## **NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 December 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 M Carr
Councillor S Doran
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor J Rice
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor S Doran
Councillor B Ó Muíri
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 J McBride, Assistant Director Community Planning &

Performance

Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR &

Safeguarding

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/165/2018: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor McMahon.

SPR/166/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SPR/167/2018: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES

**COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2018** 

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting

held on 15 November 2018. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by

Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 15 November 2018 be noted and actions removed as marked.

**CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY** 

SPR/168/2018: REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINORITY COMMUNITIES

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate

Policy and Ms S Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer, regarding Establishment of a Minority Communities Financial Assistance Scheme

(Copy circulated)

Councillor Walker proposed that the Committee accept the officer's recommendation and thanked the other Members of the Equality and Good Relations Forum for agreeing that officers prepare a report for consideration at the Committee Meeting.

Councillor Burgess seconded the proposal and Councillors Byrne and McMurray spoke in support of the proposal.

Councillor Ruane stated that Sinn Fein were opposed to the proposal, as it had been previously agreed that any recommendations coming from the Good Relations Forum should have had the full backing of all Members involved, and this proposal did not come forward will full support. He stated the proposal was exclusive and did not recognise all Section 75 categories. He asked whether the Black, Minority, Ethnic grouping had been consulted with to find out what their requirements or requests were and felt this grouping had been added onto the end of the proposal without due regard being given.

The Chairman put the matter to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 7
AGAINST: 2
ABSTENTIONS: 1

The proposal was CARRIED.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed that Council allocate £12,500 in the rates process for a Minority Communities Financial Assistance Scheme for projects/initiatives taking place during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The breakdown of the Minority Communities Financial Assistance Scheme to be:

- £10,000 for PUL community projects/initiatives, and;
- £2,500 for BME community projects/initiatives.

The Scheme to be administered through the Council's Programmes Unit and the two specific themes of the scheme would be:

Theme 1 – Cultural Expression – this theme would be an open call for projects/initiatives that positively promote minority community culture, tradition and identity.

Theme 2 – Positively Engaging Minority Communities – this theme would be an open call for community engagement projects/initiatives to build positive relations, raise awareness and understanding, address perceptions and promote respect for minority communities.

## **PERFORMANCE**

SPR/169/2018: NIAO IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT 2018-

19

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018 from Ms K Bingham, Head of

Performance and Improvement, regarding Improvement Audit and

Assessment Report 2018-19 (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by

**Councillor Doran, the Improvement Audit and Assessment** 

Report and Action Plan 2018-19 were agreed.

SPR/170/2018: DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2019-20

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018 from Ms K Bingham, Head of

Performance and Improvement, regarding Draft Performance Improvement

Objectives 2019-20 (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by

Councillor Sharvin, the Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2019-20 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success', and the proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2019-2020, by 30 June 2019, including authorisation to proceed with a twelve week public consultation programme between 14 January and 5 April 2019 was agreed as per Appendix 1

and 2 contained within the officer's report.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, 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 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/171/2018: NIPSO - COMPLAINT

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018, from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director

Corporate Services (Administration), regarding Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsman – Complaint re: Planning Permission for Dwelling

(Copy circulated)

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

Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by

Councillor Carr, to note the contents of the officer's report

and authorise a consolatory payment in the sum recommended by the NI Public Services Ombudsman

relating to a complaint against the Council for

maladministration.

SPR/172/2018: NIPSO - COMPLAINT

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018, from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director

Corporate Services (Administration), regarding Northern Ireland Public

Service Ombudsman – Complaint re: Planning Permission for

Development (Copy circulated)

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

Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by

Councillor Carr, to note the contents of the officer's report

and authorise a consolatory payment in the sum recommended by the NI Public Services Ombudsman

relating to a complaint against the Council for

maladministration.

SPR/173/2018: <u>BUSINESS CASE – PROVISION OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES</u>

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018, from Mrs D Carville, Director of

Corporate Services, regarding Business Case – Provision of Internal Audit

Services (Copy circulated)

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

Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded

by Councillor Byrne, to approve the Business Case for provision of internal audit services, appended to the officer's report, and choose option 2 to keep an internal audit function which is independent to the Council for the incoming 4-year period, and proceed to commence the

procurement process.

Councillors Andrews and Burgess left the meeting at this stage - 5.31pm

SPR/174/2018: HALF YEAR TREASURY

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018, from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant

Director of Finance, regarding Treasury Management Mid-Year Report

2018/19 (Copy circulated)

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

Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed to note the Treasury Management Update Report

for the Council as at 30 September 2018.

SPR/175/2018: PROPOSED REPLACEMENT BRIDGE AT GHOST LANE,

**STRANGFORD** 

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018, from Ms H Wilson, Land Management

Officer, regarding proposed replacement bridge for Ghost Lane, Strangford

(Copy circulated)

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

Councillors Ruane and Carr asked that officers investigate the footbridge at Moygallen River in Warrenpoint as although it had not collapsed it was in an extremely dangerous state and had been a state of disrepair for a number of years.

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded

by Councillor Ruane, to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the recommendations at para. 3.1 that Council seek permission of Rivers Agency and relevant landowners to install a bridge, at the estimated cost detailed in the report, using finances available from

Council's access budget.

Councillor Ó Muíri entered the meeting at this stage – 5.38pm

SPR/176/2018: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGIC PROJECTS

WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet arising from Strategic Projects Working Group Meeting held

on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (Copy circulated)

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

Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed to note the contents of the action sheet of SPWG

Meeting of 5 December 2018.

SPR/177/2018: <u>INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS UPDATE</u>

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018, from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director

Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Industrial Relations

Update (Copy circulated)

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

Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed to note the update contained within paragraphs

2.2 and 2.3 of the officer's report.

SPR/178/2018: REDUNDANCY

Read: Report dated 13 December 2018, from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director

Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Redundancy (Copy

circulated and collected at meeting)

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

Sharvin, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by

Councillor Trainor, to release an officer under statutory

redundancy as detailed in the officer's report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 5.50pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 7 January 2019.

Signed: Councillor Michael Savage Chairperson

**Dorinnia Carville** Signed:

**Director of Corporate Services**