



January 6th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 12th January 2026** 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 1 December 2025

 [Action Sheet 2025 12 01.pdf](#)

Page 1

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 December 2025

 [Council Minutes 2025-12-01.pdf](#)

Page 6

5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 November 2025

 [Special Council Minutes - 2025-11-24.pdf](#)

Page 26

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 December 2025

 [Economy Regeneration and Tourism Minutes 2025-12-08.pdf](#)

Page 33

7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2025

 [Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting Minutes 2025-12-11.pdf](#)

Page 39

8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2025

 [Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 2025 12 15.pdf](#)

Page 46

9.0 Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2025

 [Sustainabilty_and_Environment_Committee_Minutes_2025_12-17.pdf](#)

Page 51

10.0 Planning Section


Correspondence

11.0 Correspondence Report

 [Correspondence Report Council 2026-01-12.pdf](#)

Page 56

11.1 Correspondence from Derry City & Strabane District Council regarding their Notice of Motion

 [Correspondence from Derry & Strabane District Council.pdf](#)

Page 58

11.2 Correspondence from Irish Health Minister re NOM CAR-T Cell Therapy C/123/2025

 [Correspondence from Irish Health Minister re NOM CAR-T Cell Therapy C.123.2025.pdf](#)

Page 59

11.3 Correspondence from Infrastructure Minister re NOM Resurfacing of Main A Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle C/110/2025

 [Correspondence from Infrastructure Minister re NOM Resurfacing C.110.2025.pdf](#)

Page 61

Notices of Motion

12.0 Notice of Motion - Anti-Dumping Initiative – Solar-Powered CCTV

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor C King.

This Council recognises the ongoing issue of illegal dumping across our district and the associated environmental, health, and financial costs. We note the recent steps taken by Louth County Council to introduce solar-powered CCTV cameras as part of their anti-dumping strategy and believe similar measures should be explored locally. Therefore, this Council will investigate the feasibility of deploying solar-powered CCTV at known dumping hotspots within Newry, Mourne Down and South Armagh, engage with Louth County Council to learn from their approach, and bring forward a report detailing potential locations, costs, funding

options, and legal considerations, with a view to implementing this as part of a wider anti-dumping initiative. Furthermore, this Council will write to the DAERA Minister requesting information on all available support and funding for such measures to tackle illegal dumping effectively across the district.

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

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 Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Mr Martin McKibbin
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Declan 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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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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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 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>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>C/176/2025</i>	<i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025</i>	It was agreed to note the action sheet	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/177/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/178/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held 10 November 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/179/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held 13 November 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/180/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held 17 November 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/181/2025</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held 19 November 2025</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/182/2025</i>	<i>Planning Section</i>	There were no issues arising	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/183/2025</i>	<i>Correspondence Report</i>	<p>It was agreed to support the position taken by Mid Ulster District Council regarding Caoimhé's law.</p> <p>It was agreed to send a letter to DAERA Minister inviting him to meet with Council regarding the ReGen Waste Storage Operation at Warrenpoint.</p> <p>It was agreed to send a further letter to the Minister for Infrastructure to request a meeting, either in person or virtually, at the earliest available date.</p>	<p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>Democratic Services</i></p>	<p><i>Correspondence Sent</i></p> <p><i>Correspondence Sent</i></p> <p><i>Correspondence Sent</i></p>	<p><i>Y</i></p> <p><i>Y</i></p> <p><i>Y</i></p>
<i>C/184/2025</i>	<i>Notice Of Motion – Young People Need to Be Better Prepared Before Voting At 18</i>	<p>It was agreed that Council write to the Education Authority and local schools to suggest the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council partnering with local schools to run registration drives for sixth form students. • Workshops on reading party manifestos. Organising sixth form debates on political views. • To ensure schools uphold opportunities for Councillors to engage directly with students. <p>It was also agreed that Council write to the Education Minister to ask how the Department was supporting schools to ensure that young people</p>	<p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>Democratic Services</i></p>	<p><i>Correspondence Sent</i></p> <p><i>Correspondence Sent</i></p>	<p><i>Y</i></p> <p><i>Y</i></p>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		were informed when the voting age was to be lowered for upcoming elections.			
<i>C/185/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Caoimhe’s Law</i>	It was agreed to withdraw the Motion.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/186/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Physician’s Associates</i>	<p>The following was agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • That Council write to the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Association to request their input on the issue and their assessment of the need to integrate Physician Associate placements into Health Trust workforce planning. 	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Correspondence Sent</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/187/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Parking</i>	<p>The following was agreed:</p> <p>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</p>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>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.</p> <p>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 free parking for the next three Saturdays, 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.</p>			
<i>C/188/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Closing of the Down Recorder</i>	It was agreed that 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 and 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 and 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.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>C/189/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Water Courses</i>	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	<i>S Murphy</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>N</i>

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/190/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Water Quality</i>	The Motion was referred to the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	<i>C Mallon</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>C/191/2025</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Newcastle Flooding</i>	It was agreed 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.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	<i>Y</i>

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 December 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 C Bowsie
Councillor J Brennan	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor K Feehan	Councillor D Finn
Councillor C Galbraith	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor M Hearty
Councillor T Howie	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor G Kearns	Councillor A King
Councillor C King	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor S Murphy	Councillor S O'Hare
Councillor A Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Rice	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor H Young	

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor C Enright	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor R Howell	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor J Truesdale	

Also in attendance:

Mr S Byrne, St Louis' Grammar School
 Miss E Comac, St Louis' Grammar School
 Miss N Crowley, St Louis' Grammar School
 Miss A Dinsmore, St Louis' Grammar School
 Mrs B Cunningham, St Louis' Grammar School

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
 Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

C/174/2025 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Harte, McEvoy, Ruane and Tinnelly.

The Chairperson delivered the following remarks:

- He welcomed the students from St Louis Grammar School who were the winning school in his recent 'Dragons Den' event that was held during Local Democracy Week. He advised that the students were in attendance to present their winning Notice of Motion to Council for debate.
- He expressed thanks and gratitude to Council staff and community volunteers who had assisted with the Christmas lights switch-on across the District, noting that such events brought people together, strengthened communities, and provided opportunities to pause, reflect, and be thankful.
- He offered heartfelt condolences to Council colleague Donna Starkey, Democratic Services Officer and her family on the recent sad passing of her husband, Richard.
- He, along with Councillor Lee-Surginor expressed sympathy to the victims of the tragic fire in Hong Kong, noting that many citizens within the District had connections to the region.
- He offered a fond farewell to Mrs J. Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, and thanked her for her dedicated service to the Council.

C/175/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor Howie declared an interest in item C/186/2025 as she was an employee of the Royal College of GPs, who had taken a position on the issue.

C/176/2025 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2025

Read: Action sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, the Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025 was agreed.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/177/2025 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2025

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor S Murphy, the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 November 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

**C/178/2025 MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2025 (copy circulated).

ERT/109/2025: Friends of Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Walled Garden

Councillor Devlin welcomed the recent progress and highlighted that it had always been an important element of what was required within Castlewellan Forest Park.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, the Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.**

**C/179/2025 MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McAteer, the Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.**

**C/180/2025 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mathers, the Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.**

**C/181/2025 MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2025**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2025 (copy circulated).

SE/141/2025: Christmas and New Year Arrangements – Refuse Collections and Household Recycling Centres

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Hanna, Mrs Murphy confirmed that a report had been provided at Committee and that alternative collection days had been approved by Members. She advised that communication in relation to this would be published using both

print and social media, and that stickers would be placed on the bins of affected residents and business customers to advise them of the alternative collection days.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Young, the Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.**

C/182/2025 PLANNING SECTION

In response to a request from Councillor Hanna for an update regarding Newry Civic Hub, Mr Mallon advised that email correspondence had been issued to all Councillors the previous week detailing the current position. He added that the application had been submitted to Court and that it was a matter for the Court to determine whether leave would be granted to hear a Judicial Review.

C/183/2025 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

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

Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council regarding their Motion on Caoimhé's Law

Councillor Galbraith advised that he had a Motion to be heard later in relation to Caoimhé's Law and welcomed the support shown by colleagues in Mid Ulster in confronting an issue that no family should ever have to face.

He stated that in the aftermath of fatal road collisions, while emergency responders worked to save lives, others lifted their phones to film. Before families were informed of their loss, footage was already circulating on social media platforms such as Snapchat and WhatsApp. He emphasised that these were not simply videos but the final moments of someone's loved one.

He referred to the words of the O'Brien family: *"No mother should ever have to race against the internet to tell her own son that his sister has died."* He stressed that their daughter Caoimhé deserved dignity, as did every family, explaining that there were currently no specific laws in Northern Ireland to prevent this harmful and traumatising behaviour. He outlined that Caoimhé's Law sought to protect families, safeguard dignity, and recognised that while a post or message could wait, a family's pain would last forever.

Councillor Galbraith stated that a clear message needed to be sent that compassion must come before curiosity, and that Council should stand with affected families and choose dignity. He advised that it was important for Council to take this vital step toward justice and proposed that Council action the correspondence. This was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to support the position taken by Mid Ulster District Council regarding Caoimhé's law.**

Correspondence from DAERA Minister re NOM – ReGen Waste Storage Operation at Warrenpoint. (C/110/2025), C/135/2025)

Councillor S. Murphy advised that the delayed response from the Minister was unacceptable and again dismissed the obnoxious smell experienced by residents living adjacent to the harbour. He added that it was also unacceptable for the Minister to offer a meeting to the Chairperson and Chief Executive whilst ignoring local Councillors. She proposed that Council wrote back to the Minister to seek a meeting with Crotlieve Councillors in Warrenpoint Town Hall. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Quinn.

Councillor Byrne concurred with Councillor S. Murphy's stating he supported writing a letter but did not agree with stipulating that the Minister meet only with Councillors from a selected area, suggesting instead that the response letter should invite the Minister to meet with Council, which would then choose a delegation, as had always been the case in the past. Councillor S. Murphy accepted this amendment.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor S Murphy, seconded by Councillor Quinn, to send to letter to DAERA Minister inviting him to meet with Council regarding the ReGen Waste Storage Operation at Warrenpoint.**

Correspondence from CCMS re NOM – Closure of Local Primary Schools. C/171/2025)

Councillor Rice noted that CCMS had stressed no decision had yet been made. However, he highlighted the feeling within the local community that the closure of Killowen Primary School was inevitable and questioned how much scrutiny would be afforded to all the options going forward.

Councillor Hanna stated that the issue needed to be addressed as soon as possible to provide reassurance for parents and families in the local area. He added that rural schools were very important and formed an integral part of the community.

Correspondence from Southern Regional College re Fishing Industry Visa & Enhancement Support (C/044/2025), (C/056/2025), (C/093/2025)

Councillor Rice welcomed the correspondence and commented that the way SRC had outlined the measures taken to support the fishing industry was helpful. He highlighted, however, that issues remained outstanding for fishing and other industries, noting that these were not going away and were worsening.

Councillor Hanna highlighted that Councillors were often blamed for visa-related issues affecting people in the local fishing industry, despite this being a reserved matter over which they had no influence. He added that it was important for these issues to be resolved as soon as possible.

Correspondence from Infrastructure Minister Kimmins re NOM – Resurfacing and Long-Term repair of main A route between Kilkeel and Newcastle (C/137/2025)

Councillor Devlin described the response from the Minister as disappointing, highlighting that it was a very important issue. She acknowledged the busyness of a Minister's diary; however, she proposed writing back to request a meeting, either in person or virtually, at the earliest available date. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to send a further letter to the Minister for Infrastructure to request a meeting, either in person or virtually, at the earliest available date.**

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

- **Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council regarding their Motion on Caoimhe's Law**
- **Correspondence from DAERA Minister re NOM – ReGen Waste Storage Operation at Warrenpoint. (C/110/2025), C/135/2025)**
- **Correspondence from CCMS re NOM – Closure of Local Primary Schools. C/171/2025)**
- **Correspondence from Southern Regional College re Fishing Industry Visa & Enhancement Support (C/044/2025), (C/056/2025), (C/093/2025)**
- **Correspondence from Infrastructure Minister Kimmins re NOM – Resurfacing and Long-Term repair of main A route between Kilkeel and Newcastle (C/137/2025)**

C/184/2025 NOTICE OF MOTION – YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE BETTER PREPARED BEFORE VOTING AT 18

The following Motion was received from Pupils from St Louis' Grammar School, winners of the Local Democracy Week event held by the Chairperson:

Notice of Motion - "Young people need to be better prepared before voting at 18."

Shay Byrne thanked Councillors for the opportunity to speak on uninformed voting at 18, noting that young people were often expected to vote without adequate political education. He explained this was due to disconnection rather than apathy and asked councillors to debate the issue, observing that many first-time voters simply followed their parents' choices.

Aoife Dinsmore highlighted that the matter was pressing as the UK Government had previously proposed lowering the voting age to 16, affecting around 48,000 young people in Northern Ireland. She noted that supporters believed this would increase youth engagement, while opponents questioned maturity and raised concerns about electoral impact.

Niamh Crowley stated that although she supported voting rights at 16 or 18, many young people lacked the knowledge to make informed decisions. She noted that schools should

have taught politics but that teachers had been hesitant for fear of appearing partisan. She added that the Electoral Commission had been developing unbiased materials, though their use in Northern Ireland would have been for the Education Department to decide.

Erin Comac advised that the Council should assist in the preparation of young people to vote and asked members to debate how they could help. She suggested registration drives in schools, workshops on reading party manifestos, and sixth-form debates, stressing the need for greater understanding of democracy.

Councillor Quinn commended the students' suggestions, endorsed them on behalf of her party, and proposed writing to the Education Authority and local schools outlining the three recommendations. This was seconded by Councillor Campbell.

Councillor Bowsie stated that while the DUP did not support lowering the voting age to 16, they supported ensuring young people were informed at 18.

Councillor Howie agreed young people needed to be informed but noted that some, including the students present, already understood political systems. She proposed writing to the Education Minister to ask how schools were being supported to ensure that young people were informed when the voting age was to be lowered for the upcoming elections, an amendment seconded by Councillor Young and accepted by Councillor Quinn.

Councillor Taylor welcomed the Motion and thanked the pupils, stating that schools needed to do more to prepare young people approaching voting age.

Councillor A. King congratulated the pupils on their Dragons Den success and presentation and suggested an amendment to ensure schools upheld opportunities for Councillors to engage directly with students. This was seconded by Councillor Byrne and accepted by Councillor Quinn.

The Chairperson declared the Motion passed.

In summing up, Shay Byrne stated that they, as young people, had felt very strongly about the Motion and were delighted it had been passed. He said it would benefit current and future generations by helping them understand that their vote truly mattered, and he expressed gratitude to Councillors for their support.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Campbell it was agreed that Council write to the Education Authority and local schools to suggest the following:

- **Council partnering with local schools to run registration drives for sixth form students.**
- **Workshops on reading party manifestos.**
- **Organising sixth form debates on political views.**
- **To ensure schools uphold opportunities for Councillors to engage directly with students.**

It was also agreed that Council write to the Education Minister to ask how the Department was supporting schools to ensure that young people were informed

when the voting age was to be lowered for upcoming elections.

C/185/2025

NOTICE OF MOTION – CAOIMHE’S LAW

The following 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."*

Councillor Galbraith requested that the Motion be withdrawn, given the proposals arising from the discussion regarding C/183/2025 – Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council regarding their Motion on Caoimhé’s Law. This was seconded by Councillor Devlin.

Agreed:

It was agreed to withdraw the Motion.

Having previously declared an interest, Councillor Howie left the meeting at this stage – 6.47pm

C/186/2025

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."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Mathers.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Rice advised that he wished to raise concerns regarding the Department of Health's funding of the Physician Associate (PA) programme at Ulster University and the lack of corresponding posts within the local health service. He referred to the Leng Review, which had emphasised the need for workforce planning, regulation, and defined responsibilities for PAs, and criticised the Department for continuing to fund training without ensuring job opportunities. He stated that the issue was particularly relevant to local hospitals such as the Downe and Daisy Hill, where constituents faced acute challenges. He argued that the current approach undermined public confidence, represented poor value for money, and failed to improve patient care.

In bringing the Motion, he sought answers from the Department of Health on why PA roles were not being recruited, whether there was a strategy to create posts in priority areas such as GP practices and emergency medicine, and how public funding was being aligned with real employment opportunities.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Mathers echoed Councillor Rice's concerns stating that it was deeply frustrating that previous graduating classes had been unable to secure employment in the North at a time when hospitals were under acute pressure and GP practices were struggling. He emphasised that it was unacceptable for highly trained PA graduates to be forced to leave to find work, noting that this represented a loss of skilled staff which the Health Trusts could not afford in the current climate.

Councillor Mathers referred to his local hospital, Daisy Hill, where staff shortages were frequently raised, and observed that similar issues existed in GP services. He concluded that exporting skilled professionals while local communities faced long waiting lists and overstretched services was unsustainable.

Councillor Taylor highlighted the important role Physician Associates played within the Northern Ireland health system, noting that around 80 were currently employed across the five Trusts and primary care. He advised that the Department of Health had supported the two-year Ulster University programme since 2018 and that PAs, working under doctors' supervision, provided diagnosis, treatment, and continuity of care. He stated that evidence showed they had contributed significantly to stabilising clinical teams and improving patient flow at a time of severe service pressures.

Councillor Taylor referred to Professor Leng's review in England, which would help inform future provision in Northern Ireland, and noted that the Department of Health was considering its own evaluation. He expressed hope that this would lead to further PA posts locally.

In supporting the Motion, Councillor Bowsie advised that it was a valid issue. He noted that a class of 18 students had been assured of employment after graduation, yet according to the BBC only two had secured PA posts, which needed to be addressed.

Councillor Bowsie stated that while hospitals faced acute pressures, reliance on PAs to fill gaps raised further concerns. He referred to the Leng Review, which had addressed these

issues and should inform optimal use of PAs, and said the Health Minister must respond to its findings. He added that MLAs should challenge the Minister, particularly through the Health Committee.

Councillor Feehan declared an interest, noting that he had an immediate family member in the medical profession. He thanked Councillor Rice and welcomed the Motion, describing it as a very important issue. He stated that it was a bizarre situation where individuals completed lengthy courses, sometimes lasting up to seven years, only to be told there were no posts available or forced to seek employment in Scotland or England.

He expressed particular frustration as someone involved in the Daisy Hill campaign, noting that the Trust frequently cited a shortage of doctors, which did not align with the reality of qualified medics and Physician Associates being unable to secure placements within the Health Trust system after graduation.

Councillor Feehan proposed two amendments to the motion as follows:

- That Council write to the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Association to request their input on the issue and their assessment of the need to integrate PA placements into Health Trust workforce planning.
- That Council write to the Finance Minister to ask what additional funding could be made available to address the acute shortages in hospital and GP practices.

Councillor Rice accepted the first amendment but did not accept the second amendment, stating that it took away from the central point that the PA course was a bespoke course funded by the Department of Health.

The Chairperson put Councillor Feehan's proposed amendments to the Motion to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy attached): **(Councillor Clarke was out of the room when the vote was taken)**

FOR:	11
AGAINST:	24
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The Chairperson declared Councillor Feehan's proposal lost.

Councillor Truesdale thanked Councillor Rice for bringing the Motion and noted its importance for all members. She stated that GP surgeries in Northern Ireland were at breaking point and that a diversified workforce, including Physician Associates, was necessary to stabilise services and improve recruitment and retention. She acknowledged concerns regarding the parameters of the PA role and advised that the Department of Health was undertaking a review of their use in Northern Ireland.

The Chairperson requested a show of hands for Councillor Rice's Motion, seconded by Councillor Mathers and the results were as follows:

FOR	34
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

In summing up, Councillor Rice explained that he had not accepted the second amendment as the issue was not about funding but about the allocation of the role. He stated that

graduates from the programme had been working in agency positions and were being paid more than staff within the system, which had affected morale in hospitals. He emphasised that it was for the Department of Health to decide whether to continue funding the programme and to define the scope of the role. He added that additional funding alone would not have resolved the problem.

The Chairperson declared the Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs Ward joined the meeting during above discussion – 7.00pm

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded that Councillor Mathers, the following was agreed;

- **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.**
- **That Council write to the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Association to request their input on the issue and their assessment of the need to integrate Physician Associate placements into Health Trust workforce planning.**

The Chairperson advised there has been a request to hear a Motion on parking and this would normally be referred to Committee however it was timebound therefore it would require a suspension of Standing Order 16.1 via a Qualified Majority Vote, which meant 80% of those members present and voting.

The Chairperson asked for a proposer and seconded to suspend Standing Orders. Councillor Hanlon proposed and this was seconded by Councillor Mathers.

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

FOR:	34
AGAINST:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	0

Ms Taggart confirmed that as there were 34 Members present and voting, a qualified majority had been reached.

The Chairperson advised that Standing Order 16.1 would be suspended by qualified majority vote to hear the Motion.

C/187/2025

NOTICE OF MOTION – PARKING

The following amended 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 free parking for the next three Saturdays.

The amended Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Councillor Kearns presented the Motion, highlighting the significant pressures around parking for residents, workers, shoppers, and businesses in the district. She noted that each year the Council had encouraged shopping locally to support businesses and proposed incentives for off-street parking ahead of the Christmas retail period, such as reduced rates or free parking. She stated that this would complement the one-hour grace period for on-street parking announced by the Infrastructure Minister.

Councillor Hanlon seconded the motion, stressing that seasonal free parking would have supported families and businesses at a time of financial strain, and confirmed Sinn Féin's commitment to supporting independent retailers. Councillor Lee Surginor proposed an amendment to ensure the measure applied automatically each year across all Council-operated car parks, which was accepted.

Councillor Byrne raised concerns about delays and criticised the need for an emergency Motion. He requested reinstatement of the original wording to include one-hour free parking and/or reduced rates throughout the year. This amendment was seconded by Councillor Andrews and accepted by Councillor Kearns.

Councillor Byrne further highlighted that the matter had been on the agenda for over a year and asked a series of questions:

- Whether there had been any discussion with the car parking working group about recent changes to the DFI parking app, which he believed increased the likelihood of receiving a ticket.
- What the logistics and timelines were for changing the DFI-run app if Council agreed to alter chargeable rates.
- How Council could change the terms and conditions of car parks under its ownership.
- What the income and expenditure figures were for all Council parking apps to inform decisions on costs.

Mrs Ward advised that three free Saturdays could be implemented immediately through advertising and signage, while wider changes such as a free hour of parking would require further consideration by the Sustainability and Environment Committee and legislative adjustments. She reported that comparative income from the three free Saturdays the previous year had been approximately £10,000.

Councillors Hanna and Taylor supported the Motion but emphasised the need for better pre-planning and timely communication. Councillor Hanlon reiterated that the immediate priority was to secure free parking before Christmas, while acknowledging wider car parking issues across the district. Councillor Lee Surginor explained that his amendment had been intended to provide consistency and avoid last-minute arrangements. Councillor Byrne confirmed his support for the Motion despite concerns about information gaps.

The Chairperson declared the Motion passed unanimously.

Councillor Kearns thanked Members for their support.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting during above discussion – 07:20pm

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded that Councillor Hanlon, the following was agreed:
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 free parking for the next three Saturdays, 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.

C/188/2025

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."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Bowsie stated that the closure of the Down Recorder had been a serious blow to local democracy and to his constituency's primary newspaper. He emphasised that local papers had played a vital role in holding Councils to account, reporting decisions, publishing planning notices, and promoting community groups which relied on publicity to sustain membership. He noted that while archives would remain, the absence of new weekly editions meant the loss of a living record of community life, achievements, and history.

Councillor Bowsie acknowledged that younger generations increasingly accessed news online but stressed that the essential point was that constituents continued to receive reliable information.

He concluded by reiterating his sadness at the loss of the Down Recorder, describing it as a blow to community identity and democratic accountability, and called on the Council to demonstrate its support for the local press in making government more open and accessible to the public.

Councillor Jackson seconded, acknowledging the paper's importance for local communities.

Councillor Hanlon described the Down Recorder as an institution, recalling its role in households and its fair and balanced reporting. She expressed sympathy for staff, highlighted the economic impact of the closure on the town centre, and voiced concern at the wider decline of print media.

Councillor Andrews stated that the closure had been met with profound sadness in Rowallane, noting its award-winning coverage and role in launching media careers. He reflected on its contribution to community life and paid tribute to staff, confirming his full support for the Motion. Councillor Lee Surginor emphasised the importance of local journalism in democratic accountability and open justice, thanking staff for their service.

Councillor Taylor expressed sorrow for staff and regret at the decline of local newspapers, stressing their role in holding elected representatives to account. He described the disappearance of local papers as deeply regrettable given their long-standing role in community life. Councillor Lewis echoed previous comments, noting the paper's 189-year history and its importance to councillors and families, and expressed deep regret at its closure.

The Chairperson declared the Motion passed unanimously.

Councillor Bowsie thanked Members for their support.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded that Councillor Jackson, that 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 and 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 and 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.

C/189/2025 NOTICE OF MOTION – WATER COURSES

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."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Young.

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

C/190/2025 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"

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Feehan.

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

C/191/2025 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."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Clarke.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Devlin stated that the flooding in Newcastle on 19 October had been frightening, with families fearing for their homes. She emphasised that urgent action had been required and that consistent gully and drainage maintenance was the minimum standard residents had expected.

She noted that the flooding had not been solely a roads issue but the result of upstream pressures, with water from Donard Wood overwhelming drains and culverts. She criticised DAERA for failing to manage watercourses and pathways and stressed that replanting native species, while welcome, had not addressed immediate problems.

Councillor Devlin called for DAERA to carry out full inspections, immediate clearing and maintenance, clear mapping of responsibilities, and ongoing monitoring. She stated that residents wanted accountability and cooperation between DAERA, DfI, NI Water, the Council, and Newcastle RCRG. She concluded that Newcastle's geography did not mean inevitable flooding, and that with proper upstream and downstream management and forward planning, homes, businesses, and community spaces could be better protected.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Clarke stated that it had shown a united commitment to protect Newcastle from future flooding. He recognised the distress caused, particularly in Tullybrannigan, and emphasised the need for coordinated action between DfI, NI Water, and the Council. He noted that while agencies had responded well afterwards, earlier inspections during weather warnings could have reduced damage.

He confirmed Sinn Féin's support for regular inspection and maintenance of gullies and drains, particularly in high-risk areas, and stressed the importance of a joint programme shared openly between all responsible bodies. He welcomed NI Water's hydraulic modelling review of the sewage network and urged swift publication of findings.

Councillor Clarke highlighted the need for DAERA-managed land to be properly maintained, welcomed drainage repairs in Donard Forest though noted they should have been completed earlier, and called for upstream soft-engineered approaches to reduce pressure on drainage systems. He also raised concerns about silt build-up in Castle Park Lake and urged remedial works. He paid tribute to the Newcastle Flood Resiliency Group and concluded that the Motion was about ensuring every reasonable step was taken to protect the community and provide residents with security.

Councillor Hanna welcomed the Motion, expressed gratitude that no lives had been lost, and emphasised the need for prevention and a full investigation. Councillor Taylor also welcomed the Motion and highlighted the need for statutory agencies to be more proactive in improving maintenance and infrastructure.

Councillor Truesdale stressed the importance of multi-agency accountability, noting the absence of a flood warning system in Northern Ireland, and called for a working group and clear recommendations from the hydraulic modelling review.

The Chairperson declared the Motion passed unanimously.

In summing up, Councillor Devlin stated that Newcastle had many flood-risk areas and that recent responses had appeared reactionary. She noted that while two flood alleviation schemes had been delivered, surface water remained a significant problem. She highlighted that calls to Floodline had not been prioritised according to risk and stressed the need for consistent communication and a register of vulnerable properties. She concluded that flooding needed to remain on the agenda until long-term solutions were in place.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded that Councillor Clarke, 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.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8:05pm

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

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

DATE: 01/12/2025 **VENUE:** Downshire Civic Centre **MEETING:** Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Accepting Councillor Feehan's Second Amendment

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

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

DATE: 01/12/2025 **VENUE:** Downshire Civic Centre **MEETING:** Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Suspend Standing Orders via Qualified Majority Vote

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 November 2025 at 6.00pm in
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair:	Councillor P Campbell	
In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor O Hanlon Councillor A King Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor C Bowsie Councillor J Jackson Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor H Reilly
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor L Devlin Councillor D Finn Councillor M Gibbons Councillor R Howell Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis Councillor K Murphy Councillor D Taylor	Councillor W Clarke Councillor K Feehan Councillor C Galbraith Councillor V Harte Councillor G Kearns Councillor A Lewis Councillor D Murphy Councillor S Murphy Councillor J Truesdale
In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)	Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer	
Also in attendance in Chamber:	NI Water Dr S Blockwell – Head of Investment Management Ms V Crozier – Stakeholder Manager	

SC/020/2025 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Hearty, Howie, Mathers and Young.
Apologies were also received from the Chief Executive, Mrs Ward.

SC/021/2025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/022/2025 NI WATER

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

Dr Blockwell, accompanied by Ms Valerie Crozier, delivered a presentation outlining NI Water's regulatory framework, funding position, operational challenges, and investment plans within the District. (Copy attached)

Dr Blockwell explained that NI Water was independently regulated, operated under UK corporate governance standards, and relied on the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) to provide funding for both capital and operational needs. The current investment period (PC21, 2021–27) was significantly underfunded, and preparations were underway for the next period, PC28 (2028–33). He provided an overview of the scale of NI Water's operations, delivering 605 million litres of drinking water daily and treating 360 million litres of wastewater through extensive ageing infrastructure. Much of the system was operating at or beyond capacity, which contributed to environmental pressures, reliance on storm overflows, and restrictions on new housing and business connections.

Within the Newry, Mourne and Down area, NI Water operated major drinking water assets, 34 wastewater treatment works, and 285 storm overflows, 41 of which were classified as unsatisfactory. He outlined scheduled investment for 2025–26 across drinking water resilience, drought mitigation and wastewater upgrades, including major projects in Newry, Drumanness, Dundrum, and a phased upgrade of the Annsborough Wastewater Treatment Works. However, he noted that DFI's indicative funding limit of £321m per year fell far short of the £500–600m per year required, leaving limited capacity for critical wastewater improvements.

On PC28, Dr Blockwell advised that NI Water was required to prepare a business plan focused only on essential statutory obligations and efficient delivery. Without increased long-term funding, NI Water would struggle to meet environmental standards, support economic growth or deliver the infrastructure required for the Council's Local Development Plan. He provided an example of work in Newry, where NI Water was exploring lower-cost alternatives to unlock limited capacity, though longer-term major investment would still be needed.

Dr Blockwell concluded by stating that a permanent funding solution was required to address the scale of infrastructure need, reduce pollution, and support future development. He thanked Members for the opportunity to present and invited questions.

Following the presentation, Councillor Campbell invited comments and questions from Members.

Comments and questions from Members were as follows:

- Thanks were expressed to the delegation and to the NI Water Customer Service Team for their prompt responses to Member queries.
- Members noted the lack of investment as projected within PC21 and expressed frustration on behalf of developers where projects were delayed or halted due to insufficient wastewater capacity.
- Members highlighted the impact of delays on housing costs and sought assurances that investment would be prioritised in the Mournes area to increase available capacity.
- Clarification was sought regarding NI Water's role as a statutory consultee and whether improvements could be made to response times, given developer concerns about delays.
- Members requested clarification on NI Water's position where a developer proposed installing their own wastewater treatment plant as part of a development.

- Members asked what plans were in place to address capacity issues and any potential upgrade of facilities in the Rowallane area, particularly in relation to pollution concerns.
- Recognition was noted for future investment planned in Killyleagh; however, concerns were expressed that the reclassification of the village to a town could place additional pressure on wastewater treatment capacity and storm overflow systems.
- Members requested information on discharge levels in Killyleagh following severe storms, and what additional steps could be taken to address the issue.
- A request was made for consideration of relocating the storm overflow at Killyleagh Harbour further up the lough to support safe swimming conditions for the Killyleagh Dippers group.
- Clarification was sought on why a recently completed development in Saintfield had not yet been connected to NI Water infrastructure, despite the developer having installed a wastewater treatment facility.
- Members asked for further detail on the Ballynahinch Drainage Plan and its potential impact on system capacity.
- Clarification was sought on how many additional housing units could be accommodated once the Dundrum and Drumaness upgrades were completed, and whether these upgrades would alleviate current restrictions on new builds.
- Members queried whether tightening of NIEA discharge consents over the past decade had contributed to perceived constraints on the system, and whether the system was at full capacity or merely operating under regulatory restriction.
- Members sought a timeframe for critical investment upgrades in Newcastle, noting that residents in Marguerite Park continued to experience flooding risks. A timeframe was also requested for the assessment of the local pumping station and flood mitigation measures.
- Members asked why the assessment date for Marguerite Park had been delayed and whether any information could be shared with affected residents.
- Concerns were raised regarding open-water swimmers near the discharge pipe on the front shore, Warrenpoint. Members asked for clarification on the nature of the discharge, whether it was safe for people and wildlife, and whether the delegation would be comfortable swimming in the area themselves.

The delegation responded as follows:

- Dr Blockwell acknowledged the capacity issues as detailed in his presentation. He advised that, moving forward under the PC28 Business Plan, projects would be prioritised subject to funding availability.
- He reported that DFI had indicated a likely cap of £321m per year, which would leave limited scope for wastewater upgrades and would continue to present difficulties for developers.
- He confirmed that NI Water had been exploring alternative approaches to create capacity however, these were small operational adjustments rather than significant system changes and were not considered viable long-term solutions.
- NI Water was reviewing consultation turnaround times on planning applications however, many responses required Wastewater Impact Assessments (WWIAs) which involved detailed modelling and consideration of site-specific factors. He cautioned that certain areas of the network had no viable solution at present.
- It was confirmed that the NI Environment Agency (NIEA) regulated wastewater treatment plants. NI Water, as a finite resource, required funding and staffing to maintain any additional asset adopted into its system. Dr Blockwell emphasised that investment should be focused on larger, centralised works rather than small, standalone treatment plants. NIEA also discouraged smaller systems (pop-ups) as they did not align with NI Water's wastewater treatment model.

- PC21 remained ongoing, and any works not completed would be incorporated into PC28. Projects would be prioritised against base maintenance requirements while maintaining the delivery of clean, safe drinking water.
- Regarding Killyleagh’s reclassification under the Council’s Local Development Plan (LDP), he confirmed that the phasing of any development was key. He reassured Members that infrastructure would be required to be in place before any connections were permitted, and NI Water would not knowingly connect a development that did not meet required standards.
- NI Water was aware of the storm overflow pipe in Killyleagh and acknowledged it as an ongoing issue.
- For NI Water to adopt a wastewater treatment facility, the developer must formally request adoption. Adoption would proceed only if the asset met NI Water standards. NI Water asked that details of the Saintfield development be shared to allow investigation.
- Details of the Ballynahinch Drainage Plan were not immediately available, and NI Water undertook to revert to Members with the information.
- As part of operational procedures during severe storm events, treated overflow and discharge were permitted to maintain system capacity. Any concerns regarding discharges should be reported to NIEA, who would carry out sampling and regulatory follow-up.
- NIEA and NI Water were working closely on the Dundrum upgrades, which required integrated modelling and consideration of various local site constraints. DAERA, Marine Division, and water regulation teams were also involved. Detailed designs for pumping stations were currently being agreed with NIEA.
- NI Water was aware of the issues at Marguerite Park and was actively pursuing outputs from consultants and modellers to progress potential solutions. Dr Blockwell noted that flooding issues took time to resolve and confirmed that the location was on NI Water’s Internal Flooding Register, which served as an investment driver within the PC28 Business Plan.
- A meeting had been scheduled with consultants the following day in an effort to expedite the modelling work relating to Marguerite Park.
- All discharges were treated to NIEA-consented levels and were safe for release into the environment.
- While the treated discharge complied with regulatory standards, it was not advisable to swim in a discharge area. He noted that several designated swimming areas existed within the District and that swimming in a discharge area remained a personal choice.

Councillors Harte and K Murphy left during the above discussions – 6.38pm and 6.39pm respectively.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation and time.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.49pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026.

Signed:

Chairperson

Director

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6

A Permanent Funding Solution is Required

Long-term sustainable funding required.

Short-term injections of surplus funds help....

but are not a sustainable solution for critical infrastructure.





NI Audit Office Report - Funding water infrastructure in NI.pdf

WATER VERSION Water 2025-2026.pdf

NI Water Summary Position Paper - Final Draft.pdf

7

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Local Development Plan 2035

Settlement Classifications within the District –

- City/Main Town: Newry; Downpatrick
- Local and Small Town: Newcastle, Warrenpoint/Burren, Kikeel, Ballynahinch, Saintfield, Killyleagh, Castlewelling, Crossmaglen.
- Villages: 23 /Small Settlements: 51

Social Development Objectives, Accommodating People and Facilitating Communities

- The Council has identified a requirement for 11,000 new homes over the LDP period 2020-2035.

Economic Development, Objectives Creating Jobs & Promoting Prosperity

- To facilitate the creation of approximately 7740 new jobs by 2035

8

2025/26 Planned PC21 Key Capital Investments in Water & Wastewater

PC21 Key Investment Newry Mourne & Down Water & Wastewater

Project Name	2025/26 (£m)
Fofanny to All Trunk Main Phase 2	4.88
New Aughnagun Drought Alleviation Pumping Station*	1.36
Drumroad Strangford Watermain Workpackage*	0.50
Drumroad Water Treatment Works PC21 Improvements Phase 2	0.30
Silent Valley Pipework diversion to bypass Microtrailer buildings	0.36
Newry Wastewater Treatment Works Essential Base Maintenance & Optimisation Yr 5	5.27
Annsborough Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW)	3.22
Annsborough Drainage Area Networks	1.21
Drumaness Wastewater Treatment Works	1.96
Rathfriland Drumtough Steep Valley Rathfriland Wastewater Pumping Station	1.41
Dundrum Wastewater Treatment Works Phase 2	1.19
South Area Essential Base Maintenance and Optimisation Year 5 and 6*	0.85
Kikeel Aughrim River Ingress Sewer Remediation	0.48
Ballynahinch Drainage Area Plan	0.16
Total	23.14

*Part of a larger project spread across other Council areas

9

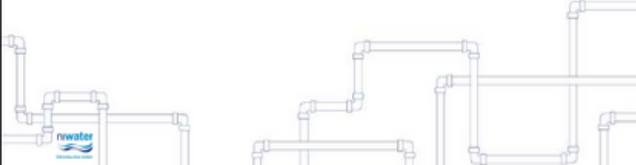
Annsborough WwTW – Phase 1 (£8 million)



- £8m investment to improve efficiency of works & ensure compliance with NIEA Water Order Consent
- Upgrade parts of the sewer network
- Storm separation providing limited additional capacity
- Phase 2 works will upgrade the WwTW providing additional capacity for future development in the area
- Phase 2 - subject to an additional £12m CDEL funding

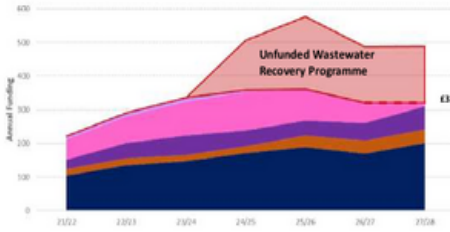
10

PC21 & PC28 Price Controls



11

PC21 – Planned Investment



PC21 Investment Breakdown

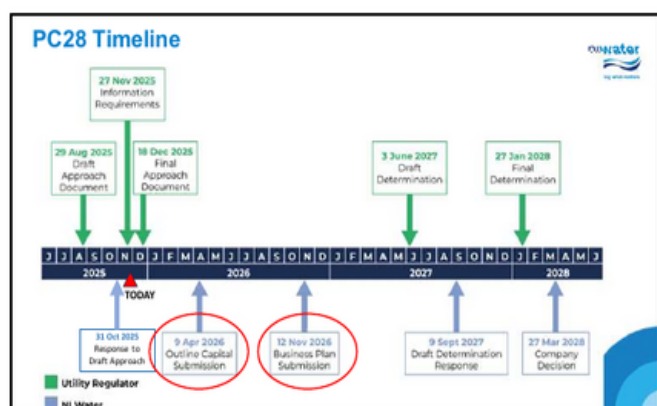
Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital Maintenance	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
Capital Expenditure	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Water Enhancement	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Wastewater Enhancement	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Total	171	171	171	171	171	171	171

PC21 Investment Summary

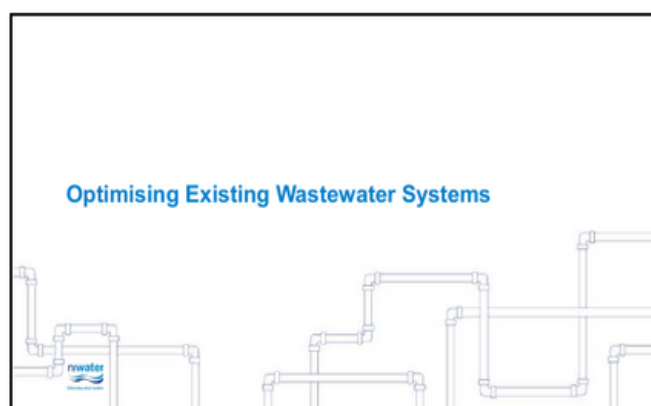
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
PC21 Investment (£m)	171	171	171	171	171	171	171
Unfunded Wastewater Recovery Programme (£m)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (£m)	171	171	171	171	171	171	171

£321m p/a

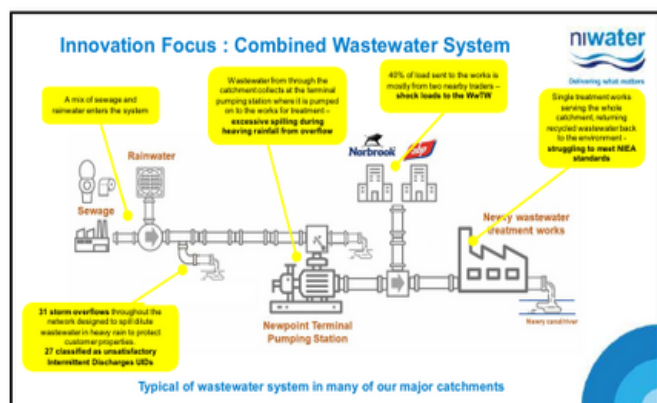
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15

We have been exploring alternative ways to connect new properties in Newry faster and for less money

Internal teams and sought specialist external advice to review the entire wastewater system:

- Detailed **assessment of the works** to see where targeted interventions might extend life and boost capacity
- Identified and engaged with the **local trader** (ABP meats) who was routinely sending high-strength trade effluent to our works.
- Using advanced monitoring technology and ground surveys to pinpoint where **rain, river, and sea water infiltrate** the local sewer network, using up valuable capacity.

***£26m investment to reopen Newry for new development quickly and for less than the six year £110m traditional WwTW build solution.**
*Full funding will still be required over the longer period.

16

Summary

A permanent funding solution is required.

Short-term injections of surplus funds help but...

are not a sustainable solution for critical infrastructure.

Without urgent change to the wastewater system, Northern Ireland faces:

- Persistent and worsening pollution
- Severe restrictions on new housing development
- Deterrence of new investment and stagnation of business growth

17

THANK YOU

niwater
Delivering what matters

18

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

33

Minutes of the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 December 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 G Hanna	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 O Hanlon	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 F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/120/2025

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/121/2025

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ERT/122/2025

**ACTION SHEET ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Economy,
Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10
November 2025 **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/109/2025 – Friends of Castlewellan Arboretum and Annesley Walled Garden

In response to a query from Councillor Lewis regarding interested parties joining the group, Mr Mallon advised that work would take place in the coming weeks to establish terms of

reference and membership, with an update being provided at the next Committee.

ERT/098/2025 – Summit of the Cities 2026

ERT/116/2025 – Labour Market Action Plan

In response to a query on the above items from Councillor Andrews Mr Mallon advised that an update for both items would be provided at the next Committee.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 November 2025.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

ERT/123/2025

**OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION –
REVITALISATION PROJECT**

Read:

Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Revitalisation Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Feehan expressed gratitude to officers for preparing the report and for the comprehensive detail provided regarding the ongoing work. He commended the efforts of the Local Economic Partnership, Council officers, and Mr Mallon for driving the initiative forward. He proposed that the recommendations outlined in the report be adopted, and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Councillor Kearns stated she was pleased to note the securing of a letter of offer from the Department for the Economy and welcomed that the plan would be resourced centrally through collaboration between the Council and the Department. She observed that by addressing issues of dereliction and vacancy, the initiative would support both new and existing businesses.

Councillor Young referred to the recent introduction of the Dilapidation Bill by the Minister and noted that many town centres had fallen into disrepair, emphasising that those responsible should be held accountable.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve that the revitalisation of derelict and dilapidated buildings can be addressed through delivery of the Local Economic Partnership Action Plan.

ERT/124/2025

BELFAST CITY & REGION PLACE PARTNERSHIP

Read:

Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, presented by Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Belfast City & Region Place Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined the report, which detailed the renewal of the Council's partnership and membership agreement with the Belfast City Region Place Partnership. She advised that section

2.1 specified the benefits of membership, including partnership-focused events, engagement, advocacy, and research.

In proposing the report, Councillor Andrews highlighted that this represented an opportunity to showcase the district to a wider audience. He enquired whether membership would be offered to DBEC members working alongside the Council and this committee.

Mr Mallon advised that DBEC was a separate forum, and that the group would be officer-led and include representation from both the public and private sectors.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to approve membership with Belfast City & Region Place Partnership.**

ERT/125/2025

PEACEPLUS

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

Mrs Smyth outlined that the report concerned ongoing community engagement events, that included dates and registration details, to inform activities under the PEACEPLUS plan. She stated the business case that was attached at Appendix 1, was to support delivery of actions under Theme 2.6 of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan and recommended approval which would enable procurement to commence and allow the programme to be delivered in the next financial year.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to approve the procurement and delivery plan of the below activities under Strand 3 of the co-designed Local Action Plan:**

- **Strand 2.6 – Social and Emotional Support Programmes**
- **3.2 Minority Support Programme: Discovering the sites of Northern Ireland and Council District.**
- **3.7 Shared History and Culture Programme Steps through time**

ERT/126/2025

ST PATRICKS DAY 2026 SLAs

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding St Patrick's Day 2026 SLAs. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Smyth outlined that each year the Council sought the support of two arts-based organisations in developing the St Patrick's Day parades in Newry and Downpatrick. She advised that the paper proposed establishing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the two organisations, whose remit would include community arts engagement with schools and the enhancement of float and parade content. The proposals for the SLAs were attached at Appendix 1.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to approve the issue of Service Level Agreements to Beat Carnival and Down Community Arts to undertake schools and community engagement to create float and parade content for Downpatrick and Newry St Patrick's Day 2026 events.

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

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

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

ERT/127/2025 DELAMONT CARAVAN PARK & TOURING THE TREES KILBRONEY PARK

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Delamont Caravan Park & Touring the Trees Kilbroney Park. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- To approve the renewed lease agreement with the Camping & Caravan Club for lands at Delamont Country Caravan Park, for a further term of one year under the current lease arrangements and valuation.
- To approve that the Touring in the Trees site at Kilbroney Park continues to be operated as a site for registered youth groups.

ERT/128/2025 ULSTER FLEADH 2026

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Ulster Fleadh 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

As there was dissent within the Chamber, Councillor Ruane requested a recorded vote on the item, results of which are appended to these minutes. The results of the vote were as follows:

FOR	11
AGAINST	2
ABSTENTIONS	0

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed that Council support the Warrenpoint Comhaltas for the hosting of the Ulster Fleadh in Warrenpoint in July 2026, subject to funding being agreed in the rates setting process.

FOR NOTING

ERT/129/2025

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FLEXIBLE FUND

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Digital Transformation Flexible Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to note the update provided on the performance and delivery of the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund programme.

ERT/130/2025

GO SUCCEED NI UPDATE

Read: Report from Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism, regarding Go Succeed NI Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Feehan, it was agreed to note the update provided on the implementation of go Succeed NI Update.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026

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

Signed: Conor Mallon
Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

38

DATE: 8 December 2025 VENUE: Warrenpoint Town Hall MEETING: ERT Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Ulster Fleadh

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
W Clarke	2			
K Feehan	3			
C Galbraith	4			
O Hanlon	5			
G Hanna		1		
V Harte				1
G Kearns	6			
D Lee-Surginor	7			
A Lewis		2		
S Murphy	8			
A Quinn	9			
M Ruane	10			
J Tinnelly				2
H Young	11			
TOTALS	11	2	0	2

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

39

Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 December 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair: Councillor D McAteer

**In Attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C King
Councillor A Mathers

Councillor A King
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor H Reilly

**Committee Members in
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor R Howell
Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor T Howie
Councillor D Taylor

**Non-Committee Members
In Attendance:**

Councillor G Hanna

**Non-Committee Members
In Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor C Bowsie

**Officials in Attendance
in Chamber:**

Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital & Procurement
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance
Mrs V Keegan, Assistant Director of Digital & Communications
Ms C McClean, Assistant Director of People & Legal
Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:**

Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment

SPR/200/2025:

APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Hanlon, Hearty and Rice along with Mrs Ward, Chief Executive and Mr Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

As the Chairperson for the Committee was an apology, Deputy Chairperson Councillor McAteer assumed the role of Chair for the meeting.

SPR/201/2025:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/202/2025:

**ACTION SHEET OF STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES
MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2025**

Read:

Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 13 November 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/193/2025: Recruitment Director: Corporate Services

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly regarding membership of the interview panel, Mr Mallon advised that the matter was being taken forward by the Chief Executive, who would engage with Parties accordingly.

SPR/198/2025: Officer Report on Correspondence from Consulate General of the USA dated 2 June 2025 re 25th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly regarding a staff canvass on relatives who had excelled in the United States, Mrs Kelly advised that she would progress the matter and revert to the Member outside the meeting.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor A King, it was agreed to note the action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 13 November 2025.

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

SPR/203/2025:

**OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – AUTISM
FRIENDLY TOWNS**

Read:

Report from Mrs C McClean, Assistant Director of Legal & People, regarding Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Autism Friendly Towns. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs McClean presented the Report, noting that the Motion had been discussed at the Council's Equality & Good Relations Group on 8 October 2025, where Members were supportive as outlined in section 3.1 of the Officers' Report.

Councillor Howie proposed the Motion, spoke in support, thanked Officers for their work, and highlighted Alliance's commitment to inclusion.

Councillor Byrne also spoke in support and proposed to accept the recommendations.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Howie, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note that following discussion at the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group on 8 October, Members of the Reference Group were supportive of the Notice of Motion. Members agreed to progress the actions set out in the notice of motion, and consideration be given to the following:

- **Autism Initiative NI be contacted by the ERT Directorate to determine if there is updated training, guidance or funding for the Autism Friendly Towns Initiative.**

- **The proposal to establish a Disability Forum be referred to the Community Planning Partnership for consideration.**

SPR/204/2025: PERFORMANCE S95

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Performance S95. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne presented the 2025/26 Section 95 Audit and Assessment Report from the Northern Ireland Audit Office, noted they had issued an unqualified opinion and confirmed that the Council had met its performance duties, including the 2024/25 assessment and 2025/26 plan. He advised that one improvement had been proposed i.e. that future self-assessments should report only on performance improvement measures. He further confirmed that a report would be brought to Members and management early in the New Year on reporting arrangements.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor C King, the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2025-26 was agreed.**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor C King that Item 7 be held in open session.

SPR/205/2025: CAR PARKING CHARGES – ST PATRICKS DAY

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Car Parking Charges – St Patricks Day. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage outlined that Council operated six annual non-charge days for off-street pay-and-display car parks, inherited from DFI. He noted that DFI had agreed to recognise St Patrick's Day as a non-charge day and to amend legislation accordingly. He added that to ensure consistency and avoid confusion, the Report sought approval to designate St Patrick's Day as a non-charge day for Council-operated off-street car parks.

Councillor C King welcomed the proposal, noting that it aligned St Patrick's Day with other statutory public holidays and acknowledged the Minister for Infrastructure for setting the direction that enabled this. The proposal was seconded by Councillor A King.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor C King, seconded by Councillor A King, it was agreed to designate St Patricks Day as a new, non-chargeable day for all Council operated pay-and-display off-street car parks, commencing 2026.**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded**

by Councillor A King, 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 Reilly, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

SPR/206/2025: **PROPOSED LEASE MONAGHAN ROW, NEWRY**

Read: Report from Mrs C McClean, Assistant Director of People & Legal, regarding Proposed Lease Monaghan Row, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Byrne to renew the lease at Monaghan Row until end of March 2026. It was also agreed that a Report is brought back to February SP&R Committee detailing options for relocation of staff going forward.

SPR/207/2025: **CAPITAL PROJECT EXTENSION OF STRUELL CEMETERY**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Capital Project Extension of Struell Cemetery. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor A King, seconded by Councillor C King, it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained within the business case as attached at Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.

SPR/208/2025: **FLEET TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS CASE**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Fleet Technology Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure Fleet Safety Technology systems for Council fleet as detailed within the

Officer's Report. It was noted that Councillors had raised queries regarding discussions with Trade Unions with the agreement that a Report would be brought back prior to implementation.

SPR/209/2025:

LANDS AT SHRIGLEY

Read:

Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Lands at Shrigley. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Howie, it was agreed to approve the recommendation of the SFWG meeting held on 18 November 2025 to proceed with Option One as set out in the Officer's Report.

SPR/210/2025:

TYRELLA BEACH AMENITY BUILDING

Read:

Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Capital Projects and Procurement, regarding Tyrella Beach Amenity Building. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to approve the additional spend as detailed within the Officer's Report and to update the Council's Capital Plan to reflect the change.

SPR/211/2025:

BALLYNAHINCH SQUARE

Read:

Report from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director of Estates & Capital Projects, regarding Ballynahinch Square. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to accept the bid as outlined within the Officer's Report and proceed with the sale of the site.

SPR/212/2025:

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COUNCILLORS EQUALITY & GOOD RELATIONS REFERENCE GROUP

Read:

Report from Mrs C McClean, Assistant Director of Legal & People, regarding Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors Equality & Good Relations Reference Group. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, the revised Terms of Reference of the Councillors Equality & Good Relations Reference Group were agreed.

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

SPR/213/2025: PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS & TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE QUARTER 2 2025/26

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Update Quarter 2 2025/26. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to note the quarter 2 25/26 Prudential Indicator and Treasury Management update.**

Councillors O'Hare and Howie left the meeting during above discussion – 07:14pm and 07:16pm respectively.

FOR NOTING

SPR/214/2025: PLANNING UPDATE

Read: Report from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Regeneration, regarding Planning Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr McGilly presented the Report which provided an update on the Local Development Plan, enforcement and recruitment.

Councillor Byrne raised concerns regarding performance in relation to deadlines not being adhered to.

In response to his request for an update on Higher Level Apprenticeships, Mr McGilly confirmed that interviews had taken place, a candidate had been selected and a reserve list compiled.

Councillor Byrne requested a Report in January on the resource implications of the reserve list to assess whether additional staff could be recruited into the Planning Department. Mr Mallon advised that this timeframe was not suitable due to decisions being required prior to course enrolment and confirmed that engagement would take place with Members outside the meeting.

Councillor Reilly expressed disappointment at responses from NI Water representatives at the recent Special Council meeting, noting they were unable to provide assurance that capacity would be increased to enable development. He stated his understanding that NI Water considered homes or businesses vacant for five years as new applications, thereby hindering development, and proposed writing to the Northern Ireland Executive to seek clarification on NI Water making unilateral decisions on planning grounds. This was seconded by Councillor Lewis.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to note the update.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, to write to the Northern Ireland Executive to seek clarification on NI Water making unilateral decisions on planning grounds.

SPR/215/2025: **LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES SUB-0772-2025**

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

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Taylor regarding a review of legislative compliance from the Council, Mrs Kelly advised that the matter was for noting only and that a Report would be brought back to the Committee in the New Year. She added that, as the issue was subject to Judicial Review, it was prudent to make no further comment at this time.

Councillors Howie and Howell concurred, emphasising the importance of awaiting the outcome of legal proceedings before any action was taken by Council.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to note the correspondence.

Although not on the agenda, Councillor Reilly reported constituent concerns regarding the Kilkeel Christmas tree lights. Mr Sage noted that several trees across the District had been damaged due to anti-social behaviour and undertook to gather further information on the Kilkeel tree and revert to Councillor Reilly outside the meeting.

Councillor McAteer offered a farewell to Mrs J. Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, thanked her for her dedicated service to the Council and wished her well for the future.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.37pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026.

Signed: Councillor Declan McAteer
Deputy 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 15 December 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers,
Downshire Civic Centre**

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor C Galbraith	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor A King	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Murphy

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

Councillor D Finn	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor R Howell	

Non-Committee Members

In attendance: Councillor T Andrews

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 F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/103/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan and Truesdale.

Councillor Bowsie requested that all Members of the Committee ensure their cameras remained switched on for the duration of the meeting to enable full engagement.

Councillor Bowsie offered his condolences following the death of Council member of staff Mr Bill Donnelly.

AHC/104/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/105/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17
NOVEMBER 2025**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025.**

AHC/106/2025: PRESENTATION – NMD SPORTS AWARDS 2026

Read: Presentation from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director: Healthy Living, regarding NMD Sports Awards 2026 (copy appended to the minutes)

Mr Haughey advised that the Sports Awards were an annual celebration held in partnership with the Sports Association, Newry, Down and South Armagh, (SANDSA) and provided an opportunity to acknowledge athletes, clubs, volunteers, coaches, officials, and sports personalities across the District. He outlined that the awards categories for this year had been reduced to eight, as detailed within the presentation, and explained that the reduction involved combining junior and senior categories for coach and volunteer into single awards.

Mr Haughey advised that nomination forms would go live on the website on 5 January 2026 and would be available online or as hard copies at leisure centres, with the closing date for nominations being 26 January 2026. He further advised that shortlisting would take place shortly thereafter, with Council officers and the Sports Development Panel meeting to agree a shortlist, followed by the SANDSA Executive judging independently and meeting on 23 February to select the overall winners. He confirmed that the awards ceremony would take place on 20 March at the Slieve Donard, with tickets going on sale from 26 January at a cost of £30 per ticket, which included speakers, interviews, the presentation of awards and dinner.

Mr Haughey noted that the awards sat within the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and formed part of the Council's annual process for recognising sporting achievement. He encouraged Councillors to engage with the nomination process and emphasised the importance of providing detailed information on nomination forms to support the judging process effectively.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the presentation.**

AHC/107/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUM UPDATE

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

Councillor Mathers thanked Chairperson Councillor Campbell for hosting Davina's Ark following their receipt of the Community Wellbeing Initiative Award at the All-Island IPB Pride of Place Awards, which he stated was a testament to their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Councillor Andrews offered Mr Pat Power his best wishes on his forthcoming retirement, thanking him for his many years of service and hard work.

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 November 2025.
 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 November 2025
 - Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 18 November 2025.

FOR NOTING

AHC/108/2025: PCSP & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) UPDATE

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director of Community Development, regarding Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report. **(Copy circulated)**

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, it was agreed to note the following:
- Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held 8 October 2025 and approved on 26 November 2025.
 - Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 30 September 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 25 November 2025.

AHC/109/2025: 2025 SPORTS AWARDS

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Leisure & Sport, regarding Council Sports Awards 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.16pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026

Signed: Councillor C Bowsie
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

www.newrymouredown.org



Sports Awards 2026

Conor Haughey

Assistant Director: Healthy Living

Active Healthy and Communities Directorate

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Ag freastal ar an Dúin agus Ard Mhacha Theas

Serving Down and South Armagh

1

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Awards 2026

Hosted in association with SANDSA

Awards Evening: Friday 20 March 2026

Venue: Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle



2

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

www.newrymouredown.org



Event Overview

- Annual celebration of sporting excellence across the district
- Recognising athletes, clubs, volunteers, coaches & officials
- Delivered by Council, supported by SANDSA
- Councillors invited to attend and support

3

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

www.newrymouredown.org



Award Categories

8 Award Categories including:


- Junior Club Team of the Year
- Senior Club Team of the Year
- Sport Volunteer of the Year
- Club Coach of the Year
- Sportsperson/Team of the Year with a Disability
- Life-Time Services to Sport
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year

4


Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

www.newrymouredown.org



Key Dates



- Nominations Open: 5 January 2026
- Nominations Close: 26 January 2026
- Shortlisting: 28 & 29 January 2026
- Judging Panel: 23 February 2026
- Awards Ceremony: Friday 20 March 2026
- Eligible Period: 1 Jan 2025 – 9 Feb 2026

5

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

www.newrymouredown.org



Judging Process


- Shortlisting completed by Council officer panel
- Judged by community representatives from SANDSA Executive
- Independent and score-based



6

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

www.newrymouredown.org



Venue & Format

Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle

- Dinner included in price of tickets (£30)
- Guest speaker interviews
- Presentation of 8 award categories



7

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

www.newrymouredown.org



2026 Sport awards

Be Active – Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2025–2030


Theme 2 sports providers



8

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

www.newrymouredown.org



Thank You

We look forward to celebrating our district's sporting achievements by our clubs and individuals

Questions?

9

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2025

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 6pm in Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town
Hall**

Chair:	Councillor O Magennis	
In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor J Jackson Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Hearty Councillor M Larkin Councillor M Ruane
Committee Members in Attendance via Teams:	Councillor C Enright Councillor D Finn	Councillor K Feehan Councillor K Murphy
Officials in Chamber:	Mrs S Murphy, Director, Sustainability and Environment Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability Mrs S Trainor, Director of Environment Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer	
Officials in Attendance via teams:	Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer	

SE/144/2025: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors O’Hare, Taylor and Young.

SE/145/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/146/2025: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2025

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 November 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

SE/134/2025: Health Fora:
Following a request from Councillor Andrews regarding progress on the Health Fora, Mrs Murphy advised that the proposed date of the next meeting was February 2026, with an update to be provided in the new year.

SE/141/2025: Christmas and New Year Arrangements – Refuse Collections and Household Recycling Centres:

Councillor Reilly noted the Christmas bin collection arrangements and queried when this information would be shared with residents. He advised that he had received a number of complaints from residents in Kilkeel, Cranfield and Annalong regarding missed bin collections and queried what the underlying issues might be. He also noted that a local business owner had informed him that they had transferred their waste collection to a private provider, potentially resulting in a loss of income to the Council, and asked whether waste charges could be reviewed to ensure the Council remained competitive.

Mrs Murphy stated that she was not aware of any complaints regarding bin collections but confirmed that she would look into the matter. In relation to the Christmas collection arrangements, she confirmed that information would be shared on social media, alongside stickers being placed on bins to ensure those residents affected were aware of the changes. She also asked Members to share this information with residents as opportunities arose. With regard to commercial waste collections, she confirmed that the pricing schedule had remained unchanged from the previous year and that the service operated on a cost-recovery basis rather than for profit, and therefore there would be no loss of income.

Councillor Reilly welcomed the distribution of the stickers and thanked Mrs Murphy for the update.

SE/034/2025: Officer Report on NOM – Street Lighting

Councillor Finn queried whether there was an update on her Notice of Motion, stating that she had yet to receive a written response.

Mr Sage apologised for the lack of a written response but confirmed that engagement had taken place with DfI and that he would revert to Councillor Finn.

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 19 November 2025.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SE/147/2025: **NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP FEE 2025/26**

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding NFLA Membership Fee 2025/26. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage outlined the paper, confirming that the recommendation was for Members to approve the renewal of the membership, noting that the membership fee remained unchanged from the previous year.

In proposing the report, Councillor Andrews commended the efforts of Members on the Nuclear Free local authority.

Councillor Reilly welcomed the report, noting that regular monitoring for the presence of radiation was undertaken, which he stated should be reassuring for the local community.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to approve renewal of the annual subscription for the membership of the NFLA.**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, 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 Jackson, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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/148/2025: BUSINESS CASE - CLEANING OF DRAINS, INTERCEPTORS AND SEPTIC TANKS

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Business Case for Cleaning of Drains, Gullies & Interceptors. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Hearty, it was agreed to note the report and approve the associated Business Case as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officers report.

SE/149/2025: BUSINESS CASE - ELECTRICAL TESTING, MAINTENANCE AND MINOR WORKS

Read: Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Fixed Wire Testing, Emergency Lighting and Minor Electrical Works Contract. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the Full Economic Appraisal as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officers report.

SE/150/2025:

BUSINESS CASE – WINTER GRITTING

Read:

Report from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Winter Gritting and Adverse Weather Management at Council Locations. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the Business Case as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officers report.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Magennis, that Council write to DFI to ask for flexibility in gritting routes to deal with unexpected road issues and diversions.

SE/151/2025:

WASTE CONTRACTS

Read:

Report from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment, presented by Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Waste Management Contracts. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hearty, to approve the Direct Award Contract extensions 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/152/2025:

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER 2025 & JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2025

Read:

Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes Of Thursday 30 October 2025 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 2 December 2025. (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the documents.

SE/153/2025:

ACTION SHEET FROM THE S&E WORKING GROUP MEETING OF 19 NOVEMBER 2025

Read: Action Sheet from S&E Working Group 19 November 2025 & S&E WG Presentation 19 November 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the documents.**

FOR NOTING

SE/154/2025: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE AGM AND MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER 2025**

Read: ARC21 Joint Committee AGM and Meeting No 100 Minutes Thursday 30 October 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews offered his thanks to Councillor K Murphy for her work on ARC21.

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

SE/155/2025: **THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED (LAC) MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/25**

Read: LAC Municipal Waste 2024-25 Infographic. **(Copy circulated)**

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.33pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Magennis**
Chairperson

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

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	12 January 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 Derry & Strabane District Council Council received correspondence from Derry & Strabane District Council regarding their Notice of Motion
3.2		Correspondence from Irish Health Minister Carroll MacNeill Council received correspondence from Irish Health Minister regarding NOM CAR-T Cell Therapy C/123/2025
3.3		Correspondence from Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins Council received correspondence from Infrastructure Minister regarding NOM Resurfacing of Main A Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle C/110/2025
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		<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	<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	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
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	<p>Appendices</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>



Mayor / Méara
Councillor / An Comhairleoir
Ruairí McHugh

Our ref: TJ C458/25

10 December 2025

Dear Mayor/Chair of Council

At a meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 26 November 2025, the following motion was passed:

That in line with Council's corporate position of opposition to the British Government's authoritarian proscription of Palestine Action as a "terrorist" (sic) organisation, Council is concerned regarding the decision by political prisoners imprisoned as a result of Palestine Action activism to embark on a hunger strike.

Council expresses our solidarity with the prisoners and their families;

Council further agrees to a cross party and Independent delegation to meet with prisoner families and representatives to assist efforts to bring this to a resolution.

Council will circulate the motion to all Council's across Ireland and Britain for their consideration.

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Ruairí Mc Hugh

Mayor

Derry City and Strabane District Council

From: Ministers Office <noreplymo-health@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 22 December 2025 14:27
To: Starkey, Donna; democratic.services@nmandd.org
Subject: HEA-MO-05920-2025

Some people who received this message don't often get email from noreplymo-health@corr.cloud.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

HEA-MO-05920-2025

22nd December 2025

Dear Ms. Ward,

On behalf of the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, I thank you for your correspondence regarding the motion adopted by Newry Mourne and Down District Council on 4 August 2025. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Enhancing North-South cooperation is a priority for the Irish Government and the minister is committed to working with partners in Northern Ireland to improve cooperation in health and social care where there are clear benefits for both jurisdictions and for patients across the island.

There is a long history of cooperation between the Department of Health Ireland and the Department of Health Northern Ireland, with Senior Officials meeting regularly and working together to improve health and social care provision for the benefit of patients across the island. There are also a number of agreements in place covering specific specialist Cross Border initiatives that ensure that patients can receive a range of medical procedures/services as close to home as possible.

The Department of Health is committed to continuing that close and productive cooperation. Minister Carroll MacNeill previously invited Minister Nesbitt to see the National Children's Hospital, and more recently met with Minister Nesbitt to discuss cooperation in the health sector at the twenty-sixth North South Ministerial Council Health and Food Safety meeting.

Ongoing engagement at official level continues and includes work on the exploration of those areas of health cooperation that could be further expanded to benefit residents on the island of Ireland on a cross-border basis.

Additionally, health stakeholders North and South of the border continue to work together on Cross Border EU funding Programmes. The Peaceplus programme, which builds upon the work of the previous Peace Interreg Programme is a new cross-border funding programme supported by the EU, the Government of the UK, the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive. Aiming to ensure equal access to healthcare and fostering resilience in health systems, this will be achieved through a range of collaborative, cross border health and social care initiatives.

I am pleased to note that nearly €100 million has been committed to fund health & social care and addiction projects from the Programme which will benefit residents of Northern Ireland but also communities in the border counties of Ireland, namely, counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo.

Given the similar health challenges faced by each jurisdiction, working collaboratively to maximise the potential for service planning and delivery is of the utmost importance and, as such, enhancing North-South cooperation will continue to be a priority for the Irish Government.

Yours sincerely,

Joann Lynch

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health

From: DfI Southern Secretariat
Sent: 05 January 2026 14:45
To: Smyth, Conor
Cc: democratic.services@nmandd.org
Subject: INV-0725-2025 - Marie Ward - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Resurfacing and Long-Term Repair of Main A Route between Kilkeel and Newcastle

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

Dear Conor

The Minister has asked me to set up a meeting with your Chief Executive and members of Council in order to discuss the above topic further.

Could you provide me with some suitable dates and I and some DfI Officials will endeavour to attend the meeting.

Cindy Noble
 Acting DRM Southern Division