

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 12 May 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber Councillor R Howell
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Rice

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly

Also in attendance: Councillor C Enright

**Officials in Attendance
In chamber:** Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:** Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(HR & Safeguarding)
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure & Sport
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Project Management
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(Administration)
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting)
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration

**Also in Attendance:
Via Teams:** Mr C Campbell, Legal Advisor, Belfast City Council
Ms A Reavey, Tetrattech
Mr A McNaughton, Tetrattech
Mr D Price, Tetrattech

SPR/074/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Magennis.

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor Mason and Councillor Brown who were successfully elected in the local Assembly Elections.

The Chairperson also congratulated Councillor Rice who had assumed the role as Council Chairperson until the Annual Meeting and welcomed Councillor McMurray to the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee as a member.

SPR/075/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/076/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14 April 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/072/2022 - Planning for the Future

In response to a query raised by Councillor Ó Muirí, Mrs Carville confirmed that Item 13 – Appointment of Director: Sustainability and Environment would address some of the concerns raised by the committee previously and that a further report was still on track to be brought to the August committee meeting as planned.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2022, be approved.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

SPR/077/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION – CASHLESS DONATIONS

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding, Notice of Motion – Cashless Donations. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray spoke on the motion on behalf of Councillor Brown and proposed the following amendment to the motion:

‘Two contactless payment stations to be purchased and include Chairperson’s charities to be involved.’

There was no seconder for the proposal.

Councillor Byrne proposed the officer’s recommendation, stating his party would not support the amendment as to make any decision before meeting with the NIHE would be in danger of duplicating roles. He stated that mobile devices being used for donations should be investigated further and perhaps linked with the Chairperson’s fund which would make the process more equitable and would likely extend the beneficiaries.

Councillor Sharvin seconded Councillor Byrne’s proposal, highlighting Council equality and rural assessment needs would be put at risk if Council were to proceed with the amendment.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that Elected Members approve the following:**

- **That this proposal is tabled at the Community Planning Partnership for consideration. The Housing Executive are represented at this forum**

and the issue of contactless payments can be discussed in detail.

- Council could assist the Housing Executive who have the statutory responsibility for homelessness in setting up contactless stations if the Housing Executive believed this would assist their current efforts in tackling homelessness.
- Based on the decision of Members, the Assistant Director of Finance can communicate with the local banks about the option of being able to donate through ATM's to charities on a rotational basis, if required.

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 Ó Muirí it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter 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 a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/078/2022: ALBERT BASIN PARK PROJECT – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin Park Project – Outline Business Case (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

1. Consider the Outline Business Case (OBC) executive summary for the Albert Basin Park Project, Newry as per appendix 1.
2. Agree to submit the OBC (as per appendix 1) to the Department for Communities (DFC) for consideration and approval.
3. Agree to commence procurement process for an Integrated Consultant Team to develop the design, submit planning application and manage the construction delivery. Procurement will be in accordance with Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (NIPPP) via the central government consultant's framework agreement.

SPR/079/2022: PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS ADJACENT TO DERRYLECKAGH PLAYING FIELDS, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding proposed lease of lands adjacent to Derryleckagh Playing fields, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to lease the lands at Derryleckagh to the successful Expression of Interest Applicant for the term of 25 years, at a peppercorn rent and subject to consent from the Department of Communities and all terms and conditions of lease.

SPR/080/2022: VEHICULAR ACCESS TO NEW QUAY, STRANGFORD

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Vehicular Access to New Quay, Strangford **(Copy Circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed not to accept the position of the Department – to accept the legal advice and agree that at this time no further action is required by Council in respect of the work at new quay in Strangford. To instruct officers to write to DFI in respect of the DFI plans, setting out any concerns held by Elected Members in respect of the issue and the Legal Department would consult with the SPR Committee on the content of the correspondence that's to be forwarded over.

SPR/081/2022: REQUESTS TO PURCHASE LANDS AT ISLANDS PARK, NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding requests to purchase lands at Islands Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the disposal of the lands, subject in each case to:
a) The imposition of any necessary conditions on the use and maintenance of the lands, including proposed works.

- b) Obtaining a market valuation for the disposal from Council's valuers.
- c) Payment by the purchasers of the Council's legal and valuation costs.

SPR/082/2022: 2022/23 INSURANCE PREMIUMS – UPDATE OFFICIALS INDEMNITY INSURANCE

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Projects, regarding 2022/23 Insurance Premiums – Update Officials Indemnity Insurance. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed that Elected Members to review and approve the payment of the Officials Indemnity insurance premiums for 2022/23.

SPR/083/2022: CORPORATE HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Projects, regarding Corporate Health & Safety Training. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

- SPR Committee to note the contents of the report and the arrangements for the delivery of H&S training going forward.
- SPR Committee to approve the procurement as outlined for 'Corporate Health & Safety Training'.

SPR/084/2022: THEATRE/CONFERENCE – CONTRACT STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Theatre/Conference – Contract Strategy **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that following approval from the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board, Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- a) Approve a change in contract strategy to transfer the RIBA stage 4 technical design for the Town Hall and connecting atrium structure into the Consultants scope;
- and
- b) Approve agreement of a compensation event for the Theatre/Conference consultant team in the sum included in section 4.1 of the report.

SPR/085/2022: REGIONAL NEGOTIATING AND CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK FOR COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding Regional Negotiating and Consultation Framework for Councils in Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and agree to a formal commitment from NMDDC to the co-design of a Regional Negotiating and Consultation Framework.

All relevant officers left the meeting at this point – 19.11pm

SPR/086/2022: APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding Appointment of Director: Sustainability and Environment. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

- That the Committee agrees to the proposal at 2.9 for the reasons outlined within section 2 of the report.
- Members are reminded of the need for absolute confidentiality in relation to the contents within the paper and the impact that unauthorised sharing of these proposals could have on the individual and the potential to realise the implementation of what is being proposed.

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

FOR NOTING –

SPR/087/2022: LEGAL COSTS ON RECENT LITIGATION SETTLEMENT

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Legal costs on recent Litigation Settlement. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed that Elected Members note the payment of costs as outlined in the officer's report.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/088/2022: STATUTORY REPORTING – (I) SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JANUARY – MARCH 2022 (II) POLICY REVIEWS FOR PERIOD 2021/2022

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – (I) Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022 (II) Policy reviews for period 2021/2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022 (Appendix I) and Policy reviews for period 2021/2022 (Appendix II).**

SPR/089/2022: STATUTORY REPORTING – RURAL NEEDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for Period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the completed annual return prepared for submission to DAERA by requested deadline of 30 June 2022:**

- **Appendix 1 - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022**

SPR/090/2022: STAUTORY REPORTING – COMMISSIONING LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR REPORT ON CHILDRENS SERVICES CO-OPERATION ACT 2015

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – Commissioning letter from Department of Education for report on Children’s Services Co-Operation Act 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the completed submission to the Department of Education forwarded on 7 April 2022 by requested deadline of 8 April 2022:

- Appendix 1 - Children’s Services Co-operation Act Reporting – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response

SPR/091/2022: **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022, ON REQUESTS RELATED TO NAMING COUNCIL FACILITIES, PLANTING TREES AND TO LOCATE ARTWORKS/SCULPTURES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY**

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Annual Report for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 on requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the Annual report for the 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 period on requests related to naming Council facilities, plant trees and locate artworks/sculptures on Council property.

SPR/092/2022: **RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE IRISH EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL’S RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding response to Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel’s recommendations report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí congratulated the Council for their consultation response stating that Newry Mourne and Down District Council was one of only a few Councils that had established a bilingualism policy and a lot of good work had been completed.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the response (appendix I) to the Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel’s Recommendations Report which was submitted to meet the deadline for responses of 29 April 2022.

SPR/093/2022: **2021/2022 FOI/EIR/DP/RM MONITORING STATISTICS**

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate

Services (Administration), regarding 2021/22 FOI/EIR/DP/RM monitoring statistics.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the monitoring statistics report.

SPR/094/2022: **MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD 9 MAY 2022**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 9 May 2022.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.34pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 June 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
Deputy Chief Executive