

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 October 2016 at 6pm in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor G Fitzpatrick

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor N Bailie
Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Burns	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran	Councillor S Doran
Councillor S Ennis	Councillor C Enright
Councillor V Harte	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B O'Múiri
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Human Resources)
Mr G Ringland, IT Manager
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

C/172/2016

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, Hanna, Kimmins, O'Gribin and Ruane.

- The Chairperson extended sympathies to the family and co-workers of Ronan Mulroy who had died tragically in Warrenpoint.
- The Chairperson offered sympathies to Councillor Glyn Hanna, whose mother, Bessie Hanna, had passed away earlier that day.
- County Down had been named in the top 100 Sustainable Destinations for 2016 at the World Tourism Day event in Slovenia.

C/173/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

C/174/2016 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 September 2016 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 September 2016 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/175/2016 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 September 2016 (copy circulated)

A2 Road

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly, Mr Hannaway undertook to check progress in relation to a request to the Minister for a meeting on the A2 road.

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

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/176/2016

**MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER
2016**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2016 (copy circulated)

ERT/131/2016 – Warrenpoint Baths

Councillor Carr said he welcomed the fact that planning permission for the Warrenpoint Baths would soon be considered and he said it was important the project was shovel ready. Councillor Carr said he concurred with comments made by Councillor D McAteer at the Committee meeting in relation to people's desire for the provision of a bathing/water facility in Warrenpoint. He said Council should examine the need for a swimming facility which would enhance the tourism potential of Warrenpoint and requested this be included as one of the options in the options paper, following the outcome of the Warrenpoint Baths planning process.

A discussion ensued and Mr Hannaway said Council had funded work to date on the Warrenpoint Baths. He said any additional sporting facilities would have to form part of Council's overall Sports Development Strategy. He clarified that Heritage Lottery Funding provided funding for a different type of development, and involved keeping buildings traditional.

Councillor D McAteer said the DEA Councillors had not been consulted by the Heritage Lottery Fund and he wished to keep the project alive for potential Heritage Lottery funding. He referred to the District being a primary tourist area in Ireland, saying this project would drive tourism in Warrenpoint.

Councillor W Clarke referred to a number of large Heritage Lottery Funded projects underway in the District, saying a new planning application would need to be made to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor D McAteer, that Warrenpoint Baths be discussed at the October meeting of ERT Committee under Option 3 – Refurbish the existing building and discussed in relation to the Sports Development Strategy.

ERT/133/2016 – Clanrye River and Public Realm Clean Up

Councillor Casey asked for clarity on the following points:

- Whether all avenues had been exhausted regarding Rivers Agency undertaking the cleaning of the Clanrye River.
- Had the terms and conditions or ownership changed regarding the car park at the bottom of Catherine Street, Newry, which had been leased to raise funding to enable the steam cleaning of the footpaths in Newry.

Mr Hannaway undertook to investigate the above issues and update Councillor Casey.

Councillor Reilly referred to the river in Kilkeel, saying Rivers Agency were adamant their only responsibility was the free flow of water through the river and he suggested Council should be seeking to have more work carried out on town centre rivers.

Councillor Hyland said the condition of rivers was a long standing issue. He said the Clanrye River was in an awful state and was not attractive for tourists and he welcomed Council approaching any agency or body to help to improve the current situation.

AGREED: **The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Burgess, with the amendment as agreed to minute ERT/131/2016.**

C/177/2016 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2016 (copy circulated)

SPR/193/2016 – IT Strategy

Councillor Carr placed on record his appreciation to Mrs Carville for providing the breakdown of the 40 IT projects within the IT Strategy, but asked that these be broken down further prior to the rates estimates process, so that a realistic figure could be put into the rates for next year.

In response, Mrs Carville said the figures of the revenue and capital streams would be drilled down into further during the rates estimates process. She advised the Efficiencies Working Group had been agreed as the forum for preparation of the rates process. She said the IT Strategy was a 4 year strategy which would be updated over the next 4 years and information would be brought back to Councillors as to where the spend was against estimate.

Mrs Carville said the £7.6m figure referred to was the best estimate that had been arrived at by the Consultants and if this figure changed, then the best estimate would be used for the rates process.

Councillor Sharvin thanked Mrs Carville and Mr Ringland for the further breakdown. He said some of the projects could be rolled together as one which could save Council a substantial amount of money.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mrs Carville said that if Council was in agreement to proceed, investigation would commence on individual cases on a priority basis and detailed business cases would be drawn up. Cost savings

generated from any new systems would be considered, together with collaboration with other Councils.

Mrs Carville further advised an IT Project Board would be set up to oversee the business cases and regular updates brought back to Efficiencies Working Group as the projects evolved.

Councillor Casey expressed concerns regarding Council's IT equipment being provided by Hewlett-Packard, saying he was aware of the role they played in providing oppressive security software which was used against Palestinians in the Westbank.

Mrs Carville undertook to provide Councillor Casey with details of companies used by the Council for IT equipment.

In response to Councillor Burns, Mr Ringland advised that no particular project or solution had been chosen to date. He said it was important to go to the market and let the competitive processes drive out the best solution to meet Council's requirements. He added that this would be a solution driven exercise.

In response to concerns from Councillor Enright, Mrs Carville said the IT Strategy was all about achieving efficiency of business processes and the next stage to the process would provide a greater level of detail. She said that the timing of the projects was important and the merging of the departments into one.

AGREED: **The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor W Clarke.**

C/178/2016 REPORT OF THE ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Report of the Elected Member Development Working Group Meeting held on 12 September 2016 (copy circulated)

AGREED: **The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Harvey.**

C/179/2016 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 September 2016 (copy circulated)

AHC/112/2016 – Delegation to Minister

Councillor Burns advised he was the representative from Sinn Fein to meet with the Minister for Education to discuss the development of sports facilities between schools and Councils.

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

C/180/2016 **MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Read: Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2016 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Hearty.

RTS/156/2016 – Report re. Off-Street Parking – Extension of Agency Agreement with Transport NI

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Trainor, 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 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).

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

Agreed: When the Council came out of closed session, the Chief Executive reported it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew, to approve the proposed extension of the Agency Agreement and Technical Specification with Transport NI (TNI) for up to a further three (3) years, effective from 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2019, based on the final schedule of costs provided at Appendix 1, as circulated at the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee held on 21 September 2016.

AGREED: The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew.

C/181/2016

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2016 (copy circulated)

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

AC/50/2016 – Action Sheet – Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting – 28 April 2016

(2) Councillor Craig raised concern at the on-going discussion in relation to the M & E works proposed for Down Leisure Centre. He asked that the Consultants be invited to meet with all Councillors to have an open and transparent discussion on the issues raised by Councillor Enright and any other interested Councillors.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Hearty, that the M&E consultancy team for the Down Leisure Centre be invited to a meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee, to which all Councillors would be invited, for a question and answer session on this issue.

In response to queries from Councillor Reilly, Mrs Carville explained at the Efficiencies Working Group meeting the previous week, it had been agreed the working group would be the forum for the rates estimates process. She added that all Councillors were invited to attend the Efficiencies Working Group and she was in the process of agreeing a detailed timetable.

Councillor Reilly expressed concerns regarding the Mournes DEA and in particular the Annalong Harbour issue and said he hoped the needs of the Mournes would be given consideration within the rates setting process.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONSULTATION

C/182/2016

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MINISTER O'NEILL RE: VISIT TO DOWNE HOSPITAL

Read: Correspondence dated 15 September 2016, received from Minister O'Neill regarding visit to Downe Hospital (Copy circulated).

Councillors Walker and Trainor said they were very disappointed the Minister of Health had refused to meet with the Council on the matter of Downe hospital.

Councillor Hyland said Daisy Hill Hospital should also have been included in any correspondence to the Minister.

Councillor Hearty said the Minister had only recently taken up post and intended firstly to meet with the Trust

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Trainor, that Council write to the Minister of Health expressing disappointment at her refusal to meet with Council and asking if she would also meet regarding services at Daisy Hill Hospital.

C/183/2016 **CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES REGARDING SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES**

Read: Correspondence dated 31 August 2016 received from Pamela Baxter, Private Secretary, Department for Communities, regarding Special Responsibility Allowances.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the correspondence from the Department for Communities regarding the Special Responsibility Allowances.

C/184/2016 **CORRESPONDENCE FROM BOUNDARY COMMISSION RE 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

Read: Correspondence dated 5 September 2016 received from Eamonn McConville, Secretary to the Boundary Commission regarding 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

Councillor Casey said Newry had not been included as a location for a public hearing.

AGREED: It was agreed that responses would be made to the correspondence from the Boundary Commission regarding the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies on a Party basis, as opposed to a corporate response from Council.

It was also agreed that correspondence be sent to the Boundaries Commission requesting Newry be considered as a location for one of the public hearings.

SEALING DOCUMENTS

C/185/2016 **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

AGREED: It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Stokes:

1. AD/LEG/159 - Newry BID Levy Operating Agreement between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Newry BID Company Limited.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/186/2016

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR BROWN

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

'This Council welcomes the UK Governments creation of a resettlement scheme to bring unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to safety in the UK. We express our disappointment however that no children have yet been brought to the UK under this scheme. We call upon the NI Executive to carry out a feasibility study as to how to fund and develop the regional infrastructure necessary to provide sanctuary to refugee children within this province and volunteers Newry, Mourne and Down Council's support in making this happen.'

