrimination Act, access, fire risk audits including existing fire escapes.

Mr McVeigh added that under the current proposals the Town Hall and Arts Centre buildings would not be physically linked.

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

- To transfer £170,000 from the 2015/2016 Capital Budget to the 2016/2017 Capital Budget for consideration under the 2016/17 Rate Estimates process for works at Newry Town Hall Phase II.**
- A Newry Town DEA Briefing Meeting be arranged to which all interested Councillors be invited to attend, to discuss in detail the proposed works for Phase II Newry Town Hall, in particular a link between the Newry Town Hall and Arts Centre buildings.**
- After a Newry Town DEA Briefing Meeting was held as per above, a report to be tabled at a meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee in due course regarding Phase II works at Newry Town Hall.**

**NOTED:** The amount of £170,000 together with proposed budget of £500,000 in Capital Budget 2016/17 would allow completion of both stages of Phase II works at Newry Town Hall.

**ERT/134/2015: APPOINTMENT OF PRGRAMME ADVISOR  
- ST PATRICKS FESTIVAL – DOWNPATRICK 2016/18**

**Read:** Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr M Mohan Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager giving an update on progress relating to the St Patrick's Festival project for Downpatrick 2016-18. (Copy circulated)

Mr Mohan explained that letters of financial offer had been received by both Councils, ie, Newry Mourne & Down District Council and Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council to a collective value of £293,446. He referred to the 3 Key Performance Indicators (KPI) specified by Tourism NI which must be met annually as part of the funding package which has been offered. With regard to KPI 1, which requires the establishment of an Event Development Group, Mr Mohan said a the first meeting of the Group had already taken place and that a further meeting was due to take place later in November 2015.

**Noted:** Councillor W Clarke joined the meeting at this point. (3.30pm)

Mr Mohan also said that a Memorandum of Understanding had now been drawn up between the two Councils.

In response to a query regarding how to target the North American market it was noted that a Choral Director had been contracted to develop a Tourism Ireland driven Choral initiative as part of the wider St Patrick's Festival which would aim to develop interest from other markets such as Canada and the USA.

Members suggested providing more up to date information on the history of St Patrick in the Newry & Mourne, Armagh and Downpatrick areas as these areas contained several historic monuments connected to St Patrick but were not identified on the trail map.

It was noted that proposals from McAdam Design would in the first instance be discussed at the Sub Group Meeting and then be tabled at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in December 2015.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the appointments of a Programme Advisor and a Choral Director who will be contracted on a freelance basis to develop the St Patrick's Festival Programmes across the two hubs of Downpatrick and Armagh.**

#### **ERT/135/2015: MOURNE/STRANGFORD COASTAL WALKING PATH - TECHNICAL AND FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Read: Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr M Mohan, Senior Tourism Initiatives Manager regarding the Mourne/Strangford Coastal Walking Path Technical and Feasibility Study. (Copy circulated)

Members welcomed the benefits the project could bring in terms of attracting tourism and spoke of the need to build confidence in landowners when addressing the land issues. They also referred to the need to bring representatives from the local business community on board with this process and that officials perhaps look at the future possibility of developing a walkway from Carlingford to Newry .

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding the Mourne/Strangford Coastal Walking Path:-**

**A phased approach be taken with regard to walking 'hubs' and be developed as priority, followed by the development of linear coastal path stretches in areas of high beauty or interest and then stitched together to create one continuous coastal path in line with three phases as follows:**

**Phase 1 – Develop walking hubs as priority, including:  
- Key linear, coastal path sections linked to hubs**

- Looped walks feeding off the coastal path around hubs
- Connections between coastal path and Mourne Coastal Driving Route
- Maintain/reinstate/enhance existing walks
- Develop experiences/attractions/viewpoints
- Encourage business development

**Phase 2 – Develop linear stretches in areas of beauty, high interest and/or secondary ‘hubs’:**

- Annalong
- Ardglass – Killough
- Greencastle – Cranfield

**Phase 3 – Stitch all of the above together to create one long-distance coastal path.**

**ERT/136/2015: SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK  
- FORWARD PLANNING**

**Read:** Report dated 2 November 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding the Report of a Meeting between Slieve Gullion DEA Councillors, Forestry Service, Clanrye Group and Grounded Express Bars held on Tuesday 27 October 2015 regarding forward planning for Slieve Gullion Forest Park. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to approve the Recommendations contained in Report of Slieve Gullion DEA Meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2015 regarding Slieve Gullion Forest Park, as follows:

- (a) Ms J McCann Area Community Development Officer to forward details regarding a tree inspection to Ms M Ward Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism.
- (b) Ms M Boyle Tourist Development Officer to liaise with Estates Department in arranging for a survey and evaluation of the land offered by Forestry Department.

**ERT/137/2015: SLIEVE GULLION PARK & RIDE TOUR GUIDE**

**Read:** Report dated 3 November 2015 from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer regarding Park & Ride Facilities and Tour Guide Provision at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to approve the following with regard to

**the provision of Park & Ride Facilities and Tour Guide provision at Slieve Gullion Forest Park, as per the recommendations contained in report from Ms M Boyle Tourism Development Officer dated 3 November 2015:**

- (a) To advertise for land suitable for a Park & Ride Facility close to Slieve Gullion for 2016.**
- (b) To advertise for a Bus Company to service a Park & Ride facility to Slieve Gullion for 2016.**
- (c) To seek quotations for a tour company to provide guided tours for Slieve Gullion for the 2016 season with option for renewal.**

**ERT/138/2015: RING OF GULLION AND MOURNE AONBs  
- NPA PROGRAMME (ASCENT)**

**Read:** Report dated 14 August 2015 from Mr D Rice Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager regarding the Ring of Gullion AONB and Mourne AONB NPA Programme – ASCENT (Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools – Upland Recreation) (Copy circulated)

Mr McGilly explained this was an exploratory application under an Interreg project – Northern Periphery & Artic: ASCENT and was identified as a project which would potentially be of advantage in terms of conservation and erosion issues.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding NPA Programme – ASCENT:**

- (a) Submit application to NPA programme ASCENT, with Donegal County Council as the lead partner, Newry Mourne & Down District Council as a partner and Mourne Heritage Trust as a sub-partner.  
(NB: Other partners are: Norway, Iceland, Republic of Ireland and Finland. Scotland have not confirmed if they are going to proceed – this will impact the budgets)**
- (b) If the application is successful, Council proceed to sign letter of offer and carry out the project as per the application.**
- (c) Cash match funding to be considered at Rate Estimates 2016/17.**



**CONFERENCES/EVENTS****ERT/139/2015: AGRICULTURE & FOOD CONFERENCE  
3 DECEMBER 2015  
DUNADRY HOTEL COUNTY ANTRIM**

**Read:** Report dated 9 November 2015 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Agriculture & Food Conference to be held on Thursday 3 December 2015 in the Dunadry Hotel County Antrim at a cost of £210 inc VAT.  
(Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Harvey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to appoint the following delegates to attend the Agriculture & Food Conference to be held on Thursday 3 December 2015 at the Dunadry Hotel Antrim at a cost of £210 including VAT, per delegate**

- **Chairperson of ERT Committee  
(or Vice Chairperson of ERT Committee)**
- **1 No. Council Official**

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS****ERT/140/2015: MAP RE: MOURNE GULLION COOLEY**

Councillor Ruane referred to the omission of Narrow Water Warrenpoint from the Mourne Gullion Cooley map which he had previously raised with Geotourism but said he had heard no further update as to whether another version of the map had been produced.

Ms Ward said a response had been received from Geotourism which would be circulated to Members. She added the Geotourism section could look at printing another run of the Mourne Gullion Cooley map which would show Narrow Water.

**AGREED:** **It was agreed the response from Geotourism regarding the omission of Narrow Water Warrenpoint from the Mourne Gullion Cooley map to be circulated to Members for information.**

**ERT/141/2015: CHRISTMAS FAIR - WARRENPOINT**

Councillor Ruane referred to a request from the organisers of the Warrenpoint Christmas Fair seeking funding from the Council towards this year's event and asked if any funding had been made available.

Ms Ward explained Officers had worked with the organising group of the Christmas Fair and in order for the event to tie in with the Year of Food it was agreed a food

market be included in this year's Christmas fair event and will be sponsored by the Council. She confirmed funding had been identified within the budget to proceed with sponsoring this food market.

Councillor Ruane expressed his disappointment local Councillors had not been informed about this decision.

**Noted:** Councillor Andrews joined the meeting at this point. (3.45pm)

Ms Ward advised a report would be tabled at the SPR Committee Meeting regarding support to forthcoming Christmas events.

The meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 December 2015.

**Signed:** **Councillor D Curran**  
**Chairperson**

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



**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12  
November 2015 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,  
Downpatrick.**

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In the Chair : Councillor H Reilly

In Attendance: Councillor P Brown Councillor S Burns  
Councillor M Carr Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor G Craig Councillor G Donnelly  
Councillor B Ó'Muirí Councillor B Quinn  
Councillor M Ruane Councillor B Walker

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning &  
Performance  
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory & Technical  
Services  
Ms V Keegan, Marketing Manager  
Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
Ms R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning  
and Policy  
Mr P Green, Legal Advisor  
Mr J McBride, Change Manager  
Mr A Hay, Development Plan Manager  
Ms A Magorrian, Human Resources Officer (Training)  
Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer  
Ms T Mooney, Tourism Officer  
Ms U Mhic An Tsaoir, Irish Language Liaison Officer  
Mr M Walsh, Irish Language Officer  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**SPR/196/2015:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor R Burgess (Chairperson), Councillor L Kimmins, Councillor C McGrath, Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism and Ms H McKee, Community Planning Manager.

**SPR/197/2015:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7i, being a member of the Murphy Trust.

**SPR/198/2015:- ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2015**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2015.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, the Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 15 October 2015, be approved.**

**SPR/199/2015 RATES SUPPORT GRANT 2015/16**

**Read:** Report from Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance, regarding the Rates Support Grant multi-Council Delegation with the DOE Minister held on 11 November 2015

**NOTED:** Mr Dowey, Head of Finance briefed Members on the meeting held with the Minister for the DOE, Minister Durkan, MLA regarding the cuts to the General Grant. He said Councillors Casey, Craig and Curran had formed part of the delegation along with representatives from the other 7 Councils in Northern Ireland who were in receipt of the Rates Support Grant.

Mr Dowey outlined the points highlighted by Minister Durkan; which were the budget problems his Department had faced and that the majority of costs were staffing costs, although the Voluntary Exit Scheme had saved monies on those staffing costs and some of those savings would now be released to Councils in the increased Regional Support Grant. Minister Durkan said he was hopeful of further savings later in the year. The Minister was asked if this budget could be ring-fenced for future years, to which he had emphasised that the political parties in Local Government should lobby their MLA's to illustrate how important the Rates Support Grant was to the 7 Councils. He had also advised work was underway with an Equality Impact Assessment.

Mr Dowey further advised that Minister Durkan would be providing a written response to the issues raised by the Members within a two week period.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, that Council write to Minister Durkan, MLA, requesting the Rate Support Grant to be ring-fenced for the future.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **SPR/200/2015:- PRESENTATION BY LAURA LEONARD, BELFAST CITY COUNCIL – EUROCITIES**

**Read:** Presentation to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding the Eurocities Network, by Ms L Leonard, European and International Relations Manager, Belfast City Council.

Ms L Leonard made a comprehensive and informative presentation on the benefits of joining the Eurocities Network (copy previously circulated).

**NOTED:** Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, said Council had begun the development of the Memorandum of Understanding between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth Council at a meeting this week, at which, the Eurocities Network had been high on the agenda. Council had a number of international events in conjunction with Russia, America and France, which were very successful. The difficulties encountered had been accessing funding, but being a member of the Eurocities Network would provide Council with access to funding information, which it currently did not have.

**NOTED:** Ms Leonard advised that the cost of joining the Eurocities Network was €4,220 per annum.

**NOTED:** Mr Hannaway, Chief Executive, said Belfast and Dublin were keen to work with the District as an economic driver on the European corridor.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council join the Eurocities Network at a cost of €4,220 per forum per annum.

**Noted:** The Presentation on Eurocities was noted.

### **SPR/201/2015 PRESENTATION REPORT BY COUNCILLORS BURNS AND CARR – SISTER CITIES**

**NOTED:** Councillors Burns and Carr made an informative presentation on their recent visit to Southern Pines which had included the signing of the Sister Cities International Partnership Agreement between Newry, Mourne and Down and Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen Area, NC USA (copy previously circulated).

**NOTED:** Councillor Carr explained how Sister Cities International had been created and the history and background of Newry & Mourne in Sister Cities. He advised the trip had been very successful with the signing of the Sister Cities International Partnership Agreement. He placed on record his thanks to the Chairperson, Ms N Bailie for completing the signing of the agreement and to Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive and Ms T Mooney, Tourism Officer, for their help during the visit.

