

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/SC/6

**Minutes of the (Shadow) Council Meeting held on 4 November 2014 at 6.00pm
in Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor N Bailie
Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Burns
Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey (Chairperson)
Councillor P Clarke
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor S Ennis
Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer
Councillor C McGrath
Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin
Councillor P Ó'Gribín
Councillor B O'Muirí
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
Mr G McGivern, Director of District Development
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Environmental Services
Mrs D Starkey, Committee Administrator

Also in attendance: Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, NILGA

SC/40/2014: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Doran, Kimmins and Sharvin.

SC/41/2014: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/42/2014: PRESENTATION FROM NILGA

NOTED: Presentation from Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, NILGA.
(Attached at appendix 1)

NOTED: In response to a question regarding the Community Planning function and what NILGA saw as the role of Councils, Mr McCallan spoke of the importance of local Community Plans being led by local Government.

Mr McCallan also highlighted the importance of taking part in the Partnership Panel and the need for statutory partners to work together.

SC/43/2014: MINUTES OF SHADOW COUNCIL MEETING

Read: Minutes of Shadow Council Meeting held on 7 October 2014.
(Copy circulated)

NOTED: The Chief Executive provided a verbal update on the Corporate Plan Consultation Programme and confirmed all public meetings within the 7 District Electoral Areas were now complete with useful feedback having been received from members of the public.

A report would be brought back to Members regarding the Corporate Plan with a further Corporate Planning Workshop to be arranged.

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as a correct record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor W.Clarke, SECONDED by Councillor P.Clarke.

SC/44/2014: MINUTES OF SHADOW PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Read: Minutes of Shadow Planning Committee Meeting held on 7 October 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: Councillor Carr raised concerns at the reference made within the presentation on the Local Development Plan Process and Population and Growth that Newry, Mourne and Down had an overall split of 61% urban and 39% rural.

AGREED: **The Chief Executive advised the information on the urban/rural split was based on population in areas and a breakdown of population (classified within towns and villages) would be provided.**

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as a correct record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Ruane, SECONDED by Councillor McKee.

SC/45/2014: MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Read: Minutes of Governance Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

GC/47/2014: Organisation Foundation Design

NOTED: Councillor Stokes **PROPOSED** an amendment to the recommendations to allow for a new Newry Civic Centre to be included within 2015/19 Council Corporate Plan for the new District Council.

Councillor K McAteer **SECONDED** the proposed amendment.

At the request of Councillor Stokes the Chairman asked for a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: Councillors Andrews, Carr, Curran, Devlin, Fitzpatrick, Hyland, Loughran, D McAteer, K McAteer, McGrath, Murnin, Quinn, Stokes **(13)**

AGAINST: Councillors Bailie, Brown, Burns, Casey, P.Clarke, W.Clarke, Craig, Ennis, Enright, Hanna, Harte, Harvey, Hearty, Larkin, Mulgrew, Ó'Gribín, Ó Muirí, Reilly, Ruane, Tinnelly, Walker **(21)**

ABSTENTION: Councillors Burgess, McKee and Taylor **(3)**

The Chairperson declared the proposal **LOST**.

AGREED: The Minutes were **AGREED** as a correct record.

The Minutes were adopted on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burns, **SECONDED** by Councillor Ó Muirí.

PC/44/2014: NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE – OPTIONS FOR LAYOUT OF BOARDROOM, MONAGHAN ROW

NOTED: The Chief Executive informed Members a discussion had taken place at the Shadow Planning Committee on 4 November 2014 regarding works to the Boardroom, Monaghan Row. Members were advised the estimated cost for audio/visual facilities was between £30,000 and £40,000.

The Chief Executive sought approval to proceed to tender for audio/visual facilities given the tight timeframe to have the facilities in place for April 2015.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor Andrews to proceed to tender for audio/visual facilities for the Boardroom, Newry.

SC/46/2014: **MINUTES OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Read: Minutes of Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: In response to concerns raised about privileged information appearing in the local press following the Capital Programme Workshop, the Chief Executive pointed out if Members felt there was an issue, then this matter should be raised directly with the Ombudsman in relation to the Councillors Code of Conduct.

AGREED: The Minutes were **AGREED** as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

FR/73/2014: Capital Programme Workshop
'It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Andrews, SECONDED by Councillor S Burns.....'

The Minutes were adopted on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Burns, **SECONDED** by Councillor Brown.

SC/47/2014: **MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Read: Minutes of Development Committee Meeting held on 28 October 2014. (Copy circulated)

NOTED: In response to a query regarding nominations to the new Local Action Groups (LAG) the Chief Executive advised he had met with the Director of Rural Development Programme from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and it was suggested that new LAGs commence from April 2014.

A meeting between the Chief Executives Group and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was to take place and an update would follow.

AGREED: The Minutes were AGREED as a correct record.

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor W.Clarke, SECONDED by Councillor Andrews.

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at **7.05pm.**

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

Signed: _____
Presiding Councillor


Signed: _____
Chief Executive Designate



**Newry, Mourne and Down
Council**

**NILGA - *Your* Local Government Association –
Presentation, 4th November 2014**

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Food for thought?

***“Democracy is three wolves and a sheep
voting on what’s for dinner”***
D’Arcy Cain


***“Were we directed from Washington
when to sow and when to reap, we
should soon want bread”***
Thomas Jefferson



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NILGA TODAY


- The representative body standing up for Local Government
- Led by Councils, supported by Parties and a national network throughout Britain and Ireland
- Regional political, policy, investment gains for LG (£47 + £15 million, EER 2015, LG Bill, rates lowering, promoting a great sector, member development, campaigns, events)
- Strong. Lean. Innovative. Effective.
- Never Complacent. Always Working. Membership = 26 councils.



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NILGA TOMORROW

- Will reconstitute for 2015
- Seeks 8 members from each council (Belfast 10)
- Will provide world class products and benefits for Councils, with Councils
- Will be owned by local government's 11 councils and 462 members
- Will bring £££, expertise and innovation into our sector
- ***A strong local government association should form part of the outcome of any reform of councils in Northern Ireland (RPA, Programme for Government)***



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147 DAYS TO GO?



- Don't panic - calm, urgency resolve & unity of purpose
- Developing regional & local political leadership
- A time to negotiate with not be led by central government
- A time to speak plainly& put right what's wrong (lots)
- A time to speak with one strong voice for **local** government - a democratic, efficient, confident, competent, improving part of the public sector



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BEYOND APRIL 2015: URGENCY NOT PANIC

- Devolution – Cities and Regions (2015)
- New Burdens Doctrine (2016)
- Financial Impact Review (2016)
- Additional Powers Report (2017)
- Programme for (Local) Government (2016)
- Political Skills Framework for all Councillors (2015-19)
- New investment in Councils (2015, EU / NUTS)
- New borrowing for Councils (2015 +)
- A Local Government Sector - not 11 separate *administrations* (2014)
- Fierce defence of local government & democracy (always)
- Affordable rates, quality services (always)




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BIG ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

Regional Political Leadership *Why?*

- UK Government and Governance
- Transferring Functions
- Financial Constraints – what is affordable?
- Performance improvement
- Legislation tsunami
- Group Systems including Waste (£400 million)
- Code of Conduct - Take II
- Partnership Panel
- Member Development
- Divide and Conquer, Command and Control




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BIG ISSUES & SOLUTIONS *Cont'd.*

Regional Political Leadership *How?*


- Robust, cross Party evidence – a case to the NI Executive
- Councils will determine performance, not Bureaucrats
- Bad legislation = bin it
- Regional, collective work and policy which is politically overseen, smartly resourced and customer driven
- Simple and democratic ethical standards
- A Panel with teeth, negotiating not being told to “**TURN UP and COUGH UP**”.
- Elected member development 2015 – 19, not **crushed** into the Shadow period, not mechanical, not grant driven



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WORKFORCE: Employer and union engagement

- **Reformed NIJC**
 - What's Needed
 - Renewed clarity and purpose across employers (in NI only?)
 - Distinct and refreshed roles for employers representatives
 - Renewed commitment on both sides
 - How we're getting there
 - Intensive work with trade unions over past 2 years
 - Supported directly by the Labour Relations Agency



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WORKFORCE: Employer and union engagement

- **Jointly agreed, revised arrangements as the basis for consultation with and decisions by you, by March 2015?**
 - Reconstituted 'sides' and working arrangements
 - From half member/ half officer to member only
 - New officer led operational group to implement
 - Members for new employers side aligned to 11 councils
 - Trade union side reconstituted (matter for TU's)
 - Revised working arrangements
 - Means of ensuring matters being progressed
 - Means of resolving disputes




Self determination in LOCAL Government.
Why?




NEW COUNCILS / NEW NILGA


- Constitution
- Regional Improvement and Investment
- European Entrepreneurial Region Delivery
- Member development
- Councillors Guide
- Policy, investment – task & finish
- Objective, responsive
- Local Government's main political corporate network, events provider and strategic forum
- Regional Political representation (e.g. CoR, UK Infrastructure Body)
- Owned by Councils, part of the Local Government Group (UK / IRL)



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NILGA's Reconstitution - TIME SCALES

Month	NILGA's Reconstitution	Status
May 2014	Write to Party Leaders re members, NILGA and draft constitution	All complete
June – August 2014	Prepare product portfolio, draft constitution and investment plan	Ready for Consultation
July and August 2014	Financial and audit analysis, benchmark work and liaison with members and new Chief Officers	25/04/14 and 12/09/14, ongoing
	Staff Development Workshop and Report	All complete
September & October 2014	Presentations to shadow councils – 10 scheduled	From 25/09/14
	Consultation on NILGA product, governance and investment.	Scheduled
November 2014	Presentations to shadow councils Special Executive and Full meetings re constitution /product/plan	Scheduled 21 st November 2014
	Consultation on NILGA product, governance and investment	Scheduled



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NILGA's Reconstitution - TIME SCALES

Month	NILGA's Reconstitution	Status
December 2014	Workshops re: New NILGA Corporate & Work Plan	To be scheduled
January 2015	Seek new members elect from 11 councils Welcome / Corporate meeting engaging new members	To be scheduled
February 2015	Recognition event for 26 Councils	20 th February 2015
	Corporate / Executive Event for new members	To be scheduled
March 2015	New Council Subscriptions and full work plan for 2015/16 presented to 11 councils	March 2015
April 2015	New Constitution effective.	2 nd April 2015
	First NILGA Executive Meeting	10 th April 2015

