

At the Council Meeting held on Monday 5 September 2022 the Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting were discussed and it was agreed with regards to Page 5 of the Minutes SPR/122/2022 – Notice of Motion Livestreaming – The Chairperson highlighted an amendment to Minute was required as the incorrect recommendation had been read out on the recording:

On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to accept option 2 of the officer's report with in-house facilitation to live stream Council and Statutory Committee meetings. A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) will be completed and a review to be carried out in six months.

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 August 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber Councillor P Byrne
Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Rice
Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor D Taylor

**Also in Attendance
via Teams:** Councillor H McKee
Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in Attendance
In chamber:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(Administration)
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Ms E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/114/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gibbons, Ó Muirí and Trainor.

SPR/115/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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Councillor McMurray declared an interest in Item 12 – Land ownership and slipway at Delamont Country Park.

The Chief Executive declared an interest on behalf of all officers in Item 15 – Voluntary Redundancy and advised all relevant officers would be asked to leave the meeting at that point.

SPR/116/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 June 2022.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/117/2022: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – MEMORIAL COVID PANDEMIC

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding, report on Notice of Motion – Memorial Covid Pandemic. **(Copy circulated)**

Following a request from Councillor Sharvin to identify an appropriate site in the Northern end of the District to plant a memorial tree for families to pay their respects, Mrs Ward reminded members that Councillor Devlin during her time as Chairperson 2021/2022 had planted trees throughout all 7 DEA areas. She stated this was in memory and hope of Covid, in partnership with communities across the DEAs, however a specific site could be considered.

Councillor Sharvin then proposed if a memorial plaque could be erected beside one of the trees in the Northern end, seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Mr Moffett advised that Council policy in terms of planting a tree on Council property did not allow for a plaque, but erection of an information panel at the tree already planted in Warrenpoint could possibly be facilitated if deemed a suitable site.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that Elected Members approve the planting of a tree within the grounds of the Downshire Civic Centre and an accompanying interpretive / information panel be an appropriate means to**

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acknowledge the impact of the pandemic. It was also agreed that a site identified in the Northern end of the District, potentially in Warrenpoint, would have to have an interpretive/information panel erected at the tree that had already been planted in recognition of Covid-19.

SPR/118/2022: NEW IRELAND WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding New Ireland Working Group Terms of Reference. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Taylor objected to the proposal, advising that his party did not support the establishment of the committee in the first instance and therefore would not be supporting the terms of reference. He raised concerns that, as there had been no budget set aside, a request to provide funds was likely to occur in the future. He stated this would lead Council down a particular constitutional route which unionists would be uncomfortable with and requested the matter be put to a vote. The results of which were as follows:

FOR: 7
AGAINST: 3
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was CARRIED.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne that Elected Members approve the draft New Ireland Working Group Terms of Reference.

SPR/119/2022: NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN PIONEERING THE POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding, Newry Mourne and Down Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Sharvin that Elected Members approve the recommendations as per the officer's report.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/120/2022: DRAFT PUBLICATION SCHEME V2.4

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Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services, regarding, Draft Publication Scheme V2.4. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne welcomed the report for its openness and transparency, having previously raised concerns that 9 other Councils didn't publicly publish the record for senior officers or Councillors and suggested it be reviewed in 1 years' time.

Councillor Taylor concurred with Councillor Byrne and acknowledged that there had been movement on the matter and asked for clarity that the public would be able to access the information in the same way they could check Councillor's 'Register of Interest's'?

Mrs Robb confirmed that it would be published on the Council website, in taking that step Council was fully complying with ICO guidance and in doing so would be the first Council to complete for both officers and Councillors.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that Elected Members note the clarification provided in section 2 and approve the updated draft publication scheme V2.4 and the proposed way forward as set out in 2.11 of the officer's report.**

SPR/121/2022: MEMBERSHIP OF PARTY REPRESENTATIVES FORUM

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Membership of Party Representatives Forum, **(Copy circulated)**

The Chief Executive noted for the record that a recommendation was put forward by Party Representative's meeting in May 2022 regarding the membership based on strength at election and the paper was being tabled at this point for consideration.

Councillor Sharvin in proposing the paper congratulated the Alliance Party for bringing Councillor Enright to the party.

Councillor McMurray proposed that the membership be based on the seats held and as Alliance Party had 3 seats they should be entitled to a place on Party Representatives Forum. There was no seconder for the proposal. He also queried if Party Rep's was the only forum that could not attend if not a member.

The Chairperson highlighted that the decision was made in May 2022 and the Alliance Party had an opportunity to include Councillor Enright as a member back then but chose not to until more recently when the decision had already been ratified.

Councillor Byrne said he could not support the proposal as it was not a matter for a group holding 3 seats to be a member of the forum, it was based on strength at the time of election

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and consistency was required in all scenarios. No group is precluded from the forum and there were mechanisms for all groups to join the forum if all Independents agreed to form a technical grouping.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that Elected Members agree to the updated Terms of Reference for the Party Representatives' Forum as attached at Appendix 6.**

Councillor Gallagher joined the meeting at 18.19pm

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 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 any 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 Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following items SPR/121/2022 – SPR/127/2022 had been agreed:-

SPR/122/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION LIVESTREAMING

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Ms E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance, regarding Notice of Motion Livestreaming. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to maintain the current arrangements of publishing the audio recording of Council and Committee meetings on the Council website based on the ICO's advice at point 2 of the officer's report, with a review in 6 months.**

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SPR/123/2022: PROPOSED PERMISSIVE PATH AGREEMENTS AT GLENDESHA FOREST

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Proposed Permissive Path Agreements at Glendesha Forest. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to enter into Permissive Path Agreements with each of the owners of the private laneway for a term of 25 years.**

SPR/124/2022: THEATRE CONFERENCE – LAND ASSEMBLY

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Theatre Conference – Land Assembly **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- **To progress the transfer of the parcels of land as outlined in the officer's report, subject to an updated valuation and the necessary legal requirements.**
- **The RIBA Stage 3 detailed design progresses on the assumption the land transfer transaction is completed.**

SPR/125/2022: LAND OWNERSHIP AND SLIPWAY AT DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Land Ownership and Slipway at Delamont Country Park **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed that Elected Members approved to proceed with Option 1:**

- **Accept the terms for Council use of the proposed new slipway at Delamont by Council users, on the terms suggested at para 1.3 of the officer's report and to bring a report back to Strategy Policy and Resources on the Terms of Reference.**

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SPR/126/2022: SEAN HOLLYWOOD ARTS CENTRE TRANSITION PLAN

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events, regarding Sean Hollywood Arts Centre Transition Plan **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the recommendation agreed by Newry City Centre Programme Board meeting on 4 August 2022 to undertake intrusive surveys on the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre and permanently close the site in preparation for the next stages of the project.**

Councillor Hanna joined the meeting at 18.53pm

SPR/127/2022: NILGA ANNUAL PAYMENT

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding NILGA Annual Payment. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to pay the NILGA annual subscription at a cost as outlined in the officer's report.**

SPR/128/2022: VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Planning for the future Tier 3 Voluntary Redundancy Call. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- 1. Note the contents of the report and to agree, in principle, that SMT can progress with the 7 voluntary redundancy 'Expression of Interest' applications. As detailed in the report any VR recommendations will be subject to formal consultation and all applicants will be required to make a formal voluntary redundancy**

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application, which will be subject to further SPRC approval.

- 2. Recruit into the remaining Tier 3 posts via an internal recruitment process focused in the 4 current substantive post holders expressing an interest to remain in the organisation.**
 - Once these processes have concluded Tier 3 posts remaining will proceed to recruitment via public advertisement. This will offer opportunity for employment into the organisation and for current employees to progress.**

Councillor Lewis left the meeting at 19.03pm

Business Administration Voluntary Redundancy Call

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Business Administration Voluntary Redundancy Call. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that SMT can progress with the 40 voluntary redundancy applications. As detailed in the report any VR recommendations will be subject to formal consultation.**

FOR NOTING – This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following items SPR/128/2022 – SPR/129/2022 had been noted:-

SPR/129/2022: **STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 16 JUNE 2022**

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 16 June 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 16 June 2022.**

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SPR/130/2022: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2022/23 QUARTER 1

Read: Management Accounts – 2022/23 Quarter 1 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the Management Accounts – 2022/23 Quarter 1.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/131/2022: SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2022 & NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC AUTHORITY STATUTORY EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS DUTIES ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2021-22

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from, Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2022 & Newry Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relation's duties Annual progress report 2021-2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2022 & Newry Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relation's duties Annual progress report 2021-2022.**

SPR/132/2022: OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – PAT JENNINGS STATUE

Read: Report dated 11 August 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding, Officer report on Notice of Motion – Pat Jennings Statue. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin highlighted an accuracy matter that it stated on the report the Notice of Motion was in the name of Councillor Lewis and should read Councillor Savage.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the notice of motion had been considered and discussed at the Councillor's Equality and Good Relations Reference**

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Group on 17 June 2022 and that members of the Reference Group were supportive of the notice of motion.

SPR/133/2022: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022 & 4 AUGUST 2022

Read: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 20 June 2022 & 4 August 2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked for the date of the next Workshop to be circulated to members before the next SPR meeting.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 20 June 2022 & 4 August 2022.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.22pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 September 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Marie Ward**
Chief Executive