



December 4th, 2020

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 7th December 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 November 2020

 *Action Sheet Council Meeting 02 11 2020.pdf*

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 November 2020

 *Council Minutes 02 11 2020.pdf*

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 October 2020

 *Minutes - Sp Council 26 Oct 2020.pdf*

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 November 2020

 *ERT Minutes 09 Nov 2020.pdf*

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2020

 *Minutes - SPR 12 Nov 2020.pdf*

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2020

 *Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 161120.pdf*

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2020

 *Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 17-11-2020.pdf*

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10.0 Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 24

11.0 Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2020

 *Minutes - Special SPR 1 Dec 2020.pdf*

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Planning

12.0 Extract from Draft Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2020

Local Development Plan

 *Extract from Planning Committee Minutes - 18-11-2020.pdf*

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For Noting

13.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin, November 2020

Correspondence attached.

 *Members Bulletin - November 2020.pdf*

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14.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes, October 2020

Correspondence attached.

 *Housing Council Minutes 8th October 2020.pdf*

Page 82

Correspondence Received

15.0 Department for Communities re: Regeneration Bill.

Correspondence dated 9 November 2020 attached.

 *DfC - Regeneration Bill.pdf*

Page 108

16.0 Response from Peter Weir, Minister for Education re: C/155/2020 Children taking transfer tests in their own Primary Schools. (Attached).

Correspondence dated 16 November 2020 attached.

17.0 Response from Financial Conduct Authority re: C/132/2020 Increases in Vehicle and House Insurance Costs

Correspondence dated 9 November 2020 attached.

📎 *Vehicle and House Insurance Costs.pdf*

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18.0 Derry City and Strabane Council re: Motions passed regarding air quality issues.

Correspondence dated 13 November 2020 attached.

📎 *Derry City and Strabane - air quality.pdf*

Page 113

19.0 Minister for Education re: Planned disposal of Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre.

📎 *Minister response - Ardnabannon.pdf*

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📎 *Ministers Response 2 - Ardnabannon.pdf*

Page 119

20.0 Minister for Health re: re-opening of A&E at Daisy Hill and Downe Hospital.

📎 *COR 3433 2020 - Letter to M Ward.pdf*

Page 121

21.0 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council re: Coronavirus Pandemic on Further and Higher Education Students.

Correspondence dated 13 November 2020 attached

📎 *Corona impact on Further and Higher Education Students.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

22.0 Notice of Motion - Sustainability

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

We note that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council aims to embed the ethos of sustainability throughout its operations. Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of people today and providing them with a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. With that in mind this Council

commits to producing a report on how we could be making funding available which could be utilised by community groups for the benefit of creating community gardens, encouraging the planting of apple, peach and pear trees, along with other edible fruit and veg plants. Making use of vacant lands which are within our ownership. We also commit to helping community groups engage with other public agencies to identify land which could be used for any such project.

23.0 Notice of Motion - Dunleath Park, Downpatrick

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillors Sharvin and Curran.

This Council recognises the importance of Dunleath Park to Downpatrick and the District, through sports, recreation, tourism and regeneration. With this importance and opportunity to develop Dunleath, this council will establish a working group of Downpatrick DEA Cllrs and council officers to establish a development plan for Dunleath that will include walking and cycling lanes, improvement to the MUGA and sports pitches, and gardens including sensory gardens.

24.0 Notice of Motion - Free Parking for HSC Staff

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Trainor:

“This Council notes and welcomes the decision by the Minister for Health to instruct the Health and Social Care Trusts to provide free parking to HSC staff until March 31st. Council further calls on the Minister to ensure that such provision of free parking is made available to HSC staff on a permanent basis with no specific time restrictions placed by any Trust.”

25.0 Notice of Motion - Best Wishes to President Elect Joe Biden and Vice President Elect Harris

The following joint Notice of motion received from Councillors Brown and Stokes:

‘This Council welcomes the victory of President Elect Joe Biden Vice President Elect Harris and extends our congratulations and best wishes for their term of office. Noting the ancestral links that President-Elect Biden has with Ireland, including the Cooley Peninsula and the Port of Newry, and the impact that he can have as an ally in any future discussions with the UK government on Post-Brexit trade, Council will write to the White House and the NI Consulate after his Inauguration inviting him to our district; to the city of Newry, to the resting place of St Patrick in Downpatrick and the wider district as part of any official visit he may plan to the Island during his term as President. It will also write to Louth County council inviting them to send a joint invite.’

26.0 Notice of Motion - Communication between Trade Union representatives and Council Political Parties

Notice of motion received from Councillor Clarke:

This council facilitates the formation of a forum to provide a regular means of communication between Trade Union representatives, and council political parties, Council officers will produce an option paper to be considered by councillors.

27.0 Notice of Motion - Annual Christmas Anti Drink Driving Campaign

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Gallagher

"This Council supports the PSNI annual Christmas anti drink driving campaign and recognises the seriousness of Drink Driving and the impact this can have and has had on many families across the District. Calls on the Minister for Justice to bring forward changes to the Drink drive limit to come into line with Scotland and to review the penalties that are imposed."

28.0 Notice of Motion - Impact of Misogyny and Transmisogyny

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McKevitt:

"This Council recognises the impact of misogyny and transmisogyny on those affected by it, as well as the role these attitudes play in a variety of crimes, including harassment, assault, sexual assault and hate crimes, and on the career choices and personal lives of women, girls and non-binary people. The Council supports the inclusion of misogyny as a standalone offence and as a category of hate crime, recognising crimes targeted at women including trans women as hate crimes based on misogyny, and will write a letter to that effect to Judge Desmond Marrinan, as part of his ongoing review of hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland. The Council supports also the Raise Your Voice Project, which tackles sexual harassment and sexual violence across Northern Ireland, by placing posters in all Council properties to raise awareness of the project."

29.0 Notice of Motion - Housing system.

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Harte:-

"This Council welcomes the recent announcement by Communities Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín regarding her plans to fundamentally address the significant challenges facing our housing system. We call on the Planning Service to urgently place more emphasis on planning as an activity that is both integrated with other local government agencies and is focused on delivery."

30.0 Notice of Motion - NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building) Code

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:

This Council calls upon Finance Minister Conor Murphy to immediately implement the NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building Code) that the EU Directive requires the NI Department of Finance to implement by the end of this year. This Directive is adopted into UK law

Council alerts the Minister to the following facts;

1. NI building code is 20 years behind GB. Every private sector house built between now and 2030 will have to be retrofitted to meet the UK's energy efficiency targets at 2030.
2. Every new house built in RoI is now more than £1000pa cheaper to run than an equivalent house in NI because of out of date building standards. All new homes in RoI thus have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or better.
3. RoI in November 2019 signed into law the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) regulation under part L of the Building Code for all domestic homes – not just public buildings as in GB. New Public Buildings in RoI have already been NZEB since 31st December 2018.
4. And Council to write to other 10 Councils in NI and ask them to pass this motion as well

31.0 Notice of Motion - Government of Ireland Act

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Ó Muirí:

This Council notes the centenary anniversary of the Westminster parliament's Government of Ireland Act. We note that the Good Friday Agreement caused this act to be revoked. [we welcome this] We note the deep and wide divisions this has sustained and entrenched both within Irish society and in the relationships between the islands of Ireland and Britain, not least of those consequences has been the multi-layered generational conflict our society has endured.

We welcome and support the agreed framework provided by the peace process to address and deal with all of this by peaceful and democratic methods. We recognise that the outworking of this – the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in all its aspects – remains a work in progress. This includes – its core requirements for equality of treatment, parity of esteem and mutual respect and the provision for a referendum to give full effect to the exercise by the people of Ireland to the right to self determine our future destiny and the centrality to this of both the British and Irish governments. In the first instance in respect of rights throughout the island and in the second the particular responsibility on the British government to set a date for the referendum.

This Council further recognises that a stark choice is opening up between the narrow, inward-looking vision of Brexit Britain and the open inclusive vision of a new Ireland. Therefore we call upon this council to encourage space for debate to present experiences and perspectives, big ideas and a public discourse on our constitutional future which threatens no one. and; this council call on both governments to expedite the delivery of their respective responsibilities contained within the Good Friday Agreement.

32.0 Notice of Motion - Albert Basin Park

Notice of motion received from Councillor Malone:

On the third anniversary of its commitment to deliver a 15 acre park on the Albert Basin, this Council recognises that a city park is the number 1 regeneration priority for Newry and will allocate sufficient capital funding in this years rates process to enable the project to be delivered within this Council term.

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

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

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

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| C/140/2020 | Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 05.10.2020 | The action sheet was agreed | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/141/2020 | Minutes of Council Meeting held on 05.10.20 | The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/142/2020 | Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 22.10.20 | The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. It was agreed Council write to the Department of Health, Health and Social Care Trusts and relevant bodies to call upon them to immediately address and implement procedures to provide treatments to deal cancer and other health conditions that have been delayed due to the current pandemic as a matter of utmost priority to save lives. | Democratic Services Democratic Services | Noted Actioned | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|------------|--|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| C/143/2020 | Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 12.10.20 | The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| | <i>ERT/138/2020: COVID 19 Revitalisation Funding</i> | It was agreed that Council write to all three departments DAERA, DFI and DFC urging for more funding to be made available to the grants for businesses and that Council officers work internally to see if a similar programme as a Council could be run to support small businesses. | Democratic Services | Actioned | |
| | <i>ERT/141/2020: Restocking Quoile River</i> | It was agreed to write to the 10 other Councils in relation to restocking of coarse fisheries and report back to the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee. | C Mallon | Actioned – await response | |
| C/144/2020 | Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 15.10.20 | The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted subject to the amendments as follows: Page 4 to read 'Councillor Savage asked if Councillor Ó Muirí would accept an amendment to his proposal to include an <i>extensive</i> public consultation.....'. Page 4 to read: Councillor Brown proposed Council go back and rework the business case to include the Albert Basin Park Project as an option in the Business Case and hold off until the outline business case could be reviewed by Councillors'. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| | <i>SPR/145/2020: Newry City</i> | It was agreed to amend option 7d to read: 'That the Programme Board develop and implement the | D Carville | Noted | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|------------|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | <i>Regeneration – Business Case</i> | next stage of the stakeholder engagement and communication strategy and shapes extensive District-wide public consultation on all aspects of Newry City Regeneration scheme in parallel with an independent economic appraisal’. | | | |
| C/145/2020 | Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 19.10.20 AHC/129/2020: Leasing of Land, The Links Playing Fields, Strangford AHC/122/2020: Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Action | The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. It was agreed to delay the recommencement of ground rent payments for Strangford and District Playgroup Association and After Schools Club for the remainder of the year and that officers bring back a policy that examines all of these facilities to have a consistent view for fairness and balance so one group does not get charged more or less than another. A report to be brought back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. It was agreed to review the terms of reference for the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum. | Democratic Services M Lipsett M Lipsett M Lipsett | Noted Report to AHC – 21/12/2020 To be referred to SCCF for consideration | |
| C/146/2020 | Minutes of NHS Committee Meeting held on 20.10.20 | 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/147/2020 | Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 23.10.20 | <p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve SPR/165/2020 with a minor amendment as follows:</p> <p>It was agreed to approve SPR/165/2020 with a minor amendment as follows:</p> <p>The cap at bullet point 4 of the minute was approved with the additional wording of "this will apply on a voluntary basis, in the event that the necessary reduction in headcount/costs savings cannot be achieved through an entirely voluntary redundancy scheme or in the event that further reductions are required as a result of the ongoing pandemic, the Council recognises its duty to consult with its TUs in relation to any compulsory redundancy proposals. Consultation will take place in good time and will be undertaken in a meaningful way, with a view to reaching agreement on ways and means of avoiding the dismissals, reducing the number of dismissals and mitigating their consequences".</p> | <p>Democratic Services</p> <p>M Ward D Carville</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> | |
| C/148/2020 | Extract from draft Planning Committee Meeting held on 21.10.20 | There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2020. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/149/2020 | Northern Ireland Housing Council | The bulletin was noted. | Democratic Services | Noted | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|------------|---|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Bulletin dated October 2020 | | | | |
| C/150/2020 | Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes – September 2020 | The Minutes were noted. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/151/2020 | Correspondence dated 15.10.20 from DfI re: Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in N.Ireland | The correspondence was noted. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/152/2020 | Correspondence dated 26.10.20 from Ards and North Down Borough Council re: C/098/2020 Information regarding localised outbreaks of COVID 19 Cases | The Correspondence was noted. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/153/2020 | Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council re: The Royal British Legion | The Correspondence was noted. | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/154/2020 | Northern Ireland Environment Forum 2020 – | It was unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Clarke and Councillor Mason to attend the above Conference and if any other Member was interested in attending they should advise Democratic Services. | Democratic Services | Noted | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|------------|---|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Online Conference | | | | |
| C/155/2020 | Notice of Motion – Negative Impact of Coronavirus on Education System and Post Primary Transfer Tests | The Motion was declared carried and it was agreed that Council notes the negative impact of coronavirus on our education system and in particular the preparation of primary 7 pupils for post primary transfer tests. In this difficult context and to better support pupils and reduce the anxiety associated with the transfer test process, that Council writes to the Minister of Education calling on him to recommend test organiser, AQE Ltd and PPTC engage with primary school principals so that P7 children can take the test in the safe and familiar environment of their own primary school. | Democratic Services | Actioned | |
| C/156/2020 | Notice of Motion – ‘Green New Deal’ Strategy Document | The Motion was referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 | Democratic Services | Noted | |
| C/157/2020 | Notice of Motion – COVID Related Lost Learning | The amended Motion was declared carried and it was agreed that this Council recognises the detrimental impact that classroom time lost to covid-related issues will have on learning for pupils across the education sector. This Council also acknowledges the academic attainment imbalance affecting pupils, predominantly from areas of lower socioeconomic status and the risk that this inequity may be further compounded by covid-related lost learning. Further that this Council calls on the Minister for Education to review his department’s published strategy for curriculum and assessment for GCSE and A-Level during 2020/21 to offer equity across all subjects in regard to unit omission. The Council further calls on the Minister | Democratic Services | Actioned | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | | not to limit outdoor activity and physical education for pupils within the education sector. | | | |
| C/158/2020 | Notice of Motion – Women's Sub-Committee | The Motion was referred to the Strategy Resources and Policy Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 | Democratic Services D Carville | Noted | |
| C/159/2020 | Notice of Motion – Impact of Coronavirus on those living with Dementia | The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 | Democratic Services M Lipsett | Noted To AHC 16/11/2020 | Y |
| END | | | | | |

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 02 November 2020 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

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

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
 Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting)
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Service, Human Resources & Safeguarding
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mrs L McCloone, Worthington Solicitors

C/138/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

The Chairperson commented that we were more than half way through the Executive's circuit breaker and fortunately there had been a downward trend in case numbers in Newry Mourne and Down. She appealed to everyone not to become complacent and spoke of the importance to continue doing all we could in adhering to the messaging from Public Health to ensure that the number was reduced further.

The Chairperson passed on condolences to the family of a female who died in a car collision in Downpatrick at the weekend.

The Chairperson informed everyone that Councillors John Trainor, Patrick Brown and Alan Lewis taken on the Movember challenge in aid of Men's Mental Health and anyone wishing to donate could do so through a link on the Councillor's social media channels.

The Chairperson paid tribute to Mr Roland Moore, former Director of Neighbourhood Services. She stated across Council, all members held Roland in the highest of regards as a superb officer and a total gentleman too. On behalf of Council she wished Roland the best of luck in his new role and for his future, commenting that he would be missed by all.

Congratulations were passed to Mr Johnny McBride on taking up the position of Interim Director of Neighbourhood Services.

C/139/2020

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Ward declared an interest on behalf of officers for item 10: Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee: SPR/165/2020 – Severance Scheme

C/140/2020

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 05 October 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 October 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/141/2020

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 October 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy.**

C/142/2020

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2020

10

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 22 October 2020 (copy circulated).

Councillor Andrews paid tribute to everyone affected by Covid-19 and the difficult times faced by many and thanked the doctors, nurses and all in the Frontline who were working hard, despite being under so much pressure at this time. He highlighted there were many suffering from cancer and other health conditions whose treatment and operations had been delayed and cancelled, with important and vital treatment having given way to the demand of Covid-19.

Councillor Andrews referred to additional funding of £560 million allocated to the Department of Health in the last week which had to be welcomed however he believed this did not go far enough.

Councillor Andrews proposed Newry Mourne and Down District Council write to the Department of Health, Health & Social Care Trusts and relevant bodies to call upon them to immediately address and implement procedures to provide treatments to deal with Cancer and other health conditions that have been delayed due to the current pandemic as a matter of utmost priority to save lives. This was seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lewis that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council write to the Department of Health, Health and Social Care Trusts and relevant bodies to call upon them to immediately address and implement procedures to provide treatments to deal cancer and other health conditions that have been delayed due to the current pandemic as a matter of utmost priority to save lives.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 22 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/143/2020

MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2020 (copy circulated).

ERT/138/2020: COVID 19 Revitalisation Funding

In response to Councillor Gallagher, Mr Mallon provided an update regarding Covid-19 Business Support initiatives confirming that following the expression of interest exercise, application forms would be issued from 3 November 2020, and that once applications were verified, payment could be issued from 9 November 2020.

Councillor Sharvin highlighted the disappointment of businesses at the limitations of the £1,000 grant provided to them given the challenges being faced in these challenging times

and proposed Council seek further funding for grants to small businesses.

Councillor Hanlon highlighted the need to ensure there was equality across the District in that some businesses may be better geared up to filling in forms and applying for grants.

Mr Mallon advised Council had already written and received additional funding from the Departments including £157,000 from DAERA, £527,000 from DFI and an additional £52,000 from DFC revenue but that he was happy to reach out again.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Stokes that Council write to all three departments DAERA, DFI and DFC urging for more funding to be made available to the grants for businesses and that Council officers work internally to see if a similar programme as a Council could be run to support small businesses.**

ERT/141/2020: Restocking Quoile River

At the request of Councillor Brown, Mr Mallon confirmed he would write to the other 10 Councils to seek information on what strategies they had in place for restocking coarse fisheries and report back to the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

Agreed: **It was agreed to write to the 10 other Councils in relation to restocking of coarse fisheries and report back to the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

C/144/2020 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2020 (copy circulated).

SPR/145/2020: Newry City Regeneration – Business Case

Councillor Savage highlighted a minor amendment on page 4 to read 'Councillor Savage asked if Councillor Ó Muirí would accept an amendment to his proposal to include an **extensive** public consultation.....'.

Councillor Brown asked that the minute be amended to reflect the following on page 4: To remove 'Councillor Brown proposed that Council hold off submitting the outline business case until a full public consultation took place'.

And replace with 'Councillor Brown proposed Council go back and rework the business case to include the Albert Basin Park Project as an option in the Business Case and hold off until the outline business case could be reviewed by Councillors'

In expressing his thanks to fellow Councillors, Council officers and consultants Councillor Savage proposed an amendment to Option 7d to read as follows:

'That the Programme Board develop and implement the next stage of the stakeholder engagement and communication strategy and shapes extensive District-wide public consultation on all aspects of Newry City Regeneration scheme in parallel with an independent economic appraisal'.

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Clarke.

Councillor Savage said he wanted it made clear that this was a movement to outline business case only and that there was no plan to proceed beyond it at this stage. Councillor Savage stated he was proposing the amendment as there was strong desire for public consultation particularly around the sighting and design of the proposed civic centre element and there was a clear need to take into account what a post COVID world looked like.

Councillor Savage pointed out the amendment would not hinder the progress made in securing commitment from Council to the develop the park at Albert Basin. The amendment provided Council the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders in parallel with economic appraisal. He highlighted Council was committed to the delivery of all three strands including Newry City Regeneration, the Gateway to Mournes Project and the Regeneration of Downpatrick Town Centre.

Mrs Ward confirmed the amounts contained within the business case were public information and were as follows:

£9 m - Civic Centre

£12 m – Theatre and Conference

£5 m – Public Realm

£3 m – The injection of Grade A Office Space across Newry area

Councillors Brown and Enright spoke at length and voiced concern that the plans for regeneration of Downpatrick Town Centre did not reflect the Downpatrick Masterplan and that there was a need to see actions on a capital budget that included a fair deal for the northern end of the District. Councillor Brown referred to value for money for ratepayers in terms of the Civic Centre and stated it was shocking example of public sector profligacy as it was duplicating services when Council already had first class civic centre in Downpatrick.

Councillor Brown stated an independent economic appraisal was vital as was a full District-wide consultation on the project.

During a lengthy discussion Members voiced support for Councillor Savage's amendment with Councillor Clarke advising he was happy to second the amendment as it would strengthen the proposal to have a full public consultation. He said some Councillors were talking about not agreeing to have a 2-site merger, but this had always been the rationale from the Down side and the Newry side, trying to keep jobs in both areas.

Councillor Clarke said it was always his understanding to develop a civic centre in Newry. He added facilities at present were not fit for purpose and there was a real need for alternative accommodation. Also the Trust were keen to obtain the Monaghan Row site to improve health provision in Newry and the general Newry area.

With regard to office space Councillor Clarke said the outline business case had been scoped out and he believed this project was coming at a really good time for the city of Newry with investment needed right across the District. He believed it would be a great stimulus and would improve the Council's rates base. Councillor Clarke appealed for Members not to be continually negative about the Belfast City Regional Deal.

Councillor Sharvin asked that it be noted that he wished to abstain.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Clarke to amend option 7d to read:
'That the Programme Board develop and implement the next stage of the stakeholder engagement and communication strategy and shapes extensive District-wide public consultation on all aspects of Newry City Regeneration scheme in parallel with an independent economic appraisal'.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/155/2020: Lands at Windmill Business Park, Saintfield

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

Whilst in closed session Councillor Burgess proposed deferring item SPR/155/2020 until a meeting was facilitated between Saintfield Development Association and Saintfield Residents. This was seconded by Councillor McKee.

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

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| FOR: | 5 |
| AGAINST: | 33 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 3 |

The proposal was LOST, and the Minute as tabled relating to SPR/155/2020: Lands at Windmill Business Park, Saintfield would remain the same.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher subject to the following amendments:

SPR/145/2020: Newry City Regeneration, Business Case

Page 4 to read 'Councillor Savage asked if Councillor Ó Muirí would accept an amendment to his proposal to include an *extensive* public consultation.....'.

Page 4 to read: Councillor Brown proposed Council go back and rework the business case to include the Albert Basin Park Project as an option in the Business Case and hold off until the outline business case could be reviewed by Councillors'.

C/145/2020

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2020 (copy circulated).

AHC/129/2020: Leasing of Land, The Links Playing Fields, Strangford

Councillor Sharvin enquired if Council had similar arrangements for ground rent payments with other charities and Playgroups across the District, and if there was, was it the same value.

Mr Lipsett confirmed there were other groups within the District who paid rent/fees and that each one was individual. He further advised officers were regularising this playgroup in fairness to other groups within the District.

Councillor Sharvin proposed delaying recommencement of ground rent payments for Strangford and District Playgroup Association and After Schools Club for the remainder of the year and that officers bring back a policy that examines all of these facilities to have a consistent view for fairness and balance so one group does not get charged more or less than another.

Councillor Trainor seconded the proposal.

Mr Lipsett confirmed he would bring a report back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Trainor to delay the recommencement of ground rent payments for Strangford and District Playgroup Association and After Schools Club for the remainder of the year and that officers bring back a policy that examines all of these facilities to have a consistent view for fairness and balance so one group does not get charged more or less than another.

A report to be brought back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

AHC/122/2020: Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Action for meeting held on 17 September 2020

Councillor Trainor expressed concern at an action coming from the meeting held on 17

September 2020 to invite the Strangford Sustainable Living Project to a future meeting of the Downpatrick DEA as opposed to the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum.

Councillor Trainor proposed Strangford Sustainable Living Project be invited to attend the next Sustainability and Climate Change Forum. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Councillor Clarke advised this was discussed in detail at the forum and it was the understanding of the group that it was established to deal with strategic issues with regards adaptation plan and that it wasn't the right forum for meeting individual groups and that it was better placed with the DEAs with localised knowledge.

Councillor Byrne suggested that the terms of reference for the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum be reviewed and Councillor Trainor was happy to accept this amendment to his proposal.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Enright to review the terms of reference for the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

C/146/2020 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2020 (copy circulated).

Councillor Gibbons welcomed the review of the bus shelter policy.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/147/2020 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 23 October 2020 re: Severance Scheme. (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 23 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to exclude the**

public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Trainor to have a 15-minute adjournment at 9.08pm with the meeting resuming at 9.28pm.

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

SPR/165/2020: Severance Scheme

The Chairperson advised that whilst in-committee the Minute was discussed at length and following a vote by way of a show of hands

| | |
|--------------|----|
| FOR: | 24 |
| AGAINST: | 15 |
| ABSTENTIONS: | 1 |

it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the Minute with a minor amendment as follows:

Members agreed the cap at bullet point 4 of the minute with the additional wording of, this will apply on a voluntary basis, in the event that the necessary reduction in headcount/costs savings cannot be achieved through an entirely voluntary redundancy scheme or in the event that further reductions are required as a result of the ongoing pandemic, the Council recognises its duty to consult with its TUs in relation to any compulsory redundancy proposals. Consultation will take place in good time and will be undertaken in a meaningful way, with a view to reaching agreement on ways and means of avoiding the dismissals, reducing the number of dismissals and mitigating their consequences.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve SPR/165/2020 with a minor amendment as follows:

The cap at bullet point 4 of the minute was approved with the additional wording of ' this will apply on a voluntary basis, in the event that the necessary reduction in headcount/costs savings cannot be achieved through an entirely voluntary redundancy scheme or in the event that further reductions are required as a result of the ongoing pandemic, the Council recognises its duty to consult with its TUs in relation to any compulsory redundancy proposals. Consultation will take place in good time and will be undertaken in a meaningful way, with a view to reaching agreement on ways and means of avoiding

the dismissals, reducing the number of dismissals and mitigating their consequences”.

C/148/2020

EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2020

Noted:

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

FOR NOTING

C/149/2020

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2020

Read:

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

Agreed:

The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted.

C/150/2020

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read:

Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 10 September 2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:

The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 September 2020 were noted.

CORRESPONDENCE

C/151/2020

CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE: DESIGN GUIDE FOR TRAVELLER SITES IN NI

Read:

Correspondence dated 15 October 2020 from Department for Communities regarding Design Guide for Travellers’ sites in Northern Ireland. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:

The correspondence was noted.

C/152/2020

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL - LOCALISED OUTBREAKS OF COVID 19

Read:

Correspondence dated 26 October 2020 from Ards and North Down Borough Council regarding C/098/2020 – information on localised outbreaks of Covid 19 cases. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:

The correspondence was noted.

C/153/2020

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Read:

Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council regarding

plans to close Bennett House in Portrush, the only British Legion break centre in Northern Ireland. (Copy circulated).

Noted: Councillors Taylor, Owen and Andrews expressed their concerns regarding the closure of this much needed facility and asked that their concerns be noted.

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted.**

CONFERENCES / EVENTS

C/154/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND ENVIRONMENT FORUM CONFERENCE - WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2020

Read: Correspondence regarding the Northern Ireland Environment Forum 2020 Online Conference: The Environment – New Deal New Decade, to be held on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at a fee of £210 inc Vat per delegate. (Copy circulated).

Noted: Councillor Stokes said given the current financial climate, in his view attendance at Conferences should be justified. He said he could not see why Conference organisers were charging fees given that they had no real organisational costs.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Clarke and Councillor Mason to attend the above Conference and if any other Member was interested in attending they should advise Democratic Services.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/155/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – NEGATIVE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON EDUCATION SYSTEM AND POST PRIMARY TRANSFER TESTS

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

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

In proposing the motion, Councillor Taylor said he was aware there were differing views amongst the Political Parties in relation to the status of the post primary transfer tests. However, he wanted to focus on the issue that there was likely to be post primary transfer tests in 2021 for those pupils who wished to avail of it and this will put both pupils and parents in a very difficult position. Pupils would be taking the test in the middle of a pandemic, having missed out on valuable school hours and with no clarity or guidance in place. He said the welfare of P7 pupils came first and they should not have to take the test in centres they were not familiar with and where 1000s of children were coming together.

Councillor Taylor said children should feel safe and the Minister for Education should recommend to test organisers that they engage with Primary School Principals so that P7 children could take the test in the safe and familiar environment of their own primary school, thereby minimising additional stress. He advised a campaign was currently underway to support this and to date had over 7000 signatures of support.

Councillor Lewis formally seconded the Motion.

Councillor O'Muirí spoke strongly in opposition and said to talk about putting children at the centre of the Motion was in his view ridiculous. In these unprecedented times in education many children were even afraid to come to school. Throughout their school year children did a variety of bench mark tests which creates a picture and a graph of children's attainment and ability where they are not compared to one another. It was not about selection but about creating a culture in primary schools where every child was equal and precious and given the opportunity to be the best that they can be and there was no fear in them to do a test to be selected for any secondary school. He said those in the primary school sector were hopeful that the absence of a test in 2020/2021 was a good thing.

Councillor McMurray proposed an amendment to the Motion:-

"To investigate ways by which the Transfer test, as scheduled for Jan 2021, can be cancelled through engagement with both Primary and Post-Primary Schools while ensuring a means of admission to post-primary schools in Sept 2021. If this cannot be achieved, then transfer tests should be carried out in the safe and familiar environment of their own primary school".

Councillor Owen said the Minister and DUP Councillors on this Council would be happy that every child did the test in their own school. However, this would require Executive agreement which seemed unlikely. She added there was no bar on tests taking place in primaries but there were several practical barriers which Councillor Owen outlined to the Meeting. She said the DUP were willing to support Councillor Taylor's Motion if these points were noted.

Councillor Stokes said the position of the SDLP was to end selection for 10/11 year olds but nearly a decade later the test was still in place. He said his Party would support anything which would alleviate stress on pupils until the test was done away with.

Councillor Enright and Councillor Reilly also spoke on the Motion.

Councillor Taylor advised he did not wish to accept Councillor McMurray's amendment to his proposal.

Councillor Taylor's Motion, seconded by Councillor Lewis, was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:-

| | |
|--------------|----|
| FOR: | 23 |
| AGAINST: | 14 |
| ABSTENTIONS: | 1 |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Agreed: | The Motion was declared carried and it was agreed that Council notes the negative impact of coronavirus on our education system and, in particular, the preparation of primary 7 pupils for post primary transfer tests. In this difficult context and to better support pupils and reduce the anxiety associated with the transfer test |
|----------------|---|

process, that Council writes to the Minister of Education calling on him to recommend test organiser, AQE Ltd and PPTC engage with primary school principals so that P7 children can take the test in the safe and familiar environment of their own primary school.

C/156/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – GREEN NEW DEAL STRATEGY DOCUMENT

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Enright:

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

- **Committing to delivering a new Council funded green space/park project in every DEA, and identifying these for inclusion in capital plan by the end of 2021/22 financial year**
- **Installing recycling bins in Council-owned public places where they do not already exist**
- **Develop an allotment strategy for the district, allowing local communities to draw down support to establish allotments in their communities, with the aim of having at least 1 Council supported allotment in each DEA by 2024**
- **Working with local businesses, especially large chains, to trial a campaign of printing customer's licence plates on takeaway bags to discourage littering**
- **Producing a detailed report for how each Council-owned or operated building can become carbon neutral by 2035 and setting a budget to facilitate this starting from 21/22**
- **Stop buying any fossil fueled vehicles immediately, and start replacing current vehicle inventory with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles**
- **Setting a goal of 10% of Council's rates coming from renewable energy developments by 2025, and developing a Taskforce to attract inward investment to meet this target**
- **Setting a goal for each Council owned car park to have at least 5% of their parking bays as charging points for exclusive use by electric/hybrid vehicles. And larger Council-owned car parks to install PV panels providing power for 10 or more spaces**
- **Draw up a detailed Climate Change Emergency Plan, taking into account all these points, reflecting the recommendations of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Group, and embedding these throughout the Council's new Local Development Plan**
- **A commitment to reflect throughout the new Local Development Plan the importance and impact of the circular/electrified economy, and how the Plan will facilitate Council to take advantage of opportunities in this area."**

Agreed:

The Motion was referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

C/157/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID RELATED LOST LEARNING

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

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

In proposing the Motion Councillor Lewis said he had been contacted by a number of parents and teachers who had concerns that the talking and listening assignment of the English, French and other language-based GCSEs had been removed. He said this would detrimentally impact those pupils that may have dyslexia as they sometimes thrived better in doing these type of oral assessments rather than written. He said teachers did not yet know what aspects they had to omit from the subjects that they were teaching and parents felt their concerns not been taken on board.

Councillor Taylor formally seconded the Motion.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed the Motion and said the stress and anxiety being faced by GCSE and A level pupils was indescribable. She asked if Councillor Lewis would accept an amendment to the Motion that PE was a valuable part of the curriculum and this should be included in the letter to the Minister that this needed to be taken as part of the Strategy.

Councillor Byrne advised the SDLP would be supporting the Motion and the amendment. He said education was not all classroom based and it was unacceptable to remove PE at this time of stress in a Covid environment, when it was physical activity that helped get people through. He added that clarity and communication from the Minister going forward was key as students were extremely confused on what they were being assessed on.

Councillor McMurray and Councillor Howell also spoke in support of the Motion and the amendment.

Councillor Owen raised several points in terms of lost learning and said there had been £12m invested additionally in academic catch up mainly through the Engage Programme. She said this was for obtaining extra resources for schools to spend on additional catch up measures and these resources were for all schools with a particular emphasis on schools with higher numbers of socio economic deprived areas. She said the issue of GCSEs and A levels were more problematic and firstly the position was that exams go ahead with mitigations. These mitigations were numerous some of which were ongoing. She said the Minister’s and the DUPs position on exams was that they represent the fairest and best way that students perform.

Councillor Owen said that pupils could not go in a different direction on their own as this would disadvantage pupils in Northern Ireland and therefore the DUP would be opposing the Motion on these grounds.

Councillor Reilly said he would support the Motion tonight as it was well meaning. He would have concerns if there were barriers put between children but did not see this within the Motion.

Councillor Lewis advised he would be happy to accept Councillor Hanlon's amendment to his Motion as there was concern in schools about restricting any outdoor activity or PE.

The amended Motion proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Taylor was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:-

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|--------------|----|
| FOR: | 32 |
| AGAINST: | 3 |
| ABSTENTIONS: | 0 |

Agreed: **The amended Motion was declared carried and it was agreed that this Council recognises the detrimental impact that classroom time lost to covid-related issues will have on learning for pupils across the education sector. This Council also acknowledges the academic attainment imbalance affecting pupils, predominantly from areas of lower socioeconomic status and the risk that this inequity may be further compounded by covid-related lost learning. Further that this Council calls on the Minister for Education to review his department's published strategy for curriculum and assessment for GCSE and A-Level during 2020/21 to offer equity across all subjects in regard to unit omission. The Council further calls on the Minister not to limit outdoor activity and physical education for pupils within the education sector.**

C/158/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor C Mason and Councillor O Magennis:

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

Councillor Mason expressed her disappointment that this Motion had not been debated at full Council.

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

C/159/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare:

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

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

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

Councillor McEvoy expressed her disappointment that this Motion had not been debated at full Council and said 3 other Councils had already debated the Motion at their full Council meetings.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.45 pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 December 2020.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

24

DATE: 02/11/2020 **VENUE:** Teams Meeting **MEETING:** Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: SPR 155/2020 Councillor Burgess proposed to defer until meeting was facilitated, seconded by Councillor McKee

| COUNCILLOR | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|---------------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| T Andrews | | 1 | | |
| P Brown | | 2 | | |
| R Burgess | 1 | | | |
| P Byrne | | 3 | | |
| C Casey | | 4 | | |
| W Clarke | | 5 | | |
| D Curran | | | 1 | |
| L Devlin | | 6 | | |
| S Doran | | 7 | | |
| C Enright | | 8 | | |
| A Finnegan | | 9 | | |
| H Gallagher | | 10 | | |
| M Gibbons | | 11 | | |
| O Hanlon | | 12 | | |
| G Hanna | | 13 | | |
| V Harte | | 14 | | |
| R Howell | | 15 | | |
| M Larkin | | 16 | | |
| A Lewis | 2 | | | |
| O Magennis | | 17 | | |
| G Malone | | 18 | | |
| C Mason | | 19 | | |
| D McAteer | | 20 | | |
| L McEvoy | | 21 | | |
| H McKee | 3 | | | |
| K McKevitt | | 22 | | |
| A McMurray | | 23 | | |
| R Mulgrew | | 24 | | |
| D Murphy | | 25 | | |
| G O'Hare | | 26 | | |
| B Ó Muirí | | 27 | | |
| K Owen | | 28 | | |
| H Reilly | 4 | | | |
| M Ruane | | 29 | | |
| M Savage | | | 2 | |
| G Sharvin | | | 3 | |
| G Stokes | | 30 | | |
| D Taylor | 5 | | | |
| J Tinnelly | | 31 | | |
| J Trainor | | 32 | | |
| B Walker | | 33 | | |
| TOTALS | 5 | 33 | 3 | |

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 October 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:

(Councillors)

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

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
Mrs N Largey, Legal Advisor
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

Representing ABO Wind

Ms Tamasin Frazer
Mr Thomas Bell

Representing Mourne AONB Against Windfarms

Mr Connaire McGreevy
Mr Dawson Stelfox

SC/15/2020**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies were received.

The Chairperson outlined the procedure for the evening advising there would be presentations heard from the Chief Planning Officer, ABO Wind and Mournes AONB Against Windfarms. Following each presentation, Members would be given the opportunity to ask questions with an opportunity also given to the presenters to rebut any factual inaccuracies. She asked Members to refrain from making any proposals until the meeting reached item 8 on the agenda which gave everyone the opportunity to have their say and be involved in the process.

SC/16/2020**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Burgess asked whether members of the Planning Committee needed to declare an interest.

Mrs Largey clarified that the planning decision maker was DfI and Members were not acting as decision makers, therefore Planning Committee members were entitled to take part and vote if deemed necessary. Members' role was to decide on the consultation response as a corporate body and were not bound in the same way as they would be if sitting on the Planning Committee. She also clarified that there were no conflict of interest for Planning Committee members taking part in the meeting this evening.

Mrs Largey advised an objection had been raised in relation to the Council's obligations under legislation which required special protection of fauna under the Nature and Conservation and Amenity Lands Order 1985. She confirmed the provisions did not apply in this regard as members were meeting to decide if Council wished to make a corporate response in respect of the planning application. Mrs Largey advised that, although Members did not need to respond, her advice would be to make some form of response, otherwise it may be seen there were no objections or indeed that Council supported the application.

Councillor Tinnelly asked due to the fact this was a Departmental decision to be made and they were looking for a yes or no corporate response from the Council, how it would affect the Department's decision making if Council were unable to provide such a response.

Mrs Largey advised that Council was a statutory consultee in respect of the application which, as recognised in legislation, would mean that the Council district, where the regionally significant application would be placed within, would have a significant view which should be taken into account. The Department would need to take due regard for any view held by the Council on the matter.

SC/17/2020**REPORT FROM MR C MALLON – GRUGANDOO WIND FARM PLANNING APPLICATION**

Mr McKay updated Members highlighting this was the third time the application had been tabled before Council and the proposal had been revised with a reduced number of 8 turbines and the height of the turbines being increased. The key concerns were with the scale, size and sighting of the turbines, within the Mourne special countryside area, which was a sensitive upland landscape, however planners did recognise the benefits that would come from a development as outlined. The recommendation in the report was a response be returned to DfI indicating Council's opposition to the planning application.

A discussion took place with the following points raised by Members:

- Disagreed with a response being derived using the details set out in both presentations as each would be providing a biased view on the application.
- More detailed extensive updated report was required.
- Site visits previously had been very informative.
- Application was fundamentally unacceptable due to its location, size and impact it would have within such a sensitive landscape.
- Contradiction within the report in relation to benefits provided considering the current climate emergency.
- Climate emergency had not been declared in 2017, and the situation had extensively changed since then.
- We were the only Council in Ireland that did not use windfarms to help raise much needed revenue.
- Had a report been prepared to highlight what the potential impact on tourism would be?
- The height of the turbines proposed would be equivalent to 8 London Eyes placed in the Mourne, would this not alter the distance from the turbines to the residential areas?

Mrs Largey provided advice to the meeting regarding the consultation response, while not dismissing any points made regarding climate change etc, she reminded Members that any representation on the planning application needed to be made with on the basis to planning policy, unless there were material considerations otherwise. There was a statutory requirement on a planning authority to make decisions on planning policy.

Mr McKay responded with the following points:

- A similar report was acceptable in 2017 and very little has changed in relation to the proposal since then.
- Policies against which planning applications were assessed had not changed.
- Council had not undertaken independent studies on potential impact on tourism, the proposal had been assessed against the policy.
- This was a landscape with the highest possible designation attached to it of which there were only 4 in Northern Ireland, therefore the proposal had the potential to impact across the entire AONB and on the tourism asset attached to the area.

In response to a request for clarification from Mr Bell from AOB Wind, Mrs Largey responded saying the protocol was that she would answer questions from Members. It

was up to Members if they wish to seek advice on issues raised after the presentation, and it was a matter of judgement on how Members wish to respond as a statutory consultee.

SC/18/2020 PRESENTATION FROM ABO WIND

Ms Frazer and Mr Bell gave a presentation on behalf of ABO Wind (copy of presentation appended to these minutes)

Members raised the following issues:

- Had consultation taken place with Planning officials regarding the need for a trans-boundary notification given that the turbines would be visible and impact on the landscape character on the Tain Way in Co Louth.
- How was the grid connection to be achieved without massive investment and destruction to the environment?
- What was determining factor in choosing the proposed site?
- Should renewable regeneration alternatives for that may have had less impact on the environment i.e. offshore turbines been investigated?
- What impact had the revised scheme had on the landscape considering the turbines would be taller?
- What discussions had been had with Planning Officers?
- What was the Mourne Heritage Trust response to the consultation process?
- The view from Carlingford Co Louth, why was there no graphics included to show this?
- What was the classification that merited upland?

Representatives from the group responded to queries as follows:

- The issue regarding a trans-boundary notification was not something that had been raised at previous meetings. Louth Co Council were consulted as part of the application and no objections had been raised, ABO Wind continue to consult with them going forward.
- The process of obtaining grid connection would be secured once planning had been approved. An application had been submitted to NIE and they dictate how and where the application would connect to. During ongoing talks with NIE it was understood this would be from the Monkshill Road substation.
- In terms of site selection, this project had been ongoing for 10 years and was very detailed with regard site selection taking into account a number of factors i.e wind speed, topography and logistics.
- Onshore wind was one of the most advanced technologies, easily deployed and cheapest and therefore was preferable to use.
- A revised visual scheme could be provided to Members, the key impact from the AONB still remained sub-30% which was the figure provided at the 2017 presentation also.
- AOB only develop onshore wind, don't develop any offshore.
- There were initial discussions had in the lead up to submitting the 2015 application with various consultees but nothing directly with Council Planners.

- The Mourne Heritage Trust were not a statutory consultee. They were engaged with however no view was forthcoming on support or objection to the site.
- Topographical survey was carried out to determine lower and uplands.
- Viewpoints that had been provided in the presentation which could be forwarded separately to Members.

SC/19/2020**PRESENTATION FROM MOURNE AONB WIND**

Mr McGreevy and Mr Stelfox gave a presentation on behalf of Mourne AONB Wind (copy of presentation appended to these minutes)

Members raised the following issues:

- The statistics provided in the Failte Ireland report were from 8 and 13 years ago, in today's context would those figures change given the climate crisis currently being faced?
- Would the AONB be against a different renewable energy project in a similar area?
- What would the group envisage as the long-lasting impact on the community with regards those for and against the project?
- Did the proposal meet the criteria of an upland?
- What would the sensitivity be of such a windfarm for the Mournes?
- Was there an acceptable number of turbines that the group would accept?
- If there was one main objection to be chosen what would it be?
- How big of a damaging impact would the proposal have on the potential of further developing hill walking in the Western Mournes?
- What would the group suggest as an alternative energy to try help the climate emergency currently being faced?

Representatives from the group responded to the queries as follows:

- When looking at somewhere such as Scotland, the policy had shifted and moved to off-shore instead of in-shore wind farms due to the negative impact on tourism and long term sustainable businesses for upland areas.
- Group came together in opposition to windfarms in the Mournes, any other potential proposals would be looked at by the group.
- A lot of work was required to heal the community, which was hugely divided against the development, nearly 3000 objections have gone in, approaching 76% of the community opposed, with 85% of the consultation response received through the local GAA being opposed.
- The visual impact assessment submitted was not objective or reasonable and ludicrous to think it would not have an impact. The Mournes was a premier landscape in NI and the view of DAERA was that the impact is totally unacceptable.
- The siting of the selected sites had been designated as high sensitivity which was the highest level possible. It was an open upland environment.
- The group was opposed to wind turbines in total, with the acceptable number of turbines being zero.

- The main objection would be the visual impact which would prove detriment to the other main users of the mountain areas.
- Numbers of walkers went up from 28% to 63% during lockdown, 51% have said they plan to continue walking. There had been an increase in local economic growth due to farmers charging for parking, more demand for accommodation, outdoor activities, hospitality etc this would all be affected if the turbines were allowed to go ahead.
- A mix of on shore/off shore winds, solar, water, tidal power should be investigated further rather than concentrating on one type of energy.

Councillor Byrne stated Members were not proposing to put a wind farm in an ANOB, they were listening and scrutinising a proposal in front of them from ABO Wind, to make a decision as a consultation response.

Councillor Clarke advised he had submitted a proposal and therefore should have been brought in before Councillor Byrne. The Chairperson reminded Councillor Clarke that she had asked Members within her opening remarks to refrain from making any proposals during the previous presentations and question and answers sessions.

Councillor Byrne confirmed he had waited until the meeting had reached item 8, as outlined by the Chairperson at the beginning of the meeting, to make his proposal

Councillor Byrne proposed with Councillor McAteer seconding that Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon seeking clarity on whether the planning application warranted a public inquiry, and if so, request that the Minister established a public inquiry and that Council did not take a formal decision on the planning application.

Councillor Gibbons proposed, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, that Council, having taken into consideration the planning policy statement from Council's Planning Department and Chief Planning Officer, respond to DfI as consultees with confidence and without contradiction that Council was opposed to the renewed planning application.

Following clarification received from Councillor Byrne on his proposal, Councillor Clarke proposed an amendment that Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon calling on her to hold an independent public inquiry.

Councillor Gibbons requested an amendment to Councillor Byrne's proposal stating that Council send a clear message to DfI regarding recommendations from the planning department to refuse the application by having a recorded vote for transparency.

Councillor Byrne stated he could not accept Councillor Gibbons' amendment as he was not happy with the report in front of Members, not happy with Council declaring a climate emergency and not having extensive discussions and site visits regarding the application. He stated the PAC should robustly interrogate all the information on both sides and they can provide a steer for the Minister for Infrastructure to make a decision.

Councillor Reilly spoke in support of Councillor Gibbons' proposal raising concerns that Council was giving out a very weak message by not making a decision and carrying out their statutory function. Councillor Tinnelly concurred with Councillor Reilly's comments.

In response to points raised from Councillor McMurray and Councillor Hanna, Ms Largey responded that if Members supported the proposal, officers would be able to record the discussions that had taken place, any issues raised in favour or against the proposal, and the reasons why Council took the view that a more detailed public inquiry was required. This would be used to frame the response to DfI by highlighting the issues that had arisen. The only cost to Council would be officer time in terms of preparing or representing Council at the public inquiry.

Councillor Byrne accepted Councillor Clarke's amendment and the Chairperson put Councillor Byrne's amended proposal as follows: **"that Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon calling on her to hold an independent public inquiry and that Council did not take a formal decision on the planning application"** to a recorded vote, as requested by Councillor Reilly, the results of which were as follows: (copy appended to these minutes)

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| FOR: | 35 |
| AGAINST: | 3 |
| ABSTENTIONS: | 1 |

The proposal was carried.

Councillor Gibbons expressed his disappointment at the decision to go to a public inquiry and sending a mixed message to the Department, he believed Council had offloaded responsibility and the hard decisions that needed to be made with respect to the application.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Agreed: | On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed that Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon calling on her to hold an independent public inquiry and that Council did not take a formal decision on the planning application. |
|----------------|---|

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 20:35pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7th December 2020.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 26/10/2020 VENUE: Teams Meeting MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Cllr Byrne's proposal

| COUNCILLOR | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| T Andrews | 1 | | | |
| P Brown | 2 | | | |
| R Burgess | 3 | | | |
| P Byrne | 4 | | | |
| C Casey | 5 | | | |
| W Clarke | 6 | | | |
| D Curran | 7 | | | |
| L Devlin | 8 | | | |
| S Doran | 9 | | | |
| C Enright | | | 1 | |
| A Finnegan | 10 | | | |
| H Gallagher | 11 | | | |
| M Gibbons | | 1 | | |
| O Hanlon | 12 | | | |
| G Hanna | 13 | | | |
| V Harte | 14 | | | |
| R Howell | 15 | | | |
| M Larkin | 16 | | | |
| A Lewis | 17 | | | |
| O Magennis | 18 | | | |
| G Malone | | | | X |
| C Mason | 19 | | | |
| D McAteer | 20 | | | |
| L McEvoy | 21 | | | |
| H McKee | 22 | | | |
| K McKevitt | 23 | | | |
| A McMurray | 24 | | | |
| R Mulgrew | 25 | | | |
| D Murphy | 26 | | | |
| G O'Hare | 27 | | | |
| B Ó Muirí | | | | X |
| K Owen | 28 | | | |
| H Reilly | | 2 | | |
| M Ruane | 29 | | | |
| M Savage | 30 | | | |
| G Sharvin | 31 | | | |
| G Stokes | 32 | | | |
| D Taylor | 33 | | | |
| J Tinnelly | | 3 | | |
| J Trainor | 34 | | | |
| B Walker | 35 | | | |
| TOTALS | 35 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 09 November 2020 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor A McMurray

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor D Curran
Councillor W Clarke
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 A Finnegan
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor H McKee

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

ERT/157/2020: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

ERT/158/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrews declared a pecuniary interest in Item No. 6 regarding Rural Development Programme Administration Contracts extensions.

Councillor Savage declared an interest in Item No. 10 regarding Licence Agreements with JC Decaux for advertisement hoarding boards.

**ERT/159/2020: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/147/2020- Temporary Car Parking Albert Basin Newry

Councillor Stokes said he had been informed by a member of the public that the new US President Elect Joe Biden's great great grandfather had emigrated to the US from Newry Port. He asked that subject to Council officials confirming this information was correct, that the Council consider extending an invitation to Mr Biden to visit Newry should he plan to visit the island of Ireland in the future.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed Council officials establish if information regarding the new US President Elect, Mr Joe Bidens's great great grandfather's emigration to the US from Newry Port is correct, that the Council consider extending an invitation to Mr Biden to visit Newry should he plan to visit the island of Ireland during his presidency.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 October 2020.

BUSINESS PLANS/GOVERNANCE

ERT/160/2020: ERT BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the ERT Business Plan Review October 2020 – March 2021.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Business Plan Review October 2020 – March 2021.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/161/2020: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding funding received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore built heritage in Warrenpoint Municipal Park.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed as follows regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park:**

- (a) To note the action reports from the Steering Group meetings held on 12 August 2020 and 8 October 2020.**
- (b) To review and approve the charges as outlined in the Event Management Plan (Action Report 8 October 2020**

(6.15pm - Councillor T Andrews left the meeting)

**ERT/162/2020: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
ADMINISTRATION CONTRACT EXTENSIONS**

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreement and variation to the existing contract with regard to the Rural Development Programme.

(6.20pm - Councillor T Andrews rejoined the meeting)

**ERT/163/2020: EDRF / INVEST NI FUNDING
RE: SALES & TRADE BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding ERDF / Invest NI funding for a Sales and Trade Business Support Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- (a) To accept a Letter of Offer from ERDF / Invest NI for a new Sales and Trade Programme, between NMDDC and LCCC.
- (b) Officers will now work with LCCC to procure the delivery element of the programme. 2. To approve an annual Council contribution is £15,240 Year 1, and £30,240 for year 2, as detailed within the resource section 3. NMDDC will work with Council legal section to develop and sign with LCCC a data sharing and partnership agreement to set out governance and management of the programme.

**ERT/164/2020: NIBSUP : LETTER OF OFFER
RE: GO FOR IT PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a

letter of offer from NIBSUP regarding the new Go For It Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- (a) To note that the Letter of Offer from ERDF / Invest NI has now been received for a new Go for It NI Programme, commencing April 2021.
- (b) To Approve that Officers will now work with the lead Council to progress procurement for the appointment of delivery agents.
- (c) To approve an annual Council contribution of £75,000 as detailed within the resource section

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/165/2020: LICENCE AGREEMENT
RE: ICONIC PLAY STRUCTURE
TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Licence Agreement between Council and DAERA for the Iconic Play Structure at Tollymore Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to sign a Licence Agreement between DAERA and NMDDC for the Iconic Play Structure at Tollymore Forest Park. The Licence to be valid until July 2025.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Burgess 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/166/2020: LICENCE AGREEMENTS
RE: ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS CANAL BANK NEWRY
NMDDC AND JC DECAUX**

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control, regarding the renewal of Licence Agreements with J C Decaux in respect of two advertising hoardings on Council land at Canal Bank Newry.
(Copy circulated)

ERT/167/2020: PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding the Public Realm Enhancement Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

**ERT/166/2020: Licence Agreements: Advertisement Boards
Canal Bank Newry
NMDDC and JC Decaux**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Larkin it was agreed to renew both Licence Agreements with JC Decaux for a single and a double advertising hoarding at Canal Bank 1 car park, Dublin Bridge, Newry for a term of 5 years.**

ERT/167/2020: Public Realm Enhancement Scheme

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed as follows:**

- (a) Council Officers to continue to work closely with the Councils Framework Contractor / Grounds Maintenance to have works delivered and completed by 31st March 2021.
- (b) Council now approve the completed Business Case for the Public Realm Enhancement Scheme.

FOR NOTING

ERT/168/2020: RING OF GULLION WATER IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding funding received from NIEA Water Improvement Fund to deliver a project to improve water quality to focus on water bodies in the Ring of Gullion AONB. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the Council have successfully received funding in the sum of £15,000 from NI Environment Agency through their Water Improvement Fund. This grant is 75% funded, with match funding from volunteer time from a Master Student's work experience.

ERT/169/2020: UPDATE RE: PLANNING IT

Read: Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an update on a replacement IT system for Planning.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: To note the update contained in Report dated 09 November 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a replacement IT system for Planning.

ERT/170/2020: HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM

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

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

ERT/171/2020: **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES – OCTOBER 2020**

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

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

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.00pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 December 2020.

Signed: Councillor A McMurray
Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 12 November 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre
(Hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Councillor T Andrews | Councillor A Finnegan |
| Councillor C Mason | Councillor G Stokes |

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director
 Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy
 Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
 Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates & Project Management
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
 (Administration)
 Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director
 Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran and Magennis.

SPR/164/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Savage declared an interest in item 6 – Councils Statutory Advertising

**SPR/165/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 15
OCTOBER 2020 & SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Action Sheets of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 15 October 2020 & Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Friday 23 October 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/160/2020 Request to use Monaghan Row

Councillor Byrne asked for an update in relation to the request to use Monaghan Row. Mr Quinn confirmed that he had been liaising with the Trust and at this stage they had not responded with any firm proposals. He advised it was being discussed with their senior management team and he would continue to keep members updated.

Councillor Byrne asked that the item remained on the action sheet until a response was received.

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 15 October 2020 & Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 October 2020, be noted, and actions removed as marked with SPR/160/2020 - Request to use Monaghan Row to remain on the action sheet.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/166/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2020 – ‘STAND ALONE’ WOMEN’S SUB-COMMITTEE

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Stand Alone Women’s Sub-Committee **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

Councillor Mason highlighted the importance of having a non- restrictive informal structure comprising female representatives, along with male counterparts to attend and become champions on women’s issues. She stated that only 26% of councillors in the north were female which was well below the European average of 33%. Newry Mourne and Down is ranked 8th out of 11 councils in terms of percentages of female representatives with 27% compared to Causeway Coast and Glens who had 40% female representation in their chamber. She stated that women in politics were under-represented across the board partly due to a lack of confidence and self-assurance in a male dominated sphere. Training and mentoring programmes were needed to help women attain knowledge, skills and confidence to stand for election and be more respected to break down some of the barriers for political representatives.

Although Councillor Magennis had previously seconded the motion at the Council Meeting, in her absence, Councillor Finnegan spoke to the motion on her behalf.

Members spoke in support of the motion stating it was crucial in terms of equality and respect for women especially in a political environment where women seemed to be more open to abuse and welcomed the fact that it was not going to be a closed-door group to promote gender equality.

Councillor Andrews highlighted the work currently ongoing within the National Association of Councillors with regard to Councillor conditions, their role and unsocial hours.

Mrs Carville highlighted that the report recommended the establishment of a working group rather than a women's sub-committee with the terms of reference to be established on that basis.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that Members agree to the following recommendations:**
- **To establish a 'Women's Working Group' and;**
 - **Officers prepare a Terms of Reference which sets out the working group's scope, purpose and proposed membership.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/167/2020: DRAFT POLICIES – NAMING COUNCIL FACILITIES/ARTWORKS & SCULPTURES/TREE PLANTING

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, Draft Policies – Naming Council Facilities/Artworks & Sculptures/Tree Planting **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí welcomed the report and queried if future decisions on naming of Council facilities were to be taken, would there be an opportunity to have bi-lingual signage or naming something bi-lingually. He also pointed out that someone could plant a tree in their own premises if Council could not facilitate.

Mrs Mackin responded stating that section 2.4 of Newry Mourne and Down District Council 'Brand Identity Guidelines and Associated Procedures' in relation to the naming of and renaming of facilities set out that all signs should comply with Council corporate branding guidelines in relation to signage and specialist naming signage should not be permitted.

Councillor McKee highlighted 4.1 of the report in relation to park benches and plaques stating that trees had not been mentioned and should be included. Mrs Mackin confirmed original policy had been amended to reflect that there were new draft policies of which tree policy was now included.

In response to a query from Councillor McKee regarding costs, Mrs Carville confirmed that if Council had to remove a tree, the original requester of the tree would not be out of pocket and reimbursed what they had paid initially.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed the report and highlighted that memorial tree planting had previously been brought to Council and, although there was a certain amount of bureaucracy involved, it was welcomed overall.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that Members approve the draft policies, associated guidelines and procedures and application forms.**

SPR/168/2020: COUNCIL'S STATUTORY ADVERTISING

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, Council's Statutory Advertising

(Copy circulated)

Councillor Brown proposed that consideration be given to using online newspapers and asked officers to ensure the advertising provider is doing this, this was seconded by Councillor Walker.

Mrs Mackin confirmed that the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee had previously taken the decision not to look at online providers, however this could be reinvestigated. The framework agreement with the advertising agency looked at providing advertising solutions and media advice for multiple end users, utilising all means possible to ensure the message was circulated as widely as possible.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Walker, to continue to use the services of the Council's appointed Advertisement Agency under the current ESPO Framework Agreement for Advertising Solutions to produce, manage and place advertisements in the local weekly press titles on behalf of the Council thus ensuring the Council's corporate identity is protected and geographical spread, reach and value for money can be achieved.

It was also agreed that consideration be given to using online newspapers to get the message out digitally and to ensure the advertising provider is doing this.

FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

SPR/169/2020: REQUEST FROM PHA FOR NATIONAL TESTING PARTNERSHIP VENUE IN NEWRY (WALK IN TEST FACILITY)

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management regarding, Request from PHA for National Testing Partnership venue in Newry (Walk in test facility) **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Savage welcomed the officer's report and asked for reassurance that the request would have no impact on the plans for the development of the 15-acre park on the site given the timeline.

Mr Quinn confirmed that although the request was for a minimum of 3 months, there was no indication of how long it was likely to last, however plans for the park could continue in parallel with this essential project and there would be parameters built into the agreement to ensure there would be no impact on the site.

Councillor Andrews asked whether the Public Health Agency could be asked to offer similar services in other locations within the District, given the huge geographical spread of the District.

Mr Quinn advised he had already been in contact with the PHA regarding other locations being added as walk-in facilities. They had responded stating at this point it would only be Newry, however, they would keep this under review.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Members agree to offer PHA additional space at Albert Basin for a temporary structure/s.

FOR NOTING

SPR/170/2020

**MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME
BOARD MEETING – 20 OCTOBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting – 20 October 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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.

At this point in the meeting it was agreed to take item 13

SPR/171/2020 SURPLUS ASSET UPDATE

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management regarding, Surplus Asset Update **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Walker proposed to accept the officer's recommendations. This was seconded by Councillor Savage.

Councillor Murphy proposed an amendment that a decision be deferred on the play area at Bleary Bungalows, Newry for 1 month to allow the neighbouring landowners to make a bid.

Councillors Walker and Savage were content to accept the amendment.

Councillor Savage asked that his disappointment be noted with regard to the fact that neither a Housing Association nor NIHE had progressed their interest on the 60 Cecil Street, Newry site which would be perfect for social housing and encouraged elected representatives to ask NIHE or Housing Associations to consider the site.

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

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

3.1 Members to note the content of this Report and associated Appendices.

3.2 Members approval to formally proceed with the sale of

Newry Sports Centre to the Southern Regional College, for the value stated in the officer's report, on receipt of SRC receiving their business case approval.

3.3 Members approval to formally proceed with the sale of the following surplus assets to bidders listed at the values stated in the officer's report, which were on the open market between 29th September – 3rd November 2020:

- Play Area at Ashtree Cottages, Newry
- Former Refuse Disposal Site, Croreagh, Newry
- Lockkeepers Cottage, Newry
- Play Area at Crown Villas, Crieve, Newry

3.4 Members approval for the next stages of the conveyancing process listed in 3.3 to proceed immediately.

3.5 Members formal approval to commence the D1 process for the following surplus assets:

- The Clock Recreation Area Shrigley
- Lands at Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel, BT34 4DB and
- It was agreed that the Play area at the Bleary Bungalows Newry decision be deferred for 1 month.

SPR/172/2020

EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLANS OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding, Emergency Business Plans October 2020 – March 2021(**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gallagher it was agreed that members approve the following recommendations:

- Chief Executive's Departmental Emergency Business Plans October 2020 – March 2021.
- Corporate Services Emergency Business Plans October 2020 – March 2021

SPR/173/2020

OFFICE FOR PRODUCT SAFETY & STANDARDS FUNDING OFFER

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding, Office for Products Safety & Standards Funding offer (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Elected Members agree to the recruitment of an Environmental Officer until 31 March 2021 to carry out the work as detailed in the report.

SPR/174/2020: STAGE 2 TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT & CAR PARKING

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Stage 2 Traffic Transport & Car Parking **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, that Elected Members agree to consider the contents of the report and approve the recommendation to appoint White Young Green via the Councils Multi-Disciplinary Framework to undertake a desk top analysis of walking, cycling and public transport arrangements that exist within Newry, to identify opportunities to improve multimodal transport, and to undertake consultation with key stakeholders in regard to same.

SPR/175/2020 PROPOSED PLANNING DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 Mr Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding proposed Planning Department Structure. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Elected Members agree the new Planning Department Structure in Appendix 1 allowing all the positions to be filled permanently through the necessary recruitment processes.

SPR/176/2020 ALBERT BASIN CITY PARK – GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mr M Lipsett Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin City Park – Governance Structures **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the following recommendations:

1. 15-Arce City Park Project at the Albert Basin in Newry becomes part of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Scheme Project and associated governance

- arrangements as per appendix 1.
2. The Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group being discontinued, and the project progressed as per the above point 1 recommendation.
3. The Stakeholder Forum for the Albert Basin continue to meet as required.

FOR NOTING

SPR/177/2020 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Strategy Policy & Resources, regarding Management Accounts to 30 September 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

SPR/178/2020 UPDATE ON COUNCIL FINANCES

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Strategy Policy & Resources, regarding update on Council Finances **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

SPR/179/2020 UPDATE ON BREXIT PLANNING

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Strategy Policy & Resources, regarding update on Brexit Planning **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

SPR/180/2020 STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET - 9 NOVEMBER 2020

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

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 9 November 2020.

SPR/181/2020 BANN ROAD PLAYING FIELDS, CASTLEWELLAN - LEASE ISSUE

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

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

SPR/182/2020 JUDICIAL REVIEW COSTS – MCCREESH PARK, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 12 November 2020 from Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor, regarding Judicial Review Costs – McCreesh Park, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, that Elected Members approve payment of the negotiated amount approved, as detailed in the officers report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 20.32pm.

Signed: **Councillor Gareth Sharvin**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2020

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 16 November 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor L McEvoy

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

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

Also in attendance: Councillor C Enright

Officials in attendance: 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/133/2020: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

AHC/134/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Casey declared an interest in relation to item AHC/053/2020 on the action sheet regarding lease of lands at Barcroft Community Centre as a member of Newry Felons.

At the request of the Chairperson it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Trainor to take item 10: Notice of Motion, Impact of Coronavirus on those living with Dementia at this point of the meeting.

Councillor B Ó Muirí joined the meeting during the following item – 6.12pm.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/135/2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

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

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

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

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

Councillor O’Hare seconded the motion.

In presenting the motion Councillor McEvoy advised that working within the Older People Sector, she had seen first-hand the impact COVID had had on those individuals who suffer from Alzheimer’s and dementia which was devastating, not only for the individual, but their family as well.

Councillor McEvoy pointed out the effects of the outbreak could not be undone, but urgent action could be taken to better protect people ahead of the winter, and in the future and that government needed to address the reality of lockdown for people affected by dementia. From the high death rate in care homes, to the significant cognitive decline for those who live in the community, to the rising mental health challenges for unpaid carers, the pandemic had had a severe impact, while exposing the fragmented social care system.

Councillor McEvoy asked that Council write to the Health Minister welcoming his commitment to reforming Adult Social Care and urge his department to heed Alzheimer’s Society ‘The Fog of Support’ to ensure those living with dementia were better protected now and into the future, allowing loved ones of care home residents to be given key worker status.

In summing up Councillor McEvoy requested that Council commit to building on the work of the Alzheimer’s Society of creating Dementia Friendly Communities by hosting virtual ‘Dementia Friendly Workshop’ which would increase awareness and confidence of staff to

better relate to, support and communicate with people with dementia to help tackle stigma, establish best practice and reduce barriers for our aging population within our Council area. Councillors Gallagher, Taylor, Walker, Ó Muirí and McMurray each spoke in support of the motion.

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a notice of motion on the impact of Coronavirus on those living with dementia. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare that "This Council notes with concern figures showing that over a quarter (27.5%) of those who died from covid-19 were people living with dementia and this is the most common underlying health condition associated with deaths from the virus. This Council welcomes the Minister for Health's stated commitment to reforming Adult Social Care and urges his Department to heed Alzheimer's Society's "The Fog of Support: An inquiry into the provision of respite care and carers assessments for people affected by dementia" to ensure those living with dementia are better protected now and into the future, specifically allowing loved ones of care home residents to be given key worker status. This Council will commit to build on the work of Alzheimer's Society of creating Dementia Friendly Communities by hosting a virtual 'Dementia Friendly Workshop' which will increase the awareness and confidence of our staff to better relate to, support and communicate with people with dementia to help tackle stigma, establish best practice and reduce barriers for our ageing population within our Council area."

Agreed: It was further agreed that the Health and Wellbeing department continued the ongoing work in relation to the issue of Dementia and seek to procure a Virtual Dementia Workshop for elected members and employees.

AHC/136/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2020

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/206/2019: Suicide Down to Zero

In response to a request from Councillor Mason for an update on the working group with the Southern and South Eastern Trusts, Mr E Devlin advised that due to the escalation of the Covid situation, it had not progressed any further at this stage however he would contact the Health Trusts.

Agreed: Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing to contact Southern and South Eastern Health Trusts to progress the Suicide Down to Zero Working Group.

Agreed: It was agreed by all to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2020.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/137/2020 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums update. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2020
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 22 October 2020
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2020.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2020.

AHC/138/2020 PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

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

recommendations which were agreed by the Peace IV Partnership on 5 November 2020:

- Procure and appoint relevant facilitator to deliver 1 BME Engagement Mechanism with the Syrian Community. Estimated cost: £9000.00 (subject to SEUPB approval).
- When designs and costs have been finalised and approved by CPD/SEUPB, delegated authority to proceed with the implementation of the BMX Track project in line with agreed timeframe and associated costs.
- When costs are agreed, approval to progress the Tom Dunn project in line with agreed timeline and associated costs (subject to SEUPB approval).

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/139/2020

TROPICANA UPGRADE WORKS

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding upgrade work required for Tropicana.
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Walker advised he would not be supporting the report and recommendations on upgrade work for the Tropicana, as he did not believe it was value for money with the current economic climate due to Covid.

Mr Tamati pointed out the upgrade works would ensure the Tropicana would be usable for a further 3-5 years and that in its current state, the Tropicana facility would be unable to open. He added that should Covid restrictions be lifted and works not undertaken, the Tropicana facility would not open next season, July and August 2021.

In response to a query from Councillor Trainor, Mr Tamati confirmed that during the months of July and August for the 2019/20 period there had been just over 11,000 users of the facility.

A discussion ensued during which Councillors McMurray, Gallagher, Mason and Trainor supported the officers report and recommendation regarding upgrade works for the Tropicana.

Councillor Gibbons proposed to accept the officers report and recommendation, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

The Chairperson put Councillor Gibbons proposal to a vote and asked for a show of hands, the results of which were as follows:

| | |
|----------|----|
| For: | 14 |
| Against: | 1 |

The proposal was carried.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to approve the following:
- An additional £150k to be committed to Councils Capital programme split across the 2020/21 and 2021/22 for upgrade works at Tropicana.
 - To progress with the Appoint of a consultant to develop specification and design for mechanical plant upgrade works.
 - To appoint contractors to undertake the proposed repair and upgrade works.

AHC/140/2020 **NEWCASTLE CENTRE – REPAIRS TO STRUCTURAL STEELWORK OF NEWCASTLE CENTRE AUDITORIUM EXTENSION**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Newcastle Centre, repairs to structural steelwork of Newcastle Centre Auditorium extension. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to points raised by Councillors Mason and Trainor, Mr Tamati clarified that by appointing a consultant, options could be identified to help resolve the issues relating to the structural steelwork and that it was hoped that this would be done within a 12-month period.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to approve the following:
- Immediate erection of scaffolding to the elevations of the steelwork at the Newcastle Centre auditorium extension to secure the area at an estimated cost of 40k per annum.
 - Appoint consultants to explore options for additional support for the structure or any other possible alternatives along with associated costs at an estimated cost of 10k.

AHC/141/2020 **ROCKPOOL UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding an update on the Rockpool. **(Copy circulated)**

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to approve the following:
- Appoint specialist consultants to undertake exploratory works at Rockpool and ensure associated cost estimates of £50k are included in Councils Capital Programme for 2020/21 to facilitate this.
 - Immediately appoint a contractor to remove the upper viewing platform at Rockpool.

AHC/142/2020

LEISURE – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Christmas and New Year opening hours for leisure. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Trainor in relation to how opening hours were determined, Mr Tamati advised opening hours had been reduced historically with low usage over the holiday period and were agreed when the Councils merged.

Councillor Trainor queried why particular hours were being chosen and whether users were consulted with regarding the opening times during this period. Mr Tamati advised he was happy to examine usage during this year's Christmas and New Year holiday period to inform next year.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Trainor subject to COVID-19 Restrictions to approve the following opening arrangements for leisure facilities over the 2020/21 Christmas and New Year period: Newry, Downpatrick and Kilkeel Leisure Centres

- Thursday 24th December 2020 Closed
- Friday 25th December 2020 Closed
- Saturday 26th December 2020 Closed
- Sunday 27th December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 10am – 4pm
- Monday 28th December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Tuesday 29th December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Wednesday 30th December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Thursday 31st December 2020 Open Reduced Hours 9:30am – 4pm
- Friday 1st January 2021 Closed
- Saturday 2nd January 2021 Open Normal Hours

Ballymote and Newcastle Centre
Closed Thursday 24th December 2020 to 1st January 2021 (inclusive), excludes statutory essential bookings which will be accommodated if required.

St Colman's and Outdoor Leisure Facilities

- Thursday 24th December 2020 Closed
- Friday 25th December 2020 Closed
- Saturday 26th December 2020 Closed, excludes grass pitches by approval for league matches if required.
- Sunday 27th December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Monday 28th December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Tuesday 29th December 2020 Open as per booking demand

- Wednesday 30th December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Thursday 31st December 2020 Open as per booking demand
- Friday 1st January 2021 Closed
- Saturday 2nd January 2021 Open Normal Hours

Agreed: It was agreed to examine the usage within leisure for 2020 Christmas and New Year period to inform decisions on opening hours for future years.

Councillor Trainor left the meeting at this point – 7pm.

AHC/143/2020

CONSULTATION OF THE FOOD HYGIENE RATING ACT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NI) 2020

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response to the Food Standards Agency on the proposed guidance on the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason, to approve the submission of the consultation response as outlined within the officer's report to the Food Standards Agency on the proposed guidance on the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020.

AHC/144/2020

CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE GUIDANCE ON THE SAFETY AND SHELF-LIFE OF VACUUM AND MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE PACKED CHILLED FOOD WITH RESPECT TO NON-PROTEOLYTIC AND CLOSTRIDIUM BOTULLNUM – CHILLED FRESH BEEF, LAMB AND PORK

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response to the Food Standards Agency on the review of the Guidance on the safety and shelf-life of vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled food with respect to non-proteolytic *Clostridium botulinum* – chilled fresh beef, lamb and pork. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker, to approve the submission of the consultation response as outlined within the officer's report to the Food Standards Agency on the review of the Guidance on the safety and shelf-life of vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled food with respect to non-proteolytic *Clostridium botulinum* – chilled fresh beef, lamb and pork.

AHC/145/2020 UPDATE ON LIVE HERE LOVE HERE

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding an update on Live Here Love Here **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to continue to support Live Here Love Here for the 2020-2021 period at a cost of £26000, subject to approval within the estimates process.

FOR NOTING – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/146/2020 UPDATE ON WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding an update on proposals for the Walking and Cycling Strategy **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the update report on Active Travel work.

AHC/147/2020 ALL PARTY GROUP ON REDUCING HARM RELATED TO GAMBLING – INQUIRY CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Read: Report dated 16 November 2020 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding an all Party Group on reducing harm related to gambling – Inquiry Call for Evidence. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the comments outlined within the report and as returned to the All-party Group and the Terms of Reference.

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

AHC/148/2020 SINGLE TENDER ACTION – INDOOR LEISURE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 16 November 2020 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding single tender action for indoor leisure. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: Mr Tamati advised point 9 of the recommendation contained within the report should read Facility Alarms (and not Fire Alarms)

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to approve the single tender actions to be completed as outlined within the officer's report for the following:**

- 1. Pool Plant Servicing, Repairs and Maintenance**
- 2. Pool Chemicals**
- 3. Air Conditioning and Ventilation**
- 4. Building Management Systems**
- 5. Pool Moving Floor Servicing**
- 6. Gas Supply's**
- 7. Royal Lifesaving Society NPLQ**
- 8. Music Licensing PRS PLL**
- 9. Facility Alarms**

AHC/149/2020

EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 16 November 2020 from Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding the Active and Healthy Communities Departmental Emergency Business Plans for October 2020 – March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the Active and**

Healthy Communities Departmental Emergency Business Plans October 2020 - March 2021.

Councillor Finnegan left the meeting at this point – 7.15pm

AHC/150/2020

MOORHILL QUARRY – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 16 November 2020 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding an expression of interest relating to Moorhill Quarry. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to approve the business case submission from Mountaineering Ireland for Moorhill Quarry which had been evaluated and met the minimum threshold under the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016) and that Moorhill Quarry progress to a public EOI process in line with the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016).

Agreed It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Andrews to send a letter of sympathy to the family of former Bolton City Council Mayoress, Mrs Gay Wharton.

Signed: Councillor L McEvoy
Chairperson

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NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor T Andrews

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

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Non-Committee Members | Councillor P Brown | Councillor C Enright |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Officials in Attendance: | Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting) |
| | Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance |
| | Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management |
| | Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer |
| | Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer |

NS/240/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Magennis.

NS/241/2020: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/242/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**NS/243/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION –
GREEN NEW DEAL STRATEGY**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Enright:

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

- **Committing to delivering a new Council funded green space/park project in every DEA, and identifying these for inclusion in capital plan by the end of 2021/22 financial year**
- **Installing recycling bins in Council-owned public places where they do not already exist**
- **Develop an allotment strategy for the district, allowing local communities to draw down support to establish allotments in their communities, with the aim of having at least 1 Council supported allotment in each DEA by 2024**
- **Working with local businesses, especially large chains, to trial a campaign of printing customer's licence plates on takeaway bags to discourage littering**
- **Producing a detailed report for how each Council-owned or operated building can become carbon neutral by 2035 and setting a budget to facilitate this starting from 21/22**
- **Stop buying any fossil fuelled vehicles immediately, and start replacing current vehicle inventory with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles**
- **Setting a goal of 10% of Council's rates coming from renewable energy developments by 2025, and developing a Taskforce to attract inward investment to meet this target**
- **Setting a goal for each Council owned car park to have at least 5% of their parking bays as charging points for exclusive use by electric/hybrid vehicles. And larger Council-owned car parks to install PV panels providing power for 10 or more spaces**
- **Draw up a detailed Climate Change Emergency Plan, taking into account all these points, reflecting the recommendations of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Group, and embedding these throughout the Council's new Local Development Plan**
- **A commitment to reflect throughout the new Local Development Plan the importance and impact of the circular/electrified economy, and**

how the Plan will facilitate Council to take advantage of opportunities in this area."

Councillor Brown formally proposed and Councillor Enright seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Brown emphasised the importance of the Motion and said there was no doubt we were in the midst of climate crisis with global temperatures and emissions continuing to rise and the threat of irreversible environmental destruction likely in many of our lifetimes. He said whilst the bulk of responsibility lay with World Leaders, as individuals and as a Local Authority everyone had a part to play in reducing emissions and building a more sustainable future and tackling the climate emergency.

Councillor Brown said the Council had already led on these issues by declaring a climate emergency and establishing a Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group and supporting the divestment of funds from fossil fuels and supporting a tree planting and bio diversity strategy, but he said more could still be done.

Councillor Brown said COVID had shown the need for green space and a clean environment and the Motion was trying to balance priorities that were linked to climate change concerns with also those linked to the local environment.

Councillor Brown then individually outlined each of the 10 proposals contained in the Motion.

Councillor Enright formally seconded the Motion. He said in his view the Sustainability Committee should be merged with the Strategic Finance Committee as there was not one aspect of the new circular economy that does not raise Council revenue, raise rates or reduce Council costs. He said there were no costs associated with the new circular economy for the Council, only opportunities.

Councillor Enright spoke on the issue of electric vehicles and said on this alone there would be a need to quadruple the amount of electricity within our area, some of which had to be produced here and not have all the rates going to other Councils in Northern Ireland and none coming to this Council. He said there was a clear revenue opportunity for the Council in terms of the number of car parking spaces they had available and the thousands of cars that would need to be charged.

Councillor Enright referred to the impact on ordinary people in Newry, Mourne and Down and said outlined measures that all new houses in England had to have to achieve zero energy. He said Council controlled the development plan, controlled building regulations and there was the opportunity to increase the take home income of every household across the area by massively reducing the expenditure they had to make every week on petrol, diesel, electricity bill and heating bill. He also spoke on the provision of local jobs in the new circular economy.

Councillors Clarke, McKee, Stokes, and McKevitt spoke on the Motion.

Following the discussion Councillor Clarke proposed and Councillor Owen seconded to amend the Motion and grant approval to Officers to further scope the issues contained within the Notice of Motion and to prepare a report which summarises the status of existing and planned activity in this area. A report to be tabled at a future Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and to also write to the Northern Ireland Executive clarifying what actions are currently being taken and what actions are being planned by the NI Executive in respect of climate change.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to accept the amendment to the Motion and to grant approval to Officers to further scope the issues contained within the Notice of Motion and to prepare a report which summarises the status of existing and planned activity in this area. A report to be tabled at a future Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and to also write to the Northern Ireland Executive clarifying what actions are currently being taken and what actions are being planned by the NI Executive in respect of climate change.**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes regarding the above Notice of Motion and outlining the key issues for Council. *(Circulated)*.

Noted: It was noted Committee had unanimously agreed to approve the way forward as outlined above.

NS/244/2020: **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE
EMERGENCY PLAN (OCTOBER 2020-MARCH 2021)**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J McBride, seeking approval from the Committee to the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan which covered the period from October 2020 to March 2021. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- Councillor Casey said he had received many representations from people who had wanted to purchase double burial plots in Monkshill Cemetery but because of possible excess COVID 19 deaths, they were only able to purchase a single plot with the single slot beside their grave being left empty, to enable them to purchase at a later date. However it was now 6 months down the line and people were looking to erect headstones and to do this they needed to have a double plot. He expressed his concerns that letters were to have been sent out providing clarity on this but that had not been done. In response Mr Scullion said it had been a decision of the Council to implement these procedures during the pandemic and that the second plot would be offered when the

Council agreed to do so. He said letters would be sent out to people this week explaining the situation

- Councillor Stokes referred to the ballot for industrial action and asked if this would have an impact on Council services. In response Mr McBride advised staffing issues were restricted items, considered at the SP&R Committee but the Department had contingency plans for a range of scenarios.

(Councillor Stokes left the meeting)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McKee it was agreed to approve the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan (October 2020- March 2021) with the exception of the current arrangements for the prioritisation and protection of the Council burial service.**

It was agreed officials bring a report to the December Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting on permitting people who have purchased a single cemetery plot, to now purchase the additional adjacent plot to enable them to erect headstones.

It was also agreed that letters of clarification on this issue be sent to all people who had been affected by the procedures in relation to the purchasing of burial plots in Council owned cemeteries during the pandemic.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/245/2020: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2020

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Action Sheet from the Council's Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting held on 15 October 2020. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 15 October 2020.**

Noted: Mr Scullion advised he had received a request on behalf of business owners in the English Street area of Downpatrick for the Council to erect some type of Christmas illuminations in the area. He advised officials had visited the area but there were difficulties with this request as the façade of the street was historic and there

were no lamp posts on which to erect features and there was no natural extension of the current scheme. He said officials had considered lighting up the façade of Down Arts Centre which faced into both English Street and Scotch Street but it was currently closed and this was an expensive option with costings in the region of £6k and annual recurring costs of approximately £3k.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed that no action be taken on a request to provide Christmas Illuminations in the English Street area of Downpatrick this year but that this matter be referred to the January/February Meeting of the Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting for further discussion and consideration.**

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/246/2020: REPORT ON FLY TIPPING REVISED SHARED PROTOCOL

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J Parkes, re: revised Fly Tipping Shared Protocol. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Council now sign up to the Fly Tipping Revised Shared Protocol and review after 12 months.**

AGREED: **At the request of Councillor Taylor it was agreed Mr Parkes contact DAERA and ask them to arrange to have a burnt out car removed from Ballymoyer Forest as quickly as possible.**

NS/247/2020: CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS – REFUSE COLLECTION AND HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes providing an update to the Committee on proposed holiday arrangements. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor McKevitt , it was agreed to note the Christmas and New Year arrangements for refuse collection and household recycling centres.**

AGREED: **At the request of Councillor McKevitt it was agreed Officers prepare a social media message on the proposed holiday**

arrangements so that Councillors could share this information.

FOR NOTING

NS/248/2020: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2020

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

NS/249/2020: Arc21 JC MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 24 September 2020. *(Circulated)*.

NS/250/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mason, 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 13-19 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 Murphy, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/251/2020: HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE (HRC) RESIDUAL WASTE PRICE INCREASE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Household Recycling Centre Residual Waste price increase. *(Circulated)*.

NS/252/2020: RESIDUAL WASTE PROCESSING CONTRACT

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes, re: Residual Waste Processing Contract. *(Circulated)*.

NS/253/2020: BUSINESS CASE – MINOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for supply of summer and winter bedding plans for public spaces 2021 to 2023. *(Circulated)*.

(Councillor Finnegan and Councillor Murphy left the meeting).

NS/254/2020: BUSINESS CASE – SUPPLY OF SUMMER AND WINTER BEDDING PLANS FOR PUBLIC SPACES 2021 TO 2023

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: business case for fleet transition strategy. *(Circulated)*.

NS/255/2020: BUSINESS CASE – REPLACEMENT OF SMALL VEHICLES

Noted: It was noted this item had been removed from the agenda.

NS/256/2020: BUSINESS CASE – RECEIPT/COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND PROCESSING (RECYCLE/RECOVERY) OF PLASTICS CARDBOARD, AND PAPER WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE COUNCIL'S HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRCs)

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Business Case: Receipt/collection, treatment and processing (recycle/recovery) of plastics, cardboard and paper waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres. *(Circulated)*.

NS/257/2020: BUSINESS CASE – COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND PROCESSING OF RUBBLE, SOIL AND DIY WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE COUNCIL'S HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRCs)

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Business Case – Collection, Treatment and Processing of rubble, soil and DIY waste deposited at the Council's HRCs. *(Circulated)*.

NS/258/2020: BUSINESS CASE – MONITORING, REPORTING, SAMPLING AND TESTING SERVICES AT THE COUNCIL'S CLOSED LANDFILL SITES

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Business Case – Monitoring, reporting, sampling and testing services at the Council’s closed Landfill Sites. *(Circulated)*.

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

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

Item 13 – Report on Household Recycling Waste (HRC) Residual Waste Price Increase

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the price increase for the collection, treatment and processing of HRC residual waste as set out at section 2.1 of the report.

Item 14 – Report on Residual Waste Processing Contract

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to approve the Heads of Terms of Agreement following mediation for the settlement of the dispute between the two parties in respect of the Council’s residual waste processing contract.

Item 15 – Business Case – Supply of summer and winter bedding plants for public spaces 2021 to 2023

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the Business Case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three will see the appointment of a competent supplier of bedding plants who will supply the Council with summer and winter bedding plants over a three-year period with an annual value of £26,000. Savings realised from Option 3 (over Option 2) will be directed toward permanent sustainable landscape improvements – moving to become more sustainable and providing a more permanent year-round display.

It was also agreed officers write to DfI and ask them to consider making a financial contribution towards costs incurred by Council in planting out DfI owned lands.

Item 16 – Business Cases – Replacement of small vehicles

Noted: **This item was withdrawn from the agenda.**

Item 17 – Business Case – Receipt/collection, treatment and processing (recycle/recovery) of Plastics, Cardboard and Paper Waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract(s) for the receipt / collection, treatment and processing of Plastics, Cardboard and Paper waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).**

Item 18 – Business Case – Collection, treatment and processing of rubble, soil and DIY waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract for the collection, treatment and processing of Rubble, Soil and DIY waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).**

Item 19 – Business Case – monitoring, reporting, sampling and testing services at the Council's closed landfill sites

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract for the provision of monitoring, reporting, sampling & testing services at the Council's closed landfill sites.**

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 December 2020.

Signed: **Councillor T Andrews**
Deputy Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: **Mr J McBride**
Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 3.30pm via Microsoft Teams.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor G Sharvin

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor W Walker

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward, Chief Executive
Ms 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, Acting Director of Neighbourhood Services
Ms K Bingham, Head of Performance & Improvement
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan, ASM
Mr B O'Neill, NIAO
Ms D McKim, NIAO

AC/070/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor K Owen

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at this stage – 3.36pm

AC/071/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest received.

(3.40pm - Mr B O'Neill, NIAO left the meeting at this stage)

AC/072/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

AGREED: It was agreed to defer the Action Sheet arising out of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2020 to the Audit Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 January 2021.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Devlin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during these items of business.

AC/073/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT (DRAFT) REPORT RE: SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS

Read: ASM Internal Audit (Draft) Report on Investigation into Council's use of Single Tender Actions. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/074/2020: UPDATE RE: INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2020-21

Read: Report dated 11 November 2020 from Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services regarding an update on the Internal Audit Plan 2020-21. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to come out of closed session.

(4.34pm - Councillor Walker left the meeting during the above discussions)
(4.55pm - Councillor Enright entered the meeting during the above discussions)

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

AC/073/2020: ASM Internal Audit - (Draft) Report re: Single Tender Actions

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to accept the recommendations contained within the report.

Agreed: It was agreed to retain this item as a standing item on the Audit Committee agenda going forward.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that ASM do a follow-up report for the Audit Committee next September.

(5.01pm - Councillors Devlin, Lewis and Reilly left the meeting during the above discussions)

AC/074/2020: Update re: Internal Audit Plan 2020-21

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that the Procurement Audit be removed from the 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan and that the allocated 10 days are used to offset the cost of the Single Tender Action investigation which is being carried out by ASM Internal Auditor.

Noted: Councillor Hanlon asked for it be recorded that she was concerned Councillors were not being given enough time to digest the contents of reports as information was not being sent out in time.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.10pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 December 2020.

Signed: Ms D Carville
Director Corporate Services

Signed: Ms B Slevin
Independent Chairperson

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre
(Hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Councillor T Andrews | Councillor R Burgess |
| Councillor W Clarke | Councillor D Curran |
| Councillor L Devlin | Councillor G Malone |
| Councillor D McAteer | Councillor K McKevitt |
| Councillor A McMurray | Councillor D Taylor |
| Councillor J Tinnelly | Councillor J Trainor |
| Councillor G Stokes | |

Officials in Attendance: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR & Safeguarding
Mr P Preen, HR Policy & Projects Manager
Mrs L Fitzsimmons, HR Manager
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/183/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran and Murphy.

SPR/184/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Savage, 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/185/2020: TO AGREE THE OUTCOMES OF A CONCILIATED PROCESS WITH THE LABOUR RELATIONS AGENCY

Read: Report dated 1 December 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Trade Union Dispute/Terms and Condition of Employment **(Copy circulated)**

The Chief Executive, Mrs D Carville and Mrs C Miskelly updated Members on recent conciliatory meetings that had taken place involving the Labour Relations Agency and Trade Unions on 25 and 30 November 2020. They advised that appendix 5 was not included within the agenda papers as Joint Trade Unions had not signed off on the document as yet. Mrs Miskelly clarified the position of the Trade Unions was that time was against them rather than a lack of will to make agreement.

Following lengthy discussions, during which Members thanked the officers for the work undertaken thus far, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne to have a short adjournment.

The meeting did then adjourn – 19.42pm
The meeting did then resume – 19.57pm

Councillor Byrne highlighted concerns regarding the lack of Appendix 5 within the agenda papers, as it was an independent document. He understood that time was an issue and proposed that Members agree to noting the documents that had been presented, noting the discussions that had taken place, proposing in principle that they move staff from scale 2-3 to scale 3-4 as recommended and release the resources in order to continue with the next stage of the negotiations. He stated that due to time pressures this would enable the document to be presented to Members prior to ratification at full Council. This was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Members agreed with the proposal. Councillor Brown advised he was abstaining.

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

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

- That Members note the discussions which had taken place as set out in Appendices 1-4.
- That Members approve, in principle, for ratification at full Council, the MS proposal which would mean all Drivers and Loader/Operatives move onto the same JD with effect from 1st December 2020; based on the previously evaluated legacy Newry and Mourne District Council job descriptions LGV category C Driver (post 126) and Refuse Loader (post 189). The material impact of this would be that Refuse Operatives from the former Down Council will move from Scale 2 to Scale 3 and Refuse Drivers from the former Down Council will move from Scale 3 to Scale 4.

Those working in the former Newry and Mourne Council area are already employed on Scale 3 & 4 respectively. This will be agreed without prejudice to further discussions/negotiations in relation to the legal standing of the Down District Council Single Status Agreement.

- That Members agree, in principle, to make available the necessary resources through paid release; to support the delivery of the agreed programme of work to the end of March 2021 relating to negotiations on Terms and Conditions; which will be brought back through SPRC.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 20.10pm.

Signed: **Councillor Gareth Sharvin**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 10.00am in Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry and via Microsoft Teams

P/103/2020: Local Development Plan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Larkin it was agreed note the content of Report dated 18 November 2020 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer and agree as follows:

- The draft revised Timetable (Appendix);
- That following Council approval, the Planning Department liaises with the PAC and other key stakeholders prior to submitting the revised Timetable to DfI for its agreement;
- That following agreement of the revised Timetable by the Department for Infrastructure, that it be made available and published in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015



NOVEMBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 12th November 2020 at 10.30 am in the Housing Centre, Belfast or via Conference Call.

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

Present at Meeting:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Tommy Nicholl | Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair) |
| Mark Cooper | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough |
| Jim Speers | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough |
| Amanda Grehan | Lisburn & Castlereagh City |
| Mickey Ruane | Newry, Mourne & Down District |

Present by Video Conferencing

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Nick Mathison | Ards & North Down Borough |
| Anne-Marie Fitzgerald | Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair) |
| Allan Bresland | Derry City & Strabane District |

Members Apologies

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Michelle Kelly | Belfast City |
| John Finlay | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough |
| Catherine Elattar | Mid Ulster Borough Council |

This month the Members of the Housing Council had an hour long private session discussing various matters, therefore the remaining agenda items for the meeting were limited. Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

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

- Finance Report
- Corporate Performance Monitor at the half year (September 2020)
- Rent Increase Proposals 2021-22
- DLO Evolve Business Case Approval
- 2020-2021 Programme Update
- Sprinkler Systems Installation Programme for the NIHE High Rise Tower Blocks

- CTE01 - No Fines EWI and Associated Works
- Community Cohesion Update for 2019-2020
- Leasehold - Lease Extension Proposal
- The Way Home – Homelessness Response to COVID-19
- Queens Quarter Housing Funding
- Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 - Year 4 (Q1) Update
- Supporting People Programme - Monthly Progress Update
- Land Acquisitions and Disposals Update
- Annual Compliance Health & Safety Annual Report
- Housing Executive's 50th Anniversary Celebrations
- Supporting People Strategy 2021-2024

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

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

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10th December at 10.30 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre, Belfast or via conference call.

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

Contacts

Chair, Alderman Tommy Nicholl MBE

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Secretary, Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

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



Minutes of the 473rd Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council
The Housing Centre, Belfast or Conference Call via Webex
Thursday, 8th October 2020 at 10.30 am

The Officers joined the Meeting at 10.50 am

Present at Meeting:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Tommy Nicholl | Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair) |
| Jim Speers | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough |
| Amanda Grehan | Lisburn & Castlereagh City |
| Catherine Elattar | Mid Ulster Borough |
| Mickey Ruane | Newry, Mourne & Down District |

Present by Video Conferencing

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Anne-Marie Fitzgerald | Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair) |
| Mark Cooper | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough |
| Michelle Kelly | Belfast City |
| Allan Bresland | Derry City & Strabane District |

In Attendance:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Clark Bailie | Chief Executive (NIHE) |
| Paul Price | Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight (DfC) |
| David Polley | Director of Housing Strategy & Co-ordination (DfC) |
| Kelly Cameron | Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat) |

Apologies

Nick Mathison Ards & North Down Borough:

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| 1.0 | <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p> | |
| 2.0 | <p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 472nd Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 10th September 2020</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor C Elattar, seconded by Councillor M Ruane and resolved, that the Minutes of the 472nd Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 10th September 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p> | |

Housing Council
473rd Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

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| 3.0 | <p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p> | |
| 4.0 | <p><u>Housing Executive's Board Bulletin Board Meeting – Wednesday, 30th September 2020</u></p> <p>Mr Bailie reported on the Housing Executive Board's deliberations as follows:-</p> | |
| 4.1 | <p><u>Approval of Annual Report and Accounts</u></p> <p>The Board approved the Annual Report and Accounts for financial year ending 31 March 2020.</p> | |
| 4.2 | <p><u>CT078 – Bathroom Replacements</u></p> <p>The Board approved the award of contracts for bathroom replacement works in Housing Executive properties.</p> | |
| 4.3 | <p><u>Economic Appraisal for 64-86 Knocknagoney Avenue</u></p> <p>The Board approved the Economic Appraisal for the demolition of a block of 8 No residential properties and 4 No commercial units at 64-86 Knocknagoney Avenue, Belfast. These properties will be replaced in due course.</p> | |
| 4.4 | <p><u>Update on Year Three of the Customer Excellence Strategy (CES) 2017/18 –2019/20</u></p> <p>This paper provided a summary of key achievements from the first two years of the Strategy, along with a detailed update of activities for the final year of the CES (2019/20). The Board approved the report which will be published on the Housing Executive website.</p> | |
| 4.5 | <p><u>Annual Progress report to the Equality Commission</u></p> <p>The Board approved the Annual Report to the Equality Commission. This is the 20th Annual Progress report to the Equality Commission on the implementation of the Housing Executive's Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan.</p> | |

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| 4.6 | <p><u>Occupational Health Contract</u></p> <p>The Board approved proposals for the procurement of a comprehensive occupational health service for Housing Executive employees.</p> | |
| 4.7 | <p><u>Economic Appraisal for Land at Posnett Street South</u></p> <p>The Board approved the disposal of a site at Posnett Street South, Belfast following a Public Sector Transfer process.</p> | |
| 4.8 | <p><u>Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2021 - Approval to proceed with a sample size of 7,000</u></p> <p>The Board had approved the plan to proceed with a sample size of 7,000 for the 2021 House Condition Survey (HCS). Previously, the 2016 Survey was carried out with a sample size of 3,000. It produced robust data at NI level however, at Local Council level this sample size only produced robust data for a very limited number of reporting fields.</p> <p>Consultation with stakeholders has shown that there is a requirement for more robust data at Local Council level, and for other important sub-sectors of the market such as the private rented sector and housing associations.</p> <p><u>Other papers were noted by the Board, as follows:-</u></p> | |
| 4.9 | <p><u>ARTES Initiative</u></p> <p>The ARTES Initiative that was presented to the Board by the Director of Asset Management on the 26th February 2020.</p> <p>The Initiative is the Housing Executives contribution towards increasing trade skills and social value benefits within our communities from its long term Maintenance Contracts and will assist in addressing the technical and traditional trade skills shortage within the wider construction industry.</p> | |

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| <p>5.2</p> | <p>It was noted that the Minister for Communities and the Housing Executive have been corresponding regarding the suggested proposals to address this. The Housing Investment team have engaged directly with the Development Programme Group with an action plan established to track progress.</p> <p>As part of these initiatives, the Minister is particularly keen to explore how to target those areas of highest housing need. As such, Departmental officials have been tasked with exploring a range of options, of which the potential ring-fencing of SHDP budget and/or target is one, to ensure areas of acute housing need are prioritised with the SHDP.</p> <p>Members noted that Housing Associations are coming up with innovative solutions to minimise the impact that Covid is having on the delivery of the Plans. As the Plans are delivered over a 5 year period it is anticipated that there will be scope to enact a recovery plan and fully deliver the Plans as things return to the new normal.</p> <p>It was noted that the target of 1850 starts to March 2021, at present there are 290 starts.</p> <p>Members appreciated the factors attributing to the shortfall of meeting the target at the end of the 2019/20 and only 290 starts to date this year, but expressed their concern and the impact this will have on housing stress and the waiting list.</p> <p>In response to Mrs Grehan's question in relation to the increase of building trade being increased by at least 20-30% due to Covid-19, therefore few properties are being able to be built. Mr Price confirmed that the Department carry out a review the grant rate twice a year to calculate actual costs within the programme and increased costs are reflected in the grant rate.</p> <p><u>Co-ownership</u></p> <p>The PfG target is to support 3,750 first-time buyers to purchase a new home through Co-ownership or similar schemes by March 2021. Target of 1091 in 19/20 exceeded with 1102 Households supported at 31 March 2020. An Economic Appraisal for £145m FTC to fund Co-ownership for the next 4 years has been approved by the Minister and the Department of Finance (DoF) . While work to reverse the ONS decision is underway. The Minister has approved an interim capital budget allocation of £10m to deliver at least 287 homes, which has enabled Co-ownership to reopen to new applications from 22 June 2020.</p> | |
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| 5.3 | <p><u>Programme for Social Reform</u></p> <p>The above programme aims to complete preparations to implement Ministerial decisions to take forward a Programme of Social Housing Reform by September 2018 and to tackle the maintenance backlog for NI Housing Executive properties.</p> <p>The Minister is aware of the challenge facing the NIHE and has indicated her priority to protect NIHE stock.</p> | |
| 5.4 | <p><u>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</u></p> <p>Mr Price confirmed that the Minister is currently considering the way forward options for implementation and it is her intention to publish a consultation report and action plan in the Autumn.</p> <p>Referring to intimidation points, it was noted that the Minister had stated in the Assembly, that it was not the intention to remove intimidation points but to seek alternative arrangements.</p> <p>Members await the publication of the Report.</p> | |
| 5.5 | <p><u>Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers</u></p> <p>It was noted that work is ongoing with the NIO to ensure the passage of legislation to maintain the classification of Northern Ireland's Registered Housing Associations to the private sector. (Also detailed in NDNA). It is anticipated that ONS will review their decision on 21 October 2020. The reclassification will be back dated to the date of Royal Assent.</p> | |
| 5.6 | <p><u>Supporting People Delivery Strategy</u></p> <p>The above Strategy oversees both the delivery of the Supporting People Programme and the implementation of the 2015 Review Recommendations.</p> <p>The Housing Executive intended to bring about substantial change to the existing SP Programme in the form of the 2020-23 Strategy. The first draft of this was issued for public engagement in January 2020. However, a full public consultation is required meaning inevitable delays and the inability to complete this within the given timeframe.</p> | |

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| | <p>Further delay is expected with the challenges of Covid-19, Departmental colleagues have formally raised their concerns and a further update was provided at Programme board on 29 June and updated Strategy has since been formally shared with the Department for further comment with comments being provided to NIHE on 26th August. Strategic Needs Assessment is on schedule with plans to publish in September 2020.</p> <p>Findings were shared with stakeholders who agreed to move into Phase 2 with some £113.9m in scope. Although delayed due to Covid-19 the Project has re-commenced this month with a meeting of Oversight Group on 24th September. Checkpoint meetings between BCS and DfC will take place in October and November with a further meeting of Oversight Group to be held in December 2020. Progress is contingent on the impacts of Covid19 during the autumn and winter months.</p> | |
| 5.7 | <p><u>Homelessness Strategy</u></p> <p>It was noted that work is ongoing with the NIHE and across Government to implement the Homelessness Strategy (PFG target) to tackle homelessness.</p> <p>An Implementation Plan for year 4(2020/21) of the Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 has been drafted and is due to be submitted to the Housing Executive Board for approval. The Plan includes provision for a Temporary Accommodation Action Plan. Initial work on the development of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 has begun and will be refined and presented to Minister on 15 October 2020.</p> | |
| 5.8 | <p><u>Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Department is working with the NIO to ensure the passage of legislation to maintain the classification of Northern Ireland's Registered Housing Associations to the private sector. (Also detailed in NDNA)</p> <p>The Minister has indicated that progressing reform of the Private Rented Sector is a priority. Officials are working with the Minister to develop specific proposals for this mandate and beyond. In the meantime we have started work in some areas to improve the sector. Landlord Helpline underway as of 01/09/18. Pilot mediation service provided by Housing Rights Service has been operational since November 19 and will due to run for a period of 2 years.</p> | |

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| | <p>Due to the impact of the COVID emergency the pilot has been extend for a further 12 month period, meaning it will run for a 3 year period in total.</p> <p>We have commissioned research to explore the future potential to transfer the landlord registration functions to councils, with a draft report due in the Autumn.</p> | |
| <p>5.9</p> | <p><u>Affordable Warmth Scheme</u></p> <p>Mr Polley thanked the Housing Council Members for their input with their respective Councils to endeavour to spend the allocated budget and to ensure that any necessary changes to aid the delivery of the scheme in 2021/22 are approved and implemented.</p> <p>Members noted that the Department have been in discussions with SOLACE in relation to 50 referrals, 50 base rate for Councils and are currently looking at this for the next financial year.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Minister has agreed to change the rules of eligibility as previously some benefits deemed as income has been removed. Therefore, widening the eligibility scope for those to avail of the scheme.</p> | |
| <p>5.10</p> | <p><u>Review of the Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland</u></p> <p>Whilst the NI Housing Executive (NIHE) has the strategic role in provision of accommodation for Travellers, the Department for Communities has responsibility for producing and updating the <i>Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in NI</i>. The Guide is a technical guidance document to support the provision of appropriate, cost effective facilities for Travellers living in NI. It seeks to outline the key issues to be considered and identify the main design and management principles necessary to create high quality and sustainable Traveller sites which meet residents' traditional and cultural needs.</p> <p>The Department has reviewed the current Design Guide and is finalising an updated Guide. The new guide had been approved by Minister having been shared with the NI Assembly Communities Committee.</p> <p>The Housing Council received a final draft at the meeting and it was agreed that this item should be removed from the list.</p> | |

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| | <p>There were no further updates this month on the remaining items:-</p> | |
| 5.11 | <u>Increasing Housing Supply</u> | |
| 5.12 | <u>NIHE Rent Scheme</u> | |
| 5.13 | <u>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investment</u> | |
| 5.14 | <u>Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework PfG</u> | |
| 5.15 | <u>Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax</u> | |
| 5.16 | <u>Long term rent trajectory</u> | |
| 5.17 | <u>Affordability of social rents</u> | |

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| 6.0 | <p><u>Joint Presentation by the Health & Social Care and the Housing Executive on persons waiting for assessments by Occupational Therapists</u></p> <p>Copies of the Presentations are appended to these Minutes – (Appendix A-C)</p> <p>Mrs Leeann Vincent, Assistant Director Project Delivery from the Housing Executive gave a presentation on Programme Delivery Major Adaptations.</p> <p>Mrs Maureen Mawhinney from the Housing Executive gave a presentation of the Inter-Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services 2010-2020.</p> <p>Mr Linus McLaughlin, Performance Manager, Health and Social Care Board and Shane Elliott, Head of Occupational Therapy Services, Northern Ireland and Social Care Trust gave a presentation on Persons Waiting for assessment by Occupational Therapists.</p> <p>Mrs Mawhinney undertook to provide a written response to Mr Speers clarifying what interventions are available for DFG applicants where the contractor's performance/standard of work is sub-standard.</p> | M Mawhinney |
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| | <p>Referring to Lifetime Homes Standards, Mr Polley confirmed that in non-social building the building regulation at present are only to 'visibility standard' in which these properties are not easily adapted, and giving the growing older population, which in-turn puts pressure on disabled facility grants (DFG's) and he agreed that the building regulations should be changed accordingly moving towards adaptability standard.</p> <p>Mr Polley also added that some Council's within their development plan has been active in this area, as a planning condition.</p> <p>Mr Price would encourage the Housing Executive to build a business case of having the ability to build to 'Lifetime Homes Standards' as a strong argument for the Housing Executive to compete and return to building social housing.</p> <p>PROPOSAL - It was proposed by Alderman Speers and seconded by Alderman Grehan that the Housing Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate building regulations further in relation to the provision of Lifetime Homes and take forward the need to have Private Sector building to certain adaptability standards and: • investigate the issue of the Housing Executive developing a business case to return to building social housing. <p>AGREED – following an in-depth discussion, that the Secretary would firstly to the Building Regulations NI, to seek clarification on the building standard regulations, in which Private developers are currently adhering to and also for the Lifetime Home standards which had been adopted in all new social housing in Northern Ireland since 1998, to promote the introduction of the same standards across the private new build housing sector and where possible, to existing social housing stock.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Presenters for a very informative and useful presentation.</p> | <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> |
| 7.0 | <p><u>2020 Design Guide for Traveller Sites in Northern Ireland</u></p> <p>Members noted the Report.</p> | |

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| 8.0 | <p><u>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions</u></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p> | |
| 9.0 | <p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts September 2020</u></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p> | |
| 10.0 | <p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 12th November 2020 at 10.30 am</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the meeting would be held in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre for the foreseeable future, it was recognised that other Members would determine their preference to attend in person or participate remotely.</p> | |

The Meeting concluded at 12.40 pm.

Appendix A

Housing
Executive

Programme Delivery Major Adaptations



Leeann Vincent
 Assistant Director, Project Delivery
 8th October 2020

www.nihe.gov.uk

Contents

Housing
Executive

- Historical overview
- In-House Design Pilot
- Adaptation Review Project
- Looking forward
- Questions



Historical overview

- The Major Adaptation programme was delivered by the NIHE's Design Group based in Hill Street, Belfast from 2009 to 2016.
- Design Group teams move to Asset Management Regional based teams March 2016
- DfC Inspection Team September 2016 discussions
- Subsequently May 2018 received a Satisfactory grading from DfC Inspection with 3 minor recommendations
- Central Major Adaptation post creation 2016
- South Region Pilot team commencement 2017
- Previous 2.4 year average completion time

www.nihe.gov.uk

Previous Delivery v In-House South Pilot Scheme

| Stages | Previous Process | South Region Pilot |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Briefing, Survey, Consultation & Scheme Design Approval | Approx. 62 - 74 weeks | Approx. 13 weeks |
| 2 Statutory Approvals, Tender Action | Approx. 30 weeks (including 16-18 weeks for Procurement) | Approx. 14-16 weeks (including 3-4 with contractor off framework) |
| 3 Contract Administration, Project Completion | approx. 24 weeks | Approx. 14 weeks |
| 4 Defect Correct Period and Final Reconciliation | Approx. 28 weeks (i.e. 26 weeks defect correction period + 2 week reconciliation) | Approx. 54 weeks (i.e. 52 weeks defect correction period + 2 week reconciliation) |
| Total Weeks Saving | | <i>Approx 43 Not inclusive of defect period as this is post completion</i> |

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Benefits of Pilot Project

- Aiming for earlier engagement with OT's (including feasibility studies)
- Standardising of drawings, notes and specification
- Clearer lines of communications (direct contact with Contractors)
- Faster response time to queries
- Customer focused and joint consultations
- Clearer demarcation of duties and roles
- Continual managerial review on progress
- Project escalation processes adopted
- In-Site utilised as a Project Management Tool
- Dedicated Staff aligned to District/Areas

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Limitations

Factors that can impede the progress of schemes and delivery of adaptations to tenants ranked in order of severity

1. Market forces within the Construction Industry
 - Higher Prices / Poor Response
 - Mitigated by Framework Contractor
2. Scope Creep
 - OT and District Changes
 - Mitigated by enhanced Welfare Officer communication/engagement and better relationships
3. Resources
 - Difficulties in obtaining M&E design. Duplication of work within Departments
 - Mitigated by M&E consultant appointment
4. Statutory bodies
 - Delay with Planning and NIE
 - Work Groups established

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Adaptation Review Project

Housing
Executive

- Development of MAPD Contractor Framework, reducing the need for constant open procurements (Approx 12 week saving)
- KPI Management within Contractor Framework
- Development of Professional Services (Consultant) Contract
- Contractual queries and disputes centrally managed
- Development and management of Insite system and Dashboard
- Monthly PRG Reports devised, bespoke to Adaptations major and minor

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Insite

Housing
Executive

Insite is a new in house Project Management software/tool which has been integral in the development of the Pilot Project

- Every MAPD fully tracked through the whole process in various stages
- Provides full overview to all staff to ensure the process is managed effectively and efficiently
- Each stage can be reported in real time through the Insite dashboard which dramatically improves communications across all departments
- Up to date overview ensuring good governance
- Email triggers in stages provides an update for senior management of any slippage of schemes – this helps ensure that no scheme is overlooked



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Housing Council
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Appendix B

Department for Communities & Department of Health

Inter-Departmental Review of
Housing Adaptations Services
2010-2020



Inter-Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services

- Rationale for Review
- Infra-structure
- Key Milestones
- Key Outcomes
- Next Steps

Rationale for the Review

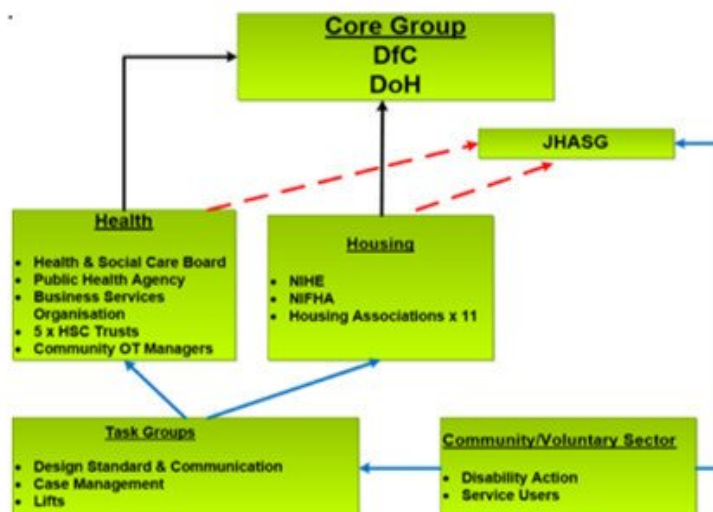
Background

- Demographics
- Economics
- Maximise resources

Launch

- February 2010

Infra-Structure





Key IDR Milestones

- Executive Summary & Evidence Based report signed off by Ministers 2012 & N.I. Executive January 2013
- Public consultation completed May 2013
- Advance Departmental approval to proceed with agreed work strands 2014
- Final Report & Action Plan drafted 2015
- Consultation on Final Report & Action Plan 2016
- Final Report & Action Plan approved by Departments & Ministers Jan 2017
- Submitted to Executive Office Jan 2017
- Government collapses
- Ongoing implementation 2014-2020



Key IDR Outcomes

Theme 1:

Closer working between Statutory Bodies

- Memorandum of Understanding signed by DfC/DoH
- Revised Terms of Reference for JHASG

Theme 2:

Improving Partnerships

- Disability Forum QA function



Key IDR Outcomes

Theme 3:

Inter-agency Case Management

- Post Grad Diploma Course for Specialist Housing O.T.'s Course
- Environmental Controls Research completed Dec'16

Theme 4:

Resources, Procurement & Recycling

- Development of N.I. Accessible Housing Register for Social Housing
- Development of a Private Sector AHR Interface



Key IDR Outcomes

Theme 5:

Design Standards & Communications

- Design Standards Toolkit
- Generic Wheelchair Design Standards
- Wheelchair Housing Targets aim is 10% of New Build

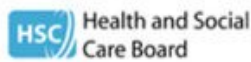


Next Steps

- **Form new Joint Housing Adaptations Steering Group (JHASG)**
- **Outstanding work streams identified**
- **Present IDR Final Report & Action Plan to N.I. Assembly**

Housing Council
473rd Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

Appendix C

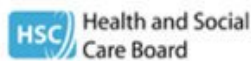


Northern Ireland Housing Council

**Persons waiting for assessment by
Occupational Therapists**

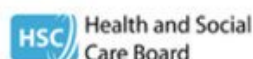
**Directorate of Performance Management
and Service Improvement**

8 October 2020



Housing Adaptations - Pathway





Adaptations pathway

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – Assessors

Occupational Therapy – delegated authority on behalf of Chief Executive

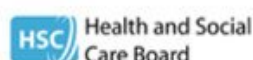
Providers/Funders - dependent on housing tenure

Private sector

- Health Trusts provide minor adaptations/ homelifts in private sector homes.
- Private Homes – Major adaptations - Disabled Facilities Grant (Administered by Northern Ireland Housing Executive Grants offices)

Social Sector

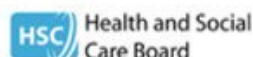
- NIHE – Minor and Major adaptations
- Housing Associations – Minor and Major adaptations



Performance Monitoring

- Department of Health (DOH) sets strategic policy.
- Minister sets targets and indicators of performance through annual Commissioning Plan Direction.
- HSCB responsible for performance monitoring of these targets and indicators.

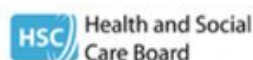




2020/21

CPD Target - Elective Care (AHP): from April 2018, no patient waits longer than 13 weeks from referral to commencement of Allied Health Professional (AHP) treatment.

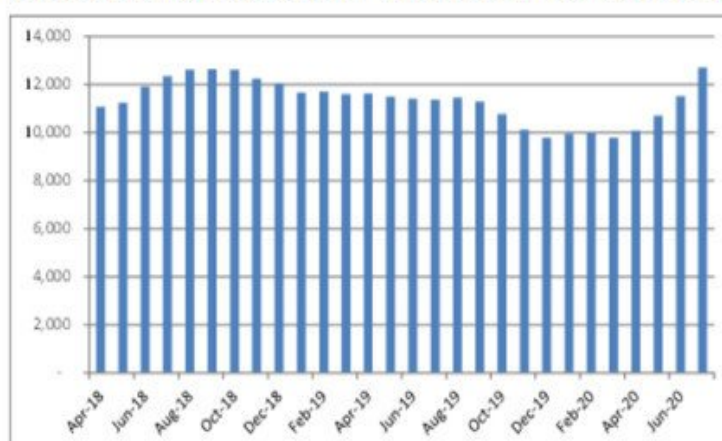
CPD Indicator – Housing Adaptations (Lifts/Hoists): Percentage of patients who have lifts and ceiling track hoists installed within 16 weeks of the OT assessment and options appraisal



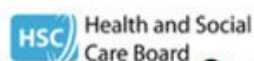
Occupational Therapy Services

Total numbers waiting

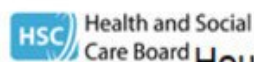
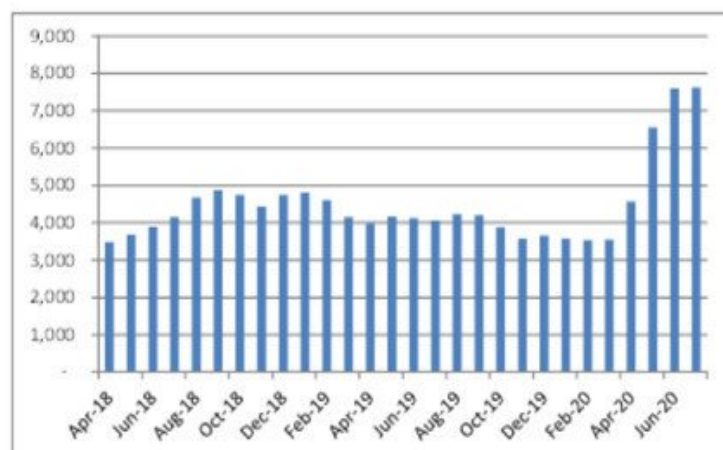
(note; Housing Adaptations 10%-20% of O.T. services)



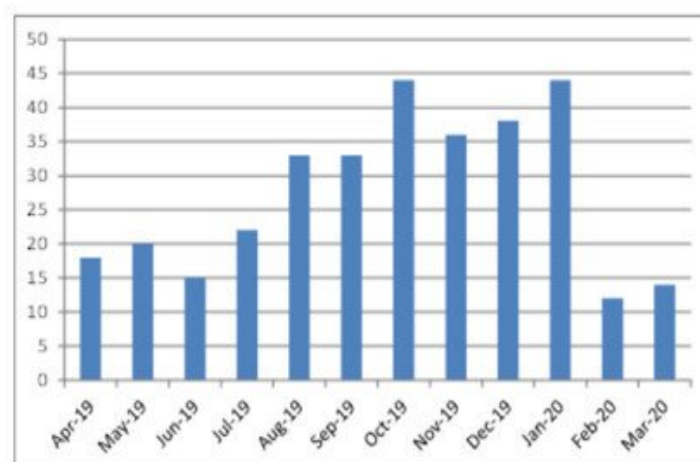
Housing Council
473rd Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council



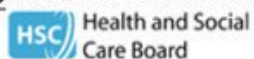
Occupational Therapy Services – Total numbers waiting > 13 weeks (Regional)



Housing Adaptations (Lifts/Hoists) Total numbers waiting > 16 weeks (Regional)



Housing Council
473rd Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council



Challenges

- Covid-19 - impact on OT capacity to assess
- Use of technology - virtual assessments
- Waiting list management
- Funding





Department for

Communities

An Roinn

Pobal

Máinnystrie o

Communities

108

From: The Private Secretary

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 9082 3320
e-mail: private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref: INV 1610 2020
Date: 9 November 2020

Marie Ward
Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Dear Marie,

REGENERATION BILL

The Minister for Communities, Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, has asked me to thank you for your correspondence of 20 August 2020 on the above matter and has requested that I reply on her behalf. I must apologise for the delay in issuing this reply, due to an administrative error it was my belief that this response had issued to you some time ago.

The Minister understands that there is a degree of disappointment that previous attempts, which have been made to extend regeneration powers to Councils as part of the wider Reform of Public Administration (RPA), have not progressed.

At the same time the Minister is aware and is grateful for your acknowledgement that, irrespective of where legislative responsibility lies, Councils already play a significant role in ensuring the successful implementation of the Department's regeneration programmes.

A key feature of this is the level of collaborative working that exists between Local Councils and the Department and in recent years the Department's three Development Offices have been working ever more closely with Councils. This collaboration is working well at present, but the Minister wishes to strengthen this further.

If you would like to discuss this specific matter further, please contact tony.mckibben@communities-ni.gov.uk who would be glad to arrange a conversation.

Yours sincerely,

Rosheen Thompson
Private Secretary

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

COR-2448-2020

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ
Email: council@nmandd.org



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Tel: 028 9127 9306
Email: private.office@education-ni.gov.uk

16 November 2020

Dear *Marie*

Thank you for your letter of 10 November regarding the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Notice of Motion calling on me to recommend to the test providers, AQE Ltd and PPTC that they engage with primary school principals so that children can take the transfer tests in their own primary schools.

I fully recognise that the transfer test process can be stressful. I appreciate the Council's concerns and members' wishes to minimise, where possible, any stress and anxiety on children taking the transfer tests. I have worked to remove as many obstacles as possible in an attempt to reduce the pressure faced by children, parents and schools. In 2016 for example, my Department issued new guidance setting out how primary schools may supply support materials, carry out preparations for tests during core teaching hours, coach in exam technique and familiarise pupils with the test environment.

As you are aware however, the tests are a private arrangement between the providers (Association for Quality Education (AQE Ltd) and the Post Primary Transfer Consortium (PPT)), and the schools who wish use the results of the tests in their admissions criteria. My Department plays no role in the operation or administration of the tests and while there

is currently no bar on the use of primary schools for these tests, the location of where they are taken is a matter for the organisations setting the tests and Boards of Governors of the individual schools.

The proposal in the Notice for Motion would require the consent of the Boards of Governors of all primary schools across Northern Ireland to host and facilitate the private transfer tests used by selective schools and this may be difficult to achieve. Some primary schools may have indicated an openness to host tests but not all schools may agree. You may be aware that representatives from the five teachers unions have indicated that they would be opposed to the use of local primary schools for the purpose of testing. Further, if some pupils sit the tests in their own school but others do not there could be a perception of an unfair advantage.

However, the health and safety of the young people sitting the tests is of paramount concern, and while neither I nor my Department play a role in the organisation of the tests, I have written to the test providers asking to be kept informed of the safety measures being put in place to reduce the risk of COVID 19 in line with guidance from the Department and the wider medical and public health requirements. This would include, for example, ensuring staggered arrival and leaving times based on primary school bubbles, social distancing in classrooms and appropriate sanitising arrangements within the host school. I have also highlighted the importance of providing timely and clear guidance to parents and children in advance of the tests in a further attempt to reduce stress and provide reassurance that all steps are being taken to keep our children safe. The test providers, together with host schools, are already developing their approach to managing the practical arrangements needed for the test days.

I trust that this clearly explains the position.



Peter Weir, MLA
Minister of Education

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Marie Ward, Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Newry Office
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

9 November 2020

Dear Ms Ward,

Thank you for your letter of 13 October 2020 concerning increases in vehicle and house insurance costs in particular postcodes in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. I am replying from the Executive Casework Unit that deals with correspondence to the FCA's CEO.

I am sorry to hear about the experiences of local residents, and appreciate the difficulties that rising car and house premiums can have for consumers.

The FCA is concerned that these markets are not working well for consumers, and has recently proposed measures to address this. You can read more about that here: <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-sets-out-proposals-tackle-concerns-about-general-insurance-pricing>.

In summary, we have undertaken a lot of work to understand the car and home insurance market, and consider that significant reform is needed to enhance competition, and ensure that consumers, such as your local residents, will get fair value.

We are proposing that when a customer renews their home or motor insurance policy, they pay no more than they would if they were new to their provider eg. if the customer bought the policy online, they would be charged the same price as a new customer buying online. Firms would also be prevented from gradually increasing the renewal price to consumers over time other than in line with changes to the customers' risk.

In relation to your specific concern about insurers using postcodes to determine the price of premiums, this is not, in and of itself, contrary to our regulations. Geography is an acceptable element of insurance firms' risk pricing, that ultimately impacts upon premiums. But, firms would need to have appropriate data to justify that certain geographical areas present a higher risk, justifying a higher premium. We are also introducing a more general requirement to ensure that products provide fair value to customers. This means that there is a fair relationship between the price offered and quality of the insurance product. Specifically:

- Insurers will need to consider the model they use to calculate risk, to ensure it is a fair reflection of the risk posed.

- Firms will need to look at the difference between the *pure* risk price (i.e. the amount they consider they need to underwrite the policy) and the total price paid by the customer. Any variation will need to be justified in terms of additional costs to firms and/or benefits to customers.

And we will be collecting data from firms in order to monitor these markets closely and see how firms respond to our proposed remedies.

I hope that this reply is of assistance to you, and your residents.

Regards,

Martin Kuzmicki
Executive Casework Unit



Our Ref: TJ/C375/20

13 November 2020

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

Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSrátha Báin
Derry Citty & Strabane
Districk Council

Dear Ms Ward

At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 29 October 2020, the following Motions were passed:

Council will recall that a motion was moved at the December 2019 Council meeting calling for action to combat poor air quality in the council area. Officials advised at that time that the motion was premature, given the imminent publication of a report which might have a bearing on the motion. Council notes that the report has since been produced but does not have a bearing on the motion.

Council endorses the thrust of the December 2019 motion as now resubmitted:

Council acknowledges that poor air quality has harmful effects on human health, especially on the health of the elderly, the infirm and young children;

Council recognises that urgent action needs to be taken to tackle air pollution. Council commits to increasing its air quality monitoring across its council area, including of harmful PM2.5s, PM10s and ammonia;

Council will create an air quality action plan and adopt World Health Organisation standards for PM2.5;

Council will bring forward draft policy options for discouraging the installation of fossil fuel heating and wood burning stoves in all new planning projects. Council will devise a set of criteria to be agreed by Members above which an air quality assessment will be required to accompany planning applications;

Derry
C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane
C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE., MIEI
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council

+44 (0) 2871 253 253
chiefexecutive@derrystrabane.com
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f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcscouncil

Council will organise a series of seminars to upskill members on Current Air Quality issues. Council will write to all other councils urging them to pass a similar air quality motion;

Council will write to the Northern Ireland Executive asking for an update on the effectiveness of the air quality monitoring station at Brooke Park since the station was moved from its original location at the junction of Creggan Road and Marlborough Terrace;

Council will underline to the Executive the urgent need for a NI Clean Air Act to include WHO threshold for PM2.5

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter would be grateful for a response in relation thereto.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Kelpie', written over a large, stylized capital 'C'.

John Kelpie
Chief Executive

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Andrew McMurray
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

c/o council@nmandd.org



Department of
Education

www.education-ni.gov.uk

Rathgael House
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Tel: 028 9127 9306

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

Our Ref: CORR-2387-2020

17 November 2020

Dear *Andrew*

PLANNED DISPOSAL OF ARDNABANNON OEC

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed disposal of the former Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre.

The Education Authority, in consultation with DE officials, agreed to accept the application from Mind Your Mate and Yourself (MYMY) under the Community Asset Transfer framework subject to confirmation MYMY had funding available to complete the purchase. Unfortunately, this confirmation was not provided.

Instead, correspondence from Development Trusts NI (DTNI) on behalf of MYMY indicated the applicant was working to secure a business plan and funding, with the intention of having funding in place by October 2021 and completing the purchase by March 2022. Given the current economic circumstances, there is no certainty the business case would be approved or that the funding would actually materialise to underpin this bid. In these circumstances the EA would be left with a depreciating asset that it still owns a year further on.

The EA is currently spending £43,792.76 per year on rates for the vacant asset. As some of the buildings on the site are listed, maintenance costs may also be incurred and there is a risk of further damage caused by weather or vandalism in the vacant property. Furthermore, as you will be aware, my Department is operating under a constrained capital budget. To supplement this, income from the disposal of surplus assets is reinvested in the education estate to improve facilities for pupils.

Under these circumstances, I am content that this asset should be disposed of on the open market in order to realise the best return. I would highlight that placing the asset on the market does not mean a sale is imminent as this will be dependent on the level of interest from the market. Should MYMY be in a position to confirm

availability of funding ahead of any future sale the Department would be consider their offer in the round with other offers that come forward.



PETER WEIR MLA
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Chris Lyttle MLA

chris.lyttle@outlook.com



Department of
Education

www.education-ni.gov.uk

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Tel: 028 9127 9306

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

Our Ref: CORR-2405-2020

6 November 2020

Dear *Chris*

PLANNED DISPOSAL OF ARDNABANNON OEC

Thank you for your e-mail of 29 October 2020, regarding the proposed disposal of the former Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre.

The Education Authority, in consultation with DE officials, agreed to accept the application from Mind Your Mate and Yourself (MYMY) under the Community Asset Transfer framework subject to confirmation they had funding available to complete the purchase.

Instead, correspondence from Development Trusts NI (DTNI) on behalf of MYMY indicated the applicant was working to secure a business plan and funding, with the intention of having funding in place by October 2021 and completing the purchase by March 2022. Given the current economic circumstances, there is no certainty the business case would be approved or that the funding would actually materialise to underpin this bid. In these circumstances the EA would be left with a depreciating asset that it still owns a year further on.

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availability of funding ahead of any future sale the Department would be consider their offer in the round with other offers that come forward.



PETER WEIR MLA
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



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Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: COR/3433/2020
Date: 23rd November 2020

Dear Marie

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 October 2020 regarding the statement issued on the 11 October 2020 regarding the reopening of the Emergency Department (ED) in Downe Hospital and the ED and emergency surgery service at Daisy Hill Hospital. I appreciate the concerns that you, and your fellow councillors, have about the availability of emergency services for those living in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. I apologise for the delay in replying.

As you will be aware the ED on the Daisy Hill Hospital site reopened on 19 October 2020 and emergency surgical services also recommenced on this date. The South Eastern Trust has advised that the next phase of rebuilding urgent and emergency care services is the establishment of an urgent care centre at Downe Hospital, which opened on 19 October 2020. This service operates alongside the minor injuries unit, which reopened on 10 August 2020, the co-located GP Out of Hours service and a range of multi-disciplinary primary and community care services.

The South Eastern Trust has acknowledged the need to improve access to urgent and emergency care services for the local population in the Down area. However, it has emphasised that the safety of patients, clients and staff is paramount and this remains the highest priority in rebuilding services including urgent and emergency care.

On behalf of the staff working in these Trusts, I thank the Council for recognising their efforts in providing care to their populations in this difficult time. However, it is also important that the Council recognises that Trust rebuilding plans are at all times subject to change in response to the developing pandemic. We are currently experiencing a second surge in numbers of covid positive patients requiring treatment. At the height of the first surge period, there were 322 covid positive inpatients receiving care in our hospitals. There are currently almost 500 covid positive inpatients in our hospitals and more than 100 receiving intensive care. All of our hospitals are running at or beyond their capacity.

This clearly demonstrates the significant challenges that health and social care is currently facing. It is no easy task to build services back up to pre-existing levels, and this must be balanced against the need to maintain capacity to deal with COVID-19 cases

and react to winter pressures. Services need to be delivered in the context of significantly reduced staff availability, whether due to illness or the need to self-isolate. Capacity has also been reduced due the need to maintain the necessary infection prevention and control standards, including the separation of COVID and non-COVID pathways.

I understand that you and other members of the Council have met with representatives of both the Southern and South Eastern HSC Trusts to discuss your concerns. I trust that these meetings have helped you to understand the context within which these decisions were made, and provided reassurance that both Trusts are fully committed to providing high quality urgent and emergency care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', with a stylized, flowing script.

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health



for Council Agenda.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

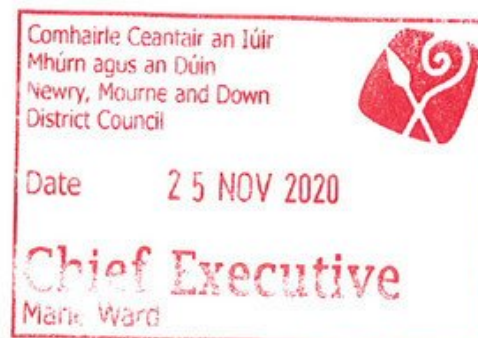
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Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 13 November 2020

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT35 8DL



Dear Marie

Re: Coronavirus Pandemic impact on Further and Higher Education Students

At a recent meeting of the Council, Members unanimously agreed the following Motion:

"Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic Fermanagh and Omagh District Council recognises the unprecedented strain that further and higher education students from our district are facing. This council;

- **Recognises that the young people of this district are contributors to our society today and the workers of the future and that we as a Council need to fight for their rights and entitlements.**
- **Acknowledges the very serious situation our student population have been left in due to the current Coronavirus Pandemic including being burdened with student fees here in Ireland (north and south) and in Britain.**
- **Notes that the majority of students are receiving online classes and only having to physically attend class, in a limited capacity, in certain subjects.**
- **Further recognises, that due to students being told by government to return to university and college, they are tied down into contracts paying high rent for accommodation with no legal means of escaping from these.**
- **Also acknowledges that those students who are studying from home, within the district area, are faced with one of the worst broadband infrastructures on this Island.**
- **Further notes that many students supplement their income with part time jobs to support themselves, but many are now unable to access these jobs, leaving many of them in severe financial strain.**

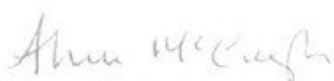
As such this Council shall write to all the Political Party leaders in the Northern Ireland Executive to ask them to put in place an appropriate package of financial support for all students at this time.

This Council will further write to the other 10 Councils asking them for support in this motion”.

Representations have been made by the Council to all Party Leaders in the NI Executive as requested in the Motion.

I would be grateful if you would bring this correspondence to the attention of your Council, so that your Members may consider supporting our Council's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive