

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: NMD/DC

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Development Committee held on Thursday 18 December 2014 at 6.00pm in the  
Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**In the Chair: Cllr. W Clarke**

**In attendance: (Councillors)**

Cllr. T Andrews	Cllr. R Burgess
Cllr. S Ennis	Cllr. G Donnelly
Cllr. G Hanna	Cllr. L Kimmins
Cllr. M Larkin	Cllr. K Loughran
Cllr. D McAteer	Cllr. R Mulgrew
Cllr. B O Muiri	Cllr. B Quinn
Cllr. D Taylor	Cllr. B Walker

**(Officials)**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate  
Mr J McBride, Change Manager  
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Environmental Services  
Mr G McGivern, Director of District Development  
Mr J Farrell, Director of Environment, Health and Building  
Services  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs C McAteer, Committee Administrator

**DC/71/2014: APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Murnin; P Clarke; G Fitzpatrick; D Curran and S Doran.

Councillor Clarke extended best wishes to Councillor Curran who was recovering after a recent illness.

**DC/72/2014: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### DC/73/2014: **ACTION SHEET – DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 25 NOVEMBER 2014**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising from the Development Committee Meeting held on 25 November 2014. **(Copy circulated).**

**NOTED:** Mr Hannaway confirmed that all actions had been progressed.

#### Matters arising – Transfer of DSD Functions

**NOTED:** Mr McGivern advised that Consultation Documents had been received relating to cuts in budget for both the Department of Social Development and the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment. He outlined the impact these cuts would have including a reduction in funding for Invest Northern Ireland which will have the potential to reduce the support they provide to new projects and business growth; cuts to the NI Tourist Board funding which will impact on major events planned for next year; a 12.5% cut to the DSD capital budget with a concern that some projects might not now proceed as some have not yet received a letter of offer; the adverse impact on neighbourhood renewal projects and cuts to the urban regeneration budget which will affect public realm schemes.

Mr McGivern said another concern was that if the voluntary sector were subject to cuts in DSD funding, that they would then turn to the Council for help.

**AGREED:** **It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Hanna, SECONDED by Councillor Burgess, that Mr McGivern be given authority to respond to these Consultation Documents by 29 December 2014 in line with the concerns expressed above.**

#### Matters arising – Appointments to LAG Interim Sub Committee

**NOTED:** Councillor McAteer confirmed the SDLP had agreed their 2 No. representatives on the LAG Interim Sub Committee and he would advise Mr Hannaway.

## SERVICE CONVERGENCE

### DC/74/2014: **DOG KENNELING ARRANGEMENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 18 December 2014 from Mr J Farrell/Mr C O'Rourke on the way forward in relation to Dog Kennelling facilities for the new Council and recommending the extension of

the existing dog kennelling contracts for a period of six months from 1 April 2015. (Copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Walker, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess, to approve the above report and recommendation.

**DC/75/2014:** **CHARGING FRAMEWORK AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE HIRE OF FACILITIES**

**Read:** Report dated 18 December 2014 from Mr M Lipsett outlining proposals for the Charging Framework and Principles for the hire of Facilities and recommending that the Committee adopt the Policy as circulated. (Copy circulated).

**NOTED:** Mr McBride drew the Members' attention to the two clauses which related to the hire of Council owned premises for political purposes and the hire of Council owned premises by faith groups.

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Donnelly, **SECONDED** by Councillor Andrews, to approve the above report and to adopt the Charging Framework and Principles for the Hire of Facilities Policy.

**DC/76/2014:** **ACTIVE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME EXTENSION 2015/2016**

**Read:** Report dated December 2014 from Mr M Lipsett advising that confirmation is required from the Shadow Council to continue the Active Communities Programme for the financial year 2015/2016 and recommending that the Shadow Council agree to the continuation of the Active Communities Programme for the year 2015/2016 at a cost of £31,021, subject to the rates setting process. (Copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Walker **SECONDED** by Councillor Hanna, to approve the above report and recommendations "in principle" subject to the rates setting process.

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** that if the Council supported this Programme at the Rates Meeting, that Sport NI be advised of the Council's commitment to the Programme for one year only. Noted Councillor McAteer stated that Sport NI should be asked to reinstate the funding for this programme in full, for future years.

**DC/77/2014**

**PROPOSALS FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF THE  
REGISTRATION SERVICE**

**Read:**

Report dated 18 December 2014 from Mrs C McKenna/Mrs A Robb, Assistant Directors of Administration, on proposals for the alignment of the Registration Service and recommending the following:-

- (1) Review of service to be undertaken when GRO Funding Model final report is issued to determine any impact on service/service provision.
- (2) Review of service to be undertaken when GRO Staffing Review final report is issued to determine any impact on service/service provisions. Issues to be addressed around staffing levels and job titles in providing the service going forward.
- (3) Registration staff to meet to agree the information which will be available to the public at reception points.
- (4) Registration staff to meet to agree generic customer information packs for the new Council area.
- (5) Licensing of approved venues to be dealt with by the Licensing Section in the new Council with input from Registration.
- (6) The additional duties in relation to Burial Grounds currently undertaken by Registration Staff in Down District Council to be transferred to the Cemeteries Section of the new Council.
- (7) The reporting Officers to liaise with IT to ascertain what options are currently available to link up the Registration Offices electronically.
- (8) Newry and Mourne District Council Registrar to liaise with her counterpart in Banbridge District Council to establish the impact of the transfer of Ballyward DEA on the service.
- (9) Finance Department staff have confirmed that local variances in lodgement arrangements can be accommodated as differences exist in eg. location of service, safe limits etc.
- (10) Registrars to confirm impact of legislative changes to service and make the necessary service adjustments.
- (11) Reporting Officers to ascertain the viability of securing an additional computer and printer/scanner across the 2 Registration Offices to enhance service provision.
- (12) Accreditation for the Registration Service to be examined following merger and staff to look at generic customer satisfaction surveys/

comment cards across the new service.

- (13) All Registration staff to be utilised flexibly across the new Council area to provide the optimum service possible particularly across the wide range of internal and external wedding venues.
- (14) Registration staff to be provided with a generic uniform particularly given that all staff will work across the new district. Provision has been made for this by the Reporting Officers in the estimates for 2015/2016.
- (15) Opening hours/days to remain unchanged but local variances to be Dealt with in due course.

NOTED: Mr McBride advised that the General Registrar's Office had confirmed the funding for this service for 2015/2016 and that there had been no reduction in funding.

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of **Councillor McAteer**, **SECONDED** by **Councillor Andrews**, to approve the above report and recommendations.

#### **TRANSFERRING FUNCTIONS**

**DC/78/2014:** **INTRODUCTION OF THE REGENERATION BILL**

**Read:** Correspondence from the Department of Social Development advising that the Regeneration Bill had now completed the first stage of its Assembly passage and attaching a copy of the Bill and its associated Explanatory and Financial Memorandum. (Copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** to mark the above correspondence 'noted'.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**DC/79/2014:** **NI LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ON TRAVELLER ISSUES**

**Read:** Letter from the Secretary on the Chairman of the NI Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues seeking the following commitments from the Council:-

- To nominate three elected members to represent the Council, any one or all three of whom may attend and vote on issues under consideration. As the Partnership is self-funded, the d'Hondt system does not apply to the nomination of elected representatives. They asked that, in the interests of continuity, if possible, the Council appoints representatives for the life of the Council.

- To nominate an officer to attend in support of nominated members.
- To pay an annual subscription of £500 as and from 1 April 2015.
- To host a meeting of the Partnership on a rota basis i.e. once every two years, in their headquarters and provide refreshments for members on arrival and at the conclusion of the meeting.

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Walker, **SECONDED** by Councillor Loughran, that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council would become Members of the NI Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues and would appoint 3 elected members and an officer to represent the Council. The Council would also pay an annual subscription of £500 from 1 April 2015 and would host a meeting of the Partnership on a rota basis.

**DC/80/2014:** **CANCER STATISTICS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT: PATIENT DIAGNOSIS IN NI DURING 2008-2012**

**Read:** Report on Cancer Statistics by Local Government District – patients diagnosed in Northern Ireland during 2008-2012. (Copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** to mark the above report ‘noted’.

**“IN COMMITTEE” ITEMS**

**DC/81/2014:** **A) WASTE GROUP MANAGEMENT IN THE NEW COUNCIL  
B) DRY RECYCLABLES CONTRACT**

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Donnelly, **SECONDED** by Councillor McAteer to discuss this item “In Committee” due to the staffing and contractual matters to be discussed. (Local Government Act NI, part 8, para (5), Schedule 6, part 1, para.3).

**Read:** Report dated 18 December 2014 from Mr C O’Rourke on Waste Group Management in the new Council. (Copy circulated).

**Read:** Report dated 18 December 2014 from Mr C O’Rourke on proposals for a new Newry, Mourne and Down joint Dry Recyclables Processing Contract. (Copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Donnelly, **SECONDED** by Councillor McAteer, to come “Out of Committee”.

**AGREED:** The Chief Executive Designate reported that whilst “In Committee” the following had been agreed:-

- 1) On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Andrews, **SECONDED** by Councillor Taylor, it was **AGREED** to approve the recommendations contained in the report on Waste Group Management in the new Council subject to this being for a 12 month period, with a review to follow.
- 2) On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Hanna, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the report on proposals for a new NMD joint Dry Recyclables processing contract.
- 3) It was **AGREED** that Mr O’Rourke, Director of Environmental Services and Mr McCorry, Director of Technical/Leisure Services make a presentation at the January Development Committee Meeting on the details of the existing and proposed contracts with arc21 and also on the existing arrangements between SWAMP and Newry and Mourne District Council (detailing any costs of Newry and Mourne Council potentially exiting from this arrangement)

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

For consideration at the Shadow Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 January 2015.

Signed: **Councillor W Clarke**  
**Chairperson**

Signed: **Mr L Hannaway**  
**Chief Executive Designate**