

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: NMD/FR

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Finance and Resources Committee held on Tuesday 19 August 2014 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**In the Chair: Cllr. Hearty**

**In attendance: (Councillors)**

Cllr. T Andrews	Cllr. S Burns
Cllr. M Carr	Cllr. C Casey
Cllr. P Clarke	Cllr. S Doran
Cllr. D Curran	Cllr. G Fitzpatrick
Cllr. C Enright	Cllr. V Harte
Cllr. H Harvey	Cllr. D Hyland
Cllr. P Ó Gribin	Cllr. R Mulgrew
Cllr. H Reilly	Cllr. G Stokes
Cllr. D Taylor	Cllr. B Walker

**(Officials)**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate  
Mr J McBride, Change Manager  
Mrs C McAteer, Committee Administrator

**FR/29/2014: APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor G Sharvin, Councillor K McAteer, and Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance and Mrs C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources.

**FR/30/2014: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**NOTED:** Councillor Reilly advised that he had been informed by a Party colleague that a Councillor who was an employee of a building firm could not also be a member of a Planning Committee, due to a potential conflict of interest. In response Mr Hannaway stated his understanding was that there would only be a conflict if there was a direct pecuniary interest but it was his intention to arrange a meeting with the Local Government Ombudsman, who has responsibility for investigating complaints, to explore such scenarios.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed that a pre meeting be held before the Council met with the Ombudsman to provide Members with an opportunity to compile a list of issues for discussion.

## **MINUTES**

**FR/31/2014:** **ACTION SHEET FROM F&R MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 JULY 2014**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising from the Finance and Resources Meeting held on Tuesday 22 July 2014. **(Copy circulated).**

**NOTED:** Mr Hannaway confirmed that all actions had been progressed and it was agreed to mark the action sheet 'noted'.

**FR32/2014:** **ELECTED MEMBER SUB COMMITTEE MEETING – 28 JULY 2014**

**Read:** Report of the Elected Member Development Sub Committee Meeting held on Monday 28 July 2014. **(Copy circulated).**

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

**NOTED:** Councillor Burns gave details of an Accredited Course – Advanced Diploma in Community Planning - for Councillors through the University of Ulster and stated that registration would open in the second week in September 2014. He stated further details would come back to Members through the Elected Member Development Sub Committee.

## **FINANCE BUSINESS**

**FR33/2014:** **PROCUREMENT LIMITS FOR THE NEW COUNCIL**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2014 from Ciaran McLogan giving details of the restructuring of procurement thresholds to harmonise spending limits to enable officers in both NMDC and DDC and subsequently the new Council to procure goods and services in a consistent fashion. **(Copy circulated).**

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Andrews, **SECONDED** by Councillor Stokes, to approve the above report and the recommended procurement limits.

**FR/34/2014:            FINANCE SYSTEM AND E PROCUREMENT  
CONVERGENCE SUMMARY**

**Read:**                    Report dated 19 August 2014 from Ciaran McLogan on Finance System and eProcurement Convergence Summary. **(Copy circulated).**

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

**NOTED:**                Mr Hannaway advised there had been a possibility of Councils drawing down money for I.T. projects which met specified criteria but details had now been released which would make it appear that the timescale would make it prohibitive and the monies required would now be included in the Council's own budget.

**FR/35/2014:            SHADOW COUNCIL IT FACILITIES AND STAFF  
RESOURCES**

**Read:**                    Report dated 19 August 2014 from Mr S McGivern on Shadow Council IT facilities and Staff Resources. **(Copy circulated).**

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

**NOTED:**                Members raised the following issues:-

- Councillors cannot submit mileage claims via their iPads, however they can continue to use their own PCs or use a temporary log-on to access any of the laptops in the Boardroom for such a purpose. It was noted that the Finance Department had agreed to an extension of the normal 3 month cut-off date for the submission of Members' first mileage claims.
- The preference that if a Councillor already has an existing broadband line they should be entitled to a payment from the Council towards line rental rather than having two lines installed.
- Confirmation sought as to whether all Councillors will receive new laptops and new iPads so that all Councillors have similar equipment with the same capability.
- A query as to when new email accounts will be rolled out to all Councillors.

**NOTED:**                Mr Hannaway confirmed that the I.T. provision for Councillors was in line with what had been agreed by the Statutory Transition Committee and had been budgeted for.

**AGREED:** It was agreed Officials clarify the issue of the provision of broadband services for Councillors and that a report giving full details of the roll out of the IT system and equipment for Members be available for consideration at the September Finance & Resources Committee Meeting.

**FR36/2014:** **BANKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW COUNCIL**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2014 from Mr R Dowey on banking arrangements for the new Council. **(Copy circulated).**

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burns, **SECONDED** by Councillor Reilly to approve the above report and to confirm the agreement arising from the Statutory Transition Committee Meeting of 27 May 2014 that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continue to use Danske Bank Ltd. from the 1st April 2015 as an interim arrangement and services to be tendered (if required once the Council is underway).

**FR37/2014:** **TENDERING FOR INSURANCE FROM 2015 ONWARDS**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2014 from Mr R Dowey on the tendering of insurance from 2015 onwards. **(Copy circulated).**

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Andrews, **SECONDED** by Councillor Curran, to approve the above report and to confirm the agreement to provide insurance for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in a cost effective manner from 1 April 2015 (current arrangements are part of a collaborative tender process with other Councils).

**FR38/2014:** **APPROVAL FOR NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL TO BORROW £5M FOR CAPITAL SPEND**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2014 from Mr R Dowey seeking approval for a Newry and Mourne District Council £5m loan request to the Department of Finance and Personnel to complete Phase 1 of the Newry Leisure Centre project. **(Copy circulated).**

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burns, **SECONDED** by Councillor Casey to approve the above request to approve a £5.0 m loan request from the Department of Finance and Personnel.

**FR39/2014: BUDGET FOR LOCAL CHANGE PROGRAMME**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2014 from Mr J McBride on the budget for Local Change Programme. **(Copy circulated).**

**AGREED:** It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burns, **SECONDED** by Councillor Stokes, to approve the above report and agree to the re-profiled budget for the implementation of the local change programme (2014/2015)

**FR40/2014: LOCAL DUE DILLIGENCE OF TRANSFERRING FUNCTIONS**

**NOTED:** Mr Hannaway advised that there were some major discrepancies in the Deloitte Due Diligence Report and what had been included in the Draft Budget allocation from the DoE. The Chief Executives Group would be meeting with Deloitte to raise their concerns.

**F.R.41/2014: ITEMS FOR NOTING**

**NOTED:** The following items were NOTED:-

- **Report on transfer of assets from Ballyward (more detailed information would be brought back to a future meeting of the F & R Committee)**
- **LG/37/2014 – Guidance – loans for Systems Convergence and Reimbursement.**

There being no further business the Meeting ended at **6.20 pm.**

**For consideration at the Shadow Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 2 September 2014.**

**Signed: Councillor T Hearty  
Chairperson**

**Mr L Hannaway  
Chief Executive Designate**