

March 31st, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Wednesday**, **7th April 2021** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room Downshire and Microsoft Teams**.

Agenda

1.0	Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks	
2.0	Declaration of Interest	
3.0	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 March 2021 Action Sheet Council Meeting 01 03 2021.pdf	Page 1
	Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing	
4.0	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 March 2021 Council Minutes-01-03-2021.pdf	Page 8
5.0	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 22 March 2021 Minutes Sp Council Mtg 22-03-2021.pdf	Page 21
	Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption	
6.0	Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 March 2021 © ERT Minutes 080321.pdf	Page 26
7.0	Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2021	Page 39
8.0	Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2021	Page 46
9.0	Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2021 Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 16-03-2021 (1).pdf	Page 56

10.0 Minutes of Special Active and Healthy Communities

□ Special Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 18-03-2021.pdf

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11.0 Planning Section

Correspondence

12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin March 2021

Members Bulletin - March 2021.pdf

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13.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 11 February 2021

Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 11022021.pdf

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Correspondence

14.0 Response from Minister for Infrastructure RE: C/032/2021: Pedestrian Road Safety Measures

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure dated 4 March 2021 attached.

C 032 2021 Response from Minister for Infrastructure re Pedestrian Road Safety Measures.pdf Page 94

15.0 Response from HM Treasury RE: C/033/2021, Universal Credit Payments and C/041/2021, Proposed Cuts to Advice Services

Response from HM Treasury dated 11 March 2021 attached.

C 033 2021 and C 041 2021 Response from HM Treasury.pdf

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16.0 Response from Minister for Finance RE: C/041/2021 Proposed Cuts to Advice Services

Response from Minister for Finance dated 8 March 2021 attached.

○ C 041 2021 Response from Minister for Finance re Proposed Cuts to Advice Services.pdf

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17.0 Response from Minister for the Economy RE: C/061/2021 Covid Disruption Payment for Students

C 061 2021 Letter from Dept for the Economy RE Support for Students .pdf

18.0 Response from Department for Communities and Department for Education RE: C/038/2021 Child Poverty Task Force

Response from Department for Communities dated 10 March 2021 attached.

Response from Department for Education dated 9 March 2021 attached.

CORR-0410-2021 - Child Poverty Task Force - Letter from P McKillen to Marie Ward 10-3-21 (003).PDF

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Letter to NMDDC - Child Poverty Task Force.pdf

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19.0 Response from Minister of Finance RE: ERT/005/2021 Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB)

Response from Minister of Finance dated 4 March 2021 attached.

ERT 005 2021 Response from Minister of Finance re Nearly Zero Energy Building Code.pdf Page 103

Conferences/Events

20.0 Irish Climate Summit 2021 – Thursday 29th April – Online Conference

See details attached.

☐ Irish Climate Summit 2021 Thursday 29th April Online Conference.pdf

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Notices of Motion

21.0 Notice of Motion - Downpatrick Town Centre Development

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

"Council welcomes the change of tone in the Downpatrick Town Centre Development Project. The Department has accepted that there has been a market failure on these lands and that some public investment may be required to make the project happen. Council lauds the cross party consensus that made this change possible. It is no longer a fire sale of the public land bank to the private sector and notes that there will be public money invested in this realm project as is proposed in Newry.

Council now directs Management to ensure the original footprint of this vital town centre development in included in the project to protect Downpatrick's options for the long-term. In particular,

- that the land that will be required for access out onto Saint Patrick's Avenue as envisaged in the Downpatrick Master Plan is acquired and protected as part of this project, and
- 2. that the public investment also deals with the upgrade and integration of the 3 private car parks abutting the development to ensure that the Town Centre Development is not left half done. This would not require acquisition of this land but assistance to ensure the public realm is brought up to standard while allowing those retail outlets to reserve their own parking areas.

This should either be done as part of the existing project, or as part of a 'Stage 2' for which the planning should start now so the Town Centre Upgrade will be a coherent overall credit to the people of Downpatrick".

22.0 Notice of Motion - LGBT+ Community

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Brown:

This Council opposes the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past through the denial of rights and equal treatment and further recognises that discrimination still occurs today.

This Council acknowledges and stands against the ongoing harm the practice of conversion therapy brings to LGBT+ people.

This Council calls on the Minister of Communities to continue to work with the Minister of Health and Minister of Justice to introduce an effective ban on conversion therapy within Northern Ireland, supported by a programme of work to help tackle these practices in all their forms.

Furthermore this Council will highlight and promote the continued support, counselling and advocacy our local groups provide to members of the LGBT+ Community."

23.0 Notice of Motion - Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Owen:

This Council recognises women's concerns across the UK and ROI after the disappearance and subsequent murder of Sarah Everard. It has placed a spotlight on the safety of women and girls. This Council is to

 Request the Northern Ireland Assembly initiate a Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) strategy.

- Endorse and promote the Women's Aid petition calling for a VAWG strategy to be implemented.
- To form a task force to develop a publicity campaign promoting safety apps and engaging with the PSNI, Women's Aid and Soroptomists Great Britain and Ireland.
- Ask other councils to do the same.

24.0 Notice of Motion - Gender Based Violence

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

Sinn Féin ask for this council to support @womens_aid petition calling for a strategy to combat violence against women and girls in the north.

This petition highlights the urgent need for a specific Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy in the north of Ireland.

Gender-based violence has devastating impacts on the lives of thousands of women and children in the north every year and is having a disproportionate impact on women from minority communities.

A strategy to tackle violence against women and girls is an international human rights obligation under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

As recently as 2019, the CEDAW Committee has expressed concern over the lack of a strategy here.

The north is the only part of these islands that does not have a specific strategy to tackle gender-based violence.

The stark findings of the Gillen and Hate Crime reviews show that the lack of a strategy is failing women and girls here.

We will write to the Minister for Justice begins work on developing a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, as a matter of urgency.

25.0 Notice of Motion - Condemnation of the genocide against Uighur and Kazakh Muslims in China

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McAteer:

This Council condemns the genocide against Uighur and Kazakh Muslims in China, up to one million of whom have been detained in re-education camps in the Xinjiang Uighur

Autonomous Region; expresses solidarity with the Uighur and Kazakh people and the many others living in China who face the violation of their basic human rights every day; abhors the decision by the Member of Parliament for South Down to express solidarity with the regime responsible for these crimes; and resolves to write formally to the Chinese Consul General to express our horror and disgust at the treatment of these minorities.

26.0 Notice of Motion - GP Counselling Services

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Mason:

This Council recognises that the demand for Mental Health services has been rising considerably, even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. It notes that there is currently a postcode lottery in operation for GP counselling services and that residents in this district are severely disadvantaged when accessing counselling services, compared to other areas.

This Council commits to:

Writing to the Minister for Health to ensure that the Mental Health Strategy commits to end the postcode lottery for access to in house GP counselling services.

Lobbying the South Eastern and Southern health trust to ensure adequate resources are in place for GP surgeries to provide in house GP counselling services.

Actively supporting the GP surgeries across our district to become fully operational providers of counselling services, providing quick and accessible support.

Actively promote in house GP counselling services across our district.

27.0 Notice of Motion - Department of Health, Commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry and Down Hospital, Downpatrick

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Savage:

This Council calls on the Health Minister Robin Swann to reaffirm the Department of Health's commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry and the retention and expansion of the Down Hospital in Downpatrick. Council notes with concern media reports that there are plans to close half of the hospitals across the North within the next 10 years and calls for clarity from the Minister to allay the fears of residents of this district who have had to fight to retain vital services at our two cherished local hospitals. Council requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister seeking assurances from him that there are no plans to close or downgrade the Down Hospital or Daisy Hill Hospital within the next 10 years or beyond and requests an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss the future plans for our two local hospitals to seek guarantees that neither of our two local hospitals will be downgraded or closed as part of any future plans for the delivery of healthcare across the North.

28.0 Notice of Motion - Gender Based Violence

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Gallagher:

This Council acknowledges the prevalence and impact of violence against women and girls locally, and throughout the world, resulting in the loss of lives, implications for the health and wellbeing of survivors, discrimination and the violation of human rights; notes that at present there is so specific Strategy in the North on the eradication of violence of against women and girls, noting that we are the only part of these islands without such a strategy; calls on the Justice Minister, supported by the Joint First Ministers, to bring forward a strategy to eliminate violence against women and girls as matter of urgency.

In addition, this Council agrees to consider developing a financial support fund for women's groups across our district and declares its commitment to making our area a safe place for everyone and acknowledges that women should feel safe in in public places everywhere.

29.0 Notice of Motion - Mother and Baby Homes

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Howell:-

"That this Council recognises the upset and distress that the destruction of records by the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes has caused to women, their families and their representative groups; That this council recognises that this issue is an all-island one and will affect survivors in the north who were sent to these homes; That this council recognises that survivors have already waited far too long to access their records and calls on the Dublin Government's Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman, to publish without delay access to records legislation; That this Council calls on the Minister of Children to fully support Deputy Kathleen Funchion's Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 to ensure that all adopted people are given unconditional access to their birth certificates; That this Council also calls on the Executive's Minister for Health, Robin Swann, to do everything in his power, including legislate if necessary, to preserve and protect the records from the institutions in the north and to make this documentation easily accessible for victims and survivors"..

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 1 MARCH 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/044/2021	Strike the Rate	The Action Sheets of Strategic Finance Working Group Meetings held on 12 October 2020, 9 November 2020, 14 December 2020, 11 January 2021, 4 February 2021 and 18 February 2021 were noted (appendix 6 – restricted item). It was agreed to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Strategic Finance Working Group in relation to the 2021/22 rate setting process, and: 1. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2021-22 of 1.59% based on an estimated penny product of 2,520,986 meaning a non-domestic rate of 23.9970 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4067 pence; 2. Approve the establishment of two new reserves of Council, namely a COVID Revitalisation reserve and an Economic Recovery reserve.	M Ward D Carville K Montgomery	Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Approve the Medium Term Financial plan and authorise the 2021-22 expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 1);			
		4. Approve the Capital Strategy Report for 2021-22 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 2);			
		5. Approve the capital programme (see Appendix 3);			
		6. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021-22 (see Appendix 4);			
		7. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021-22 (see Appendix 5).			
C/045/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 01.02.21	The action sheet was agreed	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/046/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 01.02.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/047/2021	Minutes of Special Council 25.01.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/048/2021	Minutes of Special Council 17.02.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/049/2021	Minutes of ERT Committee	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Meeting held on 08.02.21	It was agreed all Councillors be invited to attend a Workshop with internet providers.	C Mallon		
C/050/2021	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 11.02.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
	SPR/31/2021: Legal Advice on Judicial Review Challenge against SE Trust	Working Group regarding the Downe Hospital and	S Trainor	Letter sent to Minister of Health and Health Committee on 15/03/21	
	SPR/003/2021: Letter to Health Minister Mr Swann and contact with PHA	It was agreed to write the Minister for Health and the Public Health Agency offering the provision of the Newry Leisure Centre and the Downpatrick Leisure Centre to be used as mass vaccination centres for the vaccination programme.	S Trainor	GP federations for Southern Trust and South Eastern Trust contacted offering Newry and Downpatrick Leisure Centre for mass vaccinations. Federations outlined that there is no requirement at this stage for these sites.	
C/051/2021	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 15.02.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/052/2021	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 17.02.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/053/2021	Planning Committee Meeting held on 10.02.21	There were no issues referred from Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2021.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/054/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin – February 2021	The Bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/055/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 14 January 2021	The minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/056/2021	Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for NI Re: Local Government Boundaries Review in Northern Ireland - 3 February 2021	It was agreed for Council to examine and submit a corporate response to the Local Government Boundaries Review in Northern Ireland.	M Ward		
C/057/2021	Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure re: Gruggandoo	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Windfarm – 21 December 2021				
C/058/2021	Correspondence from NI Assembly re: Protection from Stalking Bill	It was agreed that a corporate response from Council be sent regarding the Protection from Stalking Bill for it to remain in its current form.	C Moffett	Noted – response forwarded advising of Council's decision that the Protection from Stalking Bill should remain in its current form	
C/059/2021	NI Housing Council Conference 15 April 2021	It was agreed Councillors Savage and Murphy attend the Northern Ireland Housing Council Conference on 15 April 2021.	Democratic Services	Actioned – Cllrs. Booked on Conference	
C/060/2021	*Notice of Motion – Trade Border	Notice of Motion removed from the agenda and had been tabled and discussed at an earlier Brexit Forum Meeting.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/061/2021	Notice of Motion – Covid Disruption Payment for all Students	It was agreed that this Council welcomes the recent announcement of a £500 Covid Disruption payment for students studying full-time Higher Education courses; notes the exclusion of full-time students studying Further Education courses and students studying Higher Education courses in the south of Ireland or in Britain is unfair; acknowledges that the difficulty of part time students facing financial hardship also needs to be addressed; and writes to the Minister for the Economy and to the Minister for Finance, to find a mechanism to engage with Student Finance Ni to identify all NI students studying in Ireland and Britain, to address the inequalities and	Democratic Services	Letters sent Minister for the Economy and Minister for Finance – reply from Minister for Economy on the agenda for Council meeting 07-04-2021	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		ensure that all students who are currently excluded from the Covid Disruption Payment receive the £500 payment".			
C/062/2021	Notice of Motion — Citizenship for undocumented Irish living in America	It was agreed that this Council recognizing the ongoing plight of the thousands of undocumented Irish living in America, many of whom are from this Council region, urges President Biden to prioritise legislation to create a roadmap to citizenship for them and all those classed as undocumented. It was also agreed to advise President Biden of the Council's support for the E3 Visa Bill through the US Senate.	Democratic Services	Letter sent to President Biden	
C/063/2021	Notice of Motion – Covid 19, Mental Health	The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	M Lipsett	To AHC in April 2021	Y
C/064/2021	Notice of Motion – Bank of Ireland Proposed Closures	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that following the recent announcement by the Bank of Ireland of its proposed closure of the Downpatrick and Crossmaglen branches, we as a Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and urge Bank of Ireland to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people". It was further agreed to seek an urgent meeting with the Chief Executive of the Bank of Ireland; Slieve Gullion and Downpatrick Councillors and relevant Council Officials, to discuss the announcements and seek a review of the decision to close these branches.	Democratic Services	Letter sent to CEO Bank of Ireland – Meeting to be held on 13 April 2021	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 March 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

Councillor P Brown

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance: Councillor T Andrews

> Councillor R Burgess Councillor P Byrne Councillor C Casey Councillor W Clarke Councillor D Curran Councillor C Enright Councillor H Gallagher Councillor A Finnegan Councillor M Gibbons Councillor O Hanlon Councillor G Hanna Councillor V Harte Councillor R Howell Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis Councillor G Malone Councillor C Mason Councillor D McAteer 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 J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)

Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting)

Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services,

Finance

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

C/042/2021 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Lewis, McEvoy, Mulgrew and Trainor.

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor McEvoy on the birth of her son Pat. On behalf of the Council she wished Leeanne and her husband Niall all the best for the future.

The Chairperson highlighted the Covid vaccination programme and encouraged all citizens to avail of the opportunity a vaccine offered to protect themselves and others within community.

The Chairperson advised March would see the gathering of information for the Census which happened every 10 years and encouraged people to respond promptly and welcomed the fact that it could be completed online.

The Chairperson highlighted that people should not be complacent and whilst the Covid vaccination programme was encouraging, we were far from out of the woods. She appealed to everyone to be cautious and if they did arrive at a spot that was busy, to go elsewhere for their exercise and to continue to adhere to the PHA guidance.

Members were advised the wording of an emergency motion from Councillors Sharvin and Byrne regarding the Bank of Ireland closures had been circulated prior to the meeting. In order for the motion to be heard, it would require the suspension of standing orders and 80% of those members present and voting. If successful, the motion would be dealt with after all other matter of business.

C/043/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Owens declared an interest in item 20: Notice of Motion, Covid Disruption Payment for all Students.

C/044/2021 TO SET A DISTRICT RATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/22

AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE LOCAL

GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT (NI) 2011, AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CAPITAL FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING) (CORONAVIRUS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN

IRELAND) 2021

Read: Report from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance dated 1

March 2021, regarding the District Rate 2021/22.

Appendix 1: Medium Term Financial Plan Appendix 2: Capital Strategy Report 2021-22 Appendix 3: Four Year Capital Programme

Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021-22 Appendix 5: Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021-22

Appendix 6: Action Sheets of meetings of Strategic Finance Working Group to consider rate setting process 2021-22 (restricted item)

Mrs Ward provided a detailed overview of the report previously circulated, highlighting there were a number of significant uncertainties within the current estimates, including the future impact of Covid, the draft budget at Northern Ireland Executive level, Rates Support Grant and uncertainties surrounding Brexit.

Mrs Ward advised that, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011, she, as Chief Financial Officer, was required to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves as part of the rate setting process.

Mrs Carville, Director of Corporate Services referred Members to the considerations and recommendations of the Strategic Finance Working Group at appendix 6 (restricted item).

Members were asked to approve an increase in the district rate for 2021/22 of 1.59%, highlighting the key factors contributing to the proposed rate increase in 2021/22.

Members took the opportunity to thank officers for their hard work and diligence throughout the year in striking the rate.

The Action Sheets of Strategic Finance Working Noted: Group Meetings held on 12 October 2020, 9

November 2020, 14 December 2020, 11 January 2021,

4 February 2021 and 18 February 2021 were noted (appendix 6 – restricted item).

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Strategic Finance Working Group in relation to the 2021/22 rate setting process, and:

- 1. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2021-22 of 1.59% based on an estimated penny product of 2,520,986 meaning a non-domestic rate of 23.9970 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4067 pence;
- Approve the establishment of two new reserves of Council, namely a COVID Revitalisation reserve and an Economic Recovery reserve.
- 3. Approve the Medium Term Financial plan and authorise the 2021-22 expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 1);
- 4. Approve the Capital Strategy Report for 2021-22 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 2);
- 5. Approve the capital programme (see Appendix 3);
- Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021-22 (see Appendix 4);
- 7. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021-22 (see Appendix 5).

C/045/2021 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1

FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 February 2021

(copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 1 February

2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owens,

seconded by Councillor Howell.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/046/2021 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 February 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 February

2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor

Andrews.

C/047/2021 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25

JANUARY 2021

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 January 2021 (copy

circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 25

January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded

by Councillor Magennis.

C/048/2021 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17

FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 17 February 2021 (copy

circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 17

February 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded

by Councillor Mason.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/049/2021 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting

held on 8 February 2021 (copy circulated).

ERT/026/2021: Full Fibre Operational Costs

Councillor Owen proposed that a Special Council Meeting be arranged with Fibrus and any other network internet providers following complaints received in relation to the roll out of the hyper fast broadband project in the Killyleagh area. This was seconded by Councillor Walker.

Mr Mallon advised the Full Fibre Northern Ireland project had just been awarded and that Stratum was currently being rolled out. He confirmed that once Fibrus was on board with Full Fibre Northern Ireland that it was his intention to call a workshop with providers and Councillors.

Councillors Owen and Walker were content to proceed with a workshop being arranged providing all Councillors were invited to attend.

Councillor McAteer commented that the matters raised by Councillor Owen were regarding operational delivery and that he had requested a meeting to be arranged to get an overview of what was being provided and how it cross referenced with Open Reach.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Committee Meeting held on 8 February 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

It was agreed all Councillors be invited to attend a

Workshop with internet providers.

C/050/2021 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on

11 February 2021 (copy circulated).

SPR/31/2021: Legal Advice on Judicial Review Challenge against SE Trust
Councillor Hanlon proposed Council also write to the Minister for Health to request he meet
with the delegation from the Health Working Group regarding the Downe Hospital and what
the future of the hospital might be from his perspective. Furthermore, Council should write to
the Health Committee at Stormont to discuss the same. This was seconded by Councillor
Brown.

Councillor Hanlon commented that Covid had seriously impacted hospital services, but with recovery and vaccine roll out taking place people needed assurances regarding hospital facilities.

SPR/003/2021: Letter to Health Minister Mr Swann and contact with PHA

Councillor Savage referred to the announcement that the SSE Arena, Belfast was to be used as a mass vaccination hub for the greater Belfast area and proposed Council write to the Minister for Health and the Public Health Agency offering the provision of the Newry Leisure Centre and the Downpatrick Leisure Centre to be used as mass vaccination centres for the Covid vaccination programme. This was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Agreed:

The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Council Brown to write to the Minister for Health to request he meet with the delegation from the Health Working Group regarding the Downe Hospital and what the future of the hospital might be from his perspective. Furthermore, Council should also write to the Health Committee at Stormont to discuss the same.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews to write the Minister for Health and the Public Health Agency offering the provision of the Newry Leisure Centre and the Downpatrick Leisure Centre to be used as mass vaccination centres for the vaccination programme.

C/051/2021 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held

on 15 February 2021 (copy circulated).

AHC/042/2021 Financial Assistance

In response to a request from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Lipsett provided assurance that applications for grants to the capital financial funds received late that day due to the technical issues would be accepted. He added that in terms of extending the deadline that would be dependent on how things were but that he understood the issues had since been resolved.

Councillor Enright commented that the new system was a welcome development but that there were snags with it and that another 24/48 hours to the deadline would be welcomed.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities
Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2021 were agreed

as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/052/2021 MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17

February 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee

> Meeting held on 17 February 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor

McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Mason.

PLANNING

C/053/2020 PLANNING MINUTES 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Noted: There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting

held on 10 February 2021.

FOR NOTING

C/054/2021 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN -

FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Bulletin dated February 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council.

(Copy circulated)

The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted. Agreed:

C/055/2020

2021

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY

Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 14 January 2021. Read:

(Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage welcomed the next 50 years presentation included within the Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes and spoke at length about the housing crisis within the District.

In response for an update regarding the forthcoming 2nd Housing Needs Symposium, Mr Mallon confirmed he had met with Community Planning staff in the past week and work was ongoing to plan how to best deliver the event in the late summer, early autumn.

The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 14 Agreed:

January 2021 were noted.

CORRESPONDENCE

C/056/2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONER FOR

NORTHERN IRELAND RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

REVIEW IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Correspondence dated 3 February 2021 from Local Government

Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland re: Local Government

Boundaries Review in Northern Ireland. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Murphy commented that it would be remiss of Council not to respond as it was an opportunity to look at the name for Council as the name Newry, Mourne Down District Council did not seem to be inclusive to people within South Armagh and proposed that a corporate response be submitted. This was seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

Councillor McAteer voiced concern regarding the review following the radical review in 2015 and that a corporate view should be taken, and a response provided.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí for Council to examine and submit a corporate response to the Local Government

Boundaries Review in Northern Ireland.

C/057/2021 MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RE: GRUGGANDOO WIND

<u>FARM</u>

Read: Correspondence dated 21 December 2021 from the Minister for

Infrastructure re: Gruggandoo Wind Farm. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

C/058/2021 NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY RE: PROTECTION FROM

STALKING BILL

Read: Correspondence dated 19 February 2021 from the Northern Ireland

Assembly re: Protection from Stalking Bill. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Murphy spoke of the need to ensure the Protection from Stalking Bill remain in its current form and proposed a corporate response be sent from Council. This was seconded by Councillor Magennis.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis that a corporate response from Council be sent regarding the Protection

from Stalking Bill for it to remain in its current form.

C/059/2021 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL CONFERENCE 15

APRIL

Read: Programme from Northern Ireland Housing Council Conference to be

held on 15 April 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed Councillors Savage and Murphy attend the

Northern Ireland Housing Council Conference on 15 April

2021.

Councillors Burgess, Enright, Gibbons, Howell, Malone, Owen and Reilly had left by this stage of the meeting.

C/060/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – TRADE BORDER

The Chairperson advised the Notice of Motion had been removed from the agenda and had been tabled and discussed at an earlier Brexit Forum Meeting.

C/061/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID DISRUPTION PAYMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

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

"That this Council welcomes the recent announcement of a £500 Covid Disruption payment for students studying full-time Higher Education courses; notes the exclusion of full-time students studying Further Education courses and students studying Higher Education courses in the south of Ireland or in Britain is unfair; acknowledges the difficulty of part time students facing financial hardship also needs to be addressed; and writes to the Minister for the Economy to address the inequalities and ensure that all students who are currently excluded from the Covid Disruption Payment receive the £500 payment".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

In formally proposing the Motion, Councillor Clarke said it was cruel that so many students in our District, who were studying in Ireland or Britain, had not received the £500 Covid disruption payment. He said it was a token amount, but citizens of our area were being excluded and he believed that extending the payment to all students was a way of engaging with them and getting them involved in politics. He said all students needed support and especially when studying away from home; they had additional travel costs, had lost jobs and were returning to hard pressed families who were having to meet extra costs in terms of food etc.

Councillor Walker said the DUP would support the Motion but asked the proposer if he would accept an amendment to also write to the Executive regarding the payment to all students.

Councillor Clarke said his understanding was that the relevant budget was available but advised he would be willing to accept this amendment.

Councillor Savage said the SDLP would support the Motion, but his understanding was that the Economy Minister had the money to pay this, but it appeared to be that the identification of students from NI who were studying in the Republic or Britain, it was hard for universities to identify them. He asked if the proposer would accept an additional amendment as the easiest mechanism for identifying students from NI was through Student Finance for NI.

Councillor Savage proposed the following amendment: -

"That this Council welcomes the recent announcement of a £500 Covid Disruption payment for students studying full-time Higher Education courses; notes the exclusion of full-time students studying Further Education courses and students studying Higher Education courses in the south of Ireland or in Britain is unfair; acknowledges that the difficulty of part time students facing financial hardship also needs to be addressed; and writes to the Minister for the Economy to find a mechanism to engage with Student Finance Ni to identify all NI students studying in Ireland and Britain, to address the inequalities and ensure that all students who are currently excluded from the Covid Disruption Payment receive the £500 payment".

Councillor Clarke said he would be willing to accept this second amendment also.

Councillor Taylor spoke in support of the Motion, on behalf of his Party, and said the £500 was an acknowledgement of the difficulties being faced by students and he hoped the Minister would do everything she could to get this over the line.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Byrne that this Council welcomes the recent announcement of a £500 Covid Disruption payment for students studying full-time Higher Education courses; notes the exclusion of full-time students studying Further Education courses and students studying Higher Education courses in the south of Ireland or in Britain is unfair; acknowledges that the difficulty of part time students facing financial hardship also needs to be addressed; and writes to the Minister for the Economy and to the Minister for Finance, to find a mechanism to engage with Student Finance Ni to identify all NI students studying in Ireland and Britain, to address the inequalities and ensure that all students who are currently excluded from the Covid Disruption Payment receive the £500 payment".

C/062/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – CITIZENSHIP FOR UNDOCUMENTED IRISH LIVING IN AMERICA

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

"This Council recognizing the ongoing plight of the thousands of undocumented lrish living in America, many of whom are from this Council region, urges President Biden to prioritise legislation to create a roadmap to citizenship for them and all those classed as undocumented".

The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

In formally proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Muiri said President Biden had consistently and continued to be, a strong supporter of the Irish peace process and defender of the Good Friday Agreement. He had also been unequivocal in his stance on Brexit and was deeply proud of his Irish roots, as he was himself a descendant of Irish emigrants to America.

Councillor O'Muiri said it was believed there were as many as 50,000 undocumented Irish people living in the US and this issue impacted many from this area, irrespective of creed or class and it was important all political leaders on this island used their contacts and influence so that the issue of the undocumented Irish in America and all the hardships that go with such status were resolved in a humane manner.

Councillor McAteer welcomed the Motion and said President Biden had given an undertaking, even prior to the election, to ensure the matter was brought to both Houses. He asked if the proposer would accept an amendment to the Motion "to support the E3 Visa Bill through the US Senate". He said this Bill would grant several thousand two-year renewable working visas to Irish Citizens but was slightly different as visas would be available only to those who had not offended any immigration laws. However, both would enhance the wellbeing of our Irish citizens in the USA.

Councillor O'Muiri said he would be willing to accept this amendment.

Councillor Brown said he would be happy to support the ethos of the Motion.

Councillor Hanna said the DUP would support the Motion but the pathway to citizenship in any country should be done through the legal path. He said he would encourage anyone going to the USA or any other country to always use the legal path.

Councillor Taylor said his Party had some issues with the Motion in that it promoted one nationality over another; ethical issues and the interference in the immigration policy of another country. However, he did recognise the contribution made by the Irish/American community over the years and this Motion affected many in our District and his party would therefore be supporting it.

Councillor O'Hare formally seconded the Motion and spoke of his personal experiences of living in the US for a number of years as one of the undocumented and the hardships that he experienced by not being able to get a bank account or drivers licence.

Councillor Tinnelly also spoke in support of the Motion and welcomed the new, more sympathetic administration that was in place in America and with it the hope that all the undocumented would be regularised.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muiri,

seconded by Councillor O'Hare, that this Council recognizing the ongoing plight of the thousands of undocumented Irish living in America, many of whom are from this Council region, urges President Biden to prioritise legislation to create a roadmap to citizenship for

them and all those classed as undocumented.

It was also agreed to advise President Biden of the Council's support for the E3 Visa Bill through the US

Senate

C/063/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID 19, MENTAL HEALTH

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

"This Council recognises the impact that Covid-19 has had on the mental health and well-being of children, young people and families. With this in mind our DEA Forums and coordinators should engage with stakeholders and prioritise allocation of funding for mental health, well-being and support initiatives for these affected groups".

Councillor Mason formally proposed the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy

Communities Committee in accordance with Standing

Order 16.1.6.

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

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne to suspend Standing orders 16.1.1 at this point in the meeting to allow for the tabling of the emergency motion due to the urgency of the issue and its importance to the District.

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

FOR: 28 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 It was unanimously agreed by qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 (copy attached).

C/064/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – BANK OF IRELAND PROPOSED CLOSURES

The following Emergency Motion came forward from Councillor Sharvin proposing:

"Following the recent announcement by the Bank of Ireland of its proposed closure of the Downpatrick and Crossmaglen branches, we as a Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and urge Bank of Ireland to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

In formally proposing the Motion, Councillor Sharvin said the announcement by the Bank of Ireland was another major loss to the towns of Downpatrick and Crossmaglen. He said we were continuing to see vital services from banking institutes being stripped away from our high streets with jobs being lost or moved away. He said the Bank of Ireland branch in Downpatrick had been a landmark in the Town Centre for many years and had served the community both personal and business banking needs. He said the staff had provided a first-class service and the branch was so important to the experience of the users.

Councillor Sharvin said he was disappointed in this announcement that the Bank used figures during the COVID pandemic as a reason to close the branches, citing a 70% drop in people visiting the branch. He said this was not due to the move from bank to digital but due to the unique environment everyone lived in today and reduced hours at branches. He said the Council needed to ensure that the high street was protected from a mass exodus of banking industries that comes with job losses and the financial impact on local businesses through custom of the workers. He said these closures not only impacted on customers of the bank but the surrounding businesses who benefitted from the bank being in the town centre.

Councillor Sharvin said our rural areas continued to be a target for closures whenever they needed a branch most importantly as their broadband network was not fully fit for purpose for all digital forms of banking.

In formally seconding the Motion, Councillor Byrne said whilst everyone knew over the last couple of months that there was going to be closures, the sheer scale, speed and timing of them was staggering. He said 10 years ago the Bank of Ireland had 44 branches in the North of Ireland, 16 of which had been closed in the last decade and of the remaining 28, over 50% of these would be closed within the next six months. He said this was too fast and too far and would have a massive impact on communities right across the North of Ireland and especially his community in Crossmaglen.

Councillor Byrne said he had pushed hard for town status for Crossmaglen as he firmly believed there was a need to retain and build on the services they already had. Five years ago, they had lost the Northern Bank in the town and were now down to one bank, the Bank of Ireland. He stated the Chief Executive of the Bank of Ireland had advised that services would be established in the Post Office however, the large post office in Crossmaglen had been closed and relegated to the back of the Centra shop in the main street. He said it was a great facility to have in the town but to double up as the main bank in the town for business banking was completely unacceptable.

Councillor Byrne strongly condemned the bank's comparison of figures from 2017 the current climate and said in his view the Bank of Ireland were exploiting the Covid crisis. He said it should not be accepted as a done deal, that over 50% of the branches in the North were being closed, including Crossmaglen which had a counter service.

Councillor Finnegan also strongly condemned the proposed closure of the branch in Crossmaglen and described it as a huge slap in the face for customers especially the elderly and vulnerable; staff and the wider community, just when they needed the extra support

Councillor Hanlon proposed the Council should write to the Chief Executive of the bank outlining the Council's strong opposition to the proposed closures of the Downpatrick and Crossmaglen branches and the impact this would have on customers, staff and local businesses who would be affected by the reduced footfall in the high street.

Councillor Walker voiced his strong opposition to the proposed closures and proposed that that an urgent meeting be sought with the Chief Executive of the Bank of Ireland, DEA Councillors from Downpatrick and Slieve Gullion and Council Officials to discuss this matter. Councillor Taylor said any such meeting would need to have a strong argument in place to ask the Bank to review their decision, with clear facts and figures known in advance and if a rural equality impact assessment had been undertaken.

Councillor Sharvin as the proposer of the Motion agreed to accept the amendment that an urgent meeting be sought with the bank's Chief Executive, DEA Councillors and Council officials.

Councillor Andrews and Councillor Brown also spoke in support of the Motion.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that following the recent announcement by the Bank of Ireland of its proposed closure of the Downpatrick and Crossmaglen branches, we as a Council are concerned with the detrimental effect that this will have on local jobs, the business and customers in the locality, and urge Bank of Ireland to reconsider and reverse this proposal for the benefit of the people".

It was further agreed to seek an urgent meeting with the Chief Executive of the Bank of Ireland; Slieve Gullion and Downpatrick Councillors and relevant Council Officials, to discuss the announcements and seek a review of the decision to close these branches.

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

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

Signed:		
	Chairperson	
	7	
	Chief Executive	

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 01/03/2021 VENUE: Teams Meeting MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Suspension of Standing Orders – 80% of those present and voting. 28 present and voting - 22 FOR votes required.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
P Brown	2			
R Burgess				X
P Byrne	3			
C Casey	4		52 52	
W Clarke				X
D Curran	5			
L Devlin	6			
S Doran				X
C Enright				X
A Finnegan	7	Í		
H Gallagher	8			
M Gibbons	716-Y			X
O Hanlon	9		e	
G Hanna	10			
V Harte	11			
R Howell				X
M Larkin	12			
A Lewis				X
O Magennis	13			
G Malone				X
C Mason	14			
D McAteer	15			
L McEvoy				X
H McKee	16			
K McKevitt	17			
A McMurray	18			
R Mulgrew				X
D Murphy	19			
G O'Hare	20			
B Ò Muirí	21			
K Owen	7,1			X
H Reilly			£3	X
M Ruane	22			
M Savage	23		F	
G Sharvin	24			
G Stokes	25			
D Taylor	26			
J Tinnelly	27		9	
J Trainor			2	X
B Walker	28			
TOTALS	28	0	0	13

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 22 March 2021 at 3.30pm remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance: Councillor T Andrews Councillor P Brown

Councillor R Burgess Councillor P Byrne Councillor C Casey Councillor D Curran Councillor C Enright Councillor A Finnegan Councillor M Gibbons Councillor O Hanlon Councillor A Lewis Councillor O Magennis Councillor D McAteer Councillor H McKee Councillor R Mulgrew Councillor D Murphy Councillor M Savage Councillor G Sharvin Councillor G Stokes Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor J Trainor

Officials in attendance: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities

Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Mr S McGoran, Chief Executive

Ms R Coulter, Director of Planning & Performance

Dr D Robinson, Director of Hospital Services

Ms C Campbell, Engagement & Involvement Manager

Dr A Dobbin, Clinical Consultant

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Mr M Bloomfield, Chief Executive Ms R Byrne, Director of Operations

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Mr S Devlin, Chief Executive

SC/007/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

The Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the Special Council Meeting, thanking the representatives from the South Eastern Trust, NIAS and Southern Trust for taking time out from their busy schedule to attend especially under the extreme pressures and challenges currently happening due to the pandemic.

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Harte, Howell, McEvoy, Taylor and

the Chief Executive Mrs M Ward.

SC/008/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/009/2021: RESPONSE FROM SOUTH EASTERN & SOCIAL

CARE TRUST

Mr S McGoran, Dr D Robinson, Mr A Dobbin and Ms R Coulter provided an update to members on the Consultant Lead Care Centre at the Downe Hospital, the challenges faced due to the third surge and new the variants of Covid 19, and the progress of the vaccination programme to date in the South Eastern Trust.

Members asked the following questions:

- How was the Trust mitigating for new strains of the virus and how effective was the vaccination against those new strains.
- Was there a date or timeframe for when the Accident and Emergency Department would be returned to the Downe Hospital.
- Was there a plan to reduce the Mental Health services in Finneston House.
- Why is there no capital commitment provided to the Downe Hospital in comparison to other hospitals in the Trust, to expand the services required to remain as an integral part of the health network and free up spaces in other hospitals.
- Is there no plans to increase services at the Emergency Department before June 2021, as the Emergency Department missing at present could be the critical difference between life and death depending on what part of the district travelling from.

The delegation responded to the gueries as follows:

- Stating clearly for the record, there were no plans to remove or reduce Mental Health services from Finneston House. If there is an increase in demand more resources will be provided to deliver the service.
- There is no evidence that the vaccine cannot cope with new variants, there is very strong evidence to suggest the vaccine is 70% to 80% plus effective in stopping people getting the disease and 100% stopping people getting the disease seriously and requiring hospitalisation or critical care. There is still a big unknown quantity in the new variants, but confidence remains high.
- Aspire to return services that were provided pre-Covid in the Downe Emergency Department, that are safe and sustainable. They don't have the ability to do this at present due to the current pandemic.
- There was significant investment 12 years ago in the building of the new Downe hospital, resulting in far more services being brought than taken away, the hospital has been maximised to its fullest.

- The draft budget just about covers the pay rise for staff, it will not cover
 inflation, demographic pressures or growth, any new technologies or drugs,
 any additional capital building or costs of new service developments,
 encourage members to talk to political parties and see how that can be
 influenced at an Assembly level.
- Don't have a timeframe when the doors can be opened again in the Downe
 Accident and Emergency, need 70-80% population to be vaccinated but will
 continue to build staff up and plan on introducing a lateral flow test which will
 allow an increase to the types of patients being brought to the Downe.
- Have asked the Commissioner and completed a draft business case about the possibility of installing an MRI scanner.

SC/010/2021: RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr M Bloomfield and Mrs R Byrne provided a detailed presentation to members highlighting some of the context and challenges providing an ambulance service in the Newry Mourne and Down area.

Members asked the following questions:

- Was the Covid situation given priority when assessing the patient for reason calling an ambulance in the first instance i.e stroke or heart attack.
- Private ambulances used do not have the same equipment, professional service and training as normal ambulances.
- Welcomed the new degree course for paramedics graduating in 2024, was
 there going to be enough to replace the staff that are due to retire or leave the
 service in the meantime or will there be gaps.
- Is expanding integrated care vehicles still a priority in supporting and bridging the gap in the operation of NIAS.

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- Whether a person has symptoms of Covid or not will not make a difference to
 the priority which they are sent an ambulance. A clinical triage system is used
 to assess the patient, they will go onto ask some of the questions in relation to
 Covid to ensure the staff attending have the appropriate PPE etc. but this
 does not have any bearing on an ambulance being dispatched.
- Ambulances are vans that have been kitted out with high tech equipment, we
 do use independent ambulance sector providers to supplement capacity who
 are expected to deliver certain standards to their vehicles and staff however
 they do not have the same skills and would not attend high level acuity calls.
- 50 student paramedics are graduating in early 2022, a further covert later this
 year had been factored into the workforce planning and strategy policy subject
 to funding, those students are already emergency medical technicians with

lots of experience being trained to a higher level of skills to be a paramedic, There was also plans to recruit people for a 2 year foundation degree programme of the street. This would lead to a continues supply of paramedics each year to keep at current staffing level.

Integrated care vehicles had been relied on heavily in the past 6 months, they
had been used to supplement routine outpatient work and Accident and
Emergency support on staggered shifts and evening work which had been
very helpful and still continues.

SC/011/2021: RESPONSE FROM SOUTHERN TRUST

Mr S Devlin provided an overview to members on the impact of Covid pandemic highlighting the Southern Trust had the single biggest number of Covid inpatients out of the 5 Trust areas as a result of Covid and had the highest levels of Covid positive within the community since beginning December. From a Covid perspective are now in a much better position as inpatient and community levels are now reducing therefore allowing the Trust to concentrate more on the rebuild plan which is coming to the Trust Board on Thursday 25 March 2021 should any members which to attend.

Members asked the following questions:

- Red flag referrals were not receiving responses for several months.
- Big impact on waiting lists, what was being done to resolve this.
- Why were Diabetic and Anti-Natal specialists not seeing patients face to face when other clinics were.
- Could an update be provided on the new Community Treatment Centre in Newry.
- What services were currently available for under 18's in relation to alcohol and drugs misuse and were they going back to face to face services.

The delegation responded to the gueries as follows:

- Red flags had not all been able to be addressed during Covid due to clinicians
 working in Covid intensive care areas instead. There was a plan in place to try
 and address those along with waiting lists, all of the staff were now back in
 their own posts but there would still be a mismatch in the number of people
 who needed an appointment and the resources they had so there would
 continue to be waits.
- Each service did a risk assessment to establish if face to face clinics could take place safely, Mr S Devlin agreed he would come back to members with an update on Diabetic and Anti-Natal clinics.
- The new Community Treatment Centre in Newry is currently with the Health Minister to finally approve, once an update is received members will be advised.

 Mr S Devlin agreed to come back to members with a list of services available through Children's Services and CAMHS and confirmed face to face services would be resuming where possible.

The meeting concluded at 17.00pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 07 April 2021.

Signed: Councillor L Devlin

Chairperson of Council

Signed: Ms M Ward

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 March 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor A McMurray

In attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor R Burgess
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 T Andrews

Councillor O Hanlon

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
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer

ERT/044/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

ERT/045/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T Andrews declared an interest in Item No. 9 regarding Service Level

Agreements, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

Councillor R Burgess declared an interest in Item No. 9 regarding Service Level Agreements, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

ERT/046/2021: MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by

Councillor McAteer it was agreed a message of sympathy be sent on behalf of the ERT Committee, to Mr Colum Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control &

Regulation, on the death of his father.

PRESENTATIONS

ERT/047/2021: PRESENTATION

DOWN BUSINESS CENTRE

Ms Linda Beers Chairperson of Down Business Centre thanked the Council for the opportunity to present to Members raising their profile with Council and establishing an understanding as to the purpose of Down Business Centre and the work they undertake to help businesses in the District.

The presentation highlighted the following points:

- Down Business Centre was established in 1986 as a local enterprise agency for the Down District Council area and their activities are largely focused in the eastern area of the District and working closely with the Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency.
- Down Business Centre is a charity relying on income from their Business Park located on the Belfast Road Downpatrick, and on Government and Council programmes, providing support for the start-up and development of local businesses and supporting people on the journey into self-employment.
- Over the past 10 years Down Business Centre have supported 2,500 new businesses in the area through a range of programmes – helping businesses grow via training programmes, mentoring and masterclasses, thus having a significant input into the local economy.

- In the past year Down Business Centre is almost near capacity there is an
 urgent need for additional space at the site and the organisation plan to secure
 funding for an expansion scheme.
- During the past year support has been given to address the impact Covid has had
 on small businesses and in particular mental health this is being addressed by
 a support programme giving people the chance to meet online.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Down Business Centre for attending the meeting to deliver the presentation and he paid tribute to the work they were doing to provide support and particularly addressing mental health.

Several Members concurred with the Chair in expressing their thanks to Ms Beers and Ms McDonald for their presentation and applauded the work being carried out by Down Business Centre in supporting small businesses, in particular during Covid and addressing mental health.

Members welcomed plans for expansion of the Down Business Centre site which would be supported by Council.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed Officers from Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism and the Planning Departments meet with representatives from Down Business Park regarding progress on expansion plans for the Down Business Centre site.

Down Business Centre forward any supplementary information regarding their work on addressing the mental health impact of Covid, for circulation to Councillors.

ERT/048/2021: ACTION SHEET

MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &

TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise,

Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08

February 2021. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by

Councillor Burgess it was agreed to note the Action Sheet

arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 February 2021.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/049/2021: BREXIT FORUM

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director

> Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Brexit Forum established by Council to deal with preparation for Brexit and

issues that have arose during transition period.

(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by

Councillor Savage it was agreed:

1. To approve the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Savage and seconded by Councillor Byrne relating to Shared Prosperity Fund as detailed in Report of Brexit Forum Meeting held on 01 March 2021.

- 2. To not approve the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor McKee relating to Trade Border in Irish Sea as detailed in Report of Brexit Forum Meeting held on 01 March 2021.
- 3. To arrange a site visit to BCP Warrenpoint when Covid restrictions allow.
- 4. To note update from Council Officers as per Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Brexit Forum.
- 5. To convene a further meeting of the Brexit Forum in 6 weeks.

It was also agreed Officers arrange to convene a meeting of the Brexit Committee earlier than the 6 weeks agreed at the Brexit Forum Meeting, as a result of recent changes by Government to the deadlines.

Noted: Councillor Reilly asked it be noted he had previously

requested the development of feasibility studies for the reinstatement of Newry Canal and the development of Kilkeel Harbour as he had made specific reference to these being potential projects Council could be involved with.

ERT/050/2021: MASTERPLANS

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant

Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an

update on Masterplans for:

(Copy circulated)

Members raised the following points:

Section G1 – to read "15 acre park at Albert Basin".

Section C4 – retain Abbey Park within the Masterplan, and refer back to the Newry DEA for further discussion.

Kilkeel/Annalong - Officers to look at including the development of coastal walks etc. within the South East Coastal plan.

Section 6 – note that Castle Park and Island Park be treated separate as they will not progress at the same rate.

Newcastle - to include the restoration of the old town at Newcastle Harbour and the Rock Pool, within the Masterplan.

Warrenpoint - to include the development of Narrow Water Keep and tourism walks/trails in the Warrenpoint area, within the Masterplan.

Ballynahinch - to include both the expansion of leisure facilities, and the development of facilities at Lough Park, within the Masterplan

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve the updated content and actions as outlined in the Priority Action Plans for each of the 4 No. Masterplans for the following areas:

- Newry City
- Ballynahinch
- Downpatrick
- South East Coast

It was also agreed to include the following points within the Masterplans, as requested by Members:

- Section G1 to read "15 acre park at Albert Basin".
- Section C4 retain Abbey Park within the Masterplan, and refer back to the Newry DEA for further discussion.
- Kilkeel/Annalong development of coastal walks etc.
- Section 6 Castle Park and Island Park be treated separate as they will not progress at the same rate.
- Newcastle restoration of the old town at Newcastle Harbour and the Rock Pool.

- Warrenpoint development of Narrow Water Keep and tourism walks/trails.
- Ballynahinch both the expansion of leisure facilities, and the development of facilities at Lough Park.

ERT/051/2021: WARRENPOINT BATHS

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director

Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint

Baths. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Ruane proposed and Councillor Mulgrew seconded to approve the Officer recommendations as outlined in Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Baths.

A Recorded Vote was taken as follows:

(Attached)

For 8 Against 4 Abstentions 3

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED:

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

- Council continue to ensure that ongoing measures are taken to monitor and address Health and Safety concerns as they arise at the existing Baths Structure.
- Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding programmes - Peace Plus; Shared Prosperity Fund; NLHF, Tourism NI, etc, based on the development of the facility as per the planning approval that is currently in place on the site.
- Council officials proceed with appointment of a consultancy team to prepare a business case / economic appraisal on the existing Council approved scheme based on the Planning approval in place for the Warrenpoint Baths site.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by

Councillor Howell 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/052/2021: LICENCE AGREEMENT – DONARD FOREST

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant

Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Licence Agreement between DAERA and NMDDC regarding

improvement and maintenance works to DAERA lands and

scoping works at Donard Forest. (Copy circulated)

ERT/053/2021: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2021-2022

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon

Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Service Level Agreements for 2021 – 2022. (Copy circulated)

ERT/054/2021: TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant

Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the Council's

Tourism Events Programme 2021. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by

Councillor Stokes it was agreed to come out of closed

session.

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

ERT/052/2021: Licence Agreement - Donard Forest

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor

Savage it was agreed to accept the Licence Agreement between DAERA and NMDDC for 5 year period which permits Council to carry out improvements and maintenance works to DAERA lands

and scoping works at Donard Forest, subject to all matters being clarified by Forest Service to the satisfaction of Council.

ERT/053/2021: Service Level Agreements 2021-2022

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor

Howell it was agreed to approve the list of Service Level

Agreements for 2021 – 2022, as contained in Point 2.1 of Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise

Regeneration & Tourism

ERT/054/2021: Tourism Events Programme 2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by

Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve the recommendations regarding proposed Tourism Events Programme for 2021/2022, as

outlined in Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the

Council's Tourism Events Programme 2021

FOR NOTING

ERT/055/2021: 5G AND BROADBAND

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant

Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on 5G and Broadband availability within NMDDC area,

incorporating an update on Project Stratum.

(Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note the update provided regarding 5G and Broadband

availability within the Newry Mourne and Down District

Council area, particularly:

 Details provided are current as at February 2021 and based on the information available on the respective websites.

- There does not appear to be 5G coverage in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area.
- Coverage of Superfast and Fibre coverage in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area is 84.48%.
- Although particular download speeds are available, it is incumbent on consumers to purchase respective

- packages suitable to their individual needs.
- The Shared Rural Network will see 4G mobile coverage from all four operators rise to a minimum of 85% throughout Northern Ireland.
- Rural Community Network hosted a workshop regarding 5G New Thinking on 25 February 2021 to discuss improving rural connectivity with 5G.
- NILGA briefing session with Mobile UK on 04 March 2021 was held regarding 5G and Health Campaign - #5G CheckTheFacts.

ERT/056/2021: ARDGLASS AND KILKEEL HARBOUR DEVELOPMENTS

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director

Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding NI Fishing and Seafood Development Programme and Ardglass and Kilkeel

Harbour Developments. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note the content of Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr

C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding NI Fishing and Seafood Development Programme and Ardglass and Kilkeel Harbour Developments, that Officers work with key stakeholders and DAERA in both Ports to bring forward the recommendations contained in

the report and bring required updates back to Council in

due course.

ERT/057/2021: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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/058/2021: REGIONAL PROPERTY CERTIFICATES

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director

Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an increase in fees for Regional Property Certificates with effect from 01 April

2021. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note increased fees for Regional Property Certificates

with effect from 01 April 2021.

ERT/059/2021: IRISH STREET REGENERATION PROJECT

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant

Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the

Irish Street Regeneration Project. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note Report of the Irish Street Regeneration Working

Group Meeting held on 03 February 2021.

ERT/060/2021: LOUTH / NMDDC STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Read: Report of Louth / NMDDC Strategic Alliance Meeting held on 11

November 2020. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note Report of Louth / NMDDC Strategic Alliance

Meeting held on 11 November 2020.

ERT/061/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for February

2021. (Copy circulated)

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

February 2021.

ERT/062/2021: TOURISM NI CO OPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant

Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism NI Co-

operative. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr A

Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events,

regarding Tourism NI Co-operative.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 19.45 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 07 April 2021.

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: 08 March 2021 VENUE: Microsoft Teams MEETING: ERT

SUBJECT OF VOTE:

(Item 7) To accept the following recommendations contained in Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director ERT regarding Warrenpoint Baths:

- Council continue to ensure that ongoing measures are taken to monitor and address Health and Safety concerns as they arise at the existing Baths Structure.
- Council officials to continue discussions with potential funders given the development of new funding programmes - Peace Plus; Shared Prosperity Fund; NLHF, Tourism NI, etc, based on the development of the facility as per the planning approval that is currently in place on the site.
- Council officials proceed with appointment of a consultancy team to prepare a business case / economic appraisal on the existing Council approved scheme based on the Planning approval in place for the Warrenpoint Baths site.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R Burgess			√	
W Clarke	√			
D Curran			√	
G Hanna		√		
V Harte	√			
R Howell	√			
M Larkin	√			
D McAteer		√		
A McMurray	22		√	
R Mulgrew	√			
H Reilly	√			
M Ruane	√			
M Savage		√		
G Stokes		√		
J Tinnelly	√			
TOTALS	8	4	2	

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance: Councillor P Brown Councillor P Byrne

Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor R Howell
Councillor H McKee
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor M Savage

Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance: 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 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR &

Safeguarding

Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing

(Administration)

Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services

Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates & Capital Projects

Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor

Mrs E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance

Mrs K Bingham, Head of Performance & Improvement Mrs K McNiff, Safety, Health & Emergency Planning (SHEP)

Manager

Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/37/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Doran.

SPR/38/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive declared an interest in Item 14 – Request to carry over leave – M Ward

SPR/39/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND

RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 11

FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held

on Thursday 11 February 2021. (Copy circulated)

SPR/003/2021 – Letter to Health Minister Mr Swann and contact with PHA

Mrs Carville provided an update to members regarding the PHA using Council facilities in relation to Covid testing and vaccinations and in response to a query, confirmed there had been no indicated timeframe as to how long Down Leisure Centre would be used to host the current testing site.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by

Councillor Savage, it was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings

held on 11 February 2021, be approved

Councillor Howell joined the meeting at this point – 18.07pm

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/40/2021: DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2021-22.

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mrs K Bingham, Head of Performance &

Improvement, regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2021-22

(Copy circulated)

In response to a query raised by the Chairperson, Mrs Bingham confirmed that the consultation was usually for 12 weeks however, it was hoped that the comprehensive engagement programme would help compensate for the lesser timescale proposed of 8 weeks. The public notice would be advertised in the local newspapers and Mrs Bingham would work closely with marketing to ensure there was an even spread across the district.

In response to a query, she advised that Delamont currently did not operate the official visitor counter system installed as per other parks ie Slieve Gullion and Kilbroney, however going forward it was planned to install one of these in Delamont.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí,

seconded by Councillor Savage, that Council agree to the

following recommendations:

• The five draft performance improvement objectives 2021-22, as outlined in Appendix 1.

 The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22, by 30 June 2021, as outlined in Appendix 2.

FOR NOTING

SPR/41/2021: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD

MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2021

Read: Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting – 02.03.2021.

(Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage proposed that as part of the work of the Programme Board they investigate any private schemes going through Planning, particularly those that have top of the range grade-A office accommodation as part of their scheme and ensure that they encompass those

schemes as part of the overall thinking of the regeneration of Newry and town centres such as Downpatrick. This was seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

Councillor Byrne declared an interest on any recommendations coming back to the Programme Board as he was a member.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed that as part of the work of the Programme Board they investigate any private schemes going through Planning, particularly those that have top of the range grade-A office accommodation as part of their scheme and ensure that they encompass those schemes as part of the overall thinking of the regeneration of Newry and

town centres such as Downpatrick.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the minutes.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, 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/42/2021: DRAFT HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mr K McNiff, Safety, Health & Emergency

Planning (SHEP) Manager, regarding Draft Health and Safety Policy.

(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by

Councillor Howell, it was agreed to approve the final draft of

the Health & Safety Policy.

SPR/43/2021: PROGRESS REPORT – INFORMATION STRATEGY WORKING

GROUP

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mrs E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance

regarding, Progress Report – Information Strategy Working Group (Copy

circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to endorse the following

actions.

 That the Council adopts the following seven principles around information.

- Information is a valued asset

- Information is managed

- Information is fit for purpose

- Information is standardised and linkable

- Information is reused

- Information is published where appropriate

Citizens and businesses can access information about themselves.

And

 Corporately we prioritise a 'digital first' approach to Council records.

SPR/44/2021: TERMS AND CONDITIONS STAFF WORKING AT WARRENPOINT

PORT

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health &

Wellbeing (Administration), regarding Terms and Conditions staff working at

Warrenpoint Port. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor

Gallagher it was agreed to approve the proposed set of Terms and conditions and agreed that they should be backdated to 1 January 2021, with officer's to engage with

the Trade Union ahead of Council meeting.

SPR/45/2021: PLANNING ADVISORY CONSULTANT

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise,

Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Planning Advisory Consultant (Copy

circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by

Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the extension of the Planning Advisory Consultant commission for a further 24 weeks at the estimated costs outlined in the officer's

report.

SPR/46/2021: CAREER BREAK SCHEME

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mr P Preen, HR Policy and Projects

Manager, regarding Career Break Scheme. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by

Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the

introduction of the attached Career Break scheme with effect

from 1 April 2021

SPR/47/2021: PROFESSIONAL FEES FOR OFFICERS

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mr P Preen, HR Policy and Projects

Manager, regarding Professional Fees for Officers. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by

Councillor Howell, it was agreed to approve the introduction of the Payment of Professional Fees Policy for Officers with

effect from 1 April 2021.

SPR/48/2021: LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION – DISSOLUTION

FUNDING & CONTINUING OPERATIONS 2021/2022

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate

Services, regarding Local Government Staff Commission. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, 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 payment of requested sum from the Local Government Staff Commission

as detailed in the officer's report and write to the Commission to highlight concerns at the increased of

payment sum and dissolving timing frame.

SPR/49/2021: TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 11 March 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy

Communities, regarding Terms & Condition Update. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor

Savage it was agreed to note the request submitted by the JTUS and Management side position at 2.8, and proceed with Option 3, at the costs outlined in the officer's report to allow a detailed work plan to be established and brought back to a

further Committee meeting for consideration.

Councillor Lewis left the meeting at 19.30pm

Having previously declared an interest the Chief Executive left the meeting at this point – 19.35pm

SPR/50/2021: REQUEST TO CARRY OVER LEAVE – M WARD (VERBAL)

Verbal update provided by Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding request for Annual Leave carry over for the Chief Executive

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by

Councillor Savage, to approve the request by M Ward to

carry over annual leave.

The Chief Executive returned to the meeting at this point - 19.37pm

FOR NOTING

SPR/51/2021: WIDE AREA NETWORK (WAN) CONTRACT SETTLEMENT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

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

SPR/52/2021: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 18

FEBRUARY 2021

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by

Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out

of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Action Sheet of The Strategic

Finance Working Group – 18 February 2021

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.42pm.

Signed: Councillor Gareth Sharvin

Chairperson

Signed: Dorinnia Carville

Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor G O'Hare

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor C Mason
Councillor McMurray
Councillor D Taylor

Councillor C Casey
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor McKevitt
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor W Walker

Officials in attendance: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities

Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport

Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/045/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors McEvoy and Trainor.

In the absence of the Chairperson Councillor McEvoy, Vice Chairperson Councillor O'Hare assumed the Chair.

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor McEvoy and her husband Niall on the birth of their son Pat. On behalf of the Committee he wished everyone well for the future.

AHC/046/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrews declared am interest in item 19: CANN Business Case, Approval to Procure Interpretative Signage for CANN Project.

AHC/047/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting

held on Monday 15 February 2021. (Copy circulated)

AHC/033/2021: Play Strategy Update

It was agreed Mr Tamati would speak directly to Councillor Andrews in relation to an update for Darragh Cross and Hillfoot play facilities.

AHC/206/2019: Suicide Down to Zero

Councillor Gibbons appealed to any Councillors who had not done so to date, to sign up to The final session of the Suicide Training Prevention to be held on 25 March 2021.

Agreed: It was agreed by all to note the Action Sheet of the Active

and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on

Monday 15 February 2021.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/048/2021 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director,

Community Engagement, regarding the Community Coordination Hub.

(Copy circulated)

In commending the work undertaken by the Community Coordination Hub Councillor Ó Muirí also spoke of the crucial role other groups played within that, including Men's Shed.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí,

seconded by Councillor Mason, to note the report and

approve the actions in the Action Sheet for the

Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on

Wednesday 24 February 2021.

AHC/049/2021 INSTALLATION OF RAPID BINS ON COUNCIL SITES

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant

Director, Community Engagement, regarding the installation of RAPID

bins on Council sites. (Copy circulated)

In response to Councillor Walker, Mrs Hillen confirmed she would convey thanks to the PCSP for the roll out of this initiative and request that consideration be given to other areas including Crossgar in any future roll out.

In welcoming the installation of the RAPID bins, Councillor Ó Muirí paid tribute to the contribution that communities played in the roll out of the initiative.

In response to Councillors Taylor and McMurray for an update in relation to Bessbrook and Castlewellan respectively, Mrs Hillen confirmed she would report back to the them directly.

Mrs Hillen advised that consultation through the DEAs, combined with stats from the PSNI and other statutory partners had provided information to site the 8 RAPID bins as outlined within the report.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to proceed with the installation of a RAPID Bin at the following sites:

- Shimna Road Car Park, Newcastle
- Irish Street Car Park, Downpatrick
- Downpatrick Street Car Park, Saintfield
- Windmill Street Car Park, Ballynahinch
- Bridge Centre, Killyleagh
- Newtownhamilton Community Centre, Newtownhamilton - Newry Street Car Park, Warrenpoint
- Public Conveniences (Rear Wall), The Square, Crossmaglen

AHC/050/2021 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant

Director, Community Engagement, regarding DEA Forums Update

Report. (Copy circulated)

In response to a query from Councillor Walker regarding an update on leisure provision within the Ballynahinch area, Mr Lipsett confirmed an update would be provided at the next Rowallane DEA Meeting.

Councillor Mason enquired if the Voluntary Rewards Scheme had to be considered by Council. Mrs Hillen confirmed the scheme had been discussed across a number of the DEAs and for a consistent approach to be applied it may require Council approval. Mrs Hillen confirmed she would report back directly to Councillor Mason on the matter.

In response to Councillor Casey, Mrs Hillen confirmed the action regarding the Willie Maley statue was being considered by the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Department and that the Newry DEA co-ordinator would provide an update directly.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for:

- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 9 February 2021.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 11 February 2021.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 16 February 2021.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2021.
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2021.

AHC/051/2021 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant

Director, Community Engagement, regarding Financial Assistance.

(Copy circulated)

In response to Councillor Taylor's query in relation to those not successful being able to appeal, Mrs Hillen confirmed there was an appeals process in place and encouraged any groups that were unsuccessful to go through that process.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor,

seconded by Councillor O'Hare to award the Financial Assistance for NI Centenaries as outlined within the

appendix attached to the report.

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/052/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – OUTDOOR RECREATION NI

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director

Leisure and Sports, regarding the Notice of Motion relating to Outdoor

Recreation NI.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray,

seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to agree the Notice of Motion and approve the creation of an Outdoor Recreation

Group to be referred to Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee for consideration, and any

established group to have representation from the Active and Healthy Communities and Neighbourhood Services

departments.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/053/2021 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director

Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Actions arising from the meeting held on 18 February

2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews,

seconded by Councillor Mason, to approve the actions arising from the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum meeting on 18 February 2021 as attached in appendix 1.

AHC/054/2021 MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY - CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director

Health and Wellbeing, regarding the consultation on Mental Health

Strategy 2021-31. (Copy circulated)

In welcoming the consultation response, Councillor Mason asked that Council make it clear that there was a need to increase the share of funding for Mental Health Services as it had already been underfunded prior to Covid, and that demand for Mental Health services would be increasing.

Councillor Andrews concurred with these comments and Mr Devlin agreed to incorporate the need for additional resources for Mental Health Services within the consultation response.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí,

seconded by Councillor Andrews, to return the

Consultation response as presented and incorporate the need for additional resources for Mental Health Services.

AHC/055/2021 FUNDING REQUEST FROM SOCIAL FARMS AND GARDENS NI

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director

Health and Wellbeing, regarding a request from Social Farms and Gardens NI to provide funding of £800 for the 2021-21 year. (Copy

circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews,

seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to provide funding of £800 to Social Farms and Gardens for the 2020-21 year.

AHC/056/2021 DAERA CONSULTATION – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

MEASURES FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ASN ESTABLISHMENT OF SCALLOP ENHANCEMENT SITES IN

NORTHERN IRELAND INSHORE REGION

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director

Health and Wellbeing, regarding DAERA consultation request on development of fisheries management measures for Marine

Protected Areas and establishment of scallop enhancement sites in

the Northern Ireland inshore region. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews,

seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to return the Consultation response as presented and that the response be returned by the required date (31st March) on the proviso that it

would be subject to Council Approval.

FOR NOTING

AHC/057/2021 DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 March 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant

Director, Community Engagement, regarding a Downpatrick

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report. (Copy

circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report and the Downpatrick

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Action Sheet from Meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2020, approved at the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting held

on Wednesday 17 February 2021.

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

AHC/058/2021 CASTLE PARK SEASONAL OPERATIVES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 15 March 2021 from Mr P Tamati Assistant Director,

Leisure and Sport regarding Castle Park Seasonal Operatives.

(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come

out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason,

seconded by Councillor Andrews to approve the following:

 To appoint the preferred bidder as detailed within the officer's report for Seasonal Operations at

Castle Park for up to 5 years.

 For officers to agree the terms and enter into a contract with the preferred bidder for Seasonal

Operations at Castle Park.

AHC/059/2021 LEISURE AND SPORTS SCALE OF CHARGES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 15 March 2021 from Mr P Tamati Assistant Director,

Leisure and Sport regarding Leisure Scale of Charges. (Copy

circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, 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 Mason, to approve the following:

 The proposed scale of charges for Leisure and Sports Section for 2021/22 commencing the 1st

April 2021 as per appendix 1.

 Officers continue to apply membership discounts aligned to COVID-19 restrictions and access to

facilities and services.

AHC/060/2021 PUBLIC TENDER – PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 15 March 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director.

Leisure and Sport regarding a Public Tender, Programme Delivery

Partnership. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come

out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason,

seconded by Councillor O'Hare for a Public Tender for up

to 3 years for a Programme Delivery Partner, subject to annual rates estimates provisions.

AHC/061/2021 MILLTOWN PLAYING FIELDS – LEASE RENEWAL

WARRENPOINT TENNIS CLUB

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 15 March 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director,

Leisure and Sport regarding Milltown Playing Fields, Lease Renewal

Warrenpoint Tennis Club. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come

out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons,

seconded by Councillor Mason to approve the Renewal of the current lease arrangements at Milltown Play Fields between Council and Warrenpoint Tennis Club as per appendix 1 and subject to Council valuation processes.

AHC/062/2021 FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR

THREEWAYS COMMUNITY CENTRE, NEWRY

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 15 March 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director,

Community Engagement regarding Facilities Management Agreement for Threeways Community Centre, Newry. (Copy

circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come

out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey,

seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the sinking fund to be reduced as outlined within the officer's report for a 2-year period and a budget to be made available through rates estimates to cover subsequent sink fund

shortfall.

AHC/063/2021 CANN BUSINESS CASE, APPROVAL TO PROCURE

INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE FOR CANN PROJECT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 15 March 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director,

Health and Wellbeing regarding the CANN Business Case and approval to procure interpretative signage for CANN Project. (Copy

circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come

out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons,

seconded by Councillor McMurray to proceed with a Procurement exercise for the work as detailed within the

officer's report.

AHC/064/2021 SINGLE TENDER ACTION FOR PHILIS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 15 March 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director,

Health and Wellbeing regarding Single Tender Action for PHILIS.

(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come

out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason,

seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, for the Director of Active and Healthy Communities to sign the Single Tender Action as presented with provision for extension up to 3 years.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.55pm.

Signed: Councillor G O'Hare

Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett

Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 6.00pm via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

Deputy Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members: Councillor C Casey Councillor W Clarke

Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Malone
Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor G Stokes

Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor C Mason
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor D Taylor

Non-Committee

Members:

Councillor P Brown Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Attendance: Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement

Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance, Facilities Management

and Maintenance

Mr T Daly, Head of Fleet Management Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

NS/033/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor K Owen, Councillor H McKee, Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director and Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director

NS/034/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/035/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting

held on Wednesday 17 February 2021. (Circulated).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the

Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

In response to a query from Councillor McKevitt, Mr Dinsmore said that when permitted to do so, support in terms of supply of litter pickers and refuse bags and waste to be received at HRC sites, would be made available to community groups etc. for clean-up initiatives.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/036/2021: GLYCOPHOSPHATE REVIEW

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: use of

herbicides across the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Estate. (Circulated).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and enable Grounds Maintenance to continue to utilise herbicides in an integrated control process with the intention of reducing applications where practical (working

towards an eventual cessation) and progressing all

emerging alternative solutions.

In response to a query from Councillor Brown, Mr Mallon confirmed that where glycophosphate was used, appropriate signage was being erected.

NS/037/2021: COUNCIL'S TREE STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: the Developing

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Tree Strategy (early

March 2021). (Circulated).

Issues raised

- Members thanked Mr Ellis and his team for the work they had done
 in relation to the development of the Council's Tree Strategy and
 for the report produced and the enormous amount of detail in it.
- Welcome the commitment to engage with communities on the plans.
- Encourage the team to begin thinking about tree planting for the future Albert Basin Park project.
- An update on the re-wilding scheme be brought to the next Committee Meeting.

- Officers should contact relevant staff in APSE to exchange information which would help progress issues re: re-wilding scheme.
- Issues raised about the amount of tree felling in Kilbroney Park and a request that Councillors be advised of any proposals to fell trees and the reasons for doing so.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the content of the report and support the Council's Tree Strategy and the ongoing work of Mr J Ellis and his team in developing the Strategy throughout the District.

It was agreed an annual update be brought to Committee on the actions over the previous 12 months and the next 12 months of emerging activity.

It was also agreed officers collate information regarding proposed felling of trees in Council parks which had reached the end of their life span or had been identified as a health and safety risk, and that this information be circulated to Councillors.

It was noted a report on the re-wilding scheme would be brought to the April Committee Meeting for consideration.

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/038/2021: ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: Enforcement

Improvement Plan update, relating to dog fouling and illicit

dumping. (Circulated).

In presenting the report, Mr Dinsmore outlined the actions which Officers had taken, and were currently taking in relation to fly tipping and dog fouling. He said there was a 75% increase in fly tipping from the previous year and he assured Members that officers responded to every complaint and attended every report of fly tipping although it was sometimes difficult with the number of complaints they had.

Mr Dinsmore confirmed an additional two seasonal enforcement staff were in process of being employed which would increase the staffing levels from 4 to 6. He said officers would be targeting dog fouling removal complaints, with a significant communications plan to promote responsible dog ownership; undertaking joint patrols with dog wardens and a number of community projects that would be re-launched once COVID restrictions allowed.

Mr Dinsmore also gave an update on the number of fixed penalty notices issued in the first two months of this year and said officers would issue notices where evidence was found. He said the statistics in relation to this matter would be published.

Issues raised by Members

- Members welcomed the report and the increase in enforcement staff levels but said that the Council needed to get serious about fly tipping and dog fouling and ensure there was strong enforcement and increased numbers of fixed penalty notices issued. If the Directorate needed additional resources the request should be put to Council for consideration.
- CCTV should be put in place at well-known dumping hot spots.
- There seemed to be a good educational message about these issues at primary school level but this did not seem to extend to secondary, grammar or further education level and it was important everyone took on personal responsibility for such issues.
- Possibility of Council supplying dog bags along popular walking routes.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by

Councillor Mason, it was agreed to note the content of this

report and that a further update be provided to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in May 2021.

It was also agreed a regular report be brought to Committee on the issuing of fixed penalty notices and a quarterly update report on the Enforcement Improvement

Plan.

NS/039/2021: WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES 2021-2022

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: Waste

Management Scale of Charges 2021/2022. (Circulated).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by

Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the adoption of the proposed Waste Services Scale of Charges 2021/2022 as set out in section

2.1 Appendix 1, circulated.

In response to a query from Councillor Taylor, Mr Dinsmore said officers would be engaging with Caravan Operators in relation to the proposed scale of charges for Caravan sites.

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke, Mr Dinsmore said he anticipated bringing a report on the proposed permit scheme for commercial customers at HRCs to Committee at the end of September 2021.

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke, Mr Dinsmore confirmed there had been no change to the Council Policy relating to bins that were stolen and a replacement required and he advised he would arrange for the Policy to be circulated to the NS Committee Members for their information.

NS/040/2021: REFUSE COLLECTION HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: arrangements

for refuse collections and opening of HRC sites at public holidays,

during period 1 April 2021 -31 March 2022. (Circulated).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the alternative refuse collection services for period 1 April 2021-31 March 2022 apply as per Appendix 1 circulated; that opening arrangements for HRC sites during period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 apply as per Appendix 1 circulated, and that notification be

provided in the local press and appropriate Council

communications, in advance of each Public Holiday, where

deemed necessary.

NS/041/2021: SITING OF BEE HIVES ON FORMER COUNCIL LANDFILL

<u>AT AUGHNAGUN</u>

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore, re: siting of bee

hives on the former Council landfill at Aughnagun. (Circulated).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by

Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of this report and recommended Council give permission to the Beekeeping organisation to place 6 hives on the former landfill site at Aughnagun, initially for 1 x year subject to:

1. Successful engagement with local residents and on-site

gas-extraction partner, to support the placing of beehives

on the Aughnagun site.

2. Meeting to be held with Beekeeping Organisation and to

seek assurances regarding

access arrangements to site and to hives

- location for hives
- · communications with Local residents
- ongoing review
- renewal dates/periods
- any potential insurance implications
- Strict guidance with respect to attendance on site to be adhered to

FOR NOTING

NS/042/2021: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN -

25 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – 25 February 2021.

(Circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/043/2021: Arc21 JC MINUTES – 28 JANUARY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 28 January 2021 (Circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/044/2021: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet (Circulated).

AGREED: 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 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/045/2021: ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES – THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on

Thursday 28 January 2021. (Circulated).

NS/046/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROVISION OF HIRE OF

BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS

PLANT AND MACHINERY

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case

for the provision of hire of building maintenance and grounds plant

and machinery. (Circulated).

NS/047/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR DEEP CLEANING OF

PAVED SURFACES IN PUBLIC REALM AREAS

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case

for deep cleaning of paved surfaces in public realm areas.

(Circulated).

NS/048/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

OF 120L STREET LITTER BINS

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr J McBride re: business case

for supply and delivery of 120L street litter bins. (Circulated).

NS/049/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF

MEDIUM SIZE CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES (COVER REPORT)

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for

the replacement of medium-size chassis cab vehicles.

(Circulated).

NS/050/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF

5 X 3,500 – 6,500 MEDIUM SIZED CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES

FOR CLEANSING

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for

the replacement of 5 X 3,500-6,500 medium sized chassis cab

vehicles for Cleansing. (Circulated).

NS/051/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF

10 x 5,000 - 6,5000 kg MEDIUM SIZED CHASSIS CAB

VEHICLES FOR FACILITIIES MANAGEMENT AND

MAINTENANCE

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for

the replacement of 10 x 5,000 - 6,5000 kg medium sized cab

vehicles for Facilities Management and Maintenance.

(Circulated).

Back to Agenda

NS/052/2021: **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF**

5 x 3,500 kg MEDIUM SIZED CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES FOR

FACILITIIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for

the replacement of 5 x 3,500 - 3,5000 kg medium sized cab

vehicles for Facilities Management and Maintenance.

(Circulated).

NS/053/2021: **BUSINESS CASE FOR MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case

> for appointment of contractor to provide miscellaneous services including: collection of cetaceans, collection of dead animals, collection of illicit dumping, salting of waste facilities, squashing of

skip contents and miscellaneous transport. (Circulated).

NS/054/2021: **BUSINESS CASE FOR HRC SMALL SKIP SERVICING**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case

for the collection and transport of skips at the Hilltown Household

Recycling Centre.. (Circulated).

BUSINESS CASE – SUPPLY OF WHEELED BINS NS/055/2021:

Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case Read:

for supply of wheeled bins. (Circulated).

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

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

NS/045/2021 - Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes - Thursday 28 January 2021

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc21 Joint

Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 28 January

2021.

NS/046/2021 – Business Case for the provision of hire of building maintenance and grounds maintenance plant and machinery

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by

> Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case

presented in Option three which would see the appointment of suitable hire firm(s) to supply ad hoc plant and machinery for the next 12 month period with an option to extend or up to a maximum value of £80,000.

NS/047/2021 – Business Case for deep cleaning of paved surfaces in public realm area

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by

Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract for the provision of deep cleaning of public realm areas

within the District.

NS/048/2021 – Business Case for the supply and delivery of 120L street litter bins

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by

Councillor Mason, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract

for the supply and delivery of 120l street litter bins.

NS/049/2021 – Business Cases for the replacement of Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by

Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business cases for the replacement

of medium-size chasis cab vehicles.

NS/050/2021 - Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 - 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Cleansing (Appendix II)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by

Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the business case at Appendix II for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 - 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Cleansing.

NS/051/2021 - Business case for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 - 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance (Appendix III)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by

Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the business case at Appendix III for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 - 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities

Management & Maintenance.

NS/052/2021 - Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance (Appendix IV

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by

Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the business case at Appendix IV for the replacement of 5 \times 3,500 Kg

Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities

Management & Maintenance.

NS/053/2021 - Business Case for Miscellaneous Services

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by

Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract for the undertaking of miscellaneous duties including collection of cetaceans, collection of dead animals, collection of Illicit Dumping, salting of facilities, squashing of skip contents and miscellaneous transport.

NS/054/2021 - Business Case for HRC Small Skip Servicing

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by

Councillor Mason, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract

for the collection & transport of skips at the Hilltown

Household Recycling Centre (HRC).

NS/055/2021 - Business Case for the Purchase of Wheeled Bins

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by

Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the

report and approve the business case for the supply of

wheeled bins.

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

Signed: Councillor O Magennis

Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: Mr J McBride

Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

Minutes of Special Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Thursday 18 March 2021 at 3.15pm via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor G O'Hare

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker

Officials in attendance: Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing

Mr J Campbell, Senior Environmental Health Officer

(Residential)

Mr K Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager Mrs N Largey, Legal Advisor

Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr R Duffy, PSNI

Mr D Heaney, Applicant

Mr J Hughes, Applicants Representative

Mrs A McSherry, Objector

AHC/065/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey and McEvoy.

In the absence of the Chairperson Councillor McEvoy, Vice Chairperson Councillor O'Hare assumed the Chair.

AHC/066/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

It was agreed to take both applications together.

Mr K Bloomfield presented the report on both properties to the Committee confirming objections were the same for both properties.

Mr R Duffy from PSNI updated members on both properties confirming there had been very low incidents of anti-social behaviour at both addresses over the past 5 years, giving a detailed breakdown of each incident reported.

The Chairperson then invited the objector and the applicant to present to the Committee.

Following the objector and applicant presenting to the Committee the following points were raised:

- What plans were in place to deal with any anti-social behaviour reported by neighbours and does the tenancy agreement have provision to deal with such incidents?
- How many of the occupants have been residents there for 5 years or more?
- How many of the incidents reported have been repeat offences and how are these dealt with?
- How and where are the bins stored?
- What is the number of occupants being requested to reside in each of the properties?
- Had Council received any complaints from the local community in relation to environmental issues at either property?

The following responses was received:

- There was a no smoking, no anti-social behaviour and no drugs clause included in all tenancy agreements which was reviewed every 6 months.
- The bins are stored in two backyards, this has been inspected by Belfast HMO with no issues.
- 45% of the tenants have been there 3 years or more.
 - 19 Kilmorey Street is leased out to a company which employs the residents and they deal with any issues that arise directly and are very strict with their policy.
 - 31 Kilmorey Street is controlled directly Clanrye Properties, outlined in the tenancy agreement is a verbal warning, a written warning and finally a second written warning leading to eviction to deal with any issues or concerns raised, which had not been enforced so far with any of the tenants, a written reference is normally obtained from the tenants employer and previous landlord.
- 31 Kilmorey Street the application was for 7 occupants and 19 Kilmorey Street the application was for 10 occupants.
- There was two noise complaints received in 2017 for 19 Kilmorey Street, no further action was taken and the matter was closed. There had been no environmental intervention action for 31 Kilmorey Street.

In response to a query raised by Mrs McSherry, Mr Heaney confirmed that the bins in no 19 Kilmorey Street were stored at the property addresses yard. Mrs McSherry advised that the said yard was a right of way for 3 houses and what not exclusive to no 19. Mr Heaney advised he would look into the matter but he was not aware that was the case.

Councillor Gibbons asked the applicant Mr Heaney had they plans and a strategy in place to deal with any anti-social behaviour and complaints swiftly should it arise in the future.

Mr Heaney confirmed they would deal with as per the tenancy agreement already in place. They have an office where any problems can be reported and John Hughes from Clanrye Properties inspects the properties regularly and has a good relationship with many of the neighbouring residents who can speak to him directly with any issues.

AHC/067/2021: APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF LICENCE TO OPERATE A

HOUSE OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION FOR 31 KILMOREY

STREET, NEWRY, DOWN, BT34 2DF

Read: Report dated 18 March 2021 from Mr K Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager,

regarding application for the renewal of a licence to operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 31 Kilmorey Street, Newry, Down, BT34

2DF. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed by on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare,

seconded by Councillor Trainor to grant the application as

the officer's recommendations contained within the

report.

AHC/068/2021: APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF LICENCE TO OPERATE A

HOUSE OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION FOR 19 KILMOREY

STREET, NEWRY, DOWN, BT34 2DF

Read: Report dated 18 March 2021 from Mr K Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager,

regarding application for the renewal of a licence to operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 19 Kilmorey Street, Newry, Down, BT34

2DF. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed by on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare,

seconded by Councillor Trainor to grant the application as per the officer's recommendations contained within the

report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 15.37pm.

Signed: Councillor G O'Hare

Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett

Director Active and Healthy Communities



MARCH HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 11th March 2021 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

Tommy Nicholl Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)

Mark Cooper Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough

Jim Speers Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough

Michelle Kelly Belfast City

Catherine Elattar Mid Ulster Borough Council
Amanda Grehan Lisburn & Castlereagh City

Members Apologies

Nick Mathison Ards & North Down Borough

John Finlay Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland Derry City & Strabane District
Mickey Ruane Newry, Mourne & Down District

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Paul Price and David Polley from the Department for Communities gave a verbal update on **Department's Top Housing issues**, which included the following items:-

- 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
- NIHE Rent Increase
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- 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

Members then received a presentation of the Housing Executive's Cladding of Tower Blocks.

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 15th April at 10.30 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

Chair, Alderman Tommy Nicholl MBE
Ald.nicholl@midandeastantrim.gov.uk Mobile: 07970012520

Secretary, Kelly Cameron The Housing Centre, 2 Adelaide Street Belfast BT2 8PB

Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk Tel: 028 95982752

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Minutes of the 477th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex

Present by Video Conferencing:

Tommy Nicholl Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)

Mark Cooper Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough

Jim Speers Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough

Mickey Ruane Newry, Mourne & Down District
Nick Mathison Ards & North Down Borough

Michelle Kelly Belfast City

Allan Bresland Derry City & Strabane District

Catherine Elattar Mid Ulster Borough

In Attendance:

Clark Bailie Chief Executive (Housing Executive)

Grainia Long Chief Executive Designate (Housing Executive)

Heloise Brown
Ciara Lynch
Department for Communities
Department for Communities

Kelly Cameron Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

John Finlay Causeway Coast & Glens Borough

Amanda Grehan Lisburn & Castlereagh City

1.0	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None.	
2.0	To adopt the Minutes of the 476 th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 14 th January 2021 It was proposed by Alderman Bresland, seconded by Councillor Mathison and resolved, that the Minutes of the 476 th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 14 th January 2021 be approved and	

477 Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council					
3.0	Matters Arising from the Minutes				
3.1	Invitation to the Minister for Communities to attend a future Housing meeting				
	It was noted that a reply is still awaited.				
3.2	Queries by Members responded to since the last meeting, in relation to policy issues have been included in your papers for information:-				
	 Councillor Mathison - Details on the Affordable Warmth Scheme budget figures for the last few years 				
4.0	Housing Executive's Board Bulletin Board Meeting – December/January Board Meeting				
	Mr Bailie reported on the Housing Executive Board's deliberations:-				
	It was noted that the Board held a (Special Meeting) in December to discuss the Housing Executive's new Board Committee Structure and the long-term future of the Housing Executive.				
	At the Board Meeting on 27 th January, the Department of Communities' Permanent Secretary, Tracy Meharg, joined the Board to observe the meeting. While she could only join in for one hour due to another engagement, she welcomed the opportunity to hear presentations on the Tower Block Action Strategy, Homelessness and also shared a brief summary on the draft budget, which was out for consultation.				
	Papers considered at the meeting were as follows:-				
	 Tower Block Action Plan Update Demolition of Monkscoole House Tower Block Homelessness Response to Covid-19 & Homelessness Funding Homelessness Funding Update 2020/21 Housing Executive Response to NIAO report on Homelessness 				
	 Welfare Reform Project Update Approval to award a contract for Provision of an Occupational 				
	 Therapist Service ECM Ardgart Place, Avonlea Gardens, Inniscarn Drive etc Housing Services Customer Service Excellence Re-accreditation 				
	2020/21 Response to NIRHC Out of Sight out of Mind – Travellers' Accommodation in Northern Ireland Report				
	Compliance Health & Safety Update January 2021				

- Settlement of Terminal Schedule of Dilapidations on Former NIHE Office
- Housing Services Customer Service Excellence Re-accreditation 2020/21
- Corporate Quarterly Report as at 31st December 2021
- Land Acquisitions and Disposals Quarterly Update
- Supporting People Programme Update

Matters Arising from the Board Bulletin

4.1 Housing Council Members on the Board

Agreed - Housing Council Members who sit on the Housing Executive Board should be given the opportunity to update Members on the Board deliberations at a private session prior to the Housing Council to give Members the opportunity to discuss any issues and perhaps prepare questions for the Officers during the Meeting.

4.2 Homelessness

Councillor Mark Cooper expressed his concern that it should not have taken a pandemic to achieve the successful results of getting the homeless off the streets and into a safe environment, and hoped the lessons learnt and arrangements for multi-agency collaboration and consultation would now continue to tackle the homeless situation within Northern Ireland.

In response to Councillor Cooper's question in relation to Housing Executive funding for 2021/22, Mr Bailie confirmed that to date there is no confirmation from the Department of Communities on the allocated budget figures for the next financial year, he added that there is huge pressure on the Northern Ireland budget with minimum increase, with all the new pressures. Members noted that the Department are aware of the pressures on the Housing Executive's Regional Services budget, over the last year there was a welcomed increase amount of money received due to COVID-19. Mr Bailie added that a contingency plan is in place if money is not made available and the Housing Executive may need to reprioritise areas within the budget. It was recognised that this is a very challenging year for the entire public sector.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern that money not spent during the financial year is to be handed back to the Treasury and enquired if the funding could be used to tackle homelessness.

Mr Bailie explained the accounting rules are unable to carry money from one financial year to the next on the regional side. There may be representations to Treasury to see if there is an opportunity to carry money into the next financial year. He added that money for in this years' budget allocation has been fully utilised.

Mr Speers supported the Town Centre Living (TCL) Heritage Lottery scheme, he felt this scheme was very beneficial, good value for money and regenerated town centre living and asked the Housing Executive to continue to avail of such schemes.

5.0 <u>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations –</u> Consultation Outcome Report

Ms Ciara Lynch, Department for Communities gave Members a presentation on the Consultation Outcome Report of the Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations. (Copies of the Slides are appended to these minutes – Appendix A).

Ms Lynch gave a brief overview of the consultation findings and an indication of the likely timescales for implementation. It was noted that the Department for Communities plans to implement 18 of the 20 consultation proposals. Two proposals will not proceed as per the consultation (Proposal 7 Removal of Intimidation Points and Proposal 9 Interim Accommodation Points) and require further analysis to consider alternatives.

A list of questions had been submitted by Members as follows:-

What additional budget is required to deliver the agreed recommendations and has this been made available in the draft 2021/2022 budget?

Ms Lynch explained that the Housing Executive provided a provisional budget. This was estimated as £4.1 million over 3 years, with around £1 million in Year 1. It was noted that the Housing Executive need to update the costings and the Departmental budgets have not yet been set for 2021/2022.

Recommendations 2 & 3 (removal of Full Duty Applicant Status based on conduct): Concerns have been identified in relation to passing a problem on to the private rented sector which may be less well equipped to deal with challenging or vulnerable tenants?

Ms Lynch explained that ineligible is a last resort and other interventions and support will be tried first.

The Housing Executive work with organisations on the ground to support applicants with underlying issues which may lead to Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). She added that support is available including mediation, referrals to specialist support organisations, also Increased awareness of the potential to be found 'ineligible' may act as a deterrent

Do you anticipate these recommendations would give rise to legal challenges on human rights grounds and if so, are they workable and deliverable?

Members learned that the proposals were subject to equality screening and identified potential adverse impacts on young males (potentially perpetrators). As and when these changes are put into place, further screening and investigation of such issues will take place. She added that the Department would have to carefully assess that before bringing forward legislation to ensure it is within competence and doesn't breach the Human Rights Act. There is no reason to think that they would breach human rights at this time. The test when refusing eligibility has to be based on what a court would decide, and the bar for that would not change - only the point at which Housing Executive would make that decision.

What support and advice would be given to those who declined Full Duty Applicants (FDA) status due to misconduct to ensure they are not placed at risk and receive support with mental health, addictions etc?

It was explained that the Housing Executive works with organisations on the ground to support applicants with underlying issues which may lead to ASB and this support will continue.

Recommendation 4 (discharging homeless duties on tender neutral basis) - How will it be ensured tenants being housed in private sector are assured good quality and affordable homes with appropriate security of tenure?

Prior to implementation, the Housing Executive will undertake an initial scoping exercise to consider the practicalities associated (including significant IT/system changes) with implementing discharge into the private rented sector. It is envisaged that this exercise will provide greater clarity on the impacts and the safeguards which may be required.

Ms Lynch added that the Department for Community officials are starting work on a comprehensive review of fitness for all tenures.

This will take some time to complete. An amendment will be made to the Landlord Registration regulations to incorporate a fitness declaration at the point of registration. In time this will then be underpinned by a change to the fitness standard to improve the standard of these properties.

The outcome of the fitness review, including any changes to the fitness standard, will be taken into account when this proposal is being considered for implementation, to ensure that the appropriate safeguards are in place.

Is it anticipated that refusals of privately rented accommodation would be deemed refusals of 'reasonable offers'?

This issue will be taken into account as part of the Housing Executive's initial scoping exercise.

Current system of Local Housing Allowance makes private rental unaffordable for many. Is it reasonable to discharge homeless duties by placing tenants in unaffordable homes?

Cost and security of tenure are issues that need to be considered as part of the Housing Executive's initial scoping exercise prior to implementation to make any Private Rented Sector (PRS) solution workable.

Recommendation 7 (decision not to remove intimidation points) - How will needs of victims of domestic abuse be properly reflected in the scheme while ongoing review of intimidation points continues?

Ms Lynch explained that current arrangements will continue at the moment, whereby victims of domestic abuse will receive primary social needs points for violence/threat of violence and homelessness points.

It was noted that under the current Selection Scheme, someone who leaves their home as a result of domestic abuse can be allocated points for homelessness (70 points) and Primary Social Needs points (max. 40 points) for violence or the threat of violence – a maximum of 110 points are available. These Primary Social Needs points recognise the serious impact that domestic violence has on a household and aim to prioritise their needs accordingly.

It was noted that care must be taken regarding this group, at present verification of domestic abuse is not as potentially intrusive as the process currently in place to consider allocation of intimidation points for other groups.

Given the sensitivities applying same verification as others faced with intimidation may not always be appropriate. It will be prudent to carefully consider protocols to continue to deal with these households

While ongoing review and consultation is undertake, how will the department make the current system more open and transparent?

Communication around progression of all proposals will be important. As part of its planning phase the Housing Executive will develop a communications plan ensuring clarity and transparency.

Recommendation 10 (new banding system) - Can more detail be provided as to how the proposed new system would operate and what its benefits would be?

Ms Lynch stated that the aim is to continue to use the points system, then group those with similar levels of points within bands, which will then be used to allocate homes based on time waiting. The benefits would be as follows:

- clear and transparent approach;
- applicants know exactly where they are on the list and won't be overtaken by someone with just a couple more points (which would happen currently);
- a reduction in number of applicants in high need who have been waiting a very long time.

Recommendation 15 (2 rather than 3 offers of accommodation)
- How will 'reasonable offer' be defined to ensure the process is fair and transparent?

It was noted that this point was strongly made by consultation respondents. There was concern that what is "reasonable" for the Housing Executive to discharge its duty is not always "suitable" for applicants. There was some feedback received on how to make the process more fair and transparent. This has been fed through to the Housing Executive for consideration during implementation. She added that clear guidance for applicants and landlords should be made available to ensure transparency and fairness of approach.

Councillor Cooper expressed concern over the Ministers commitment for implementing these recommendations without a confirmed budget to fulfill the commitments.

Ms Lynch was in agreement with Councillor Cooper that some of the proposals could be aligned with each other.

Councillor Cooper referred to the Proposal 7 Removal of Intimidation Points which will not proceed as per the consultation and highlighted that the proposal response rate was 85% from all sectors, he expressed his concern that the Minister has decided not to implement and bring back for further consultation. He also felt that domestic violence should have been addressed separately.

Mr Bailie stated that there are genuine cases of intimidation but also the system can also be subject to misuse and the Housing Executive uses different sources to substantiate claims submitted but are primarily guided by the information provided by the PSNI.

Mr Bailie added that the Housing Executive are keen to implement the recommendations, subject to funding being made available.

Ms Lynch said that the Minister in her statement made a number of housing commitments moving forward and these are priorities for her, however there are other priorities also and there may have to be difficult choices to be made but the budget will determine the priorities.

Mr Speers expressed concern at the reduction of refusals from 3 offers of accommodation to 2 offers. In response Mr Bailie explained that the Housing Solutions Team consult with the applicants and their needs to a great degree and present them with informative choices prior to a reasonable offer being made.

The Chair would support the inclusion of local preference points for people being offered in their local area, in response Mr Bailie stated that the Housing Executive do their best to meet their applicants needs but unfortunately sometimes that is not always practical within their area.

The Chair thanked Ms Ciara Lynch and Ms Heloise Brown for a very worthwhile and informative presentation.

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8.0	Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions Members noted the report as circulated. Housing Executive's Scheme Starts January 2021 Members noted the report as circulated.	
9.0	Retirement of Clark Bailie As this was Clark Bailie's last Housing Council meeting, the Chair	
	paid tribute to him and, of behalf of Members, thanked him for his courteous and professional manner in which he had always addressed the Housing Council during his time as Chief Executive of the Housing Executive. He added that it had often been stated that the Housing Executive is in a safe pair of hands while under his leadership and he wished him a long, happy and healthy retirement.	
	The Chair also confirmed that the Housing Council, as a token of their appreciation, had a small gift for Mr Bailie and the Secretary would progress arrangements to ensure he received it. As this was Clark Bailie's last Housing Council meeting, the Chair paid tribute to him and, of behalf of Members, thanked him for his courteous and professional manner in which he had always addressed the Housing Council during his time as Chief Executive of the Housing Executive. He added that it had often been stated that the Housing Executive is in a safe pair of hands while under his leadership and he wished him a long, happy and healthy retirement.	
	The Chair also confirmed that the Housing Council, as a token of their appreciation, had a small gift for Mr Bailie and the Secretary would progress arrangements to ensure he received it.	
10.0	Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 11 th March 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex It was noted that the above monthly meeting would encompass attendance from the Department for Communities with the Housing	
	attendance from the Department for Communities, with the Housing Executive returning to the April Monthly Meeting.	

The Meeting concluded at 12.15 pm.

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Housing Council 477th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

Appendix A







Consultation Outcome Report







Published December 2020

Sets out:

- Issues raised by consultees grouped by theme

- Departmental response
- Next steps, including:
 - High-level implementation plan
 - Short term: 9-12 months from project commencement
 - Medium term: 18+ months from project commencement
 - Long term: 24+ months from project commencement

Public Consultation Communities | Pobal | Communities 5 Public events.....attended by over 160 people



13 presentations to smaller groups....attended by over 230 people





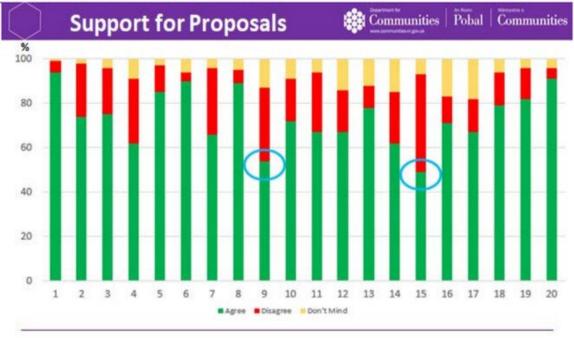
Over 5500 hits on our consultation webpage

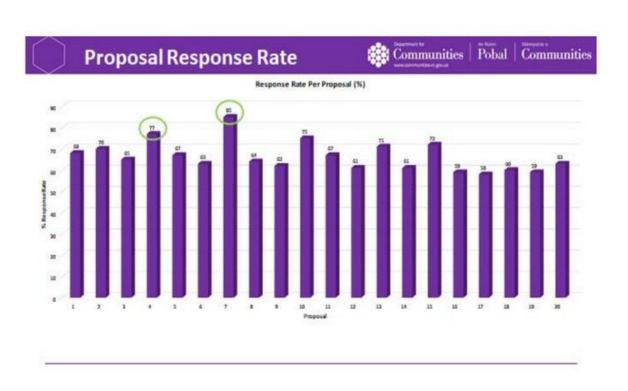
Over 60 tweets about the consultation

Resulting in 185 responses

- · Social landlords
- · Housing Professionals
- Housing Fora
- · Political representatives
- Local Councils
- Voluntary/community organisations
- · Members of the Public









Approach to analysis









Feedback from consultation events



185 Consultation Responses survey responses & in-depth commentary from stakeholders



Handling information Our thematic approach



Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
1: Housing advice service	2 & 3: Changes to eligibility for applicants involved in unacceptable behaviour	4: Meet duty to homeless applicants on tenure-neutral basis
5: Greater choice of a reas for applicants	8: Points should reflect current circumstances	7: Further consideration of intimidation points
6: Greater use of a mutual exchange service	11: Align number of bedrooms a household is assessed to need with Universal Credit criteria	9: Further consideration of interim accommodation points
12 & 14: For difficult-to-let properties— multiple offers	19: Align with Public Protection Arrangements NI	10: Banding of applicants
15: Two reasonable offers		13: For difficult-to-let properties: choice- based lettings
16: Withdraw offer of accommodation in specified circumstances		20: Specialised properties allocated by a separate process
17 & 18: Withhold consent for a policy succession or assignment		
Short term	Mediumterm	Long term



Proposal 1: An independent, tenure-neutral housing advice service for NI







94% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- · Holistic, person-centred support throughout the housing journey
- Offer alternative solutions to prevent someone reaching the point of homelessness

Next steps

- Build on Housing Executive's existing Housing Solutions Service
- Service will work with other advice providers to build on existing tailored advice and support
- Estimated implementation **short** term – 9-12 months from project commencement



Proposals 2 & 3: Changes to eligibility for applicants involved in unacceptable behaviour







74% & 75% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposals will achieve:

- Tools to aid decision-making around eligibility
- A more effective allocations process
- Greater tenancy sustainment

- Estimated implementation medium term – 18+ months from project commencement
- Subject to legislative processes

Housing Council

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Proposal 4: Meet duty to homeless applicants Communities | Pobal | Communities on tenure-neutral basis







62% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Consider PRS as possible housing alternative in the context of:
 - Limited supply
 - · Appropriate safeguards
 - · Security of tenure
 - Standards

Next steps

- Housing Executive will undertake initial scoping exercise to consider practicalities involved
- Estimated implementation long term - 24+ months from project commencement



Proposal 5: Greater choice of areas







85% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- More choice
- Greater tenancy sustainment, supported by advice service
- Reduction in refusals

- Removal of automatic expansion of areas for FDAs
- Estimated implementation short term - 9-12 months from project commencement

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Housing Council 477th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council



Proposal 6: Greater use of mutual exchange service







90% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

Good housing management tool – reduce voids and waiting times

- Empower tenants to make informed choices
- Greater tenancy sustainment

Next steps

- Housing Executive will consider IT options for tenants to ensure accessibility and security
- Estimated implementation short term - 9-12 months from project commencement



Proposal 7: Removal of intimidation points







66% support

Will not proceed

- Alternative proposal will be explored
- Current arrangements will remain in the interim
- Immediate personal safety of applicants is paramount

- NIHE will consider how to:
 - Strengthen verification process
 - · Explore how other victims of trauma can receive points
- Estimated implementation long term – 24+ months from project commencement







89% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Greater equality and fairness level playing field for all
- Increased accuracy reflecting current housing need

Next steps

- NIHE will undertake a major reassessment exercise
- Significant system and IT changes will be required
- Estimated implementation medium term - 18+ months from project commencement









54% support

Will not proceed

- Alternative proposal will be explored
- Current arrangements will remain in the interim
- NIHE will consider how to award points to applicants in other forms of temporary accommodation
- Estimated implementation long term – 24+ months from project commencement



Proposal 10: Banding







72% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Greater fairness, equality and clarity of approach
- Creating a 'true' waiting list, based on time spent on the list

Next steps

- NIHE commissioned modelling to assess impacts and determine number/size of bands
- Significant system and IT changes required
- Estimated implementation long term - 24+ months from project commencement



Proposal 11: Align number of bedrooms a household is assessed to need with Universal Credit criteria







67% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- General alignment between the benefits and housing systems
- Less confusion for applicants
- Ensure flexibilities are retained to meet the specific needs of households

- NIHE to consider operational impacts
- NIHE to provide clear guidance and support from Housing Solutions team
- A major reassessment exercise and significant system and IT changes required
- Estimated implementation medium term - 18+ months from project commencement



Proposals 12 & 14: Multiple offers







67% & 62% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposals will achieve:

- More choice
- Greater range of solutions to meet housing need
- Improved and more efficient process
- Better use of stock and resources

Next steps

- NIHE will support applicants to use multi-offers via the Housing Solutions Service
- NIHE will change existing process this does not represent significant system changes
- Estimated implementation short term - 9-12 months from project commencement



Proposal 13: Choice-based lettings







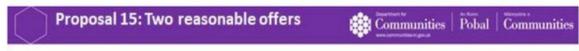
78% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Increase options for applicants
- Empower applicants to make informed housing choices
- Efficient process
- Better use of stock and resources

- NIHE will support applicants to use choice-based lettings via the Housing Solutions service, ensuring equality of access and opportunity
- New IT systems may be required to roll out choice-based lettings across all offices
- Estimated implementation long term - 24+ months from project commencement



49% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Increase efficiency of allocations process
- Better use of public resources by ensuring the list moves smoothly
- Minimise time stock is empty

Next steps

- NIHE will implement system changes and testing
- Estimated implementation short term – 9-12 months from project commencement



71% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Enable NIHE to withdraw offers in specific circumstances
- A clear, effective selection process which enables good housing management and promotes fairness for all

- NIHE will develop a new rule clarifying the circumstances when an offer may be withdrawn
- Estimated implementation short term – 9-12 months from project commencement



Proposal 16: Withdraw offer of accommodation in specified circumstances







71% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Enable NIHE to withdraw offers in specific circumstances
- A clear, effective selection process which enables good housing management and promotes fairness for all

Next steps

- NIHE will develop a new rule clarifying the circumstances when an offer may be withdrawn
- Estimated implementation short term – 9-12 months from project commencement



Proposal 17 & 18: Withhold consent for a policy succession or assignment







67% & 79% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposals will achieve: Next steps

- Effective use of stock
- · Meeting needs of those in current greatest need, particularly the most vulnerable
- NIHE will develop appropriate guidance
- Estimated implementation short term - 9-12 months from project commencement









82% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What the proposal will achieve:

- Bring NIHE processes around public protection into line with current legislation
- Protection of the most vulnerable
- Consideration of the needs of the individual and wider public protection issues

Next steps

- NIHE will discuss arrangements to take forward this proposal with various agencies involved
- Estimated implementation medium term - 18+ months from project commencement



Proposal 20: Specialised properties allocated by a separate process







91% support

Will proceed as per consultation

What this proposal will achieve:

- Best use of this stock and public resources
- · Prioritisation for those who need these properties most
- Improved allocation process for specialised properties

- NIHE will initiate a sector-led review to:
 - identify an improved system
 - ensure greater access to/availability of good quality
- Estimated implementation long term - 24+ months from project commencement

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- · NIHE will:
 - Develop and submit a detailed project plan
 - · Set out costs and timescales
 - Proceed with implementation once budgets confirmed



From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure Nichola Mallon MLA

Marie Ward Chief Executive Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Council@nmandd.org

Room 708 Clarence Court 10-18 Adelaide Street BELFAST BT2 8GB

Telephone: (028) 9054 0540

Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C/032/2021 Our reference: CORR-0374-2021

04 March 2021

Dear Ms Ward,

PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2021 which was received in my office on 19 February 2021.

There has been historical under-investment in our road network for a significant number of years and many rural roads are in need of repairs. Recognising this, I allocated £10m of my 2020-21 opening Capital budget to specifically remedy defects on rural roads.

In distributing the resources available for road maintenance allocations are made to the four Roads Divisions on the basis of need, using a range of weighted indicators tailored to the activity. Divisions use these indictors when apportioning funding across council areas to ensure, as far as possible, an equitable distribution of funds across the whole of Northern Ireland.

During this financial year, my Department submitted the bids in the table below to the Finance Minister for additional capital funding for Structural Maintenance:

Monitoring Round	Bid Description	Bid £	Allocation Received £
June	Road Maintenance and Street Lighting repairs	11.0	0.0
October	Structural Maintenance	4.5	
	Minor Works	1.0	2.0
	Street Lighting	1.0	

From the partially successful bid of £2.0m received in October monitoring, I allocated £1.1m as a priority to Structural Maintenance with the balance allocated to Street Lighting repairs and Minor Works.

In January monitoring, I internally reallocated £4.5m capital funding to Structural Maintenance to utilise remaining available capacity to deliver additional work on the road network over the remainder of the current financial year. As a result of these efforts and a number of technical adjustments, there has been an 11.7% increase to the Structural Maintenance capital budget from its opening allocation this year.

The funding which is available to the Executive at this late stage in the financial year must be spent by March 2021. As my Department has already maximised the capacity available this financial year, it is not possible to bid for any additional funding for Structural Maintenance and get it fully spent during the remaining weeks of the year while adhering to the requirements of Managing Public Money NI (MPMNI).

Looking ahead to 2021-22, as part of the Budget information gathering exercises, I included a bid of £120.0m for Capital Structural Maintenance. I am committed to setting up a rural roads fund from the available 2021-22 Budget and will continue to use in year monitoring rounds to bid for additional funding, including funding for rural roads, as has been the case in recent years as part of my continued commitment to doing the basics well and achieving regional balance.

NICHOLA MALLON MLA Minister for Infrastructure

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1 Horse Guards Road London SW1A 2HQ

Marie Ward Chief Executive O'Hagan House District Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry BT35 8DJ

11 March 2021

Your refs: C/033/2021 and C/041/2021

Dear Marie Ward,

Thank you for your letters to the Chancellor of the Exchequer dated 8 February, making representations in advance of Budget 2021. As it is not practical for Ministers to respond to all correspondence they receive I have been asked to reply.

Ministers are always keen to receive feedback from people up and down the country. Thank you for taking the time to write and to let them know your views.

Information relating to the measures announced in the Budget on 3 March 2021 can be found online at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents

Yours sincerely,

M Subratty

Correspondence and Enquiry Unit HM Treasury



From the Minister of Finance

Marie Ward Chief Executive Newry Mourne and Down District Council Private Office 2nd Floor Clare House 303 Airport Road West BELFAST BT3 9ED

Tel: 028 9081 6216

Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: CM 6396

Our reference: CORR-0429-2021

Date: 8 March 2021

Dear Marie

RE: CUT TO INDEPENDENT ADVICE SECTOR

Thank you for your letter of 8th February 2021 regarding the above.

I acknowledge the important role that the Independent Advice Sector performs for individuals here, particularly those impacted by recent welfare reforms. As you know; unfortunately the outcome of the Spending Review represented effectively a flat-lining of our Budget position from 2020-21. I recognise that this has resulted in a very challenging settlement for departments.

I will continue to engage with departments as we move towards a final Budget position. Once finalised; the Department for Communities may seek to meet this pressure from within its allocation, although I recognise this may mean having to make difficult choices around how public services will be prioritised. I note that Minister Hargey; in reference to the advice support services, has commented that she will ensure these critical services continue next year as an essential element of DfC's budget.

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CONOR MURPHY MLA MINISTER OF FINANCE

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From the Office of the Minister Diane Dodds MLA

Department for the Economy www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Ms Marie Ward Chief Executive Newry Mourne and Down District Council Mail to: council@nmandd.org

Netherleigh Massey Avenue Belfast BT4 2JP 02890 529202

email: private.office@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: CORR-0593-2021

Your Ref: C/061/2021

18 March 2021

Dear Marie,

Support for Students

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 March 2021 regarding the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council motion recognising the financial difficulties students are experiencing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

From the outset, let me just say that I genuinely appreciate how difficult the situation must be for all university students. These are unprecedented times for all of us, and regrettably the situation with regard to the spread of Covid-19 is changing on an almost daily basis.

The criteria for the Covid disruption payment was agreed by the Executive on 4 February 2021. This did not include students studying further education courses, as students on further education courses at local colleges are being supported through a range of mechanisms. The Department secured additional funding of £7.7 million, of which £4.8 million is being used to provide additional IT equipment to allow continued access from home for both college staff and students and to help address digital poverty, including providing almost 1,200 SIM cards, and the remaining £2.9 million for an additional 500 devices, and a one-off payment of £60 to eligible full-time and part-time further education students to help with data costs. Furthermore, the Department has worked with the colleges to increase the flexibility of their policies in relation to student support, to make them more accessible. This has included paying childcare retainer fees during the initial lockdown; FE grants and Hardship Fund have been updated to facilitate claimants participating in distance learning with an extension to the closing date for grant applications; Free School Meals and holiday payments for all eligible school age further education students have been made directly into households; increases to the Dependant Student rate, which provides eligible FE students with an additional £15 per week; and making part-time and repeat students eligible to apply to Hardship Funds.

I recognise that significant numbers of part-time and Northern Ireland students studying in the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere in the UK have been adversely impacted by the pandemic, and I can assure you that these students have not been

forgotten. While their inclusion in the Covid Disruption Payment scheme was explored, the only feasible way in which a payment scheme of this magnitude could be implemented is to work through the students' Institutions. The Department does not have the legal power to make payments through public bodies outside of Northern Ireland, such as a GB or RoI university or the Student Loans Company. Therefore it was not possible to include NI students studying outside Northern Ireland in the Covid Disruption Payment scheme.

Part-time students continue to be eligible for DfE-funded hardship funds administered by the Universities and Further Education Colleges, in addition to the other support announced. I recently announced a further expansion of these hardship funds; as such, should any part-time students find themselves in financial difficulties, we would encourage them to apply for these funds through their higher education institution.

Any Northern Ireland students experiencing financial hardship should first of all ensure that they have applied online at www.studentfinanceni.co.uk for all the financial assistance to which they may be entitled. The Department delivers financial support to eligible Northern Ireland students through Student Finance NI, and by the end of November 2020 had provided £84m in maintenance loans and a further £37m in maintenance grants as a contribution towards students' living costs during the academic year, including the cost of accommodation.

Students at Northern Ireland's universities who find themselves in financial hardship may be eligible to receive an award from the Support Funds made available by the Department, and managed by the higher education institutions. Earlier this financial year, I secured £1.4m from the Executive along with a further £1.4m from the Department's own budget for these Support Funds, making a total of £5.6m available to support students facing genuine financial hardship. This is even before the additional hardship funds secured under the most recent support package.

Yours sincerely,

DIANE DODDS MLA Minister for the Economy







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Our ref: CORR-0410-2021

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

10 March 2021

Dear Marie,

Child Poverty Task Force

Thank you for your letter of 8th February 2021 to the Minister for Communities, asking that she immediately convene a Child Poverty Task Force. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The Department for Communities (DfC) is responsible for taking forward poverty policy on behalf of the Executive. On 24 September 2020, Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, former Minister for Communities, announced the commencement of work on the development of a suite of Social Inclusion Strategies, including an Anti-Poverty Strategy, as part of the commitments under New Decade, New Approach.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy will be developed using a co-design approach with meaningful involvement from stakeholders at all stages of the process. In October 2020, an Expert Advisory Panel was appointed and tasked with producing recommendations on the key themes, priorities and headline actions that the strategies should address; a Co-design Group with representatives from 27 voluntary and community sector organisations is helping to shape the development of the strategy; and a Cross-departmental Working Group has been convened to work on developing the strategy action plan. The Anti-Poverty Expert Advisory Panel has completed its work and its recommendations are available to view on the DfC website at: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/report-anti-poverty-strategy-expert-advisory-panel.

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In September 2020 the Executive agreed to extend the 2016-2019 Child Poverty Strategy to May 2022. The purpose of this extension is to allow time for key stakeholders to be consulted on whether the Anti-Poverty Strategy covering all age groups is sufficient, or whether the development of a Child Poverty Strategy is also required.

The most recent Child Poverty Annual Report, for 2019/20, was published on the Department for Communities website in September 2020. It reports on the measures which departments are taking to ensure, as far as possible, that children do not suffer socio-economic disadvantage. The areas of focus and actions fall under four high level outcomes – health, education, safe/secure stable living environments and economic well-being.

With this work currently in hand, the Department would not propose convening an additional body such as a Child Poverty Taskforce at this time.

In the course of the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Department will of course continue to engage with, and listen to, the views and ideas of those impacted by poverty and their representative organisations, and will continue to work collaboratively across departments to address their needs.

The Anti-Poverty Co-design Group will be assisting the department to facilitate a number of feedback sessions in the coming months, where they will be actively seeking the views of stakeholders to inform their decisions on a range of specific areas of the recommendations. The Department plans to run a session to obtain the views of district councils and we will be writing to SOLACE with further details shortly. If you have any queries, please contact us at povertypolicyteam@communities-ni.gov.uk.

There will also be a public consultation in the latter half of this year and we would welcome comments from the Council when this is published.

Subject to Executive approval, it is planned that the Child Poverty Annual Report for 2020/21 will be published in March 2021 and that an Anti-Poverty Strategy will be published in December 2021.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely

Paul McKillen

Director for Central Policy Department for Communities Marie Ward Chief Executive Newry and Mourne District Council

council@nmandd.org



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ni.gov.uk

9 March 2021

Dear Marie

NOTICE OF MOTION - CHILD POVERTY TASK FORCE

Thank you for sending the Minister of Education a copy of your 8th February correspondence to Deirdre Hargey, Minister for Communities (DfC), asking her to convene a child poverty task force to set out plans to reduce child poverty over the next year and decade. The Department of Education is part of the DfC group on anti-poverty and we would be happy to be part of any other initiatives by DfC in relation to children living in poverty.

Yours sincerely

Michele Matchett

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Private Secretary to Minister of Education



From the Minister of Finance

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
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O'Hagan House
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Tel: 028 9081 6216

Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: ERT 005/2021 Our reference: CORR 0428/2021

Date: 4 March 2021

Dear Marie

NOTICE OF MOTION - NZEB CODE (NEARLY ZERO ENERGY BUIDLINGS).

Thank you for your letter of 15 February highlighting Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's motion on nearly zero energy building standards.

I have read your letter and can assure you of my Department's prioritisation of work in this area.

The Department published an Information Note on 4 December 2020 on NZEB while we work on an uplift to the energy efficiency standards for new buildings. My officials are actively engaged with our Building Regulations Advisory Committee and a specialist technical sub-committee to review proposals to update the relevant technical guidance as guickly as possible.

Officials are also liaising with colleagues in other Departments on related cross departmental issues beyond building regulations. This includes on the development of an Energy Strategy with the Department for the Economy, and 'Future Generations' work on carbon reduction planning with the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Is mise le meas

CONOR MURPHY MLA MINISTER OF FINANCE

FOR COUNCIL AGENDA – 7 APRIL 2021

From: Ashley Green <ashley.green@bmfbusinessservices.com>

Sent: 16 March 2021 11:40

Subject: Irish Climate Summit 2021 - Thursday 29th April - Online Conference

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

Irish Climate Summit 2021 – Thursday 29th April – Online Conference

Hello, as a previous delegate to a similar conference we wanted to let you know about the Irish Climate Summit happening online on Thursday 29th April.

The Irish Climate Summit comes at a pivotal juncture and will examine the latest ambitions, challenges and opportunities of Ireland's response to the climate crisis.

Topics covered in the summit programme will include:

- National climate objectives
- Stronger climate governance
- Youth climate activism in Ireland
- The European Commission's first European Climate Law
- An enhanced role for the Climate Change Advisory Council
- Work of the Oireachtas Climate Action Committee
- Promoting environmental awareness

- · Investing in net-zero climate solutions
- Just transition and climate justice
- Climate leaders' debate
- The role of local government in responding to climate change
- Community-led transitioning to a lowcarbon future
- Covid-19, emissions, and air quality
- International climate politics

For a full list of speakers and to see the latest schedule please follow this link.

TO BOOK ONLINE **CLICK HERE**

- Early Bird Rate ** €145 + VAT @23% = €178.35 ** –
 ending 26/03/2021
- Standard Rate >> €195 +VAT @23% = €239.85

NGO Rate >> €95 +VAT @23% = €116.85

*Terms and conditions

- Once booked, places may not be cancelled. If you unable to attend, you can send a substitute participant instead.
- » Participants must ensure they meet the technical requirements set out.
- » Make sure you are not behind a firewall or open the necessary ports if you are.
- » Update your Web Browser, you need the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge, or Opera.
- » Test your speed. A consistent high-speed connection with speeds of 4 mbps+ is required (15 mbps is optimum).

Kind Regards
Ashley Green
bmf Business Services E&P Ltd

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