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Brown said the motion was part of a pledge that had gone out across the UK and he highlighted the following points:

- It was just over 1 year since the photo of drowned Syrian 3 year old, Alan Kurdi, had shocked the world.
- Over 13 million Syrians were refugees or internally displaced in Syria.
- 65 million people across the world were displaced by conflict.
- The UK had pledged to take 20,000 Syrians refugees, less than 2,000 had been resettled so far and only 98 had come to Northern Ireland.
- Westminster had made a commitment to work with the English councils to bring unaccompanied refugee children to the UK to safety, but they had failed to deliver on this promise.
- Northern Ireland had not taken in a single unaccompanied Syrian child and there were thousands in need of a home.
- Help Refugees latest census of the migrant camp in Calais had revealed 608 unaccompanied children in the camp, an increase of 64% since the Government committed to the Duds Scheme.
- The youngest lone child was eight years old.
- 10,000 children had disappeared since registering as refugees in Europe, potentially into the hands of traffickers.
- Devolved and local and central government must work together on this to ensure a lifeline to these most vulnerable children.
- The District had previously shown great generosity with thousands of donations for Calais camp. This year in November in Newcastle, a large

fundraiser was being organised to help refugees. Intercultural Awareness Days had also been planned throughout the District.

- This motion would send a message to the Executive Office that the Council wanted to work in partnership with them to take in child refugees, including the Executive ensuring funding for regional infrastructure needed for services for refugee children and working to recruit more foster parents.

Councillor Enright seconded the motion stating the Government was in international disgrace over this issue. A trail of devastation had been left across the Middle East and Africa and this was the biggest wave of refugees since World War II and Britain had done nothing apart from build a fence around the camp at Calais.

Councillors Stokes, W Clarke, Harvey and Taylor also spoke in support of the motion.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Enright, that 'This Council welcomes the UK Governments creation of a resettlement scheme to bring unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to safety in the UK. We express our disappointment however that no children have yet been brought to the UK under this scheme. We call upon the NI Executive to carry out a feasibility study as to how to fund and develop the regional infrastructure necessary to provide sanctuary to refugee children within this province and volunteers Newry, Mourne and Down Council's support in making this happen.'

C/187/2016

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR TRAINOR

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

“That this Council notes with great concern the Panorama documentary which has exposed the safety features at Sellafield including the improper storage of radioactive materials and the loss of equipment and papers; recognises that this is the latest in a litany of hazards since Sellafield was established; calls on the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry to undertake a review of all security procedures to ensure they are fit to protect the public; and further calls on the Northern Ireland Executive to take immediate action to ensure Northern Ireland is safe from any risks posed by the Sellafield, initially by seeking immediate meetings with both the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry.”

In proposing the motion, Councillor Trainor said his Party would be seeking the Minister for Climate Change and Industry to meet with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to accelerate the decommissioning of nuclear waste and they should be urgently working to establish a secure deep level geographic storage site away from Sellafield.

Councillor Trainor said the dangers of nuclear waste were too extreme for the Council not to pursue directly with the Minister and the NI Executive.

Councillor Walker seconded the motion and commended Councillor Trainor in bringing this issue forward, saying said the coastline of the District could be affected.

Councillor Enright spoke in support of the motion and commended Councillor Trainor. He suggested a joint Council policy on nuclear issues which would reignite connections with the Irish Government to inspect the site.

Councillor Bailey commended Councillor Trainor for bringing the motion forward and proposed the following amendment to the motion to read:

“That this Council notes with great concern the panorama documentary which has exposed the safety features at Sellafield including the improper storage of radioactive materials and the loss of equipment and papers; recognises that this is the latest in a litany of hazards since Sellafield was established; and calls on the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to secure the complete closure and immediate decommissioning of the Sellafield site.”

This was seconded by Councillor Burns.

Councillors Trainor and Walker confirmed their acceptance of the additional amended wording to expand their motion to add:

“and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to secure the complete closure and immediate decommissioning of the Sellafield site.”

Councillors Macauley, Carr and Hyland also spoke in support of the motion highlighting the dangers of nuclear waste and the Sellafield site.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Walker “that this Council notes with great concern the panorama documentary which has exposed the safety features at Sellafield including the improper storage of radioactive materials

and the loss of equipment and papers; recognises that this is the latest in a litany of hazards since Sellafield was established; and calls on the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to secure the complete closure and immediate decommissioning of the Sellafield site.”

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:40pm

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive