

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday
14 June 2018 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,
Downpatrick.**

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In Attendance: Councillor R Burgess Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran Councillor C Enright
Councillor O McMahon Councillor M Ruane
Councillor J Trainor Councillor W Walker

Also in Attendance: Councillor T Andrews

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Planning and Performance
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Employment, Enterprise and
Regeneration
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Finance
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration)
Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director
Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance: Mr R Moore, Deloitte

SPR/077/2018 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Carr, Hearty, McMurray and Sharvin and Mr Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson extended his condolences to Eileen McParland on the recent passing of her father.

SPR/078/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/079/2018 TO AGREE A START TIME FOR STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM JUNE 2018 TO APRIL 2019

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by
Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to keep the start time of the
Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meetings at 5pm**

SPR/080/2018 ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2018

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 17 May 2018 **(Circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 17 May 2018 be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

SPR/081/2018 ENGAGEMENT OF EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY

Read: Report dated 14 June from Mrs Alison Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services regarding Engagement of External Consultancy. **(Copy Circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane to procure consultancy support to assist in an information management transformation programme.

SPR/082/2018 LEASE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN DOWNSHIRE CIVIC CENTRE TO YOUTH JUSTICE AGENCY (“YJA”)

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mrs Alison Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services regarding the Lease of Office Accommodation in Downshire Civic Centre to Youth Justice Agency (“YJA”). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed to enter into a 5 year sub-lease for 80m² of office accommodation with Youth Justice Agency at a yearly rental to be confirmed by LPS and subject to completion of all necessary legal formalities.

It was agreed to take the next two items together.

SPR/083/2018 CIVIC CENTRE REGENERATION PROJECTS, THEATRE, CONFERENCE & ARTS REPORT

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mrs Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Civic Centre Regeneration Project, Theatre, Conference and Arts Report. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/084/2018 CIVIC CENTRE REGENERATION (CCR) PROGRAMME STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mrs Marie Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Civic Centre Regeneration (CCR) Programme Strategic Outline Case. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Ward provided some background to the Civic Centre Regeneration Projects stating a comprehensive presentation had been delivered to Members previously along with updates to Newry Chamber of Commerce, Economic Forum and public and business sessions in Canal Court in order to inform stakeholders.

Mr Moore advised Deloitte had completed the Strategic Outline Business Case for the Civic Centre Regeneration project which indicated the preferred project option was option 7c. This option comprised Civic Hub, Theatre/Conferencing and Regeneration elements and was considered to provide the greatest regeneration potential, with strong economic impact, high non-monetary benefits and was considered lower risk than the next best option.

Councillor Enright stated while he recognised the need to rehouse staff in Newry, he expressed concern as to whether £20m was an appropriate amount of money to pay to do that. He stated there were other projects that could increase the rates base if Council were to carry them out.

Councillor Byrne stated the proposals would contribute to the regeneration of the urban centre of Newry and proposed that the Committee accept the officer's recommendations. This was seconded by Councillor Ruane.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to:

- Note the continuing development of Council's Arts & Cultural Strategy as approved by ERT Committee, including vision and targets for growth, support and delivery, and potential alternate operational delivery models, benefits and associated risks;
- Note the installation of a box office system (and website) for the Arts and Culture venues as approved by SPR Committee;
- Acknowledge the displacement of function and long term viability of the existing Newry theatre and arts provision in the event of a new Theatre/Conferencing facility being provided, and to seek approval for the inclusion of an augmented Theatre/Conferencing facility located adjacent to and strengthening the Town Hall and Sean Hollywood Arts Centre's as part of the developing Strategic Outline Case for the CCR Project;
- Note the contents of the Strategic Outline Business Case presentation, and also the CBRE Office & Hotel executive summaries and presentations made to the Special Strategic Project Working Group on 7th June 2018;
- To approve the SOC recommendation to proceed with option 7c as part of an outline business case – as the next stage of the CCR Programme;
- To approve the procurement of consultants and advisors, site surveys and investigations for the purpose of developing and evaluating option 7c as part of an outline business case;

- Approve location of the augmented Theatre/Conferencing facility on the Ross Thompson site adjacent to and strengthening the Town Hall and Sean Hollywood Arts Centre;
- Approve the separate procurement of the Theatre/Conferencing project from the other Civic Centre Regeneration project elements.

SPR/085/2018 PRIVACY POLICY

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mrs Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Revised Privacy Notice (General Data Protection Regulation). **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: **It was agreed to note the revised Privacy Policy.**

SPR/087/2018 SPECIAL RESPONSIBILTY ALLOWANCES 2018

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Officer, regarding Special Responsibility Allowances 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Walker seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed that similar to arrangements made in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18, 50% of one unallocated SRA be paid to the Chair of the Planning Committee, with the remaining unallocated SRA monies being divided among the other positions which receive SRA payments and this arrangement be back-dated to 1 June 2018.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/086/2018 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2018-19

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mr Johnny McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning and Performance regarding Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright stated there were no plans within the Performance Improvement Plan to increase the rates base and the plan lacks ambition.

Councillor Byrne welcomed the document especially the involvement of youth councils. He stated he would like to see the DEAs strengthened as social partners had lost faith due to action plans not being enacted.

Mr McBride advised the performance improvement plans were part of the Community Plan and were not primarily focused on the internal efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation. He stated the Efficiencies Working Group had agreed to set up a Rates Working Party which could be where Councillor Enright's concerns could be brought to.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by**

Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the contents of the report and agree the Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19, including the five performance improvement objectives and summary document entitled 'Our Performance, Looking Back, Going Forward' and the publication of the Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19 by 29 June 2018, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

SPR/087/2018 SUB-LEASE TO DRUMANAKELLY POWER LIMITED

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mrs Alison Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) regarding Sub-Lease to Drumanakelly Power Limited. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the recommendation in para 3.1 to agree an extension of the area at Drumanakelly leased to Drumanakelly Power Ltd as outlined on the report map, for the purposes of regularising their land use, and subject to the Council's legal costs being met by Drumanakelly Power Ltd, following a check by officers regarding comments made by Councillor. Enright.

SPR/088/2018: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding Management Accounts to 31st March 2018 **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, it was agreed to note the Management Accounts to 31st March 2018.

SPR/089/2018 **DEBT WRITE-OFF**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding Debt Write-Off (**copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the debt write off listings as detailed in the Officer's report.

SPR/090/2018 **EASEMENTS AT ANNALONG MARINE PARK**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2018 from Ms L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Easements at Annalong Marine Park (**copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the recommendation in para. 3.1 to regularise the two easements at Annalong Marine Park required by a developer, at the charge outlined in the Officer's report.

SPR/091/2018 **ACTION SHEET FROM STRATEGIC PROJECTS WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2018**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Strategic Projects Working Group Meeting held on 7 June 2018 (**copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Noted: It was agreed to note the actions of Strategic Projects working group meeting of 7 June 2018.

SPR/092/2018 **ACTION SHEET FROM EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2018**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Efficiencies Working Group Meeting held on 8 June 2018 (**copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Noted: It was agreed to note the actions of Efficiencies Working Group meeting of 8 June 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.57pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 July 2018.

Signed: **Councillor Michael Savage**
Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
Director of Corporate Services