



November 28th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 1st December 2025** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025

 [Action Sheet 2025 11 03.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025

 [Council Minutes 2025 11 03.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

5.0 Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2025

 [Economy Regeneration and Tourism Minutes 2025-11-10.pdf](#)

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6.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2025

 [Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting Minutes 2025-11-13.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2025

 [Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 2025 11 17.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2025

 [Sustainability_and_Environment_Committee_Minutes_2025_11_19.pdf](#)

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9.0 Planning Section

Correspondence

10.0 Correspondence Report

 *Correspondence Report Council 2025 12 01.pdf*

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10.1 Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council regarding their motion on Caoimhe's Law

 *Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council re Caoimhe's Law.pdf*

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10.2 Response from DAERA Minister Muir re NOM - ReGen Waste Storage Operation at Warrenpoint.

 *Response from Minister Muir MLA.pdf*

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10.3 Response from CCMS Re NOM - Closure of Local Primary Schools

 *Response from CCMS.pdf*

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10.4 Correspondence from SRC re Fishing Industry Visa & Enhancement Support

 *Response from SRC re Fishing Industry Visa & Enhancement Support.pdf*

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10.5 Response from Minister Kimmins re NOM - Resurfacing and Long Term repair of main A Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle

 *Correspondence from Minister Kimmins MLA.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

11.0 Notice of Motion - St Louis' Grammar School, Kilkeel

(Pupils from St Louis' Grammar School, Kilkeel will be in attendance to present their motion as winners of the Local Democracy Week event held by the Chairperson)

"Young people need to be better prepared before voting at 18"

12.0 Notice of Motion - Caoimhe's Law

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Galbraith:

"Caoimhé's Law is a proposed piece of legislation aimed at addressing gaps in road safety measures, particularly those that endanger the lives of vulnerable individuals, such as children and pedestrians. The law is named in memory of Caoimhé O'Brien, whose tragic death has galvanized families and campaigners across Northern Ireland to push for stronger road safety measures. By supporting this motion, we take a

stand for justice and safety, and demonstrate our commitment to protecting the lives of those who are most at risk on our roads.

This motion calls on this Council to:

- *Publicly support Caoimhé's Law;*
- *Write to the Minister for Justice, and to MLAs, urging them to prioritise this legislation;*
- *Call on the Minister for Infrastructure to begin drafting the law in consultation with families and campaigners;*
- *Use Council communications and social media platforms to educate the public;*
- *Request the opportunity for campaign representatives to present to the relevant committee;*
- *And ask that other councils across Northern Ireland join us in enforcing and promoting this campaign."*

13.0 Notice of Motion - Physician's Associates

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Rice:

"This Council voices its dismay that the Department of Health has continued to fund this bespoke course, while the previous graduating classes have not been able to secure a job within the North.

This Council recognises the acute pressure our hospitals are under and voices its frustration that many graduates are being forced to leave these shores once they graduate.

This Council calls on the Department of Health to act on the findings of the Leng Review and allocate funding for the positions of Physician Associates within our Hospitals and GP surgeries."

14.0 Notice of Motion - Parking

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Kearns:

"That this Council recognises the importance of revitalising our town centres and the challenges of parking in Newry city and Downpatrick; acknowledges the need to encourage people to shop locally; further recognises that workers, businesses and shoppers need access to parking and that availability of parking is an asset to the economic development of the area; also acknowledges the commitment of the Minister for Infrastructure to assess all options to ease pressure in relation to on-street parking and to make on-street parking free on public holidays.

Calls on Council officials to introduce appropriate parking incentives for off-street car parks in time for the retail rush ahead of Christmas.

This can take the form of one hour free and/or a reduced rate for multiple hours – three hours for £1 making it easier and more attractive for people to shop locally is in the interests of workers, shoppers and businesses, and will lead to greater local economic activity."

15.0 Notice of Motion - Closing of the Down Recorder

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Bowsie:

"Newry, Mourne & Down District Council expresses our sadness at the loss of our district's oldest newspaper.

The Down Recorder has been a trusted source of local news since 1836, capturing our district's highest and lowest points for almost two centuries. As a district council, we thank the Down Recorder for their dedication to local news and sport over the decades.

Print media captures an array of local news and culture that online media cannot and losing this publication is a great loss for our district. Thus, we express our concern at losing one of our main sources of local journalism and convey our continued support for the important role local news outlets have in local democracy."

16.0 Notice of Motion - Watercourses

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Truesdale:

"That this council conducts a scoping exercise and creates an available map of watercourses throughout the district where they are the Riparian owners meaning they are responsible for their maintenance and conducts a survey into their condition and any works required, e.g. dredging, and clearing of debris. Presents a report of costs involved and returns it to council/committee for decision. To write to DfI Rivers with this information outlining watercourses DfI are responsible for ensuring the free flow of to alleviate flooding and to assist land drainage

This council presents a clear timeline with repairs for the retaining walls of the Shimna River Newcastle as well as a plan, in conjunction with DfI, for the Shimna River weir."

17.0 Notice of Motion - Water Quality

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Finn:

"Newry Mourne and Down District council notes with disappointment recent figures that suggest water quality levels at two lakes in the district were of poor quality; recognises the environmental importance of ensuring our District has clean bodies of water: further recognises the economic potential of ensuring bodies of water such as Newry Canal and Camlough lake are clean and fit for use; and will work with DAERA and other external bodies to support improvements to water quality"

18.0 Notice of Motion - Newcastle Flooding

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Devlin:

"That this Council notes with deep concern the recent flooding events in Newcastle, which caused significant distress and disruption to residents; recognises that timely maintenance of gullies, drains and land is essential to reducing flood risk; and therefore calls on the Department for Infrastructure and DAERA to work together, as a matter of urgency, to: implement a regular programme of inspection, clearance and maintenance of gullies, drains and associated infrastructure in Newcastle, particularly in known flood risk areas; including the need for NI Water to expedite their hydraulic modelling review of the sewerage system serving Marguerite and the surrounding area, publish their results and identify a permanent solution; ensure DAERA-owned or managed lands are maintained to facilitate the free flow of water and prevent blockages; and that both departments engage with this Council, local elected representatives and the Newcastle RCRG to identify priority locations and establish clear lines of accountability and communication ahead of future heavy rainfall events, so that every reasonable step is taken to prevent future flooding and protect local homes, businesses and community facilities."

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Ms Lynne Fitzsimons

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Mrs Catherine Hanvey

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Catherine Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Ms Carol McClean
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Jonathan McGilly
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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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Ruth Rooney
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
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Conor Smyth
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Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Ms Sinead Trainor
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/128/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 01.07.2024</i>	It was agreed item C/058/2024: Twinning Newry with City of Ramallah should remain on the action sheet.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Ongoing	<i>N</i>
<i>C/160/2025</i>	<i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 October 2025</i>	It was agreed to note the action sheet	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/161/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 October 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/162/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held 29 September 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/163/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Audit Committee meeting held 25 September 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/164/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held 13 September 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/165/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	<i>Y</i>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	<i>held 16 October 2025</i>				
<i>C/166/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held 20 October 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/167/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held 22 October 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/168/2025</i>	<i>Planning Section</i>	There were no issues arising	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/169/2025</i>	<i>Correspondence Report</i>	It was agreed to request a meeting between the Minister for Infrastructure and the Mournes DEA Councillors.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Correspondence Sent	Y
		It was agreed not to send a representative to the NAC AGM & Conference and that all relevant information regarding future events be provided to Party Leaders when a request for attendance at a conference was received.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
		It was agreed to note the correspondence report and the following correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure re NOM – Resurfacing of main A-Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle (C/137/2025) 	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence from Mid-Ulster Council regarding their motion on CAR-T Cell Therapy (C/123/2025) Correspondence from NI Office regarding NOM – Voting Age Reduction (C/120/2025) Correspondence from Office of the Secretary General to the President regarding NOM – President of Ireland (C/136/2025) Correspondence from SEHSCT re NOM – Enhancement of Services at Downe Hospital (C/058/2025) Correspondence from Health Minister re NOM – Ladies with Letters (C/153/2025) NAC AGM & Conference Correspondence from Taoiseach Office re NOM – Freedom Flotilla (C/157/2025) 			
<i>C/170/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Reporting of Criminal Damage</i>	The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	<i>J Kelly</i>		
<i>C/171/2025</i>	Notice of Motion – Closure of Local Primary Schools	It was agreed that this Council notes with deep concern the proposal by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) to close both St. Malachy's Primary School Kilclief and Killowen Primary School by August 2027. Whilst recognising that the final decision is subject to a public consultation it is the position of this council that any subsequent closure of these schools will be significantly detrimental to the children of these areas, their families and the wider communities. In relation to St Malachy's Kilclief, it recognises the deep roots and longstanding contribution of the school to community life, and acknowledges the	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Correspondence Sent	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>strong opposition to closure from parents, staff, pupils and residents. Council further believes that all efforts should be made to explore viable alternatives to closure, including the potential expansion of special educational needs (SEN) provision on the existing site, to serve families across the wider district.</p> <p>In relation to Killowen, were the proposed closure to be confirmed this council is concerned at the potential negative impact that the decision may have on the main catholic primary school within Kilbroney Parish, namely St. Bronagh's PS in Rostrevor. This council will formally write to the CCMS to express our opposition to these proposed closures and request that they be withdrawn forthwith. Furthermore, we request that engagement between CCMS and the Board of Governors recommence at the earliest opportunity to ensure the children of both schools can continue to be educated on the site that best suits their needs and just as importantly where generations of their family, friends and neighbours were previously taught. We also ask that the CCMS explore opportunities to invest in and expand SEN provision at the St. Malachy's site to meet growing regional demand.</p>			
<i>C/172/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Revitalisation Project</i>	The Motion was referred to the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	<i>C Mallon</i>		
<i>C/173/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Festival for Newry City</i>	The Motion was referred to the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	<i>C Mallon</i>		

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 November 2025 at 6.00pm in Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor P Campbell

In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor J Brennan Councillor W Clarke Councillor K Feehan Councillor C Galbraith Councillor G Hanna Councillor M Hearty Councillor J Jackson Councillor A King Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor O Magennis Councillor D McAteer Councillor K Murphy Councillor S O'Hare Councillor M Rice Councillor D Taylor Councillor H Young	Councillor C Bowsie Councillor P Byrne Councillor L Devlin Councillor D Finn Councillor O Hanlon Councillor V Harte Councillor T Howie Councillor G Kearns Councillor C King Councillor A Lewis Councillor A Mathers Councillor D Murphy Councillor S Murphy Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Ruane Councillor J Truesdale
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In attendance via Teams:	Councillor C Enright Councillor R Howell Councillor A Quinn	Councillor M Gibbons Councillor M Larkin Councillor J Tinnelly
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Officials in attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
 Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Health Communities
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

C/158/2025

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor McEvoy.

The Chairperson delivered the following remarks:

- He extended his congratulations to Kilcoo on winning the Senior Football Championship, marking their 13th title in the last 14 years and their 23rd

championship title overall. He stated that this achievement was a testament to their consistency, commitment, and dedication to the sport.

- He highlighted the Junior Football Championship final, where Kilclief and Ardglass met in what he described as a true local derby. While expressing his disappointment at Kilclief's loss, he commended Ardglass on their victory. He praised Kilclief for their remarkable achievements this season, having reached three finals, including the Senior Camogie and Hurling finals, and acknowledged their dedication and commitment despite the outcomes.
- He wished Downpatrick Football Club every success in their new home on St Dillon's Avenue, noting their continued efforts to grow the game at the grassroots level in the county.
- He thanked everyone involved in the successful cross-country event at Dunleath Playing Field, particularly commending Pat Power for his hard work.
- He welcomed the appointments of the first-ever Irish Language Commissioner and Ulster Scots Commissioner, emphasising their role in representing and collaborating with those who celebrate these languages. He noted that, for many in the District, the appointment of the Irish Language Commissioner was a monumental step for enhancing and protecting the language.
- He reaffirmed his commitment to supporting young people across the District and expressed delight at welcoming pupils from 11 schools to participate in his Dragons' Den initiative as part of Local Democracy Week. He explained that the initiative offered students the opportunity to present motions and issues that mattered to them, and thanked all involved in organising the event, including members of Youth Voice who sat on the panel along with Councillors Bowsie, A King and Quinn. He offered congratulations to St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, for their winning motion, stating that seeing young people passionately engaged in local democracy filled him with great hope for the future and the potential of youth to positively shape communities.
- He expressed his privilege at attending the 50th anniversary of St. Paul's Primary School in Downpatrick, praising the dedication of the teaching staff and wishing them well for the next 50 years.

C/159/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/160/2025 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2025

Read: Action sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 October 2025.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Brennan, the Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 1 September 2025 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/161/2025 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2025

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 October 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Clarke, the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.

C/162/2025 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 September 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 29 September 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/163/2025 **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 25 September 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 25 September 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.

C/164/2025 **MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.

C/165/2025 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2025 (copy circulated).

Councillor Bowsie welcomed the Ulster Scots Working Group and thanked all Parties for their support with regard to the naming of the working group.

Councillor McAteer advised that he attended the meeting and requested that this be recorded.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Hearty, the Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted subject to the above amendment.**

C/166/2025 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2025 (copy circulated).

Councillors Andrews, Bowsie, Campbell and Lee-Surginor wished the Rowallane DEA Coordinator, Ellen Brennan, all the best on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her continuous hard work over the years.

AHC/088/2025: Downpatrick DEA Multi-Sports HUB Review

Councillor Devlin welcomed the review and queried the progress of the previously discussed proposal for a running track in County Down, noting that her Party colleague had previously requested a timescale for the consultation. She also sought clarification on the next steps should no suitable land be available.

Mr Patterson advised that the results of the consultation would be tabled at a Downpatrick DEA forum meeting, with proposals to follow in due course.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, the Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.**

C/167/2025 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 October 2025 (copy circulated).

SE/116/2025: Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change Act

Councillor Reilly expressed his disappointment that, in his view, no Party had given his motion serious consideration. He noted his concern that the targets set out within the Climate Change Act would cause irreparable damage to the farming industry.

SE/117/2025: DAERA Public Consultation on Northern Ireland's Draft Climate Action Plan 2023 – 2027

Councillor Reilly stated that the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) had recently passed a vote of

no confidence in DAERA in relation to the Nitrogen Action Plan, as it was believed the Plan would cause detrimental harm to the agricultural industry. He proposed that the Council declare its support for the UFU's vote of no confidence and write to the Minister to advise him of this decision. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Campbell requested a recess to allow Members to discuss the proposal. This was proposed by Councillor Finn and seconded by Councillor Byrne.

The meeting did then recess – 6.23pm
The meeting did then resume – 6.30pm

Cllr Devlin left the meeting at this stage – 6.24pm.

Councillor Campbell noted that as there was dissent within the Chamber the proposal would be put to a vote. Councillor Reilly requested a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows: (copy attached)

FOR	6
AGAINST	30
ABSTENTION	0

Councillors Andrews and McAteer were not present in the chamber during the vote.

The motion was declared lost.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, the Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.**

C/168/2025 PLANNING SECTION

There were no issues arising.

C/169/2025 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Read: Report from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council (copy circulated).

Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure re NOM – Resurfacing of main A Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle (C/137/2025)

Councillor Hanna expressed his disappointment with the response, noting that the road required substantial improvement works. He stated that widening at Ballagh Road was critical, as large vehicles could not pass each other at the same time, resulting in undue congestion. He further highlighted that there were well-known accident-prone areas and that relying solely on PSNI data was inaccurate, as some incidents were not reported. He also noted that the PSNI often did not attend minor incidents, which contributed to incomplete data.

Councillor Reilly expressed his disappointment with the response, stating that six deaths was not an inconsequential number, and that disregarding a request for improvements in light of these fatalities was disappointing to the families affected.

Councillor Clarke echoed the sentiments previously expressed, stating that for a main A-road not to receive the requested improvements would hinder the Council's Tourism Strategy. He further noted that the number of deaths on a road was not an accurate measure of the need for improvements. He proposed that the Council respond to the correspondence and request a meeting between the Minister for Infrastructure and the Mournes DEA Councillors. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

Councillor Campbell confirmed that everyone was in agreement with the proposal.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to request a meeting between the Minister for Infrastructure and the Mournes DEA Councillors.**

Correspondence from SEHSCT re NOM – Enhancement of Services at Downe Hospital (C/058/2025)

Councillor Hanlon emphasised that Elected Representatives did not choose the issues and concerns raised by constituents in the Council Chamber, noting her disappointment with the tone of the letter. She acknowledged that the Downpatrick Urgent Care facility was an excellent service but stated that this did not diminish the ongoing campaign to reinstate an A&E at the Downe, which could not be overlooked.

Correspondence from Secretary of State for Northern Ireland re NOM – Voting Age Reduction

Councillor Quinn welcomed the attention given to lowering the voting age but expressed her disappointment at what she perceived as a lack of enthusiasm from the UK Government to take action. She referenced the recent Local Democracy Week, noting that it had been well attended by 16- and 17-year-olds, who would have to wait another year or two before being able to exercise their right to vote.

National Association of Councillors AGM & Conference

Councillor Harte queried whether there was an AGM within the province.

Councillor Andrews stated that all Councillors had received emails and newsletters that outlined the dates of all NAC meetings.

Mrs Ward advised that the item was on the agenda for Members to decide whether to send a representative to the AGM.

Councillor Hanna queried the relevance of the meeting to Elected Members and what the benefits of attending would be for Council.

Councillor Byrne noted that the process of consulting Party Leaders was intended to ensure cross-Party support and that the content of a meeting would be of benefit to the Council. He

stated that education was not directly related to a Councillor's role and proposed that no one attend this conference. He caveated this by acknowledging that Elected Members were nominated NAC Members and should be eligible to attend conferences but stressed that attendance needed to be relevant given the associated costs to the ratepayer.

Mrs Ward advised that a paper could be brought back to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee regarding upcoming NAC meetings and any potential benefits to the Council. She stressed, however, that NAC Members would be invited to all NAC events, and it was for Members to decide whether to attend.

Councillor Andrews expressed his disappointment at not being able to attend and argued that there should be a consistent approach across all Councils regarding attendance at conferences. He stated that, while mindful of the cost to ratepayers, he felt proud to represent both his Party and the Council at such events.

Councillor Hanlon queried the content of the conference, stating that the title of "Councillors Role in Shaping Education" was not relevant for this Council and queried the benefit that Council would gain from sending a representative.

Councillor Andrews advised that he had been asked to prepare a presentation for the conference on fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis in Northern Ireland. He stressed that learning was a two-way process and that this would provide a benefit to the Council.

Councillor Byrne reiterated his proposal not to send a representative to the AGM and requested that all relevant information regarding future events be provided to Party Leaders when a request for attendance at a conference was received. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Harte.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Harte, not to send a representative to the NAC AGM & Conference and that all relevant information regarding future events be provided to Party Leaders when a request for attendance at a conference was received.**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor S Murphy, seconded by Councillor K Murphy to note the correspondence report and the following correspondence:**

- **Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure re NOM – Resurfacing of main A-Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle (C/137/2025)**
- **Correspondence from Mid-Ulster Council regarding their motion on CAR-T Cell Therapy (C/123/2025)**
- **Correspondence from NI Office regarding NOM – Voting Age Reduction (C/120/2025)**
- **Correspondence from Office of the Secretary General to the President regarding NOM – President of Ireland (C/136/2025)**

- **Correspondence from SEHSCT re NOM – Enhancement of Services at Downe Hospital (C/058/2025)**
- **Correspondence from Health Minister re NOM – Ladies with Letters (C/153/2025)**
- **NAC AGM & Conference**
- **Correspondence from Taoiseach Office re NOM – Freedom Flotilla (C/157/2025)**

Cllr Larkin joined the meeting during the above discussions – 6.38pm

C/170/2025 NOTICE OF MOTION – REPORTING OF CRIMINAL DAMAGE

The following Motion was received from Councillor Hanna:

"This Council should report all incidents of criminal damage to council property to PSNI, promptly, asap after damage has been discovered. This is to assist police building a picture of criminal damage in an area, so resources can be secured by local police to address the problem."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Reilly.

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

C/171/2025 NOTICE OF MOTION – CLOSURE OF LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The following Motion was received from Councillor A King:

"That this Council notes with deep concern the proposal by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) to close both St. Malachy's Primary School Kildief and Killowen Primary School by August 2027. Whilst recognising that the final decision is subject to a public consultation it is the position of this council that any subsequent closure of these schools will be significantly detrimental to the children of these areas, their families and the wider communities.

In relation to St Malachy's Kilclief, it recognises the deep roots and longstanding contribution of the school to community life, and acknowledges the strong opposition to closure from parents, staff, pupils and residents. Council further believes that all efforts should be made to explore viable alternatives to closure, including the potential expansion of special educational needs (SEN) provision on the existing site, to serve families across the wider district.

In relation to Killowen, were the proposed closure to be confirmed this council is concerned at the potential negative impact that the decision may have on the main catholic primary school within Kilbroney Parish, namely St. Bronagh's PS in Rostrevor.

This council will formally write to the CCMS to express our opposition to these proposed closures and request that they be withdrawn forthwith. Furthermore, we request that

engagement between CCMS and the Board of Governors recommence at the earliest opportunity to ensure the children of both schools can continue to be educated on the site that best suits their needs and just as importantly where generations of their family, friends and neighbours were previously taught. We also ask that the CCMS explore opportunities to invest in and expand SEN provision at the St. Malachy's site to meet growing regional demand."

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

Councillor A King urged Members to support her motion opposing the proposed closures of St Malachy's Primary School, Kilclief, and Killowen Primary School. She stated that these schools were more than just buildings, describing them as the heart of their rural communities that provided generations of children with education, belonging, and connection. She warned that closure would remove local provision and undermine community life.

Councillor A King highlighted that St Malachy's had strong roots and significant parental backing, arguing that the proposal to close it ignored evidence of continued local need and contradicted key principles of the *Policy for Sustainable Schools*, the *Bain Report*, and the *Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016*. She stressed that school sustainability involved not only numbers but also accessibility, quality, and community contribution. She called on the Department of Education and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) to genuinely apply rural proofing rather than a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Instead of closure, she proposed exploring alternative options, such as expanding Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision at St Malachy's, which could meet regional demand, safeguard local jobs, and enhance inclusive education. Regarding Killowen, she warned that its closure could increase pressure on St Bronagh's in Rostrevor, which was already facing enrolment challenges, and stated that the wider educational impact had not been properly assessed.

Councillor Tinnelly expressed concern about the increasing number of rural primary school closures in recent years, noting that despite widespread opposition from affected local communities, their views and objections were routinely ignored. He warned that such closures should never become normalised or go unchallenged, emphasising that while each rural school faced its own challenges, their true value could not be measured purely in financial terms. He stated that this ongoing threat often became a self-fulfilling prophecy, as parents, fearing closure, moved their children elsewhere, reducing enrolment and inadvertently providing CCMS with justification for what he described as a "scorched earth" policy.

Councillor Rice stated that the potential closure of Killowen Primary School had come as a shock to the parents, staff, and children of the village, noting the opposition expressed at the public consultation event. He stressed the negative impact such a closure would have on the local community and emphasised the importance of children continuing to access education close to home in a nurturing, community-based setting. He encouraged the CCMS and the Department of Education to give serious consideration to the responses received during the public consultation.

Councillor Hanna offered his Party's support for the motion, stating that the issue was ultimately for the CCMS to make a recommendation to the Education Authority for a final decision, but emphasised the importance of allowing local stakeholders to voice their opinions.

Councillor Lee-Surginer spoke in support of the motion on behalf of the Alliance Party, noting that he had witnessed firsthand the warm and nurturing environment within the school. He stressed that a school was central to rural community life, providing not only education but also connection and stability for families across generations.

Councillor Taylor stated that little regard appeared to be given to the impact of a local school closure on a rural community and stressed the need to explore all other options prior to closure, such as increasing SEN provision.

Councillor McAteer described proposed school closures as an assault on the rural community. He highlighted the Council's potential role within the Local Development Plan (LDP) to build around rural schools, enhancing communities and helping schools remain open, but stressed that a holistic approach, rather than a school-by-school approach, was needed.

The Chairperson noted the rural nature of the District and stated that the Council had a responsibility to oppose school closures. He emphasised that schools often provided extracurricular activities for the whole community, including seasonal events, which helped to bring rural communities together.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor A King, seconded that Councillor Tinnelly, that this Council notes with deep concern the proposal by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) to close both St. Malachy's Primary School Kilclief and Killowen Primary School by August 2027. Whilst recognising that the final decision is subject to a public consultation it is the position of this council that any subsequent closure of these schools will be significantly detrimental to the children of these areas, their families and the wider communities.

In relation to St Malachy's Kilclief, it recognises the deep roots and longstanding contribution of the school to community life, and acknowledges the strong opposition to closure from parents, staff, pupils and residents. Council further believes that all efforts should be made to explore viable alternatives to closure, including the potential expansion of special educational needs (SEN) provision on the existing site, to serve families across the wider district.

In relation to Killowen, were the proposed closure to be confirmed this council is concerned at the potential negative impact that the decision may have on the main catholic primary school within Kilbroney Parish, namely St. Bronagh's PS in Rostrevor.

This council will formally write to the CCMS to express our opposition to these proposed closures and request that they be withdrawn forthwith. Furthermore, we

request that engagement between CCMS and the Board of Governors recommence at the earliest opportunity to ensure the children of both schools can continue to be educated on the site that best suits their needs and just as importantly where generations of their family, friends and neighbours were previously taught. We also ask that the CCMS explore opportunities to invest in and expand SEN provision at the St. Malachy's site to meet growing regional demand.

C/172/2025

NOTICE OF MOTION – REVITALISATION PROJECT

The following Motion was received from Councillor Feehan:

"This Council acknowledges the ongoing issue of dereliction and dilapidation in town and city centres across the District. Council recognises that the revitalisation of these derelict and dilapidated buildings is crucial, not only for the aesthetic renewal of our towns but also for unlocking the potential of underutilised spaces, creating new opportunities for business, and enhancing both civic pride and quality of life for residents.

Accordingly, this Council calls for the establishment of a pilot programme aimed at incentivising the restoration and redevelopment of vacant and derelict properties in Newry and Downpatrick. This pilot programme should focus on providing financial incentives, such as grants, low-interest loans, or other forms of support, to property owners who are committed to refurbishing these buildings to bring them back into productive use.

This Council also requests that a report be brought to the relevant committee within 3 months outlining the steps to develop the pilot programme, including potential eligibility criteria, financial incentives, available funding sources from existing government initiatives, and timelines for implementation. Additionally, Council is requested to explore collaboration with government agencies, including the Department for Communities, the Department for Infrastructure, and other relevant bodies, to co-opt existing funding mechanisms such as the Urban Regeneration and Community Development (URCD) schemes or Neighbourhood Renewal funding to support this initiative."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galbraith.

AGREED:

The Motion was referred to the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6

C/173/2025

NOTICE OF MOTION – FESTIVAL FOR NEWRY CITY

The following Motion was received from Councillor Finn:

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commends the work and success of Eats and Beats, Footsteps in the Forest and Wake the Giant and agree to commencing work towards a festival for Newry City."

The motion was seconded by Councilor Feehan

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6

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

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 December 2025.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 03/11/2025 **VENUE:** Downshire Civic Centre **MEETING:** Council Meeting
SUBJECT OF VOTE: Proposal by Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Taylor to support UFUs vote of no confidence in DAERA

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

H Young		30		
TOTALS	6	30	0	5

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 10 November 2025 at 6.00pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town
Hall**

Chairperson: Councillor D Lee-Surginor

**Committee Members
in attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor S Murphy
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor H Young

Committee Members

in attendance via Teams: Councillor W Clarke Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor A Quinn

Officials in attendance:

Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth and Tourism
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance
via Teams:**

Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager

ERT/106/2025

APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Tinnelly.

The Chairperson advised that in an effort to be more transparent, many of the reports were tabled in open session while the appendices were in closed session. He asked that should Members have any questions regarding an appendix that they wait until the meeting was in closed session to raise any queries.

ERT/107/2025

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ERT/108/2025

**ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2025**

Read:

Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13
October 2025 (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by

Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 October 2025.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

ERT/109/2025

FRIENDS OF CASTLEWELLAN ARBORETUM AND ANNESLEY WALLED GARDEN

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism regarding Friends of Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Walled Garden. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, which set out a proposal for the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council and Friends of Castlewellan Arboretum and Walled Gardens which would be a newly formed group. The establishment of this group was noted as a legacy of the capital project underway at Castlewellan Forest Park and was intended to be formed from members of the local community.

In proposing the recommendation, Councillor Andrews expressed appreciation for the considerable work that had been undertaken in the Arboretum and Walled Garden over many years.

In response to enquiries from Councillors Hanlon and Young, Mrs Smyth clarified that the proposed MOU was between the Council and the group, which had not yet been established. She explained that the formation of the group was a separate process, with community members responsible for developing the terms of reference, defining membership, and determining the scope of the group.

In response to a question from Councillor Lewis regarding Members' possible role within the group, Mrs Smyth stated that she understood a call for expressions of interest in joining the group would be issued by the community representatives who would lead the establishment of the group.

Councillor Clarke highlighted the significant improvements observed in the Arboretum following the involvement of a previous Friends of the Arboretum and enquired about the potential for social prescribing. Mrs Smyth confirmed that this would fall within the scope of the group and undertook to feed this back to those involved.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to approve the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Walled Garden for the purpose of working in partnership for the benefit of the Arboretum and Garden

ERT/110/2025

LOCAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (LEP)

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Local Economic Partnership (LEP). **(Copy**

circulated)

Mrs Smyth advised that a letter of offer had been received from the Department for the Economy (DfE) to support the delivery of the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) action plan. She outlined the three associated business cases and noted that the initiative was now entering the project mobilisation phase.

In proposing the recommendations, Councillor Harte expressed delight at the establishment of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre and emphasised that joined up and collaborative working was essential to transforming town centres and supporting local employers.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Feehan, who enquired about timelines and next steps following the completion of the derelict and vacant commercial property mapping research. Mr Mallon confirmed that preliminary scoping had been undertaken and, following the selection of settlements by LEP, the process would move forward to the Grant Fund and associated support to address dereliction and vacancies across the district. He further explained that a fund had been included in the action plan to support this theme, with work commencing early in the new year to develop an application process for market release.

Councillor Galbraith welcomed the recommendations, commended the excellent work undertaken in bringing the initiative together, and expressed interest in seeing how the research would inform future actions to revitalise areas within the district.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Feehan, the following was agreed;

- **Accept the Letter of Offer for Local Economic Partnership**
- **Approve the business cases outlined in Appendix 1 for the following programmes:**
 - **Productivity Growth Programme**
 - **AI: Empowering Business Through Awareness**
 - **Derelict/Vacancy commercial property mapping research**
- **Approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre for delivery of the project "Derelict/Vacancy commercial property mapping research".**

ERT/111/2025

MID YEAR REVIEW OF ERT BUSINESS PLANS 2025-26

Read:

Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Mid Year Review of ERT Business Plans 2025-26. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Mallon outlined the report, advising that it provided an assessment of progress in relation to the delivery of business plan targets.

Councillor Andrews requested that his appreciation for the Planning Team be formally recorded. He enquired whether the Planning Department had a dedicated section responsible for handling business-related applications to ensure they were processed efficiently, thereby supporting job creation and investment within the district.

Mr Mallon responded that, upon receipt of applications, their type, scale, and potential economic impacts were considered. He further advised that a dedicated section within the Planning Department was responsible for managing major applications, and such cases were referred to this team to ensure timely and appropriate processing.

Councillor Hanlon noted that she had recently received complaints regarding straightforward planning applications that had remained in the system for an extended period and wondered whether measures could be taken to expedite the processing of such applications.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Feehan, the Mid Year Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 was agreed.**

ERT/112/2025

PEACEPLUS THEME 1.1

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, which set out the agreed actions of the PEACEPLUS partnership and the business cases requiring ratification, noting that the PEACEPLUS programme was 100% funded and incurred no cost to the Council.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to approve the procurement and delivery of the below activities under Strand 1 and 2 of the Co-designed Local Action Plan:**

- **Strand 1.2 Enhancement of Community facilities.**
- **Strand 1.2 Enhancement of Sporting Facilities.**
- **Strand 2.6 Social and Emotional Support programmes – intergenerational Arts and Crafts**
- **Strand 2.6 Social and Emotional Support Programmes – Intergenerational End Violence Against Women and Girls.**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Lewis, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.**

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

ERT/113/2025

EAST BORDER REGION - SHOWCASING 50 YEARS OF GENUINE CROSS BORDER COLLABORATION

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding East Border Region – 50 years of cross border collaboration. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to award East Border Region a financial contribution towards their proposal for celebrating 50 years of cross border collaboration.

ERT/114/2025

DOWNPATRICK SPECIAL STAGE CAR RALLY 2026

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Downpatrick Special Stage Car Rally. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed that Council support the Ballynahinch & District Motor Club through an Service Level Agreement arrangement for the hosting of the Downpatrick Special Stage Car Rally in July 2026, subject to funding being agreed in the rates setting process with the value of the SLA detailed at section 4.1 of the officer's report.

ERT/115/2025

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2025/26 CALL 4

Read:

Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Financial Assistance 2025/2026 Call 4: Community Facilities Capital works & Community Facilities Minor Capital Items. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the issuing of Letters of Offer to projects as per Council Policy to the groups recommended for the award of funding within the budget allocation for each theme. It was also agreed that pre-letter of offer conditions must be met prior to issue of full letter of offer.

ERT/116/2025

LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP - ACTION PLAN

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding NMD Labour Market Partnership 2025/2026.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Andrews, the following was agreed;

- To accept a revised Letter of Offer from Department for Communities for NMD Labour Market Partnership (LMP) for 2025/2026 and undertake associated management and implementation in line with the approved action plan, business case and associated procurement
- To approve the revised business case attached to the officer's report for the implementation of NMD Labour Market Partnership Action Plan for 2025/2026 based on the upper budget.
- To approve required procurement exercises in accordance with Council's procurement policy. Routes to market may include utilising Belfast City Council framework, issuing Service Level Agreements, Value for Money exercises, quotes and tenders.
- To accept a Letter of Offer from Department for Economy to deliver a Pre Apprenticeship Academy, a procurement route of the Belfast City Council framework.

ERT/117/2025

PLAY PARK RESURFACING AT KILBRONEY FOREST PARK

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Play Park resurfacing at Kilbroney Forest Park.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, it was agreed to procure via the ESPO Framework a contractor to resurface the older children's play park at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor.

FOR NOTING

ERT/118/2025

MUSEUMS QUARTERLY REPORT (JUL-SEPT)

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Quarterly Museums Report (Q2 25/26 July-Sept). **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Hanna regarding Ballykinlar Hut, Mr Mallon advised he

would revert to the member outside of the meeting.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to note the update provided on the activities, programming and achievements of NMD Museums.**

ERT/119/2025

NEWRY BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Newry – Business Improvement District.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was noted that Council have received formal notification from Newry BID, of their intention to hold a renewal ballot for a Business Improvement District for Newry and a report will be tabled at a future committee meeting to consider the detail of the business plan.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.43pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 December 2025

Signed: **Councillor D Lee-Surginor**
Chairperson
Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: **Conor Mallon**
Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

27

Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon

**In Attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor A King
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor C King
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor M Rice

**Committee Members in
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor R Howell
Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Hearty
Councillor T Howie
Councillor D Taylor

Non-Committee Members

In Attendance: Councillor T Andrews

Non-Committee Members

In Attendance via teams: Councillor C Bowsie

**Officials in Attendance
in Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital & Procurement
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance
Ms C McClean, Assistant Director of People & Legal
Ms A Smyth, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism
Ms M Hughes, HR & OD Manager
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/183/2025:

APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

An apology was received from Mr Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism.

SPR/184/2025:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

SPR/185/2025:

ACTION SHEET OF STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2025

Read: Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 16 October 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed to note the action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 16 October 2025.**

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

SPR/186/2025: **MID YEAR ASSESSMENTS OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS**

Read: Report from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, and Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Mid-Year Assessment of Chief Executive and Corporate Services Business Plans 2025 - 26. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, the Mid Year Assessment of Chief Executive and Corporate Services Directorate was agreed.**

SPR/187/2025: **MID YEAR ASSESSMENT – PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2025-26**

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Mid-Year Assessment – performance Improvement Plan 2025-26. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne outlined the Report, advising Members that the information presented may be subject to change once results were verified by the Northern Ireland Audit Office prior to 30 September 2026.

Councillor Byrne queried the baseline energy consumption and why no targets had yet been established, to which Mr Byrne advised that the Performance Improvement Objective for 2025/26 was to establish the baseline, which would then inform the development of targets for 2026/27 to support future growth.

Mrs Murphy added that energy consumption reporting was a new statutory obligation for Council, and that targets would be set through a Climate Action Plan in partnership with DAERA, in line with the Net Zero 2050 plan. She noted that consultation was ongoing and welcomed all feedback.

Councillor McAteer highlighted the low number of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling, referencing complaints he had received. He expressed hope that performance would improve once vacant posts were filled. He also referred to the Planning Department statistics and expressed his hope that processing times would improve.

Mrs Murphy reported that recruitment was ongoing, with the Education & Enforcement Manager post now filled, which would be key to ensuring staff coverage, targeted

interventions and enforcement activity. She reminded Members of the online reporting tool for dog fouling.

Councillor Hanlon referred to the recent discussion at the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee meeting where she had raised concerns regarding processing times for major applications and the resulting impact on other applications.

Councillor Byrne queried the HGV sweepers introduced within the District, noting their inability to access smaller spaces in Crossmaglen, and asked what steps were being taken to address this.

Ms Murphy advised that a review of the District cleaning schedule was under way to ensure an equitable allocation of resources across the District, including residential areas for which Council had responsibility. She confirmed she would follow up with the Member after the meeting.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McAteer, the Mid Year Assessment – Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26 was agreed.**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Lewis, 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 O'Hare, seconded by Councillor A King, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

SPR/188/2025: RENEWAL OF MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

Read: Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Renewal of Microsoft Enterprise Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed to approve the renewal of Council's Microsoft Enterprise agreement through a compliant procurement route. This represents a continuation of existing**

arrangements, with all associated costs already included within budget.

SPR/189/2025: HEALTH CASH PLAN

Read: Report from Ms M Hughes, HR & OD Manager, regarding Health Cash Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to support the continuation of the Employee Health Cash Plan as outlined within the report.**

SPR/190/2025: LEASE ARRANGEMENTS – DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK CARAVAN PARK

Read: Report from Mrs C McClean, Assistant Director of People & Legal, regarding Lease Arrangements – Delamont Country Park Caravan Park **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to defer this item to allow officers to bring back further information on the proposed lease.**

SPR/191/2025: ACCESSIBILITY PROPOSAL

Read: Report from Mrs C McClean, Assistant Director of People & Legal, regarding Accessibility Proposal. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor A King, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, the following was agreed:**

- **AccessAble be commissioned to develop guides for Council venues and locations.**
- **The relevant Year 1, 2 and 3 costs be included in the rate setting process for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.**

SPR/192/2025: MINI-DIGI HUB PROJECT BESSBROOK

Read: Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital Projects & Procurement, regarding Mini-Digi Hub Project Bessbrook. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor C King, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed commence procurement and appointment of a contractor to undertake the works as outlined within section 2 of the Officer's Report.**

SPR/193/2025:

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR: CORPORATE SERVICES

Read:

Report from Mrs Ward, CEO, regarding Recruitment Director: Corporate Services. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor C King, seconded by Councillor Rice, the following was agreed:

- **To approve the recruitment for Director: Corporate Services**
- **Confirm the recommendations as contained within 2.1 of the Officer's Report**
- **Nominations to the selection panel to be appointed in due course, in consultation with Party Leaders.**

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

SPR/194/2025:

EXEMPT NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MINUTES 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

Read:

Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Minutes 5 September 2025 **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the minutes.

SPR/195/2025:

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – QUARTER 2 2025/26

Read:

Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Management Accounts - Quarter 2. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the Quarter 2 2025/26 Management Accounts.

SPR/196/2025:

MINUTES OF SFWG MEETING HELD 4 NOVEMBER 2025

Read:

Minutes of SFWG Meeting held 4 November 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the minutes.

SPR/197/2025:

**LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
SUB-0772-2025**

Read:

Correspondence from the Department for Communities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the correspondence.

FOR NOTING

SPR/198/2025:

**OFFICER REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE FROM
CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA DATED 2 JUNE 2025 RE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

Read:

Report from Ms C McClean, Assistant Director of People & Legal, regarding Officer Report on Correspondence from Consulate General of the United States of America dated 2 June 2025 re 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Reilly asked whether it would be possible for the Council to undertake some form of audit within the District to identify any roles played by residents and their ancestors in the formation of the United States of America.

Mrs Ward cautioned that conducting a District-wide audit could require substantial resources. However, she advised that the matter would be discussed with museum colleagues to determine whether any relevant information could be gathered without significant resource implications.

Councillor Reilly clarified that he was not seeking an extensive piece of work, but rather a high-level overview that could inform any future discussions.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note correspondence had been discussed at the Councillor's Equality & Good Relations Reference Group on 8 October 2025, and that the consensus of Members present was to support the Museum and Heritage Services section organising a talk or small exhibition to acknowledge this anniversary.

SPR/199/2025:

ATTENDANCE AT NI AMENITY COUNCIL AGM

Read:

Recommendation from Party Representatives to allow attendance by an Elected member at the NI Amenity Council AGM.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the recommendation.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.54pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 December 2025.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
 Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2025

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 17 November 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers,
Downshire Civic Centre**

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor J Brennan
Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor A Mathers
Councillor K Murphy

Councillor A King
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor D Murphy

**Committee Members in
attendance (via Teams):**

Councillor D Finn
Councillor O Magennis

Councillor R Howell
Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in Chamber:

Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/095/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Jackson and McEvoy.

Councillor Bowsie congratulated Killyleagh Community Association for being named Runner-Up in the Best Kept Large Village category at the 2025 Best Kept Awards.

AHC/096/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/097/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER
2025**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025.

AHC/098/2025: MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT OF AHC DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2025-26

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mr A Patterson, Director: Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Mid-Year Assessment of AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing, Councillor D Murphy noted the positive progress made on the good relations events, the Digi Hub in Bessbrook, and a range of ongoing works within the various community centres and funding for community groups throughout the district. Councillors Truesdale, A King and Finn echoed Councillor D Murphy's sentiments.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Truesdale regarding the Newcastle Centre and Newcastle Rock Pool, Mr Patterson confirmed that further information on the projects would be provided to Members in the coming weeks.

Councillor A King referred to page 5 of the report, which highlighted positive health outcomes reported by participants in targeted health programmes, and enquired how this data had been gathered and whether a benchmark existed.

Mr Haughey explained that participants had been referred either by their GP or through the exercise referral process, which was a 12-week programme. He advised that progress was monitored throughout and upon completion. He noted that many participants with health conditions tended to drop out after six or seven weeks, but that monitoring was undertaken for those who completed the course and continued to use the facilities independently.

Councillor Finn requested an update on the installation of communication boards at Council play parks to increase accessibility for children across the district. Mr Haughey confirmed that these had been rolled out at all new parks and stated that boards would also be installed at parks completed within the past year. Councillor Truesdale referred to her previous notice of motion that had called for the installation of communication boards in play parks, and she welcomed the roll out of this initiative.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor A King, to approve the Mid-Year Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26.

AHC/099/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUM UPDATE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finn noted that Davina's Ark had won the Community Wellbeing Initiative Category at the All-Ireland Pride of Place community awards and highlighted the valuable service they provided across the district. Councillor Finn stated that it was important that organisations such as Davina's Ark were recognised for the work they undertook and proposed that a letter of congratulations be issued.

Mr Patterson advised that the Chair of Council would be hosting a reception for Davina's Ark following their success.

Councillor Mathers spoke on the excellent service provided to people in the Newry area and noted that the recent Newry DEA Forum had proposed that the Chairperson be invited to host the reception for Davina's Ark in recognition of their work.

- AGREED:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:**
- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025.**
 - **Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025**
 - **Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025.**
 - **Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 October 2025.**

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

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

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

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

AHC/100/2025: PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNER

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding Programme Delivery Partner. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to proceed with the procurement and appointment of a suitable provider under the revised contract arrangements as outlined within the officer's report.**

AHC/101/2025: AHC FACILITY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding AHC Facility Framework Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor Mathers, to enter into a Framework Agreement for the design, supply, delivery, installation renewals and inspection of facilities as outlined within the officer's report.**

FOR NOTING

AHC/102/2025: NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Minutes of the Newry NRP Meeting held on 25 June 2025, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 8 October 2025, and the Minutes of the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on 24 June 2025, approved at the Downpatrick NRP meeting held on 15 October 2025.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.20pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 December 2025

Signed: **Councillor C Bowsie**
Chairperson

Signed: **Andrew Patterson**
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 6.15pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint
Town Hall**

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor M Ruane

Councillor M Hearty
Councillor S O'Hare

**Committee Members in
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor W Clarke
Councillor K Feehan
Councillor K Murphy
Councillor D Taylor

Councillor C Enright
Councillor J Jackson
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor H Young

Officials in Chamber:

Mrs S Murphy, Director, Sustainability and Environment
Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
via teams:**

Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

SE/129/2025:

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Finn.

SE/130/2025:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/131/2025:

**ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2025**

Read:

Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee
Meeting held on 22 October 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

SE/123/2025 – Business Case – Provision of Dog Kennelling Services

Councillor Andrews asked for an update on the above item. Mrs Murphy confirmed that officers were working through the procurement documents.

AGREED:

**On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by
Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the**

**Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment
Committee Meeting held on 22 October 2025.**

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FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/132/2025: CLIMATE MITIGATION REPORT

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Submission of Climate Change Mitigation Report by the Council to DAERA as required by The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage outlined the report, confirmed that suggested changes or additions could be incorporated and forwarded to DAERA and noted that the first Climate Change Mitigation report had been submitted to meet the deadline of 31 October 2025.

Councillor Andrews acknowledged the work undertaken to date in relation to climate change mitigation.

Councillor Reilly stated that the DUP were increasingly concerned about climate mitigation, noting that the Department for Infrastructure had announced £800,000 for a cycle path between Clough and Dundrum and, when asked why this funding had not been directed towards improvements to the A2 carriageway between Newcastle and Annalong, Members were advised that 10% of the DFI budget must be allocated under the Climate Act to active transport. He expressed concern that this was inappropriate given the poor condition of local roads.

Councillor Reilly also stated that some countries had indicated to the EU that they would not adhere to zero carbon targets due to the impact on their economies. He confirmed that the DUP group on the Council would be voting against the report.

Mr Sage clarified that the report was one of two required to be submitted by all Councils in Northern Ireland under the Climate Change Act.

Councillor Taylor stated that, despite being a legislative requirement, he shared the concerns highlighted by Councillor Reilly, described some of the targets as unrealistic and confirmed that he would not be supporting the report.

As there was dissent within the Chamber, the matter was put to a recorded vote, with the results as follows: (Copy attached)

FOR:	11
AGAINST:	3
ABSTENTIONS:	0

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve submission of the report to DAERA and to allow DAERA to analyse and publish information from the submitted report as required by the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.**

SE/133/2025:

**MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT OF S&E DIRECTORATE
BUSINESS PLAN**

Read:

Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Mid-Year Assessment of Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, the Mid-Year assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 was agreed.

SE/134/2025:

HEALTH FORUMS

Read:

Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Health Fora. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Murphy reported that in August 2017 it had been agreed to establish Southern and South Eastern Health Trust working groups, meeting twice yearly with elected Members to discuss health service provision, with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service also invited.

She advised that meetings scheduled for February and March 2023 had not proceeded, though the Trust attended a special Council meeting in November 2023. It was recommended, subject to availability, that the next working group meetings be held in February 2026, followed by a special Council meeting on health in March with future meetings being arranged by the working group.

Councillor Larkin asked if there had been a positive response from the Trusts. Mrs Murphy confirmed that the February 2023 meeting had not taken place due to lack of attendance and explained that the purpose of the report was to re-engage the groups to enable discussion six weeks prior to Council meeting.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Larkin regarding membership, Mrs Murphy advised that representation would be brought forward through Party Leaders.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to approve the Membership update and Meeting schedule as detailed within the officers' report.

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

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following items, 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 Hearty, it was agreed to come out of closed session.**

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

RESTRICTED – FOR DECISION

SE/135/2025: WASTE CONTRACTS

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Waste Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve the contract modification to two contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.**

SE/136/2025: CCTV CONTRACT

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Contract Modification – Town Centre CCTV Maintenance. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the contract modification as detailed in section 2 of the officers' report.**

SE/137/2025: BUSINESS CASE FOR DRIVER LICENCE TRAINING

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Business Case for C1+E Driving Licence Training. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the findings of the Business Cases as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Officers' report.**

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

SE/138/2025: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 & JOINT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2025

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes Of Thursday 25 September 2025 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 30 October 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the documents.**

FOR NOTING

SE/139/2025: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE AGM AND MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee AGM and Meeting No 099 Minutes Thursday 25 September 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the document.**

SE/140/2025: S&E WORKING MEETING SCHEDULE

Read: S&E Working Group incorporating Cleansing and Refuse Task Group Revised Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the document.**

SE/141/2025: CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS - REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Read: Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, regarding Christmas Holiday Arrangements for Refuse collection and Household Recycling Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the report.**

SE/142/2025: NI LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS Q1 2025-26

Read: NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics - quarterly provision estimates for April to June 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the document.**

SE/143/2025: **DAERA CONSULTATION ON NI CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Revised Consultation Response – DAERA Public Consultation on Northern Ireland's draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Reilly reiterated his Party's concern regarding the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the report.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.43pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 December 2025.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Magennis**
Chairperson

Signed: **Mrs Sinead Murphy**
Director of Sustainability & Environment

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

44

RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 19/11/25 **VENUE:** Warrenpoint Town Hall **MEETING:** Sustainability and Environment

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 4: Climate Mitigation Report

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
W Clarke	2			
C Enright	3			
K Feehan	4			
D Finn				1
M Hearty	5			
J Jackson		1		
M Larkin	6			
O Magennis	7			
K Murphy	8			
S O'Hare	9			
H Reilly		2		
M Ruane	10			
D Taylor		3		
H Young	11			
TOTALS	11	3	0	1

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	1 December 2025
Subject:	Correspondence to Council
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	x	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			To provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0			Key issues
2.1			This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0			Recommendations
			That Council considers and notes the following correspondence:
3.1			Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council Council received correspondence from Mid Ulster Council regarding their motion on Caoimhe's Law
3.2			Correspondence from DAERA Minister Muir MLA Council received correspondence from Minister Muir MLA re NOM – ReGen Waste Storage Operation at Warrenpoint.
3.3			Correspondence from CCMS Council received correspondence from CCMS re NOM – Closure of Local Primary Schools.
3.4			Correspondence from Southern Regional College Council received correspondence from SRC re Fishing Industry Visa & Enhancement Support.
3.5			Correspondence from Infrastructure Minister Kimmins Council received correspondence from Minister Kimmins re NOM – Resurfacing and Long Term repair of main A Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle.
4.0			Resource implications
4.1			Not applicable.
5.0			Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)

5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
8.0	Background Documents
	None



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

3 November 2025

Our ref: C208.25

By Email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Ms Marie Ward
Newry, Mourne & Down

Dear Marie Ward

Council at its October meeting carried the undernoted motion:

That this Council expresses its deepest sympathy to the families affected by the unauthorised recording, sharing, and circulation of images and videos taken at the scenes of fatal or critical road traffic collisions. Condemns the increasing trend of individuals and media outlets capturing and distributing distressing footage of victims without consent, often before families have been formally notified. Recognises the serious psychological harm and trauma this causes to bereaved families, and the urgent need for legislative protection. Reaffirms that the right of families to privacy and dignity must always outweigh the voyeuristic or commercial interests of individuals or media outlets.

Backs the campaign for Caoimhé's Law — a proposed piece of legislation that would make it a criminal offence to:

- record or share images/videos of victims at the scene of a fatal or critical road traffic collision without lawful authority or family consent;
- circulate such material before families are officially notified;
- use such content for sensationalist, exploitative, or commercial purposes;
- publish crash scene images without prior approval from the PSNI or relevant authorities;
- obstruct emergency services or interfere with rescue operations through the recording or sharing of such material.

Acknowledges the testimony of families, including those from this district, who have been directly impacted by the unauthorised sharing of videos and images of their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of fatal road incidents. Notes that similar legislation exists or is being introduced in other jurisdictions, including the Republic of Ireland and England & Wales, recognising the same growing problem of “digital voyeurism” at accident scenes.

Calls on the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Justice to prioritise the drafting and introduction of this legislation as a matter of urgency.

I would therefore ask if you would bring this request to your elected Members for consideration and support. I would also welcome a response to this request so that I can report back to our Members in due course. Please email response to eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org.

Yours sincerely



Joseph McGuckin

Head of Strategic Services & Engagement

**From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ
Fionnuala.branagh@nmandd.org
CC: Democratic.services@nmandd.org

DAERA Private Office
First Floor, Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast, BT3 9ED
Telephone: 028 9052 4140
Email: private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: INV-0797-2025

Date: 14 November 2025

Dear Marie

REGEN WASTE STORAGE OPERATION AT WARRENPOINT PORT

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 September 2025 requesting that I meet with the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) regarding odour issues connected with the above facility, and requesting minutes of the meetings I have held with ReGen and the Harbour Authority.

I am conscious of the regulatory responsibility of the NIEA in monitoring and assessing complaints regarding odour from the above site, and any subsequent enforcement action which may, or may not be necessary, as determined by that on-going assessment.

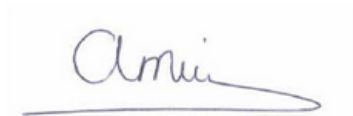
I am also aware that the NIEA holds regular meetings with the Environmental Health team from NMDDC, given their related statutory responsibility under the Clean Neighbourhoods Act (NI) 2011 in assessing statutory nuisance.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with both the Chair and the Chief Executive of Council. I believe this approach would be helpful at this time in understanding any broader concerns.

Please let me know if you would agree to that approach. If so, my Diary Manager, Lauri Hutton, will contact you in due course to make the necessary arrangements

Finally, I can confirm that I met with ReGen Waste Ltd on the 21 November 2024 and with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority on the 01 October 2025. My officials will treat your requests for the minutes of these meetings as Information Requests, within the appropriate framework and a response will be issued in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Muir', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



CCMS
Council for Catholic
Maintained Schools

EB/AR

14 November 2025

ISSUED VIA EMAIL

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Dear Ms Ward

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2025 regarding the Notice of Motion passed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. I appreciate the Council taking the time to outline its position and the many concerns expressed about the future of St Malachy's PS, Kilclief and Killowen PS. The acknowledgement of the deep historical and social importance of these schools is both welcome and important.

I wish to clarify that these proposals are at pre-publication consultation stage. This phase represents the earliest part of the Development Proposal process, where options are explored and stakeholder's views are gathered before any proposal is brought forward.

It's important to emphasize **No final decision has been made.**

The consultation date for feedback for Killowen PS and St Bronagh's PS has recently concluded, **no decision has been taken.** CCMS is currently reviewing all responses before this matter is brought to the Education Provision Committee.

The reason for initiating these consultations is grounded in the Department of Education's Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) (2009) and the Strategic Area Plan 2022–27, which require managing authorities to address persistent issues of sustainability. Both schools have experienced significant challenges, an example of these (among others) are:

- Enrolment trends: St Malachy's PS and Killowen PS have enrolments well below the SSP threshold of 105.
- Financial viability: Killowen PS has a cumulative deficit exceeding £800,000, while St Malachy's PS faces ongoing financial pressures.
- Educational experience: Small schools often require composite classes spanning multiple year groups, limiting opportunities for peer interaction and curriculum breadth.

The proposals seek to ensure pupils in these communities have access to a broad and balanced curriculum within provision that is both sustainable and able to meet their long-term educational needs.



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Maintained Schools

We note the Council's suggestion to explore SEN provision at St Malachy's site and confirm that this will be considered alongside all consultation feedback. We also welcome continued dialogue with the Boards of Governors and local representatives to explore all viable options.

Our commitment is to work collaboratively to ensure that Catholic education remains vibrant, inclusive, high quality, sustainable and accessible in these communities.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Eamonn Broderick
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

Your ref: C/044-056-0963-118/2025

14 November 2025

Dear Ms Ward

Re: Fishing Industry Visa and Enhancement Support

I write to respond to your letter of 14 August 2025 where you asked me to consider working with Council to devise a scheme to train fishermen as an incentive to improve the district's fishing industry.

The College is committed to supporting all industries across the district, and our business engagement and community staff have engaged with the businesses at Kilkeel Harbour with previous projects including:

- An engagement with Kilkeel Harbour in 2022 which resulted in SRC designing and delivering the "Harbour Skills and Jobs Project". Fifteen participants completed an employability qualification and were placed with local businesses to support them into employment. It was funded by DAERA and SEAFLAG.
- Support provided to SeaSource, Hennings, Kilkeel Seafoods and others to deliver Level 2 Apprenticeship Food Industry Skills / Fish and Shellfish.
- Together with SERC, the College proposed a Sea Farer Academy as a project under the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) in April 2025, but this proposal could not be supported due to the Fisheries and Aquaculture being outside the scope of LEPs.

With regards to training for fisheries, we currently coordinate a five-day STCW95 Basic Safety Training as part of the DfC funded OCEANS project (through Neighbourhood Renewal). This is the legal minimum requirement for anyone seeking commercial work on sea vessels over 24 metres in length, including fishing vessels, ferries, and yachts.

The Sea Farer training can be provided but there will be a cost attached to this as the College cannot attract funding for this provision.

Lee Campbell
Principal & Chief Executive
Southern Regional College
Newry West Campus
Patrick Street, Newry
Co. Down BT35 8DN

I would appreciate if this information could be passed on to Members as well as confirmation that SRC continues to be committed to working with businesses and organisations at the harbour.

The Business Support team at the College will make contact with the Kilkeel Development Association in the first instance to explore this current request for support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Lee Campbell
Principal and Chief Executive



Department for
Infrastructure
An Roinn
Bonneagair
Department fur
Infrastructure

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

From the Office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
democratic.services@nmandd.org
fionnuala.branagh@nmandd.org

Private Office,
3rd Floor, James House
Gasworks Site
2 - 4 Cromac Avenue
Belfast
BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: INV-0725-2025
27 November 2025

Dear Marie

RESURFACING AND LONG-TERM REPAIR OF MAIN A ROUTE BETWEEN KILKEEL AND NEWCASTLE

Thank you for your invitation to DfI Minister Liz Kimmins MLA.

Unfortunately due to diary commitments the Minister is unable to accept at this stage.

Should you wish to meet with an official instead please contact Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk and this will be passed to the relevant official in the Department

Yours sincerely

James Graham
Private Secretary to the Minister