

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 July 2017 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor R Mulgrew

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor M Carr	Councillor C Casey
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor O McMahan
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor P O’Gribin	Councillor B O’Múiri
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Human Resources)
Mr A McKay, Area Planning Manager
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/107/2017

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Byrne, Clarke, Devlin and Doran.

The Chairperson referred to the sponsorship forms handed out for the Mainstay Sponsored Walk, and said she would encourage as many Councillors as possible to take part.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to the Killeavy U14 Hurlers who won the All Ireland Feile; Burren U14 Footballers who were now All Ireland

U14 Feile Champions; and Mayobridge U14 Football team who won the Division 3 Boys Shield at the Feile.

C/108/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/109/2017 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 June 2017

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 June 2017(copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised Members he had attended the Seanad Special Select Committee regarding Brexit issues, which had been very successful.

Mr Hannaway advised a further paper regarding the formation of Health Committees/Working Groups would be brought to Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on 18 August 2017.

Mr Hannaway referred to the Motion passed by Council regarding the reduction in the Education budget, and advised Members that a meeting between Party Representatives Forum and representatives from all schools in the District would be organised in the first instance.

Mr Hannaway advised the implementation of the Downpatrick Master Plan would be discussed at Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee on 14 August 2017.

AGREED: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 June 2017 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/110/2017 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2017

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 June 2017 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Craig.

C/111/2017 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2017

Read: Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2017 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

C/112/2017 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 MAY 2017

Read: Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 29 May 2017 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/113/2017 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2017

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 June 2017 (copy circulated).

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/114/2017 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2017

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2017 (copy circulated).

SPR/111/2017 – Officer’s Report – Local Development Plan: Options for Undertaking Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

Mr Hannaway said further to the report presented at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting on 15 June 2017, on which Members had raised queries, an addendum Paper had subsequently been prepared recommending Option 5, as opposed to Option 3 which was the recommended option of the Committee.

Mr Hannaway said the two critical issues were that there should be a separation of roles between Planning staff and the environmental assessment and that a number of Officers, across a range of disciplines, would need to be appointed which would increase Planning staffing costs. Mr Hannaway went on explain there was already a Service Level Agreement in place with Mid & East Antrim’s Environmental Services section and, as part of the rationale for shared services, this would provide Council with value for money.

In response to queries from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Hannaway advised that the Planning Committee’s role was to oversee planning within the organisation. He said the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee was the Committee responsible for policy and financial issues within the Council. Mr Hannaway said the reason why this matter had been presented to Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee before it had been referred to Planning Committee, was due to the strict timetable associated with the Local Development Plan.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Reilly, Mr Hannaway explained that the Department for Infrastructure’s Quarterly Report issued the previous week, had advised that the volume of planning applications in the Newry, Mourne and Down area were the

second highest in Northern Ireland, second only to Belfast City Council. Performance had vastly improved, which had been independently assessed. Major inroads had been made into the backlog of 1600 applications, which was now been reduced to 980 and was reducing further on a weekly basis. More staff had been brought into the Planning department to advance development and enforcement.

Mr Hannaway drew Councillor Reilly's attention to Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2014, saying it clearly defined access to information requirements setting out what information should be treated as exempt information. He stressed that information and reports that did not require to be exempt were not treated as such. He further advised that Members received copies of reports for all meetings, including exempt and non-exempt papers. He explained that all Members could attend any Committee meetings, even if they were not appointed to sit on that Committee, and with the discretion of the Chair, could contribute to the debate.

Mrs Carville explained the Reactionary Fund was funding that had come to the legacy Newry & Mourne Council under the Peace III initiative.

Mrs Carville said the consultation response to Foras na Gaeilge had been brought to Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee in May 2017 for any comments Members may have had, and then to SPR Committee again in June 2017 for noting.

SPR/116/2017 – Officer's Report – Newry Business Improvement District (BID)

Mrs Carville explained Officers had been asked to bring back further information regarding the appointment of a debt collection officer for Newry BID. She said it was Council's legal obligation to collect BID related debt and this was necessary to comply with the legally binding provisions within the BID Operating Agreement between the Council and the BID Company. The proposal was to appoint someone on a temporary basis. She confirmed the BID Company had agreed to discharge the salary and therefore this would be cost neutral to Council.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Craig, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted with the exception of minute SPR/111/2017 – Local Development Plan: Options for Undertaking Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Minute SPR/116/2017 – Newry Business Improvement District (BID).

In response to a query from Councillor Craig, Mr McKay advised that the SES team were contracted to work for a number of Councils, but had staffed themselves up in such a manner that they could service all of the various Councils' needs effectively. He also advised if the recommendation was approved, dedicated officers would be appointed who would be available as and when required by Council.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Craig to approve the following:

- 1. Local Development Plan: Options for Undertaking Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment - Option 5 contained within Officer's Report dated 3 July 2017 - to engage the Shared Environmental Service (SES)/Mid and East Antrim Council's Environmental Planning Team to prepare the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating**

Environmental Assessment and take it through the entire Local Development Plan process.

- 2. Newry Business Improvement District (BID) – the appointment of a Debt Recovery Officer to collect outstanding debt associated with the Newry BID levy, on a temporary basis initially for three months.**

C/115/2017 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2017

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2017 (copy circulated).

AHC/108/2017 – Indoor Leisure Fitness Suite Operating Arrangements

Mr Lipsett advised that further to discussions with party groupings and the Chair, he had been asked to emphasise that the increase in pricing for people over 60 years of age, only applied to the fitness suites. Over 60s would still have unlimited access to the pool, sauna and steam room, according to the current pricing arrangements.

Mr Lipsett confirmed the new price of £15 per month would not be operational in Downpatrick until the new leisure centre fitness suite opened. He also confirmed this did not affect the GP referral scheme, which would continue with free access to the fitness suites.

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Kimmins.

AGREED: It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to agree to proceed with maintaining membership permissions for people aged over 60 years, to allow unlimited access to swimming pools/sauna/steam room at £3.60 per year and promotion of a new over 60's gym membership category at £15 per month.

In response to queries from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Lipsett explained that a move of the sectional building located at Strangford Road, Downpatrick from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service for community use in Ballykinler was subject to costings and a structural survey being carried out, costs for which would be taken back to Committee for consideration. He further advised that the relocation of the building would be temporary to allow capacity building for the group in order for them to seek funding.

C/116/2017 MINUTES OF REGULATORY & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUNE 2017

Read: Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2017 (copy circulated)

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

RTS/78/2017: Abandoned Boat in Dundrum Bay, Dundrum

Councillor Murnin queried why expressions of interest were being sought for the removal of the abandoned boat when it was obviously in a bad state of repair. He questioned whether it was a salvage operation and whether costs were being obtained for its removal.

The Chief Executive advised the boat's condition needed to be assessed before it could be removed, to assess any environmental or other potential impact.

RTS/72/2017: Report re: Brown Bins in Urban Areas

Councillor Walker asked whether those people within urban areas who currently did not have a brown bin, could telephone the Council and register to get one.

Mr Parkes advised 1600 householders within urban areas had already requested brown bins and all people who wanted a bin needed to register. They could either collect the bin at the Greenbank or Strangford Road depots, or wait for it to be delivered over the next few weeks or months.

RTS/80/2017: Report re: Options for Glass Recycling

Councillor Ruane proposed an amendment to the recommendation contained within the Committee's Report, proposing that option 1 presented in the Officer's Report dated 21 June 2017 to Committee be accepted - this being glass collection pods on refuse collection vehicles.

Councillor Ruane's proposal was seconded by Councillor Burns.

Mr Hannaway referred to the Officer's Report of 21 June 2017 which stated that this system allowed for glass to be collected in an insert tray, kept in the blue bin and also outlined the cost implications of this Option.

Councillors Craig, Brown and Burns spoke in support of the amendment to the Committee's recommendation, stating the following:

- Was there any requirement for a consultant to look at the matter as this had already been extensively discussed?
- Was it a legislative requirement to meet the recycling targets by 2020?
- Was there a requirement to make room in the blue bin for the glass insert?
- Recycling figures were likely to increase following Brexit and this scheme could be rolled out without significant impact on the District's rates, while improving the service provided to the ratepayer and impacting favourably on those people from the Down side of the District. This was an opportunity to meet the recycling targets by 2020.

The Chief Executive and Mr Parkes responded to the queries as follows:

- The matter had been discussed at length over the previous 6 months with various options being brought before the Party Representatives Meeting. Consultants would incur associated costs and would push the timeline back.
- 2020 targets must be met in relation to meeting statutory recycling targets.
- Blue bins were currently 240 litres and the insert for glass would be 40 litres which could be accommodated within the bin.

Councillors Stokes, Carr, Sharvin, Quinn, Murnin, Fitzpatrick and Tinnelly spoke against the amendment to the Committee's recommendation, stating:

- There was a need for an independent economic appraisal as the decision taken would have an impact on future ratepayers.
- An independent person was being requested as there was not enough information contained within the Report to enable a decision to be made that involved expenditure of £3m and figures requested had not been presented. The matter should be revisited with all facts and figures presented.
- As a member of ARC21 was it the case that if Council was over its 50% target, this could be offset against the figures of other member Councils which were below the 50% target and therefore fines would not be imposed?
- As stated at the Audit Committee, Council must keep their MRP at a certain level in line with what was required by Council. If £3m was removed out of the reserves to fund new refuse fleet, would Council be in breach of the Prudential Code?
- Would having the insert on top of the blue bin cause it to be top heavy and therefore topple over?
- How many litres of glass would the receptacle on the refuse vehicle hold?
- Was there any update on commercial recycling?
- Had any of the new vehicles already been purchased?
- The insertion of glass into blue bins, currently operated in Newry, should be rolled out across the Down side of the District as this would automatically increase the amount of recycling and targets could then be achieved much sooner.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carville and Mr Parkes responded to the queries as follows:

- Brown bins had been delivered to 27,500 households. During the month of May Council had a 100 tonne variation between what had been going into the black bin and what was now being deposited into the brown bin in terms of food waste. This figure showed that householders were now recycling, which would aid recycling targets and reduce waste processing charges.
- It was the NILAS target for Councils that could be supplemented. However the recycling target may be specific to each Council and Mr Parkes would seek clarification on this, in order to inform Council.
- MRP was how Council finance the capital programme. Within the four year capital programme on which the rate was struck and including the 16-17 year, £10m had been budgeted for the purchase of vehicles; therefore £3m would not be taken out of any one given year as the cost of purchasing the vehicles could be accommodated within the £10m already set aside. The MRP calculations had been based on that £10m.
- There were a number of Councils already using the insert system and the weight of the glass within the bin generally helped to make the bin steadier when put out in windy conditions.
- Commercial users could access recycling facilities and the information would be emailed to Members.
- None of the new vehicles had been purchased as yet.

The proposal by Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burns to amend the recommendation contained within the Committee's Report, and instead accept option 1 this being glass collection pods on refuse collection vehicles, was put to a recorded vote.

Voting was as follows, (copy of recorded vote attached):

FOR: 18
AGAINST: 15
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The amendment to Minute RTS/80/2017 was AGREED being that Council accept option 1, this being glass collection pods on refuse collection vehicles.

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record, with the exception of minute RTS/80/2017 and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane.

CORRESPONDENCE

C/117/2017 CORRESPONDENCE FROM HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE BOARD – RE-SHAPING STROKE SERVICES: A PRE-CONSULTATION

Read: Correspondence received from Health & Social Care Board regarding Re-Shaping Stroke Services: a Pre-Consultation (Copy circulated)

The Chairperson advised Council was establishing two working groups to represent both areas to compile a response to the Consultation which would be brought to the Council meeting on 4 September 2017.

NOTED: **It was agreed to note the correspondence received from Health & Social Care Board pending consideration at September Council meeting of Council's response.**

C/118/2017 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RE: SMART PASS EQUALITY CAMPAIGN

Read: Correspondence received from Department for Infrastructure regarding Smart Pass Equality Campaign (Copy circulated)

NOTED: **It was agreed to note the correspondence received regarding Smart Pass Equality Campaign.**

CONFERENCES

C/119/2017 CONFERENCE ON HOUSING POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND – TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2017

Read: Conference on Housing Policy in Northern Ireland on Tuesday 17 October 2017 (Copy circulated)

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor D McAteer that Councillor Curran attend the conference on Housing Policy in Northern Ireland on Tuesday 17 October 2017.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.55pm

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL - RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 3rd July 2017 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Amendment to Minute RTS/80/2017: Report re: Options for Glass Recycling

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		X		
N Bailie				X
P Brown	X			
R Burgess		X		
S Burns	X			
P Byrne				X
M Carr		X		
C Casey	X			
W Clarke				X
G Craig	X			
D Curran		X		
L Devlin				X
S Doran				X
C Enright		X		
G Fitzpatrick		X		
G Hanna	X			
V Harte	X			
H Harvey	X			
T Hearty	X			
D Hyland				X
L Kimmins	X			
M Larkin	X			
K Loughran		X		
J Macauley				X
D McAteer		X		
K McAteer				X
O McMahan	X			
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin		X		
P Ó Gribín	X			
B Ó Muirí	X			
B Quinn		X		
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane	X			
G Sharvin		X		
G Stokes		X		
D Taylor		X		
JJ Tinnelly		X		
J Trainor		X		
B Walker	X			
TOTALS	18	15	0	8