



June 1st, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 5th June 2023 at 6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 April 2023

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 03-04-2023.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 April 2023

[Council Minutes 03.04.2023.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 March 2023

[Special Council Minutes - 27-03-2023.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023

[Minutes Audit Committee 04 April 2023.pdf](#)

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7.0 Planning Section

There were no issues arising from the Planning Committee Meeting.

Correspondence

8.0 Letter from Department for Infrastructure re: Notice of Motion C.053.2023: School Street Schemes

Copy of correspondence dated 6 April 2023 attached.

[Response from DfI re NOM C.053.2023 - School Street Schemes.pdf](#)

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9.0 Letter from Mid Ulster District Council re: C.075.2023 -

Reduction in Voting Age

Copy of correspondence dated 28 March 2023 attached.

📎 *Letter from Mid Ulster Distric Council re C.075.2023 re Voting Age.pdf*

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10.0 Letter from Minister of State of Northern Ireland re: Notice of Motion C.075.2023: Reduction in Voting Age

Correspondence dated 21 April 2023 attached.

📎 *Letter from Minister of State for NI re C.075.2023 Reducing Minimum Voting Age to 16.pdf*

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Invitees

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

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

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 APRIL 2023

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/087/2023</i>	<i>Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 06.03.2023</i>	<i>The Action Sheet was agreed. Letter of congratulations to be sent to SOKOL Gymnastics.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Letter sent 5 April.	
<i>C/088/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 06.03.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/089/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27.02.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/090/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13.03.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/091/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16.03.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/092/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20.03.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/093/2023</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21.03.23</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/094/2023</i>	<i>Planning Section</i>	<i>There were no issues arising.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	

<i>C/095/2023</i>	<i>NI Housing Council Minutes and Bulletin – 9 February 2023 & 9 February 2023</i>	<i>The Minutes and bulletin were noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/096/2023</i>	<i>Letter from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council re: South West Acute Hospital</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/097/2023</i>	<i>Letter from Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council re: Energy Company Profits</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/098/2022</i>	<i>Response from NIE re: Notice of Motion C/051/2023 NI Electricity Suppliers</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/099/2023</i>	<i>Response from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust re: Notices of Motion C/079/2023 Domiciliary Care</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/100/2023</i>	<i>National Association of Councillors</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	<i>Noted</i>	

<i>C/101/2023</i>	<i>Letter from Department for Communities re: Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings</i>	The letter was noted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/102/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Redeemable Surcharge on bottles, tins and plastic</i>	The Motion was referred to Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services A Cassells</i>	Noted.	
<i>C/103/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Rural Regeneration for Downpatrick Town Centre</i>	The Motion was referred to Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services C Mallon</i>	Noted	
<i>C/104/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Memorial to Crossgar’s Titanic Victim, James McGrady</i>	The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services C Moffett</i>	Noted	
<i>C/105/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Mourne Gateway Project</i>	The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services J Kelly</i>	Noted	

<i>C/106/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Reduction in VAT Rate for the Hospitality Sector</i>	The Motion was referred to Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	<i>Democratic Services C Mallon</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>C/107/2023</i>	<i>Additional item Update on staffing Matters</i>	Update on staffing matters was provided by the Chief Executive	<i>Democratic Services M Ward</i>	<i>Noted</i>	
<i>END</i>					

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

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 April 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:

Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor J Brennan	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor D Curran	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor G Kearns	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor G Malone
Councillor H McKee	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor M Rice	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

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

Officials in attendance via Teams:

Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/085/2023 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Enright, King and Stokes and Mr Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson offered condolences on behalf of Council to Mrs Kelly, Director of Corporate Services and her family on the sad passing of her mother Joyce.

The Chairperson offered condolences to the family and friends of former SDLP and Mournes Councillor Brian Quinn who recently passed away.

The Chairperson advised Members Mr M Lipsett was retiring from his role of Director of Active and Healthy Communities from 14 April 2023. He paid tribute to Michael and his work and wished him and his family health and happiness in his retirement.

Members were informed the recent Newry Mourne and District Council Sports Awards had been very successful with thanks and congratulations given to all those involved in organising the event. The Chairperson congratulated all nominees and those who received awards on the night as the talent and level of achievement had been outstanding.

At the request of Councillor Reilly, the Chairperson sent congratulations to members of the SOKOL gymnastics team on their successes at winning medals at the Northern Ireland Aspire Championship competition.

Given this was the last full Council meeting the Chairperson thanked everyone for the respect and graciousness shown to him throughout his year as Chair.

The Chairperson pointed out it was the last meeting for some Councillors who would not be standing again and wished each and every one of them all the best for the future.

The Chairperson then went on to speak at length in paying tribute to Councillor Dermot Curran who in this year and month of April, celebrated 50 years as a local Councillor. Dermot had given a lifetime to public service, the people of Down District, South Down and his beloved Ardglass and was a huge advocate for all things local including the fishing industry.

The Chairperson spoke of how respected Councillor Curran was across the chamber and would be missed by many including the SDLP team, colleagues and friends in Council. He wished Dermot, his wife Karen and all the family well on his retirement.

Councillor Curran thanked everyone for their well wishes and spoke of his time served over the last 50 years.

Party leaders and members across the Chamber took the opportunity to pay tribute to Dermot and his service to Council and joined the Chairperson in wishing him and all the family well.

The Chief Executive on behalf of herself and the management team wished Dermot well in his retirement paying tribute to his 50 years' service when his dedication and commitment was renowned.

C/086/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Ward declared an interest in item 7: Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Minutes from meeting on 16 March 2023, SPR/058/2023: Chief Executive Appraisal.

C/087/2023 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2023

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 March 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 March 2023 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/088/2023 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2023

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 March 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/089/2023 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2023

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 February 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on

27 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/090/2023 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2023

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

C/091/2023 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2023

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis.

C/092/2023 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2023

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2023 (copy circulated).

AHC/038/2023: Rural Dial a Lift Transport Issue tabled at the request of Councillor Sharvin

Councillor Sharvin stated it was vitally important that in the new Council term to continue to apply pressure on the Department for Infrastructure for funding for community transport organisations across the District.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the

proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

Councillor Tinnelly left the meeting at this point – 6.36pm.

C/093/2023 MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2023

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Bowsie.

C/094/2023 PLANNING SECTION

There were no planning issues.

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES

C/095/2023 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES – 9 FEBRAURY 2023 AND NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – 9 MARCH 2023

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes, 9 February 2023 and Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin, 9 March 2023 (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 9 February 2023 and the bulletin dated 9 March 2023 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

C/096/2023 LETTER FROM FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: SOUTH WEST ACUTE HOSPITAL

Read: Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding South West Acute Hospital dated 28 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note

the correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

C/097/2023 LETTER FROM ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: ENERGY COMPANY PROFITS

Read: Correspondence from Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council dated 13 March 2023 regarding energy company profits. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the letter from Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

C/098/2023 RESPONSE FROM NIE RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/051/2023 NI ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS

Read: Correspondence from NIE dated 3 February 2023 regarding Notice of Motion C/051/2023 NI Electricity Suppliers. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the correspondence from NIE.

C/099/2023 RESPONSE FROM SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/079/2023 DOMICILIARY CARE

Read: Correspondence from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust regarding Notice of Motion C/079/2023 Domiciliary Care dated 21 March 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Trainor spoke at length about the need for those Councillors returned in May 2023 to continue to put pressure on the Department for Health and the Health Trusts for adequate and good quality health service provision.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the correspondence from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

Councillor Ruane left the meeting at this point – 6.39pm.

C/100/2023 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS CONSTITUTION (REVISED)

Read: Revised National Association of Councillors Constitution. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the revised National Association of Councillors Constitution.

C/101/2023 LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE: COUNCIL REMOTE/HYBRID MEETINGS

Read: Correspondence from the Department for Communities regarding remote/hybrid meetings dated 24 March 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Devlin enquired if Council had made a corporate response on the matter of hybrid meetings or if it was up to individuals parties and spoke of the importance of having such meetings moving forward particularly for Members on maternity leave and those with caring responsibilities.

The Chief Executive advised she believed the Council had made a corporate response as well as individual Parties but she agreed to revert to Councillor Devlin on the matter.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the correspondence from the Department for Communities.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/102/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – REDEEMABLE SURCHARGE ON BOTTLES, TINS AND PLASTIC

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Reilly:

"That this Council requests that DEARA investigates the possibility of applying a redeemable surcharge on bottles, tins and plastic containers in order to reduce the amount of littering and to assist with reaching recycling targets as set by central Government".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

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

C/103/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – RURAL REGENERATION FOR DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright and presented by Councillor Lee-Surginor:

"This Council recognises the disparity of Council investment between our County Town of Downpatrick when compared to large public-sector led investment proposals for Newry City or the Gateway Project in Newcastle.

The recent flawed private sector-led project in our County Town failed to attract any private sector interest in redeveloping Downpatrick's Town Centre. This project aimed to sell off the land-bank built up by Down Council over 30 years including the old Police Station, the main town car-park and derelict properties in Irish Street under the 2011 Downpatrick Masterplan.

Council notes NM&D's fresh opportunity to deliver a meaningful, large-scale public investment-led regeneration of Downpatrick's old retail centre in line with the 2011 Council-led Downpatrick Masterplan.

This Council directs Management to reinstate the original public-sector led project for the town centre aspect of the Downpatrick Masterplan. Including the in-town 2-lane one-way system, additional on-street parking, enhanced pedestrian areas from ASDA to Irish Street and improved access to the old retail centre of the town to make it competitive with out-of-town shopping, LIDL or ASDA.

Council notes that original estimates suggest that this could be achieved with 10% of the estimated cost of the proposed major Newry development or less than half the budget for the so-called Mournes Gateway project in Newcastle."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

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

C/104/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – MEMORIAL TO CROSSGAR'S TITANIC VICTIM, JAMES MCGRADY

The following motion was received from Councillor Bowsie:

"This Council recognises the significance of the Titanic's legacy, the public interest in the tragedy and the importance of remembering the local lives that were lost on it; Tasks the Council to prepare a report with the view to installing a memorial to Crossgar's Titanic victim, James McGrady, in a public space in Crossgar and recommends liaising with a maritime historian and the council's heritage officer to ensure this memorial is accurate and befitting to this Titanic worker."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Equality & Good Relations Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/105/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – MOURNE GATEWAY PROJECT

The following motion was received from Councillor McMurray:

"This Council notes with concern the continued lack of clarity, as well as increasing public opposition, regarding the Visitor Centre located at Thomas' Mountain and 'Gondola' elements of the Mourne Gateway Project. Stakeholder events and information sessions fall short of a full public consultation for a project of this financial, environmental and economic magnitude. Council will; pause the progression of this project until explicit consent from the landowner is acquired, commission a full public consultation on the project open to all residents within the district including open and transparent stakeholder engagement, actively investigate and develop alternatives to the Gondola and Thomas' Mountain Visitor Centre elements – alternatives which will both meet the funding criteria while enhancing this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

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

C/106/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – REDUCTION IN VAT RATE FOR THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR

The following motion was received from Councillor Devlin:

"This Council unequivocally supports our hospitality and tourism sector and its vital contribution to the District's economy.

This Council puts on record our frustration that the recently announced Spring Budget failed to provide a lifeline to the Hospitality Sector by reducing the VAT rate.

This Council writes to the Chancellor calling for the issue to be reconsidered given the ever increasing rate of inflation and the fact that the Republic of Ireland's VAT rate for Hospitality and Tourism is 9% compared to our rate of 20%

This Council writes to all 18 MP's calling on each to lobby for this much needed reduction in VAT."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

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

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion which related to exempt information by virtue of para. four of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – 4.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.

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

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

C/107/2023: UPDATE ON STAFFING MATTERS

Noted: An update on staffing matters from the Chief Executive was provided.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.04pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 June 2023.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMC/SC**

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 March 2023 at 6.00pm in
Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair: Councillor A Finnegan**In attendance in Chamber: (Councillors)**Councillor T Andrews Councillor D Curran
Councillor A Lewis Councillor D McAteer**In attendance via Teams:**Councillor C Bowsie Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne Councillor W Clarke
Councillor H Gallagher Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell Councillor G Malone
Councillor O Magennis Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor H Reilly Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor**In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)**Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager**In attendance via Teams:** Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer**In attendance via Teams:****Northern Ireland Ambulance Service**

Mr M Cochranne, Assistant Director of Operations

Southern TrustMs C Reid, Director of Surgery & Clinical Services
Mr B Beattie, Director of Adult Community
Ms P Tally, Assistant Director of Performance & Reform
Ms A Nelson, Head of General Surgery**South Eastern Trust****In attendance in Chamber:** Ms R Coulter, Chief Executive
Ms C Campbell, Engagement and Involvement Manager

SC/006/2023

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Hanna, Harte, Kearns, King, Lee-Surginor, Murphy, McMurray, Ó Muirí and Rice.

SC/007/2023

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/008/2023

**PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND
AMBULANCE SERVICE**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Cochranne from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Cochranne thanked Council for the opportunity to meet representatives and proceeded to deliver the presentation, overview of service delivery in the council area, performance levels and challenges faced (copy of which is attached to these minutes).

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

- Members paid tribute to NIAS and the great work they continue to do especially in relation to an increase on attacks on ambulance crews which was not acceptable in what was already a challenging environment.
- Concerns were raised at Newry Mourne and Down area being the worst performing regarding response times, what could be done as a council to improve this?
- Notable high level of staff absence, what support had been offered to staff to encourage them back to work if possible, in what was a challenging environment in terms of abuse and demoralising especially with the long delays with handovers at Dundonald hospital?
- Category 1 response times had significantly increased in rural areas but this was an average it would be helpful if response times could be broken down in each DEA area as in certain urban areas times were not being met.
- First responders were doing a fantastic job, however there was an increased pressure on them due to lack of infrastructure, which was not sustainable for the future.
- Was there a timeframe for the business case for the Clinical Response model, as system currently not fit for purpose.
- Was there a direct link between the lack of care packages and patient admissions/discharges?
- Had handovers been made more difficult due to new protocols being introduced in last few years?
- The Chairperson highlighted a personal tragedy within her own family to stress the devastating effects delays in the ambulance service were having on families whose loved ones did not receive the much-needed lifesaving treatment and support when it was needed the most. What was the ambulance service doing to improve the service they provide and address the issue of being the worst performing Council area?
- Did the condition of the roads, particularly in the Mourne area, have an impact on how quickly the crews could travel depending on the type of injury patients had and had any vehicles sustained damaged due to potholes and condition of the roads?

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- NIAS endeavour to comply as closely as possible with funded establishment figures which had improved significantly over the last few months to around high 90 - 95%, however were still waiting on a business case and urged members to support whatever they could to progress same.

- Encouraged members to raise awareness with constituents to help discourage the misuse of the service through lack of understanding of the role of the ambulance service by helping to educate them. NIAS willing to meet with groups to help raise awareness and give advice on proper use of the service.
- Main reason for staff absence was stress related and musculoskeletal. Training and support for staff was provided, however this could be improved on by maintaining training with regular updates, further challenges were faced managing staff back to work and it was hoped some of these issues would be addressed through the recently revised attendance policy and having a very proactive staff welfare support system in place where crews are debriefed in relation to incidents both immediately after and in the follow up days.
- It could be demoralising for staff when there were long delays in handovers, NIAS continue to work closely with the Trusts finding new initiatives to try to reduce backstops at hospitals.
- NIAS acknowledged that it was extremely difficult in rural areas to get resources there in a timely fashion. All calls were triaged and prioritised according to clinical need and where an immediate response to those calls was not available, they did offer telephone advice as another layer of support until help would arrive.
- NIAS to circulate breakdown of figures for all DEAs in relation to category 1 response times after the meeting.
- Business case for Clinical Response Model was still with the department subject to approval, there was no available timeline at present but could give assurances a plan was in place once approved and would revert back with an update. In the absence of a Minister, approval could still be granted by the permanent secretary.
- It was a well-recognised fact that handovers had been made more difficult due to capacity issues which in turn resulted in harm to patients due to the long delays. Anything members could do to help get more support to alleviate some of these pressures was welcomed.
- Working closely with the Trusts to try to reduce attendances at emergency department through finding alternative pathways of finding care to people eg. Direct Admissions Unit at Daisyhill hospital and single point of contact at the Urgent Care Centre at the Down hospital are perfect examples of how things can be done differently, however the lack of funding does have a key role to play.
- Mr Cochranne expressed his condolences to the Chairperson in relation to the particular incident and the level of distress caused to the family. In relation to some of the findings of the investigation practises had changed as a result to ensure the provision of a better service going forward.
- Not aware of any vehicles sustaining damage due to condition of roads and potholes. All staff were trained to a very high standard to drive according to the condition of the roads.
- Major issue was capacity and currently do not have the resources to respond to calls in the timeframe expected. Having a couple more ambulances would not address the issue of performance time in the Newry Mourne and Down area at present.
- Happy to respond to any further queries and questions outside of meeting.

SC/009/2023: RESPONSE FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Dr Nelson provided a detailed presentation on the consultation of the review of General Surgery in the Southern Trust.

Members asked the following questions:

- A single site does not provide a safer service to the areas where ambulance response times are the slowest.
- If there was always an element of transfer between the 2 sites, how does that tally over the last 6 months with a 25% decrease on the road ambulances, what has differed in the last 6 months?
- The ratio needs more explanation when statistics are being released as it blurs the lines and causes confusion in terms of number of surgeries taken place on each site in comparison with the number of available surgeons on each site.
- Councillor Reilly stated there was a bit of fear mongering and misunderstanding on the part of the public, however the fact there was a better outcome of being operated by a surgeon who was proficient at what they do and operating on a regular basis was an important message to get out to the public to put people's minds at rest.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- 2 site model had a considerable volume of patients being transferred between the 2 sites up to several times a day before they received the appropriate care, which had now been considerably reduced.
- Emergency surgery is a small element of the overall picture but can liaise with NIAS to see if there is a way to pull out figures as to how many transfers have been impacted by the general surgery model.
- Looking into other ways of providing transfers by employing private ambulance companies or having own internal trust transport long term to reduce reliance on NIAS.
- Daisyhill site used to have 1 in 6 rota and Craigavon 1 in 9 regarding number of doctors on site and emergency surgery, however it really comes down to volume of surgery and volume of patients coming in which we have no control over. Six surgeons had resigned from Daisyhill to work elsewhere due to deskilling as this was also the case with trainees as the volume of emergency surgery was not there for experience.

Mrs Tally informed members that Trusts across the region were being pushed to bring all services back to pre-pandemic levels and monitored on a monthly basis. Waits were steadily increasing across the board and a number of challenges were currently being worked through to improve service and bring waiting times down.

Inpatient and day patients - The cause of the increase in waits was due to availability of theatre nurses. The Trust had recently appointed 7 new theatre nurses and hope to see an improvement in waiting times in coming weeks and months.

Outpatients - Waiting list had largely increased due to a result of covid. There were a number of vacancies and recruitment was currently ongoing and looking at a new initiative how to modernise services and address those issues by starting to ensure patients could be seen at outpatient appointments by the appropriate person in the right place at the right time.

Primary Mental Healthcare – There had been sustained improvement in waiting times however due to a number of staff changes there was 10 vacant posts. A recruitment process was underway and hope to see an improvement in waiting times.

Psychological Therapies – Recruitment had completed here and expecting an improved position in coming months.

Domiciliary Care – Trust has invested 2 million pounds, continuing to deliver above commissioned levels but acknowledge there is a waiting list on domiciliary care which was impacting on discharges and the flow of patients through the system. Looking at average

length of stay, weekend discharge rates etc to help patients flow system faster which will ultimately impact on ambulance handover times.

Mrs Tally advised members Daisyhill was an essential part of the Southern Trust hospital network and a number of key investments had taken place and many more planned i.e Elective overnight stay centre and Diagnostic Capacity which had a 9 million pound investment to upgrade the electrical infrastructure initiated in February 2023 with plans to look at a twin diagnostic suite capital reliant.

In response to query raised Mr Beattie advised that the lack of domiciliary care was in part the reason for the delays in ambulance handovers, however there was other multifactorial reasons and a chain of events needed to happen to allow patient flow and support NIAS.

Councillors had an opportunity to influence constituents, friends, family and neighbours to help care for relatives at home if discharged and free up space in the system.

SC/010/2023: RESPONSE FROM SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Mrs Coulter provided an update to members on services across South Eastern Trust and some of the key challenges and issues.

Members asked the following questions:

- Members thanked all staff within the Trust for the important work that they do, in particular the service the Down hospital provides.
- Had there been a patient-centred review regarding the Urgent Care Facility and how to gain access to it?
- Was the challenges faced with Mental Health admissions due to no money to commission beds or was it bed space?
- Dial a Lift service has had a funding cut which will impact the service they provide taking people to hospital appointments etc, had the South Eastern Trust taken into account the additional pressures this will have on them?
- Concern many people are choosing to wait until Monday if they fall ill over the weekend for fear of having long waits to be seen over weekend. Had the Trust taken this under review, and did they have any plans to address this?
- Strangford Clinic continues not to be available, what could the Trust do to get this building in use again?

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Regular patient experience reviews had been carried out and feedback was very positive, will follow up regarding difficulty getting through on phones.
- Introduced a new passport system for 15 patients that are frequent attendees to the Down hospital that require regular treatment that have been assessed by a doctor and NIAS are also aware and know not to take them to Dundonald.
- Maximising use of beds in the Down hospital through repatriation from other hospitals.
- Mental Health – The financial position is a massive issue, lack of qualified nurses is also a challenge. A way forward will have to be found to take forward the recommendations of the Mental Health strategy. Working regionally on this and when the new executive is formed this needs to be a priority.
- Regional Mental Health Service are working on having one co-ordinated service and

- positive work is ongoing at present.
- There was a review in 2018 'Power to People' which had not been implemented yet in relation to domiciliary care and part of the reason for this is funding.
- Will contact Councillor Sharvin outside of meeting regarding 'Dial a Lift' service and Strangford Clinic.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.09pm.

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

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 04 April 2023 in the Mourne Room Downshire Civic Centre Downpatrick and via Microsoft Teams.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson
(Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor C Bowsie Teams
 Councillor J Brennan Chamber
 Councillor P Byrne Teams
 Councillor A Lewis Teams
 Councillor D McAteer Teams
 Councillor D Murphy Teams

Officials in attendance: Mrs J Kelly Director Corporate Services
 Mr A Cassells Director Environment &
 Sustainability
 Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance &
 Performance
 Ms C Hughes Head of Performance
 (Acting)
 Ms E Cosgrove Head of Compliance
 Ms S McConville Procurement Manager
 (Acting)
 Ms J Hillen Assistant Director Community
 Engagement
 Ms S Taggart Democratic Services
 Manager
 Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM Teams
 Ms K Costley NIAO Chamber

AC/025/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Ms M Ward Chief Executive
 Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
 Councillor L Devlin
 Councillor M Gibbons

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor Enright requested the Committee be advised he was actively boycotting the Audit Committee Meeting in protest over failure to follow up on energy savings.

AC/026/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms Slevin Chairperson, declared an interest in Item 7 regarding the Annual Assessment of Chairperson Performance 2022-2023.

**AC/027/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 January 2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Brennan seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Action Sheet for Audit Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 January 2023.**

**AC/028/2023: DATES / START TIMES
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2023-2024**

Read: Proposed dates and start times for Audit Committee Meetings for the 2023-2024 term.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the following dates and start times, in respect of Audit Committee Meetings from July 2023 to April 2024, which will be tabled for formal approval via the Council's Annual Meeting to held on Monday 05 June 2023:**

- Tuesday 04 July 2023 at 2.00pm
- Thursday 21 September 2023 at 2.00pm
- Tuesday 09 January 2024 at 2.00pm
- Tuesday 09 April 2024 at 2.00pm

AC/029/2023: AUDIT COMMITTEE:
 - **TERMS OF REFERENCE**
 - **TIMETABLE**

Read: Report dated 04 April 2023 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance & Performance regarding:
 - Audit Committee Terms of Reference.
 - Audit Committee Timetable for 2023-2024.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed:**

- 1. To approve the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee.**
- 2. To note the Audit Committee Timetable 2023-2024.**

AC/030/2023: AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF ASSESSMENT 2022/2023

Read: Report dated 04 April 2023 from Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson of Audit Committee, regarding the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2022/2023.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to approve Report from Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson of Audit Committee, and note the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2022/2023.**

**AC/031/2023: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
 RE: CHAIRPERSONS PERFORMANCE
AUDIT COMMITTEE 2022/23**

Read: Report dated 04 April 2023 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding the Annual Assessment of the Chairpersons Performance in respect of the Audit Committee 2022/23. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Brennan seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Annual Assessment of the Chairperson's Performance in respect of the Audit Committee for 2022/23.**

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)**AC/032/2023: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Read: Report dated 04 April 2023 from Ms J Kelly Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register including the Corporate Services Directorate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Members raised concerns on the following risks:

Corporate Services Directorate – Risk No.6 : Lack of formal talent management and succession planning arrangements across the organisation may have an impact on effective service provision and innovation.

- Measures need to be taken to improve staff morale and retain talent.

Corporate Risk No 8 : Failure to actively manage sickness absence resulting in delays and an inability to deliver Council Services.

- What measures are being taken to reduce sickness absence.
- Clarity required on hybrid working model.

Corporate Risk No 11 : Risk of Industrial Action leading to the failure to have necessary staffing structures and resourcing to deliver services.

- Concerns this risk has been raised and the fact no information has been brought to the Audit Committee as to the reason for industrial action.
- Concerns that administration staff who have left the organisation, are not being replace leading to pressures on existing staffing and increase in sickness levels.

Noted: A policy was in place with regard to staff returning to work from sick leave, to ensure return to work interviews are done on a timely basis and ensuring people are given the necessary support when returning to work.

A policy was in place regarding agile working for those posts that meet the criteria for agile working. This policy remains under review and management continue to communicate with staff.

Senior Management are meeting via the Labour Relations Agency to discuss issues with Trade Unions.

Senior Management examine recruitment issues on a weekly basis across all directorates, and concerns regarding replacement of staff will be brought back to the next meeting of the Senior Management Team.

Councillor Byrne asked that it be recorded that given the rise in the risk score for Corporate Risk 11, and that it was understood strike action would be in place next Monday, the fact Members still did not understand what the issue was in order to address it was disappointing.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed as follows:

(a) To approve the updates to the Corporate Risk Register highlighted within the summary at Appendix 1. (Full Corporate Risk Register can be evidenced at Appendix 2)

(b) To note the revised Corporate Services Directorate Risk Register at Appendix 3.

AC/033/2023: PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS

Read: Report dated 04 April 2023 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance & Performance regarding Prompt Payment Statistics – Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 2022-2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne presented the Report on Prompt Payment Statistics. He said statistics on year end were not yet available therefore submission to the Department will take place next week, and year end statistics will be presented to the Audit Committee Meeting in July 2023. He added statistics have improved throughout the year.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note the Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 2022-23 Prompt Payment statistics.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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 these items of business.

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

(2.40pm Cllr Byrne left meeting)
(3.00pm Cllr Murphy left meeting)
(3.00pm Cllr Lewis left meeting)

When the Committee came out of Closed Session the Chairperson reported the following decisions had been taken on the items discussed:

Noted: No quorum present for discussion on Items 14 – 19, however no decisions were required on these items.

AC/034/2023: UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Read: Report dated 042023 from Ms E Cosgrove Head of Compliance regarding an update on Audit Recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Brennan seconded by Councillor Bowsie it was agreed to note the update in relation to legacy audit recommendations.**

AC/035/2023: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 18 January 2023 from Ms S McConville Procurement Manager regarding DAC/STA Register – Quarter 4. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Brennan seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Quarter 4 update in relation to Single Tender Actions.**

AC/036/2023: CONTRACTS MAPPING WORK

Read: Report dated 18 January 2023 from Ms S McConville Procurement Manager regarding procurement action plans. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the update in relation to the Procurement Action Plans for each Directorate and note the request for a report to be submitted to the Audit Committee Meeting in September 2023.**

AC/037/2023: FRAUD & WHISTLEBLOWING

Read: Report dated 18 January 2023 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director Finance & Performance, regarding an update on Fraud and Raising Concerns. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Bowsie it was agreed:**

- a) **To note the update in relation to Fraud and Raising Concerns cases which have been detailed at Appendix 1.**
- b) **To note the Risk Based Approach to sampling of National Fraud Initiative matches as per NIAO guidelines.**
- c) **To note the progress on actions arising from the NIAO Internal Fraud Risk Self Assessment.**

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

Noted: It was note there was no quorum from Items 14 – 19.

AC/038/2023: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT SUMMARY REPORT

Read: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 04 April 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note the ASM Internal Audit Summary Report and the request for an update on recruitment for the Audit Committee Meeting in September 2023.**

AC/039/2023: 2022/2023 ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORT

Read: ASM Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report dated 01 April 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note the ASM Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report dated 01 April 2023, and refer for noting at the Audit Committee Meeting in July 2023.**

**AC/040/2023: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT FIELDWORK 2022/23
RE: 2021/22 FOLLOW UP WORK**

Read: ASM Internal Audit – Audit Fieldwork 2022/23- Report dated 14 March 2023 - Follow up review. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note ASM Internal Audit - Fieldwork 2022/23- Follow up review.

**AC/041/2023: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT FIELDWORK 2022/23
RE: COMMUNITY CENTRES**

Read: ASM Internal Audit – Audit Fieldwork 2022/23- Report dated 14 March 2023 regarding Community Centres – compliance with building checklists. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note ASM Internal Audit - Fieldwork 2022/23- Report dated 14 March 2023 regarding Community Centres.

**AC/042/2023: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT FIELDWORK 2022/23
RE: REVIEW OF LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIPS**

Read: ASM Internal Audit – Audit Fieldwork 2022/23- Report dated 16 March 2023 regarding Review of Labour Market Partnerships. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note ASM Internal Audit - Fieldwork 2022/23- Report dated 16 March 2023 regarding Review of Labour Market Partnerships.

**AC/043/2023: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT FIELDWORK 2022/23
RE: REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Read: ASM Internal Audit – Audit Fieldwork 2022/23 – Report dated 13 March 2023 regarding Review of selected performance measures in the 2021 to 2023 Corporate Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note ASM Internal Audit Audit Fieldwork 2022/23 – Report dated 13 March 2023 regarding performance measures.

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)**AC/044/2023: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES**

Read: Report dated 18 January 2023 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance, Finance & Performance, regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023/24.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Bowsie it was agreed to note:

- a) **The 5 Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 1.**
- b) **The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 2, including approval to commence the consultation and engagement process on 20 March 2023.**

CIRCULARS**AC/045/2023: LG-07-2023 RE: ACCOUNTS DIRECTION 2022/23**

Read: Letter dated 10 February 2023 from Department for Communities regarding Accounts Direction 2023-22 for NI District Councils. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Bowsie it was agreed to note the above correspondence.

AC/046/2023: LG-03-2023 RE: CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLOR CIRCULAR

Read: Letter dated 25 January 2022 from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Councillor Circular. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Bowsie it was agreed to note the above correspondence.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 06 June 2023.



**From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Julie Harrison**

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

Room 701
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175
Email: perm.sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Via email: council@nmandd.org

Your reference:
Our reference: SCORR-0079-2023
06 April 2023

Dear Marie

NOTICE OF MOTION – SCHOOL STREET SCHEMES

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2023 providing the detail on the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's motion calling on the Department for Infrastructure to bring forward urgently a School Streets pilot and identifying a number of pilot schools across the council district. Apologies for my slow reply.

I have now had a few enquiries in relation to the School Streets policy but I'm sure you will appreciate that it is the role of a Minister to provide instruction and direction on policy once a new Assembly is in place. However, I can advise that we do keep abreast of emerging issues relating to the School Streets Scheme and therefore will keep this matter under consideration.

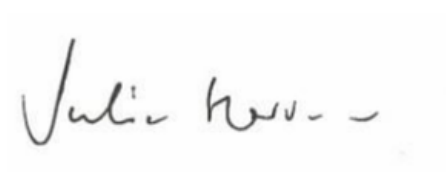
In the meantime the Department continues to improve safety for our children and provide opportunity for active travel to and from school. Part-time 20 mph speed limits have been installed at 215 schools and the Department launched a "Think before you Park" road safety campaign in November 2021 to highlight the dangers associated with pavement parking.

As we look forward into what is likely to be an incredibly challenging operating environment, I would want to be clear that the department will have to ruthlessly

prioritise against our legal obligations and that, as things stand, I do not see how we will be able to continue with many of the initiatives that we would want to progress.

I hope you find this letter helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

JULIE HARRISON



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

34

28 March 2023

Our ref: C076/23

By Email: council@nmandd.org

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Dear Ms Ward

Council at its March meeting considered your correspondence dated 15 March 2023 regarding the motion passed in relation to Reduction in Voting Age. Many Members agreed to support the motion and will also write to the Secretary of State to advise.

Yours sincerely

Joseph McGuckin
Head of Strategic Services & Engagement



Northern
Ireland
Office

Steve Baker MP
Minister of State for Northern
Ireland

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Marie Ward

Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
By email: aisling.murray@nmandd.org

21 April 2023

Our reference: MC/23/125

Your Reference: C/075/2023

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March 2023 bringing to the attention of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the Council's motion on reducing the minimum voting age to sixteen. As the Minister with responsibility for elections, I have been asked to respond.

The Government recognises and hugely values the contribution young people make to society, however, the Government has no plans to lower the voting age, having been elected on a manifesto commitment to maintain the current franchise at 18.

The age of 18 is recognised in the vast majority of democratic countries as the age at which an individual becomes an adult. Accordingly, the vast majority of liberal democracies worldwide consider 18 the right age to enfranchise young people. This includes the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and almost all European Union countries.

I hope this helps explain the position of the Government.

Yours sincerely,

STEVE BAKER MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND