



November 2nd, 2020

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 2nd November 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams Meeting**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 October 2020

 *Action Sheet Council Meeting 5 Oct 2020.pdf*

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 October 2020

 *Council Minutes 05 10 2020.pdf*

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 22 October 2020

 *Minutes of Special Council 22102020.pdf*

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2020

 *ERT Minutes 12 October 2020.pdf*

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2020

 *Minutes - SPR 15-10-2020.pdf*

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2020

 *Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 19 10 20.pdf*

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2020

 *Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 20-10-2020.pdf*

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10.0 Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee

Meeting held on 23 October 2020

 *Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting - 23-10-2020.pdf*

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11.0 Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2020

There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2020.

For Noting

12.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - October 2020

 *Members Bulletin - October 2020.doc*

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13.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Minutes - September 2020

 *Housing Council Minutes 10th September 2020.pdf*

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Correspondence Received

14.0 Correspondence dated 15.10.2020 from DfI re. Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in N.Ireland

 *Supported Housing Letter to stakeholders (2) TDG Published.pdf*

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15.0 Correspondence dated 26.10.2020 from Ards and North Down Borough Council re: C/098/2020 Information regarding localised outbreaks of COVID 19 Cases

 *Correspondence dated 26.10.2020 from Ards N Down re - Covid 26.10.20 -C098.pdf*

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16.0 Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council re: The Royal British Legion

 *NOM 117 - Plan to Close Bennett House, Royal British Legion.pdf*

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 *ITEM 12 (a) Appendix 1 - NOM 117-Reply email from The Royal British Legion re Plans to close Bennett House.pdf*

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 *NOM 117 - letter 2 Plan to Close Bennett House Royal British Legion.pdf*

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Conferences/Events

Notices of Motion

18.0 Notice of Motion - Negative Impact of Coronavirus on Education System and Post Primary Transfer Tests

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Taylor:

"That Council notes the negative impact of coronavirus on our education system and in particular the preparation of primary 7 pupils for post primary transfer tests. In this difficult context and to better support pupils and reduce the anxiety associated with the transfer test process, that Council writes to the Minister of Education calling on him to recommend test organisers, AQE Ltd and PPTC engage with primary school principals so that P7 children can take the tests in the safe and familiar environment of their own primary school".

19.0 Notice of Motion - 'Green New Deal' Strategy Document

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Brown:

'The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the importance of our green spaces and a sustainable environment in supporting the health and wellbeing of everyone in society. Council also recognises the role a green economy can have in the post-COVID recovery and building a better economy. Therefore, Council commits to producing a 'Green New Deal' strategy document, outlining how it will transform and protect the local environment including through:

- Committing to delivering a new Council funded green space/park project in every DEA, and identifying these for inclusion in capital plan by the end of 2021/22 financial year
- Installing recycling bins in Council-owned public places where they do not already exist
- Develop an allotment strategy for the district, allowing local communities to draw down support to establish allotments in their

communities, with the aim of having at least 1 Council supported allotment in each DEA by 2024

- Working with local businesses, especially large chains, to trial a campaign of printing customer's licence plates on takeaway bags to discourage littering
- Producing a detailed report for how each Council-owned or operated building can become carbon neutral by 2035 and setting a budget to facilitate this starting from 21/22
- Stop buying any fossil fuelled vehicles immediately, and start replacing current vehicle inventory with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles
- Setting a goal of 10% of Council's rates coming from renewable energy developments by 2025, and developing a Taskforce to attract inward investment to meet this target
- Setting a goal for each Council owned car park to have at least 5% of their parking bays as charging points for exclusive use by electric/hybrid vehicles. And larger Council-owned car parks to install PV panels providing power for 10 or more spaces
- Draw up a detailed Climate Change Emergency Plan, taking into account all of these points, reflecting the recommendations of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Group, and embedding these throughout the Council's new Local Development Plan
- A commitment to reflect throughout the new Local Development Plan the importance and impact of the circular/electrified economy, and how the Plan will facilitate Council to take advantage of opportunities in this area."

20.0 Notice of Motion - COVID Related Lost Learning

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Lewis:

"That this Council recognises the detrimental impact that classroom time lost to covid-related issues will have on learning for pupils across the education sector. This council also acknowledges the academic attainment imbalance affecting pupils, predominantly from areas of lower socioeconomic status and the risk that this inequity may be further compounded by covid-related lost learning. Further that this council calls on the Minister for Education to review his department's published strategy for curriculum and assessment for GCSE and A-Level during 2020/21 to offer equity across all subjects in regard to unit omission".

21.0 Notice of Motion - Women's Sub-Committee

Notice of motion received from Councillor Mason and Councillor Magennis.

"That this Council establishes a stand-alone 'Women's sub-committee' made up of female representatives of this council to discuss and promote women's issues, to build the skills and confidence of female representatives and to promote women getting involved in local politics to aim to achieve proportionality."

22.0 Notice of Motion - Impact of Coronavirus on those living with dementia

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McEvoy:

"This Council notes with concern figures showing that over a quarter (27.5%) of those who died from covid-19 were people living with dementia and this is the most common underlying health condition associated with deaths from the virus.

This Council welcomes the Minister for Health's stated commitment to reforming Adult Social Care and urges his Department to heed Alzheimer's Society's "The Fog of Support: An inquiry into the provision of respite care and carers assessments for people affected by dementia" to ensure those living with dementia are better protected now and into the future, specifically allowing loved ones of care home residents to be given key worker status.

This Council will commit to build on the work of Alzheimer's Society of creating Dementia Friendly Communities by hosting a virtual 'Dementia Friendly Workshop' which will increase the awareness and confidence of our staff to better relate to, support and communicate with people with dementia to help tackle stigma, establish best practice and reduce barriers for our ageing population within our Council area."

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt
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Cllr Andrew McMurray
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Catrina Miskelly
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Mr Ken Montgomery
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Mr Roland Moore
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Ms Carmel Morgan
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Mr Fearghal O'Connor
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Mr Kevin Scullion
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr John Trainor
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Central Support Unit
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
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ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/178/2019	Notice of Motion – C/131/2019: Live Animals in Circuses	At the request of Councillor McAteer it was agreed the motion remain on the action sheet.	Democratic Services		N

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/118/2020	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 07.09.2020	The action sheet was agreed	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/119/2020	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 07.09.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/120/2020	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 02.09.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/121/2020	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 14.09.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. It was agreed an updated report regarding the lease of Albert Basin would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on 12 October 2020.	Democratic Services C Mallon	Noted Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/122/2020	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 17.09.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/123/2020	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 21.09.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/124/2020	Minutes of NHS Committee Meeting held on 22.09.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/125/2020	Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 19.08.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/126/2020	Extract from draft Planning Committee Meeting held on	There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2020.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/127/2020	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 13 August 2020	The minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/128/2020	Bulletin dated September 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council	The bulletin was noted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/129/2020	Correspondence dated 4	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	September 2020 from Mid Ulster Council ref. C/098/2020				
C/130/2020	Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health re: C/085/2020 & C/098/2020	The Correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/131/2020	Correspondence from the Minister for the Economy re: C/099/2020.	The Correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/132/2020	Notice of Motion – Increase in Vehicle Insurance Cost	<p>It was agreed that Newry Mourne & Down District Council shares the concerns of residents living in the BT34 & BT35 postcodes about the drastic increase in both vehicle and house insurance costs. The Council agrees to immediately write to the Financial Regulator to request an investigation into the postcode lottery of car and house insurance and the outrageous rises in premiums that local residents are experiencing.</p> <p>Council write to the Minister for the Economy requesting that all recommendations raised in the report by the Consumer Council in March 2016 to the All Party Working Group be implemented.</p>	Democratic Services	Correspondence sent.	
C/133/2020	Notice of Motion – Reopening of	It was agreed that the statement released by the Southern Trust on Friday 11th September notifying our community that the re-opening of the emergency	Democratic Services	Correspondence sent.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	A&E in Daisy Hill Hospital	<p>department in Daisy Hill hospital has been delayed by almost a month has caused great concern for many. While we fully accept and appreciate the unique situation created by covid:19 and the logic behind the initial temporary closure, which has now lasted more than six months, we as a community cannot allow any further delays in the reinstating of this crucial service and indeed the services within the Downe hospital. The travel time for a significant percentage of our population to access services now exceeds an hour and this coupled with seasonal pressures and poor infrastructure has the potential to impact negatively on patients and indeed could mean the difference between life and death. We are asking that this Council contacts both Trusts and states in the strongest terms the concerns of our community and demands that there will be no further delays in the delivery of vital services. We also want to acknowledge the herculean efforts of all the staff within the health and care sector during this pandemic.</p> <p>In light of the latest news that emergency surgery is to be withdrawn, from Daisy Hill hospital site and the fear that this has caused throughout our community and among staff we are asking that this council requests an urgent meeting with the trusts to clearly state that no downgrading of services is acceptable.</p> <p>This Council is also extremely concerned at the news that the South Eastern Trust is planning to reverse its decision to re-open the Downe Hospital A&E as planned on 19th October. It does not see a temporary</p>	S Trainor	Special Council Meeting arranged for 22 October 2020.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		'Urgent Care centre' or 'Minor Injuries Unit' as adequate for the healthcare needs of this District. It would write to the Trust and the Minister asking them not to proceed with this course of action and that an enhancement of services at the Downe is what is needed in these times of crisis – not a reduction in services.			
C/134/2020	Notice of Motion – Fracking	<p>It was agreed that this Council, recognises we are in a climate emergency and are aware of the environmental damage caused by fracking and all forms of exploration and extraction of fossil fuels.</p> <p>This Council welcomes the recent announcement made by the Minister for Infrastructure of her intention to remove the permitted development rights for oil and gas exploration.</p>	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/135/2020	Notice of Motion – COVID outbreaks at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital	<p>It was agreed that this Council notes with concern the recent outbreaks of Covid-19 at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital and offers our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the bereaved and wishes those suffering from Covid-19 a full recovery.</p> <p>Council notes that the Minister for Health has appointed an RQIA-led team to carry out an independent investigation into the outbreaks and expresses its full support and admiration for all the staff across the health and social care service at this difficult time. Council also calls on the Minister for Health and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to ensure the concerns of staff, patients and their</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>S Trainor</p>	<p>Correspondence sent.</p> <p>Special Council Meeting arranged from 22 October 2020.</p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>families are fully addressed and these concerns are central to the investigation.</p> <p>Council welcomes the planned reopening of ED Services at Daisy Hill Hospital in the coming days but requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister and the Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust seeking assurances that there are no plans, as a result of the current Pandemic measures, to move Emergency Surgery and High Dependency from Daisy Hill to Craigavon and Daily Clinical Care from Daisy Hill to South Tyrone in Dungannon.</p> <p>Council requests that the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust comes before Council to address the concerns of Council and those we represent.</p>			
C/136/2020	Notice of Motion – Racism	The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	C Moffett	To be tabled for discussion at Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group on 23 October 2020	
C/137/2020	Notice of Motion – COVID Prevention Messaging	It was agreed that Council affirms its support for the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising as the first line of defence against C-Covid19. Furthermore, condemns attempts by politicians and other high profile members of the public to undermine the COVID prevention messaging by the Department of Health.	Democratic Services S Trainor	Noted	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 October 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
	Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor D Curran	Councillor S Doran
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor M Gibbons
	Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor M Larkin
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
	Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
	Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKevitt
	Councillor A McMurray	Councillor D Murphy
	Councillor K Owen	Councillor G O'Hare
	Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
	Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
	Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
	Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/116/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Hanna and Trainor.

The Chairperson spoke of the dangerous place we were all in regarding COVID-19 and thanked members, community groups, local media and the wider public for supporting the communications drive undertaken over the weekend to get the message out and appealed for the momentum to be kept up.

The Chairperson thanked all those who had been following the guidance and appealed to those who hadn't to do so by washing hands, keeping their distance, downloading the app and wearing a mask.

The Chairperson passed on condolences of Council to Councillor John Trainor on the death of his father John Senior. John's wife Anne was a former Councillor in the legacy Down area and the whole family had given so much to the local area by way of community activism and the thoughts of Council were with them all.

The Chairperson advised in recent weeks the community had lost two young females, Maria Robinson, Deputy Head Girl from Our Lady's in Newry and Ellie McDonnell a Year 12 pupil from Down High School, Downpatrick. Thoughts of Council were with their family, friends and school communities at such devastating times.

The Chairperson paid tribute to Noel Mussen from Burren who had recently passed away. Mr Mussen had received a Chairman's award from Council for his services to the community last year and the condolences of Council were extended to the wider Mussen Family.

The Chairperson praised 16-Year-old Dara McNulty from Castlewellan who had been awarded the 2020 Wainwright Prize for Nature writing, an outstanding achievement. Congratulations were passed on to Suzanne Smyth and Laura Kerr from Newcastle Glee Singers for their individual AIMS awards and also to the wider Glee Family for the amazing production of Calamity Jane last Christmas.

The Chairperson congratulated all of the local GAA clubs on their recent successes.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to thank members for their engagement, contribution and respect that had been shown whilst conducting meetings in a virtual format.

The Chairperson welcomed Deputy Chairman Harold McKee back and acknowledged the last number of weeks had been extremely tough for Harold and his family and wished him well in his further recovery.

Councillor McKee thanked the Chairperson, fellow councillors and staff for all the well wishes he had received since his stroke. Councillor McKee appealed to everyone to be aware of the symptoms of stroke and seek medical assistance should they feel unwell and paid tribute to the staff and care he received during his stay on the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

The Chairperson advised she had received a request for an emergency notice of motion from Councillor Brown regarding the Downe A&E. Members were advised this would be dealt with at the end of the agenda and would require a suspension of Standing Orders.

Councillors Taylor, Ó Muirí and Savage also paid tribute to and sent condolences to the family of Jeni Larmour from Newtownhamilton on her tragic passing.

C/117/2020

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism declared an interest in item 7 regarding SPR/134/2020: Director Recruitment.

Mrs Ward, Chief Executive declared an interest in item 7 regarding SPR/140/2020: Chief Executives Appraisal 2019-2020.

Councillor Owen declared an interest in items 18 and 20 regarding Notices of Motion on the reopening of A&E Daisy Hill Hospital and the COVID-19 outbreaks at Daisy Hill Hospital and

Craigavon Area Hospital.

C/118/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/119/2020 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

C/120/2020 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 2 September 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/121/2020 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2020 (copy circulated).

ERT/116/2020: Lease of Albert Basin, Christmas Staff Car Parking

Mr Mallon advised Members further correspondence had been received from the Quays Shopping Centre and an updated report regarding the lease of Albert Basin would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on 12 October 2020.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Clarke that an updated report**

regarding the lease of Albert Basin would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on 12 October 2020.

ERT/118/2020: Mountain Bike Trails

Mr Mallon confirmed he would advise the Forest Service of concerns raised by Councillor McKee regarding the need for provisions to be made at Tollymore Forest Park Mountain Bike Trail for first time users and young cyclists.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Stokes.**

C/122/2020 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2020 (copy circulated).

SPR/125/2020: Assessment of Performance 2019-2020

In response to Councillor Savage's request for an update regarding the proposed Newry Civic Centre and the motion previously passed by Council to await the consultant's report, Mrs Ward confirmed an outline business case for the project had gone before the Project Board in September and was to be presented to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on 15 October 2020.

Mrs Ward added the Project Board would work on all other elements of the Motion and how that would be actioned.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/123/2020 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2020 (copy circulated).

AHC/70/2020: Financial Assistance – Community Engagement

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Lipsett confirmed the proposal to not allow groups to reapply within certain timeframes had been removed and that it was hoped the call for financial assistance would be released prior to Christmas.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

C/124/2020 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/125/2020 **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Owen.

C/126/2020 **EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Noted: There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE

C/127/2020 **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 13 AUGUST 2020**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 13 August 2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 13 August 2020 were noted.

C/128/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Bulletin dated September 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted.**

C/129/2020 RESPONSE FROM MID ULSTER COUNCIL RE: C.098.2020 – INFORMATION REGARDING LOCALISED OUTBREAKS OF COVID CASES

Read: Correspondence dated 4 September 2020 from Mid Ulster Council ref. C/098/2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted.**

C/130/2020 RESPONSE FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RE: C.085.2020, AMBULANCE COVER & C.092.2020, CLINICAL RESPONSE MODEL

Read: Correspondence dated 4 September 2020 from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health re: C/085/2020 and C/098/2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted.**

C/131/2020 RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE ECONOMY RE: C.099.2020, COLLINS AEROSPACE, KILKEEL

Read: Correspondence dated 15 September 2020 from the Minister for the Economy re: C/099/2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/132/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – INCREASE IN VEHICLE INSURANCE COSTS

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Magennis:

"Newry Mourne & Down District Council shares the concerns of residents living in the BT34 & BT35 postcodes about the drastic increase in their vehicle insurance costs. The Council agrees to immediately write to the Financial Regulator to

request an investigation into the postcode lottery of car insurance and the outrageous rises in premiums that local drivers are experiencing."

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Magennis said car insurance premiums in the BT34 and BT35 areas were among the highest in N. Ireland. She said insurance companies calculated the risk according to post code and they considered BT34 and BT35 to be high risk areas and this was an extremely unfair system when everyone was made to suffer for the actions of a few and those drivers who drove uninsured and made multiple claims should be held to account.

Councillor Magennis acknowledged insurance premiums for 18 – 25 year olds would be high, but she said those who had been driving for years without incident should see a reduction in their premiums year on year, however, this was not the case in the BT34 and BT35 areas and in fact premiums were increasing year on year.

Councillor Magennis said the complexities of Brexit and how that might affect people living in border areas and travelling across the border was also a cause for concern.

Councillor Magennis said anomalies had been uncovered in the insurance industry in the ROI and had been effectively challenged and she called for the same action to be taken in the District.

Councillor O'Hare seconded the Motion and asked that an amendment be made to include the rising costs of house insurance as well. Councillor Magennis accepted the amendment.

Councillor McAteer supported the Motion and said a report had been provided by the Consumer Council N.I. to an All Party group in Stormont in March 2016 that outlined fifteen points of concern for the government to act on. Councillor McAteer asked that an amendment be made to the Motion to include that Council write to the Minister for the Economy asking that all recommendations raised in the report by the Consumer Council in March 2016 to the All Party Working Group be implemented.

Councillor Magennis accepted the amendment to the proposal.

Members spoke in strong support for the Motion saying a complete overhaul of the system was needed to eliminate the enormous disparity that was currently evident and agreed a more competitive market place was needed.

In summing up, Councillor Magennis confirmed she would accept both Councillor O'Hare and Councillor McAteer's amendments and she thanked Members for their support for the Motion. Councillor Magennis said she considered it unfair that an entire postcode area be penalized for incidences of car crime in particular townlands.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, that Newry Mourne & Down District Council shares the concerns of residents living in the BT34 & BT35 postcodes about the drastic increase in both vehicle and house insurance costs. The Council agrees to immediately write to the Financial Regulator to request an investigation into the postcode lottery of car and house insurance and the outrageous rises in premiums that local residents are experiencing.

Council write to the Minister for the Economy requesting that all recommendations raised in the

**report by the Consumer Council in March 2016 to the
All Party Working Group be implemented.**

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C/133/2020

**NOTICE OF MOTION – RE-OPENING OF A&E IN DAISY HILL
HOSPITAL**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Mulgrew:

"The statement released by the Southern Trust on Friday 11th September notifying our community that the re-opening of the emergency department in Daisy Hill hospital has been delayed by almost a month has caused great concern for many. While we fully accept and appreciate the unique situation created by covid:19 and the logic behind the initial temporary closure, which has now lasted more than six months, we as a community cannot allow any further delays in the reinstating of this crucial service and indeed the services within the Downe hospital. The travel time for a significant percentage of our population to access services now exceeds an hour and this coupled with seasonal pressures and poor infrastructure has the potential to impact negatively on patients and indeed could mean the difference between life and death. We are asking that this Council contacts both Trusts and states in the strongest terms the concerns of our community and demands that there will be no further delays in the delivery of vital services. We also want to acknowledge the herculean efforts of all the staff within the health and care sector during this pandemic.

In light of the latest news that emergency surgery is to be withdrawn, from Daisy Hill hospital site and the fear that this has caused throughout our community and among staff we are asking that this council requests an urgent meeting with the trusts to clearly state that no downgrading of services is acceptable".

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Mulgrew stated she had lodged the Motion three weeks previously as there was general feeling among staff and the community that there was more bad news to come which, she considered reflected the level of mistrust with the Trust and staff morale was at an all-time low.

Councillor Mulgrew said the removal of emergency surgery would see ambulances bypassing Daisy Hill Hospital and going to Craigavon Area Hospital which was a downgrading of service and would result in the Emergency Department in Daisy Hill Hospital becoming a minor injuries unit.

Councillor Mulgrew said all citizens were entitled to the same level of care and she considered the Trusts were hiding under the cover of COVID 19 in that, due to the pandemic, people would not protest.

Councillor Ó'Muirí seconded the Motion.

Councillor Brown stated he fully supported the Motion and said he had intended to propose an Emergency Motion at the Meeting regarding services at the Downe Hospital. He asked if Councillor Mulgrew would agree to amending the Motion to include the 'Downe Hospital' in the title of the Motion and also adding the following paragraph:

"This Council is also extremely concerned at the news that the South Eastern Trust is planning to reverse its decision to re-open the Downe Hospital A&E as

planned on 19th October. It does not see a temporary 'Urgent Care centre' or 'Minor Injuries Unit' as adequate for the healthcare needs of this District. It would write to the Trust and the Minister asking them not to proceed with this course of action and that an enhancement of services at the Downe is what is needed in these times of crisis – not a reduction in services."

Councillor Mulgrew agreed to accept the amendments and Councillor Brown withdrew his Emergency Motion.

Members spoke in strong support for the Motion raising the following points:

- Vital that staff and services be retained at the Downe and Daisy Hill Hospitals.
- Unacceptable that people would have to travel long distances in emergency situations especially coming into the winter months.
- The citizens of the district were being failed by the Trusts, resulting in a lack of trust in the Trusts.
- Both the Downe and Daisy Hill Hospitals were regarded by the Trusts as 'weaker' hospitals.
- Extremely disappointed in the most recent statement released by the South Eastern Trust.
- An urgent meeting with the Trusts was necessary so that Members had the opportunity to get answers to their questions.

In summing up, Councillor Mulgrew thanked Members for their support for the Motion, saying it was an issue that affected the entire district and it was vitally important to have an urgent meeting with the Trusts.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor ÓMuirí, that the statement released by the Southern Trust on Friday 11th September notifying our community that the re-opening of the emergency department in Daisy Hill hospital has been delayed by almost a month has caused great concern for many. While we fully accept and appreciate the unique situation created by covid:19 and the logic behind the initial temporary closure, which has now lasted more than six months, we as a community cannot allow any further delays in the reinstating of this crucial service and indeed the services within the Downe hospital. The travel time for a significant percentage of our population to access services now exceeds an hour and this coupled with seasonal pressures and poor infrastructure has the potential to impact negatively on patients and indeed could mean the difference between life and death. We are asking that this Council contacts both Trusts and states in the strongest terms the concerns of our community and demands that there will be no further delays in the delivery of vital services. We also want to acknowledge the herculean efforts of all the staff within the health and care sector during this pandemic.

In light of the latest news that emergency surgery is to be withdrawn, from Daisy Hill hospital site and the fear that this has caused throughout our community and among staff we are asking that this council requests an urgent meeting with the trusts to clearly state that no downgrading of services is acceptable.

This Council is also extremely concerned at the news that the South Eastern Trust is planning to reverse its decision to re-open the Downe Hospital A&E as planned on 19th October. It does not see a temporary 'Urgent Care centre' or 'Minor Injuries Unit' as adequate for the healthcare needs of this District. It would write to the Trust and the Minister asking them not to proceed with this course of action and that an enhancement of services at the Downe is what is needed in these times of crisis – not a reduction in services.

(7.30pm – Councillor Malone withdrew from the meeting)

(8.10pm – Councillor Sharvin withdrew from the meeting)

C/134/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – FRACKING

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Ó Muirí:

"This Council, recognising we are in a climate emergency and being aware of the environmental damage caused by fracking and all forms of exploration and extraction of fossil fuels, calls on the Minister for the Economy to place an immediate moratorium on all licences and further calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to urgently implement changes to deny permitted development rights to any company seeking to prospect for oil and/or gas".

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ó Muirí told Members we were in the midst of a severe climate and biodiversity crisis and a surge in CO2 emissions had sent global temperatures rising resulting in rising sea levels, melting ice caps and habitat destruction.

Councillor Ó Muirí said an urgent and radical programme of action was needed against the exploration, extraction and production of any further fossil fuels and that if two thirds of all proven fossil fuel reserves in the world were to be extracted and burned, we would exceed full use of existing reserves without the issuing of licenses to search for more carbon based fuels which would inevitably result in catastrophic and irreversible change to our climate and damage to the natural environment.

Councillor Ó Muirí said fracking was dangerous and environmentally invasive with no care for land, water, wildlife, plant life or communities and said that in December 2019 a sinkhole measuring nine metres wide had appeared in Co. Monaghan just thirty five metres from the main road. He said a company had been mining in the area at that time.

Councillor Gibbons seconded the Motion.

Councillor McKevitt said she fully supported the Motion but asked in view of Minister Mallon's announcement today regarding her intention to remove the permitted development rights for oil and gas exploration, that the Motion be amended to reflect this.

Councillor Ó Muirí accepted the amendment.

Members spoke in full support of the Motion saying urgent action was needed and welcomed the announcement that had been made by the Minister today.

In summing up, Councillor Ó Muirí thanked everyone for their support and said although there was wide support for wind farms, no one wanted it in their own locality as it could

adversely affect the value of their houses, and therefore it was important to be creative and look at alternative locations such as on the side of mountains or off the coast in water.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gibbons, that this Council, recognises we are in a climate emergency and are aware of the environmental damage caused by fracking and all forms of exploration and extraction of fossil fuels.**

This Council welcomes the recent announcement made by the Minister for Infrastructure of her intention to remove the permitted development rights for oil and gas exploration.

C/135/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID 19 OUTBREAKS AT DAISY HILL HOSPITAL AND CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillors Savage and Stokes:

“This Council notes with concern the recent outbreaks of Covid-19 at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital and offers our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the bereaved and wishes those suffering from Covid-19 a full recovery.

Council notes that an independent investigation is being carried out into the outbreaks and expresses its full support and admiration for all the staff across the health and social care service at this difficult time. Council also calls on the Minister for Health and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to ensure the concerns of staff, patients and their families are fully addressed and these concerns are central to the investigation.

Council welcomes the planned reopening of ED Services at Daisy Hill Hospital in the coming days but requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister and the Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust seeking assurances that there are no plans, as a result of the current Pandemic measures, to move Emergency Surgery and High Dependency from Daisy Hill to Craigavon and Daily Clinical Care from Daisy Hill to South Tyrone in Dungannon.

Council requests that the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust comes before Council to address the concerns of Council and those we represent.”

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Savage acknowledged some of the points raised in the Motion had been included in the previous Motion put forward by Councillor Mulgrew but said it was extremely important there was transparency, trust and openness with the local Trusts. He extended his sympathies to the families of those who had sadly lost their lives due to Covid 19 and his best wishes for a speedy recovery to those suffering from the virus.

Councillor Savage said it was not a pleasant experience for patients to have to travel to Craigavon Area Hospital, bypassing Daisy Hill Hospital and he paid tribute to the health care workers and said it was extremely important that we support them at this time.

Councillor Stokes seconded the Motion.

In supporting the Motion, Councillors paid tribute to those families affected by Covid 19 and said hospital staff had been badly let down by the Trust and they welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust.

In summing up, Councillor Savage thanked Members for their support and said Council fully supported those who had lost family members in their search for the truth. He said full transparency was needed, the Trusts needed to be held accountable and the people of the District should not be treated like second class citizens.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Stokes that this Council notes with concern the recent outbreaks of Covid-19 at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital and offers our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the bereaved and wishes those suffering from Covid-19 a full recovery.**

Council notes that an independent investigation is being carried out into the outbreaks and expresses its full support and admiration for all the staff across the health and social care service at this difficult time. Council also calls on the Minister for Health and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to ensure the concerns of staff, patients and their families are fully addressed and these concerns are central to the investigation.

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Council requests that the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust comes before Council to address the concerns of Council and those we represent."

(8.20pm – Councillor McKee withdrew from the meeting)

(8.30pm - Councillor Finnegan withdrew from the meeting)

C/136/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – RACISM

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Clarke:

"That this Council recognises that racism is a scourge across this society. This Council further recognises the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; deplores the discrimination Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities face regularly; condemns racism

in all its forms, and calls on this Council to work together with the sector; local BAME representative groups; schools and colleges; private businesses and public enterprises to ensure that this Council area becomes a racism free zone".

Councillor Mulgrew seconded the Motion.

Councillor Clarke expressed his disappointment that the Motion was to be referred to the Good Relations Forum saying it was an important issue that he considered should have had an All Party sign up and by referring it to the Good Relations Forum, that would not be the case.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6

C/137/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID PREVENTION MESSAGING

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Byrne:

"Council affirms its support for the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising as the first line of defence against C-Covid19. Furthermore, condemns attempts by politicians and other high profile members of the public to undermine the COVID prevention messaging by the Department of Health."

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Byrne said a level of complacency had been creeping in with regard to the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising and he said it was vital not to over complicate this issue. He said, as a society we needed to be led by the experts in an effort to protect ourselves and the most vulnerable in our society.

Councillor Byrne said the recent figures released according to the Corona Virus SIR Model were very alarming with one third of all our cases recorded in the last seven days and one sixth of our cases in twenty four hours.

Councillor Byrne said as we faced into a second wave of the virus, it was imperative to get the message out across the district of the importance of adhering to the two basic principles of wearing face coverings and hand sanitising, and he asked that Council formally put on record that it stands behind the COVID prevention message advocated by the Department of Health.

Councillor McKeivitt seconded the Motion.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, that Council affirms its support for the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising as the first line of defence against C-Covid19. Furthermore, condemns attempts by politicians and other high profile members of the public to undermine the COVID prevention messaging by the Department of Health.

(8.44pm - Councillor Clarke withdrew from the meeting)
(8.50pm - Councillor Ruane withdrew from the meeting)
(8.54pm - Councillor McAteer withdrew from the meeting)

(8.56pm - Councillor Mulgrew withdrew from the meeting)

Some technical difficulties were experienced during the meeting and to ensure Members were successfully linked in, a roll call was taken several times throughout the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.58pm.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 22 October 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor K Owen	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs. M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active & Healthy Communities
 Ms S Trainor, Senior Environmental Health Officer
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr S McGoran, Chief Executive, South Eastern Trust
 Mr D Robinson, Interim Director of Hospital Services, South Eastern Trust
 Ms R Coulter, Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics, South Eastern Trust
 Mr S Devlin, Chief Executive, Southern Trust

SC/11/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

The Chairperson thanked the delegates from both Trusts for attending the meeting saying communication was key and commended all frontline workers saying they were the backbone of our society during the pandemic and we were indebted to them.

The Chairperson recognised the fear throughout the district not only due to the Covid pandemic but also the potential suspension of all non-Covid related services.

The Chairperson recognised the NHS was under extreme pressure and asked Members to be mindful of this and respectful in their questions to the delegates.

SC/12/2020**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Owen declared an interest stating she had previously worked saying she worked within the Southern Trust Councillor Andrews declared an interest saying he had been nominated to the Local Commissioning Group.

SC/13/2020**PRESENTATION SOUTH EASTERN TRUST**

The Chairperson then invited Seamus McGoran from South Eastern Trust to deliver his presentation.

Mr McGoran stated he welcomed the opportunity to engage with Members and said David Robinson who was Interim Director of Hospital Services was also in attendance and would address the Members.

Mr McGoran acknowledged the current global pandemic was unprecedented and had resulted in hard decisions having to be made which had resulted in consolidating services and redeploying staff where they had deemed necessary. Mr McGoran stated that independently made decisions clearly had had an effect in the Down area and they were now working closely together with the Southern Trust. They commenced the first phase of the Emergency Department re-opening on 10 August by introducing a nurse-led minor injuries unit which was open seven days a week and the plan at that stage was to re-open the full emergency department services on 19 October.

Mr McGoran said following discussions with clinicians, it became apparent the planned re-opening of the Emergency Department on 19 October could not happen, he recognised the frustration and disappointment this had had on the people of the district, however from Monday 19 October the hospital had opened a consultant-led Urgent Care centre to replace the nurse-led minor injuries unit. This unit would have increased capacity to see more people and cover a wide range of medical conditions.

Mr McGoran apologised for the late notice in which the press release had been issued however stated the Trust's commitment to the Downe Hospital was 100%, it was a vibrant hospital pre-COVID and the recent changes were as a direct result of the effect of the COVID pandemic but the long term plans for the Downe Hospital were unchanged.

Mr Robinson reiterated what Mr McGoran had said and added the Urgent Care Centre would offer a lot of what had been offered before but people would phone first and be assessed.

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

- Concerns the Downe Hospital was not a priority and seen as the poor relation in terms of hospital provision in the area.
- There was a potential for non-covid related health conditions to be ignored and would a twin track approach be considered to avoid this happening.
- Concern regarding the effects of winter pressures and the displacement of patients from the Downe to the Ulster Hospital taking into account the second surge of the pandemic.
- What was the reasoning behind the decision to consolidate services into the Lagan Valley and Ulster Hospitals?
- The ambulance service worked between the two Trusts, why wasn't there a joint

- approach on how services were going to be delivered during the Covid pandemic?
- Concern regarding the potential removal of acute psychiatric services from the Downshire.
- Concern regarding the issues experienced in the recruitment of middle grade doctors.
- The Accident and Emergency department of the Ulster Hospital was overrun, would it not make sense to re-open the Downe to alleviate this pressure?
- More clarity needed on what was being provided by the Urgent Care Centre
- Could a date be given for when the Downe ED would re-open?
- How had the Trusts come to the decision regarding re-opening the ED department in Daisy Hill Hospital and not the Downe Hospital?
- Long history of acute psychiatric care in the Downshire and recognised as a centre of excellence, concerns this facility may be centralised.
- Given the current pandemic and the absence of a vaccine, could the Trust confirm if the Emergency Department would ever fully re-open in the Downe?
- What were the numbers of people using the Urgent Care facility compared to the numbers for the ED department?
- If a critical incident took place would the Downe have the capability to provide urgent and critical care if the Ulster Hospital was overloaded?
- What was the plan for recruiting the best medical staff to the Downe hospital?
- Was the Downe hospital seeing category 1 or category 2 patients?
- Were there any other services being reduced/removed and not replaced?
- How was the Ulster Hospital holding up under the increased pressure?
- Unsure how effective an urgent care by appointment only would work.
- Did the Trust have any plans to increase the number of private ambulances being used?
- What steps was the Trust taking in responding to the 25% increase in mental health issues among young people?
- How much money was spent by the Trust in the use of private ambulances?

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Strongly disagreed the Downe Hospital was regarded as the poor relation saying N.Ireland had two Type two emergency departments, the Lagan Valley and the Downe Hospital and they have fought very hard to retain this status. A range of enhanced services have been brought to the Downe and there had been a lot of investment in the Downe over the past 10 – 13 years.
- In order to operate a twin track system, it would be necessary to double the staff which would not be feasible.
- The Trust had been working very closely with NIAS and a phone system was in place whereby ambulance crews could speak directly to clinicians before safely attending the hospital. There were occasions where very ill patients would have to bypass the Downe and go directly to an acute hospital.
- There was no estimated date for the reopening of the full emergency department at the Downe Hospital.
- Bamford Review undertaken several years ago looked at a future plan for best delivery of mental health provision, this pointed to moving towards community-based care but with acute mental health care being located on a major acute hospital site. Great progress had been made regarding the delivery of mental health services within the community. The Trust very keen to expand the addictions unit on the Downe site.
- There were now 5 consultants working in the Downe Hospital.
- The Trust had managed to retain the Downe as a vibrant hospital instead of it becoming a community hospital.
- The Lagan Valley had a capacity of 84 beds and the Downe had a capacity of 44.

- Numbers attending the ED Department, pre-Covid was between 60 – 80 per day, current figures were 30 – 40 calls and seeing 25 – 35 patients per day.
- In the case of a critical incident taking place, patients would be treated at the most appropriate hospital if safe to do so.
- The Trust would continue to support and attract quality medical and nursing staff to work at the Downe Hospital.
- There were no category 1 patients coming to the Downe Hospital as was the case pre-COVID.
- There were no plans to cut any further services at the Downe Hospital.
- The Trust accepted that it was a very challenging time but all hospitals were holding up under the increased pressure.
- Genuine emergencies would still be dealt with by dialling 999, the vast majority of emergency care would be dealt with by triaging. Good evidence to support that scheduled/non-scheduled appointments worked very well.
- Recruitment for nurses was ongoing and also using international recruitment across the region. The recruitment of doctors was challenging and there were more jobs than qualified doctors.
- The Trust currently used private ambulances regularly to transfer or discharge patients.
- Community planning was the best way forward in dealing with the huge challenge of mental health issues.
- The Trust to forward details of spend on private ambulances.

In summing up, Roisin Coulter, Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics, thanked everyone for the open and frank discussion and said it was important to hear the concerns and views of the people who lived in the district and to have the opportunity to explain the rationale behind the very difficult decisions that had had to be made. Ms Coulter said there was a joint responsibility to work together and build relationships and asked that Members promote and encourage the services that were being offered and to be mindful of their staff when communicating out to the media. Ms Coulter said the Trust was committed to working together in partnership with the Council and said regular engagement was very important and they would be very keen to meet any time and in any format.

The Chair thanked the delegates from the South Eastern Trust and welcomed future meetings with them.

SC/14/2020

PRESENTATION FROM SOUTHERN TRUST

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Shane Devlin and invited him to deliver his presentation.

Mr Devlin said he welcomed the opportunity to come before the Council and said he would provide a summary of what had happened to date after which he would be happy to answer any questions that Members had.

Mr Devlin advised Members a decision had been taken in March to relocate the emergency department and create a respiratory and non-respiratory department in Craigavon Area Hospital to keep COVID and non COVID patients separate, this decision had been largely taken to keep people safe from COVID.

Mr Devlin said a range of various surgeries had been re-introduced in Daisy Hill and the Trust had engaged with Pathfinder Group in determining how best to re- open the emergency department in Daisy Hill, which had been due to open in September but had subsequently opened on 19 October, Mr Devlin said it had been disappointing not to open in September as

scheduled, but it was more important to ensure that all safety precautions were in place. Mr Devlin said the Trust had invested heavily in redesigning the emergency department in Daisy Hill and had segmented different areas to ensure safety. The medical bed capacity had been increased by a further 16 beds and the ventilation system had been rebuilt in the High Dependency Unit. Since re-opening on Monday 19 October, the emergency unit had been relatively busy, seeing approximately 120 patients each day. Mr Devlin said he was encouraging people to use the emergency department wisely and not to come unless absolutely necessary.

Mr Devlin advised that at the height of the first surge, there were a total of 63 COVID positive patients in the Southern Trust and there were currently 79 COVID positive patients. Mr Devlin said all services had been restored, however although the emergency surgery was open, they did not have their full complement of general surgeons and he said the future of emergency surgery was a big challenge for all of the Southern Trust.

Mr Devlin referred to the COVID outbreaks in both Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital that resulted in the deaths of 15 people, which he greatly regretted and for which he apologised. He said an independent review had been established that would look at all 29 patients who had contracted COVID and hoped that some learning could come from the review.

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

- It was important to get the message out to people that Daisy Hill Hospital was a safe place to go to with all proper COVID precautions in place.
- What was the impact on staffing levels with staff off due to having to isolate and also on them taking annual leave?
- Cross collaboration needed with the SE Trust, as part of the Community Planning, a more joined up approach needed.
- Reference made to a recent road traffic accident whereby a badly injured person could not get an ambulance and had to be driven by car to Craigavon Area Hospital by her husband who was told on arrival at the hospital that he would have to dial 999 to get an ambulance to take his wife from the car.
- How were the long term plans for acute surgical cover at Daisy Hill Hospital progressing?
- It was necessary to retain surgery at both Daisy Hill and Craigavon Area Hospital.
- Concern regarding accommodation issues re parking and the ability to create enough space to allow for staff breaks and meetings to take place safely.
- Was the burden on the community or the Trust to keep the hospital safe?
- How would the current trend of big hospitals getting bigger and small hospitals getting smaller impact on Daisy Hill Hospital?
- How would specialist surgeons be attracted to Daisy Hill Hospital if there wasn't an intensive care unit?
- What was being done to recruit additional nurses in order to ensure there were enough staff?
- What additional measures, if any have had to be taken in preparation for the second phase of the pandemic?
- Are the restrictions on GP services affecting the numbers attending the hospitals?
- Clarity needed on what should people do if they suspect they may have COVID and they receive a message
- Does the Trust use private ambulances and if so, what was the cost of this service?
- Could the Daisy Hill Hospital emergency department have re-opened without the input from the Pathfinder Group?

- Were there issues with the GP out-of-hours services at Daisy Hill?
- Was there any potential of the ED closing at Daisy Hill in the future if the numbers keep rising?
- Was there anything Elected representatives could do to assist the Trust, particularly during these difficult times?
- Excellent work carried out by the student doctors who had been trained and put onto the front line very quickly to extract blood from 3000 staff members.
- Across the whole of the UK, four A&Es were stood down due to the pandemic, two of which were in this Council area therefore the sense of outrage and anger was palpable. Fighting for the retention and enhancement of services united all parties in the chamber however question marks always remain regarding the long-term sustainability of Daisy Hill, every year the same question came up. What was the situation with the Bengoa-style roll-out of services in the longer term and if this were to go ahead what would that mean for Daisy Hill and the Southern Trust?

Mr Devlin responded to queries as follows:

- Confident in their supplies of PPE and the process that is followed to ensure safe practice.
- There were currently 570 staff members off work due to a combination of self-isolation as well as being COVID positive. This was a huge challenge and was being continually assessed. If situation was to worsen, hard decisions would have to be made in terms of winding back from non-emergency procedures to offer support to the urgent and emergency issues.
- The Southern Trust now meets with the SE Trust twice weekly to discuss systems and Trust issues.
- In relation to the road traffic accident that a Member had referred to, Mr Devlin asked him to forward the details to him and he would look at it separately.
- Emergency surgery was covered in the short term at both hospital sites, however this was a challenge and they were currently exploring options for the medium and long term to sustain this including recruiting surgeons and working with a body of surgeons to work across both sites.
- Finding extra space to accommodate staff breaks was a challenge, currently using marquees and portacabins but this was an area that was currently being explored by the Trust's Estates Department.
- The Trust is responsible for ensuring the facility is kept safe, however they would ask that people use it wisely and only for urgent and emergency care. Additionally in an effort to reduce footfall, people should attend the hospital alone where possible to reduce the chance of spreading COVID. They were currently exploring a telephone triage system that would be manned by a number of professionals.
- Daisy Hill Hospital was getting bigger, with more investment and enhanced services introduced.
- Looking at attractive packages in recruiting surgeons such as employing them to work across several hospital sites which would be a more exciting proposition.
- Acknowledged there was a shortage of nurses in N. Ireland, however they have been running successful recruitment campaigns several times per year and they also recruit international nurses and they will continue to do this.
- Medical beds had been enhanced in both Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital. If there was increased COVID demand, they may have to look at further cancellation of non-urgent surgeries. Also exploring the best use of GPs, COVID centres in Banbridge and Dungannon and the Urgent Care Centre model. Most important to keep reinforcing the basic message of wearing face coverings, washing hands, and social distancing.
- Will seek clarity from the PHA on clear guidelines on what people should do if they get a message via the COVID messaging app.

- The Trust uses private ambulances for transporting for non-urgent patients but will come back with associated costs.
- Great relationship with the Pathfinder Group, Daisy Hill would not be where it was at the moment without it.
- The Trust struggled with out-of-hours GP services, despite the offered salary scale, however there were not enough GPs. The Trust were exploring out-of-hours urgent care services which would run on a multi-disciplinary basis rather than just GP response.
- There were two pathways established, Covid and non-Covid along with enhanced services established at the hospital, therefore there were no plans to do anything other than what had been put back in place presently as that was the correct answer now.
- Single-biggest thing that Elected Members can do to help was to communicate hand washing, social distancing and mask wearing to cut down on transmission.
- 73 student doctors were trained primarily in Daisy Hill, most had gone back to Queens to continue their studying, with most wanting to come back to the hospital in the future.
- Daisy Hill needed a very clear strategic direction setting out its future. The Director of Planning had been tasked with working with the community and clinicians to create a document to share where Daisy Hill was going in the future. This work was scheduled to take place prior to the pandemic, however, the Director would be picking this up again.

The Chairperson thanked all those representatives for attending the meeting and thanked all Members for their measured contributions to the meeting.

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

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 12 October 2020 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor A McMurray

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly

Non Members: Councillor P Brown
Councillor T Andrews

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer
Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Regulation
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

ERT/130/2020: **APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies.

ERT/132/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interests.

**ERT/133/2020: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issues were raised:

Cycle Lanes and Walkways – Newry

Noted: Following discussion with DFI it was noted that concept development work by Dfi had been delayed due to the development of the Dfi Revitalisation Grant. Work on this scheme will be progressed whenever the grant funding has been released to the Councils.

ERT/129/2020: Newcastle Harbour (Historic Action)

Noted: Officers are currently reviewing the masterplan for the regeneration of Newcastle Harbour which was prepared in 2011, a report on proposals will be tabled at a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

ERT/129/2020: Artisan Markets (Historic Action)

Noted: An update report on Artisan Markets will be provided at the next Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in November 2020. In the meantime an Officer will contact Councillor McAteer to discuss any concerns regarding Artisan Markets.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS**ERT/134/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION
 RE: EUTHANASIA OF DOGS**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for discussion in the name of Councillor P Brown:

“Council welcomes reports from DAERA that incidences of dog euthanasia are down across Northern Ireland in 19/20, but is extremely concerned that in the same period our District has had substantially more dogs put down than any other council area. To address this Council will take the following actions:

- Undertake an investigation into why these figures are so high in the District and bring a report back for consideration on this to the AHC committee.
- Write to the 10 other council areas asking what measures they took to successfully reduce the number of animals killed, particularly Derry & Strabane which has seen an 80% reduction and Ards & North Down which killed zero dogs this year.”

Councillor Brown addressed the Committee regarding the Notice of Motion and highlighted the following points:

- Numbers of dogs euthanised over the last 9 year period has reduced by 90%.
- Of the 156 dogs euthanised across the 11 Councils, one third of this number has been in the Newry Mourne & Down District - raises the question why numbers are so high in our Council area highlighting the need for a proactive approach to address this issue.
- Recognise the work carried out by the Dog Wardens, Corran Kennels and the various animal welfare charities to protect and rehome dogs across Northern Ireland.
- Welcome efforts made to work with PSNI to tackle the issue of puppy farming which has worsened in recent months, and discussions with animal welfare charities.
- Council need to look at figures and strategies used in other Council areas.
- Disappointing some Councils with zero or low numbers of dogs euthanised had not responded to NMDDC communication on this matter, ie, Ards & North Down Borough Council and Belfast City Council - raises the question as to whether these Councils are reporting figures transparently. If they an effective strategy it should be shared with other Councils. Council should write again to these Councils asking they provide details on the strategy they use which has resulted in low numbers of dog euthanasia in their respective areas.
- To seek clarity on Council's policy which states the reasons why dogs might be euthanised in our area, ie, poor health, aggressive and old, and also unfit and

aggressive. Policy needs to be examined and re-phrased appropriately to reflect only animals who are severely unwell/aggressive/dangerous be euthanised, as many older dogs can still be rehomed.

- Concerns that some Councils have direct arrangements with charities but NMDDC have no similar arrangement in place therefore the decision to euthanise, rehome or sell is left with the kennelling facility. Compared to other councils only 4% of the total numbers of dogs in our area were passed to an animal shelter whereas other councils passed a much higher number of dogs to the shelters.
- 72% of dogs received in our area, for the period stated in the officers report, were sold generating an income for Council. This is a much higher percentage than in some other Council areas who often sell as little as 10% of the dogs.
- NMDDC have the highest number of dogs euthanised, highest number of dogs sold and pass the lowest number of dogs to animal charities, therefore raising concerns that Council are putting the resaleability of dogs ahead of rehoming - are Council euthanising dogs that cannot be sold but who could otherwise be kept alive.
- Concerns at Council's lack of partnerships with animal charities which is leading to dogs unnecessarily being put down.
- Council urgently contact relevant animal charities and work with our kennelling facility to establish a formal partnership with them so they the charities can decide whether a dog which is unsellable privately, can still be saved from being put down therefore allowing the animal charity the chance to take in any unwanted or aggressive dog before being put down. This is addition to continuing to support the good work done by PSNI, Council Officers and animal charities to address this matter.

Mr C Jackson responded with the following points:

- Recognise dogs will have to be euthanised and although NMDDC have the second highest number of dogs euthanised amongst the other Councils, however as our Council collect a higher number of dogs than other Councils we will always have a higher proportion of dogs euthanised.
- Recommend that to reduce the number of dogs euthanised, that Members note content of the report and seek to develop working arrangements with the Council's kennelling facility and other dog charities and shelters homes for the collection of dogs and engage with all relevant stakeholders including the PSNI to address the practice of illegal and unethical breeding establishments for the sale of dogs, particularly online. Officers will take into consideration the points raised by Councillor Brown and a progress report will be brought back to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee on this issue in due course.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the content of Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control, regarding dog euthanasia and the work underway as follows, in respect of consultations with relevant authorities/parties:

- Dog Summary Statistics have been referred to DAERA (as per Appendix A in report)
- Consultation is underway with other Councils regarding arrangements for collection/disposal of dogs. (as per Appendix B in report)
- Discussion underway with USPCA and other dog charitable organisations regarding the rehoming of dogs.
- Discussion underway with Animal Welfare and PSNI regarding the development of a strategy on dealing with puppy farming and illegal breeding establishments.

BUSINESS PLANS/GOVERNANCE

ERT/135/2020: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
ERT BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2020

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Annual Assessment of ERT Directorate Business Plan 2019-2020.
(Copy circulated)

Mr Mallon presented the report on the Annual Assessment of the ERT Business Plan 2019-20.

Members raised the following issues:

- Concerns that Council may lose rates income and investment opportunities as a result of not meeting target response times in respect of our Planning Department making decisions on planning applications
- are more resources needed for the Planning Department.
- Are economic/investment related planning applications being prioritised?

Noted: A Planning team to progress major applications has been established within the Planning Department and processes, procedures introduced to improve service delivery.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed:

(a) To approve the annual assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2019-2020.

(b) A report to be tabled at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee on the following:

- Update on work carried out by the Planning Consultant.
- Officers to examine whether the targets not being met within the Planning Department are having an impact on investment within the district.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/136/2020: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the Belfast Region City Deal. **(Copy circulated)**

Discussion took place regarding the Belfast City Region Deal during which the following issues were raised:

- How a review of the Newry Civic Centre project will affect the timelines in the Newry City Centre Regeneration project within the Belfast City Region Deal.
- Concerns regarding the content of the proposed public consultation regarding the Civic Centre project.
- The need for investment into the Arts and local businesses was expressed.
- The need to establish the Council's position on the Southern Relief Road and the impact this project may have on the feasibility of accommodating tall ships into the Albert Basin Newry.

Record: Councillor Brown requested it be put on record that as a public representative, his concerns regarding progressing with a business case before the results of a public consultation and to note the public consultation will establish whether the Council continue with the project or not and the viability of the project going forward and it is important we do not pre judge the

consultation.

Record: Councillor Clarke requested it be put on record his concerns that the obstacles being presented could have a detrimental impact for the project in terms of the possible loss of funding.

Noted: A report will be presented to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee Meeting to be held on Thursday 15 October 2020 which will provide clarity on the concerns raised in relation to the Newry Civic Centre, a project within Newry City Centre Regeneration

The progress of the projects through Checkpoint 2 and liaison with the Department has enabled Officers to bring a detailed outline business case for presentation to the SPR Committee.

The Southern Relief Road project is led by the Department for Infrastructure and there will be an opportunity to discuss this scheme at a forthcoming meeting with the Minister

Officers agreed to revert to the Committee members with the proposed Terms of Reference for a report on the options for marine navigation access to the Albert Basin via the Newry Canal following the construction of the SRR.

Councillor Mulgrew proposed and Councillor Clarke seconded the recommendations contained in Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the Belfast Region City Deal.

Councillor Tinnelly indicated he was not in agreement with the proposal.

The proposal was put to a Recorded Vote and voting was as follows:
(Copy attached)

FOR	9
AGAINST	3
ABSTENTIONS	3

The proposal was declared carried.

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

- (a) To note the update provided on the Belfast Region City Deal current position, working towards the establishment of a Deal Document by December 2020.
- (b) To approve Council will establish a financial agreement with Belfast City Council that sets out Governance costs to be incurred during 2020/21. This agreement will include contributions of up to £65,000 towards the development of the employability and skills programme, the regional digital programme, tourism research, comms and engagement and programme assurance. Contributions are based on EEP ratio of which NMD is 14%.
- (c) Officers revert to the Committee members with the proposed Terms of Reference for a report on the options for marine navigation access to the Albert Basin via the Newry Canal following the construction of the SRR.

ERT/137/2020: BREXIT STAKEHOLDER EVENT

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a Brexit Stakeholder Event being held by the Assembly Committee for the Executive Office regarding issues and concerns arising from UKs exit from the European Union, to be held on Wednesday 04 November 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed the Chief Executive and Chair of Council attend the Brexit Stakeholder Event to be held on 04 November 2020.

**ERT/138/2020: DFC/ DEARA / DFI
RE: COVID 19 REVITALISATION FUNDING**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding funding from Department for Communities, DEARA and Department for Infrastructure. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the update for the DFC/DAERA/DFI Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme and proceed as follows:

- (a) Council will now accept and approve the additional funding once relevant Letters of Offer have been received: DAERA £157,000; DFI £527,000; and DFC Revenue £52,000.
- (b) Council will continue to engage with lead Departments to agree an acceptable programme of activity in Tranche 2 that can be implemented within the appropriate timescales.
- (c) Council approve proceeding to Tranche 1 Stage 2 assessment of the Business: Covid 19 Compliance Grant, offering eligible businesses a grant of up to £1,000 on a first come first served basis towards defined eligible items relating to Covid 19 compliance.

ERT/139/2020: **TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC WI-FI**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding town centre public Wi-fi. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed:

- (a) Council discontinues the provision of current and new external outdoor Wi-Fi due to increased mobile connectivity and access to private sector Wi-Fi hotspots in town centres.
- (b) To provide notice to the current supplier that the service will be cancelled and comply with the 90 day terminations period.
- (c) Officers to seek a response from OFFCOM regarding the continued lack of coverage in rural areas as works to improve connectivity issues in rural areas was not completed.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/140/2020: MOORINGS – NEWCASTLE HARBOUR

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the allocation of moorings at Newcastle Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to adopt the process for the allocation of moorings at Newcastle as outlined in Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events, for a 3 year period from March 2021 and for a further 3 year periods thereafter.

ERT/141/2020: RESTOCKING : QUOILE RIVER

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the allocation of moorings at Newcastle Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed given the points raised by DAERA, specifically that the restocking of fish in the Quoile and other rivers in the District is the responsibility of the Department, the Council write to DAERA to formally request they develop and plan the necessary surveys, assessments and approvals from the relevant organisations to facilitate the re-stocking of fish in the Quoile River.

BUILDING CONTROL

ERT/142/2020: STREET TRADING AT THE SQUARE WARRENPOINT

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control regarding conditions of trading at 3 No. designated Trading Bays at The Square Warrenpoint and to impose restrictions on hot food trading in that area. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to restrict the sale or

supply of Hot Food only under the authority of the Street Trading Licence issued by the Council for the 3 No. designated Trading Bays at The Square Warrenpoint. The reference to hot food to be interpreted as typical takeaway hot food as supplied by take-away vendors, eg, burger & chips, sausage & chips, fish & chips or similar as the Council may determine.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/143/2020: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr G McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the development of Castlewellan Historic Demonsne at Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/144/2020: NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a request from Newry Chamber Music for Council support for the delivery of their programme 'Support for Arts'. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/145/2020: VISIT MOURNE WEBSITE

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture Events regarding a new Visit Mourne website. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/146/2020: RURAL TOURISM COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the Rural Tourism Collaborative Experiences Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/147/2020: ALBERT BASIN – TEMPORARY CAR PARK

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a request from The Quays Management Company Limited for the use of Albert Basin for staff car parking from 02 November 2020 to 09 January 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/148/2020: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME
TOURISM EVENTS AND ARTS**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding grant awards within the Financial Assistance Grant Programme for Tourism Events and Arts. **(Copy circulated)**

(19.45: Councillor V Harte left the meeting)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following decisions:

ERT/143/2020: Castlewellan Forest Park

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed as follows with regard to the development of Castlewellan Historic Demonsne:

- To note the action reports from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 15 May 2020 ,19 June 2020 and 14 August 2020.
- To progress a licence agreement with Forest Service to facilitate the DAERA funded works.

- Agree a draft lease for Castlewellan Forest Park with Forest Service to facilitate the NHLF works and activities.
- To appoint an archaeologist and ecologist to fulfil conditions in planning permission for the DAERA project.
- To appoint the most economically advantageous tenderer to undertake the construction and refurbishment of the Bothy Yard.
- For the Integrated Design Team, Council officers and Task and Finish board members to continue with the value engineering exercise on the NLHF project while ensuring delivery against the key objectives of the project i.e. Heritage, people and community.
- For the NLHF project to progress design development from 24 November 2020 to 9 March 2021 to ensure that if Council receives funding from NLHF that the project is “shovel ready”.
- Officers arrange to have details of the model used circulated to Members for information.

ERT/144/2020: Newry Chamber Music

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed:

- (a) Council to support in kind in providing a venue at Warrenpoint Town Hall to Newry Chamber Music for recording and production purposes.
- (b) To approve a Licence Agreement between Council and Newry Chamber Music for storage of a grand piano in Warrenpoint Town Hall.

ERT/145/2020: Visit Mourne Website

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed Council to sign a Deed of Indemnity with Tourism NI setting out the financial assistance offer, the terms and conditions and the process for a new website for Visit Mourne based on a replication of Discover NI with Council being responsible for the annual hosting and maintenance costs for five years based on costs provided.

ERT/146/2020: Rural Tourism Collaborative Programme

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to submit an application to DAERA Rural

Tourism Collaborative Experience Programme based on the recommended budget and in-kind support.

ERT/147/2020: Temporary Car Parking – Albert Basin Newry

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to approve the proposal for Quays Management company and Public Health Agency to share the Albert Basin site and also approve the License to the Quays Management Company for 50% of the site area at 50% of the market rent recommended in the updated valuation.

ERT/148/2020: Financial Assistance Programme-Tourism Arts & Events

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve grant awards within the Financial Assistance Grant Programme for Support Programme for the Tourism Events & Arts sector and Tourism Partnership Marketing Fund.

FOR NOTING

**ERT/149/2020: HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER
ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM**

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

AGREED: To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/150/2020: UPDATE RE: AONB AND GEOPARK

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the AONB and Geopark. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the update contained in Report October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration on the following AONB initiatives:

- Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund project implementation.

- **Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase**
- **Atlantic Culture Scape**
- **Geopark**
- **AONB Management Review implementation**

ERT/151/2020: CONSULTATION RESPONSE
RE: AMENDMENTS TO BUILDING REGULATIONS

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control regarding Council's response to a Department of Finance consultation on proposed amendments to Building Regulations (NI) 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the consultation response contained in Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control regarding Council's response to a Department of Finance consultation on proposed amendments to Building Regulations (NI) 2020**

ERT/152/2020: UPDATE RE: COVID 19 BUSINESS SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on Government Support Initiatives for COVID 19. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **To note the update in relation to Government Support Initiatives for COVID 19:**

- **Eat Out to Help Out Scheme**
- **Retail**
- **Social Enterprise Fund**
- **Centralised Government Support**
- **Business Support Programmes**

ERT/153/2020: NI FISHING & SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism regarding the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme established to invest in

fishing harbour infrastructure. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: With regard to studies for fishing Ports in Ardglass and Kilkeel, it was noted Council were liaising with the Department on a weekly basis to meet with the main stakeholders and reach a resolution and a report will be brought back to Members in due course.

AGREED: To note content of Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism regarding the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme, and the ongoing engagement by officials with key stakeholders and DAERA in both Ports to bring forward the recommendations contained in the report and submit required updates to Council .

ERT/154/2020: **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES – SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for September 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for September 2020.

ERT/155/2020: **REPORT OF LOUTH NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
19 FEBRUARY 2020**

Read: Report of Louth Newry Mourne & Down Joint Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2020.
Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note Report of Louth Newry Mourne & Down Joint Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2020 and the actions contained therein.

ERT/156/2020: **WARRENPOINT HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

Read: Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism regarding a Joint Consultative Forum established by Warrenpoint Harbour Authority with key

stakeholders to engage with ongoing developments at Warrenpoint Port, in particular Brexit. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **To note content of Report dated 12 October 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism regarding a Joint Consultative Forum established by Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and the statement from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority contained therein.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.50pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 02 November 2020.

Signed: **Councillor A McMurray**

 Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: **Mr C Mallon**

 Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 12/10/2020 **VENUE:** Remote via Teams **MEETING:** ERT

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 6 re: Belfast Region City Deal

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R Burgess			1	
W Clarke	1			
D Curran		1		
G Hanna			2	
V Harte	2			
R Howell	3			
M Larkin	4			
D McAteer	5			
A McMurray		2		
R Mulgrew	6			
H Reilly				1
M Ruane	7			
M Savage	8			
G Stokes	9			
J Tinnelly		3		
TOTALS	9	3	2	

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 15 October 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Monaghan Row (Hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor H McKee
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Savage	Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Mc Kevitt
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor K Owen
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly	

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration)
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events
 Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director
 Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy
 Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs C Hanvey, PA to Director of Corporate Services
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance:

Mr G Ogle, Hamilton Architects
 Mrs N Donnelly, Hamilton Architects
 Mr R Moore, Deloitte

SPR/142/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies received.

SPR/143/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive and Councillor Gallagher declared an interest in item 18 – Bann Road, Castlewellan.

SPR/144/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Action Sheets of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 17 September 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/124/2020 Albert Basin Presentation

Councillor Stokes asked for an update in relation to the Albert Basin. Mr Lipsett confirmed it was his intention to bring a full update report on the establishment of the project board and the appointment of consultants to the next Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

SPR/138/2020 Tourism Service Level Agreements

Councillor Lewis asked whether any progress had been made regarding the tourism Service Level agreements with Kilkeel Development Association and Downpatrick Railway Society. Mr Mallon confirmed that officers had been working closely with both groups and the SLA with Kilkeel Development Association was in the process of being considered. He stated a meeting had been arranged with the Downpatrick Railway Society and he would revert to the Member with the date of this meeting.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 17 September 2020, be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

SPR/145/2020 NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION – BUSINESS CASE

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Graeme Ogle and Nicola Donnelly from Hamilton Architects and Mr Richard Moore from Deloitte and invited them to make their presentation.

Presentation by Hamilton Architects on the design concepts

Mr Ogle thanked members for the opportunity to deliver the presentation on the Newry City Regeneration Project, highlighting the aim of presentation was to outline the importance of the Newry Regeneration Programme and its constituent parts, to detail the current progress of the outline business case and its alignment to the Belfast Region City Deal and private investment.

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from the members as follows:

- Members welcomed the detailed presentation and thanked the team from Hamilton Architects and Deloitte for an excellent piece of work.
- Was a full and proper public consultation carried out, in particular on the siting of the Civic Centre?
- Did the project, as a whole, depend on the Civic Centre being included or could it go ahead without this aspect?
- Was there still the same requirement for the amount of office space outlined in the proposals in light of the fact that the working from home during the current pandemic had been very effective?
- Was it likely that staff from Newry would be deployed to the Downpatrick Civic Centre and if so had they been consulted?
- The new hub would lead to a significant duplication of services and may lead to the displacement of Downpatrick area jobs from the Council, with all Council activity

being concentrated in Newry which was very worrying given the lack of investment in Downpatrick over the years.

- Had Newry Cathedral and the Diocese been consulted in the process?
- How were elected representatives notified of the public consultation that took place in the Sean Holywood Arts Centre and where were the results of this consultation fed back to Members?
- Were there any examples of other Councils that operate with the use of two major civic hubs?
- The project provided great potential to regenerate Newry city and provide much needed employment.
- How would Council facilitate the motion that had been passed in August Council Meeting regarding non-submission of a planning application for the scheme until re-evaluation by Council with the recommendations of the re-evaluation being put to an extensive public consultation?

The Chief Executive, members of the delegation and Mr Grimshaw responded to the queries as follows:

- The consultation was published in local media and also sent out on social media channels. Letter drops were completed to properties that directly neighboured the site and a separate consultation was held. Further consultation would need to take place and this was contained within the recommendations in the officer's report.
- While Council officers had been able to work from home during the Covid period, the effectiveness and organisational heart of Council was with the ability to bring people together in offices. The model would have changed and was likely to remain changed with a number of studies across the globe on the need or otherwise for office space. Officers had been working over the last few months to discover how the space could be utilised as collaborative space. Staff had been accessing the offices over the last few months and the feedback received from staff was that they would like a mix of home working versus office-based work therefore a balance needed to be struck.
- There was no intention to move staff from Newry to Downpatrick, the intention would be to secure the political hub in Newry as well as Downpatrick. It was imperative to retain Newry's status as a city by having the heart of democracy in Newry and there would always be a Newry and a Downpatrick office.
- The project's focus was now more a civic/regional hub which was a direct response to Covid as organisations such as the Civil Service could utilise the space thereby allowing officers to work closer to home rather than travelling to Belfast or further afield.
- The Council made a decision in 2015, that they would be a two-centre hub and have jobs in both Newry and Downpatrick with the Council model having been designed to ensure that was the case. There was absolutely no attempt with this project to transfer jobs from Downpatrick to Newry. The Downpatrick hub had been a success and this project was an attempt to mirror that success in Newry.
- The Cathedral and Diocese had been consulted on a number of occasions and at their request, they would like those discussions to be treated confidentially.
- Elected Members were invited via e-mail to the public consultation and the feedback from the consultation was ongoing. Any findings would be reviewed and analysed and fed back through the consultation report in advance of any further decisions being taken.
- Other Council areas do operate two major civic hubs e.g. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, however it would not be appropriate to comment on how these Councils perceive their development in the future. The hub in Downpatrick, in terms of collaborative working, was ahead of the other Councils within Northern Ireland.
- Council officials had been following the direction of Council from as far back as 2014 when the two Councils were merging in the desire to develop this project. Officials were following the ongoing direction when in September 2019, Councillors confirmed

their support to the development of the project and they would continue to follow the direction of Council with regard to the actions arising from the notice of motion, which was contained within the officer's report as tabled. Officials would rely on those members on the project board to give direction as to how to handle the management of the consultation in relation to the project.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Brown, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter 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 a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Presentation by Deloitte

Mr R Moore from Deloitte provided an overview on the key parts of the Business case.

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mr C Mallon, Acting Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Newry City Centre Regeneration – Business Case and presentation from Hamilton Architects & Deloitte **(Copy circulated)**

Following the overview of the business case and the officer's report, members discussed the matter at length with the following comments:

Councillor Brown proposed that Council hold off submitting the outline business case until a full public consultation took place. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal to a recorded vote, (copy of which is appended to these minutes), the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	2
AGAINST:	11
ABSTENTIONS	2

The proposal was LOST

Councillor Walker stated for the record that the DUP party was not opposed to the regeneration of Newry with any project.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed to accept the officer's recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

Councillor Savage asked if Councillor Ó Muirí would accept an amendment to his proposal to include an external public consultation with all aspects of the project in parallel with the economic appraisal.

The amendment was not accepted by Councillor Ó Muirí.

The Chairperson put Councillor Ó Muirí's proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	8
AGAINST:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	3

The proposal was CARRIED

Councillor Savage proposed to accept the officer's recommendation, to proceed with option 7 and to include an external public consultation with all aspects of the project in parallel with the economic appraisal. This was seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

The Chairperson put Councillor Savage's proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	4
AGAINST:	6
ABSTENTIONS:	2

The proposal was LOST

The Chief Executive stated that Council officials were committed to delivering a park at the Albert Basin and that this project would not impact on next year's rates process.

Councillor Byrne queried the process with regard the above votes as he would have to vote against Councillor Savage's proposal due to having voted for the previous proposal by Councillor Ó Muirí.

The Chairperson acknowledged Councillor Byrne's comments and these were noted.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that members approve the following recommendations from the NCCR Programme Board:

- a) That Option 7 is the preferred option for the NCCR Programme subject to ongoing council approvals at key stages as summarised at annexe A.
- b) That design development continues alongside costs forecasts and value engineering options.
- c) That Council submit the full OBC to the Belfast Region City Deal programme management office to support Councils claim for £8m funding.
- d) That the Programme Board develop and implement the next stage of the stakeholder engagement and communication strategy.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/146/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020 – SOCIAL VALUE STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate

Services, regarding Development of a Social Value Strategy (Copy circulated)

The following Notice of Motion came forward for discussion in the name of Councillor W Clarke:

"This Council agrees to develop a social value strategy to further social, environmental and economic goals of Newry Mourne and Down Council. As far as permissible by Law, this Council should increase the value of social impact clauses at the pre-procurement stage and to include them within the award criteria. Contracts should be informed by a social needs assessment with consideration given to how social clauses can help address those needs. Assessments should be conducted with key stakeholders, including members of the public, as appropriate. The social value strategy should promote more creative use of social clauses to deliver positive social benefits. Council officials should set up monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the delivery of social clauses at the start of the contract and these should be included in the tender documents. The social value strategy should be outcome based and used to tackle poverty, particularly within areas of multiple deprivation. Tackling zero-hour contracts and encouraging living wage employment should be central to the strategy and should include but not be limited to our own council and its workforce".

Councillor Clarke highlighted there were a number of major projects that Council would be developing in the future where social impact clauses should be included. He stated it was important to tackle zero-hour contracts, particularly in light of the recent pandemic and the effect this had on those affected employees.

Councillor Hanlon proposed the motion.

Councillor Brown seconded the motion stating that, previously it had been said it could be difficult, legally, to insert these clauses, however there was nothing contained in legislation at present to stop Council pursuing their own path.

Mrs Carville confirmed that current procurement policy, as outlined in the officer's report, did make reference to certain elements of social value which were incorporated where they could. She stated the motion did ask to go further which is what was outlined in the officer's recommendations.

Councillor Reilly asked if it would be possible to set aside some of the stringent EU laws in order to allow local companies to tender for Council projects post-Brexit.

Mrs Carville stated it was unclear what would happen post-Brexit and it was very much determined what way the UK dealt with Brexit and the laws coming out of that. Legal guidance was currently awaited and until any clarity was forthcoming Council would continue to follow the current regulations. She clarified that the standstill period only applied to higher-value contracts.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Brown, that Members agree to explore the development of a social value strategy, and that Officers research this further and bring proposals and implications back to Elected Members for consideration.

SPR/147/2020: **TERMS OF REFERENCE - STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP**

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding, Terms of Reference – Strategic Finance Working Group (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Members approve the Terms of Reference – Strategic Finance Working Group (SFWG)

SPR/148/2020: **ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS 2019-2020**

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding, Annual Assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2019-2020 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to approve the:

- Annual assessment of the Chief Executive's Departmental Business Plan 2019 – 2020;
- Annual assessment of the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2019 – 2020.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/147/2020: **DRAFT IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2020 - 2023**

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy, Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020 -2023 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed to accept the officer's recommendations. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

Councillor Lewis proposed Council do not spend any further money on funding Irish road signs and that the funding be directed to a cultural awareness scheme to be used in a respectful way of all political views. This was seconded by Councillor Walker.

Members raised the following points:

- What was the criteria and what percentage of people living on a certain road were required to decide if a dual language road sign was to be erected?
- If there were areas that did not want an Irish road sign, one would not be erected.
- Council had recognised all cultures and funding had previously been set aside for PUL events. A lot of good work had been done through the Good Relations Forum and Members should look to promote diversity.
- Dual language road signs should not be used divisively.

Mrs Carville clarified that an element of community engagement was already contained and covered within the Irish Language Strategy on page 9 of the report and there was a dedicated officer tasked with completing outreach and community cohesion work. The erection of dual signage road signs did not come under the Irish Language Strategy, it was completed using the development naming policy through Building Control.

The Chairperson put Councillor Ó Muirí's proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	11
AGAINST:	1
ABSTENTIONS	2

The proposal was CARRIED

Councillor Lewis proposed that officers bring back a report to look at the financial cost of road signs and a feasibility study to transfer this funding to a dedicated cultural awareness programme. This was seconded by Councillor Walker.

The Chairperson put Councillor Lewis' proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	3
AGAINST:	11
ABSTENTIONS	0

The proposal was LOST

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Members approve the draft Irish Language Strategy 2020–2023.

SPR/150/2020 IRISH LANGUAGE BURSARY SCHEME 2021 - 2022

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy regarding, Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2021 – 2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, that there be no change to the scheme and that Council proceed to open the Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2021 – 2022 in March 2021.

SPR/151/2020 REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report dated 10 October 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, report on Notice of Motion – 100th Anniversary of the Creation of Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Walker proposed to accept the officer's recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed to organise a panel discussion on partition and the imposition of the border on the island of Ireland. He outlined that the discussion could have representatives from all Parties in attendance and it could be an educational event that could be tied into schools.

Councillor Walker advised a Centenary Working Group had been formed and Government funding would be forthcoming under the 'New Decade, New Approach' funding. He hoped that any talks or events could be arranged in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that officers try to secure funding from Westminster, Stormont or elsewhere that becomes available in the current year, or in 2021, to support events in the Council area.

FOR NOTING

SPR/152/2020 STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY – SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Report dated 10 October 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, Statutory Reporting – Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly report for period July – September 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the content of the report.

SPR/153/2020 MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGNERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING – 22 JUNE 2020 AND 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting – 22 June 2022 and 17 September 2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the content of the report.

SPR/154/2020 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services: HR and Safeguarding regarding, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policy **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the content of the report.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter 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 a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/155/2020 LANDS AT WINDMILL BUSINESS PARK, SAINTFIELD

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting) regarding, Lands at Windmill Business Park, Saintfield **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Walker it was agreed that members approve the grant by Council, subject to all necessary statutory approvals being obtained, of a pedestrian right of way across Council lands at Windmill Business Park, Saintfield, as marked on the appended map, in favour of the registered owner of the lands to the rear of the Council properties at no cost or at a peppercorn rate. The right shall be exercised solely in keeping with the intended use of these lands as a community park, and Saintfield Development Association shall be responsible for Council's associated legal and valuation costs.

It was also agreed that the Minister's approval to be sought in parallel with an offer of a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss their concerns in relation to the easement.

SPR/156/2020 REGULARISATION OF BOUNDARY ISSUE - BALLYHORNAN

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting) regarding, Regularisation of Boundary Issue – Ballyhornan **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve the regularisation of the boundary between the premises at 12 Rocks Road, Ballyhornan, and the Council lands contained within folio 2783 County Down, by agreeing to the incorporation of the area highlighted in green on the map in Appendix 3 within the legal boundary of the adjacent property.

SPR/157/2020: BOUNDARY AT CHURCH STREET CAR PARK, DOWNPATRICK

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting) regarding, Boundary Issue at Church Street Car Park, Downpatrick **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to approve a rectification of folio DN8837, Council's title map relating to Church Street car-park, Downpatrick, in accordance with the position as outlined herein, in order to transfer the area to the legal title of 10-12 Scotch Street, Downpatrick.

SPR/158/2020 BELL'S LANE, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting), regarding Bell's Lane, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:

- to pursue a retrospective public path diversion order under Article 15 of the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 to legally divert the path onto the new line of the route;
- to engage with the personal representatives of the deceased land-owner with a view to regularising land ownership issues in respect of Bell's Lane on the best terms possible. This will include seeking to recoup valuation costs and costs payable by Council in respect of the above.

The Chief Executive and Councillor Gallagher left the meeting at this point having previously declared an interest – 10.15pm.

SPR/159/2020 BANN ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management regarding, Bann Road, Castlewellan **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Savage, to approve the following recommendations:

- Approval of an additional £38,850.39 for additional spend on the New Changing Pavilion at Bann Road, primarily due to need for a foul treatment plant, entrance steps and ramp and costs associated with site closure due to Covid-19. The additional cost will be added to the budget for this project and will be funded as part of the overall capital programme.

The Chief Executive and Councillor Gallagher returned to the meeting at this point. – 10.18pm

SPR/160/2020 REQUEST TO USE MONAGHAN ROW

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management regarding, request to use Monaghan Row **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to proceed with reviewing the accommodation at Monaghan Row to determine if there is any current/future office space that could be used by the Trust and for officers to continue to liaise with the Trust on the assumption of receiving a commercial rent for the letting of office space.

SPR/161/2020 DEBT WRITE OFF AT 31 MARCH 2020

Read: Report dated 15 October 2020 from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance regarding, Debt write off at 31 March 2020 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the officer's recommendations as outlined in the report, namely to write off debt totalling £59,821.18 deemed irrecoverable.

FOR NOTING

SPR/162/2020 STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 12 OCTOBER 2020

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 12 October 2020.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 10.30 pm.

Signed: **Councillor Gareth Sharvin**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 15/10/20 **VENUE:** Teams Meeting **MEETING:** SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 4 – Councillor Brown's proposal that Council hold off submitting the outline business case until a full public consultation took place

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown	1			
P Byrne		1		
S Doran		2		
C Enright	2			
H Gallagher		3		
O Hanlon		4		
R Howell		5		
A Lewis		6		
H McKee		7		
O Magennis		8		
D Murphy		9		
B Ó Muíri		10		
M Savage		11		
G Sharvin			1	
W Walker			2	
TOTALS	2	11	2	

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2020

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 19 October 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor L McEvoy

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Casey
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor McMurray
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor W Walker

Officials in attendance: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/112/2020: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Trainor and Gallagher.

AHC/113/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/114/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 September 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed at the request of Councillor McKeivitt for item AHC/102/2020: Autism Friendly Swimming Session to remain on the action sheet.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 September 2020.

DIRECTORS PAPERS

AHC/115/2020 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ANNUAL ASSESSMENT BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2020

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr M Lipsett regarding the Active and Healthy Annual Assessment Business Plan 2019-2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to approve the Active and Healthy Communities Annual Assessment Business Plan 2019- 2020.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/116/2020 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the report provided and approve the actions in the actions sheets for:

- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2020
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2020
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Friday 25 September 2020.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Friday 2 October 2020.

AHC/117/2020

DRAFT SUBMISSION TO DfC FOR COVID-19 ACCESS TO FOOD FUND AND COVID-19 FINANCIAL INCLUSION FUND

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding a draft submission to DfC for COVID-19 Access to Food Fund and COVID-19 Financial Inclusion Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor McMurray, Mrs Hillen explained the current position was that Council was not restarting the food parcel project and that the submission was for additional funding from DfC for community partners to meet the need from the first COVID response.

Councillor Ó Muirí enquired if Council and partner agencies had all the information at their disposal to target where the assistance was most needed, should that be required. Mrs Hillen advised that Council were in a position to react quicker along with partners agencies.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the report and approve the draft submission (detailed in 1.1 of the officer's report) that was submitted to the Department for Communities (DfC) on behalf of the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub as to how the amounts awarded to Council under the 'COVID-19 Access to Food Fund' and 'COVID-19 Financial Inclusion Fund' would be awarded and for what purposes.

It was further agreed to approve the awarding of the funding allocations to the 'Confederation of Community Groups', 'County Down Rural Community Network' and 'Community Advice Newry, Mourne & Down' as detailed in the draft submission set out in 1.1 of the officer's report, through their current SLAs with Council.

AHC/118/2020

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding a Financial Assistance Update. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query raised by Councillor Ó Muirí, Mrs Hillen advised she did not foresee any delay to call one going ahead in January 2021 as planned.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews to approve the following:

- The COVID Response and Recovery and Christmas Illuminations.
- Re-allocation of the balance of COVID Response and Recovery funding as outlined within the officer's report.
- Postpone Call One 2021-2022 until quarter 4 (including both Community & Sports Capital).

AHC/119/2020

VOLUNTEERING RESPONSE

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Volunteer Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray enquired if there was scope for training volunteers. Mrs Hillen confirmed the volunteer procedures contained commitment for training and induction for the volunteers undertaking specific tasks for Council.

Agreed: **Mrs Hillen to circulate draft Volunteer procedures to Members for their information.**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Mason, to approve the Volunteer Policy, as attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/120/2020

BRITISH RED CROSS HARDSHIP FUND

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the British Red Cross Hardship Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Casey, Mrs Hillen advised the British Red Cross provided support through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre based at Newry Town Hall. The proposal would provide greater local access to the Hardship Fund by working in partnership with established community networks.

Councillor Taylor confirmed by way of information that the British Red Cross worked out of Altnaveigh House, Newry.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Taylor, to approve the following:**

- **Council become a Trusted Partner with the British Red Cross for the delivery of the Hardship Fund through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.**
- **Council engage with local community organisations who are represented on the Community Coordination Hub and the Stakeholder Forum and engage them on the relevant training to make referrals.**
- **Staff and other representatives undertake the training through the Red Cross.**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/121/2020 SUPPORT REQUEST FROM KEEP NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL FOR ECO SCHOOLS PROGRAMME FOR PERIOD 2021-22

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding a support request from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful for Eco Schools Programme for period 2021-22. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to approve the contribution of £1,700 for the period 2021-22 as per Option 4 in the correspondence received from Eco Schools.

AHC/122/2020 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM ACTIONS FOR MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Actions for meeting held on 17 September 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the report from the Sustainability & Climate Change Forum held on 17 September 2020 and to approve the actions contained within the attached Action Sheet.

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/123/2020 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE – CAPITAL

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Community Engagement, regarding an update on the Social Investment Fund, Capital. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and the minutes of the Social Investment Fund Capital Project Board Meeting held on 7 September 2020.

AHC/124/2020 POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Community Engagement, regarding the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and the Minutes of the PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2020, approved at the PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 29 September 2020.

AHC/125/2020 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Community Engagement, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the report and the Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2020, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Thursday 1 October 2020.

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

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/126/2020 LEASING OF JACK MACKIN PARK PITCH TO ST JOHN BOSCO

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding the leasing of Jack Mackin Pitch to St John Bosco. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to enter into a formal key holding arrangement with St John Bosco GAC to allow vehicular access to the Car Park at Newry Leisure Centre when access is required to Jack Mackin Park and

the St John Bosco Club house outside of Newry Leisure Centre opening hours.

It was also agreed to include within the Lease of Jack Mackin Park, the entire area outlined in red on the map attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/127/2020

LEASING OF LAND – BALLYMARTIN PLAY PARK

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the leasing of land, Ballymartin Play Park. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to enter into a 25-year lease of Mullagh Close in Ballymartin (appendix 1 of officer's report) to facilitate the establishment of a play park in the Ballymartin area as per the Council's Play Strategy.

AHC/128/2020

LEASING OF LAND TO SAVAL GAA AT NANSANDS PARK

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the leasing of land to Saval GAA at Nansands Park. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to approve the transfer of Council Land to Saval GAA, Nansands Park at the LPS evaluation price as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/129/2020 LEASING OF LAND, THE LINKS PLAYING FIELDS, STRANGFORD

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the leasing of land, the Links Playing Fields, Strangford. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the adherence to the terms of the lease between Council and Strangford and District Playgroup Association and After Schools Club and the recommencement of ground rent payments.

AHC/130/2020 SINGLE TENDER ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IT SUPPORT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Single Tender Action for Environmental Health IT Support. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEveitt, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, for the Director of Active and Healthy Communities to sign the Single Tender Action document as attached to the officer's report.

AHC/131/2020

REOPENING PLANS FOR LEISURE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McEveitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the reopening plans for leisure. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEveitt, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to approve the contents of the officer's report on the reopening plans for Leisure.

AHC/132/2020

REOPENING PLANS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McEveitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 19 October 2020 from Mrs J Hillen Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the reopening plans for Community Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the contents of the officer's report on the reopening plans for Community Facilities.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.08pm.

Signed: Councillor L McEvoy
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2020 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

Deputy Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members:	Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor H McKee	Councillor C Mason
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G Stokes
	Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor K Owen
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor D Taylor

Officials in Attendance:

- Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
- Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
- Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management
- Johnny McBride, Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance
- Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
- Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
- Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/217/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

NS/218/2020: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/219/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2020. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

NS/220/2020: SCHEME OF DELEGATION REPORT FROM 1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr R Moore, Director, re: schedule of decisions and authorisations delegated. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the above report.**

NS/221/2020: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2020

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr R Moore re: Annual Assessment of Directorate Business Plan 2019- 2020. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised:-

- Litter bin policy – issues with seagulls pulling rubbish from open bins in coastal areas creating extra clean-up work for Council staff – could bird flaps be installed as part of the Policy (RM: the action in the Business Plan was in relation to the development of a Policy which has now been completed and approved by Committee: where there are specific issues these can be considered on a case by case basis, subject to budget provision).
- Commend the NS Director and his staff for the figures contained in the report – over 90% in achieving the target for bio disposable waste; the second highest improvement in the amount of waste being sent to landfill across Northern Ireland and the greatest increase in the amount of dry recyclables collected and the reduction in black bin waste.
- Number of references to vehicle procurement – has Council looked further at contract hire rather than outright purchase and how will green fleet development be facilitated (RM: the procurement route for new vehicles will always be considered as part of the business case for vehicle contract hire/purchase. To date with Council's own maintenance teams on both sides of the District it was usually more cost effective to purchase but this is something that will always be considered going forward. Council has already taken a decision to make fleet more sustainable and there was a report later on the agenda recommending the procurement of specialist advice to help develop the transition of the fleet).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to agree the Annual Assessment of Directorate Business Plan 2019-2020.**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/222/2020: REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUS SHELTER POLICY

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Review of Council Bus Shelter Policy. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised:

- There are a number of neglected bus shelters across the District with particular reference made to a number of shelters in Annacloy where many could not be used due to water and litter lying in them. Is there a time scale for a programme of works or upgrade of old style bus shelters where this was needed. (KS: The Policy itself is very much focused on new bus shelter requests but there was a piece of work to do to review those shelters the Council have and those that should be retained and then to have a programme in place for maintenance. There were already systems in place for Council maintenance teams to address specific problems when they arise).
- Bus shelters also in the legacy Banbridge areas including Leitrim and Ballyward - vital in rural areas to keep the public dry. Welcome review of policy and look at any gaps moving forward.
- There has to be a focus on public transport to mitigate against the impact of climate change – need to have the infrastructure in place to keep people dry and to encourage new people to start using public transport.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and that Officers proceed to review the current Bus Shelter Policy and revert to Committee with a revised Policy.**

It was also agreed to write to DfI and Translink to seek additional funding for public transport bus shelters across the entire region and that Officers look if there was any other funding opportunities available e.g. rural development funding for the roll out of bus shelters across rural areas.

It was further agreed Officers to circulate the information that was available on who owned the shelters across the District – Translink; a company for Translink or Council owned so that Councillors would know who to contact if any issues arose.

NS/223/2020: PROVISION OF SMALL CHRISTMAS TREE AT SOUTH PROMENADE, NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: provision of small Christmas Tree at North Promenade, Newcastle.
(Circulated).

Issues raised:

- How many Christmas trees will Newcastle have and are each DEA being allocated their fair share of funding for illuminations, with particular reference made to Saintfield and Ballynahinch. (KS: Newcastle will have one 12m artificial tree and also a number of trees (not Christmas trees) would be lit throughout the town and there would be a range of illuminations throughout the main thoroughfares. The Christmas Illuminations Committee was keen to ensure a programme was implemented to roll out the provision of sustainable Christmas trees to towns and villages across the District. Council also worked very well with Saintfield Community Association as part of the Ulster in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions and provided Christmas illuminations in Saintfield every year, checked them and took them down again)
- Requests for Christmas illuminations should be made as part of the process, through the Sub Committee, and not by Councillors requesting an additional tree at a Committee Meeting. (KS: Proposals from the Illuminations Sub Committee to increase illuminations was discussed by the Neighbourhood Services Committee at their last meeting and as a result of these discussions it was agreed to consider further proposals for Newcastle).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to proceed with Option 2 – to provide a 4-5 metre sustainable Christmas tree at a suitable location close to the Public Toilets at South Promenade Newcastle with estimated costs for year 1 £2700.00 and estimated annual recurring costs of £300.00.**

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/224/2020: HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRCs) RE-OPENING PLAN UPDATE

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J Parkes, providing an update on the re-opening of the Council's HRCs in accordance with social distancing measures by the NI Executive and resources availability. The report advised that the next phase

was to further extend the HRC opening hours, similar to pre Covid-19. However present Covid-19 restrictions, especially where people needed to self-isolate for 14 days, could have an impact on service delivery. It was therefore proposed to continue working to the present opening hours arrangements. This would allow management a greater flexibility in managing staff resources. Once the number of restrictions and the number of cases were reduced relating to Covid-19, officers would then further develop the service. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised:

- Officers to consider if opening hours could be looked at, with the possibility of earlier opening of HRCs to facilitate those ratepayers who cannot avail of the present restricted hours.
- Has there been an improvement in fly – tipping now that HRCs are re-opened (JP: during covid 19 a lot of people were at home clearing out houses and with the sites closed there was more fly tipping. From the beginning of November there would be 2 additional permanent enforcement officers to help with this issue).
- Bulky refuse collection service only lifting white - will there be an opportunity to extend this to mattresses. (RM: Officers were looking at extending this service but it would be based on a risk assessment from a covid 19 perspective. Members would be kept updated as to when the service could be expanded).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the above report.**

NS/225/2020: HIRE/REPLACEMENT OF SMALL VANS FOR REFUSE COLLECTION

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J Parkes providing an update to the Committee on the hire/replacement of small vans for refuse collection to ensure compliance with Government guidelines on social distancing as a direct result of Covid 19 whilst maintaining a refuse collection service. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to confirm approval to hire thirteen vans to ensure the Refuse Service, and other Services within NS, meet their Services' delivery standards (noting spend is unbudgeted), while complying with Covid controls and also to endorse recommendation to replace up to 13-No small vans under the current Capital Vehicle Replacement Budget. These, or the vehicles they displace,**

would then eliminate the requirement to hire 13-No escort vans, saving £1,250.00/week.

FOR NOTING

NS/226/2020: DAERA – FIXED PENALTY LIMITS FOR DOG FOULING AND LITTERING OFFENCES

Read: Letter dated 29 September 2020 from Edwin Poots, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs advising the Department were reviewing the current fixed penalty notice regime and the Council's comments would be added to the information already gathered for this review. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Taylor acknowledged the response from the Minister and said he hoped the Department would give full consideration to the suggestions made by the Council and that all further opportunities to progress this issue would be taken.

NS/227/2020: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – September 2020. *(Circulated)*.

In response to a query from Councillor McKee, Mr Moore advised he had spoken to the Acting Chief Executive of the Arc21 Joint Committee and had invited him to give a presentation at a forthcoming Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

NS/228/2020: Arc21 JC MINUTES – AUGUST 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 27 August 2020. *(Circulated)*.

NS/229/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was unanimously agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 14-22 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/230/2020: BUSINESS CASE – PROVISION OF NEW PUBLIC TOILET IN KILLOUGH

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for the provision of new public toilet in Killough. *(Circulated)*.

NS/231/2020: BUSINESS CASE – ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE AND MINOR WORKS PROJECTS

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for electrical maintenance and minor works projects. *(Circulated)*.

NS/232/2020: BUSINESS CASE – MINOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for minor construction works. *(Circulated)*.

NS/233/2020: BUSINESS CASE – FLEET TRANSITION STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: business case for fleet transition strategy. *(Circulated)*.

NS/234/2020: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE COLLECTION TREATMENT AND PROCESSING OF RESIDUAL WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE DOWNPATRICK, BALLYNAHINCH AND CASTLEWELLAN HRC SITES

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J McBride re: economic appraisal for the collection, treatment and processing of residual waste deposited at the Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Castlewellan HRC sites. *(Circulated)*.

NS/235/2020: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE RECEIPT, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF KERBSIDES COLLECTED RESIDUAL FROM WITHIN THE FORMER DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J McBride re: economic appraisal for the receipt, storage and transport of kerbside collected residual waste from within the former Down District Council area. *(Circulated)*.

NS/236/2020: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND PROCESSING OF ROAD SWEEPING WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE COUNCIL'S HRC SITES

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J McBride re: economic appraisal for the collection, treatment and processing of road sweeping waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites. *(Circulated)*.

NS/237/2020: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND PROCESSING OF GREEN AND WOOD WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE COUNCIL'S HRC SITES

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J McBride re: economic appraisal for the collection, treatment and processing of green and wood waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites. *(Circulated)*.

NS/238/2020: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND PROCESSING OF PAINTS AND VARNISHES WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE COUNCIL'S HRC SITES

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J McBride re: economic appraisal for the collection, treatment and processing of paints and varnishes waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Mason proposed and Councillor Andrews seconded to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:-

Item 14 – Business Case – Provision of new public toilet in Killough

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that the Council proceed with the proposal to provide a new public toilet in Killough.**

Item 15 – Business Case – Provision of Electrical Maintenance and Minor Projects

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that that the Council proceed with Option 3. Option 3 will see the appointment of a NICEIC and SparkSafe Registered Electrical Contractor to support the Councils Electrical Maintenance Service and to provide minor electrical works, for a three-year period or up to the maximum value of the overall contract (£450,000). The service to be procured through tender or through use of suitable Framework.

Item 16 – Business Case – Provision of Minor Construction Works

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case that the Council proceed with Option 3. Option 3 will see the appointment of a minor construction works contractor to complete minor works contracts across the Council for a three-year period or up to the maximum value of the overall contract (£180,000). The service to be procured through tender or through use of a suitable Framework.

Item 17 – Business Case – Fleet Transition Strategy

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to approve the business case to procure specialist technical support relating to the Council's Fleet Transition Strategy.

Item 18 – Economic Appraisal – Collection, treatment and processing of residual waste deposited at the Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Castlewellan HRC sites

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to approve the economic appraisal to procure a contract for the collection, treatment and processing of residual waste deposited at the Downpatrick, Ballynahinch & Castlewellan HRC sites.

Item 19 – Economic Appraisal – Receipt, storage and transport of kerbside collected residual waste from within the former Down District Council area

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to approve the economic appraisal to procure a contract for the receipt, storage & transport of kerbside collected residual waste from within the former Down District Council area.**

Item 20 – Economic Appraisal – collection, treatment and processing of road sweeping waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the economic appraisal to procure a contract for the collection, treatment & processing of road sweeping waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites**

Item 21 – Economic Appraisal – collection, treatment and processing of Green Wood Waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the economic appraisal to procure a contract(s) for the collection, treatment & processing of green and wood waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites.**

Item 22 – Economic Appraisal – collection, treatment and processing of paints and varnishes waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to approve the economic appraisal to procure a contract for the collection, treatment and processing of paints and varnishes waste deposited at the Council's HRC sites.**

NS/239/2020: BEST WISHES

Councillor Magennis advised this was Roland Moore's last Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting as Director. She said she would like to thank Roland for all his help and guidance and wished him well in his new venture. She also extended her congratulations to Johnny McBride on being appointed Interim Director.

The Members also extended their best wishes to Roland, saying it had been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with him and thanking him for all his help and support. They paid tribute to him as a courteous and kind Officer, with a "can do" attitude and said the organisation he was going to work with would benefit from the Council's loss.

Members also congratulated Johnny on his appointment and wished him well in his new role.

Roland thanked Members for their kind words and wished everyone all the best for the future.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 November 2020.

Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: Mr R Moore
Director of Neighbourhood Services

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Friday 23 October 2020 at 3.30pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)****In the Chair:** Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Enright	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor H McKee	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor W Walker	

Also in attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor

Officials in Attendance: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & S
 Safeguarding
 Ms D Hanna, Payroll Manager
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/163/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies received.

SPR/164/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs D Carville declared an interest on behalf of all officers in relation to item 3 – Severance Scheme. She noted that the report to be presented mentioned Tier 3 personnel and advised Members there were third tier officers acting in their professional capacity in the meeting.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government

department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

SPR/165/2020: SEVERANCE SCHEME

Read: Report dated 23 October 2020 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Staff Severance Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr Ó Muirí, seconded by Cllr Murphy, members agreed to introduce a new Severance Scheme to be applied across Newry Mourne and Down District Council. In doing so, Members agreed:

- To calculate redundancy payments on actual contracted weekly pay;
- Apply enhanced severance payment by way of a multiplier;
- Members agreed a payback period to be applied of three years; and
- In principle, with officers to present further to Members in advance of full Council, that if the total cost of the severance payment plus the capital cost of paying unreduced pension benefits early exceeds the payback period determined, then the balance should be deducted from the employee's severance lump sum.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 16.50pm.

Signed: **Councillor Gareth Sharvin**
Chairperson

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



OCTOBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 8th October 2020 at 10.30 am in the Housing Centre, Belfast or via Conference Call.

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Members Present

Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Members Apologies

Cllr Nick Mathison Ards & North Down Borough

The Housing Council's considered various routine items at the Meeting, followed by detailed discussions on the undernoted matters:-

The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on Housing Executive's Business from the September Board Meeting, which included the following items:-

- **Approval of Annual Report and Accounts**
- **CT078 – Bathroom Replacements**
- **Economic Appraisal for 64-86 Knocknagoney Avenue**
- **Update on Year Three of the Customer Excellence Strategy (CES) 2017/18**
-
- **2019/20**
- **Annual Progress report to the Equality Commission**
- **Occupational Health Contract**
- **Economic Appraisal for Land at Posnett Street South**
- **Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2021 - Approval to proceed with a sample size of 7,000**
- **ARTES Initiative**

Housing Council
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- **Welfare Reform - Quarterly Update Paper**
- **Bonfires Update Paper**

Presentations were also received at the Board Meeting as follows:

- **Supporting People Strategic Needs Analysis (SNA) Draft Report;**
- **An Overview of the Purpose of Research.**

Members then received an update from Paul Price and David Polley Department for Communities, on the Departments' Housing Top Issues to date, which included:-

- **Social Newbuild starts**
- **Co-ownership**
- **Programme for Social Reform**
- **Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy**
- **Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers**
- **Supporting People Delivery Strategy**
- **Homelessness Strategy**
- **Regulation of the Private Rented Sector**
- **Increasing Housing Supply**
- **Affordable Warmth Scheme – A detailed discussion took place on this issue.**
- **NIHE Rent Scheme**
- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investment**
- **Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework**
- **Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax**
- **Long term rent trajectory**
- **Affordability of social rents**
- **Review of the Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland**

Members received the following presentation:-

- **Joint Presentation by the Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI) and the Housing Executive on persons waiting for assessment by Occupational Therapists.**

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the November Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12th November at 10.30 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre, Belfast.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

Contacts

Chair
Alderman Tommy Nicholl MBE
Ald.nicholl@midandeantrim.gov.uk
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Secretary
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The Housing Centre
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Minutes of the 472nd Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council
Ardeevin, Ballymena or by Conference Call via Webex
Thursday, 10th September 2020 at 10.30 am

The Officers joined the Meeting at 10.50 am

Present at Meeting:

Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Micky Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Present by Conference Call

Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City

In Attendance:

Clark Bailie	Chief Executive (NIHE)
Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight (DfC)
David Polley	Director of Housing Strategy & Co-ordination (DfC)
Dr Steve Blockwell	Northern Ireland Water
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)
Kim Smyth	Housing Executive Secretariat Manager

Apologies:

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough

1.0	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
	None.	

2.0	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 470th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2020</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor N Mathison, seconded by Alderman A Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 470th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 11th June 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p>	Secretary
3.1	<p><u>Item 4.1 – Adaptation Performance and OT waiting times and assessments</u></p> <p>It was reported that a joint presentation by representatives from the Department of Health & Social Services and the Housing Executive on Adaptation Performance and OT waiting times and assessments had been arranged for the October Meeting.</p>	
3.2	<p><u>Item 5.17 – Homelessness</u></p> <p>In relation to Councillor Elattar's query regarding homeless placements in Maghera and the need for wrap round services etc. Councillor Elattar had met with the Chief Executive and the Director of Housing Services to discuss the issue further.</p>	
3.3	<p><u>Members Queries</u></p> <p>The following queries have been responded to since the last meeting.</p> <p><u>Councillor Elattar</u> – Homelessness_query regarding homeless placements in Maghera and the need for wrap round services etc. Councillor Elattar had met with the Chief Executive and the Director of Housing Services to discuss the issue further.</p> <p><u>Councillor Fitzgerald</u> - received a phone call to discuss further better engagement with Trust Mental Health Services can be improved to provide a more seamless service.</p> <p><u>Councillor Mathison</u> - Mr Mathison received the consultation document January 2017 titled 'Private Rented Sector in Northern Ireland Proposed for Change, for his information</p>	

4.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Board Bulletin Board Meeting – Wednesday, 24th June 2020</u></p> <p>Mr Bailie reported on the Housing Executive Board's deliberations as follows:-</p>	
4.1	<p><u>CT055 Planned Maintenance Procurement Strategy</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Board had approved the Procurement Strategy for delivering Planned Maintenance and Improvement schemes from April 2021 for a period of up to seven years.</p>	
4.2	<p><u>Supporting People Programme Update</u></p> <p>The Board had noted the update on the impact of Covid-19 on the Supporting People Sector, on the progress in implementing the Housing Executive-led recommendations from the Ministerial review, and on business as usual activities. The Board also approved the re-baselined timeline for the development of the 3 year strategy and the new implementation period for the strategy of 2021-2024.</p>	
4.3	<p><u>Supporting People Services greater than £500k for approval</u></p> <p>The Board approved the Supporting People services that exceed £500k per annum further to the 2020/21 budget allocation.</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Homelessness Strategy 2017/2022 - Year 3 Annual Report</u></p> <p>It was reported that the Board noted a summary of the actions completed to deliver the activities associated with Year 3 of the Homelessness Strategy 2017-2022. The Year 3 Implementation Plan was due to be completed by 31st March 2020. The Board also noted the intended publication of the Annual Progress Report 2019/20 which will be launched in October 2020.</p> <p>The Board approved Year 3 Annual Report of the Homelessness Strategy 2017/2022.</p>	
	<p><u>Other papers were noted by the Board, as follows:-</u></p>	
4.5	<p><u>Tenancy Fraud Update</u></p> <p>The Board noted the progress made in implementing the Housing Executive's Tenancy Fraud/Misuse Action Plan for 2019/20 and outlined the work planned for the year ahead.</p>	

<p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p> <p>4.8</p> <p>4.9</p>	<p><u>Community Safety Strategy Action Plan Update August 2020</u></p> <p>The Housing Executive's Community Safety Strategy 'Safer Together' and Action Plan was approved by the Board and published in February 2015. As part of this Strategy the associated action plan identified key tasks to ensure we further the work of the community safety agenda.</p> <p>The Board noted the contents of this paper.</p> <p>Mr Bailie offered Members a future presentation on this Strategy.</p> <p><u>Land Acquisitions & Disposals Quarterly Update - August 2020</u></p> <p>As good practice on land transactions the Board receives a quarterly update of land disposals and acquisitions, including assurance that disposals and acquisitions have been carried out in accordance with approved policy & procedures and are compliant with previous land audit recommendations and Managing Public Money (NI). The Board noted the contents of the paper.</p> <p><u>Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings Annual Report 2019-2020</u></p> <p>The Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings is a statutory scheme under Article 29 of the Housing (NI) Order 1988, and assists owner occupiers forced to leave their homes because of acts of violence, threats to commit such acts or other intimidation. The Housing Executive may acquire such homes by agreement where their owners are unwilling or unable to occupy them in consequence of these circumstances. The Board noted the contents of the paper.</p> <p><u>Complaints Annual Performance 2019/20</u></p> <p>The Board noted the paper aimed to advise the Board on the Housing Executive's complaints performance over the last year and that from the 1st April 2020, delivery of corporate complaints management has transferred from Corporate Services to the Customer Excellence Unit within Housing Services.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>Housing Issues, Department for Communities</u></p> <p>Mr Paul Price and Mr David Polley gave Members an update on the Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Issues:-</p>	

5.1	<p><u>Social Newbuild starts</u></p> <p>It was noted that the aim to provide an additional 1,850 social homes by March 2021 of which 200 will be shared housing and 10% will be wheelchair accessible. Progress towards the commitment is progressing as would be expected at this time with a small number of schemes (13) on site delivering 128 units. The Housing Executive continues to engage with the developing housing associations in bringing forward planned schemes.</p> <p>The COVID 19 social distancing measures have somewhat paused the delivery of the shared schemes' Good Relations Plans. As the Plans are delivered over a 5 year period it is anticipated that there will be scope to enact a recovery plan and fully deliver the Plans once lockdown measures are eased.</p>	
5.2	<p><u>Co-ownership</u></p> <p>The Programme for Government target is to support 3,750 first-time buyers to purchase a new home through Co-ownership or similar schemes by March 2021. Target of 1091 in 2019/20 exceeded with 1102 Households supported at 31 March 2020. An Economic Appraisal for £145m FTC to fund Co-ownership for the next 4 years has been approved by Minister and the Department of Finance. While work to reverse ONS decision is underway, the Minister has approved an interim capital budget allocation of £10m to deliver at least 287 homes, which has enabled Co-ownership to reopen to new applications from 22 June 2020.</p>	
5.3	<p><u>Programme for Social Reform</u></p> <p>Aims to complete preparations to implement Ministerial decisions to take forward a Programme of Social Housing Reform by September 2018 and to tackle the maintenance backlog for the Housing Executive properties.</p> <p>Options for structural reform have been developed in order to address the investment challenge in the Housing Executive and the maintenance backlog.</p>	
5.4	<p><u>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</u></p> <p>Aims to develop way forward policy options and legislative proposals in response to the Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy.</p> <p>The Department has completed analysis of respondents' views in relation to the review and a consultation report has been drafted for publication.</p>	

	<p>In December 2019, the Housing Executive presented to the DfC preliminary plans and potential costings to implement all 20 proposals for change. The plan is subject to DfC's approval and funding and further consideration of modelling. The Minister is currently considering way forward options for implementation and recently wrote to Executive colleagues and the Communities Committee, stating her intention to publish a consultation report that details stakeholder views and provides a clear way forward, with implementation plans. It is anticipated that this report will be published in the autumn.</p>	
5.5	<p><u>Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers</u></p> <p>Working with the Northern Ireland Office to ensure the passage of legislation to maintain the classification of Northern Ireland's Registered Housing Associations to the private sector.</p> <p>Responsibility for this legislation reverted to the NI Assembly once the institutions were restored. The final stage of the Housing (Amendment) Bill (Northern Ireland) 2020 took place on 30 June and the bill has been shared with the Attorney General and Advocate General. Royal Assent has been granted and The Housing (Amendment) Act (NI) 2020 became law on 28 August 2020. This timeframe should allow the Office for National Statistics' to review its classification of Housing Associations as Non-Financial Public Corporations by 30 September 2020. The ONS decision will be back dated to the date of Royal Assent.</p>	
5.6	<p><u>Supporting People Delivery Strategy</u></p> <p>To oversee both the delivery of the Supporting People (SP) Programme and the implementation of the 2015 Review Recommendations.</p> <p>The Housing Executive intended to bring about substantial change to the existing SP Programme in the form of the 2020-23 Strategy. The first draft of this was issued for public engagement in January 2020. However, a full public consultation is required meaning inevitable delays and the inability to complete this within the given timeframe. Further delay is expected with the challenges of Covid-19, Departmental colleagues have formally raised their concerns and a further update was provided at Programme Board on 29 June and updated Strategy has since been formally shared with the Department for further comment with comments being provided to NIHE on 26th August. Strategic Needs Assessment is on schedule with plans to publish in September 2020.</p>	

5.7	<p><u>Homelessness Strategy</u></p> <p>To work with the Housing Executive and across Government to implement the Homelessness Strategy (PFG target) to tackle homelessness.</p> <p>An Implementation Plan for year 4 (2020/21) of the Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 has been drafted and is due to be submitted to the Housing Executive Board for approval. The Plan includes provision for a Temporary Accommodation Action Plan. Initial work on the development of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 has begun.</p>	
5.8	<p><u>Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</u></p> <p>The Minister has indicated that progressing reform of the Private Rented Sector is a priority. The Department are working with the Minister to develop specific proposals for this mandate.</p>	
5.9	<p><u>Increasing Housing Supply</u></p> <p>New areas of housing policy by developing initial policy proposals for increasing housing supply, including in the private sector, in support of a potential new draft Programme for Government Outcome 13.</p> <p>Housing Division had commenced work on a draft Housing Supply Strategy, with the specific aim of turning the curve on housing stress and housing supply.</p>	
5.10	<p><u>Affordable Warmth Scheme</u></p> <p>The Affordable Warmth Scheme aims to deliver 4,500 affordable warmth measures to 3,000 homes by 31 March 2021. The Scheme is on track to meet this target subject to Covid 19 recovery which will allow visits to households.</p>	
5.11	<p><u>NIHE Rent Scheme</u></p> <p>The Minister approved the increase of NIHE rents at CPI + 1% on 6 February 2020. The increase was to come into effect from 1 April 2020. However in light of the current public health crisis resulting from COVID-19 the Minister decided to temporarily suspend the introduction of the NIHE's approved rent increase of CPI +1% for 2020-21. The delay will be for a period of 6 months, with the rental increase coming into effect on 1 October.</p>	

<p>5.12</p>	<p><u>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investment</u></p> <p>To support the Housing Executive in their bid to the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020 to secure funding to improve energy efficiency within its stock.</p> <p>Funding of €22.951 million has now been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through its Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme for Northern Ireland 2014-2020 and a further €22 million in funding is being invested by the Housing Executive. The six year €45 million programme is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. The Housing Executive issued a press release on 12 September to publicise the funding and investment which will improve the thermal efficiency of homes including cladding, new double glazing and insulation. The Housing Executive works on the schemes has started with some already completed.</p> <p>Due to the restrictions put in place as a result of COVID-19 the NIHE had to halt works and as such will be behind on the programme, unfortunately the full impact of this will not be clear until normal working practices return.</p>	
<p>5.13</p>	<p><u>Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework</u></p> <p>PfG Outcomes Framework to be augmented with a new outcome and indicators to provide specific focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for its needs.</p> <p>The proposal to include a new outcome and indicators will form part of the consultation on a new PfG. Timescales for this activity are unknown as plans have been impacted by COVID-19.</p>	
<p>5.14</p>	<p><u>Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax</u></p> <p>The Executive will examine options to remove £307m historical debt from the NIHE (£185m of this is capital, £122m is interest) and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax.</p> <p>A range of options to revitalise the Housing Executive are being developed for consideration by the Minister.</p>	
<p>5.15</p>	<p><u>Long term rent trajectory</u></p> <p>The Executive will agree a long-term trajectory for the rental charges of the Housing Executive. This must be sufficient to support the long-term future of Housing Executive's social housing stock and provide demonstrably affordable rents to tenants.</p>	

	<p>The long term rent trajectory is being considered as a vital aspect in the range of options being developed for the minister for the revitalisation of the Housing Executive.</p> <p>5.16 <u>Affordability of social rents</u></p> <p>Measures will be introduced, including legislation where necessary, to provide for controls to ensure affordability. Options to ensure affordability of social rents will be presented for consideration by the Minister in due course</p> <p>5.17 <u>Review of the Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland</u></p> <p>Aims to complete a review and publish the Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Whilst the NI Housing Executive (NIHE) has the strategic role in provision of accommodation for Travellers, the Department for Communities has responsibility for producing and updating the <i>Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in NI</i>. The Guide is a technical guidance document to support the provision of appropriate, cost effective facilities for Travellers living in NI. It seeks to outline the key issues to be considered and identify the main design and management principles necessary to create high quality and sustainable Traveller sites which meet residents' traditional and cultural needs.</p> <p>The Department has reviewed the current Design Guide and is finalising an updated Guide. In reviewing the Guide the Department has engaged with local council officials, the Fire Service for Northern Ireland, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), the Department of Finance (DoF) Housing Advisory Unit and the NIHE. The Department has also completed a targeted consultation with the Traveller communities and their representatives.</p> <p>5.18 Matters Arising from the Departments report</p> <p>Mr Mathison referred to the referral system and stated that Councils would want grant funding particularly in the current climate and additional pressures COVID-19 has posed and asked for clarification if the Housing Executive system work by the referral system.</p> <p>Mr Polley stated that the Department understood that payment by referral required Councils to take on risk in supporting the scheme. It was understood that this was a difficult time for Councils which were facing income shortfalls, due to loss of income due to the pandemic.</p>	
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This had been made clear during consultation and the Department had understood that when designing the Scheme. Payment by referral was however a key part of the scheme approval, and it was very unlikely that it would change. He added that Councils need to decide if they were still supportive of the Affordable Warmth Scheme and wanted to remain involved in its delivery on the basis that this aspect of it would not change.

Mr Polley highlighted that he knew that Councils felt the targeting algorithm had not worked well. Work was being forward to make improvements in this regard which should assist Councils.

Mr Polley confirmed that the Housing Executive did not work on a payment by referral basis, as an arms-length body this would not result in any transfer of risk, and the Department had a very close control over the performance of the Housing Executive under existing sponsorship controls.

In response to Michael Ruane question, in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), he asked why it can't be changed and why should Council have to take this risk.

Mr Polley stated that it would not be acceptable for any Scheme of this type to continue without both parties signing of on an agreed MOU. The MOU had to reflect the Scheme as it was, and it could not be changed outwith the Scheme approval. There were of course other elements of the MOU which could be usefully improved with the consent of all parties.

The Department strongly desired that Councils would continue to deliver the Affordable Warmth Scheme locally, but this would be on the basis of the Scheme as it was currently designed, and the MOU had to reflect that. It was not acceptable to delay signing MOUs because a Council wished the Scheme to change.

Mrs Grehan asked if certain Councils didn't meet their targets of 44 referrals, can they be transferred to other Councils, as opposed to losing the money and having to return it to Treasury at the end of the year.

Mr Polley shared the Members concern that the current level of engagement in some Councils would mean that vulnerable citizens would lose out on home improvements, and also that the Scheme was at risk of an under-spend with the risk this would be lost to Northern Ireland. He undertook to consider if it was possible that Councils able to deliver more than 44 referrals could do so, to make up for those councils who had said they were not able to deliver the required number to use all available budget.

	<p>Mrs Grehan also referred to a flat rate which was provided on the first quarter and was this not possible to be offered to the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Mr Polley explained that given the lockdown, and as much of the required activity was not possible, the Department had made an upfront payment to Councils in the first quarter to ensure capacity to deliver the Affordable Warmth Scheme was not lost. This was to allow a quick restart to the scheme when lockdown ended in June/ July and to continue to provide an emergency referral process. Given that lockdown had ended and activity had become possible again, the rationale for this (and the departure from the Scheme approval) ended at the end of the first quarter. He added that given the need to deliver referrals and ensure the budget was fully used, it was important to restart work to deliver referrals quickly, and it was not clear at all that the upfront payment made to Councils had in many cases actually enabled a rapid restart to activity.</p> <p>In concluding, the Chair reiterated several Members concerns and disappointment that if the allocated money for the Affordable Warmth Scheme is not utilized will be lost and required to be sent back to the Treasury.</p>	
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6.0	<p><u>Presentation by Paul Isherwood, the Housing Executive's Director of Asset Management (NIHE) on ARTES Project.</u></p> <p>Mr Isherwood gave a presentation on the ARTES project. (Copies of the slides are appended to these minutes – Appendix A)</p> <p>Mr Isherwood delivered a comprehensive and detailed presentation on plans for the ARTES Project (ARTES being defined as 'Latin for Skills'). The initiative was described as the Housing Executive's contribution to improving the skills shortage within the wider construction industry.</p> <p>Since the Housing Executive is a significant employer within the construction industry with a large volume of work to be delivered to the stock well into the future, for which it will require a significant number of skilled resources and contractors.</p>	
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	<p>Mr Isherwood highlighted background information, strategic drivers, a multi-skilled approach, actions plans for years 1-3, sustainability and social value clauses, KPIs (associated with contractor sustainability; directly employed trade apprentices; community sustainability partnership programme), reporting/monitoring, collaboration/partnership working, staffing, estimated costs and benefits.</p> <p>The shortage of available skilled workers across the construction industry has been well documented. The Housing Executive will work in partnership with contractors, tenants, schools, colleges and universities to develop skills, create employment and provide learning and development opportunities within Housing Executive Maintenance Contracts.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Isherwood for a very informative presentation.</p>	
7.0	<p><u>Presentation by Dr Steve Blockwell, Northern Ireland Water on Waste Water Capacity Issues</u></p> <p>Dr Blockwell gave Members a presentation on Waste Water Capacity Issues (Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix B).</p> <p>Members noted that Northern Ireland Water is a Government owned Company and Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) within Department for Infrastructure. NDPB status means NI Water can only spend within its Public Expenditure (PE) budgetary envelope – this is an important difference verses GB Water Companies.</p> <p>The Business Plan intends to increase the number of sewerage systems which will reach their capacity during the PC15 period, as a result NI Water will not be able to permit new connections, which may result in development at locations across N Ireland being constrained.</p> <p>Significant investment is needed for wastewater and water infrastructure. This alongside NI Water's funding model not functioning effectively, to date it hasn't delivered the investment that Northern Ireland needs. NI Water knows Northern Ireland's growth ambitions and what it needs.</p> <p>It was noted that the Water Service has the plan and the skills to deliver it however if under investment continues, there will be significant constraints on economic growth, damage to the environment and risk to people's health.</p>	

	<p>NOTED: Members had received written responses to their questions in advance of the meeting. Members were asked to submit any further questions to the Secretary on the current waste water capacity issues within their areas, in order to be forwarded to Dr Blockwell.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Dr Blockwell for attending the meeting and giving a comprehensive presentation.</p>	All Members
8.0	<p><u>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions</u></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
9.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts August 2020</u></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
10.0 10.1	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p>	
11.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 8th October 2020 at 10.30 am</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the meeting could possibly be held in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre for those who wish to attend the meeting in person. It was recognised that other Members may prefer to continue to participate through the video/conference call facility.</p>	Secretary

The Meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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Chief Executives District Councils
By email:

Housing Policy and Performance
Level 3
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

15 October 2020

Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland

Dear Chief Executive,

As you may be aware, the Department for Communities's "*Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in NI*" is a technical guidance document to support the provision of appropriate, cost effective facilities for Travellers living in NI. It seeks to outline the key issues, including the relevant planning context, that must be considered and identify the main design and management elements necessary to create high quality and sustainable Traveller sites which meet residents' traditional and cultural needs.

My purpose in writing is to inform you that following a comprehensive review and focused consultation an updated Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland has now been published. The link below will access the guide, the consultation responses and their respective easy read equivalents. Available at:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/design-guide-travellers-sites-northern-ireland>

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to your officials for participating in the comprehensive review and lending their support to the focussed consultation process.

The updated guide is now part of the toolkit for the development of any new site or redeveloped site resulting from identified need.



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
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Communities

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this please contact

Supported.Housing@communities-ni.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

CONRAD MURPHY

Head of Supported Housing



Ards and North Down Borough Council

26 October 2020

Your Ref: C/098/2020

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate
Ardglass Road
DOWNPATRICK
BT30 6GQ

Dear Ms Ward

Re: Information regarding Localised Outbreaks of COVID19 cases

I would refer to your letter dated 4 August 2020 regarding a Motion agreed by your Council at its meeting on 3 August 2020 in respect of localised outbreaks of Covid Cases.

This letter containing the Resolution was considered by Ards and North Down Borough Council at its meeting held on 26 August 2020 where it was subsequently agreed that:

"The resolution be adopted and that this Council supports the need for greater localised information from the Department of Health regarding localised outbreaks of COVID positive cases in the area. In the wake of the recent clusters in other Council areas, had local representatives access to more specific information, a downturn in footfall and containment of anxiety in non-affected regions may have been prevented. Therefore, this Council calls on the Department of Health and Public Health Agency to provide District Electoral Area specific information or to provide a helpline for Councillors to reduce this from happening".

The Council asked that their support for your Resolution was conveyed to you and your Members.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN REID
Chief Executive

SR/cd/NOM117/CS.11.2.2020/23.2

10 March 2020

Mr Charles Byrne
Director General
The Royal British Legion
Haigh House
199 Borough High Street
London
SE1 1AA

Dear Mr Byrne

At the February 2020 meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Corporate Services Committee the under noted Notice of Motion was agreed and subsequently ratified by the Council:

“That this Council notes with concern the plans to close Bennett House in Portrush. Bennett House is the only Royal British Legion break centre in Northern Ireland and is used by thousands of veterans each year for respite purposes. We feel it's closure will have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of veterans and would call for the facility to be maintained.”

I would welcome your positive response to this matter.

Yours sincerely

S REID
Chief Executive

From: Rachel Peers-Jones <RPeersJones@britishlegion.org.uk> **On Behalf Of** Charles Byrne
Sent: 25 March 2020 13:09
To: Enquiries <enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk>
Subject: Letter from Charles Byrne - 25 March 2020

For the attention of Mr Stephen Reid

Dear Mr Reid,

Thank you for your letter regarding the closure of Bennet House, Portrush.

In January the decision was taken by The Royal British Legion's Board of Trustees to cease operating our break centres and home maintenance service. The proposals to close the services were put forward in November 2019 as part of a wider programme of work. The charity is creating a new strategy that will ensure the Legion is having the greatest impact, making the most of our resources, and evolving in line with changes in the Armed Forces community.

The new direction is being developed to address the changes in the Armed Forces community, as the type of support needed is growing increasingly complex with people requiring help across multiple issues. Since 2016 the charity has seen a 20% increase in people needing basic support with housing, financial issues, mental health and well-being and mobility. In this time, the average expenditure per household through the Legion's immediate needs funding has risen 45% from £900 to £1330.

People are coming to us with multiple needs where a holistic approach providing ongoing support is required. We are seeing people at their lowest ebb, at risk of homelessness, and in dire financial situations where they can't afford to feed their families. Ceasing to operate the break centres and handy van service will provide £5.8 million annually which will be diverted to address the urgent needs people are coming to us with. By refocusing our resource, the Legion can invest more in on the ground, personalised support across our network.

We recognise the unique situation in Northern Ireland, both the historic issues and current challenges, which make it difficult for veterans to find the support they need. In addition, there are significantly lower levels of support from the state in that area. To meet these challenges, we have established a newly formed Northern Ireland Advisory Committee to continue reviewing how best to meet beneficiary needs in the area and coordinate with the re-convened Northern Ireland Assembly and new Veterans Commissioner.

The decision has been made to stop providing break services across the Legion, however, we will temporarily utilise Bennet House in Portrush for the Poppy Club, local community and other charities, to help continue supporting beneficiaries in the area. The building will be available for non-residential activity until July 2020, when its use will be re-evaluated as part of service provision in Northern Ireland, which will be informed by existing research and a new report on veterans' needs that is due to be published in June by Queen's University, Belfast.

The decision to close our break centres and handy van service has not been taken lightly and is made with sadness as we know the services are much loved and some colleagues will be leaving the charity as a result. The affected staff have all contributed greatly to our work, they are part of our community, and we are doing all we can to support them in their next steps.

The reprioritised funding will provide increased resource for; casework and providing support that fits individual need, immediate needs funding including crisis grants, investment in our care homes and services for older members of the Armed Forces community, and funding external grants to organisations providing specialist support.

For nearly 100 years the Legion has supported the British Armed Forces community, providing practical help and campaigning on their behalf. Throughout our history the Legion has responded to the changes in our community and the landscape the charity operates within. As we look ahead to our centenary, the Legion will adapt again to meet the needs of the people we support and ensure we are fit for purpose for the next 100 years.

I hope this email will provide some context and an explanation of why we are making these changes.

Yours sincerely

Charles Byrne
Director General

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www.britishlegion.org.uk

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SR/cd/NOM117/CS.11.8.2020/12a

11 September 2020

Mr Charles Byrne
Director General
The Royal British Legion
Haigh House
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Dear Mr Byrne

I am writing after my original letter to you of 10 March 2020 about the plans to close Bennet House, Portrush and your subsequent reply of 25 March 2020 which was discussed at the August 2020 meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council's Corporate Services Committee with their decision subsequently ratified at Council.

It was agreed that Council write to the Royal British Legion insisting that the Council could not accept its decision to close the facility at Portrush.

I would welcome your positive response to this matter.

Yours sincerely

S REID
Chief Executive

The environment: New deal, new decade

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Kind regards,
Jillian Wallace

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