**NOTED:** Councillor Burns advised Members of the itinerary undertaken during the visit and that there had been many successful outcomes. He said Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had been asked to become members of the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) and form a partnership with Pinehurst Golf Resort with the opportunity to work with a destination golf marketing company who wished to come to the District to see what it has to offer and to make it a 'Play and Stay' area. He further advised there was a firm commitment from an Economic Development Group to send 20 golfers to the District in 2016, which would boost the economy.

**NOTED:** **The Presentation on Sister Cities was noted.**

## **CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY**

### **SPR/202/2015 IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY**

**Read:** Report from Ms U Mhic An tSaoir, dated 12 November 2015 on the Irish Language Strategy 2015-2016.

**NOTED:** Ms U Mhic An Tsaoir, Irish Language Liaison Officer, explained that the Irish Language Strategy had been developed in the Irish Language Unit and prepared within Council's bi-linguism policy. She advised how the Strategy covered the period up to 31 March 2016 and outlined the aims and objectives of the Strategy. She said that the Irish Language Unit would oversee the implementation of the bi-linguism Policy, produce guidelines on the use of the Irish language, undertake an Audit of the Irish language community in the District, draw up a Strategy for the Irish language for 2016-2019 and ensure that Council provided adequate resource for the bi-linguism Policy in future budgets.

**NOTED:** Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance advised that Section 7 of the Strategy was not for agreement at this point in time as the issues contained within it, relating to staffing, were still out for consultation.

- NOTED: Questions from Members were answered as follows:
- The Strategy was currently out for consultation.
  - The workload of the Irish Language Unit had doubled since the Councils had merged. Discussions had been taking place regarding someone who could offer translation services and work with the community groups.
  - The Strategy end date was 31 March 2016, which would give officers the opportunity to identify resources going forward. Undertaking an audit was a key strategy and it would address key issues.
- NOTED: Councillor Craig said one of the aims of promoting the Irish language was to promote a strong and shared community, but he saw in the Strategy, the recognition that there would be different reactions and requested that the implementation of the Strategy be discussed at the Good Relations Forum.
- NOTED: Mr Hannaway, Chief Executive advised the Good Relations Forum had no decision making powers.
- NOTED: Councillor W Clarke referred to the opportunities for co-operation between Councils, translation costs and resources and enquired whether this was being looked into.
- Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burns,**
- **That the Irish Language Strategy 2015-2016, be agreed with exception of Section 7 of the Strategy relating to staff issues.**
  - **That translation costs and resources be investigated through the opportunities for co-operation between Councils.**
- Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Brown, that the implementation of the Irish Language Strategy be discussed at the Good Relations Forum.**
- SPR/203/2015 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PAPER 4 – TOWN CENTRES AND OPPORTUNITY SITES**
- Read:** Report from Mr A Hay, Development Plan Manager, dated 12 November 2015 on the Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 4 – Town Centres and Opportunity Sites.

Mr Hay, Development Plan Manager, made a presentation on the Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 4 – Town Centres and Opportunity Sites (copy attached).

Questions from Members were answered as follows:

- In the past, DSD had provided grants for the renovation of city centre sites, but these were no longer available. It was possible that DSD would transfer functions to Council, but this was looking increasingly unlikely. Council could request DSD to re-implement these grants. The 'Living over the Shops' scheme was also no longer available.
- Protected housing areas in the town centres contributed to the vitality and viability of town centres. Housing in town centres also helped support the evening economy. The town centre health checks would look at how the town centres were performing as a whole.
- There would be involvement in stakeholder engagements similar to the Community Planning process. The Local Development Plan is linked to the Community Plan with the Local Development Plan being informed by the Community Planning process. Previous town centre studies would be reviewed. It was recognised that, as part of the Local Development Plan process, there was a need to engage with local communities, the public and stakeholders on the role of the town centres.
- The paper suggested further research was undertaken on town centre health checks and retail capacity studies which would inform the direction of the Plan's retail strategy.
- There were 2 relatively up to date legacy development plans which covered the District, the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015, and the Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015, these were respectively adopted in 2009 and 2013. In both plans many of the designated town centre development opportunity sites were undeveloped and remained available. The paper represented the start of the process to review the vitality and viability of the town centres.

**Noted:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor O'Muirí, that the report on the Local Development Plan Paper 4 - Town Centres and Opportunity Sites, be noted.

## **ESTATE**



**SPR/204/2015**      **CAPITAL PROJECTS – PROGRESS REPORT**

**Read:** Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 November 2015, on the progress of Capital Projects.

**NOTED:** Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance referred to the £100,000 of over-spend on capital projects, previously reported to Committee by Mr E McManus, Capital Projects Officer. He advised that a report would be brought back to the Council meeting on 7 December 2015 regarding the results of the tenders for the Down Leisure Centre and the Newry Leisure Centre, Phase 2. Implementation dates for both schemes would be 18 January 2016.

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly, Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance, confirmed that there was sufficient funds within Capital Funds to cover the over-spend.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Craig, that the contents of the report be noted and further details awaited regarding compensation events/additional costs for Victoria Lock Refurbishment Scheme.**

**SPR/205/2015**      **KINDLE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL – LETTER FROM EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

**Read:** Correspondence from the Education Authority, South Eastern Region, dated 16 October 2015 regarding the proposed Community Project, at the site of the former Kindle Primary School, Ballykinler.

**NOTED:** Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance, said this matter had been raised at the Council meeting held on 2 November 2015, where Council had requested officers to work with the Department, the results of which would be reported back to Council.

**NOTED:** **Correspondence from the Education Authority dated 16 October 2015 regarding the proposed Community Project, Kindle, was noted.**

**SPR/206/2015**      **PLAY AREA AND MOBILE AT ORIEL DRIVE, DOWNPATRICK**

**Read:** Report from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Administration) dated 20 October 2015, regarding the play area and mobile building at Oriel Drive, Downpatrick.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, that authority be given to acquire the freehold transfer of land for the play area and mobile building at Oriel Drive, Flying Horse, Downpatrick in order to regularise the title in the sum of £6,500.

**SPR/207/2015**      **ORIOR PARK CHANGING ROOMS, BESSBROOK**

**Read:** Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 November 2015, regarding the 21 year Lease of the Changing Rooms at Orior Park, Bessbrook to Bessbrook United FC.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to grant a 21 year lease of the Council owned changing rooms at Orior Park/Allotment Gardens, Bessbrook, to Bessbrook United Football Club, subject to NIHE approval, DOE approval to peppercorn rent and legal agreement being drawn up.

**SPR/208/2015**      **REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND AT STATION ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN**

**Read:** Report from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Administration), dated 12 November 2015, regarding the request to purchase land at Station Road, Castlewellan.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig, to note the expression of interest in the site from an adjacent landowner, make a planning application for residential development for the site at Station Road, Castlewellan and, thereafter, seek to dispose of the site on the open market in order to maximise the return for Council.

**SPR/209/2015**      **REQUEST TO ACQUIRE LISBURN STREET CAR PARK, BALLYNAHINCH**

**Read:** Report from Mr P Green, Legal Advisor, dated 12 November 2015, regarding the Expression of Interest in Lisburn Street off-street car park (south), Ballynahinch.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that Option 2 be agreed: Sale of the portion the developer requires to build the rear of the store on



(hatched and outlined in blue at Appendix 2 in report presented by Mr Green, and already approved by Council) and lease of remainder of car park area for 25 years (would require expression of interest exercise to be carried out).

**SPR/210/2015**      **VALUATION OF LAND AT GREENBANK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, NEWRY**

**Read:** Report by Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director of Facilities Management & Maintenance, dated 9 November 2015, regarding the proposed additional car parking at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry, for Council Staff.

**Read:** Correspondence dated 26 October 2015, from Land & Property Services regarding the valuation of land at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, that approval be given to enter into negotiation with Southern Group Enterprises with the aim of setting up a rental agreement to avail of 38 car parking spaces at their premises located within the Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry.

The cost of the annual rental is expected to be c £410 per month plus maintenance costs. Rental of site is available initially up to end of June 2016 with possibility of extension.

**SPR/211/2015**      **STORM WATER DRAINAGE AT CORRAGS ROAD, BURREN VILLAGE GREEN**

**Read:** Report from Mr P Brannigan, Estates Officer, dated 12 November 2015, regarding the request by Killowen Contracts for a wayleave to lay a storm sewer to serve a new private housing development through Council land at Burren Village Green.

**NOTED:** Councillor Quinn said it was important the contractors left the Green back in a suitable condition when work was completed.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Quinn, that the request by Killowen Contracts for a wayleave to lay a storm sewer to serve a new private housing development through Council land at Burren Village Green, be approved subject to consultation.

**SPR/212/2015**      **MURPHY TRUST**

**Read:** Report from Ms B Magill, Administration Manager, dated 12 November 2015, regarding the transfer of Murphy Trust property.

NOTED: Further to Councillor Reilly's question regarding rental incomes, the Chief Executive, undertook to provide further information.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Donnelly, that agreement be given for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to manage, control and maximise the property portfolio of the Murphy Trust.**

**SPR/213/2015**      **COUNCIL LAND AT THE GREEN, STRANGFORD – REQUEST FOR USE**

**Read:** Report from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Administration), dated 12 November 2015, regarding the request from the contractors for DRD Transport NI to use Council land at The Green, Strangford to construct a temporary slipway.

NOTED: After discussion, it was suggested that DRD Transport NI would be requested to put together a rationale as to why the use of the land at The Green, Strangford by the contractors to construct a temporary slipway, was necessary, and advise local residents.

Councillor Reilly requested the recommendation be changed to read "small section of The Green". Councillor Clarke requested DRD Transport NI be held to the 10 month time frame.

NOTED: Councillor Carr requested that matters like these which referred to specific issues within the DEA's, in future be discussed at DEA meetings where the local Councillors who were aware of the issues would be present.

Mr Hannaway said the DEA Fora were currently at inception stage, but issues such as this could be considered within their remit.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Craig,**

- **That the request for DRD Transport NI to use a small section of Council Land at The Green, Strangford, to construct a temporary slipway from January 2016 for a period of up to 10 months, be acceded to.**

- That DRD Transport NI be advised that the works should take no longer than the 10 month time frame indicated by them.
- That DRD Transport NI be requested to carry out consultation with local residents outlining the need for these works to be undertaken.

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### **SPR/214/2015      APPROVAL FOR CALL FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2016/17**

**Read:** Report by Ms S Burns, Programme Manager, dated 12 November 2015, regarding Financial Assistance.

**NOTED:** Councillor Carr said it was important to give groups an early indication of whether they had achieved funding or not so that they could plan events.

Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, advised that a new dedicated team had been set up which would ensure a more streamlined and faster system.

Ms Burns, Programmes Manager also addressed the concerns regarding timeframes. She advised Members there were 600 applications this year and 28 capacity programmes would be rolled out throughout the District to assist groups to fill out the application forms and look at alternative sources of funding.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Quinn, that approval be given to:**

- **3 Financial Assistance Calls for the period 2016-2017.**
- **Allocation within the rates budget for grant allocations, advertising and capacity building programme and for resourcing the management and delivery of the programme.**
- **Inclusion of logistical support, (barriers, tables, chairs etc.), request form in the application and in letters of offer of financial assistance to major/minor events (to include provision of portaloos where deemed essential).**
- **Capacity building for the Community /Voluntary Sector and resourcing of same.**
- **Advances to groups for up to 50% of the grant aid if the need can be demonstrated and an Advance Agreement signed off.**

- **Thresholds for each theme to be set by Officers in line with rates.**

**SPR/215/2015      UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS EVENTS FUNDING**

**Read:**                    **Report by Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 November 2015, regarding the update on Christmas Events Funding**

**Noted:**                    Councillor W Clarke noted the disparity between the groups and said moving forward there should be a set criteria based on the number of residents and how many people attended the events. He referred to the tourism potential at the Christmas Light Switch-ons and said a criteria was needed to benchmark rates of success against spend. He suggested planting pine trees that could be used in 20 years as the Christmas trees, which would save money in the long term.

Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance advised a review would be taking place as part of the Rates Estimates process.

Councillor Quinn said it was important to ascertain the community benefits of the Christmas events.

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Carr, that the Christmas Event Funding throughout the District be agreed.**

**SPR/216/2015      ELECTED MEMBER APPLICATION TO UNDERTAKE ACCREDITED TRAINING**

**Read:**                    **Report by Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Human Resources), dated 12 November 2015, regarding Elected Member Application to undertake Accredited Training.**

**NOTED:**                    Councillor Reilly registered his concerns on this item.

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that the application for financial assistance for a Councillor to undertake a part-time Honours Degree in Irish Language and Literature at the University of Ulster which commenced in September 2015, be approved.**

**SPR/217/2015      PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 30 October 2015 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office regarding the Audit and Assessment of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Performance Improvement Responsibilities for 2015-16

**Noted:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, that the correspondence dated 30 October 2015 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office regarding the Audit and Assessment of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Performance Improvement Responsibilities for 2015-16, be noted.

**SPR/218/2015**      **CONTRIBUTIONS EXPENDITURE – UPDATE**

**Read:** Spreadsheet – Contributions/events for Marketing for Meeting 12 Feb 2015.

**Noted:** The Contributions/events for Marketing for Meeting 12 February 2015 was noted.

**SPR/219/2015**      **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF THE CARLINGFORD LOUGH COMMISSIONERS**

**Read:** Report dated 12 November 2015 from Ms E McParland, Democratic Services Manager, regarding the Appointment of Members to the Board of Carlingford Lough Commissioners

**Noted:** Mr Hannaway, Chief Executive, advised Members that the Chief Executive of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority had advised that only 2 positions were available on the Board of the Carlingford Lough Commissioners and the Council had now been advised these positions could be rotated. He said nominations would be sought from the Parties involved: Sinn Fein, SDLP and UUP, at the Council meeting on 7 December 2015.

**SPR/220/2015**      **SISTER CITY/TWINNING ISSUES**

**Read:** Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance dated 12 November 2015 on Sister City/Twinning Issues – Grozny, Russia

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Craig:

- **That agreement be given to continue discussions with local Recycling Companies in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council re the provision of recycling facilities in the city of Grozny, Southern Russia.**
- **That a small deputation from Grozny in December 2015 be hosted.**

### **GRANT AIDED PROGRAMMES**

#### **SPR/221/2015      SIF – UPDATE**

**Read:** Report from Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 12 November 2015, regarding the Social Investment Fund.

**Noted:** In response Councillors' questions Ms Burns, Programmes Manager, explained that there had been no letters back from OFMDFM and the projects were on a case by case basis for each zone. The Council was on the South Eastern Board which provided updates on the zones. Ms Burns confirmed there was no cost to Council regarding the Castlewellan community centre renovation. Ms Burns undertook to provide Members with updates on the projects.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed that the Programmes Manager would provide project updates to Members when they became available.**

#### **SPR/222/2015      PEACE IV**

**Read:** Report from Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 12 November 2015, regarding the Peace IV Programme.

**Noted:** Ms Burns, Programmes Manager, explained that a Letter of Offer would probably not be received until 2017.

**Noted:** Ms Burns, Programmes Manager, in response to queries, advised she was not aware of any money being available in advance for Council to develop the programme. SEUPB had said they would host a number of workshops, but it was unclear whether these would be capacity building workshops.

**Noted:** **The contents of the report were noted.**

### **COMMUNITY PLANNING**

**SPR/223/2015      STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING**

**Read:** Report dated 12 November 2015 from Ms H McKee, Assistant Director, Community Planning, regarding the Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning.

**Noted:** Mr Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance, advised that this guidance would be strictly followed and reported back to Council on a regular basis.

**Noted:** **The contents of the report were noted.**

**SPR/224/2015      APPOINTMENT OF AN ARBITRATOR - DATAHUB**

**Read:** Report dated 12 November 2015, from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategy, Policy and Performance, regarding the Appointment of an Arbitrator.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that Quigg Golden, be appointed Arbitrators in this case.**

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

**SPR/225/2015      VALUATION FOR THE SALE OF LAND AT FORMER DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES AT STRANGFORD ROAD, DOWNPATRICK**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly, 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 Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial of business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).**

**Read:** Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance dated 12 November 2015, regarding the sale of land at former Down District Council offices at Strangford Road, Downpatrick.



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

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig, that the valuation from LPS be accepted.

**SPR/226/2015**      **UPDATE ON VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE SCHEME**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Donnelly, 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 Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial of business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

**Read:** Report from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Service (Human Resources) dated 12 November 2015, regarding the Recommendations for Approval under RPA Staff Severance Scheme for Local Government.

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

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig, that the recommendations regarding the second phase of consideration of applications for voluntary severance at 2.2 and 3.6 of the report, be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 8.27pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 December 2015.

**Signed:**              **Councillor Robert Burgess**  
**Chairperson**



**Signed:**

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

12.11.2015

**Local Development Plan:  
Preparatory Studies  
Paper 4: Town Centres and Opportunity Sites**


**Andrew Hay**  
Development Plan Manager

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

Ag freastal ar an Dúin agus Ard Mhacha Theas  
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**Aim of Paper**

- Provide an overview and key findings of the Town Centre and Opportunity Sites Paper.
- Provide an overview of the current retail offer within Newry, Mourne and Down towns, examine the take up of town centre development opportunity sites and consider vacancy levels within the District's town centres.

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### Paper 4: Town Centres and Opportunity Sites

The paper builds on the existing evidence base and sets out:

- Regional and local policy context for formulating local development plan policies for retail development
- Overview of retail trends in Northern Ireland.
- Review of:
  - Existing Development Plans and the town centre designations e.g. town centre boundaries, primary retail cores and development opportunity sites.
  - Town Centre Masterplans and Village Plans
  - Town Centre Studies (inc. town centre health checks) .
- Key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

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### Policy Context: RDS

Retail/Commercial Provision by Settlement Level:

- **Villages (L1)** – shops to meet daily needs and other commercial services e.g. pub, post office, petrol station etc.
- **Smaller Towns (L2)** – supermarkets, restaurants and mix of retail facilities.
- **Regional Towns (L3)** – shopping centres, retail warehouses, range of restaurants/bars.
- **Principal Cities (L4)** – In addition to services provided at level 3, contain department stores, specialist shops, arts and cultural activities.

**Diagram No 2.2**  
Hierarchy of Provision and Retail Infrastructure Model

Level	Provision
Level 1	Village
Level 2	Smaller Town
Level 3	Regional Town
Level 4	Principal City

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## Policy Context – The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

Regional Strategic Policy for town centres and retailing requires LDPs to:

- Adopt a town centre first approach for retailing and main town centre uses.
- Undertake an assessment of need/capacity for retail and other main town centre uses across the District.
- Prepare town centre health checks and regularly review them (at least once every five years).
- Include a strategy for town centres and retailing, and contain appropriate policies and proposals that promote town centre first for retail and other main town centre uses.

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## Local Development Plan role and functions in respect of town centres and retail

- define a network and hierarchy of centres – town, district and local centres;
- define the spatial context of town centres and the primary retail core;
- set out appropriate policies that make clear which uses will be permitted in the hierarchy of centres and other locations, and the factors that will be taken account for decision making;
- provide for a diverse offer and mix of uses, which reflect local circumstances, and
- allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and form of retail, and other town centre uses.

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## Existing Development Plans

**Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (BNMAP)**

- Newry, Warrenpoint, Kilkeel, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton

**Ards & Down Area Plan 2015 (ADAP)**

- Downpatrick, Newcastle, Ballynahinch

- Provide the policy framework against which to assess development proposals.
- The Plans designate town centre boundaries and primary retail cores.
- Development opportunity sites are identified and set out the types of development that would be suitable within these town centre locations.
- Other designations afford protection to certain uses and include areas of town centre housing, areas of townscape character and local landscape policy areas.

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## Town Centre Masterplans and Village Plans

- Town Centre Masterplans and Village Plans are non statutory plans focusing on regeneration initiatives and public realm improvements.
- The plans set out visions for each town centre, identify key proposals and a range of initiatives. Masterplans set out a vision for a particular town centre and identify key proposals



## Town Centre Studies

Regional Planning Policy requires Councils in preparing a Local Development Plan to undertake both an assessment of the health of town centres and a retail capacity study.

- A town centre health check is a qualitative assessment which looks at the attractiveness, accessibility, and amenity of the town centre. Using a series of measures it provides a view of the performance and provides a framework for assessing vitality and viability.
- A retail capacity study is a quantitative assessment of the need for additional retail floorspace over the plan period. It identifies the catchment area, calculates total expenditure and turnover of convenience and comparison goods and gives a projection of future retail needs.

Existing health check and retail capacity research undertaken by consultants as part of the SPPS and town centre Masterplans will need to be updated to support policies and proposals within the new LDP.



## Key Findings and Conclusions

- In line with SPPS requirements, the LDP will need to ensure that retail growth remains focused on the main centres.
- Whilst the SPPS requires a town centre first approach consideration will be given to identifying district centres, local/neighbourhood centres and village centres within the LDP.
- Key difference in the past between masterplans and the statutory development plans has been that the masterplans have adopted a more proactive holistic approach while development plans are more regulatory in nature.
- In preparing new LDP opportunity to re-strike the balance and include non-land use actions taken by the council to improve the attractiveness and amenity of town centres.

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## Recommendations

- Newry and Downpatrick reaffirmed as the main city/town centres
- Existing town centre boundaries, retail designations and opportunity sites to be reviewed.
- That a retail capacity studies and health checks be undertaken for the 8 city/town centres, options for achieving this will be further considered.
- As part of the settlement appraisal work and any potential reclassification of villages to towns the issue of town centre designation should also be considered.
- The identification of district, local and neighbourhood centres within NMD city/towns be considered.
- That a policy review paper on retail be prepared for inclusion in the Preferred Options Paper.