

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 4 October 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair:	Councillor C Mason (Chamber)	
In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor D Curran	Councillor R Burgess
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Brown Councillor C Casey Councillor L Devlin Councillor C Enright Councillor O Hanlon Councillor V Harte Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis Councillor L McEvoy Councillor McKeivitt Councillor R Mulgrew Councillor G O'Hare Councillor K Owen Councillor M Ruane Councillor G Stokes Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor P Byrne Councillor W Clarke Councillor S Doran Councillor A Finnegan Councillor G Hanna Councillor R Howell Councillor A Lewis Councillor G Malone Councillor H McKee Councillor A McMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor H Reilly Councillor G Sharvin Councillor D Taylor Councillor J Trainor

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:**

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/186/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher, Gibbons, McAteer, Savage and Walker.

The Chairperson congratulated Leah McCourt from Saintfield who had won her MMA match in London's SSE arena for the MMA Bellator. This had been the 6th straight win for Leah and on behalf of Council the Chairperson wished her the best of luck in her future career.

The Chairperson then outlined the launch of her Mental Health Initiative for the month of October focusing on the importance of mental health voluntary organisations and charities.

The Chairperson advised she was holding a workshop for all Councillors on 19th October 2021 with a number of organisations presenting directly to Members on who they were, the services they provided and issues they faced. It was hoped the workshop would raise awareness on their importance and enable Members to understand the difficulties faced by voluntary organisations, so as local representatives, further help and support could be provided to allow them to continue providing such vital on the ground services.

Members were informed the workshop would be held ahead of the Special Council Meeting with the Trusts to allow Members to have the information needed to question the Trust and lobby the Departments on behalf of these organisations.

The Chairperson advised it was her priority to ensure local communities had access to top quality mental health care and services and asked all Members to take part in the workshop on 19th October 2021.

C/187/2021

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrews declared an interest in item 17: Notice of Motion, Universal Credit.

C/188/2021

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/189/2021 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/190/2021 MINUTES OF SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Casey.**

C/191/2021 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

C/192/2021 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 September 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy Committee Meeting held on 16 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 27 September 2021 (copy circulated).

SPR/153/2021: Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case

Councillor Malone proposed that Council vote again on Councillor Brown's proposal and that it should read '£10.6m be taken out of the capital programme and put towards phase 1 of the Albert Basin Project subject to Business Case for the park project to be completed'.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that at the Special Strategic Policy & Resources Committee Meeting they were advised both legally and financially that this was a proposal that could only be taken 'in principle' and subject to due diligence being carried out with a report to be brought back to the relevant Committee.

Councillors Stokes and O'Muiri spoke of the positivity and cross-party support for the project as agreed at the meeting and that legal advice had been clearly provided to Members at that meeting.

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Devlin 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.**

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

SPR/153/2021: Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case

The Chief Executive advised that whilst in closed session, the proposal relating to the above in the minutes (appended to these minutes), proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Tinnelly was voted on again with the vote being carried out on the basis of legal and financial advice.

She stated this was a proposal that could only be taken in principle and subject to due diligence with a report being brought back to the relevant Committee.

The Chief Executive advised that vote fell, the results which were as follows: (copy of which is appended to these minutes).

FOR: 6
AGAINST: 30
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was LOST.

The Chief Executive advised a further vote was taken in relation to the proposal contained within the minutes (appended to these minutes), proposed by Councillor Byrne and seconded by Councillor Savage.

She advised that vote passed, the results of which were as follows: (copy of which is appended to these minutes).

FOR: 30
AGAINST: 6
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was CARRIED.

Agreed: The Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy Committee Meeting held on 27 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

C/194/2021 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

C/195/2021 MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2021 (copy circulated)

Agreed: The Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Curran, subject to Councillor Stokes being recorded as being in attendance.

C/196/2021 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded

by Councillor Byrne.

C/197/2021

PLANNING MINUTES

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 25 August 2021 (copy circulated)

Noted: **The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 25 August 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Murphy.**

FOR NOTING

C/198/2020

**NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 2021**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 12 August 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 12 August 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/199/2021

**NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN –
SEPTEMBER 2021**

Read: Bulletin dated September 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/200/2021

**NILGA REGIONAL PROGRAMME – SEPTEMBER 2021 – APRIL
2022**

Read: The Northern Ireland Local Government Association Regional Programme for September 2021 to April 2022. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The NILGA Regional Programme for the period September 2021 to April 2022 was noted on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

Members wishing to attend any of the NILGA events contained within the regional programme for September 2021 to April 2022 to contact Democratic Services.

C/201/2021

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION RE:
C/109/2021**

Read: The correspondence from the Minister of Education dated 28 September 2021 regarding Notice of Motion C/109/2021, Digital Poverty. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence from the Minister of Education regarding the Notice of Motion C/109/2021 regarding Digital poverty was noted on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/202/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – PERMANENT 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McMurray:

“That this Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure asking that a consultation, with a view to legislation, be instigated to allow for the roll-out of permanent 20mph speed limits across Northern Ireland. Such limits should be introduced in residential and/or commercial areas where there is a high frequency, and close proximity, of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. In concurrence, this request, Newry, Mourne and Down Council shall write to the Department of Infrastructure and request that this District be considered for any future trials of permanent 20mph speed restrictions.”

Councillor Lewis seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McMurray stated affirmative action was needed to reduce speed limits. He said injuries and fatalities would be significantly lowered as well as a reduction in emissions and wear and tear on vehicles. Councillor McMurray said excessive speeding was one of the main concerns raised to him as a Councillor and the schools were very much on board with this proposed initiative.

Councillor McMurray said he was not anti-motor vehicle, but he acknowledged the benefits of reducing speed limits in areas where there was a high frequency of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Lewis said speeding was particularly concerning in housing developments and currently the lowest speed limit restrictions that DfI Roads could impose within housing developments was 30 mph.

Councillor O’Muir expressed support for the Motion and asked if the Motion could be amended to include 20mph speed restrictions outside all schools.

Councillors McMurray and Lewis, as proposer and seconder, accepted the amendment.

Councillor Devlin expressed support for the Motion on behalf of SDLP saying anything that improved road safety for all road users was welcome.

Councillor Devlin asked if Councillor McMurray would accept an amendment to the start of the Motion to read ‘That this Council recognises the great work of the Infrastructure Minister in terms of the 20mph speed limits at schools ‘

Councillors McMurray and Lewis, as proposer and seconder, accepted the amendment.

Councillors Hanna, McKee, Owen and Taylor were broadly in support of the Motion but expressed concerns regarding a permanent speed restriction of 20mph for 24 hours/day saying they had concerns this would result in traffic congestion.

Councillor Hanlon expressed support for the Motion and said she did not think traffic congestion would be an issue.

Councillor Clarke expressed support for the Motion and said the biggest hurdle was enforcement of any speed limits and he asked Councillor McMurray if he would consider an amendment to the proposal to include writing to the PSNI asking for an increase in speed detection units on all roads in the District.

Councillors McMurray and Lewis, as proposer and seconder, accepted the amendment.

In summing up, Councillor McMurray thanked Members for their support and said he did not envisage a permanent 20mph speed limit 24 hours / day as being a cause for concern.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that this Council recognises the great work of the Infrastructure Minister in terms of the 20mph speed limits at schools and write to the Minister for Infrastructure asking that a consultation, with a view to legislation, be instigated to allow for the roll-out of permanent 20mph speed limits across Northern Ireland. Such limits should be introduced in residential and/or commercial areas and outside all schools, where there is a high frequency, and close proximity of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. In concurrence, this request, Newry, Mourne and Down Council shall write to the Department of Infrastructure and request that this District be considered for any future trials of permanent 20mph speed restrictions. Also to write to the PSNI requesting increase in speed detection on all our roads within the District.**

Councillor Andrews left the Chamber at this point having declared an interest in the following item – 7.13pm.

C/203/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – UNIVERSAL CREDIT

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Byrne:

“This Council recognises that the £20 Universal Credit uplift has provided a lifeline to many families and recognises the devastating impact that its proposed removal would have at this critical juncture of the recovery period when workers face the end of the furlough scheme and massive increases in energy bills. The Council also recognises that the removal of the £20 per week payment will be devastating for those living here, will push more people into poverty, increase reliance on foodbanks, and increase homelessness, as well as having dire consequences for our local economy. The Council calls on the Communities Minister, in the absence of any action from the Westminster government, to liaise with her colleague, the Finance Minister, to uphold this uplift for the remainder of the financial year and commit to expediting a long term strategy to tackle the shameful levels of poverty and social deprivation across Newry, Mourne and Down.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McKeivitt.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Byrne said the Government plan to remove the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift was both cruel and callous and would affect 134,000 people across Northern Ireland with Newry, Mourne and Down Council area and in particular the Slieve Gullion area being significantly affected.

Councillor Byrne said the payment had been introduced to help people during the pandemic and as the pandemic was still ongoing, it was inexplicable to cut it now. He said it had been a lifeline to a lot of families and with the furlough scheme due to end, and a large increase in the cost of living, the payment which equated to £1,040 p.a. would result in many families being forced into poverty.

Councillor Byrne said it was imperative Newry Mourne and Down Council do all in their power to protect the most vulnerable and to be creative and exhaust all avenues available and whilst he acknowledged it would be difficult, he said it was not impossible to try and mitigate against these cuts from Government.

Councillor Byrne said the removal of this payment from the poorest families would also have a significant impact on the economy.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor McKeivitt said the Universal Credit uplift was a necessity, not a luxury and said the Communications Minister was prioritising an Anti-Poverty Strategy and part of that should be to protect all those on universal credit.

Councillor McKeivitt said the people affected by the cuts needed reassurance that all was being done to ensure they did not lose the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift.

Councillor Finnegan expressed full support for the Motion and said a recent statement made by Therese Coffey MP that the shortfall could be made up by working an extra 2 hours per week, showed a distinct lack of understanding of the situation. Councillor Finnegan said it was important to speak with one voice in demanding the Government do not proceed with the cut to the Universal Credit uplift payment.

Councillor Finnegan asked that an amendment be made to the Motion to read:

This Council recognises that the £20 Universal Credit uplift has provided a lifeline to many families and recognises the devastating impact that its proposed removal would have at this critical juncture of the recovery period when workers face the end of the furlough scheme and massive increases in energy bills. The Council also recognises that the removal of the £20 per week payment will be devastating for those living here, will push more people into poverty, increase reliance on foodbanks, and increase homelessness, as well as having dire consequences for our local economy. The Council calls on the Communities Minister, to continue to liaise with her Executive colleagues and colleagues in the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly to press the British Government to retain this uplift, and to continue to progress a long-term strategy to tackle the shameful levels of poverty and social deprivation across Newry Mourne and Down Council area.

Councillors Byrne and McKeivitt, as proposer and seconder, accepted the amendment.

Councillors Hanna, McMurray and Taylor all expressed support for the Motion saying the decision by the Government to cut the payment was unacceptable and agreed decisive action was needed.

In summing up, Councillor Byrne thanked Members for their support and said it was important to work together for the people in the District.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, that this Council recognises that the £20 Universal Credit uplift has provided a lifeline to many families and recognises the devastating impact that its proposed removal would have at this critical juncture of the recovery period when workers face the end of the furlough scheme and massive increases in energy bills. The Council also recognises that the removal of the £20 per week payment will be devastating for those living here, will push more people into poverty, increase reliance on foodbanks, and increase homelessness, as well as having dire consequences for our local economy. The Council calls on the Communities Minister, to continue to liaise with her Executive colleagues and colleagues in the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly to press the British Government to retain this uplift, and to continue to progress a long-term strategy to tackle the shameful levels of poverty and social deprivation across Newry Mourne and Down Council area.

Councillor Andrews joined the meeting at this point – 7.40pm.

C/204/2021 **NOTICE OF MOTION – MEMORIAL, COVID PANDEMIC**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

**"This Council notes the serious impact that the Coronavirus pandemic has had on Northern Ireland.
We recognise that many families have lost loved ones and note that death figures continue to rise.
We wish to also acknowledge the sacrifice of service from our health service families along with those from across our voluntary and communities sector, who helped their communities at the time that they were at their most vulnerable.
The Council will seek to commission a memorial to be placed within the grounds of Downshire Civic Centre to mark the pandemic, collective loss and sacrifice of healthcare staff including those from the public, private and voluntary sector.
We also note and support the call of Health Minister Robin Swann to establish a Northern Ireland wide memorial."**

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

The Chairperson advised the motion was being referred to the Equality and Good Relations Forum under Standing Order 16.1.6.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Equality and Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/205/2021 **NOTICE OF MOTION – COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

**"That this Council recognises the economic disruption caused to communities across the District caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, periods of economic recession, and Tory austerity;
Further recognises long-standing economic problems in the District, including inequality, low-paid employment, poor rates of socially effective investment, deprivation, and unsustainable levels of carbon emissions and ecological damage;
Acknowledges that local economic models which prioritise wealth extraction and profit maximisation over community wellbeing have unacceptable consequences for workers and communities;
Acknowledges the success of CWB as a community-oriented strategy of economic development focused on securing well-paid employment, deploying local finance to the benefit of the community, greater community control and more strategic use of land and property, nurturing economic democracy and cooperative enterprises, and making best use of local anchor institutions to locally procure goods and services and provide decent employment."**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hanlon referred to Sinn Féin having recently launched proposals around Community Wealth Building (CWB), an alternative model for economic development seeking to leverage existing local and regional resources to provide workers, families, and communities with greater control over their own economic development.

Councillor Hanlon spoke of how Tory austerity and a denial of basic economic competencies had stifled economic development and that CWB had the potential to deliver lasting and progressive change to make fairer, more sustainable and vibrant communities. She then outlined the five key pillars to CWB proposals as follows:

- Make financial power work for people and local towns by retaining as much of that wealth as we can through local supply chains and targeted procurement contracts.
- Work with key institutions (commercial, public and semi-state) to create local employment and set a standard for high quality, sustainable jobs.
- Utilise all land and assets in our communities to generate wealth and resources for the people who live there.
- Develop an inclusive economy with social forms of ownership like co-operatives.
- Reduce our carbon footprint by establishing shorter supply chains and greater local employment.

Councillor Hanlon advised Sinn Féin were calling on all county councils across the North to endorse the model of Community Wealth Building and incorporate it into Local Economic Community Plans and asked Members to support the motion.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí who proposed an amendment for the creation of a working group to oversee progress and to ensure that Councillors were key stakeholders who are centrally involved in the process.

The Chief Executive asked Members to note that the establishment of a working group would be required to go through the Strategy, Resources and Committee.

The amendment was agreed and accepted.

Councillor Brown welcomed the motion and commented on how it was complimentary to other motions brought before Council to build alternative economic models such as UBI, Mutual Banking, embedding social value in procurement processes etc. Councillor Brown spoke at length of how Community Wealth Building was a complex strategy to embed locally and would involve an overhaul of Council processes to redirect financial flows into the local economy and require partnership working with local institutions.

Councillor Brown proposed an amendment to the motion to include the following:
"That Council hosts a conference on community wealth building which can inform the work of the working group and invites leading experts in the field including but not limited to Cleveland and Preston".

Councillor Hanlon commented this was an idea that would be discussed within the Working Group and that whilst there was work being done within Council, a much more strategic approach was needed within governance arrangements.

Councillors Hanlon and Ó Muirí, as proposer and seconder agreed to accept Councillor Brown's amendment.

Councillor Trainor voiced SDLP support for the amended motion and the need to facilitate Community Wealth Building to help tackle the economic problems faced within the District.

Councillor Trainor suggested that as a Working Group there should be engagement with organisations in Northern Ireland who worked to empower communities e.g., Development Trusts NI.

Councillor Taylor spoke in support of the motion and the establishment of a Working Group and that his party was happy to explore further what Council could do to achieve better conditions for all. He also acknowledged the support offered by the UK Government over the previous 18 months in terms of Covid.

Councillor Reilly spoke of the need for a radical overhaul of how Councils were configured and how they could bring change within communities.

In response, the Chairperson clarified that a recent Community Planning Meeting it had been raised that Council was working really well with communities within the Community Planning Realm and that this motion was to further progress that. She also reaffirmed the need for the Working Group to be established through the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Hanlon thanked Members for their support for the motion. She acknowledged there were good mechanisms already in place within Council however this was to enable cohesion and understanding from Members on how to empower communities and welcomed the agreement for the establishment for a working group.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that this Council:

Recognises the economic disruption caused to communities across the District caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, periods of economic recession, and Tory austerity;

Further recognises long-standing economic problems in the District, including inequality, low-paid employment, poor rates of socially effective investment, deprivation, and unsustainable levels of carbon emissions and ecological damage;

Acknowledges that local economic models which prioritise wealth extraction and profit maximisation over community wellbeing have unacceptable consequences for workers and communities;

Acknowledges the success of CWB as a community-oriented strategy of economic development focused on securing well-

paid employment, deploying local finance to the benefit of the community, greater community control and more strategic use of land and property, nurturing economic democracy and cooperative enterprises, and making best use of local anchor institutions to locally procure goods and services and provide decent employment.

That a Working Group be created to oversee our progress and to ensure that Councillors are stakeholders who are centrally involved in the process and that council hosts a conference on community wealth building which can inform the work of the working group and invites leading experts in the field including but not limited to Cleveland and Preston.

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

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 November 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 04.10.21

VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre/Hybrid

MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE:

SPR/153/2021: Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case

Councillor Brown's proposal relating to the above in the minutes, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly was voted on again.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		X		
P Brown	X			
R Burgess		X		
P Byrne		X		
C Casey		X		
W Clarke		X		
D Curran		X		
L Devlin		X		
S Doran		X		
C Enright	X			
A Finnegan		X		
H Gallagher				X
M Gibbons				X
O Hanlon		X		
G Hanna		X		
V Harte		X		
R Howell		X		
M Larkin		X		
A Lewis		X		
O Magennis		X		
G Malone	X			
C Mason		X		
D McAteer				X
L McEvoy		X		
H McKee		X		
K McKeivitt		X		
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew		X		
D Murphy		X		
G O'Hare		X		
B Ó Muirí		X		
K Owen		X		
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane		X		
M Savage				X
G Sharvin		X		
G Stokes		X		
D Taylor		X		
J Tinnelly	X			
J Trainor		X		
B Walker				X
TOTALS	6	30	0	5

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 04.10.21

VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre/Hybrid

MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE:

SPR/153/2021: Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case

Councillor Byrne's proposal as outlined within the minutes, seconded by Councillor Savage to a recorded vote again.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
P Brown		X		
R Burgess	X			
P Byrne	X			
C Casey	X			
W Clarke	X			
D Curran	X			
L Devlin	X			
S Doran	X			
C Enright		X		
A Finnegan	X			
H Gallagher				X
M Gibbons				X
O Hanlon	X			
G Hanna	X			
V Harte	X			
R Howell	X			
M Larkin	X			
A Lewis	X			
O Magennis	X			
G Malone		X		
C Mason	X			
D McAteer				X
L McEvoy	X			
H McKee	X			
K McKevitt	X			
A McMurray		X		
R Mulgrew	X			
D Murphy	X			
G O'Hare	X			
B Ó Muirí	X			
K Owen	X			
H Reilly		X		
M Ruane	X			
M Savage				X
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor	X			
J Tinnelly		X		
J Trainor	X			
B Walker				X
TOTALS	30	6	0	5

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding, Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown proposed that '£10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert Basin Park project. This would ensure delivery of phase 1 of the park in this term and would also greatly assist in drawing down external funding for the park'. His proposal was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

Following advices, it was acknowledged that this could only be an agreement 'in principle' subject to a report being brought back to committee with proper due diligence being carried out.

Councillor Brown agreed to amend his proposal, proposing that '£10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert Basin Park project, acknowledging the advices provided'. This was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

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

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 10
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was LOST

Councillor Byrne proposed that the wording 'including site selection and finances' be added to the officer's recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Savage.

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

FOR: 10
AGAINST: 2
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was CARRIED

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members approve and note the following recommendations:

To consider the contents of the report and approve the inclusion of the adjusted financial estimates for the NCCR and Mourne Mountains Gateway Project within the Belfast Regional City Deal Document.

The Belfast Regional City Deal Document will be tabled through the Council structures at an appropriate meeting in Council in October 2021.

All projects within the Belfast Regional City Deal proposition are at Outline Business Case stage and there remains scope within the development of these projects to consider and take actions deemed appropriate to matters as they arise including site selection and finances.

The Belfast Regional City Deal proposition includes the following infrastructure projects specific to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area:

- **Southern Relief Road**
- **Gateway to the Mournes**
- **Newry City Regeneration Programme (Public Realm, Theatre Conference, Grade A Office Accommodation, Civic and Regional Hub)**
- **Digital and Innovation Hub**

A fund of £132.4m for the Newry, Mourne and Down Region will be supported by Council contributions.