



November 6th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 6th November 2023** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 October 2023

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 2023 10 02.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 October 2023

For Approval

[Council Minutes 2023 10 02.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 September 2023

For Approval

[Special Council Minutes - 25-09-2023.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 October 2023

For Approval

[Minutes Enterprise Regeneration Tourism Committee 2023 10 09.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2023

For Approval

[Strategy Policy Resources Meeting Minutes 2023 10 12.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2023

For Approval

[Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 16 October 2023.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2023

For Approval

📎 *Minutes -Sustainabilty and Environment Minutes 2023.10.17.pdf*

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10.0 Planning Section

There were no issues arising.

Correspondence

11.0 Response from Department for Infrastructure re: Notice of Motion C/173/2023 Ballynahinch Bypass

For Information

Correspondence dated 10 October 2023 attached.

📎 *STOF-0436-2023 - A24 Ballynahinch Bypass - Notice of Motion - Marie Ward NMDDC - DDMP Reply 101023.pdf*

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12.0 Response from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs re: Notice of Motion C/177/2023 Establishment of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency

For Information

Correspondence dated 11 October 2023 attached.

📎 *Letter from the Permanent Secretary_.pdf*

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13.0 Response from Department of Health re: Notice of Motion C/193/2023 Menopause

For Information

Correspondence dated 23 October 2023 attached.

📎 *Letter from Dept of Heath re NOM Menopause.pdf*

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14.0 Response from Department of Health re: Notice of Motion C/203/2023 Daisy Hill Hospital

For Information

Correspondence dated 13 October 2023 attached.

📎 *Letter from Dept of Health re NOM Daisy Hill Hospital.pdf*

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15.0 Response from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority re: Notice of Motion C/197/2023 Foul Smell from Warrenpoint Port

For Information

📎 *Response from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority re NOM Foul Smell from Warrenpoint Port.msg.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

16.0 Notice of Motion - Open Water Swimming

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Truesdale:

"This Council recognises the increased public interest in open water swimming and the public's strong desire for an extension of the current bathing season as documented in the DAERA 2022 review of bathing waters. Unfortunately, DAERA does not carry out water quality testing between September and May due to current regulations, leaving many swimmers unsure of the risk of bathing during these months. Council commits to testing the designated bathing sites within its district from September until DAERA testing begins again in May, and hereafter until a Minister is put in place to make the necessary amendments of the governing regulations."

17.0 Notice of Motion - Childcare Strategy

Notice of Motion received from Councillor S Murphy:

"This Council recognises that the costs of childcare in the North of Ireland are unaffordable for many and hard working families are struggling every month to meet these costs;

That access to childcare in this district is an issue, with providers struggling to meet demands whilst remaining sustainable and maintaining high standards of care;

That parents particularly women are being forced out of the workforce leading to a negative impact on the labour market, skills and wider economic output.

And that this Council will;

Write to the Education Department urging them to progress a comprehensive childcare strategy without delay and call on the DUP to restore the Executive urgently so that parties can work together to make childcare a priority.

That NMD Council will commit to delivering 10 new fully registered childminders in the area through their labour market partnership scheme".

18.0 Notice of Motion - A1 Prioritisation

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McMurray:

"This Council recognises the urgent need for A1 infrastructure upgrades and the strong public support for

improvements. In order to protect lives on one of our busiest roads, this Council recognises the Phase 2 upgrades as a top priority infrastructure project and requests urgent budget reallocation to support project delivery. This Council commits to:

- Writing to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure urging a reprioritisation of the A1, an inclusion in tier one Infrastructure projects and budget reallocation to achieve Phase 2.
- Writing to the Executive and Minister for Infrastructure, when the Assembly is restored, to prioritise the A1 and urgently redirect budget to the upgrades.
- Writing to the Secretary of State, urging prioritisation of the project and to engage with The Department for Infrastructure to ensure the improvements are a Tier 1 priority".

19.0 Notice of Motion - Initiative regarding Livestock Worrying

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:

"This Council notes with concern the increasing prevalence of livestock worrying in the High Mournes;

In response, Council will seek to develop an initiative alongside relevant partners that aims to raise awareness of the impact that dogs off leads can have on livestock;

Furthermore, Council will roll out a publicity campaign in conjunction with any such initiatives in order to effectively get the message out to people in the district in relation to this important issue".

20.0 Notice of Motion - Prostate Cancer Drug in Northern Ireland

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Lee-Surginor:

"This Council expresses serious concern that the latest cancer drug, Abiraterone to tackle Prostate Cancer isn't being made readily available to Northern Ireland men with early stage tumours, whereas this drug is more widely available in Scotland and Wales. Prostate Cancer took the lives of 276 men in Northern Ireland and 519 in the Republic of Ireland last year alone. The STAMPEDE (acronym for "Systemic Therapy in Advancing or Metastatic Prostate Cancer: Evolution of Drug Efficacy) Trial medical study concluded that this drug, Abiraterone, when given during early stages could halve the risk of cancer spreading and significantly reduce the chance of death. This Council writes to the Permanent Secretaries for the Department for Health and Finance, as well as the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and calls for a start date for this urgent and lifesaving change."

21.0 Notice of Motion - Violence in Gaza and Southern Israel

Notice of Motion received from Councillors Byrne & King:

"That this Council condemns the horrifying violence and indiscriminate murder of civilians; expresses its solidarity with civilians in the region who face the threat of air strikes, rocket attacks, abduction and the most unthinkable forms of murder every day; calls for an immediate ceasefire; the delivery of humanitarian aid to provide relief to the civilian population in Gaza; further calls for the immediate and safe release of all

hostages; supports a full International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation of potential war crimes committed; and calls for full adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law; an international intervention with leadership brought to bear in securing dialogue, a lasting peace and a long-term solution that ends this crisis."

22.0 Notice of Motion - Southern Health and Social Care Trust Smear Test

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Devlin:

"That this Council expresses its support for the thousands of women who will now have their smear tests re-checked by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust; further expresses its concerns over the failings of the Southern Trust; welcomes the introduction of HPV testing in the North; calls for the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal College of Pathologists report 'We Can End Cervical Cancer'; will write to the Department of Health to reflect this motion; and request an update on the implementation of the recommendations within the 'We Can End Cervical Cancer' report."

23.0 Notice of Motion - Bereavement Support

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Howell:

"This Council acknowledges the grief and the trauma associated with the passing of a loved one, the loss of a family member or a friend can have a profound impact on an individual but in particular on a child or a young person; Council further acknowledges and commends the great work that schools do in supporting their pupils in the event of a bereavement but accepts that they are not sufficiently equipped or resourced to provide the comprehensive level of support that may be required in some circumstances; Council will write to schools in the District to ascertain their views in relation to the matter in order to gain an understanding of the resources that are required to deliver the level of support our pupils require in the event of a bereavement."

24.0 Notice of Motion - Road Safety

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andrews:

"Noting with concern findings that Newry Mourne and Down District has the highest rate of casualties in which someone was killed or seriously injured on our roads, this Council will commit to a prioritisation of Road Safety across the district; will review what funding is made available to the Police Community and Safety Partnership to consider future provision of Speed Indicator Devices and will undertake a public messaging campaign throughout the winter advising road users of the importance of road safety and the responsibility of all road users for Road Safety."

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Mr Caolain Boyd
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Mr Gerard Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Mr Andrew Cassells
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Cllr William Clarke
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Mrs Linda Cummins
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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Ms Joanne Fleming
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Ms Catherine Hughes
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Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Josephine Kelly
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Cllr Tierna Kelly
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Cathal King
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Aidan Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Jonathan McGilly
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Catrina Miskelly
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Mr Colin Moffett
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Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Mr Peter Rooney
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
.....
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/183/2023</i>	<i>Action sheet from meeting held on 04.09.2023</i>	The action sheet was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/184/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04.09.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/185/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29.08.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>

<i>C/186/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11.09.2023</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/187/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 14.09.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/188/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting 18.09.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/189/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting 19.09.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/190/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting 21.09.23</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/191/2023</i>	<i>Planning Section</i>	There were no issues arising.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/192/2023</i>	<i>Response from Department of Education – Notice of Motion C.157.2023 Back to School Costs</i>	The letter was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y

C/193/2023	<i>Notice of Motion – Menopause</i>	<p>It was agreed that this Council commends the efforts of World Menopause Day on 18th October for raising awareness of the challenges faced by menopausal women;</p> <p>Notes the limited provision of NHS menopause services, and the difficulty facing women accessing them across the north;</p> <p>Further notes that women from rural or border communities often face greater challenges in accessing GP services or reliable public transport due to geographical isolation and therefore their experience of menopause can be particularly acute;</p> <p>Understands that perimenopausal and menopausal women are the fastest growing demographic in the workforce;</p> <p>Commends the introduction last year of the Civil Service Menopause Policy which aims to ensure those experiencing menopause in the civil service workforce are supported to cope with its challenges and impacts Further commends the education campaign by Newry Mourne & Down District Council to educate and inform staff of these issues;</p> <p>Welcomes the Let’s Talk Menopause initiative which has been rolled out by this Council Health and Well-being group;</p> <p>And calls on Council to continue its good work in relation to menopause awareness and to continue to identify new initiatives in line with best practice elsewhere in order to support perimenopausal and menopausal women.</p> <p>It was agreed Council write to the Permanent Secretary for Department of Health asking if there were plans for a dedicated women’s health strategy and hope to see it as a priority for the Department.</p>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<p>Noted</p> <p><i>Correspondence sent and response received – see agenda</i></p>	Y
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C/194/2023	<i>Notice of Motion – Annual Financial Assistance Call for Provision of Life Saving Equipment</i>	The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>J Kelly</i>	Noted Report to be brought to November SPR Committee Meeting	Y
C/195/2023	<i>Notice of Motion – Education Authority, transport and availability of places for children with additional needs</i>	It was agreed that Council fully supportive of children and young people having access to an education they are entitled to. This Council will seek answers from the Education Authority in relation to the yearly confusion, distress and upset caused as a result of the failure to provide transport on time to those who are entitled to it. Furthermore the Council notes with concern and seeks assurance from the Education Authority in relation to the lack of places available to those children with additional needs. It was also agreed that Council ask how the Education Authority were going to address the backlog of educational statements after the yearly annual review.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Correspondence sent.	Y
C/196/2023	<i>Notice of Motion – Clean Indoor Air</i>	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>A Cassells</i>	Noted	Y
C/197/2023	<i>Notice of Motion – Foul Smell from Warrenpoint Port</i>	It was agreed that this Council is concerned about the ongoing foul smell emanating from Warrenpoint Port, the impact this is having on resident's quality of life and the potential risk it poses to public health. Whilst we accept that steps are being taken to address the smell, many questions and concerns still remain about how it came about and how much	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Correspondence sent.	Y

		longer it will last. Council will write formally to Warrenpoint Port expressing these concerns and seeking clarity on what will be done to ensure this issue is swiftly resolved and will not happen again. We also call on Council's Environmental Health Department to work with Warrenpoint Port and other relevant stakeholders including the NIEA to compile a comprehensive public report that will be brought back to Council-on how this happened and how it will be resolved so it does not happen again. That, furthermore, Council will also invite senior officials from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, Re-Gen Council's Environmental Health Department and the NIEA to present to a Special Council meeting on this ongoing situation. We also call on NIEA, as the licencing authority to compile a comprehensive public report that will be brought back to Council on this matter.			
<i>C/198/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Leid Week</i>	The Motion was referred to Equality and Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>C Moffett</i>	To be discussed at the next meeting of the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group taking place on 20 November 2023	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/199/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Review of Waste Collection</i>	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>A Cassells</i>	Noted	<i>YY</i>
<i>C/200/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Cost of Living</i>	It was agreed that this Council notes with concern that the ongoing cost of living crisis and British Government imposed cuts is exacerbating poverty and financial pain on people in the community; believes that targeting objective need is	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Correspondence sent.	

		<p>fundamental to tackling poverty and inequality; Further believes what is required is a living wage economy and a fair social security system that targets resources where they are most needed and ensures people have a minimum essential standard of living; Recognises that the current social security system, particularly Universal Credit, is not fit for purpose, not properly funded and is failing people; Further recognises that those who rely on Universal Credit are incredibly vulnerable to changing circumstances often beyond their control, such as loss of employment, illness, increased caring responsibilities; and family breakdown; Endorses the Guarantee our Essentials campaign which seeks to ensure everyone can afford the essentials in hard times; And calls on the British Government to introduce an Essentials Guarantee which would ensure, at a minimum, Universal Credit/legacy benefits, would protect people from going without essentials. It was agreed it was worrying to note the latest Consumer Council figures showed that Newry Mourne and Down had the highest costing for home heating oil across the North.</p>			
<i>C/201/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Sexual Discrimination</i>	The Motion was referred to Equality and Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>C Moffett</i></p>	To be discussed at the next meeting of the Councillors’ Equality & Good Relations Reference Group taking place on 20 November 2023	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/202/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare</i>	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>A Cassells</i></p>	Noted	<i>Y</i>

C/203/2023	<i>Emergency Notice of Motion – Removal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital</i>	<p>It was agreed that Council rebukes the Southern Trust for its decision to permanently remove Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital and for disregarding the overwhelming opposition contained within the Trust’s consultation in which 94% of 11,000 plus respondents opposed such a decision.</p> <p>Council reaffirms its opposition to the withdrawal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital in accordance with the expressed views of the people and agrees to write to Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health requesting that he intervenes to pause any decision on the permanent removal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital until the Trust's plans for the future of the Hospital are presented and brought to public consultation.</p> <p>Council requests that the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health carries out a review of the consultation process that has led to the removal of Emergency General Surgery - a vital service from Daisy Hill - an acute hospital - without the consent of the public.</p> <p>Council praises and offers its full support to the frontline staff at Daisy Hill Hospital who have demonstrated unparalleled professionalism and resilience in safeguarding the welfare of local people and patients of the district in the most difficult circumstances which resulted from the mismanagement of the Daisy Hill site by the Southern Trust.</p> <p>Council recognises and supports the need for the transformation of our health service to deliver better health outcomes for our patients but agrees that any permanent decision on the future of Emergency General Surgery at Daisy Hill must not be finalised until after a long-term plan for the future of our</p>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Correspondence sent and response received – see agenda</p>	Y
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		acute Hospital has been produced and consulted on as part of that transformation process.			
<i>END</i>					

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

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 October 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair: Councillor V Harte

In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
	Councillor J Brennan	Councillor P Campbell
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor D Finn
	Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor C Galbraith
	Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
	Councillor J Jackson	Councillor G Kearns
	Councillor T Kelly	Councillor C King
	Councillor M Larkin	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
	Councillor A Mathers	Councillor D McAteer
	Councillor A McMurray	Councillor S O'Hare
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Murphy
	Councillor S Murphy	Councillor A Quinn
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Rice
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor	
Councillor J Truesdale		

In attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Gibbons
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor J Tinnelly	

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/181/2023 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services.

The Chairperson congratulated all recipients of the Chairperson's Civic Awards, a fantastic night that celebrated ordinary people who did extraordinary things across the District. She spoke of a brilliant night which would not have been made possible without the fantastic work done by Sheila Kieran, Sarah Taggart, Patricia Murtagh and others and thanked all involved.

C/182/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Brennan and Hanna declared an interest in item 17 on the agenda: Notice of Motion, Foul Smell from Warrenpoint Port.

C/183/2023 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 September 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 September 2023 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/184/2023 COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 4 September 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/185/2023 **SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2023**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 August 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 29 August 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/186/2023 **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Galbraith.**

C/187/2023 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2023 (copy circulated).

SPR/137/2023: Mournes Gateway Project

In response to Councillor McMurray, Mr Mallon confirmed an agenda item, alternative proposals and a draft Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy would be presented to the Project Board at a meeting to be held on Friday 6 October 2023.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/188/2023 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/189/2023 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 SETEMBER 2023**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

C/190/2023 **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21
SETEMBER 2023**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Bowsie.**

C/191/2023 **PLANNING SECTION**

There were no issues arising.

CORRESPONDENCE**C/192/2023 RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE:
NOTICE OF MOTION C/157/2023 – BACK TO SCHOOL
COSTS**

Read: Correspondence from the Department of Education regarding Back to School Costs dated 11 September 2023. (Copy circulated)

Councillor McEvoy welcomed the response received from the Department of Education and that principals and Chairs of Board of Governors of all schools had been written to urging them to consider cost mitigations for parents. She made reference to consideration being given to primary legislation to enable statutory guidance with emphasis on affordability, however it was disappointing that it would not be progressed without an Executive.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Truesdale to note response from the Department of Education regarding Notice of Motion C/157/2023, Back to School Costs.

C/193/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – MENOPAUSE

The following motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

***"This Council commends the efforts of World Menopause Day on 18th October for raising awareness of the challenges faced by menopausal women;
Notes the limited provision of NHS menopause services, and the difficulty facing women accessing them across the north;
Further notes that women from rural or border communities often face greater challenges in accessing GP services or reliable public transport due to geographical isolation and therefore their experience of menopause can be particularly acute;
Understands that perimenopausal and menopausal women are the fastest growing demographic in the workforce;
Commends the introduction last year of the Civil Service Menopause Policy which aims to ensure those experiencing menopause in the civil service workforce are supported to cope with its challenges and impacts Further commends the education campaign by Newry Mourne & Down District Council to educate and inform staff of these issues;
Welcomes the Let's Talk Menopause initiative which has been rolled out by this Council Health and Well-being group;
And calls on Council to continue its good work in relation to menopause awareness and to continue to identify new initiatives in line with best practice elsewhere in order to support perimenopausal and menopausal women."***

The motion was seconded by Councillor K Murphy.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Hanlon stated there needed to be greater awareness of the challenges facing women experiencing menopause, particularly in the workplace, to ensure they were supported and that the stigma and lack of awareness of the challenges faced by women ended.

She spoke of how menopause affected all women at some point in their lives and how they should get the support they were entitled to and that men needed to be brought into the conversation and raise awareness of what female colleagues may be going through.

Councillor Hanlon spoke of how women during menopause could find themselves physically, psychologically and emotionally drained making it harder for them to meet the demands of the workplace. She added for too long, women and young girls had experienced barriers to receiving the level of healthcare they deserved, particularly in rural areas like South Down where services were being stripped away.

Members were advised a dedicated health strategy for women and girls was needed to improve access to health care and ensure a system that listened and boosted health outcomes. There needed to be a focus on understanding the changing healthcare needs of women throughout their lifetime.

Councillor Hanlon requested that Council write to the Permanent Secretary for Department of Health asking if there were plans for a dedicated women's health strategy and hope to see it as a priority for the Department.

Councillors Devlin, Truesdale, Taylor, Hanna and Reilly each took in turn to speak in support of the motion.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, that this Council commends the efforts of World Menopause Day on 18th October for raising awareness of the challenges faced by menopausal women;**
Notes the limited provision of NHS menopause services, and the difficulty facing women accessing them across the north;
Further notes that women from rural or border communities often face greater challenges in accessing GP services or reliable public transport due to geographical isolation and therefore their experience of menopause can be particularly acute;
Understands that perimenopausal and menopausal women are the fastest growing demographic in the workforce;
Commends the introduction last year of the Civil Service Menopause Policy which aims to ensure those experiencing menopause in the civil service workforce are supported to

cope with its challenges and impacts Further commends the education campaign by Newry Mourne & Down District Council to educate and inform staff of these issues; Welcomes the Let's Talk Menopause initiative which has been rolled out by this Council Health and Well-being group; And calls on Council to continue its good work in relation to menopause awareness and to continue to identify new initiatives in line with best practice elsewhere in order to support perimenopausal and menopausal women. It was agreed Council write to the Permanent Secretary for Department of Health asking if there were plans for a dedicated women's health strategy and hope to see it as a priority for the Department.

Due to technical difficulties it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Andrews to have a recess at this point of the meeting, 18.33pm – 18.47pm.

C/194/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – ANNUAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CALL FOR PROVISION OF LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

The following motion was received from Councillor Sharvin:

"Newry, Mourne and Down Council is fully committed to supporting our sports clubs and community groups in providing lifesaving equipment such as defibrillators and access to CPR training courses. This Council will establish an annual financial assistance call which can be used for purchasing a defibrillator, securing CPR training or replacing AED pads".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6

C/195/2023**NOTICE OF MOTION – EDUCATION AUTHORITY,
TRANSPORT AND AVAILABILITY OF PLACES FOR
CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

The following motion was received from Councillor Galbraith:

***"This Council is fully supportive of children and young people having access to an education they are entitled to.
This Council will seek answers from the Education Authority in relation to the yearly confusion, distress and upset caused as a result of the failure to provide transport on time to those who are entitled to it. Furthermore the Council notes with concern and seeks assurance from the Education Authority in relation to the lack of places available to those children with additional needs".***

The motion was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Galbraith voiced concern at how again this year, the Education Authority had warned about a significant shortfall in places for pupils in special schools across Northern Ireland and this had come after an Education Authority Committee had been told there was a need for more than 850 additional places in special schools last year.

Councillor Galbraith said it was appalling that very significant and life-defining decisions for vulnerable children were being made on the criteria of cost rather than in accordance with need. He spoke of how capacity meetings between the Education Authority and special schools were completed for the September 2023 intake and showed there would be a significant shortfall in placements available in our special schools.

Members were advised that last year almost 300 pupils were left without school transport after taxis that had been tendered by the Education Authority did not show up. Over 3500 pupils, most of which have special needs, were brought to and from school by Education Authority provided taxis. The Education Authority claimed last year that securing taxis for school transport had become increasingly difficult. Councillor Galbraith questioned that with the Education Authority knowing this information from this time last year, and previous years, why appropriate plans were not in place before September 2023.

Members were asked to fully support children and young people having access to transport and an education they were entitled to.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Andrews spoke of concerns around the stress and worry that goes along with what was happening on a yearly basis and assurances needed to be sought from the Education Authority to address the lack of places available to those that needed it the most.

In speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Truesdale said none of this was a surprise to her and spoke of her experience as a teacher and Education Authority officer for over 20 years in what she referred to as 'fringe education, special needs,

children with additional needs, children who came to NI from other countries and travellers. The mess parents and children were faced with year in, year out and the reason for it was very simple, these fringe areas were the first to be cut and were always the collateral damage.

Councillor Truesdale said the numbers of pupils without a school place and or suitable transport was a failure of area planning on the part of the Department of Education and the Education Authority as well as a lack of Minister at the helm.

Councillor Taylor spoke in support of the motion and the importance of getting it addressed in an appropriate and swift way as this was happening year on year, and that hopefully an Executive would be up and running again with a Minister in place take leadership on an issue such as this.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Hanlon said it was important to note some of the problems were caused by a lot of children not getting stated on time and that the Education Authority were dealing with a backlog of requests for transport and commended Education Authority staff who were dealing with extreme pressures.

Councillor Hanlon asked that an addition to the motion be accepted so that Council ask how the Education Authority were going to address the backlog of educational statements after the yearly annual review.

Councillor Galbraith agreed to accept Councillor Hanlon's amendment.

Councillor Bowsie voiced support for the motion and referred to supply issues with transport and how the Education Authority had a lot of complexities to face.

Councillor Galbraith thanked Members for their support of the motion.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor Andrews that Council fully supportive of children and young people having access to an education they are entitled to.

This Council will seek answers from the Education Authority in relation to the yearly confusion, distress and upset caused as a result of the failure to provide transport on time to those who are entitled to it. Furthermore the Council notes with concern and seeks assurance from the Education Authority in relation to the lack of places available to those children with additional needs.

It was also agreed that Council ask how the Education Authority were going to address the backlog of educational statements after the yearly annual review.

C/196/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – CLEAN INDOOR AIR

The following motion was received from Councillor Trusdale:

"Having learned the importance of ventilation and clean indoor air for health and productivity during Covid; and seeking to take all reasonable steps to enable use of all Council facilities by all citizens, including the most vulnerable and so further enable inclusion.

By seeking to care for the health and wellbeing of Council employees, this Council will commit to signing and implementing 'The COVID Safety Pledge': to report on steps already taken to prioritise clean indoor air in all council premises within the district starting with Downshire and Monaghan Row sites.

To report on what further or additional steps could be taken to improve indoor air quality and information about indoor air quality for employees and service users, and to develop and promote advice that can be followed to provide clean indoor air at events supported by NMDDC "

The motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

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

Councillors Brennan and Hanna left the meeting at this point having declared an interest – 7.02pm.

C/197/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – FOUL SMELL FROM WARRENPOINT PORT

The following motion was received from Councillor Gibbons:

"This Council is concerned about the ongoing foul smell emanating from Warrenpoint Port, the impact this is having on resident's quality of life and the potential risk it poses to public health.

Whilst we accept that steps are being taken to address the smell, many questions and concerns still remain about how it came about and how much longer it will last. Council will write formally to Warrenpoint Port expressing these concerns and seeking clarity on what will be done to ensure this issue is swiftly resolved and will not happen again. We also call on Council's Environmental Health Department to work with Warrenpoint Port and other relevant stakeholders including the NIEA to compile a comprehensive public report that will be brought back to Council-on how this happened and how it will be resolved so it does not happen again".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

Councillor Tinnelly commented that the motion had followed a very well attended public meeting in Warrenpoint and that residents did not feel they were getting full transparency from the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority as a corporate body and that they did not feel listened to and their concerns were not being addressed.

Councillors Kelly, McAteer, Ruane and Taylor each spoke at length in support of the motion on behalf of their parties.

Councillor Ruane put forward an amendment to Councillor Gibbon's Motion for consideration as follows:

"That, furthermore, Council will also invite senior officials from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, Re-Gen Council's Environmental Health Department and the NIEA to present to a Special Council meeting on this ongoing situation. We also call on NIEA, as the licencing authority to compile a comprehensive public report that will be brought back to Council on this matter".

Councillor Gibbons agreed to accept Councillor Ruane's amendment.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that this Council is concerned about the ongoing foul smell emanating from Warrenpoint Port, the impact this is having on resident's quality of life and the potential risk it poses to public health.**

Whilst we accept that steps are being taken to address the smell, many questions and concerns still remain about how it came about and how much longer it will last. Council will write formally to Warrenpoint Port expressing these concerns and seeking clarity on what will be done to ensure this issue is swiftly resolved and will not happen again. We also call on Council's Environmental Health Department to work with Warrenpoint Port and other relevant stakeholders including the NIEA to compile a comprehensive public report that will be brought back to Council-on how this happened and how it will be resolved so it does not happen again.

That, furthermore, Council will also invite senior officials from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, Re-Gen Council's Environmental Health Department and the NIEA to present to a Special Council meeting on this ongoing situation. We also call on NIEA, as the licencing authority to compile a comprehensive public report that will be brought back to Council on this matter".

Councillors Brennan and Hanna rejoined the meeting at this point – 7.13pm.

C/198/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – LEID WEEK

The following motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

"This Council recognises and supports the Ulster Scots Community of Newry Mourne and Down. The Ulster-Scots Language is widely used by everyone from all sections of the community in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. For a number of years now, as part of the celebration and promotion of the Ulster-Scots Leid or Language, a special week has been set aside in the calendar where events and activities take place to bring the Language to the people. With events taking place between 20 – 24 November.

Leid Week also aims to help dispel some of the myths about the Ulster-Scots language - that it is not the preserve of one community or another but is spoken by people from all diverse backgrounds and rather than being a 'recently made up' language, it has been around for centuries. For many years, the language has suffered from neglect by public services and Leid Week is an opportunity for councils across NI, community organisations and corporate body/statutory agencies, schools, and youth organisations etc to help improve better understanding of the language and its shared history and heritage. Across NI, many councils are now directly organising events or activities to celebrate Leid Week and are working with organisations to deliver activities/events as part of the Leid Week celebrations. Indeed, Derry City and Strabane District Council this year has opened a funding call for community groups to apply to facilitate Leid Week events. Newry Mourne and Down Council will recognise and commit resources to Leid week for the benefit and support of Ulster Scots Groups across our district. Council commit to lead on a community themed event for this year's celebrations."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Bowsie.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to Equality and Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

C/199/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – REVIEW OF WASTE COLLETION SERVICE

The following motion was received from Councillor Jackson:

"This Council commits to undertake a full cost benefit analysis of the waste collection service for the entire District, including benchmarking total cost of service delivery against private sector providers. This review should include analysis of the volume of missed bins and broken bins reported both across the entire District and by DEA. This Council is committed to delivering basic Council services efficiently and cost effectively. Every ratepayer should be delivered a quality service".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

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

C/200/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – COST OF LIVING

The following motion was received from Councillor K Murphy:

"That this Council notes with concern that the ongoing cost of living crisis and British Government imposed cuts is exacerbating poverty and financial pain on people in the community; believes that targeting objective need is fundamental to tackling poverty and inequality; Further believes what is required is a living wage economy and a fair social security system that targets resources where they are most needed and ensures people have a minimum essential standard of living; Recognises that the current social security system, particularly Universal Credit, is not fit for purpose, not properly funded and is failing people; Further recognises that those who rely on Universal Credit are incredibly vulnerable to changing circumstances often beyond their control, such as loss of employment, illness, increased caring responsibilities; and family breakdown; Endorses the Guarantee our Essentials campaign which seeks to ensure everyone can afford the essentials in hard times; And calls on the British Government to introduce an Essentials Guarantee which would ensure, at a minimum, Universal Credit/legacy benefits, would protect people from going without essentials."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mathers.

In presenting the motion Councillor K Murphy commended the work of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Trussell Trust in leading the Guarantee our Essentials Campaign.

Members were advised the Campaign aimed to embed within the social security system the principle that as a minimum the standard allowance of universal credit/ personal allowance of legacy benefits, should protect people from going without essentials.

Councillor K Murphy stated that whilst the Social Security System was supposed to act as a safety net for when people lost their jobs, found themselves unable to work or when their income was too low, the reality was that years of Tory austerity, cuts and freezes to benefits, wages were not keeping pace with inflation and along with the soaring price of food, fuel, energy and housing costs many people were left unable to meet their most basic needs. She added that whilst the cost of living crisis had stretched most people's household finances there could be no doubt that those who had the least had been disproportionately impacted.

Councillor K Murphy spoke at length about the impact this had on people's lives and how a fair social security system that ensured, as a minimum, that essential needs were met.

Members were advised that by endorsing the Guarantee our Essentials Campaign Council would be sending a very positive message to those who were struggling in our communities.

Councillors Lee-Surginor, Hanna and Taylor voiced support for the motion behalf of their party's.

In supporting the motion, Councillor Finn spoke of how as winter approached issues had the potential to be exacerbated given the increased pressures on families to ensure that their homes were heated and that it was worrying to note the latest Consumer Council figures showed that Newry Mourne and Down had the highest costing for home heating oil across the North.

Councillor Finn asked that an amendment to the motion be considered to note this and therefore to strengthen the motion and Councils support to all of our residents during the cost of living crisis.

Councillor K Murphy agreed accept Councillor Finn's amendment.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers that this Council notes with concern that the ongoing cost of living crisis and British Government imposed cuts is exacerbating poverty and financial pain on people in the community; believes that targeting objective need is fundamental to tackling poverty and inequality; Further believes what is required is a living wage economy and a fair social security system that targets resources where they are most needed and ensures people have a minimum essential standard of living; Recognises that the current social security system, particularly Universal Credit, is not fit for purpose, not properly funded and is failing people; Further recognises that those who rely on Universal Credit are incredibly vulnerable to changing circumstances often beyond their control, such as loss of employment, illness, increased caring responsibilities; and family breakdown; Endorses the Guarantee our Essentials campaign which seeks to ensure everyone can afford the essentials in hard times; And calls on the British Government to introduce an Essentials Guarantee which would ensure, at a minimum, Universal Credit/legacy benefits, would protect people from going without essentials.

It was agreed it was worrying to note the latest Consumer Council figures showed that Newry Mourne and Down had the highest costing for home heating oil across the North.

C/201/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

The following motion was received from Councillor Howell:

"We proposed that Newry, Mourne & Down District Council:

- strongly condemns all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, advocating for policies that safeguard LGBTQ+ rights in housing, education, employment and healthcare;***
- commits to enhancing awareness and understanding of LGBTQ+ issues among Council members, staff and the wider community through education and sensitivity training;***
- supports initiatives that provide safe spaces, counselling, and support services for LGBTQ+ youth to combat bullying, harassment and mental health challenges;***
- actively participates in local Pride events to demonstrate the Council's visible support for the LGBTQ+ community and identifies areas to display LGBTQ+ pride symbols in appropriate public spaces;***
- seeks collaboration with local LGBTQ+ organisations and community groups to better comprehend their needs and explore joint projects that celebrate diversity and inclusivity.***

By adopting this motion, we reaffirm our Council's dedication to promoting equality and inclusivity, with the aim of nurturing a more cohesive community that values its diverse members."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kearns.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to Equality and Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

C/202/2023

NOTICE OF MOTION – ANIMAL WELFARE

24

The following motion was received from Councillor Kelly:

"This Council notes with great concern the announcement by DAERA to cut the £1.25m budget for Animal Welfare in Northern Ireland to zero. This has the potential to adversely impact work being done by local government to meet its statutory requirements for non-farmed animals, and risks causing avoidable harm and suffering to animals. This Council will urgently write to DAERA Permanent Secretary Katrina Godfrey expressing its total opposition to this decision and urging her department to reconsider this retrograde move.

Furthermore, recognising the Council's statutory responsibility, and the importance of inter-agency and partnership to support animal welfare, council will establish an Animal Welfare Forum. This Forum will meet regularly and provide strategic direction to and oversight of officers involved in animal welfare and reporting back to the relevant committee. As well as animal welfare officers, it will seek representation from elected members, dog wardens, local kennelling providers, DAERA, local animal shelters, charities and the PSNI.

This Council also commits to ensuring that, should this cut go ahead, it will commit the necessary budget to ensure its statutory responsibilities for animal welfare are met, and no services are cut or curtailed".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Truesdale.

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

The Chairperson advised an emergency Notice of Motion had been received, the wording of which had been emailed to all Councillors and to enable it to be heard, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Order 16.1.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting).

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

FOR: 39
 AGAINST: 0
 ABSTENTIONS: 0

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Galbraith and by a qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 at this point in the meeting to allow for the tabling of the emergency motion. (copy attached)**

C/203/2023 EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION: REMOVAL OF EMERGENCY GENERAL SURGERY FROM DAISY HILL HOSPITAL

The following Emergency Motion was received from Councillor Savage:

"Council rebukes the Southern Trust for its decision to permanently remove Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital and for disregarding the overwhelming opposition contained within the Trust's consultation in which 94% of 11,000 plus respondents opposed such a decision.

Council reaffirms its opposition to the withdrawal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital in accordance with the expressed views of the people and agrees to write to Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health requesting that he intervenes to pause any decision on the permanent removal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital until the Trust's plans for the future of the Hospital are presented and brought to public consultation.

Council requests that the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health carries out a review of the consultation process that has led to the removal of Emergency General Surgery - a vital service from Daisy Hill - an acute hospital - without the consent of the public.

Council praises and offers its full support to the frontline staff at Daisy Hill Hospital who have demonstrated unparalleled professionalism and resilience in safeguarding the welfare of local people and patients of the district in the most difficult circumstances which resulted from the mismanagement of the Daisy Hill site by the Southern Trust.

Council recognises and supports the need for the transformation of our health service to deliver better health outcomes for our patients but agrees that any permanent decision on the future of Emergency General Surgery at Daisy Hill must not be finalised until after a long-term plan for the future of our acute Hospital has been produced and consulted on as part of that transformation process”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Finn.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Savage stated the decision by the Southern Trust at a Board Meeting (Thursday 28 October 2023) to permanently remove Emergency General Surgery from the acute Daisy Hill Hospital had been taken against the backdrop of a democratic deficit on two fronts.

He said firstly it was a decision that flew in the face of the views of over 11,000 service users and patients across the District who voiced their opposition to the removal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill. 94% of respondents voiced their opposition to this move yet their views and that of upwards of 10,000 people taking to the streets of Newry had been ignored.

Secondly it was a decision that had been taken at a time when there was no Northern Ireland Executive and no local Health Minister in place to make such seismic and impactful decisions. He added such a decision taken in this manner made a mockery of the consultation process which left citizens of the District feeling that there appeared to be no such thing as a temporary removal of a service from Daisy Hill.

Councillor Savage spoke of how again the Trust were making a permanent major cut to services at Daisy Hill before a full picture of the future plans for the hospital had been developed and that the public would find it easier to accept this decision if it was part of a plan for the long-term future of the hospital, a plan that consolidated existing and new services at Daisy Hill long-term and provided clarity for patients and staff.

Councillor Savage continued Councillors recognised the need to transform services for better health outcomes but that he believed decisions like this one needed to be made as part of the process which clearly stated Daisy Hill’s valued role in that service delivery and transformation. It was for this reason he believed this decision needed to be paused by the Permanent Secretary until a long term plan was developed for Daisy Hill.

Councillor Savage stated he believed a plan could be delivered as early as January 2024 and that it made sense to hold off on this decision until the public saw how it fits in to the overall picture of transformation of the health service and the envisaged role Daisy Hill Hospital played in that transformation.

Councillors Murphy, Taylor, McMurray and Lewis voiced support for the motion on behalf of their respective parties.

Councillor Savage thanked Members for their support of the motion.

The motion was unanimously agreed.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Finn that Council rebukes the Southern Trust for its decision to permanently remove Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital and for disregarding the overwhelming opposition contained within the Trust’s consultation in which 94% of 11,000 plus respondents opposed such a decision. Council reaffirms its opposition to the withdrawal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital in accordance with the expressed views of the people and agrees to write to Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health requesting that he intervenes to pause any decision on the permanent removal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital until the Trust's plans for the future of the Hospital are presented and brought to public consultation. Council requests that the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health carries out a review of the consultation process that has led to the removal of Emergency General Surgery - a vital service from Daisy Hill - an acute hospital - without the consent of the public. Council praises and offers its full support to the frontline staff at Daisy Hill Hospital who have demonstrated unparalleled professionalism and resilience in safeguarding the welfare of local people and patients of the district in the most difficult circumstances which resulted from the mismanagement of the Daisy Hill site by the Southern Trust. Council recognises and supports the need for the transformation of our health service to deliver better health outcomes for our patients but agrees that any permanent decision on the future of Emergency General Surgery at Daisy Hill must not be finalised until after a long-term plan for the future of our acute Hospital has been produced and consulted on as part of that transformation process.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2023.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 02/10/23VENUE: Downshire/ MS TeamsMEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Suspend Standing Orders – Emergency Notice of Motion: Removal of Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
C Bowsie	2			
J Brennan	3			
P Byrne	4			
P Campbell	5			
W Clarke				1
L Devlin	6			
C Enright	7			
D Finn	8			
A Finnegan	9			
C Galbraith	10			
M Gibbons	11			
O Hanlon	12			
G Hanna	13			
V Harte	14			
R Howell	15			
J Jackson	16			
G Kearns	17			
T Kelly	18			
C King	19			
M Larkin	20			
D Lee-Surginor	21			
A Lewis	22			
O Magennis	23			
A Mathers	24			
D McAteer	25			
L McEvoy	26			
A McMurray	27			
S O'Hare	28			
D Murphy	29			
K Murphy	30			
S Murphy	31			
A Quinn	32			
H Reilly				2
M Rice	33			
M Ruane	34			
M Savage	35			
G Sharvin	36			
D Taylor	37			
J Tinnelly	38			
J Truesdale	39			
TOTALS	39	-	-	2

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 September 2023 at 6.00pm in
Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair:	Councillor G Sharvin	
In attendance in Chamber:	(Councillors)	
	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor A McMurray
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor C Bowsie	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor L Devlin	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor G Kearns
	Councillor M Larkin	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
	Councillor K Murphy	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor S O'Hare	
In attendance in Chamber:	(Officials)	
	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive	
	Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)	
Also in attendance in Chamber:	Ms A Allen, Chief Executive, NILGA	
Also in attendance via Teams:	Councillor M Garrett, President, NILGA	

SC/017/2023 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Finn.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson assumed the Chair.

SC/018/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/016/2023 PRESENTATION FROM NILGA

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from NILGA and invited them to make their presentation.

Councillor Garrett and Ms Allen thanked the Deputy Chairperson for the invitation to present to Council and highlighted the work that NILGA does on behalf of the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland. (copy of presentation appended to these minutes).

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

Members asked the following questions:

- The NILGA Leadership Programme was very worthwhile along with the ongoing training provided by NILGA.
- What impact can NILGA have in supporting Councils to drive their vision and agenda forward?
- Agreement developed between Scottish government and their member Councils would be something that could be welcomed in Northern Ireland as there seemed to be a push to local government from central when there were financial difficulties. Mutual agreements could be established however given the Executive was not currently sitting, was there any way this could be advanced in order to get a framework in place?

Ms Allen responded to the queries as follows:

- Finance is a huge challenge to all Councils and financial stability should be top of NILGA's agenda for its members. NILGA wants to have conversations about innovation and transformation, creating more streamlined services that work best for residents and creating efficiencies that can then be reinvested into services or deal with potential funding gaps.
- Announced this financial year that NILGA had brought in financial investment to the sector equal to the value of Council's contribution. The investment had come in the form of 2 innovation projects. A partnership between the public sector and SMEs, bringing in SME knowledge to look at long-standing public-sector challenges with regard to waste and the use of assets. There is also a partnership around procurement with PWC bringing investment into the sector thereby becoming more streamlined and efficient. The product to be provided would be a procurement analysis for Council and opportunities at regional level to collaborate across the Councils.
- Meetings were planned with Permanent Secretary regarding operation of Partnership Panel and views for improvements around that. The Verity House Agreement had been signed and outlined the values and behaviours which allowed people to be held to account and has high level political backing. The new Burdens Doctrine was also being investigated which was a piece of legislation in place in England which is an agreement that the English Government would not transfer, either directly or indirectly, any powers to Councils without appropriate financial model to support the transfer. It was hoped to see progress on that matter over the next 4 years.
- NILGA was owned by the 11 Councils and their work was led by Members. NILGA put a lot of effort in both politically and through officer teams to properly reflect what Councils require and any changes or issues that Members or Councils had they can put them forward to NILGA to help. The relationships across the sector were particularly strong and focused on where Councils need to go in partnership with NILGA which would hopefully help with future challenges.

The Chief Executive, Marie Ward stated there was a very close relationship between officer levels in NILGA and SOLACE and there had been a lot of work done in building relationships across Permanent Secretaries Grouping also. She advised this relationship building was critical in the days and months ahead, particularly given the changes to the central government budget and the pressures being faced.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for attending and asked that a list of points of contact for specific people within NILGA was shared to Members.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.39pm.

For adoption at next Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Signed:

Chairperson

Director




1




2

NILGA – Key Benefits




Workforce




- Representing NI councils' strong commitment to workforce
- Coordinated 11 councils through recent industrial action

Elected member development




- Councillor guide / 22 councillors participated in regional learning programme
- Commitment to engaging with Councillor Development Charter & Charter Plus




3

NILGA – Key Benefits




Policy



- Planning reform – LDP, role of members, checklist
- Climate action – Adaptation, council leadership,
- Development – Review of Invest NI / Housing Strategy
- Code of Conduct – lobbying for change


Representation




- Local Government Finance & Replacement EU funding
- UK COVID-19 Inquiry
- Partnership Panel – regeneration, cost of living

4


NILGA – Key Benefits




Communications



- Councils Make it Happen campaign
- Be a Councillor, Make a Difference campaign
- Employee of the Year campaign





5

Local Government for the future



Political instability

Economic inactivity

Poverty & Cost of Living

Net Zero & climate emergency

New technology & data security

Attracting staff

Spending cuts & pay restraint

Regional investment

Good jobs

Green growth, sustainability

Customer expectations

Cultural change

Sustainable LG Finances

Transfer of Regeneration & Planning Reform

More Balanced Central / Local Relationships

Empowering Elected Members

Sector-led transformation

Councils become attractive employers

6

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 9 October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, and
remotely via Microsoft Teams****Chairperson:** Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)**In attendance:** **(Committee Members)**
Councillor T Andrews (Teams)
Councillor C Bowsie (Bowsie)
Councillor P Campbell (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Chamber)
Councillor G Hanna (Chamber)
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
Councillor S Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor A Quinn (Teams)
Councillor M Savage (Chamber)
Councillor J Truesdale (Teams)**(Non Committee Members)**
Councillor J Brennan (Teams)
Councillor D McAteer (Chamber)
Councillor A Lewis (Teams)**Officials in attendance:** Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer**ERT/128/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The following apologies were received:

Councillors Galbraith, King and Tinnelly.

ERT/129/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Campbell declared an interest in agenda item 8 regarding St Patrick's Day Parade 2024.

**ERT/130/2023: ACTION SHEET ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023****Read:** Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 September 2023.**

ERT/131/2023: **NOTICE OF MOTION RE: WARRENPOINT BATHS – C/174/2023**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Notice of Motion re: Warrenpoint Baths – C/174/2023.
(Copy circulated)

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor Ruane and Councillor K Murphy:

"That this Council regrets that Warrenpoint Baths continues to fall into a state of disrepair and has now become an eyesore on what is one of the most scenic views in Ireland.

Welcomes the effort made by Council and local Councillors, who worked hard to ensure planning permission for the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths was retained in 2022.

Expresses its disappointment that a recent funding application to the British Government's Levelling Up Fund to redevelop the Baths site was unsuccessful.

Recognises the construction of Narrow Water Bridge is due to commence in early Summer 2024, and with it will come increased tourism and economic opportunities for the wider Warrenpoint and South Down region.

Further agrees that a viable and innovative project like Warrenpoint Baths will complement the much-anticipated Narrow Water Bridge. This will help to increase tourist numbers to Warrenpoint and drive the local economy.

Agrees that Newry Mourne and Down Council should make the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths a flagship Council project in the new term.

Commits to actively seeking alternative funding for the project through avenues such as the Irish Government's Shared Island Fund."

Councillor Ruane said the issue of Warrenpoint Baths had been on Council agenda since it's closure in 1996 and since then no progress has been made. He said the building was in a dilapidated state and remained an eyesore on Warrenpoint's front shore which has recently been dramatically improved following environmental improvement scheme works.

He referred to the Narrow Water Bridge project due to commence in summer 2024 and given the increase in visitors and tourism this will bring to the area, he therefore urged the Council to redouble it's efforts to bring the development of the Warrenpoint Baths to a conclusion.

Councillor Savage agreed with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Ruane stressing the importance of continuing to seek funding and in the interim consider measures to improve the appearance of the building and adding he was happy to support the Motion.

Councillor Hanna indicated that the DUP party grouping on the Council would neither be

supporting nor objecting to the Motion and would therefore be abstaining.

Councillor Ruane proposed to agree that the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths is considered in the Shared Island funded Feasibility Study on developing Carlingford Lough as a premier outdoor tourism destination, as one of the key projects identified for future capital investment. Councillor Clarke seconded the proposal.

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

For	9
Against	0
Abstentions	2

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed that the redevelopment of Warrenpoint Baths is considered in the Shared Island funded Feasibility Study on developing Carlingford Lough as a premier outdoor tourism destination, as one of the key projects identified for future capital investment.

REGENERATION

ERT/132/2023: ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE: QUINNS BAR, NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director: Regeneration, regarding Entertainment Licence, Quinns Bar, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: It was noted Officers to provide clarification to Councillor Bowsie with regard to arrangements for the noise testing that was carried out at the premises.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that under legislation the licence can only be granted for a maximum period of 12months. As the Licence has been issued for a period of 3 months the licence can only be granted for a further period of 9 months.

As the special conditions have been adhered to, it is recommended to extend the Entertainment Licence for Quinn’s Bar, 62-64 Main Street, Newcastle, BT33 0AE for a further period of 9 months.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

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

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

RESTRICTED – FOR DECISION**ERT/133/2023: DUBLIN BELFAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (DEBC) PROCUREMENTS**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr C Mallon, Director: Economy, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Procurements. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed:

- 1) To approve the attached business case for the procurement of a communications and engagement partner for the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor.
- 2) To approve that Council, appoint delivery agents to progress a research project which will seek to build intelligence and make recommendations for actions to meet needs for labour supply and demand of the corridor.

ERT/134/2023: WARRENPOINT FRONT SHORE REVITALISATION SCHEME

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Warrenpoint Front Shore Revitalisation Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to approve the implementation of the Warrenpoint revitalisation project as set out in the agreed Action Plan, and the allocation of the required match funding from the 2023/24 EI Schemes revenue budget and to proceed with the required procurement exercises and appointment of suppliers to deliver the Warrenpoint Revitalisation Project

RESTRICTED – FOR NOTING

(6.30pm - Councillor Campbell left the meeting)

ERT/135/2023: ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding St Patricks Day Parade. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Bowsie, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.

(6.40pm - Councillor Campbell re-joined the meeting)

FOR NOTING**ERT/136/2023: UPDATE RE: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FLEXIBLE FUND (DTFF)**

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding an update regarding Digital Transformation Flexible Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed note the contents of the report and to request that elected members promote the project to their constituents where possible.

ERT/137/2023: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/138/2023: NI ENTERPRISE SUPPORT SERVICES

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding NI Enterprise Support Services. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the update provided on the proposed implementation of NI Enterprise Support Services.

ERT/139/2023: PEACE PLUS THEME 1.1

Read: Report dated 9 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Peace Plus Theme 1.1.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer’s report.**

ERT/140/2023: LICENSING REPORT

Read: Licensing Report, October 2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the Licensing Report for October 2023.**

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2023.

Signed: **Councillor M Ruane**
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: **Mr C Mallon**
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 12 October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row and
remotely via Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair: Councillor L McEvoy (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber: Councillor O Hanlon Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers Councillor S O'Hare
Councillor A Quinn Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor J Brennan Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Enright Councillor R Howell
Councillor T Kelly

**Non-Committee Members
in Attendance via Teams:** Councillor W Clarke Councillor M Rice
Councillor J Truesdale

**Officials in Attendance
In Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs J Kelly, Director: Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Director: Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr C Moffett, Assistant Director: Corporate Planning and
Policy (Acting)
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth &
Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:**

Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital & Procurement
Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration

SPR/139/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Taylor.

SPR/140/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**SPR/141/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY
14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 September 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2023.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/142/2023: IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2024-2027

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Irish Language Strategy 2024 – 2027. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hanlon thanked officers for the preparation of the report however proposed to defer this item to November SPR Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

Following a request from Councillor McAteer as to the reasons for deferring, Councillor Hanlon stated she would not go into all the details however having spoken to Irish Language groups over the last few things there were a few areas within the strategy document that needed ironed out prior to ratification.

Councillor McAteer proposed the strategy be deferred to a meeting of the Irish Language working group for further discussions. Councillor Sharvin seconded the proposal stating the Irish Language Working group was a productive meeting with great discussion.

Councillor Reilly raised concerns around the costings of the implementation of the strategy and asked whether recruitment for posts would identify that people need to have the Irish language as an essential or desirable criteria as that would disenfranchise a lot of people in the community.

Mr Moffett advised these were objective justification principles and they had always been used under the recruitment and selection processes.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to defer decision until a meeting of the Irish Language Working Group be held for further discussions.**

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/143/2023: COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director, Corporate Services, regarding Council's Decision Making Process. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to note the process**

maps and narratives for dealing with Notices of Motion at both Council and Committee Meetings.

SPR/144/2023:

MOURNE GATEWAY – ICT PROCUREMENT

Read:

Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism regarding Mourne Gateway ICT Procurement. **(Copy circulated)**.

Mr Patterson presented the report stating this was to progress the procurement of an integrated consultancy team (ICT) however the actual appointment of an ICT would be subject to Council approval at a later stage.

The Chief Executive advised she had asked for a further special meeting of the Programme Board to be held prior to the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee in November, the purpose of which would be to give consideration to aspects of the Notice of Motion, in particular in relation to alternatives. She stated officers would present the details of the options that were considered in the development of the Mourne Mountain Gateway project and also provide an update as to how the Council had arrived at the project from its formation in 2016.

Councillor Enright stated that it would be reckless to commit to appointing a consultancy team when Council has no indication of whether they will get a lease for the land from the National Trust who are the landowners. He stated a Memorandum of Understanding was requested from the Department of the Economy along with updated costs and timelines and as this was not forthcoming he proposed to defer any decision on this item. This was seconded by Councillor Kelly.

Councillor Hanlon proposed to accept the officer's recommendation stating that once again Councillors are asking to stall the project which would potentially risk the loss of £30million into the District through the City Deal. She welcomed the input from the Chief Executive that a Special Board Meeting would be held.

Councillor Byrne seconded Councillor Hanlon's proposal stating the appointment of an ICT would help to dispel some of the false news that was being associated with the project. He recognised that people did have genuine fears and questions they need answered however that cannot happen until there is a team in place to do this.

Councillor Reilly stated that Kilkeel Harbour was put forward as a potential project for Belfast Region City Deal however it didn't go through and this had to be accepted. At that time all of the potential projects had gone through rigorous scrutiny. He stated the misinformation around this project was staggering and wondered who was spreading these untruths. He stated there would be opportunities with the project.

Councillor McAteer stated the officers were well versed in how to conduct and bring projects forward, however, for the benefit of new Councillors he felt it maybe helpful for officers to explain how the stakeholder engagement would take place and what form it would take.

Mr Mallon advised the Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy was presented to the Programme Board at its recent meeting and was agreed as the framework for engagement with the public and key stakeholders as the project progressed through the various stages. He stated it would be the responsibility of the Project and Programme Board to design the specific stakeholder engagement events with regard to how and when engagement would take place.

Councillor Enright stated he would be seeking a vote on the issue at the meeting as in his opinion the appointment of an ICT would inevitably commit Council to a large sum of money without seeing what the position of the National Trust as the landowner was.

Councillor Truesdale stated that since Council reconvened after the election, every time the Gateway project has come up, the Alliance had been told the Project Board was the place to discuss issues relating to the project. She stated the Project Board finally met on the 6th of October, the minutes of which were circulated on the 11th of October for review. She stated around 50% of her comments and questions were missing therefore she sent them back for editing and they have not been seen. She went on to say that for this Committee, with no idea of what was agreed at the Project Board, to approve through ICT procurement, which was going to cost the ratepayers hundreds, thousands, millions of pounds was extremely bad governance and a total disservice to the ratepayer.

Councillor Sharvin stated it was a bit disingenuous to say that committee members don't have any idea as to what occurs at the Programme Board. He hoped that party colleagues across the chamber that sit on the Project Board would regularly update their other party members on discussions that take place at the meetings.

The Chief Executive stated it was really important for Members to understand that by approving the process to proceed with ICT does not commit the Council to any costs at this point. The recommendation is to approve the Project Board to progress procurement of an ICT to develop the project to Final Business Case stage. The appointment of the ICT would be subject to Council approval also. This report was allowing Council to get ahead of the procurement process without any commitment to actually signing a contract until such time as a contract for funding was in place.

The Chairperson advised she would take Councillor Enright's proposal at this stage and asked for a roll call vote.

The results of the vote were as follows:

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 12
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The Chairperson advised she would take Councillor Hanlon's proposal at this stage and asked for a roll call vote.

The results of the vote were as follows:

FOR: 12
AGAINST: 2
ABSTENTIONS: 0

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the recommendations of the Project Board to progress procurement of an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop the project to Final Business Case stage. Appointment of the ICT would be subject to Council approval of the Contract for Funding/Funding Agreement.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-18 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Brennan, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

SPR/145/2023: PROPOSED SURRENDER OF LEASE AT LISNACREE

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding proposed surrender of lease at Lisnacree. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to surrender the lease of the lands known as Lisnacree Community Centre subject to the terms set out in this report.

It was also agreed that the Director would revert to Members regarding operational matters concerned with the site.

SPR/146/2023: LICENCE FOR UNIT AT MILLTOWN PLAYING FIELDS

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding licence for unit at Milltown Playing Fields. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to:

- **Enter into a Licence with the Club noted within the report for a period of two years to enable the Club to retain the container placed upon Council lands which are outlined in red on the map attached to the officer's report;**
- **To grant the licence subject to a licence fee of one peppercorn subject to Departmental Consent**

SPR/147/2023: RENEWAL OF LICENCE AT BESSBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding renewal of licence at Bessbrook Community Centre. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to enter into a lease in respect of an office space at Bessbrook Community Centre to the party identified in the officer's report for a period of 12 months subject to the market value rent as noted in the report.**

SPR/148/2023: REPORT ON CONACRE LETTINGS

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Conacre Lettings. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the following was agreed:**

- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect the cutting of grass from the Hay meadow, Kilbroney Park and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement for a period of 4 years with the highest bidder.**
- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Courtney Hill, Newry and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of four years.**
- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of four years.**
- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Rostrevor Cemetery, Rostrevor and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of up to 2 years.**

SPR/149/2023: LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE AT MARKET HOUSE, BALLYNAHINCH

This item was withdrawn by the Chief Executive

SPR/150/2023: FOREST PARK CHARGING

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism regarding forest park car park charging. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve:**

- **1 free carpark pass per household within the District for 1 park of their choice;**
- **To proceed with the collection of drive-up charges and the issuing of resident carpark passes as detailed in the officer's report at the charging rates set out in the report.**

It was also agreed to undertake a 6 month review on the operation of the scheme.

SPR/151/2023: ELECTRONIC GRANT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Read: Report dated 12 October 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism regarding Electronic Grant Management System. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed officers would prepare a communications strategy to assist groups and service users with the move to a new system and approve the business case to procure a new grant management system, and to appoint a suitable supplier from the G-Cloud Framework following the conclusion of procurement processes.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.15pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2023.

Signed: **Councillor Leanne McEvoy**
Chairperson

Signed: **Josephine Kelly**
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2023

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor J Jackson
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Murphy
Councillor S O'Hare

In attendance via Teams: Councillor L Devlin
Councillor D Finn
Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor A McMurray

Non-Members via Teams: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor J Brennan
Councillor J Truesdale

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/108/2023: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Howell.

In the absence of Councillor Howell, Vice-Chairperson Councillor Magennis assumed the Chair.

AHC/109/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/110/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2023. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/100/2023 – Letter of Offer, Area of Risk 2023/24

Councillor Finnegan spoke of a meeting between herself and Mrs Robb and reiterated the need for consultation regarding the needs of the communities of Bessbrook and Crossmaglen.

Saintfield Sports Club

In response for an update from Councillor Jackson in relation to lighting at Saintfield Sports Club, Mr Tamati confirmed lux level light testing had been carried out the previous week and that a further report had been commissioned to include upgrade costs etc and details on that would be brought back to Members to agree next steps.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 September 2023.

AHC/111/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION – HOMELESSNESS

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding a Notice of Motion in relation to Homelessness. **(Copy Circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale spoke at length about the work undertaken regarding homelessness and thanked officers for the detailed response, Councillor Savage for his previous work in bringing agencies together and Council for assisting and facilitating a strong partnership, as 'Housing within the District was integral to the Councils Community Plan'.

Members were reminded Councils overarching strategic Community Plan 2030 - Living Well Together, recognised the need for housing especially social and affordable housing across the District.

Councillor Truesdale commended the work carried out by Council under Homelessness and spoke of how a number of agencies worked on a coordinated interagency basis. She highlighted the work of the Ethnic Minority Support Service who she had worked with and how they were supported by voluntary and statutory organisations in the Mourne area.

Councillor Truesdale stated statutory and voluntary organisations coming together into a stakeholder group was crucial for the success of any large scale multi-faceted issue and whilst NIHE were ultimately responsible for homelessness suggested a presentation from advocates on the ground such as Bolster, Newry Help the Homeless, Welcome or De Paul be arranged.

Councillor Truesdale also suggested a page on the Council website, under a Housing Crisis tab, coordinating all the contact details of all the organisations within the District that may be able to help in a crisis situation be established. She also suggested addiction organisations, domestic and sexual violence organisations, mental health support and PSNI 101 link be added to create an all-encompassing coalition of support.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor that a presentation regarding homelessness be made from advocacy groups such as those listed and a webpage signposting organisations to help people in crisis be included on the Council website.

Councillors Finnegan and Finn spoke in support of the motion and spoke at length about homelessness and the importance of addressing homelessness within the District.

Mrs Robb confirmed she had noted the proposal for a presentation and a webpage and that she would bring forward a report to committee in due course.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the contents of the report and consider inviting NIHE to present on the issue of Homelessness to Council in due course.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor that a presentation regarding homelessness be made from advocacy groups such as those listed and a webpage signposting organisations to help people in crisis be included on the Council website.

AHC/112/2023: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the District Electoral Area Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finnegan raised the issue of Crossmaglen Community Centre being closed at certain times due to staff shortages and asked that alternative arrangements be made available as soon as possible.

Councillor Finnegan advised she had spoken with Mrs Robb to raise concerns and asked that staffing issues be resolved as soon as possible. She asked that the centre be opened to 10pm on 31 October to enable a Halloween event arranged by the Community Association and funded by Council to go ahead as planned.

Mrs Robb acknowledged there were short term staffing issues due to sickness absence and there were currently difficulties recruiting staff for certain types of posts. She confirmed she had undertaken to speak with the Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events to facilitate the original booking for the centre until 10pm on Halloween night.

Councillor Lewis enquired if it was possible to add or replace independent members who may leave during their term at DEA Forums.

Mrs Robb pointed out that elected members should encourage people to step forward and participate in DEA Forums where possible and confirmed there was provision to fill gaps where there was an under-representation in certain areas e.g. business. She advised members to raise within their DEA Forums where such gaps existed.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the update report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:**

- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2023.**
- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 26 September 2023.**
- **Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2023.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 28 September 2023.**
- **The Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 3 October 2023.**
- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 October 2023.**
- **Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 11 October 2023.**

AHC/113/2023 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finn, note the report and approve the actions in the action sheet for Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on 20 September 2023.**

The Chairperson advised item 17 would be taken at this stage of the meeting.

AHC/114/2023 LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST KILLOUGH, ST ANNE’S PARK AND BESSBROOK FOOTBALL FIELDS

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the leasing of Council land and facilities, expressions of interest Killough, St Anne’s Park and Bessbrook Playing Fields. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve for the following Council land to commence and progress through the various stages Councils Sport and Leasing Policy 2016:**

- **Playing Field at St Annes Park, Mayobridge Appendix 1.**
- **Killough Playing Fields, School Road Killough Appendix 2.**
- **Bessbrook Football Fields, Orior Park, Bessbrook Appendix 3.**

Due to technical difficulties the meeting had a recess at this point 6.33pm – 6.38pm.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 19 and 20 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. Three of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Galbraith it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

AHC/115/2023 PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNER – INDOOR LEISURE

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Programme Delivery Partner, Indoor Leisure. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to approve a Public Tender and appointment for up to 3 years for an Indoor Leisure Programme Delivery Partner, subject to annual rates estimates provisions and approve the Business Case for this Public Tender (as per appendix 1 of the officer's report) and Council's procurement policy.

AHC/116/2023 BUSINESS CASE FOR BESSBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development, regarding a business case for Bessbrook Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy to approve the business case for Improvement Works to Bessbrook Community Centre and that project costs be submitted for consideration in the 2024/25 rates estimates.

AHC/117/2023 BUSINESS CASE FOR CLOUGHREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development, regarding a business case for Cloughreagh Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers to approve the Business case for DDA upgrade works to Cloughreagh Community Centre and that the project costs be included in the 2024/2025 rates estimates.

AHC/118/2023 DFC – LIVING HIGH STREET FUNDING

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Department for Communities for Living High Street Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Devlin to approve commencing procurement and appointment of contractors for the projects outlined in section 1.1. of the officers report and in accordance with Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (NIPPP) and approve the business cases as per appendix 1 and appendix 2 of the officers report. It was also agreed that officers, in conjunction with local DEA Councillors, contact relevant landowners of the carpark area adjacent to Dunleath Park to discuss access possibilities.

AHC/119/2023 PROVISION OF SWIMMING POOL MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING PROVISIONS

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the additional spend for Swimming Pool Plant Maintenance and Servicing as outlined in section 1.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/120/2023 **WARRENPOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub Governance Documents . **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the project governance arrangements for the Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub and name change for the project as detailed within the officer's report and note that Council had submitted an application to Peace Plus 1.4 Reimaging Communities in relation to this project.**

AHC/121/2023 **PEACE IV REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Peace IV Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin to note the report and minute from the PEACE IV Partnership held on 22 June 2023 and 21 September 2023.**

AHC/122/2023 **NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the report and the following Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Minutes and action plan:**

- **Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2023, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023.**
- **Newry NRP Action Plan 2023 – 2026, approved at Newry NRP meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023.**

AHC/123/2023 POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 25 July 2023, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 26 September 2023.**

AHC/124/2023 DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME REDUCED BUDGET

Read: Report dated 16 October 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding District Council Good Relations Programme Reduced Budget. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray commented that whilst the decision on cuts had already been made, he was concerned and disappointed at what the reduced budgets meant for the work of DEAs, and enquired what Council was doing to address this shortfall in funding.

Mrs Robb advised representation had been made by all Councils in relation to funding cuts and despite that they had unfortunately went ahead and that was unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.

Mrs Robb commented Council was coming into its own rates estimates process and would be looking closely at its own budget. She added collaboration with partners and working together to share resources to try and deliver on the ground seemed to be the way forward at this time.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the reduced budget from The Executive Office to the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) for 2023/24 and the associated impact on service delivery.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.12pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2023.

Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson

Signed: Paul Tamati
Assistant Director Leisure and Sport

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday
17 October 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan
Row, Newry and via MS Teams.****Chair:** Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)**In Attendance in Chamber:** Councillor W Clarke Councillor D Finn
Councillor J Jackson Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Murphy Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Rice**In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor C Enright Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Truesdale**Officials in Attendance:** Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director Waste Management
Ms G Kane, Acting Assistant Director: Facilities and Maintenance
Mr A Mallon, Acting Assistant Director: Facilities and Maintenance
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer**SE/102/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The Chairperson extended congratulations to Saintfield on finishing 3rd place in the large village category of the 2023 Ulster in Bloom and paid tribute to the committee in Saintfield and to everyone involved.

He also extended best wishes to Elizabeth Wilson on reaching her 100th birthday and requested the Chairperson of Council be notified.

The following apologies were received:

Councillor Savage
Councillor Magennis
Councillor Kearns
Councillor McEvoy**SE/103/2023: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

SE/104/2023: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2023. **(Circulated)**.

Miss Taggart advised the historic action sheet had been amalgamated with the current action sheet.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2023 be noted and actions removed as marked.

NOTICE OF MOTION**SE/105/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: CLEAN INDOOR AIR**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment regarding a Notice of Motion on clean indoor air. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Truesdale presented the following Notice of Motion which was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee from the Council Meeting held on Monday 2 October 2023:

"Having learned the importance of ventilation and clean indoor air for health and productivity during Covid; and seeking to take all reasonable steps to enable use of all Council facilities by all citizens, including the most vulnerable and so further enable inclusion. By seeking to care for the health and wellbeing of Council employees, this Council will commit to signing and implementing 'The COVID Safety Pledge': to report on steps already taken to prioritise clean indoor air in all council premises within the district starting with Downshire and Monaghan Row sites. To report on what further or additional steps could be taken to improve indoor air quality and information about indoor air quality for employees and service users, and to develop and promote advice that can be followed to provide clean indoor air at events supported by NMDDC".

Councillor Truesdale highlighted the following points:

- Most people spend 90% of their time indoors – outdoor air becomes indoor air
- Council should provide information to people on measures taken to promote clean indoor air in its properties as this is restricting those people with underlying health issues from taking part activities in these properties.
- Scientists are looking at clean air as an important method of keeping people safe, ie, reduce absences in schools and workplace.
- What ventilation plans have Council in place for the new Civic Centre and stressed the need for employers to ensure levels of protection against infection are taken.

- The Covid Pledge has been signed by local authorities in England, the Pharmacists Defence Association, the Scottish Trade Union and Belfast City Council – which protects staff ensuring continuity of service to the ratepayer.
- Council should highlight steps taken to provide good air quality in relevant places, to ensure there is a space where people can feel comfortable.
- Council with it's expertise, can provide advice for the promotion of clean indoor air at events supported by the Council.

Councillor Enright formally seconded the Motion

Discussion followed during which Members raised the following issues:

Whilst recognising the merits of such a proposal, a cost evaluation needed to be carried out before the Council would commit to any scheme.

By law in the UK, public sector buildings are required to be moving towards the nearly zero energy building code and Council buildings will have to be refitted in order to comply with this code in the same way public buildings in the RoI have been doing this past 2 years.

Further work was required on this issue including a full cost evaluation , before a final decision would be taken.

The Covid Safety Pledge needed to be looked at in more detail and establish how it would impact on the organisation and how any concerns could be addressed.

Councillor Rice proposed an amendment to the Motion, to include seeking costs for Council buildings prior to agreeing to any works in terms of air filtration measures, and after discussion it was agreed to include the Downshire Civic Centre and the new Civic Centre in Newry only at this stage.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Truesdale seconded by Councillor Enright it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion subject to including that before proceeding with any works, that officers obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire Civic Centre and the new civic centre in Newry and report same back to the Sustainable and Environment Committee for consideration in due course.

**SE/106/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: REVIEW OF WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment regarding a Notice of Motion on a review of the Waste Collection Service. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Jackson presented the following Notice of Motion which was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee arising from the Council Meeting held on Monday 2 October 2023:

"This Council commits to undertake a full cost benefit analysis of the waste collection service for the entire District, including benchmarking total cost of service delivery against private sector providers. This review should include analysis of the volume of missed bins and broken bins

reported both across the entire District and by DEA. This Council is committed to delivering basic Council services efficiently and cost effectively. Every ratepayer should be delivered a quality service”.

Councillor Jackson highlighted the following points:

- To ensure the service is as cost effective as possible for ratepayers
- Given the complaints regarding refuse issues its appropriate to re-evaluate the service and identify where improvements can be made in this key Council service

Councillor Reilly formally seconded the Motion. He said given the Council were currently looking a various types of vehicles etc, with significant changes ahead he felt the Motion was very relevant in terms of examining Council services and identifying where improvements could be made.

Councillor Clarke confirmed Sinn Fein’s opposition to the Motion in it’s current form, their opposition to privatisation of Council services and their solidarity with Council workers who carry out one of the most important roles of the Council, and opposition to putting the ratepayers to this expense.

Councillor Clarke proposed an amendment to remove the wording “*to undertake a full cost benefit analysis of the waste collection service for the entire District, including benchmarking total cost of service delivery against private sector providers*” and to include “*to setting up a Cleansing, refuse Taskforce led by the chairperson of Council to work with all department heads of service, to ascertain what the problems are and develop a framework to resolve them*”

Councillor Rice seconded the amendment.

Councillor Jackson accepted the amendment to the Motion as proposed by Councillor Clarke and seconded by Councillor Rice.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to adopt the following Notice of Motion:

This Council commits to setting up a Cleansing, refuse Taskforce led by the Chairperson of Council to work with all department heads of service, to ascertain what the problems are and develop a framework to resolve them.

This review should include analysis of the volume of missed bins and broken bins reported both across the entire District and by DEA. This Council is committed to delivering basic Council services efficiently and cost effectively. Every ratepayer should be delivered a quality service”.

Noted: It was noted issues regarding the telephone system for the Refuse Service section to be addressed.

**SE/107/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: ANIMAL WELFARE**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment regarding a Notice of Motion on animal welfare. **(Copy circulated)**

The following Notice of Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee arising from the Council Meeting held on Monday 2 October 2023:

"This Council notes with great concern the announcement by DAERA to cut the £1.25m budget for Animal Welfare in Northern Ireland to zero. This has the potential to adversely impact work being done by local government to meet its statutory requirements for non-farmed animals, and risks causing avoidable harm and suffering to animals. This Council will urgently write to DAERA Permanent Secretary Katrina Godfrey expressing its total opposition to this decision and urging her department to reconsider this retrograde move. Furthermore, recognising the Council's statutory responsibility, and the importance of inter-agency and partnership to support animal welfare, council will establish an Animal Welfare Forum. This Forum will meet regularly and provide strategic direction to and oversight of officers involved in animal welfare and reporting back to the relevant committee. As well as animal welfare officers, it will seek representation from elected members, dog wardens, local kennelling providers, DAERA, local animal shelters, charities and the PSNI. This Council also commits to ensuring that, should this cut go ahead, it will commit the necessary budget to ensure its statutory responsibilities for animal welfare are met, and no services are cut or curtailed".

Councillor Truesdale proposed the Motion, subject to removing the final sentence, and was seconded by Councillor Enright.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- The responsibility to budget for animal welfare lies with DAERA.
- In England Scotland and Wales, the RSPCA are more proactive and have more involvement with local Councils and Councils in Northern Ireland should liaise with the USPCA to develop a similar service.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Truesdale seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to remove the final sentence of the Notice of Motion.

On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Rice it was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the outcome of the legal process was known.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/108/2023: NMDDC FOOD SURVEILLANCE AND SAMPLING

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment regarding NMDDC Food Surveillance and Sampling. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms S Murphy gave a presentation on NMDDC Food Surveillance and Sampling.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the above presentation.

SE/109/2023: NMDDC – MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Ms S Murphy Assistant Director Environment, regarding NMDDC Mental Health Champions.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Rice it was agreed to the following nominations from the Sustainability and Environment Committee to be appointed to work with MindWise New Vision as Mental Health Champions for the District:
-Councillor D Finn
-Councillor K Murphy

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-14 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Larkin it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:-

SE/110/2023: BUSINESS CASE RE: MAINTENANCE SERVICING OF COUNCIL LIFTS

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Mr A Sweeney, Facilities Co-ordinator (East) regarding a Business Case for Maintenance Servicing of Council Lifts. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated business case.

It was also agreed to accept the conclusion of the business case that option 4 is chosen as the preferred option. Option 4 will see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to service, maintain and complete safety checks on all

32 No. lifts in the Council asset register, together with updating all autodiallers to GSM Sim Card units.

SE/111/2023: PROCUREMENT OF HIRE VEHICLES

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Barry Torley, Interim Head of Fleet regarding Procurement of Hire Vehicles. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Larkin, the following was approved:

- **The business case to procure a contract for Vehicle Hire services in Appendix 1.**
- **The award of Single Tender Action for vehicle hire services to current suppliers as outlined in section 2.3 of the officer's report.**

SE/112/2023: PROCUREMENT OF ENGINE OILS AND LUBRICANTS

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director, Environment regarding procurement of engine oils and lubricants. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a motor oils and lubricants as in appendix 1 of the officer's report.

SE/113/2023: PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACTS FOR HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE WASTE STREAMS

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director, Environment regarding Procurement of Contracts for Household Recycling Centre Waste Streams. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to approve the following:

- **The economic appraisal for the procurement of a contract to collect/receipt, treat and process residual waste, including large domestic items, from Downpatrick, Castlewellan and Ballynahinch HRC sites and large domestic items collected from the kerbside (bulky collections) in the Downpatrick area in appendix 1 of the officer's report.**
- **The business case for the procurement of a contract to collect/receipt, treat and process paper, cardboard and hard plastic materials at all Council HRC sites.**

SE/114/2023: PROCUREMENT OF DEEP CLEANSING SERVICES

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director, Environment regarding Procurement of Deep Cleansing Services. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to procure Deep Cleansing Services as outlined in appendix 1 of the officer's report.

FOR NOTING – The following items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014**SE/115/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN AND MINUTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 28 September 2023. **(Circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to note the bulletin.

FOR NOTING**SE/116/2023: CALL FOR EVIDENCE RESPONSE ELECTRICITY CONNECTION POLICY FRAMEWORK REVIEW**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director, Waste Management (Acting) regarding Call for Evidence Response – Electricity Connection. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the submission of the attached Call for Evidence response, subject to amendments presented by Councillor Enright. (see Appendix 1).

SE/117/2023: CONSULTATION ON CARBON BUDGETS DAERA

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability & Environment regarding Consultation on Carbon Budgets DAERA. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the submission of the attached Consultation response (see Appendix 1).

SE/118/2023: DFI RE: SLIDDERYFORD BRIDGE TO MURLOUGH

Read: Correspondence dated 04 October 2023 from Department for Infrastructure regarding Slidderlyford Bridge to Murlough.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the above correspondence.

SE/119/2023: TREE STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Mr A Mallon, Assistant Director Facilities Management & Maintenance regarding tree strategy.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed:

- 1) To agree endorsement of the key concepts within the Tree Strategy and to approve this document.**
- 2) Tangible schemes will continue across the district with the intention of increasing Health & Wellbeing District Wide.**

SE/120/2023: RECYCLE WEEK 2023

Read: Report dated 17 October 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director, Environment regarding Recycle Week 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the report.

SE/121/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2023

Read: Minutes of ARC21 Joint Committee Meeting held on Thursday 29 June 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was agreed to note the Minutes of the ARC21 Committee Meeting held on 31 August 2023.

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 November 2023.

**Signed: Councillor T Andrews
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee**

Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment

DfI Roads Major Projects



67

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Your Ref: C/173/2023
Our Ref: STOF-0436-2023
Date: 10 October 2023

Dear Ms Ward,

RE: NOTICE OF MOTION – BALLYNAHINCH BYPASS

Thank you for your letter of 13 September 2023 to the DfI Permanent Secretary regarding the above-mentioned matter. As this is an operational matter, it has been forwarded to myself as Deputy Director of Major Projects for direct reply.

The Direction Order for the A24 Ballynahinch Bypass was made on 16 July 2021. The statutory processes are now largely complete however, the Vesting Order for the scheme cannot be made until funding has been secured to deliver the project. Development work has now substantially concluded, including the preparation of a draft business case however this cannot be submitted to DoF for formal approval until more certainty on funding is achieved.

On 14 August 2023 the Department published a prioritised list of major road schemes that will continue to be progressed. There are a number of reasons why the prioritisation of projects was necessary, including the challenging budgetary position and constrained resources (in terms of finance and staff) and, importantly, the Department's commitments under the Climate Change (NI) Act 2022.

Transport policies and plans are currently being reviewed and updated to align with these commitments and this work will help define what major transport infrastructure projects should be included within any future major roads programme.

The Department is currently drafting a new Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland (TSNI). It will form an overarching framework which will shape the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services up to 2035.

Work is ongoing to complete the draft TSNI for public consultation by end of 2023. Once the draft TSNI has been published, the Department will be able to review all work to date on the draft Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP) in the context of the TSNI and the carbon target for transport, which has not yet been set.

I appreciate NMDDC's ongoing support for the scheme however I hope that you and the local Councillors understand the Department's position at this time and trust that the information provided demonstrates that the Department is maintaining a watching brief on the scheme.

I hope that you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Saulters
Deputy Director Major Projects

From the Permanent Secretary
Katrina Godfrey



Our reference: SCORR-0406-2023

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
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Sheila.Kieran@nmandd.org

11 October 2023

Dear Marie

BLUE / GREEN ALGAL BLOOMS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Thank you for your letter of 13 September 2023 (your reference C/177/2023) advising of the motion adopted by your Council on 4 September.

We have noted and share the council's concern about the impact of blue green algae and have a significant programme of work underway, working in collaboration with other government departments and agencies, to address that impact. That work is underpinned and informed by science. Officials here will continue to engage with relevant councils as part of that work programme.

We have also noted the Council's call for the establishment of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). I know you will appreciate that decisions on the nature and structure of any new environmental governance arrangements will be for an incoming Executive and Assembly and I will ensure that the Council's motion is brought to the attention of a new DAERA Minister when appointed.

Thank you again for taking the time to share the details of this motion with me.

Yours sincerely



KATRINA GODFREY

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



Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Sarah-Louise.Taggart@nmandd.org

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559

Email: peter.may@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: C/193/2023

Our ref: SCORR-1181-2023

Date: 23 October 2023

Dear Marie

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 October 2023 regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's agreed Notice of Motion on menopause.

I recognise the need for greater awareness of the challenges facing women experiencing peri/menopause and the Council should also be commended for its work in this area, both supporting women and educating staff.

I further understand the desire for a dedicated Women's Health Strategy for Northern Ireland and recognise the need for a greater focus on women-specific issues. The commissioning of any new health strategy will ultimately be dependent on the priorities of an incoming Health Minister. However, there is much we can do in the meantime. There is already significant work underway across our health service and across many specialties providing care to women and girls of all ages. The Department's focus is now on building upon this work and improving service delivery, education and awareness within our current financial and staff resources.

The Department is continuing to engage closely with colleagues from the other countries through the UK Menopause Taskforce to seek opportunities for sharing and building on the work that has already been done elsewhere. There is also potential for further service developments within Northern Ireland where staff working in the gynaecology field have a special interest in menopause and are seeking to establish their own clinics.

A regional multi-disciplinary team on menopause has recently been established through the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Department has had some initial discussions about how it may be possible to work with this network to gather data about services and take a holistic approach to service delivery going forward.

I trust you find this information of help.

Yours sincerely



Peter May

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



Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Marie.Ward@nmandd.org

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Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559

Email: peter.may@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: C.203.2023

Our ref: SCORR-1182-2023

Date: 13 October 2023

Dear Marie

Thank you for your letter dated 4th October. Your letter outlined your Council's concerns at the Southern Trust's decision to permanently remove Emergency General Surgery from Daisy Hill Hospital following a public consultation process that took place in earlier this year.

I recognise the Council's decision to oppose the closure of services that you put forward. The view of the Council and its constituents represent one of the factors that the Trust must take into account when making a final decision on the way forward.

Where a Trust is proposing changes to service provision which are significant and controversial in nature they must comply with the Change and Withdrawal of Services Guidance 2011. Given recent structural changes across the HSC system, an updated circular was issued to the Trust in August 2023. The Trust has a statutory duty to comply with this guidance and in doing so sought approval to commence the public consultation process on changes to Emergency General Surgery across the Southern Trust area.

However, Departmental support for a public consultation in itself is not an endorsement to effect longer term or permanent change. The process recommended in the circular requires the Trust to provide the Department of Health with an outcome consultation report in which the Department (through SPPG) will take account of the following factors:

- the extent to which the proposal is consistent with the Minister's priorities and Departmental policies;
- that the proposals are reasonable and the impact they will have on interdependent services or other providers;
- the assessment of the proposal against set criteria; and
- the views of public and local community representatives.

The Department of Health was assured that the correct approach was taken by the Southern Trust to ensure local stakeholders were engaged in the planning of services for the Newry area, hence why the consultation process was supported.

I do expect that you will have informed the Trust directly of the outcome of your recent discussions and, previous to that, have shared your views as part of the consultation process. Further to that, I understand that the establishment of the Daisy Hill Future Group provides a platform for ongoing engagement and participation in the overall configuration of services in the Newry area.

Once the Department has been informed of the outcome of the consultation and when a decision is to be made on the final configuration of services these views will be taken into account along with the other factors that I have outlined above.

Yours sincerely



Peter May

Subject FW: Council Motion

From: David Holmes <dholmes@warrenpointharbour.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 5:41 PM
To: Taggart, Sarah-Louise <Sarah-Louise.Taggart@nmandd.org>; Ward, Marie <Marie.Ward@nmandd.org>
Cc: Kieran Grant <KGrant@warrenpointharbour.co.uk>; Gerard O'Hare - Parker Green <wg@parkergreen.com>
Subject: Council Motion

CAUTION: This email originated outside of Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Marie,
We are in receipt of your letter pertaining to the Council Motion.
The WHA Board have discussed this request today and WHA representatives will be available to attend a suitable forum, subject to receipt of the findings of the WHA investigation that is being commissioned.
In the interim the operation referred to continues with the audited approval of the NIEA.
Sincerely,
David

David M. Holmes
Chief Executive Officer
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority

