

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 June 2015 in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair Councillor N Bailie

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Burns
Councillor C Casey
Councillor P Clarke
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor C McGrath
Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin
Councillor P Ó Gribín
Councillor B Ó'Muirí
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Recreation and Technical Services
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Administration (Equality)
Mr R Moore, Assistant Director of Technical & Leisure Services
Mr K Gordon, Assistant Leisure Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

C/34/2015

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Carr, Doran, Ennis, Fitzpatrick, K McAteer and Ruane. Apologies were also received from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson paid tribute to Council officers for their preparation work before and during the Irish Open. She said the event had been a great success with images of the District and its tourism potential being broadcast into 450million homes worldwide. She stated she would like a discussion at a future Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee on how to move forward and build a legacy event to follow on from the excellent work during the event.

The Chairperson advised, due to the horrendous weather, the Food & Blues Festival to be held in Newcastle on Sunday had to be cancelled and asked that Council commit to rolling out the event at a future date in conjunction with the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce.

C/35/2015

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were registered as follows:

The Chairperson declared an interest in Item 6 – Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2015.

The Chief Executive advised as the Vice-Chair had apologies for non-attendance at the meeting, Council should agree a Member to Chair the meeting for the discussions on Item .6

Councillor McGrath proposed that the Chairperson of the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee, Councillor Burgess, assume the Chair for Item 6. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor. All were in agreement.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McGrath, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Councillor Burgess assume the Chair for discussions on Item 6 – Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2015.**

Councillor W Clarke said the forest parks within the district, including Tollymore, provided a unique opportunity for a tourism package. He said any meetings in relation to traffic management at these facilities should involve the facilities located throughout the area and all Councillors, together with the relevant Agencies.

Councillors raised the following areas and asked that they be included in the Strategy:

- Downpatrick
- Saintfield
- Strangford Lough
- Killyleagh
- Delamont Country Park
- Promotion of Watersports, Motorsports, Fishing
- Identification of events where Council can market the District in terms of tourism.

Councillor Hyland requested that officers meet with the developers of Bell's Castle to establish if Council could assist with its development. Mrs Ward advised a meeting could be arranged with the developers.

ERT/29/2015 – Request for Special Meeting re: Tourism

Councillor Hearty asked whether a special meeting to discuss tourism and its promotion could be set up.

Mrs Ward advised an item would be tabled on the agenda of the next ERT Committee Meeting in relation to the establishment of a Task and Finish Project Board on tourism.

ERT/30/2015 – Pilot Schemes – Narrow Water Keep and Greencastle Castle

Councillor D McAteer expressed his concern at the length of time taken to agree the opening and manning of Narrow Water Keep and asked that this be progressed urgently. Mrs Ward advised an update report on Narrow Water Keep would be tabled at the next ERT Committee Meeting in June.

Councillor Stokes asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to former Down District Council Chief Executive, Mr John McGrillen on his recent appointment as Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. This was seconded by Councillor Enright and agreed unanimously.

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Burns that relevant DEA Councillors be invited to future Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy Meetings for discussion on the development of the District's forest parks as a tourist package and to discuss the establishment of traffic management plans.

Members agreed that the following be included in the Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy:- Downpatrick; Saintfield; Strangford Lough; Killyleagh; Delamont County Park; Promotion of watersports, motorsports and fishing; identification of events where Council can market the District in terms of tourism, forest parks throughout the district and their development as part of the tourism package.

It was agreed a meeting be organised with Council officials and the developers of Bells Castle to establish if Council can assist with its development.

It was agreed the following items be tabled at the next ERT Committee Meeting:- Establishment of Task and Finish Project Board for Tourism; Update Report on Narrow Water Keep.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Enright that a letter of congratulations be send to Mr John McGrillen on his recent appointment as Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

The Chairperson left the Chamber at this stage and Councillor Burgess assumed the Chair – 6.35pm

C/39/2015

**MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2015**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2015 (Copy circulated).

**SPR/40/2015 – Policy on Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors
April 2015-March 2016**

The Chief Executive advised an additional paper had been circulated which highlighted the amendments made to the Special Responsibility Allowances contained in Schedule 1 as agreed by the SPR Committee at its meeting of 14 May 2015.

Mr Hannaway stated the issue of travel and subsistence allowances had been considered by the Party Representatives Forum and it was now recommended that with regard to point 6 of Schedule 2, the list of approved duties in Schedule 3 be specified as including; All launches, events, opening of facilities funded fully or partly by the Council and Invitations issued by Council Officers on behalf of the Council.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Harvey to accept the amendments to the scheme of allowances payable to Councillors to include the recommendations above.

SPR/28/2015 – Update on Website

Members raised the following queries in relation to the update on website:

- What was the timescale for the introduction of a new Council website be?
- Had the existing IT infrastructure been tested to ensure it has the ability to sustain such a website as has been outlined?
- Would officers investigate other Council's websites to ensure all elements that are required will be provided?
- Would the domain address be .org and not .gov.uk?

Officers responded to the queries as follows:

- It was likely to be early Autumn before tenders would be sought as this was such a technically challenging process.
- There were challenges in terms of the infrastructure within the Newry site, however the Head of IT had now been appointed and this would be a priority area for them to concentrate on.
- All examples of best practice would be investigated to ensure it would be the most accessible, informative and interactive website as possible.
- Domain name as agreed by Council was .org. However officers were still working on migrating the systems and it may take some time to complete all the works required.

Councillor Reilly proposed that the issue of the Council decision to use .org domain name be equality proofed. Councillor Walker seconded the proposal stating the decision taken in relation to bilingual stationery should also be equality proofed.

SPR/50/2015 – Greenway Project Phase 1

Councillor D McAteer welcomed the approval on this project. He also asked whether an up-to-date contact list with numbers and email addresses for assistant directors could be provided as a matter of priority.

The Chief Executive advised the process of job-matching was still currently taking place. However he would envisage an up-to-date list of contact numbers and email addresses would be available by the end of June.

Agreed: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Curran.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Harvey to accept the amendments to the scheme of allowances payable to Councillors to include:

- All launches, events, opening of facilities funded fully or partly by the Council.
- Invitations issued by Council Officers on behalf of the Council.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Walker that the issues of .org domain name and bilingual stationery be equality proofed.

It was agreed that an up-to-date list of contact numbers and email addresses for assistant directors would be available by the end of June.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor D McAteer.

The Chairperson re-entered the Chamber at this stage and re-assumed the Chair – 6.55pm

C/40/2015

MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2015

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 May 2015 (copy circulated).

AHC/16/2015 – Hire Charges for Private Contractors, Leisure and Community Facilities

Councillor Enright asked for the minute to be amended to take cognisance of his comments regarding the need for a comparative assessment to be undertaken between the provision given by private and public swimming instructors.

Councillor W Clarke advised the Council position of bringing swimming lessons in-house was the correct position which would maximise the amount of income the Council generated. He highlighted the issue of swimming lessons was an emotive one as it involved children and he proposed that no child with a disability should be worse off in the new Council than they were in the legacy Councils. He highlighted the need for the matter to be resolved and asked that the issue be brought back to the AHC Committee to be finalised. His proposal was seconded by Councillor Kimmins who stated a meeting needed to take place with parents and private instructors to ensure equality and balance across the whole District.

Members discussed the issue at length and raised the following points:

- A report should be provided on the waiting lists in Newry since the introduction of the new swimming scheme.
- Is it only disabled people who are in receipt of the medium or high levels of DLA eligible for concessions?
- Staff in the leisure centres need to be kept informed with correct information to ensure this is being given to members of the public.

- Down Leisure Centre cannot be compared on a like-for-like basis with the new Newry Leisure Centre.
- Parents should be invited to a specially convened meeting of Council in order to hear their concerns.
- Thanks to Mr Moore and his team for all the work they have carried out in respect to this issue.
- There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding the information that has been given to the parents and swimming instructors.
- People that will never use a swimming pool within the District are paying for them.
- Swimming pools are losing money and within the old system. The income received by the Council in Downpatrick per lesson, per child, per half hour was approximately 42p based on the number of lessons delivered for the 1st 3 months of 2015. The running cost of one lane in the Downpatrick swimming pool is approximately £13 per half hour.
- Hard decisions had to be taken in order to set rates for the new Council with planned developments needing to be paid for through the rates.
- All children need to be treated the same and no child should be worse off in the new Council than in the legacy Councils.
- Can a meeting with parents and swimming instructors be held in the evening and given enough notice for them to be able to attend?
- Until the date of the meeting it is important to allow instructors to remain as they are at present.
- Increases should not occur overnight.
- Members were misled at the time of setting the rates as they were told it would have minimal impact however this impact is wide-ranging and being felt now by the most vulnerable in the District.

Officers responded to the queries as follows:

- The new leisure facility in Newry opened on 27 April with swimming lessons commencing on 5 May. Staff received applications, undertook assessments and enrolled 300 children for these lessons. There were 34 classes per week on 5th May, this has now been increased up to 58 class per week with approximately 500 children availing of these lessons. There is huge interest in the scheme with more than another 600 wanting to avail of the scheme. There will be 4 X week long crash courses organised over the summer with an additional 560 spaces (140 spaces per course). The plan will be to present a review of the pool programme in order to see what additional classes can be provided to alleviate the demand.
- The scheme is exclusively handled by the disability officer and anyone with middle-high rate of DLA or with a doctor's letter highlighting a disability is eligible for a concession.
- Confusion did occur at the beginning however the disability liaison officer's position has been clarified and the criteria is that anyone with middle-high rate of DLA or in possession of a doctor's letter highlighting a disability is eligible for the scheme. The legacy Down District Council's buddy scheme has been extended to Newry whereby someone availing of the enhanced scheme can bring a carer/friend/family member with them for no charge.

- All swimming pools are subsidised across the District. The Council receives approximately 42p from a 1-to-1 lesson in Downpatrick (based on the number of lessons delivered for the 1st 3 months of 2015) and the finance department advised the cost of a lane per hour in Down Leisure Centre is approximately £26.

Councillor Reilly proposed an amendment to Councillor W Clarke's proposal asking that a specially convened full Council meeting be held with presentations from the parents and swimming instructors across the whole District in order to try to facilitate private tutors in Council swimming pools. This was seconded by Councillor Walker.

Councillors W Clarke and Kimmins accepted the amendment to the proposal.

AHC/20/2015 – Financial Assistance Update

Councillor Sharvin asked whether another call would be made if all of the funding was not allocated and proposed that Council work with groups like CDRCN to assist unsuccessful groups in availing of other grants and funding.

The Chief Executive advised a competitive call had been completed and if there was any remaining funding, another call would then take place following reviews of the scheme. There was a separate call out at present, as prescribed by DCAL, for Community Festivals etc. He said groups who had not been successful in the first call would be provided with officer assistance in regards to the separate Community Festivals call in conjunction with CDRCN, Confederation of Community Groups, TADA and other organisations.

Councillor Burns advised the Rural Development Board used to be inundated with calls for match-funding from Council, however this would not be available any longer. He said this should be explained to groups either through a letter, or a presentation on how the Board could advise community groups seeking rural development funding.

The Chief Executive advised the new Rural Development Programme must be co-terminus with the Council's Community Plan, therefore there needed to be a level of integration between what was planned in Council budgets and what was planned within the Rural Development Programmes. He stated this would be brought through the ERT Committee and, between now and the end of summer, Council and DRAP/LAG officers would provide an administrative service.

AHC/17/2015 – Establishment of Sports Association

Councillor McGrath asked if there had been any thought given to the method for selecting 1 member from each DEA to sit on the Sports Association for Newry, Mourne and Down (SAND).

The Chief Executive suggested the Party Leaders could have a discussion on the most appropriate method for selecting members. However, he said by running d'Hondt, the UUP and smaller parties would not be selected. He advised it may be appropriate to look at where the majority of party members were within the DEAs and try to get a balance across the District.

Councillor Reilly asked why lay members who wished to volunteer could not be allowed to attend and whether it was possible to have a sports advisory committee.

The Chief Executive advised this was a company limited by guarantee and was a separate organisation outside Council. He stated the Clubmark methodology allowed for a committee at which sports clubs could contribute which would then be passed on to the Board, where the 7 Councillors would sit.

Councillor Craig proposed that the Party Leaders consult with each other and agree a local arrangement for the appointment of a Councillor from each DEA. This was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Agreed: It was agreed to amend the minutes as per request from Councillor Enright to take cognisance of his comments regarding the need for a comparative assessment to be undertaken between the provision given by private and public swimming instructors.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Kimmins that no child be worse off in the new Council than they were in the legacy Councils and that a specially convened full Council meeting be held with presentations from parents and swimming instructors across the whole District in order to try to facilitate private tutors in Council swimming pools.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Party Leaders consult with each other and agree a local arrangement for the appointment of a Councillor from each DEA for membership on the Sports Association for Newry, Mourne and Down (SAND).

The minutes were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Walker.

C/41/2015 MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2015

Read: Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2015 (copy circulated).

RTS/19/2015 – CAPITAL WORKS AT VICTORIA LOCK, NEWRY

Councillor Tinnelly asked why the Council were closing the sea gates during the busiest months of the season and what form the PR exercise was going to take. He

proposed that, if the gates were still usable, Council put the work back to the off-season. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

The Chief Executive advised the sea gates were unreliable and the work needed to be carried out during the summer period due to the better weather conditions and lighter hours to ensure the locks were out of use for the shortest possible length of time.

Mr O'Rourke advised there was urgency to the work which needed to be carried out as if the gates failed it could potentially be dangerous.

Councillor Reilly stated he had proposed that the work go ahead at the Committee Meeting due to the matter becoming critical based on independent surveys that had taken place on the sea gates. He advised in order to operate on the sea gates, the sea conditions needed to be as calm as possible and that was why it had been agreed to undertake the work during the summer months.

On a point of accuracy, Councillor Reilly advised he had raised the issue of Annalong Harbour Gate being given the same degree of urgency as the Victoria Lock and this had not been recorded in the minutes.

Councillor Tinnelly withdrew his proposal and asked whether the boats currently in the lock would be asked to leave.

The Chief Executive advised the boat owners would be contacted to inform them if their boat was position when the work began. He said those in position and would be locked in and boats which were outside would be locked out.

RTS/21/2015 – PLANNING RESOURCES AND PROCESSING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor D McAteer asked whether the logistical equipment was available in the Newry offices to accommodate the additional planning resource required.

Mr O'Rourke advised the equipment was available, however the IT infrastructure needed to be overhauled and this should hopefully take place by the middle of June.

RTS/24/2015 – SPEAKING RIGHTS OF NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Walker asked what process was in place if a non-committee member wanted to raise an issue at a committee and the Chairman did not permit them to speak.

The Chief Executive advised that Members could make a written submission to a Chairperson of any Committee. The reason for having committees in place with only 15 members was that the committee business could be carried out more efficiently.

Following further discussion the Chief Executive referred Members to Standing Order 19.20 stating that where a member attended a meeting of a Council Committee of which they were not a member, that member would not have any right to speak at the meeting unless so permitted by the Chairperson. He advised this was

the default position and did not say that non-committee members could not speak at meetings they are not members of. However this was at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Agreed: It was agreed to amend the minutes to include Councillor Reilly's comments on the need for the same urgency for repairs to Annalong Harbour Gate.

The minutes were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor D McAteer.

MINUTES FOR NOTING

C/42/2015 **MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2015**

Read: Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2015 (copy circulated).

Noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2015 were noted.

FOR DISCUSSION

C/43/2015 **INVITE TO GLENOUGH WIND FARM, CO TIPPERARY**

Read: Invitation received from Abo Wind to Glenough Wind Farm, Co Tipperary on Friday 26 June 2015 (copy circulated).

The Chief Executive advised an invitation had been received to visit a wind farm in Co Tipperary, however he advised caution to those Members who sat on the Planning Committee as Abo Wind currently had an application in place for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

Councillor Craig proposed that Members who sat on the Planning Committee should not go on the visit, however that other Members could be free to attend.

Members discussed the issue at length and it was agreed that Council should organise their own visit to a windfarm so as not to compromise any Member of Council.

Councillor Craig agreed to amend his proposal that Council should organise their own visit to a windfarm which would enable all Members to attend. This was seconded by Councillor Hearty.

The Chief Executive advised that Planning Committee Members should be careful on any visit not to make comments on the benefits or otherwise.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Hearty that Council organise their own visit to a windfarm.

C/44/2015 **KILKEEL POST OFFICE – BRANCH RELOCATION**

Read: Correspondence received from Post Office regarding relocation of Kilkeel Post Office. (Copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised correspondence had been received from the Post Office regarding a decision to relocate the Kilkeel Branch from 4 The Square, Kilkeel to 55 Greencastle Street, Kilkeel.

Councillor Quinn proposed a letter be sent to Post Office asking whether consideration had been taken in terms of traffic issues in the area given that the Fire and Ambulance Stations were situated close by. This was seconded by Councillor D McAteer.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor D McAteer to send a letter to the Post Office querying if consideration had been given to potential traffic issues in the area due to the fact that the Fire and Ambulance Stations were situated close by and to ensure this would have no adverse effect on emergency service response times.

C/45/2015 **INVITATION TO CHAIRPERSON – MILWAUKEE HURLING CLUB**

Read: Invitation received from Milwaukee Hurling Club to the Chairperson for a weekend celebration from 20-23 August 2015. (Copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised an invitation had been received for the Chairperson to attend the Milwaukee Hurling Club's 20th Anniversary Celebrations from 20-23 August 2015.

Members discussed the issue at length and it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, that a report be brought to the ERT Committee with information on costs and whether the visit could include attendance at the Milwaukee IrishFest also.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that a report be brought to the ERT Committee with information on costs and whether the visit could include attendance at the Milwaukee IrishFest also.

C/46/2015

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS –
DEVOLVING POWERS TO THE REGIONS**

Read: Conference hosted by National Association of Councillors on Devolving Powers to the Regions, The Dalmeny Hotel, Lytham St Anne's 26th-28th June 2015 (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed that no one should attend the conference.

C/47/2015

SEALING DOCUMENTS

Agreed: It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Sharvin:

1. Licence Agreement – Camlough Lake
2. Priority Agreement – Northern Bank Limited and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
3. Overdraft Facility with Danske Bank of GBP5,000,000
4. Licence Agreement – Newry Agricultural Show on Council Lands at Derryleckagh – 27 June 2015
5. Licence Agreement – Use of 16 The Square, Rostrevor – from 13-27 July 2015 – for Fiddlers Green Festival
6. Lease and Counterpart – Unit 2 – Newry Variety Market to Linda McGuinness, Forkhill
7. Novation Agreements (Letters of Offers for LED Business Support Programmes) – NMDC & DDC with INI – Novated to – NMDDC with INI
 - a. Energy Connections
 - b. Social Enterprise Newry & Mourne
 - c. Preparing for Market – Exporting Tourism
 - d. Food Development Programme
 - e. Down B&B Week and Expo
 - f. Rebuilding the Construction Sector in Down & Newry & Mourne
 - g. Beyond II – Business Support Services
 - h. Sales for Non Sales People
 - i. Family Business Programme
 - j. Green Tourism
8. Licence Agreement for Land at Camlough Road/Monaghan Row

C/48/2015

PARTNERSHIP PANEL – DRAFT WORK PLAN 2015-2019

Read: Partnership Panel – Draft Work Plan 2015-2019 (Copy circulated)

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor D McAteer to submit the issues below as the Council's agreed response to the draft Work Plan (2015-2019):

- 1. Scope – the scope of the three themes as well as the ten proposed work areas are considered appropriate. It would be prudent to elevate the primacy of the relevant theme and proposed work area concerning the effectiveness of the Panel;**
- 2. Programme for Government – the need for a more joined-up approach to strategic planning between the two tiers of government, specifically in relation to economic growth and regeneration as well as tackling social deprivation;**
- 3. Transferring Functions – the need to urgently review and address the outstanding issues which are attached to those functions which transferred to local government on the 1 April 2015, in particular Planning, and whether the previous principles of the NI Executive concerning their transfer remain true. As well as early engagement around the transfer of regeneration functions next April and the potential scope of other functions to transfer in the coming years;**
- 4. Shared Services – the need for these to be taken forward in a properly integrated manner and on a true partnership basis. The debate should not solely be about what central government services local government could on-board with (e.g. NI Direct) but what opportunities for shared services can be explored which are also attached to the decentralisation of NICS Departments (e.g. transfer of DARD Fisheries to Downshire Civic Centre), as well as the need for local government to be convinced of the value for money (Vfm) test of any specific products, and**
- 5. Budgets – the need for early engagement concerning future planned budget reductions in this current financial year, as well as future years, and what these potentially mean for the local government sector.**

C/49/2015

**NOTICE OF MOTION – RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS
HYLAND AND K MCATEER: VIDEO STREAMING OF
COUNCIL MEETINGS**

“At the end of the tenure of Newry and Mourne District Council, a very successful video streaming programme of

Monthly Meetings was undertaken. This exercise provided Local Residents and Ratepayers with an opportunity to view important Council meetings where decisions were taken which had an impact on their families and neighbourhoods. We would recommend that such live recordings of Council Meetings continue in the foreseeable future in An Iúir, Mhurn agus an Duin.”

Councillor Hyland proposed the motion stating that local people should be able to see and hear what was taking place at Council meetings and it was a system that worked well in the legacy Newry and Mourne District Council.

Councillor Stokes seconded the motion stating it was extremely important to stream the meetings given the huge geographical spread of the District and suggested that Committee meetings be streamed also.

All Parties spoke in support of the motion and asked that a detailed report on cost of software and hosting services be brought back to a future meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Stokes that a detailed report on the cost of streaming Council and Committee Meetings be brought back to a future meeting.

C/50/2015

NOTICE OF MOTION – RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS REILLY AND HANNA: DEA SITE MEETINGS

“That this Council facilitates and services DEA site meeting with relevant statutory bodies if 3 or more Ward Councillors requests a meeting.”

Councillor Reilly proposed the motion stating in the past if a significant event occurred, Elected Members could ask a Committee Clerk to arrange a meeting with the relevant statutory bodies in order to have a set of minutes which could be given to the statutory bodies if commitments made had not been honoured. He asked for support for the motion.

Councillor W Clarke stated it would be difficult to fulfil the request given the difficulties with resources and ensuring Councillors were able to complete their job correctly. He suggested the motion be amended to allow for properly structured DEA Inter-agency Meetings to be held on a bi-monthly basis. Councillor Reilly accepted this amendment to his original motion which was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

Councillor Craig proposed a further amendment asking that meetings should be serviced if an issue arose of a critical nature affecting a large number of citizens in the DEA. This was accepted by Councillor Reilly and Councillor Sharvin.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that DEA Inter-agency

Meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis. It was further agreed that meetings could be arranged if a matter of a critical nature arises affecting a large number of citizens in the DEA.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.40pm

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive