



December 15th, 2016

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on **Thursday, 15th December 2016 at 5:00 pm** in **Downshire Civic Centre**.

The Members of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee are:-

Chair: Councillor P Brown

Vice Chair: Councillor C Enright

Members: Councillor T Andrews Councillor N Bailie

Councillor R Burgess Councillor P Byrne

Councillor M Carr Councillor W Clarke

Councillor S Doran Councillor M Murnin

Councillor B Ó'Muirí Councillor B Quinn

Councillor M Ruane Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor W Walker

# Agenda

## 1 Apologies

Cllr K Loughran

Cllr L Devlin

## 2 Declarations of Interest

## 3 Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2016 (copy attached)

[SPR-17112016.pdf](#)

Page 1

## 4 To discuss Council's response to Consultation on the future deliver of electoral services in N Ireland (copy of response tabled at SPR Committee meeting 18 November 2016, attached)

5 minute presentation by Dooley Harte, NIPSA  
Question and answer session with NIPSA representative

5 minute presentation by Graham Shields, Chief Electoral Officer  
Question and answer session with Electoral Office representative

[Future delivery of Electoral Services in NI - response..pdf](#)

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## 5 Proposed Changes to Planning Committee Operations (copy attached)

PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ARE INVITED FOR THIS ITEM OF BUSINESS

[Porposed Changes to Planning Committee Operations.pdf](#)

Page 13

[Planning Scheme of Delegation - Revised December 2016 - SP&R.pdf](#)

Page 16

[Planning Committee Operating Protocol - Revised Devember 2016 - SP&R.pdf](#)

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## 6 Response to the Consultation on the Programme for Government (copy attached)

*Programme for Government Response, Report for SPR - Dec 16.pdf* Page 32

*Appendix 1 - NMDDC response to PfG Dec 16.pdf* Page 34

*SPR Appendix 2 - pfg-list-of-indicator-outcome-sors (Appendix 2).pdf* Page 50

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## Performance

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## 7 Performance Improvement - Final Report from the Local Government Auditor (copy attached)

*Performance Improvement - Audit & Assessment - Cover Report.pdf* Page 54

*App I - Performance Improvement.pdf* Page 57

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## Items Restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

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## 8 Ordinary Parental Leave Policy (copy attached)

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

*Ordinary Parental Leave.pdf* Not included

*Draft - Ordinary Parental Leave v2.pdf* Not included

## 9 Car Purchase Assistance Scheme Policy (copy attached)

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

*Car Purchase Assistance Scheme.pdf* Not included

*Car Purchase Assistance Scheme.pdf* Not included

## 10 Mileage & Expenses Policy (copy attached)

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

*Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Policy and Procedures.pdf*

*Not included*

*Draft - Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Policy and Procedures v4.3.pdf*

*Not included*

## 11 Recommendations for Collaborative Working Arising from the Dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission (copy attached)

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

*Appendix 1.pdf*

*Not included*

*LGSC Dissolution.pdf*

*Not included*

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*Corporate Services - Democratic Services*

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## 12 To agree items for discussion at next Meeting of Partnership Panel (copy attached)

*partnership panel.pdf*

*Page 72*

## 13 Council Constitution (copy attached)

*constitution - council.pdf*

*Page 73*

*constitution 2 December 2016.pdf*

*Page 75*

*INDEX-APPENDIX.pdf*

*Page 96*

## 14 Review date - Committee Terms of Reference (copy attached)

*ToR review SPR december.pdf*

*Page 97*

## **15 Rates Support Grant (copy attached)**

[RSG correspondence DCSDC DFC.pdf](#)

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*For Consideration and/or Decision*

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## **16 Correspondence received from East Border Region (copy attached)**

[EBR.pdf](#)

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## **17 International Relations Policy & Ref Group (copy attached)**

[Report to SPR International Relations Policy Dec 16.pdf](#)

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[NMDDC International Relations Policy.pdf](#)

Page 130

[International Relations Framework.pdf](#)

Page 133

[Terms of Reference for International Relations Reference Group October 2016.pdf](#)

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## **18 Belfast City Region Growth Deal Briefing Session (copy attached)**

[Belfast Growth Region - SPR 15th Dec 2016.pdf](#)

Page 144

[Appendix A - Belfast Growth Region.pdf](#)

Page 147

## **19 Correspondence from the Department for Communities re Regeneration Bill (copy attached)**

[Letter to Council CEO .pdf](#)

Page 150

## **20 Carlingford Lough Greenway - from Weir on Middlebank to Victoria Lock (copy attached)**

[Victoria Lock.pdf](#)

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## 21 Peace IV Update (copy attached)

[Peace IV.pdf](#)

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For Noting

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## 22 Capital Programme (copy attached)

[Cover Report for Capital Projects.pdf](#)

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[Capital Programme December 2016.pdf](#)

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## 23 Correspondence to G Coughlin re Newry Southern Relief Road - Stage 1 Environmental Assessment (copy attached)

[G Coughlin Re SRR - 16.11.16.pdf](#)

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## 24 Newcastle Harbour/Princess Development - Update (copy attached)

[Newcastle Harbour Project.pdf](#)

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*Items Restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014*

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## 25 Minutes of Efficiencies Working Group held on 18 November 2016 (copy attached)

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

[Efficiency Working Group 18.11.2016.pdf](#)

Not included

## 26 Minutes of the Efficiencies Working Group held on 30 November 2016 (copy attached)

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

*Efficiency Working Group 30.11.16.pdf*

*Not included*

## **27 Council Lands at Altnaveigh, Dorans Hill, Newry (copy attached)**

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

*Lands at Altnaveigh Dorans Hill.pdf*

*Not included*

*NM226-G-01-003 Land for sale @ Altnaveigh.pdf*

*Not included*

*Dorans Hill Dec 16 Valuation Report.pdf*

*Not included*

## **28 Tender for the Provision of Corporate Graphic Design Services (copy attached)**

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

*Tender for Corporate Graphic Design Services.pdf*

*Not included*

## **29 Disabled Angling Facility Whitewater, Kilkeel - Without prejudice/subject to contract (copy attached)**

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

*Report Template Disabled Angling Facility Whitewater Dec 2016.pdf*

*Not included*

*NM124-G-1-10 Disabled Angling Facility Whitewater.pdf*

*Not included*

## **31 Proposals to Increase Permanent Headcount in the Planning Department (copy attached)**

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

***Proposal to Increase Permanent Professional Headcount in the Planning Department.pdf***

***Not included***

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews	<a href="mailto:terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk">terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Naomi Bailie	<a href="mailto:naomi.bailie@nmandd.org">naomi.bailie@nmandd.org</a>
Cllr Patrick Brown	<a href="mailto:patrick.brown@nmandd.org">patrick.brown@nmandd.org</a>
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Mrs Marie Ward	<a href="mailto:marie.ward@downdc.gov.uk">marie.ward@downdc.gov.uk</a>

**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2016 –**

**ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.**

SPR/192/2016	Former Kindle Primary School – Business Case	Agreed - officer's recommendation to purchase the site from Department of Education in order to develop a community centre, subject to a full economic appraisal and business case being carried out on the site.	M Lipsett	On-going.	
<b>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2015</b>					
SPR/210/2016	Derelict Site- Daisy Hill, Newry	<p>Agreed to:</p> <p>Declare the land as surplus.</p> <p>Request LPS to provide a current market valuation and a recommendation on the most appropriate way to dispose of the land.</p> <p>Concrete shed on-site to be demolished if required in advance of the proposed sale.</p> <p>Review and if necessary improve security at the site to reduce unauthorised entry/anti-social behaviour.</p>	K Scullion	Ongoing.	

**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2016 – ITEMS STILL IN PROGRESS OR ON-GOING.**

SPR/223/2016	Report on Former Chairperson's Portraits	<p>It was agreed that the former Chairperson's portraits be disposed of as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the subjects of the original portraits are still alive, the</li> </ul>	A Robb	In progress.	
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		<p>portraits should be offered to them at nil consideration. If an individual does not respond or does not wish to accept his/her portrait the Council will hold it for a period of 3 months and then arrange for appropriate disposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the subject of a portrait is deceased the original portrait should be offered to his/her personal representatives in line with the distribution of estates priority list as set out in the Administration of Estates Act (NI) 1955 at nil consideration.</li> <li>• If there is more than one eligible person in an entitled group eg. if the deceased has no surviving married or civil partner and there are children and more than one child wishes to obtain the original portrait then the matter will be resolved by the drawing of lots.</li> <li>• Either the original portrait subject or any person claiming a portrait on his/her behalf will be responsible for collection of the portrait from Down County Museum and its care and maintenance thereafter, and will accept the portrait as seen i.e. in its existing condition.</li> <li>• If there was no interested party in obtaining a portrait the Council will hold same for a period of 3 months and then arrange for appropriate disposal.</li> <li>• The above process will be facilitated by Down County Museum.</li> </ul>			
SPR/226/2016	Report on Streaming/Video Conferencing	It was agreed that the IT Strategy takes into consideration the contents of the report and that the proposals be carried through as part of the IT Strategy	E Curtis	In progress.	
SPR/235/2016	The Peace IV Submission	It was agreed to note the submission of the Peace IV plan	S Burns	Steering group to meet 21 November after which the result will be known	

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2015**

SPR/236/2016	Right of Way Proposal	It was agreed to accept the	E McManus	E McManus sent an email with attached	
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	at Ballyedmond, Killowen, Rostrevor	<p>officer's recommendations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of the details of the proposed Killowen Coastal Path around the Big Moat at Ballyedmond as per the presentation at the meeting, ie. the design drawings and technical specification.</li><li>• A joint application for Planning Permission will be submitted by the Ballyedmond Estate and the Council for the creation of the proposed Coastal Path as per the approved details.</li></ul>		<p>minute to Paul O'Kane – Council's Solicitor, asking him to action Council's decision and to keep Council informed of progress. Email sent 14.11.16</p>	
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/243/2016	Report of Narrow Water Stakeholder Meeting – 3 October 2016	Noted.	L Hannaway	Noted.	
SPR/244/2016	Report from NMD/Louth CC Joint Forum Meeting – 9 November 2016	Noted.	E Curtis	Noted	
SPR/245/2016	Councillors' Allowances	Contents of the proposed Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (NI) 2016, Approved.	D Carville	Approved.	
SPR/246/2016	Future Delivery of Electoral Services in NI and NIPSA Response – Future Delivery of Electoral Services	<p>Council to review its response to the Electoral Office NI in light of NIPSA's response.</p> <p>Graham Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, to be invited to a meeting to make a presentation on the future delivery of electoral services in Northern Ireland and NIPSA to also be invited to the meeting. Following these presentations, Council to consider its response to the Consultation on this matter.</p>	E McParland	G Shields and NIPSA invited to SPR Committee on 15.12.2016.	
SPR/247/2016	Corporate Consultation Arrangements	Council to maintain the consultation commitments as laid out in Section 3, and specifically Section 3.2.6, of Council's Equality Scheme, as an interim measure, pending the outcome of the planned review of the effectiveness of the Section 75 duties scheduled by the Commission during the coming three years.	C Moffett	Agreed	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/248/2016	Updated Guidelines and Associated Procedure in Relation to (re)Naming of Facilities	Approval to be given to the updated Guidelines and associated procedure in relation to (re) naming of facilities.	C Moffett	Approved.	
SPR/249/2016	Correspondence from Lidl re Planning Permission in Newcastle	Invitation from Lidl to meet with Councillors accepted.	E Curtis	Meeting date sought.	
SPR/250/2016	Disposal of Land at Carnbane Road, Newry beside Carnbane Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council to express an interest in the disposal of land at Carnbane Road, Newry as this land is important for the future management and development of Carnbane Playing Fields and the land is under Council control as present. The acquisition will also resolve any discrepancies in the Council boundary.</li> <li>• Council to seek a transfer at nominal value in the first instance.</li> <li>• If Council is unsuccessful in acquiring this land, the Council agree to re-imburse NIE for any costs incurred in the relocation of their equipment on this site in the event of development and also agree to enter into a Wayleave Agreement with NIE for the equipment.</li> <li>• Easements may also be required for Transport NI, BT and NI Water.</li> </ul>	E Curtis		

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/251/2016	Disposal of Land at Sugar Island, Newry	Council to express an interest in the disposal of land at Sugar Island, Newry.  Council to seek a transfer at nominal value in the first instance.	B Magill		
SPR/252/2016	Conference – Economic Development in NI – Key Challenges and Future Opportunities post Brexit	Councillor Curran to attend.	Democratic Services	Booked.	
SPR/253/2016	NILGA Planning Session – The Councillor Role in the Development Plan Process.	Noted.	Democratic Services	Noted.	
SPR/254/2016	Big Screen, Newry	Report to be brought back to ERT Committee highlighting the number of events that the screen was guaranteed to be at, and how to maximise the screen's full potential.  Agreed in Principle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The large screen would be removed and made mobile by Destination Newry.</li> <li>The large screen would be utilised at Council major events (Council officers to agree list of Major Events and cost of same).</li> <li>Destination Newry would be allowed to use Council parks, public spaces etc to use Council event spaces, parks etc to show films etc.</li> </ul>	E Curtis	Report to Audit Cmte 8.12.16.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/255/2016	Solar Panels	Noted.	E Curtis	Noted.	
SPR/256/2016	Replacement of Sub-Station at Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel	Approval given for a 99 year lease. The lease to be entered into between the Council and Northern Ireland Electricity Networks in relation to the replacement of the sub-station at Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel in the consideration of £1000 with NIEN to be responsible for the Council's reasonable legal costs.	A Robb	Approved.	
SPR/257/2016	Peace IV	Application to be submitted to Shared Spaces and Services funding call for the John Doyle Peace Centre.	S Burns		
SPR/258/2016	Brexit	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Councils Newry, Mourne and Down DC and Louth County Council, collectively to work on gathering information important to our combined areas.</li> <li>• Begin an engagement with businesses, fishing, farming and community societies.</li> <li>• Agree what was wanted for our combined areas in any negotiations.</li> <li>• Submit a paper to all three Governments on the issues for our combined areas.</li> </ul>	S Burns	Agreed.	

## ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2015

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/241/2016	Williams & Shaw Energy Consultants Presentation re Down Leisure Centre	Matter of use of renewable energies within the Down LC to be referred to the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Forum for consideration to include input from Building Control and Council's Energy Officer.	D Carville	Matter referred to Sustainable Development & Climate Change Forum.	
SPR/259/2016	St John Bosco GFC – Phase 2 Newry Leisure Centre	Agreement given to proceed with a 25 year lease at a peppercorn rental subject to the Department for Communities (Local Government Policy Division) approval and subject to the Club being responsible for all utilities and services.	E Curtis	Agreed.	
SPR/260/2016	Downshire Civic Centre Final Account	Final account for Downshire Civic Centre in the sum outline in report dated 17 November 2016 from Mrs Ward – Approved.	M Ward.	Approved.	
SPR/261/2016	Review of Management Accounts	Noted.	D Carville	Noted.	
SPR/262/2016	LPS Valuation – Kindle	Agreement given to Option 3 – Transfer the site to Newry, Mourne and Down District	M Lipsett	Agreed.	

		Council at nil premium, be accepted and discussions to commence with the Ministry of Defence regarding the sale of part of the Ballykinler army camp and a master plan to be looked into for this proposal.			
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## FUTURE DELIVERY OF ELECTORAL SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND RESPONSE TEMPLATE

### RESPONDENT INFORMATION

**Please Note** this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately.

#### 1. Name / Organisation

**Organisation Name (If applicable):**

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Title:** Mr  Ms  Mrs  Miss  Dr  Please tick as appropriate

**Surname:**

Hannaway

**Forename**

Liam

#### 2. Postal Address

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

O'Hagan House

Monaghan Row

Newry

**Postcode** BT35 8DJ

**Phone** 03000132233

**Email** liam.hannaway@nmandd.org

Please provide below any comments you may have on the consultation options, as outlined above in chapter 2.3 of the consultation document. Please use additional pages as necessary.

**Q.1 Do you see benefit in having all district councils providing advice and support to local residents on electoral matters, particularly those who do not wish to use online registration?**

Yes  No

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) views this as an opportunity to enhance local interest in the democratic process and to improve on accessibility to electoral services for all groups, particularly the hard to reach categories online registration is particularly welcomed and equally the ability to put in place locally based services for those who do not wish to use online registration is a measure that will allow for increase participation in the electoral process. This will enhance our civic leadership role and responsibilities as a public sector organisation. Our Council's commitment to this is outline within chapter 6 of the Council's approved Equality Scheme which sets arrangements for ensuring and assessing public access to the information and services we provide.

**Q.2 Are there other electoral services that you would like to see district councils providing locally?**

Yes  No

NMDDC would like to have responsibility for the full remit of delivery of electoral services as this will enable us to develop learning within the organisation in terms of delivering this service effectively. However this enhanced role for Councils must be adequately financed on an on-going basis, and adequate training and resourcing will be integral to successful delivery of, and access to, the democratic process for all our citizens.

Please provide below any comments you may have on the consultation options, as outlined above in chapter 2.4 of the consultation document. Please use additional pages as necessary.

**Q.3 With EONI's routine work more focussed on maintaining the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the electoral register, and district councils providing advice to the public at local level, would you see a role for regional electoral offices?**

Yes  No

As NMDDC does not presently have a regional Electoral Office located within our District we are neutral in our view on this question. However if the EONI are minded to locate some regional Electoral Offices, we would request the establishment of one of the offices within our District which has a population of 171,500.

Please provide below any comments you may have on the consultation options, as outlined above in chapter 2.5 of the consultation document. Please use additional pages as necessary.

**Q.4 Should district councils have a role in delivering all elections and referendums in Northern Ireland, including Parliamentary and NI Assembly elections and referendums?**

Yes  No

NMDDC is in favour of delivering all elections and referendums in NI. To fulfil this role effectively, support in terms of physical and financial resources, including training of staff, must be put in place at an early stage to accommodate the adequate delivery of services which are fit for purpose, robust and have public confidence.

**Q.5 Should councils take on the functions set out in paragraph 2.5.3 (and Annex C) at all elections and referendums?**

Yes  No

Subject to the caveats listed in Q4 NMDDC would welcome these functions as they represent a further step along the pathway to normalisation within our society, bringing arrangements in line with those existing in England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland. In our area where rurality is a key issue, and bearing in mind the potential for a new statutory duty in relation to this, rurality must be considered when transferring these functions to Councils. This will ensure Councils can meet any new statutory requirements in this area.

**Q.6 Are the safeguards set out in paragraph 2.5.5 & 2.5.6 sufficient to protect council employees undertaking electoral functions from the risk of political interference?**

Yes  No

NMDDC is content that Council employees will be in a position to undertake electoral functions in an environment free from political interference and this will be underpinned by the Code of Conduct for Local Government employees which requires political neutrality. The mandatory Northern Ireland Code of Conduct for Councillors will further assist with such assurance.

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed Changes to the Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation and Operating Protocol
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Canice O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Anthony McKay, Chief Planning Officer

### Decisions required:

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose and Background:</b></p> <p>A Planning Committee Workshop was held on Tuesday 22 November 2016 primarily aimed at identifying issues that were impacting on the performance measures for the Planning Department and the operational effectiveness of the Planning Committee. The workshop acknowledged the present problems and proposed operational changes with a view to addressing these problems.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Key issues:</b></p>
2.1	<p>The key problems identified and discussed at the workshop were:</p> <p><b>The Performance Measures and the backlog:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The backlog of old legacy application is detrimentally impacting on the published performance figure</li> <li>• To address this we need to carry out an exercise to move on as many as possible of the legacy applications</li> <li>• It was agreed that officers provide a list of all legacy applications which appear to require determination by Committee</li> <li>• Committee members are asked indicate which applications they would be content to place on the Addendum List</li> <li>• Those indicated will be placed on an Addendum List and will therefore hopefully be able to be moved on relatively quickly, therefore, at least in part, addressing the impact they are having on the published statistics.</li> </ul> <p><b>Operational Effectiveness of Committee</b></p> <p>1. Speaking Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was recognised that time taken for 'Speaking Rights' was much longer than anticipated and in deed longer than required</li> <li>• Proposed solutions included:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Chair to take more control of the 'clarification' aspect of the process, ensuring this is managed to avoid</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

extended 'conversations'.

- ii. Place an absolute limit on the time spent on each application. The proposed time limit being 20 minutes. This would provide 5 minutes for an officer to present, 5 minutes each for objectors and supporters and 5 minutes for committee debate. Irrespective of how far through the process, once 20 minutes was up – the Chair would call for a proposal/vote
  - iii. Abandon the concept of 'clarification'. The speaker has their five minutes and there is no further interaction with them
- Since the workshop, proposals i) and ii) above have been implemented

## 2. All refusals going to Committee

- It was recognised that with the mounting number of applications awaiting to go to Committee for decision, and the Committee's ability to determine them in a reasonable timescale, that we needed to examine the premise that all refusal should be determined by committee as opposed to delegated authority
- Having reviewed all other NI council's Schemes of Delegation, it was agreed there should be an alternative way of ensuring open, consistent and transparent scrutiny of Planning Officer Recommendations, without all refusals by default, coming to Committee for determination
- Proposed solutions included:
  - i. Review the NMD SoD and remove the dictate that All Refusals must be determined by the Planning Committee. By default, this would mean all local applications would be determined under delegated authority, which in turn would necessitate a number of conditional exceptions.
  - ii. It would therefore be necessary to add a mechanism by which councillors, given they had a "material planning reason" could 'call-in' a proposed delegated decision, for presentation to and decision by the Planning Committee
  - iii. This mechanism would also need a process whereby the "material planning reason" for a 'call-in' could be verified as in deed being material.
  - iv. Alternative mechanisms were considered, and the revised Planning Committee Operating Protocol recommends an objective, transparent and manageable mechanism by which this can be achieved.
  - v. It was also felt that a useful addition to the SoD would be:
    - ...if officers had made a reasonable request to the agent, for information deemed necessary to

	make a determination, and that request had not been fully responded to within 3 weeks (without a reasonable excuse), the application should proceed to a refusal, under delegated authority
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	<p><b>It is recommended that the Strategy, Policy &amp; Resources Committee approve the changes to the revised Scheme of Delegation and Planning Committee Operating Protocol, in order to address the problems identified and acknowledged at the recent Planning Workshop.</b></p> <p><b>These changes, if agreed, will ease passage of planning applications through the Planning process and assist in the progression of Development in the District.</b></p> <p><b>To assist with consideration of those changes, they have been highlighted in the attached documents.</b></p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	n/a
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	n/a
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: The Planning Scheme of Delegation</p> <p>Appendix 2: The Planning Committee Operating Protocol</p>



## **Scheme of Delegation: Delegation of Planning Applications, Enforcement and other Planning Matters.**

### **Introduction**

Section 31 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011 requires that the Council must prepare a scheme of delegation by which any application for planning permission for a development within the category of local developments or any application for consent, agreement or approval required by a condition imposed on a grant of planning permission for a development within that category is to be determined by a person appointed by the Council.

Part 4 Section 7 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 allows a Council Committee to delegate certain matters to an officer of the Council. In relation to the scheme of delegation for planning applications, enforcement and other planning matters the person appointed by the Council to exercise delegated powers is the Chief Planning Officer within the Council and those officers nominated by this officer in writing. Any reference to the Chief Planning Officer in Part 1-4 shall also be deemed to be a reference to those officers.

### **Scheme of Delegation for Planning Applications**

The scheme of delegation for the determination of applications has been agreed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and is set out in the following paragraphs.

#### **Part 1. Planning Applications required under the Planning Act to be determined by the Planning Committee**

The Planning Act (NI) 2011 and the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 state that the following categories of application cannot be delegated to officers:

- Applications which fall within the 'Major' category of development;
- An application for planning permission where the application is made by the Council or an elected member of the Council;
- The application relates to land in which the Council has an interest or estate.

#### **Part 2. Delegated Planning Applications**

The Council has agreed that where all necessary documentation pertaining to an application, has been reasonably requested and, without reasonable justification, has not been provided within three weeks of the request, the Chief Planning Officer has the authority to determine that application as a refusal, under delegated authority.

The Council has further agreed that all planning applications within the Local category, including those in relation to tree preservation and the issuing of consents and approvals, will be determined under delegated authority, with the following exceptions:-

- Applications which are significantly contrary to the development plan and which are recommended for approval;
- Applications attracting six or more material planning objections from different addresses where the officer's recommendation is for approval;
- Applications attracting a material planning objection from a statutory consultee, where the officer's recommendation is for approval;
- An application which the Chief Planning Officer considers should be brought before and decided by the Planning Committee;
- Applications which are submitted by members of staff directly involved in the consideration of planning applications and officers of the Council at the level of Head of Service or above.
- Applications that have significant cross border environmental, economic or social impact.
- Applications referred to the Planning Committee by an elected member, based on a material planning reason, where that material planning reason has been accepted.

### **Part 3. Delegation of Enforcement Matters**

The Chief Planning Officer is authorised to carry out the enforcement responsibilities set out within The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, together with all regulations and orders made under the said legislation, on behalf of the Council.

### **Part 4. Determination of Other Planning Matters**

The following functions are also delegated to the Chief Planning Officer:

- The issuing of a certificate of lawful use or development;
- The making of a non-material change to a planning permission;
- The issuing of a correction notice;
- The screening of and determination decisions on development proposals required under the Environmental Impact Assessment or Habitats Regulations;
- Executing works in default of compliance with any notice or order or in an emergency, where empowered by statute, and recovering the costs of so doing;
- Temporary listing of buildings in urgent cases;
- Lodging objections, in consultation with the Chief Executive, in relation to local planning applications where the Council has been notified as part of the neighbourhood notification scheme;
- Generally carrying out all other statutory powers connected to the exercise of the planning functions which have been conferred upon the Council which are not specifically provided for within this Scheme of Delegation.

The Chief Planning Officer may, having taken legal advice, refer a decision back to Committee for reconsideration.

## **Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir Mhúrn agus an Dúin**

### **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

#### **Planning Committee**

#### **Operating Protocol**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The following protocol has been developed for use by the Planning Committee ("the Committee"). It should be read alongside relevant provisions of the Council's Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct for Councillors and is not intended to replace either document. The key aims of the protocol are to ensure that the Committee makes decisions in a sound, lawful and transparent way and in a timely and efficient manner.

### **REMIT OF THE COMMITTEE**

2. The primary roles of the Committee will include:
  - (a) Consideration of applications for planning permission and consents in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
  - (b) Exercising the Council's powers and duties in relation to planning policies and plan strategies.
  - (c) Recommending responses, for Council consideration, to consultations in relation to regionally significant or major applications to be determined by the Department for Infrastructure or relevant Department.
  - (d) Recommending responses, for Council consideration, to consultations issued by the Department for Infrastructure or relevant Department, or any other Department, in relation to planning matters.

## **FREQUENCY & TIME OF MEETINGS**

3. It is recommended the Committee shall meet every fourth week, though there should be flexibility for additional meetings if required.
4. Dates and times will be advertised at least 5 days in advance on the Council website and at the Council's main offices at Downpatrick and Newry.

## **SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

5. As required by Section 31 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 the Council will operate a scheme of delegation for planning, outlining delegation both to the Committee and Officers (this can be found on the Council's website and at the Council's main offices at Downpatrick and Newry). The overall objective is to ensure that arrangements for decision-making on applications for local developments are effective whilst ensuring that proposals that raise strong local views or issues for the district can be dealt with by elected members. Delegating determination of some planning applications to Officers is also seen as a critical factor affecting the overall performance of the development management process as it helps ensure that decisions are taken at the most appropriate level, procedures are clear and transparent, costs are minimised and members have more time to concentrate on complex applications.
6. The following applications cannot be delegated and therefore must be presented to the Planning Committee for determination:
  - Applications which fall within the Major category of development;
  - An application for planning permission where the application is made by the Council or an elected member of the Council;
  - The application relates to land in which the Council has an interest or estate.

7. The Scheme of Delegation delegates all local development applications to Officers for determination, whether for approval or refusal, except in relation to the following circumstances which must be presented to the Planning Committee for determination:

- Applications which are significantly contrary to the development plan and which are recommended for approval;
- Applications attracting six or more material planning objections from different addresses where the officer's recommendation is for approval;
- Applications attracting material planning objection from a statutory consultee, where the officer's recommendation is for approval;
- An application which the Chief Planning Officer considers should be brought before and decided by the Planning Committee;
- Applications which are submitted by members of staff directly involved in the consideration of planning applications and officers of the Council at the level of Head of Service or above.
- Applications that have significant cross border environmental, economic or social impact.
- Applications referred to the Planning Committee by an elected member based on an agreed material planning reason.

8. Enforcement activities are also delegated to The Chief Planning Officer. The Committee will receive regular reports on enforcement matters.

9. All elected members will receive a weekly list of all valid applications received and a weekly list of all refusals recommended under delegated authority.

Elected members will have 7 days, from the day the recommended refusals list is published, to request that an application on that list be presented to the Committee for determination. Such a request must be accompanied by a material planning reason.

Prior to the monthly Planning Committee meeting, the Chief Planning Officer, the Director of Regulatory & Technical Services, the Council's Legal Advisor, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, will review the material planning reasons offered in connection with requests for applications to be considered by committee. Requests accompanied by a material planning reason will be accepted and the application will proceed to Committee, while requests without a material planning reason will be rejected and the application will proceed under delegated authority.

## **FORMAT OF MEETINGS**

10. Committee Meetings (dates, times and papers) will be published on the Council's website at least 5 days in advance.
11. Case Officer Reports will be available on the Northern Ireland Planning Portal.
12. Committee papers will typically include the following:
  - a) Minutes of the previous meeting for approval;

### For decision/discussion

- b) Details of non-delegated applications (including those brought back following deferral) for consideration by the Committee;
- c) **Details of applications that elected members requested be presented to committee, based on a material planning reason;**
- d) Details of applications of regional significance with an impact upon the Council area in respect of which the Council is a statutory consultee or where it may wish to make representations;
- e) **Correspondence received from statutory consultees**

### For noting

- f) Details of proposed pre-determination hearings;
- g) Planning performance metrics
- h) Details of appeals (notified and concluded).

13. Elected members, staff directly involved in the consideration of planning applications and Officers of the Council at the level of Head of Service or above must pass to the Planning Case Officer any representation(s) received in respect of a planning application for inclusion in the planning file.
14. A quorum, as outlined in the Council's Standing Orders, is required for the Committee to convene; the quorum being half (six) of the members of the Committee.
15. Members will be required to declare an interest in any item on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and must then leave the table when the matter in which they have declared an interest is being discussed. Once a decision had been made in respect of that item, the Member will then be invited to return to the table before consideration of the next item commences.  
The Democratic Services Officer will record when members enter and leave the room during the course of the Meeting.
16. **The Committee will discuss each application that has been presented, for a maximum of 20 minutes (with extension at the Chair's discretion) before taking a vote on one of the following options:**
  - a) Approve the application with conditions as recommended;
  - b) Approve the application with amendments to the recommended conditions;
  - c) Approve the application contrary to Officer recommendations;
  - d) Refuse the application for the reasons recommended;
  - e) Refuse the application with additional, fewer or amended reasons;
  - f) Refuse the application contrary to Officer recommendations;
  - g) Defer the application with a direction for additional information or clarification; or for a Members' site visit.

17. The Committee can defer consideration of an application to a subsequent meeting for further information, further negotiations or a site visit. Deferrals have an adverse effect on processing times, and the applicant can lodge an appeal after a period of time if the Council has not made a decision. The Committee will therefore generally only defer an application once. The Member proposing deferral must provide clear relevant planning related reasons as to why a deferral is necessary.

If a Committee Member was not present for the initial discussion/debate in relation to a deferred application, he/she cannot participate in the discussion on, nor vote on that application when it is subsequently presented to Committee.

18. The Chair has a casting vote.
19. Members must be present for the entire item, including the Officer's introduction and update, otherwise they cannot take part in the debate or vote on that item. However the Chairperson of the Planning Committee can use their discretion in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the Council's standing orders.
20. Following issue of the agenda Committee Members may request the attendance of statutory consultees and this request must be submitted through the Chief Planning Officer at least one week in advance of the Committee Meeting.

### **PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS**

21. Meetings of the Committee will be open to the public, however, seating within the Committee Chamber will be limited according to the venue capacity and associated fire and safety regulations.
22. Seating for the applicant and/or their agent and objectors will be reserved but only for the time during which the relevant application is being considered. Otherwise seating will be on first come first served basis.

- 23.** If a member of the public wishes to speak at Committee they must contact Democratic Services by telephone or by email ([democratic.services@nmandd.org](mailto:democratic.services@nmandd.org)) at least 5 working days before the date of the meeting at which the application will be considered. Only those who have made written submissions in respect of a planning application and registered a request to speak in respect of the application shall be permitted to make oral representations before the Committee.
- 24.** Each deputation who wishes to appear before the Committee shall submit a prepared statement in advance of the meeting and shall only be permitted to speak to that statement, except in those circumstances outlined elsewhere in the Protocol, when addressing the Committee. Deputations will not be permitted to circulate papers to members at the Committee Meeting.
- 25.** All information must be submitted a minimum of 5 working days in advance of the Committee Meeting to ensure that the issues raised can be fully processed and considered by officers prior to the Committee Meeting. Late information may therefore be disregarded or result in consideration of the application being deferred if officers have not had an opportunity to fully investigate and process said information. In deciding whether to disregard late information Committee will consider whether it is fair in all the circumstances to allow the late information to be submitted, and in particular whether the information is material, how long the party seeking to introduce it has known about its existence; the length and reason for any delay and the promptness with which the party seeking to rely on the late information acted.
- 26.** All Committee papers will be available online. However, access to some documentation may be restricted by virtue of the Council's publication policy. Information which is determined to be exempt by virtue of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 may be published where the Council considers that the public interest in disclosing same outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

27. Documentation should not be provided directly to a Council Member. However, if documentation is provided directly to any member of the Council in relation to a particular application it must be copied to Democratic Services Section and to the Chief Planning Officer.
28. Deputations shall be heard in the following order:
  - a) Objectors and/or their representatives;
  - b) Applicant and/or their representatives and/or those supporting the application
29. The Council will not notify applicants or those who have made representations in respect of a particular planning application that a request to address the Committee has been received. Applicants and those who have made representations in respect of a particular application that appears on the Committee agenda may contact Democratic Services in advance of the relevant meeting to ascertain whether there have been any such applications.
30. Only one deputation on behalf of those objecting to the application will be permitted to address the Committee. Only one deputation on behalf of the applicant and/or those supporting the application will be permitted to address the Committee.
31. Deputations, unless otherwise agreed in advance by the Committee, shall consist of no more than 3 persons. Where there are 3 or more persons or groups wishing to address the Committee they will be required to arrange a single deputation to express their representations.
32. If more than 3 persons have registered a request to speak in support of or in objection to an application, the Council will notify, in so far as reasonably practicable, those persons that they may not be guaranteed an opportunity to address the Committee. They will be invited to attend Council offices an hour before the Committee is due to start so that they can agree a deputation of

- speakers. If agreement cannot be reached the places on the deputation shall be allocated by planning officers so as to ensure that the deputation is representative of the range of issues raised by those who have made representations.
- 33.** The applicants or their representatives, right to address committee shall be prioritised over other persons/groups wishing to speak in support of an application.
  - 34.** Deputations shall be confined to the making of a 5 minute address either by each member of the deputation or, should they so wish, by their nominated spokesperson or legal advisor.
  - 35.** Each deputation shall be permitted a maximum of 5 minutes to address the Committee. Where more than one person wishes to speak, the 5 minutes will be shared between the members of the deputation.
  - 36.** All members of a deputation must continue to be seated and remain silent whilst other deputations are being made to the Committee.
  - 37.** Cross-examination, discussion or any type of debate between persons making representation to Committee shall not be permitted.
  - 38.** Once all deputations have been made, by invitation of the Committee Chair, the parties shall be permitted an opportunity to rebut any factual inaccuracies which may have arisen from the oral representations of another deputation but it will only be permitted in respect of a factual inaccuracy which they have not had a previous opportunity to comment upon. This will be strictly limited to responding to any such issue and the party will not be permitted to rehearse representations which have already been made.
  - 39.** The Committee may, upon advice from officers, exclude any deputation from being present during the whole or part of the time due to the confidential nature

of the information being presented; or for such other reasons as may be deemed appropriate having regard to Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

40. The Committee may seek clarification from those who have spoken on any issues raised by them but must not enter into a debate.
41. Officers can address any issues raised during the course of representations from any deputation and the Committee may seek clarification from officers.
42. The Chair will ensure that those making representation to the Committee adhere to the time limits set out in this protocol. These time limits will have been communicated to those making representations in advance of the meeting.
43. The Chair may at any time during the hearing of deputations, if they think it necessary to secure order, suspend the meeting and direct the removal of any individual from the meeting, or order that the meeting be cleared of all deputations.
44. When hearing deputations, the Chair will require members engaging in debate to desist, until such time as all relevant information has been received.
45. The Chair may bring the questioning of any person appearing before the Committee to a close provided s/he is satisfied that all relevant issues have been addressed. The Chairperson may also prevent duplication of questions being put.
46. If a member of the Committee moves that the question be put to a vote and the Chair is of the opinion that the application before the Committee has been sufficiently discussed, s/he shall put the motion to the vote.

## **REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS**

47. Members who represent the DEA specific to the location of a planning application, and who wish to raise issues, either in support of, or against the application, may do so by writing to Democratic Services, at least 5 working days prior to the Committee meeting.  
Democratic Services will ensure that the written submission is delivered to the Planning Officers and the Committee Members. Elected Members will not be permitted speaking rights at the Planning Committee.
48. All information must be submitted a minimum of 5 working days in advance of the Committee Meeting to ensure that the issues raised can be fully processed and considered by officers prior to the Committee Meeting. Late information may therefore be disregarded or result in consideration of the application being deferred if officers have not had an opportunity to fully investigate and process said information. DEA Members, or other Members will not be permitted to circulate papers to Committee Members at the Meeting.
49. Those members who sit on the Committee and who wish to support or oppose an application are free to provide written submissions in advance but cannot take part in the decision-making process. It is important that the public see that they are not acting in their capacity as a Committee member. When that application is being discussed the member must leave their seat and sit with the other parties who are making representations. Once a decision has been made on that application the member can return to their seat as part of the Committee.

## **DECISIONS CONTRARY TO OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

50. The power to decide an application lies with the Committee and it is entitled to come to a decision contrary to Officers' recommendations.

51. Any such decision may be subject to legal challenge and Members must therefore ensure that the rationale for the decision is fully explained and based on proper planning considerations.
52. The Chief Planning Officer or other Senior Planning Officer and/or the Council's Legal Advisor will always be given the opportunity to explain the implications of the Committee's decision prior to a vote being taken on any such proposal.
53. The reasons for the decision contrary to the Officer's recommendation must be formally recorded in the minutes and a copy placed on the planning application file/electronic record.

### **DECISIONS CONTRARY TO PLANNING POLICY**

54. In general, planning decisions should be taken in accordance with the relevant Development Plan and any other associated planning policy documents. If a Committee Member proposes, seconds or supports a decision contrary to the local Development Plan they will need to clearly identify and understand the planning reasons for doing so, and clearly demonstrate how these reasons justify departure from the relevant Development Plan. The reasons for any decisions which are made contrary to the relevant Development Plan must be formally recorded in the Minutes and a copy placed on the planning application file/electronic record.

### **PRE- DETERMINATION HEARINGS**

55. The Committee must hold pre-determination hearings for those major developments which have been subject to notification in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (NI) 2015 (i.e. referred to the Department but returned to the Council for determination) prior to the application being determined.

56. If the case officer recommends approval in the circumstances set out within The Planning (Notification of Applications) Direction 2015, the application will be reported to Committee as a minded to approve report. If Committee is minded to agree with the officer recommendation, the application must be notified to the Department who may decide to 'call in' the application. If the Department do not 'call in' the application, Committee must hold a pre-determination hearing and all those persons who submitted representations to the application should be afforded an opportunity to appear before the Committee, subject to the provisions of this Protocol. No decision is taken at a pre-determination hearing.
57. The Committee may also hold a pre-determination hearing, at its own discretion, where the Committee considers it necessary to do so.
58. A pre-determination hearing will take place after the expiry of the period for making representations on the application but before the Committee meeting which is due to determine the application.
59. After the pre-determination hearing, officers will prepare a report taking into account the representations made and present that to a subsequent Committee which will then proceed to determine the application. In exceptional circumstances the Committee may depart from that procedure and hold the pre-determination meeting and substantive decision making meeting on the same date.

### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

60. The Local Development Plan will be prepared by the Development Plan Team and considered and agreed by Council's Strategy Policy and Resources Committee in conjunction with the Planning Committee. It will then require approval by resolution of the Council.
61. The Strategy Policy and Resources Committee, in conjunction with the Planning Committee, shall ensure that the Local Development Plan is monitored annually,

particularly in terms of the availability of housing and economic development land.

62. The Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee, in conjunction with the Planning Committee, shall review the Local Development Plan every five years.

### **SITE VISITS**

63. Site visits may be arranged subject to Committee agreement. They should normally only be arranged where the impact of the proposed development is difficult to visualise from the plans and other available material and the expected benefit outweighs the delay and additional costs that will be incurred.
64. No one, other than Members of the Committee and Officers plus any other statutory consultees, may participate in a site visit.
65. Members will not carry out their own unaccompanied site visits as there may be issues around permission to access the land, they will not have all of the relevant information from the relevant Planning Officer and, if a Councillor is seen with an applicant or objector, it might lead to allegations of bias.
66. A nominated officer shall attend the site visit and will record the date of the visit, attendees and any other relevant information. This record will be placed on the planning application file/electronic record.
67. The Chairperson, or Deputy Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence, with the assistance of Council Officers present, will ensure that the site visit is conducted in accordance with this Protocol and the Code of Conduct for Councillors and will ensure that the merits of the application are not discussed.
68. The Planning Officer will remind Members, at the outset of the site visit, of the proposal and the main issues.

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thursday 15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Programme For Government
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Nicola Doran / Catherine Hughes Health Inequalities Officer / Data Analyst Officer
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Nicola Doran Health Inequalities Officer

### Decisions required:

#### 1.0

#### Purpose and Background:

Newry Mourne and Down District Council has produced a second formal response on the NI Assembly draft Programme for Government (PFG)  
The first consultation on the draft PFG ran for 8 weeks closing on 22 July 2016 and had a total of 810 responses.  
The current consultation on the draft PFG contains the original 14 outcomes and 48 indicators underpinned by an outcomes based accountability model to ensure :

- a collective planning technique,
- an increased outcomes focus in public policy
- indicators that are attached to outcomes not strategies

The PFG states a core aim to make positive progress on a range of the most important economic and social issues facing our society.

The new NI assembly and the new enlarged councils together provide an environment which could enable radical change to the way we work and create the necessary citizen centred, efficient, collaborative core to the delivery of the PFG.

The N Ireland Association of Local Government (NILGA) following significant consultation with :

Local government, NILGA office bearers & executive, SOLACE, Elected members both Councillors and MLAs, the Strategic Investment Board, the N Ireland Strategic Migration partnership, and Climate N Ireland together with Council professional groups and representative bodies including (LGA) England AILG (Ireland) CoSLA (Scotland) WLGA (Wales), Colleges NI, FSBNI AND Hospitality Ulster,

have responded and raising a number of areas for consideration which Newry Mourne and Down District Council supports.

At local level the Community Plan is the key delivery vehicle for the PFG and therefore there is a need for The Executive Office to make a clear commitment to Community Planning and apply a power to enable the direct delivery of community planning actions and enable pooling of elements of budgets by departments, public bodies and councils to facilitate the implementation of community plans and the achievement of agreed outcomes.

1.1	
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Key issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Executive Office to make a clear commitment to Community Planning and apply a power to enable the direct delivery of community planning actions and enable pooling of elements of budgets by departments, public bodies and councils to facilitate the implementation of community plans and the achievement of agreed outcomes.</li> <li>• Impact of UK Policy, Legislation, Brexit</li> <li>• Some suggested targets for indicators such as 30Mbps of broadband speed will prove difficult for Newry, Mourne and Down to achieve district wide as there are currently rural areas within our district that cannot achieve at least 2Mbps. There needs to be an improvement in broadband speed for those with limited or no access and not just an improvement of speed for those already achieving sufficient results.</li> </ul>
2.1	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix I: NMDDC Response to Draft programme for Government (PfG) Consultation

## **Newry Mourne and Down District Council response to Draft Programme for Government (PfG) Consultation**

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planning actions and enable pooling of elements of budgets by departments, public bodies and councils to facilitate the implementation of community plans and the achievement of agreed outcomes.

## 1. INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

1.1 The draft Programme for Government 2016-2021 (PfG) is presented at a time of both great opportunity and huge challenge for Northern Ireland. The new NI Assembly and the new enlarged councils together provide an environment which could enable radical change to the way we work, to break through silos, and to create a citizen centred, efficient, collaborative society that the citizens we serve will understand and readily support. We encourage the NI Executive and all parties to continue to be bold and innovative in their approach, and welcome the draft PfG as the fundamental step in a much longer term strategic planning exercise.

1.2 NILGA broadly welcomes the iterative approach that the NI Executive is taking to the development of this overarching work, strategies and action plans that will eventually become the 2016 – 2021 Programme for Government.

1.3 The consultation acknowledges the need for a sea-change in how government – both central and local – delivers in partnership for our society. NILGA welcomes the move to a more outcome-based approach, involving other sectors as key delivery partners.

1.4 NILGA agrees that to ensure this new approach is successful, time will be required. But so will demonstrable evidence, across all 14 Outcomes, from 2017, of delivery. Like all councils, NILGA looks forward to working in partnership with the NI Executive to build robust and shared engagement, delivery and accountability and performance mechanisms, together with a shared and open approach to data collection and use.

## 2. Draft PfG: NILGA Key Commentary for Councils and The Executive Office (TEO)

2.1 **Outcomes Based Communication:** NILGA welcomes the political and senior officer engagement that has occurred in the run up to the draft PfG. While welcoming this, and the “ethos” of Outcomes Based Government, it cautions against the repeat of a number of diametrically opposed actions which create the perception and have the impact of reinforcing centralist silos. These include the absence of Regeneration powers, the (at the time of writing) proposed (arguably imposed) transfer of function of Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Public Roads for special events, and 8 weeks or less consultation periods on matters of major importance to councils and communities. Direct comparisons with neighbouring jurisdictions unequivocally confirm that Northern Ireland has still not ideologically “turned the curve” – to use draft PfG terminology - towards local government and local decision taking. That change will require deinstitutionalisation and devolution beyond Stormont, not just an Outcomes Based Approach to a Programme for Government.

**2.2 Incremental Approach:** NILGA, as local government's representative body, asserts that it would be inappropriate to over analyse or prioritise the 48 indicators and the emerging Delivery Plans since, particularly in the latter case, these must be substantiated with partners, over time, and at this stage all are formative and some have not yet even appeared.

**2.3 Graphical Overview:** NILGA draws attention to **Appendix 1 of its response**, which graphically illustrates the dynamic involvement of councils **now** (per draft PfG direct reference to councils) and **potentially** (through for example, Community Plan delivery and through emergence of as yet unseen Delivery Plans). Appendix 1 demonstrates that the 11 councils in Northern Ireland are **absolutely crucial** in the effective development of the PfG. It is therefore imperative that they are **materially involved as co-designers**, not just as Delivery Partners, in 2017 and beyond.

**2.4 Less is more:** NILGA broadly welcomes the **clustering** of these indicators, the modifications to six indicators including having a Better Jobs Index and the inclusion of the additional six indicators, all resultant from the Framework consultation. NILGA is grateful that many proposals contained in the Framework response have been reflected in the current consultation and refers TEO to Appendix 3 for further suggested inclusions.

**2.5 Fully Align PfG to Community Plans:** The Association welcomes the direct reference in the Draft (page 6) to councils' community plans: *We are encouraged by the considerable interest in particular of local government in aligning community planning with the goals we described in the draft PfG framework.*

**2.6 Commit to Community Plans, Co Design and Co Deliver:**

(i) NILGA calls on TEO from April 2017 to apply a power to enable the **direct delivery of community planning actions and enable pooling of elements of budgets by departments, public bodies and councils**, to facilitate the implementation of community plans and the achievement of agreed outcomes. This is entirely in keeping with the PfG's ethos of partnership, but – as in neighbouring jurisdictions which have local, Single Outcome Agreements at council level – this will demonstrate **partnership in practice**.

(ii) NILGA calls on TEO to ensure that Departments, Committees, Councils and relevant Agencies agree – not centrally create and enforce – appropriate **Performance, Measurement and Accountability measures**. Councils seek proportionate (to their responsibilities and spend) and workable Performance Indicator Frameworks and legislation, together with practical yet accountable audit arrangements for their own services and statutory roles AND for those which materially involve a multiplicity of partners, such as in Community Planning. As such, **Community Planning Performance Indicators should clearly measure all partners, with such measurement being SMART**. Precedent in neighbouring

jurisdictions will assist the implementation of such a framework. It is imperative that such arrangements are appropriate otherwise determining whether or not interventions are getting results will be completely compromised. In our view, the most exciting opportunity outcomes based government presents is prioritisation of the impact (effect) of what you are doing above the process (effort) of doing it. Therefore, we need to ensure that we can accurately evaluate when results are not being achieved so that the necessary change is forced to happen.

(iii) NILGA requests that **TEO applies strong measures – including statutory provisions** – to be put in place to ensure **written, statutory, clearly resourced and effectively measured NI Executive and Departmental commitments** to the 11 Community Plans.

**2.7 Make the PfG Local and Real:** NILGA urges the NI Executive to work with councils and with the Association itself as key Delivery Plan designers and partners. It is vitally important that the NI Executive **fully aligns** the significant roles that councils and local communities have in the future success of Northern Ireland, including Community Plans and the specific ‘asks’ in Appendix 1, **NILGA’s Programme for Local Government (attached)**. Collectively, these will be necessary for the PfG to materially succeed.

**2.8 Apply Subsidiarity** – the PfG should – enabled by TEO’s Scrutiny Committee in the first instance – apply the principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level. This will help to “normalise” Northern Ireland, strengthening democracy and trust in so doing.

### **2.9 Address Cross-Cutting Issues:**

(i) NILGA notes and broadly supports the (evolving) content and performance benchmarks for the (emerging) Delivery Plans for each outcome. There is some risk that old processes will be replaced by new ones, and that this will be seen by some in authority as an achievement.

(ii) With a very mechanistic “pyramidal” work plan coming to fruition, there is real danger of **measurement for measurement’s sake and the creation of new silos**. This is NOT the manner in which important cross-cutting issues can be usefully considered, and requests that TEO defines new protocols to determine greater budget, resource and related flexibility within the NI Executive’s new departments applying **formal fiscal devolution to councils themselves**. NILGA’s work with sister LGAs and regional government in Scotland and Wales can be of assistance in this regard. We reiterate that this is not just programmatic; it will need to be ideological.

**2.10 Waste not Want Not:** An important illustration of the need for such lithe government is the (i) **circular economy**, which is now referenced specifically in the

draft PfG beyond the information given on indicator 36 which deals with household recycling. Other notable examples are (ii) **community resilience** and (iii) **climate change**, which are not sufficiently stressed in the draft PfG document. NILGA refers TEO to and re-iterates its Framework Response for further recommendations on this (*reference: NILGA's Draft PfG 2016 – 2021 Framework Response, sections 2.2.1 – 2.2.3 pages 3 & 4*).

**2.11 Partner of Equals:** NILGA therefore requests that local government is fully involved in development of cluster and cross cutting work associated with this draft PfG – as a partner of equals, **with the 9 Departments**. **This must happen in addition to being invited to** engagement exercises, road shows, implementation events and similar.

#### **2.12 One Public Service, One Public Purse:**

(i) NILGA supports the emergence of high level **strategic and operational engagement** between Council Chief Executives and other Senior Officers of Councils, with Permanent Secretaries and other senior Civil Servants. Such meetings should be one means by which 2.11 (above) is realised.

(ii) NILGA requests that the TEO, with SOLACE, develops further engagement with strategic personnel in councils and all SROs, to enable integration, joint design of measurement and performance indicators as well as appropriate, proportionate, audit requirements as befits the draft PFG, the Outcomes Based Approach **and** the present (approximate) **94% - 6%** split between central and local government spend.

(iii) NILGA also asserts that Policy Level recommendations in regard to 2.12 (i) and (ii) should be materially considered at the **Political Partnership Panel from February 2017** and that this is reflected in an **adapted Scrutiny and Work Plan** for the Panel, to ensure joint political oversight, and effective communication and ownership ultimately by both the NI Executive and the 11 sovereign councils.

**2.13 Clarity of the Role of Government at all levels:** NILGA requests TEO, through its Junior Ministers and its Scrutiny Committee, to develop proposals with NILGA for an **All Party Group on Local Government Development**, to ensure not only improved and contemporised roles, challenges and resources for local government within the PfG but, also, to ensure that the corollary occurs in Regional Government also. The underpinning drivers for this All Party Group would include the Programme for Local Government (Appendix 1 attached), the Programme for Government (once approved), ambitions creating budgets - not the other way around – independent (ex NI) , empirical evidence and the principle of subsidiarity. This must be considered as a distinct - yet complementary - initiative to the Partnership

Panel. The realisation of this initiative would ultimately be linked to fulfilment of many Outcomes, but notably 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

**2.14 Funding:** NILGA asserts that in relation to funding the PfG, notably as stressed on Page 14 of the Draft PfG, an annual resource budget is being developed due to wider political and fiscal uncertainty. As this is universally undesirable, NILGA believes fundamental changes will be needed to the budget “ownership” in the NI Executive, and re-asserts that (TEO) from April 2017 applies a power to enable the **direct delivery of community planning actions / pooling of elements of budgets by departments, public bodies and councils**, to facilitate the implementation of the PfG, community plans and the achievement of jointly agreed outcomes. This is entirely in keeping with the PFG’s ethos of partnership, but – as in neighbouring jurisdictions which have local, Single Outcome Agreements at council level – this will demonstrate **partnership in practice** amidst fiscal uncertainties.

#### **2.15 Better Measurement:**

(i) NILGA asserts that in relation to measurement the PfG should invest – potentially sourcing funding from (e.g.) Cabinet Office – to apply a version of Open Data technology, illustrated by Mapping GM (Greater Manchester) to map through citizen input a region’s infrastructure and to provide a NI-wide tool to understand social and infrastructure needs to support growth and development. This could be done in conjunction with councils in relation to Planning, but would be cross cutting, in regard to the Transport Network, flood plains, emergency planning, health provision, broadband infrastructure, even tree preservation orders, and more. In this way, the Outcomes Based Approach would be underpinned by integrated regional and local data – contemporary evidence which can (i) map needs and (ii) map investment forecasting. This would be done in conjunction, also, with NISRA & OSNI, and evidence has shown that this ensures greater efficiencies and reduces what may be considered as ineffectual, time consuming Freedom of Information requests.

(ii) NILGA asserts that the final Programme for Government needs to form part of a new Performance Framework for Northern Ireland, similar to ‘Scotland Performs’ and we would strongly encourage the NI Executive to take this next step – materially involving councils, NILGA and the Partnership Panel. **An open, consistent, inclusive, integrated and accountable performance framework can only increase public understanding of and confidence in how Northern Ireland is governed.** There will be clear advantages for a framework of this nature to enable cross-referencing with council performance frameworks, tied into community plans, furthering shared accountability for delivery by all key partner sectors. A mechanism is required for ensuring programmes of work are successful and ideally, to begin to foster bottom-up delivery of real solutions designed in partnership with communities. An overarching, consistent **Regional Performance Framework, related Protocols and Codes of Conduct**, should be established during this Assembly Mandate as a

matter of urgency, and should include local government, as part of the “normalisation” of the Public Service.

(iii) NILGA once more asserts (see also 2.5) that performance measurement, key performance indicators and resultant audits should be co-designed and wholly commensurate with the roles of each organisation in, e.g. Rural Partnerships which are housed in councils but not owned by them, and (mindful of their statutory footing), Community Planning / Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

#### 2.16 **Accountability & Governance:**

(i) Linked to the Draft PfG, a common framework should apply to the Code of Conduct for Councillors and MLAs, as Northern Ireland is at variance with neighbouring jurisdictions and as yet the revised Code of Conduct for Councillors has yet to be consulted upon – essentially rendering local government elected members to be working within a high risk, unproductive climate of uncertainty.

(ii) In consideration of the Framework document, and this Draft Programme for Government consultation, NILGA and many councils expressed concern relating to **how** the aspirational outcomes are to be achieved, and **who / what** will be measured. It was noted that all the outcomes aren't 'pure' Outcome Based Accountability outcomes, and there was a lack of detail in relation as to how and why indicators were selected, as well as the measurement of delivery against these in the shorter to medium term. Fundamental to the effectiveness of Outcomes Based Accountability is that indicators are technically robust, simple to understand and give a high level picture of how those responsible for delivery are doing. Also, NILGA is keen along with councils and SOLACE to establish what involvement councils will have in reporting on their contribution towards Delivery Plans, as direct correlation will often be difficult for councils to demonstrate. We would again highlight the case that local place-based working through community planning will make the council contribution more easily identifiable.

(iii) NILGA and our member councils are keen to work with government to develop the process for implementation of the Draft PfG and seek to materially contribute to the drafting of the Delivery Plans and reporting arrangements, in governance terms linked to the Partnership Panel strategic Scrutiny & Work Plan as per 2.12 above.

(iv) **'Permission to make mistakes'**: It should be necessary for the outcomes and indicators emerging from the councils 11 community planning exercises to reflect those of the Programme for Government. As demonstrated in the early days of similar changes to the Scottish System, optimum design may not be achieved at the start.

#### 2.17 **Adapt & Review & Report:**

(i) A review mechanism is built into community planning processes. It should be built into PfG processes too. NILGA would strongly recommend to the Executive that they

consider developing direct alignment, no later than September – December 2018. This will enable an examination of whether the outcomes, indicators and actions are useful and ‘right’ for Northern Ireland. The Review should be timed to allow for sufficient progress to have been made and to enable identification of areas which aren’t delivering the desired results. It is highly unlikely that we will get such a huge system change completely right first time – if the PfG, in its delivery, is to be as transformational as it purports - and local government is keen to work with the NI Executive and Departments to make any necessary ‘tweaks’ to the system as the need for these becomes apparent. We need to have a mutual understanding of what ‘good’ looks like, **so that local government’s 11 councils are not required to focus on – nor measure - things they cannot nor should not deliver.**

(ii) NILGA also asserts that a clear **Results Against Targets** piece (of course designed to reflect the OBA approach) is published and distributed, drawn from the Review, during the first half of 2019, ensuring that citizens and ratepayers, not just politicians and public servants, can **gauge progress and participate in change.**

### **3. Wider Political & Fiscal Environment:**

**3.1 Brexit** - NILGA asserts that to achieve key aspects of the Draft PfG, councils here and in other regions of UK are given assurances that any new constitutional settlement is guided by the principle that decisions should be taken at the level closest to the citizen and that councils in NI receive, post 2020, funding to deliver all previously EU supported programmes where there is a clear business, socio – economic impact and rural disadvantage case to do so.

**3.2 Autumn Statement:** Directly linked to all but especially Outcomes 1, 3, 5, 6 & 10, Indicators 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34 and 40, NILGA asserts that the decision on what to spend the additional £250 million produced for Northern Ireland resulting from the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement on should materially involve councils, drawing on regional & sub regional strategic infrastructure development priorities and ensuring optimum local gain for communities right across NI.

**3.3 New Burdens Principle:** Regarding any aspect of the PfG which materially involves councils taking on further responsibilities, potentially to include in the immediate future road closures for special events and Electoral Offices transfers, NILGA asserts that the New Burdens principle should apply. This should be furthered through the Partnership Panel, during 2017, to avoid the inequitable processes and outcomes of past iterations of reform / programmes for government.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

**4.1** NILGA is *broadly* satisfied with the 14 outcomes and 48 indicators identified in the Draft PfG and is of the view that they provide sufficient flexibility to enable adaptation & as soon as is practicable a complete alignment with councils

Community Plans. We particularly welcome that the first three outcomes are designed to cover the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, environmental and social; and we look forward to working with the NI Executive, Departments and Parties to explore how Northern Ireland can contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals to which the UK and Irish governments are committed.

4.2 We view community planning as 11 locally autonomous but regionally linked PfG foundations for delivery at grass roots community level, where greatest need, greatest deprivation, greatest disconnect often exists. 4.3 Given the statutory role of councils in facilitating community plans, we encourage TEO and government departments to ensure councils are invited right now to co-produce the necessary delivery programmes and performance arrangements emanating from this Draft, with the requisite resources devolved to councils or delivered in council areas by Departments, to ensure high quality public services at affordable costs.

4.4 We also ask TEO and specific Departments to note that, unlike Government Departments, many councils have sought that NILGA confirms that they do not have the fiscal resilience to absorb “transfers of functions” in kind or directly, with little capacity building or resources transferred with them.

4.5 NILGA notes that many outcomes will materially involve local government, whilst others do not, and in this context asserts that local government, because of its unique role and constitution, is a key partner to **achieve all** Outcomes, as *Appendix 2*, the Programme for **Local** Government (attached) illustrates.

4.6 A number of suggestions for alternative wording drawn from member councils and NILGA’s regional associates are offered in *Appendix 3*, to ensure the inclusion of issues which we believe warrant insertion in the priority outcomes for Northern Ireland.

4.7 The 2016 – 2018 phase of the Programme for Government heralds a new era of joined up government in Northern Ireland. There is an opportunity to rewire our public services, grow productive, value added jobs, decrease the reliance on the public sector, sustain the environment and enhance all communities across NI. The 11 councils - if the draft PfG is to be credible and deliver success regardless of measure – need to be trusted, resourced and constitutionally strengthened. NILGA remains fully committed to this strong, democratic outcome as local government’s representative body.

## Comments on Key Outcomes, Indicators and their Delivery Plans from a Newry, Mourne and Down District Council perspective

- **Indicator 1**

Developing data to enable the measurement of a reduction in harm caused by crime.

Development of Concern Hubs (to be piloted in Derry and Strabane) so could be a programme for NMDDC if successful. It is a collaborative approach to address the underlying vulnerabilities of identified families and individuals with partner agencies, supporting them to move away from their vulnerability before significant harm occurs.

Piloting a substance misuse court in 2017 – relevant to NMDDC.

Using ‘place based’ approaches – involving communities in the design and implementation of initiatives to reduce crime.

Introduction of new domestic violence protection notices and orders, a new domestic abuse offence and domestic violence disclosure scheme as well as domestic homicide reviews.

- **Indicators 2, 3, 4 and 7**

‘Place based’ approach to improving health and wellbeing, asset-based approach – what we have, rather than what we don’t have.

Healthier Places – through the Community Plan, focus on sharing learning from places where communities have been mobilised to identify and address their own priorities for health and wellbeing.

- **Indicator 5**

Nothing to add – no baseline established yet, to be done through survey.

- **Indicator 6**

Completing the roll out of talking therapies hubs in each Trust area for mental health issues.

Consolidating wellbeing and mental health services with the Department of Education.

- **Indicators 11, 12 and 13**

Nothing to add

- **Indicators 16,18 and 34**

Government to develop a 'Better Jobs Index' which would measure earnings quality, job security and job satisfaction – important for NMDDC.

PfG indicator to improve employment rate and economic inactivity at council level – something we are looking at ourselves (working together).

Councils now have devolved power for business start ups

Remit for supporting young entrepreneurs and women in business has also transferred to local government. Through the community plan we are to identify need and tailor actions to suit their circumstances.

Better Regulation Action Plan 2016 – useful at LGD level – a more modern regulatory regime for NI.

Reduced corporation tax to be introduced by 2018 – incentives for business to locate in NMDDC.

Use of Clustering – collaborative networks of businesses and associated institutions with common interests – something we could do at NMDDC level?

- **Indicators 17, 32 and 33**

Belfast and Derry focus for employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quintile (as they have the highest level of SOA's in the bottom deprivation quintile. NMDDC is 4<sup>th</sup> behind ABC.

NMDDC has the third lowest job density (.58) across all 11 councils behind Ards and North Down (.47) and Causeway, Coast & Glens (.57). It means for every working age individual there is .58 of a job available.

Department to work through councils Community Planning structures to deliver improved outcomes in relation to people becoming work-ready and moving into a job that meets their needs.

Department to work with councils to establish an employability forum in their council area which will bring together all of the relevant interests involved in better matching the supply and demand for work and skills.

'Local Works' approach to employability through the Community Planning process to be taken.

Creating an employability pipeline – match supply and demand in key sectors.

- **Indicators 19 and 28**

Creating a poverty assessment tool – complete a self-evaluation survey to understand the issues that keep families below the poverty line.

There are currently 32 nurture units being funded across primary schools in NI – any in NMDDC? It helps to support young children and provide an opportunity to challenge the barriers which can contribute to low educational attainment.

- **Indicator 21**

Increased focus on council partnerships with international cities / regions – sister cities programme??

Global Chamber of Commerce movement – 3 in our district.

Awareness raising for the new relationship with the EU and practical implications of this to business which could be done through the Council.

- **Indicator 22**

Innovation accreditation to be introduced – good to have at LGD level

- **Indicators 23, 25 and 47**

Continue to work with the Irish Government to progress the Narrow Water Bridge – important for the economy of NMDDC.

PfG admits difficulty in serving rural-urban community patterns with affordable public transport services – is true in this area.

Seems to be a concentration on the west of the region for infrastructure improvement in the plan.

Identifying pinch points in the road network – good to know for NMDDC.

Guidance to be provided to local government to promote development in areas served by public transport and active travel accessibility in new developments.

Potential to link local services including community transport to regional bus services to make it a more viable alternative for commuters in rural areas – important in our council area.

## Belfast Centric – Looking at Belfast Bicycle Network Plan

Public transport in NI focus in the short and medium term will be on urban areas (difficult for NMDDC given the rurality of the area)

Transport plans will be prepared in close association with the council and be fully integrated with the Local Development Plans processes and timetables – local link.

Belfast – Derry Centric when looking at Transport – Belfast Rapid Transport, Belfast Transport Hub and Derry Transport Hub, Belfast and Derry cross city bus routes.

Advancing the Narrow Water Bridge and Newry Southern Relief Road are priority schemes under PfG.

Under priorities beyond 2024 they have included the Downpatrick Distributor Road.

Potential for open access to translink timetable data to allow development of passenger information apps.

- **Indicator 24**

There was an audit of 80 business parks across NI where broadband speeds were deemed not to be meeting business needs. – In NMDDC??

By 2020 a universal service obligation should be introduced for the whole of the UK at 10Mbps. This will provide people with the legal right to request a connection at a minimum speed up to a reasonable cost threshold.

NI wants to shift the outcome to 30Mbps superfast broadband which compares favourably with other European countries. – the issue in NMDDC is that many places do not even have access to broadband speeds of 2Mbps. Need to bring those with almost none up to a higher speed rather than just increasing those with higher speeds to even higher speeds again.

Options to shift the curve include a scheme to procure solutions at a sub-regional level from alternative network operators. This could allow local authorities to deliver projects in their own areas and which would assist communities to establish and promote local community broadband solutions.

- **Indicator 27**

Nothing to add.

- **Indicator 29**  
Nothing to add.
  
- **Indicator 36**  
A food waste recycling campaign to be rolled out, underpinning the requirements of the new food waste regulations - important for councils.  
  
£2.5 million to be provided to local councils to improve recycling infrastructure and services in 2016/17 – to be linked to the recycling gap study.
  
- **Indicator 37**  
Councils to draw up action plans to deal with air quality – feed into Community Planning objectives for that theme. Important when Downpatrick (urban traffic related site) exceeded the objective for annual mean NO<sub>2</sub>.
  
- **Indicator 38**  
Nothing to add.
  
- **Indicator 41**  
Department for the Economy to introduce postgraduate tuition fee loans up to £5,500 over the duration of the course for NI domiciled taught and research masters students – good for students in NMDDC  
  
Introduction of the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) across the HE sector. This document records learners' extracurricular skills, activities and experiences as well as their academic content to showcase a more rounded picture of peoples experience, performance and achievement thereby enhancing employability – important for NMDDC students attending HE institutions.

## **Conclusion**

Overall the outcomes and indicators have a strong synergy with those of the NMDDC community plan so comparison will be available.

The programmes, options and suggestions being put forward by PfG will certainly help to turn the curve at our LGD level as well as regionally.

There does however appear to be a lot of work that the local councils have to undertake to help NI achieve its outcomes and this may be difficult as we are also taking on the work of achieving our own community planning outcomes

Focusing on one particular indicator, that of broadband , it is important to note that in NMDDC many areas particularly across Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion do not have access to broadband speeds of even 2Mbps so while a target of 30Mbps is important for the attractiveness of the region as a whole we would need to bring those with almost no or very limited access to broadband up to a higher speed rather than just increasing those with higher speeds to even higher speeds again.

INDICATOR SROs				Local Gov Key Delivery Partner	Local Gov Defined Role	Local Gov Defined Role Delivery Plan Link
INDICATORS	NAME	DEPT				
1. Prevalence rate (% of the population who were victims of any Crime Survey crime)	David Lavery	DoJ		Defined	Develop concept of place based approach to tackling crime which promotes collective efficacy and builds upon work of PCSPs and the local community planning process	<a href="#">link</a>
38. Average time taken to complete criminal cases	David Lavery	DoJ		Yes (CP)		
39. Reoffending rate	David Lavery	DoJ		Yes (CP)		
2. Gap between highest and lowest deprivation quintile in healthy life expectancy at birth	Dr Anne Kilgallen	DoH	Grouped	Defined	Co-design, policy direction, funding, service delivery. Community Planning.	<a href="#">link</a>
3. Healthy life expectancy at birth	Dr Anne Kilgallen	DoH				
4. Preventable mortality	Dr Anne Kilgallen	DoH				
7. % of babies born at low birth weight	Dr Anne Kilgallen	DoH				
5. % people who are satisfied with health and social care	Charlotte McArdle	DoH		Yes (CP)		
6. % of population with GHQ12 scores ≥4 (signifying possible mental health problem)	Chris Matthews	DoH		Yes (CP)		
9. Number of adults receiving personal care at home or self directed support for personal care, as a % of the total number of adults needing care	Chris Matthews	DoH		Yes (CP)		
10. % care leavers who, aged 19, were in education, training or employment	Eilis McDaniel	DoH		Yes (CP)		
11. % school leavers achieving at Level 2 or above including English and Maths	Dr David Hughes	DE	Grouped	Yes (CP)		
12. Gap between % non-FSME school leavers and % FSME school leavers achieving at Level 2 or above including English and Maths	Dr David Hughes	DE				
13. % of schools found to be good or better	Dr David Hughes	DE				
15. % children who are at the appropriate stage of development in their immediate pre-school year	Cathy Galway	DE		Defined	Support /influence Access to services and resources Planning	<a href="#">Link</a>
8. Number of households in housing stress	Andrew Hamilton	DfC	Grouped	Defined	Local planning authorities making decisions on the zoning of land for housing and on residential planning applications	<a href="#">Link</a>
48. Gap between the number of houses we need, and the number of houses we have	Ian Snowden	DfC				

17. Economic inactivity rate excluding students	Tommy O'Reilly	DfC							
32. Employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quintile	Tommy O'Reilly	DfC							
33. % people working part time who would like to work more hours	Tommy O'Reilly	DfC			Defined				
19. % population living in absolute and relative poverty (before housing costs)	Denis McMahon	DfC	Grouped						
28. Self-efficacy	Denis McMahon	DfC			Defined				
27. % engaging in arts/cultural activities in the past year	Ian Maye	DfC			Defined				
42. Average life satisfaction score of people with disabilities	Andrew Hamilton	DfC			Defined				
20. Private Sector NICEI	Andrew McCormick	DfE		Economic Strategy	Yes				No detail
16. Seasonally adjusted employment rate (16-64)									
18. A Better Jobs Index									
			Grouped						
34. Employment rate by council area	Derek Baker	DfE			Defined				
14. Proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above	Derek Baker	DfE			Yes (CP)				
21. External sales	Derek Baker	DfE			Defined				
22. Rate of innovation activity (% of companies engaging in innovation activity)	Derek Baker	DfE			Defined				
41. Proportion of local graduates from local institutions in professional or management occupations or in further study six months after graduation	Derek Baker	DfE			Yes (CP)				
24. Proportion of premises with access to broadband services at speeds at or above 30 Mbps	June Ingram	DfE			Defined				
43. % change in energy security of supply margin	Chris Stewart	DfE							
23. Average journey time on key economic corridors	John McGrath	DfI							

with the Department for the Economy and of Health and Education, along with councils, the Public Health Agency, Health and Safety Executive, GPs, skills providers, employers, and others to develop and trial a number of interventions, including: a Work, Health, and Well-being framework; occupational health support for small businesses; a public awareness campaign on the benefits of work; and a 'local works' approach to improving employability

Co-design, policy direction, funding, service delivery. Community Planning.

Strategic Partners, Delivery Partners

Delivery partner in a number of actions

Linking Community Plans with the Programme for Government and the refocused Economic Strategy, to support the development of business growth support activities such as business start-

level with business development and establishing Council partnerships with

Focus on supporting non innovative businesses to innovate. Support knowledge brokerage and collaboration.

Continue Engagement with Stakeholders

Local development plans and

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

25. % all journeys which are made by walking/cycling/public transport	John McGrath	DfI	Grouped	Defined	development of greenways, car parking	<a href="#">Link</a>
47. Overall Performance Assessment (NI Water)	Fiona McCandless	DfI				
<b>INDICATOR SROs</b>						
<b>INDICATORS</b>						
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DEPT</b>				
29. Greenhouse gas emissions	David Small	DAERA		Defined	Support for sustainable transport	<a href="#">Link</a>
36. % household waste that is reused, recycled or composted	David Small	DAERA		Defined	Introduction of new, or improvements to,	<a href="#">Link</a>
37. Annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentration at monitored urban roadside locations	David Small	DAERA		Defined	Assessment of air quality through the Local Air Quality Management scheme.- Drawing up Action Plans to deal with 6 air quality problems. Working with DfI to reduce road traffic and ease congestion in urban centres.- Incorporation of air quality concerns into Local Development Planning and Community Planning	<a href="#">Link</a>
44. % water bodies at 'good' status	David Small	DAERA		Yes (in time)		No detail
45. Biodiversity	David Small	DAERA		Yes (in time)		No detail
26. A Respect Index			Grouped	Defined	Lead partner for individual actions within the delivery plan. Responsible for local services and amenities, responsible for local land -use planning and community planning	<a href="#">Link</a>
31. % who think leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their areas are "shared and open" to both Protestants and Catholics						
35. % the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society	Mark Browne	TEO		Defined		<a href="#">Link</a>
30. Total spend by external visitors					Support the public and private sectors to attract international institutional investment in infrastructure and regeneration projects with a particular focus on the Middle East and China markets.	<a href="#">Link</a>
40. Nation Brands Index	G3	TEO		Defined		
46. Usage of online channels to access public services	Paul Wickens	DoF		Yes (in time)		

<b>Programme for Government</b>			
<b>OUTCOMES &amp; SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OWNERS</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>SRO</b>
1	We prosper through a strong, competitive regionally balanced economy	DfE	Andrew McCormick
2	We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment	DAERA	Noel Lavery
3	We have a more equal society	TEO	?
4	We enjoy long, healthy, active lives	DoH	Richard Pengelly
5	We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential	DfE	Andrew McCormick
6	We have more people working in better jobs	DfE	Andrew McCormick
7	We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other	DoJ	Nick Perry
8	We care for others and we help those in need	DfC	Leo O'Reilly
9	We are a shared society that respects diversity	TEO	Mark Browne
10	We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society	DfC	Leo O'Reilly
11	We have high quality public services	DoF	David Sterling
12	We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest	TEO	?
13	We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure	DfI	Peter May
14	We give our children and young people the best start in life	DE	Paul Sweeney

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Performance Improvement – Audit & Assessment Report for 2016-17
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Johnny McBride - Assistant Director: Transformation, Innovation & Performance
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Johnny McBride - Assistant Director: Transformation, Innovation & Performance

<b>Decisions Required:</b>	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report, consider and agree to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Accept the findings and recommendations of the Local Government Auditor concerning the audit and assessment of the Council's compliance with the Duty of Performance Improvement in 2016-17.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Purpose &amp; Background</u></b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a summary of the key findings as part of the recent audit and assessment of the Council's performance improvement arrangements by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) (as the Local Government Auditor (LGA)). Members will be aware this audit forms an important part of the new Duty of Performance which has been placed on Councils arising from The Local Government (NI) Act (2014).
1.2	It is important to note that at this stage of the audit and assessment framework, any proposals for improvement from the NIAO are not formal recommendations (which would require a management response) but are there to assist the Council in meeting its performance improvement responsibilities in future years. However, it is understood the LGA will undertake future assessments against these recommendations. A copy of the final report is attached at <b>Appendix I.</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
<b>Compliance with the Duty of Performance</b>	
2.1	The LGA has recommended to the Department for Communities (DfC) an unqualified audit and assessment opinion concerning this Council's compliance with the new Duty of Performance for 2016-17. Therefore, a certificate of compliance has been issued.
<b>Key Findings &amp; Recommendations</b>	
2.2	In addition to the final opinion, the LGA has also made a number of supplementary recommendations. These are categorised according to the main themes of the report and are summarised as follows:

	<p><b><u>General Duty to Improve</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Strengthening the links between performance improvement, supporting objectives and the desired outcomes of the Community Plan;</li> <li>ii. Use of performance information to enable performance measurement and benchmarking, including the identification of those functions and services that would benefit most from improvement; and</li> <li>iii. Further embedding performance management and improvement across the Council (i.e. making further improvements the Council's interim performance management framework &amp; cascading the framework and performance management responsibilities to all employees).</li> </ul>
2.3	<p><b><u>Governance Arrangements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Enhancing the role of the Audit Committee in providing assurance to the Council that its arrangements for performance management and improvement are effective;</li> <li>ii. Providing Elected Members with the necessary support and capacity to effectively discharge their responsibilities in respect of performance; and</li> <li>iii. Clearly defining the relationship between the reporting of performance at a strategic level (to SP&amp;R) and the reporting of operational performance to other Standing Committees.</li> </ul>
2.4	<p><b><u>Improvement Objectives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Shifting the emphasis of performance improvement objectives from being largely foundational to delivering measurable improvement and more outcomes-focused; and</li> <li>ii. Increasing the use of performance data and information to identify areas for improvement as well as the enhanced use of performance indicators and measures to demonstrate improvement (not restricting to statutory indicators).</li> </ul>
2.5	<p><b><u>Consultation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. More effective and efficient means of stakeholder consultation (i.e. e-channels and consultation policy); and</li> <li>ii. Promoting performance management and improvement with the Council's key partners and stakeholders.</li> </ul>
2.6	<p><b><u>Performance Reporting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Improving performance reporting across the entire organisation, in particular a standard format for the reporting of all Council performance to secure stakeholder understanding, as well as the same look and feel.</li> </ul>
3.0	<p><b><u>Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.1	<p>There are no resource implications contained within this report, however accepting the recommendations may result in additional resource consequences for the Council. These cannot be quantified at this stage and once identified, will be brought back for Member</p>

	consideration as part of a more detailed action plan.
<b>4.0</b>	<b><u>Next Steps</u></b>
4.1	Once the key findings and recommendations have been considered in more detail, a detailed action plan will also be prepared to ensure the Council puts in the necessary arrangements to secure compliance with the same Duty this time next year.
4.2	In 2017-18 the audit and assessment framework will also change to reflect the introduction of a retrospective assessment in addition to the current forward-looking assessment. This fundamentally shifts the performance agenda as it will require from next year on for Councils to demonstrate improvement (via robust performance information) as well as require Councils to benchmark against suitable performance comparisons. Ensuring the Council is “change ready” will place a significant burden upon existing arrangements.
<b>5.0</b>	<b><u>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications</u></b>
5.1	There are no equality and good relations implications arising from this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b><u>Appendices</u></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Appendix I</b> – final report from Local Government Auditor</li> </ul>



## Northern Ireland Audit Office

Our purpose...

Promoting better use of public money, through independent professional scrutiny, underpinned by our commitment to:

- Integrity
- Equality
- Openness
- Innovation

To make a difference for the people of Northern Ireland.

The Department for Communities, with the consent of the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland, has designated Mrs Louise Mason as the Local Government Auditor. She, and the Northern Ireland Audit Office, are totally independent of Local Government. She certifies the accounts of all Local Government bodies in Northern Ireland and is also responsible for councils' improvement audits and assessments.

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### NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT 2016-17

A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES UNDER SECTION 95 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 2014

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## Section 1

### Introduction and status of this report

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#### Introduction

- 1.1 Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (the Act) establishes that all councils are under a general duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions. It sets out a number of council responsibilities under a new performance framework. It also sets out key responsibilities for the Local Government Auditor. The Department for Communities (the Department) has published 'Guidance for Local Government Performance Improvement 2016' (the Guidance) which councils and the Local Government Auditor have to follow.

##### *The improvement audit*

- 1.2 Each year the Local Government Auditor has to report whether each council has discharged its duties in relation to improvement planning, the publication of improvement information and the extent to which each council has acted in accordance with the Department's Guidance. The Local Government Auditor's procedures to do so are called "improvement audits".

##### *The improvement assessment*

- 1.3 The Local Government Auditor also has to assess annually whether a council is likely to make the required arrangements to secure continuous improvement in that year. This is called the "improvement assessment". The Local Government Auditor also has the discretion to assess and report whether a council is likely to comply with these arrangements in future years (see paragraph 2.5).
- 1.4 Improvement audits and improvement assessments are undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Auditor's statutory responsibilities<sup>1</sup> and the Department's Guidance. They are planned and conducted in accordance with the performance improvement Audit Strategy issued by the Local Government Auditor to councils, her Code of Audit Practice for Local Government Bodies in Northern Ireland and the Statement of Responsibilities.

#### Status of this report

- 1.5 This report has been produced by staff of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (the NIAO) on behalf of the Local Government Auditor in discharging her duties under section 95 of the Act. It certifies that she has carried out an improvement audit and improvement assessment for 2016-17 and states whether, as a result, she believes that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (the Council) has discharged its performance improvement duties.
- 1.6 This report has been prepared for the sole use of the Department and the Council. The Local Government Auditor and NIAO do not accept responsibility to any third party for losses arising from reliance being placed on this report.

#### Other performance improvement reports by the Local Government Auditor

##### *The Annual Improvement Report on the Council*

- 1.7 The Act requires the Local Government Auditor to summarise all of her work carried out (in relation to her responsibilities under the Act) at the Council, in an "annual improvement report". This will be published on the NIAO website in due course, making it publicly available. It will therefore be written with a non-specialist readership in mind to be accessible and meaningful to members of the public.

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<sup>1</sup> Sections 93 and 94 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

## Section 1

### Introduction and status of this report

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#### *Special inspections and statutory recommendations*

- 1.8 The Local Government Auditor may also, in some circumstances, carry out special inspections which will be reported to the Council and the Department, and which she may publish, or make statutory recommendations.

## Section 2

### Matters required to be reported on

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#### Matters required to be reported on

##### *Improvement audit and improvement assessment*

- 2.1 The Local Government Auditor's audit opinions in relation to the improvement audit and her improvement assessment are in the Annex to this report.
- 2.2 In the Annex, the Local Government Auditor certifies that she has performed the improvement audit and improvement assessment for the Council and that, as a result of this work, she is satisfied that the Council has discharged its statutory performance improvement and reporting duties and that it acted in accordance with the Guidance.
- 2.3 She has also reported that, as 2016-17 was the first year in which councils were required to implement the new performance improvement framework, the Council's arrangements to secure achievement of its improvement objectives are, as is to be expected in the first year, at an early stage of development and implementation. Whilst the Council has begun to establish arrangements to secure continuous improvement, it is too early for the Council to demonstrate, or for the Local Government Auditor to determine, the extent to which improvements are being made for the current financial year.
- 2.4 However, the Local Government Auditor believes that, over the next couple of years, and with the benefit of a formal track record of performance improvement management and reporting, the Council should be able to demonstrate whether it is meeting its responsibility in this area.
- 2.5 The Local Government Auditor has decided at present not to perform the discretionary assessments of whether councils in Northern Ireland are likely to comply with the requirements in future years. She will keep this decision under review as the new framework establishes itself in and the track records of the councils accumulate.

##### *Special inspections and statutory recommendations*

- 2.6 No special inspections or statutory recommendations were required at the Council this year.

##### *Other matters*

- 2.7 Whilst the Local Government Auditor has no statutory recommendations to make and there is no requirement for a special inspection this year, there are some areas which require further development. These are set out under Section 3 'Key audit and assessment findings' of this report.

## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### Key audit and assessment findings

- 3.1 This section outlines key findings arising from the thematic areas of the Council's audit and assessment. Some findings, where relevant, give rise to proposals for improvement. These are not formal recommendations, which are more significant matters which require action to be taken by the Council in order to comply with the Act or Guidance.
- 3.2 Proposals for improvement include matters which, if accepted, will assist the Council to meet its performance improvement responsibilities. The Local Government Auditor believes that agreed proposals to the Council should be implemented and will follow them up in subsequent years.
- 3.3 Our procedures were limited to those considered necessary for the effective performance of the audit and assessment. Therefore, the Local Government Auditor's findings should not be regarded as a comprehensive statement of all weaknesses which exist, or all improvements which could be made.
- 3.4 Next year we will review progress the Council has made on these findings. In the meantime, it is recommended that the Council's Audit and Risk Committee should monitor and track their progress.

#### Index of key findings

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## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### 1. General duty to improve

The Council is required to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions and it has begun to put arrangements in place. The Council was able to demonstrate that its arrangements were constructed within the seven relevant criteria set out in legislation and that the current functions prioritised and selected for improvement are currently aligned to its strategic objectives. These relate to leisure and recreation facilities, planning services and the Council's responsibilities in relation to Community Planning. These functions were selected on the basis of identified priorities to support some of the Council's strategic objectives.

At the time of our audit the Council's arrangements were still under development and had not been fully established. This is to be expected in the early stages of the new framework and going forward we expect to see the arrangements through which functions are prioritised for improvement will become more refined and mature.

To assist the Council we recommend the following proposals for improvement:

- linking the forthcoming community plan, and the ongoing processes that underpin it, with the Council's future improvement processes;
- use of performance information and other data (for example service data and information) to enable performance measurement and benchmarking. This will help identify those functions/services which would benefit most from improvement;
- given the statutory nature of the framework, expand upon the Council's interim corporate performance management framework to include the development of a performance improvement policy. The purpose of this will define the Council's own interpretation of the new duty; and
- cascade the framework (or policy) and performance improvement responsibilities directly to all employees.

Going forward the Council will need to continue to ensure that that process by which functions are prioritised and selected is transparent, well documented and subject to appropriate levels of scrutiny.

## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### 2. Governance Arrangements

It is important the Council's governance arrangements are robust and support effective decision making in relation to its statutory responsibility to have arrangements in place to secure continuous improvement in its functions. The Council has governance arrangements in-place to help it meet these responsibilities, although they are yet to be fully developed, and embedded.

The Council has designated responsibility for oversight of its interim corporate performance improvement framework to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee. Although, there was evidence to suggest performance was being monitored at a strategic level by this Committee, this tended to be limited to the approval of key milestone events, for example, improvement objectives and the improvement plan, as well as performance against the Council's three categories of statutory performance indicators. There was also evidence of performance at an operational level being routinely reported to other committees of the Council, for example the monthly reporting of performance to the Regulatory & Technical Services Committee. However, evidence of oversight and monitoring of Council performance by the Audit Committee during the year was limited.

The Audit Committee has responsibility to ensure that arrangements for good governance are in place and operating effectively. To date, this Committee has focused on financial accounting governance and controls. It now needs to discharge its wider remit in relation to the Council's statutory responsibility to have arrangements in place to secure continuous improvement in its functions, as this framework is subject to a statutory audit and reporting. This involves exercising greater oversight and monitoring of the structures, processes and systems established by the Council concerning its performance improvement responsibilities, and it should be assured that a comprehensive suite of plans and policies that support improvement are in place, up-to-date and operating effectively. The Audit Committee needs to be assured that the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee and senior management team are subjecting the Council's priorities, improvement objectives, projects, risks and performance to appropriate scrutiny, challenge and evaluation.

To assist the Council we recommend the following proposals for improvement:

- the Terms of Reference for both committees should be updated to reflect their respective performance improvement responsibilities. This should include a clearly defined separation between the role of the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee in managing and scrutinising Council performance and the role of the Audit Committee in providing assurance that the Council's arrangements are operating effectively;
- given the above, performance improvement should feature as a standing item on both committee agendas;
- senior management should also facilitate Members of both committees with training and support to discharge their new performance improvement responsibilities;
- the Audit Committee should actively assist the Council with monitoring the activity of any committee charged with the scrutiny of performance improvement;
- senior management should ensure that both committees are provided appropriate performance improvement documentation to perform their scrutiny and monitoring functions;
- using the internal audit function, where required, to provide the Council with future assurance on the integrity and operation of the Council's performance management framework and to identify and recommend any supplementary areas for improvement; and
- clearly define the relationship between the reporting of performance at a strategic level to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee and the reporting of performance at an operational level to other Standing Committees. This may require the interim corporate performance management framework to be expanded upon.

## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### 3. Improvement Objectives

The Council is required to establish improvement objectives each year and we assess these in line with legislation and supporting statutory guidance. The guidance sets out that improvement, in the context of the legislation, means more than just quantifiable gains in service output or efficiency, or the internal effectiveness of an organisation. Improvement for councils should mean activity that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for ratepayers and communities.

The Council has selected three improvement objectives and the details of these are published in its 'improvement plan'. These objectives are closely linked to the functions the Council has chosen to improve and in turn these are linked to its strategic objectives set out in its Corporate Plan. We understand that the Council's improvement objectives will become better informed by and linked to the outworking of the forthcoming Community Plan.

Whilst each objective is legitimate and generally well worded they are foundational in nature, in that if delivered they could form the basis of improvement in future years, rather than in the current year. Whilst this is acceptable in this first full year of the framework, going forward, improvement objectives and their underlying arrangements should attempt to deliver measurable improvement in each year. An example of this is the improvement objective entitled '*Established local structures in support of the development and implementation of the District's Community Plan*'. In addition, it is not clear what functions or services the Council intends to actually improve and local structures could be established without anyone actually being better off. Without additional clarity and transparency in future years, particularly in relation to what improvement will look like and how it will be delivered and measured, it will not be possible to determine if an improvement objective is clear or robust.

The Council is already planning and undertaking activities that will contribute to achieving each improvement objective. Within the Council's 'improvement plan', each objective is associated with a distinct and ongoing corporate project/s, along with how success will be measured. The Council should demonstrate how people will be better off if it improves as it intends to. However, the supporting projects and measures of success as set out in the Council's 'improvement plan' plan are set out at a high level and do not show clearly whether anyone will be better off if it achieves its improvement objectives. There are a number of reasons for this which include the absence of any baseline data or information against which future improvement can be demonstrated or measured, an absence of detail around the benefits and some measures of success that have not yet been identified. For example, the measures of success relating to improving the performance of the planning service tend to focus on the quantity of activity rather than the quality of outcomes, so they do not necessarily provide a good basis for demonstrating that citizens will become better off as a result of what the Council does going forward.

To assist the Council we recommend the following proposals for improvement:

- ensure that each improvement objectives is focused on outcomes for citizens in relation to improved functions and/or services;
- in relation to the improvement objectives, more detail is required in the 'improvement plan' so that it is clear to a reader how citizens will be better off if the Council improves as it intends to; and
- ensure that improvement can be demonstrated and, where possible, measured through the use of meaningful performance indicators and data collection and/or other qualitative methods. These indicators should not just concentrate around, nor be limited to, the statutory indicators and standards imposed by central government. Where possible and relevant, the Council should use baseline performance data/information against which future improvement can be demonstrated.

## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### 4. Consultation

The Council carried out extensive consultation on its improvement objectives, covering staff, elected representatives, community/voluntary groups, local businesses, representative business organisations, section 75 and statutory consultees. It also placed adverts in local papers and placed details of the consultation on its website.

The Council received very few responses in relation to the consultation exercise. Given the effort and resources put into the exercise we appreciate that this level of engagement must have been disappointing. The low response rate may have been as a result of performance improvement being a new framework which currently has a very low public profile. Our review of the consultation process identified some proposals for improvement which may encourage more citizens and stakeholders to engage in future consultations.

- raise the profile and transparency of performance improvement throughout the year on the Council's website and other communication channels for example social media, citizen magazines, engagement in respect of the Community Plan etc;
- encourage citizens and stakeholders to contribute at any time during the year by providing contact details on the Council website;
- consider other more effective methods of obtaining views (as well as service level feedback) from citizens and organisations, for example, a citizen panel, stakeholder workshops focus groups, e-platforms etc; and
- the questions in the consultation sought agreement on the objectives and provided an opportunity for comment. From our own experience of consultations we believe that providing additional discussion points and explaining any specific matters the Council wish to obtain comment on, or guide consultees to matters they may wish to reflect upon, encourage more meaningful responses.

The Council does not yet have a standard consultation policy in place. Whilst there is no legal requirement to have one we would encourage any public body who regularly consults with the public to develop a flexible, principles based policy based on current good practice.

## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### 5. Improvement Plan

The purpose of the improvement plan is to show citizens, and other stakeholders, how the Council intends to deliver on its duty under legislation to secure continuous improvement. It does not need to describe everything the Council plans to improve but should focus on functions or services it has selected under its general duty, their related improvement objectives and any statutory requirements placed upon the Council by central government.

An improvement plan should be both transparent and meaningful, setting out how citizens and other stakeholders within the borough will be better off.

The Council published a 'Corporate Plan Update' which incorporated its Performance Improvement Plan for 2016-17 on 29 June 2016. It is available in electronic format on the Council's website. The document contains a high level description of the Council's plan for discharging its duties and includes its improvement objectives. It highlights high level key actions the Council intends to carry out in order to achieve each of its objectives. The plan also includes a separate section on the statutory imposed performance indicators and standards which it was required to report on later in the year. In addition, the plan sets out why objectives were chosen and a statement on the Council's consultation process on improvement objectives.

Whilst the plan meets the requirements of legislation, the improvement objectives are high level and foundational in nature. The plan would benefit from more detail to enhance both the transparency and meaningfulness of the Council's commitment to continuously improve its functions. In particular, there is a need for more specific detail on how each aspect of the objectives is to be delivered and how improvement will be measured. The plan itself is currently not easily accessible by members of the public (largely as a result of the functionality of the current website) and this does not promote transparency of the Council's commitment to improve. As a proposal for improvement, the Council should ensure that the plan (and any other information on performance improvement) is more easily accessible on the website and through other channels.

## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### 6. Arrangements to improve

The Council is required to establish arrangements to deliver on its improvement objectives each year. The Department for Communities guidance sets out that the Council should be able to understand and demonstrate the impact of their arrangements for continuous improvement on the outcomes for citizens.

The underlying projects in relation to the improvement objectives are being supported by delivery plans and budgets. These are being project managed and have lines of accountability, including risk management, to senior management and members. Whilst arrangements are in place it is too early in the performance improvement cycle to determine the extent of any improvement which will be delivered this year. We have reached this view for three key reasons:

- the arrangements in relation to leisure facilities and the community planning objectives are foundational in nature. Delivering these outputs may pave the way for improvement in future years, but not in the current year;
- there is insufficient clarity underlying the improvement objectives and it is not always clear what or how improved outcomes for citizens will be measured. As well as the need for additional clarity around the outcomes, where practicable, these outcomes need to be linked to specific measurable indicators that show performance over time. Without such evidence it will be difficult to assess if improvement is being made; and
- the performance improvement responsibilities are new to the Council and it does not yet have fully established or embedded performance improvement arrangements.

## Section 3

### Key audit and assessment findings

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#### 7. Performance Reporting - Statutory performance indicators and standards

This year the Department for Communities required the Council to publish information collected in relation to its statutory performance indicators and standards completed during 2015-16 by 30 September 2016. This information relates to the functional areas of planning, economic development and waste management. As this was the first year of this requirement no comparison or assessment from the Council was expected.

We reviewed the published information:

- the Council published the required information in its 'Performance Improvement Report' by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 on the Council website and social media;
- the information agrees to the data held by central government which has been subjected to independent validation and audit;
- the Council met one of the three standards in relation to planning;
- the Council met the required standard in relation to economic development;
- the Council met two of the three standards in relation to waste management; and
- whilst not required by the legislation, the Council has provided an explanation for each result and we commend this approach.

As a proposal for improvement, the Council should ensure that the report (as well as other information on the Council's performance) is more easily accessible on the website and other channels.

Another proposal for improvement is giving further consideration to securing a standard format and means for the reporting of performance across the Council to secure consistency in the look and feel of performance reports and to provide key audiences with concise and easily understood information. It was noted the Council does not currently have a corporate performance management system.

## Section 4 Other Matters

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### Other Matters

#### *Statement on personal data*

- 4.1 During the course of the audit and assessment we may have access to personal data to support our audit testing. We have established processes to hold this data securely within encrypted files and to destroy it where relevant at the conclusion of our audit. We can confirm that we have discharged those responsibilities communicated to you in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

#### *Independence, integrity & objectivity of auditors*

- 4.2 The NIAO's policy to ensure independence, integrity and objectivity of our auditors was set out in our Audit Strategy. Overall, the threat to the audit arising from issues affecting our independence, integrity and objectivity is low, and the safeguards in place ensure that the likelihood of any impact is low.
- 4.3 We have complied with APB Ethical Standards and, in our professional judgement, we are independent and our objectivity is not compromised. There are no relationships between NIAO and the Council that we consider to bear on our objectivity and independence.

#### *Complaints procedure*

- 4.4 NIAO seeks to ensure that, when carrying out its audit work, it complies with the principles developed by the Public Audit Forum in its paper "What Public Sector Bodies can expect from their Auditors".

NIAO also wishes to gauge public sector bodies' perceptions of its audit processes in order to promote continuous improvement. In particular, it undertakes to act quickly on any complaint and ensure that the underlying causes of problems are addressed to prevent them recurring. In the first instance, complaints can be addressed to the member of the Directorate responsible for the audit within which the concern has been raised.

Failing resolution of the problem to the satisfaction of the complainant, the Chief Executive of the Council can then write directly to the Local Government Auditor who will ensure that a further review of the case will be undertaken.

# Audit and assessment of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance improvement arrangements

## Certificate of Compliance

I certify that I have audited Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's (the Council) assessment of its performance for 2015-16 and its 2016-17 improvement plan in accordance with section 93 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (the Act) and the Code of Audit Practice for local government bodies.

I also certify that I have performed an improvement assessment for 2016-17 at the Council in accordance with section 94 of the Act and the Code of Audit Practice.

This is a report to comply with the requirement of section 95(2) of the Act.

## Respective responsibilities of the Council and the Local Government Auditor

Under the Act, the Council has a general duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions and to set improvement objectives for each financial year. The Council is required to gather information to assess improvements in its services and to issue a report annually on its performance against indicators and standards which it has set itself or which have been set for it by Government departments.

The Act requires the Council to publish its assessment before 30 September in the financial year following that to which the information relates, or by any other such date as the Department for Communities (the Department) may specify by order.

The Act also requires that the Council has regard to any guidance issued by the Department in publishing its assessment. For 2016-17, in its performance assessments, the Council must use information collected in relation to statutory performance indicators and standards completed during 2015-16 to establish baseline figures for 2017-18 and subsequent years. No further comparison or assessment for 2016-17 was required.

As the Council's auditor, I am required by the Act to determine and report each year on whether:

- The Council has discharged its duties in relation to improvement planning, published the required improvement information and the extent to which the Council has acted in accordance with the Department's Guidance in relation to those duties; and
- The Council is likely to comply with the requirement to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its duties.

## Scope of the audit and assessment

For the audit I am not required to form a view on the completeness or accuracy of information or whether the improvement plan published by the Council can be achieved. My audits of the Council's improvement plan and assessment of performance, therefore, comprised a review of the Council's publications to ascertain whether they included elements prescribed in legislation. I also assessed whether the arrangements for publishing the documents complied with the requirements of the legislation, and that the Council had regard to statutory guidance in preparing and publishing them.

## ANNEX

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For the improvement assessment I am required to form a view on whether the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of Part 12 of the Act. My assessment of the Council's improvement responsibilities and arrangements, therefore, comprised a review of certain improvement arrangements within the Council, along with information gathered from my improvement audit.

The work I have carried out in order to report and make recommendations in accordance with sections 93 to 95 of the Act cannot solely be relied upon to identify all weaknesses or opportunities for improvement.

### Audit opinion

#### Improvement planning and publication of improvement information

As a result of my audit, I believe the Council has discharged its duties in connection with (1) improvement planning and (2) publication of improvement information in accordance with section 92 the Act and has acted in accordance with the Department for Communities' guidance sufficiently, including its guidance on the publication of improvement information in 2016-17.

#### Improvement assessment

As a result of my assessment, I believe the Council has as far as possible discharged its duties under Part 12 of the Act and has acted in accordance with the Department for Communities' guidance sufficiently.

2016-17 was the first year in which councils were required to implement the statutory performance improvement framework. Therefore arrangements to secure achievement of its improvement objectives at the Council are at an early stage of development and implementation. This is to be expected in this first year. Whilst the Council has begun to establish arrangements to secure continuous improvement for 2016-17, it is too early for the Council to demonstrate, or for me to determine, the extent to which improvements are being made for the current financial year.

I have not conducted an assessment to determine whether the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of Part 12 of the Act in subsequent financial years. I will keep the need for this under review as arrangements become more fully established.

#### Other matters

I have no recommendations to make under section 95 (2) of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014.

I am not minded to carry out a special inspection under section 95 (2) of the Act.

**LOUISE MASON**  
**Local Government Auditor**  
**NI Audit Office**  
**106 University Street**  
**Belfast**  
**BT7 1EU**

29 November 2016

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Meeting of Partnership Panel – 31 January 2017
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway Chief Executive

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	To agree items to be forwarded by Council for inclusion on agenda for next Meeting of the Partnership Panel – 31 January 2016.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	Discussion took place at Party Representatives Forum Meeting on 29 November 2016 on this issue and the items listed in 3.1 are recommended for forwarding for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting of the Partnership Panel.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	Agenda items from NMDDC: 1. Joint working between education authorities and Councils on community/recreation provision. 2. Contribution from Transport NI towards grass cutting/maintenance carried out by Councils. 3. Community asset transfer scheme. 4. Planning process – response times by statutory consultees.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications:</b>
4.1	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices:</b>

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Council Constitution
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eileen McParland Democratic Services Manager

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	The Council is required, under Section 2 of the Local Government Act (NI) to prepare and keep up to date a Constitution. The current Constitution was agreed in April 2015 and, as required, sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures the Council follows to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	In its Audit fieldwork report of Corporate governance for 2015/16, ASM stated that <i>"The Articles detailed in the Constitution are reviewed at the end of the 2015/16 year to ensure that they remain appropriate. Going forward, we consider that there should be a target review date for all governance related documents"</i> .
2.2	There are 13 Articles within the Constitution and these are: Article 1 – The Constitution which explains the purpose of the Constitution. Article 2 – Members of the Council Article 3 – Citizens and the Council Article 4 - The Council Article 5 – Chairing the Council Article 6 – Decision making structures Article 7 – Policy and other Committees Article 8 – Joint arrangements Article 9 – Officers Article 10 – Decision making Article 11 – Finance, Contracts and Legal matters Article 12 – Review and revision of the Constitution Article 13 – Publication of the Constitution
2.3	The Constitution follows the Model Constitution issued by Local Government Policy Division. In order to implement the recommendations of the Council's Auditors and ensure that all Articles of the Constitution and its parts are current, the attached draft of the Council's Constitution (appendix 1) is recommended for approval.
2.4	Appendix 2 attached lists the Parts and appendices which make up the Constitution. All of these documents have previously been formally approved by Council.



## Appendix 1

## The Council's Constitution

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is required, under Section 2 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, to prepare and keep up to date a Constitution. This Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures the Council follows to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

The Constitution is divided into 13 Articles and these set out the basic rules governing the Council's business. More detailed procedures and codes of practice are set out in the appendices of the Constitution.

### What's in the Constitution?

Article 1 sets out the powers of the Council and the purpose of the Constitution. Articles 2 to 13 explain how the key parts of the Council operate, and the rights of our citizens.

These Articles are:

- Members of the Council (Article 2)
- Citizens and the Council (Article 3)
- The Council (Article 4)
- Chairing the Council (Article 5)
- Decision making structures (Article 6)
- Regulatory and other Committees (Article 7)
- Joint arrangements (Article 8)
- Officers (Article 9)
- Procedures for decision making (Article 10)
- Finance contracts and legal matters (Article 11)
- Review and revision of the Constitution (Article 12)
- Suspension, interpretation and publication of the Constitution (Article 13)

### Our Mission, Vision and Values

The Council has a population of around 171,500 and it is the third largest Council area in Northern Ireland. Following Local Government reorganisation in Northern Ireland, the Council formally assumed its full powers and statutory responsibilities on 1 April 2015 and its mission is to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable.

The Council aims to create opportunities for local people and local communities to thrive by supporting sustainable economic growth over time and helping people to lead fulfilling lifestyles. The Council has adopted 5 core values, which are;

- We will be citizen focused and actively encourage citizen and community engagement, as well as being a listening and responsive Council.
- We will be accountable and make decisions based on an objective assessment of need and operate in a transparent way as well as openly reporting on our performance.
- We will be collaborative and actively encourage and pursue working in partnership, and at all levels, to deliver for our district.
- We will be sustainable and will take into account the social, economic and environmental impacts of our decisions on current and future generations.

- We will be fair at all times and will proactively target actions at those who are marginalised within our community.

### **How the Council operates**

The Council is made up of 41 Councillors who are elected every 4 years and the current Councillors will serve until May 2019.

Councillors have to agree to follow the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties and role as a Councillor.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Meetings of the Council, its Committees and sub Committees are open to the public, except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and it is here that decisions are made on the Council's overall policies.

### **How decisions are made**

The full Council, which is a meeting of the 41 Councillors, is held every month, although the Council, may if it so determines, decide not to hold a meeting on a summer month.

Planning Committee meetings are held on a 4 weekly basis and this Committee has its own decision making powers.

The Council has a further 5 Standing Committees – these are:

1. Active and Healthy Communities – meets every month, except July.
2. Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism – meets every month, except July.
3. Regulatory and Technical Services – meets every month, except July.
4. Strategy Policy and Resources – meets every month, except July.
5. Audit Committee – meets 4 times each year. The Audit Committee is Chaired by an independent member who has been recruited following a public recruitment exercise.

These Committees do not have their own decision making powers - they make recommendations which must be considered and agreed by full Council before being acted upon.

### **The Council's Employees**

The Council employees, "Officers", give advice to the Councillors, implement decisions and manage the day to day delivery of its services. All Officers must ensure that they act within the law when carrying out the Council's work. The Councillor/Employee Code of Conduct is set out in **Part 4** of this Constitution and this governs the relationships between employees and Councillors.

### **Citizen's Rights**

Citizens have a number of rights in their dealings with the Council and in particular in terms of participation, rights to information and complaints. These are set out in more detail in Article 3 and include the right to:

- Vote at local elections if they are registered;
- Contact their local Councillors about matters of concern to them;

- Obtain a copy of the Constitution;
- Attend meetings of the Council and its Committees;
- See reports, background papers and records of decisions made by the Council and its Committees;
- Complain to the Council about service delivery;
- Complain to the Northern Ireland Commission for Complaints if they think the Council has not followed its procedures properly. However they should do this only after using the Council's own complaints process;
- Exercise their rights under the Data Protection Act 1998 to request their own personal data/information held by the Council;
- Exercise their rights under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to obtain information held by the Council;
- Inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor during a statutory period;

The Council always welcomes participation by citizens in our work.

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## **Article 1**

### **The Constitution**

#### **1.1 Powers of the Council**

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution. This Constitution complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, related Regulations and Government Guidance on constitutional matters.

#### **1.2 The Constitution**

This Constitution and all its appendices is the Constitution of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

#### **1.3 Purpose of the Constitution**

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- a) Enable the Council to provide clear political and managerial leadership to the community, in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations;
- b) Support the act of involvement of citizens in the process of Council decision making;
- c) Help Councillors to efficiently and effectively represent and support their constituents;
- d) Enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- e) Create a powerful and effective means of holding decision makers to public account;
- f) Ensure that no-one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- g) Ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that the decision makers explain the reasons for decisions;
- h) Provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

#### **1.4 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution**

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the statements of purpose in paragraph 1.3 above.

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution.

## **Article 2**

### **Members of the Council (Councillors)**

#### **2.1 Composition and Eligibility**

The Council comprises 41 members, called Councillors. Councillors are elected by the voters of each of the district electoral areas which make up Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland.

Where an individual ceases to be a Councillor, whether by resignation or through other circumstances, the vacancy on the Council will be filled by the co-option of an individual nominated by the political party in whose name the previous individual stood, at the last local general election. In the case of Councillors who are Independent Members and not Members of any political party, their vacancy will be filled by the co-option of an individual nominated by them when they stood at the last local general election.

Only registered voters of the district or those living or working there, will be eligible to hold the Office of Councillor.

#### **2.2 Election and terms of Councillors**

The regular election of Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every 4 years. The next Local Government election is scheduled to be held in 2019. The term of office of Councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

#### **2.3 Role and duties of all Councillors**

##### Key roles

- a) All Councillors will have the following key roles:
  - i. Councillors will collectively be the ultimate policy makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions for the Council;
  - ii. Councillors will represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision making process;
  - iii. Councillors will deal with individual issues and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances;
  - iv. Councillors will balance different interests identified within the district electoral area and represent that area as a whole;
  - v. Councillors will be involved in decision making;
  - vi. Councillors will be available to represent the Council on other bodies;
  - vii. Councillors will maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

##### Rights and Duties;

- b) All Councillors will have the following rights and duties:
  - i. Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents, information, lands and buildings of the Council as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law;

- ii. Councillors will not make public, information which is confidential or exempt (as defined in the Access to Information Rules in **Part 3** of this Constitution), without the consent of the Council or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or Officer entitled to know it;

#### **2.4 Conduct**

Councillors will at all times adopt high standards of conduct and abide by the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors issued under Section 53 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and the Local Government Employee and Councillor Working Relationship protocol.

#### **2.5 Allowances**

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Scheme of Allowances set out in **Part 5** of this Constitution.

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## **Article 3**

### **Citizens and the Council**

#### **3.1 Citizens' Rights**

Residents and others who avail of the Council's services have the following rights in relation to the operation of the Council. Their rights to information and to attend meetings of the Council or its Committees are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Rules in **Part 3** of this Constitution.

##### Information

- a) Citizens have the right to:
  - i. Attend meetings of the Council and its Committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
  - ii. See reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council.

##### Complaints

- b) Citizens have the right to complain to:
  - i. The Council itself under its Complaints Scheme; or
  - ii. The NI Commissioner for Complaints in respect of an allegation that a Councillor (or former Councillor) has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors. Guidance on making a complaint to the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints is available on the website of the Office of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints.

#### **3.2 Citizens' Responsibilities**

Citizens must not be violent, abusive or threatening to Councillors or Officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the Council, Councillors or Officers.

## **Article 4** **The Council**

### **4.1 Meanings**

#### Policy Framework

- a) The policy framework means the following plans and strategies:
  - i. Those prescribed in legislation to be adopted by the Council:
    - Community Plan
    - Area Development Plan
    - Performance Improvement Plan
    - Equality Scheme
    - Disability Action Plan
  - ii. Those other plans and strategies which the Council may decide, should be adopted by the Council as a matter of local choice:
    - Corporate Plan
    - Scheme of Delegation

#### Budget

- b) The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, the Council rate base, setting the district rate and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the vetting of virement limits.

### **4.2 Functions of the Council**

Council operates a traditional Committee system where business is considered by a Committee and recommendations made to Council for approval, except for those circumstances where Council has delegated authority to a Committee. Details of the authority delegated to Committees is contained in the Council's Terms of Reference for Committees at **Part 2** of this Constitution. There are circumstances in which Council has delegated its authority to exercise decisions to an Officer of Council, referenced in the Council's Scheme of Delegation for Officers contained within **Part 2** of this Constitution.

There are however some matters which cannot be delegated to any Committee and must be considered by Council. Section 7(3) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 states that the following must be discharged by the Council itself:

- a) Making a District Rate under the Rates (NI) Order 1977;
- b) Making a determination under Section 13 (1) of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (affordable borrowing limit) and monitoring an amount determined under that subsection;
- c) Borrowing money; and
- d) Acquiring or disposing of land.

### **4.3 Council Meetings**

There are three types of Council meeting:

- a) the annual meeting
- b) ordinary meetings
- c) extraordinary meetings

and they will be conducted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders set out in [Part 3](#) of this Constitution.

#### **4.4 Responsibility for functions**

The Council operates a traditional Committee structure as its form of governance.

The Terms of Reference for each Committee and the Council's decision making processes are set out in [Part 2](#) of this Constitution.

## **Article 5**

### **Chairing the Council**

#### **5.1 Title of the person chairing the Council meetings**

The Chairperson of the Council will chair Council meetings.

#### **5.2 Role and Function of the Chairperson**

The Chairperson and, in their absence, the Deputy Chairperson will have the following roles and functions:

##### **Ceremonial role**

- a) The Chairperson, as the “first citizen of Newry, Mourne and Down” will uphold and preserve the dignity and honour of the Office. In particular the Chairperson will remain apolitical and attend civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.

The Chairperson will:

- i. Encourage and support all aspects of life in Newry, Mourne and Down by attending civic and public events;
- ii. Receive distinguished visitors to the district;
- iii. Act as host on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down at civic functions;
- iv. Act as a spokesperson to the local, national and international media;
- v. Support and encourage charitable and other appeals;
- vi. Promote Newry, Mourne and Down’s business, commercial, cultural and social life;
- vii. Promote Newry, Mourne and Down as a place of excellence in which to live, invest and create new jobs;
- viii. Promote Newry, Mourne and Down as a premier tourist destination.

##### **Chairing the Council Meeting**

- b) The Chairperson will be the person presiding over Council meetings.

The Chairperson will have the following responsibilities:

- i. To uphold and promote Newry, Mourne and Down, the Council’s Constitution, and to give rulings on the Constitution and Standing Orders during Council meetings;
- ii. To preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out in an effective, orderly and efficient manner and in the interests of the citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down;
- iii. To promote public awareness, knowledge and participation in the business of the Council.

## Article 6

### **Decision making structures**

The full Council, which is a meeting of the 41 elected members, takes place monthly, with the exception of one summer month if Council so determines.

The Council also holds an Annual General Meeting every year.

The Council operates a traditional Committee structure.

#### **6.1 Role**

The Council has selected a traditional Committee structure as its form of governance and organises its business through 6 Committees. Four of these Committees sit monthly, with the exception of July and they each consist of 15 Councillors. Officers advise Councillors on issues addressed by Committees. These Committees do not have any decision making powers but they review, scrutinize and make recommendations which are then considered by the full Council.

The Council's Audit Committee meets at least 4 times per year, the Chairperson of which is an independent person who is not a Councillor. The Audit Committee consists of 10 elected members. It does not have decision making powers and makes recommendations which are then considered by the full Council.

The Council also has a Planning Committee which meets on a 4 weekly basis and consists of 12 Councillors. Unlike the other Committees, the Planning Committee has full decision making powers on the matters that fall within its remit.

#### **6.2 Form**

The Council's six standing Committees are:

Planning Committee - a 12 member Committee that has full decision making powers in relation to the planning matters that fall within its remit;

Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council;

Active and Healthy Communities Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council;

Regulatory and Technical Services Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council;

Strategy Policy and Resources Committee – a 15 member Committee that makes recommendations to the full Council;

Audit Committee – a 10 member Committee that makes recommendations to full Council

### **6.3 Proceedings of the Committees**

Proceedings of the Committees shall take place in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders set out in **Part 3** of this Constitution.

The Council also has the power to establish sub Committees and working groups.

### **6.4 Functions of the Council which are discharged by an Officer of the Council**

The functions of the Council which are discharged by an Officer of the Council are set out in the Scheme of Delegation which is attached at **Part 2** of the Constitution.

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## Article 7 Policy and other Committees

### 7.1 Policy and other Committees

The Council will appoint the Committees set out in **Part 2** of this Constitution to make recommendations for the functions listed in each Committees Terms of Reference.

### 7.2 Regulatory and other Committees

The Council will appoint a Planning Committee to discharge the functions listed in the Committee's Terms of Reference.

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## Article 8 Joint arrangements

### 8.1 Joint arrangements

The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities to exercise functions, or to advise the Council. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a joint committee with these other local authorities.

Appointment of Members to joint Committees will be made by the Council in accordance with any relevant legislation and in line with the Council's Standing Orders.

### 8.2 Access to information

The Access to Information Rules in [Part 3](#) of this Constitution apply.

### 8.3 Delegation to and from other Councils

The Council may delegate the discharge of functions to another Council or, in certain circumstances, the executive of another Council.

### 8.4 Contracting out

Currently no services are contracted out in their entirety.

## **Article 9** **Officers**

### **9.1 Management structure**

The management structure of the Council is set out in **Part 6** of this Constitution.

### **9.2 Functions of the Clerk and the Chief Executive of the Council**

The Clerk and Chief Executive is the Council's Head of the paid service and principal adviser on policy issues.

The Clerk and Chief Executive has responsibility for implementing the Council's strategic objectives and ensuring the efficient, effective and equitable discharge of responsibilities of the Council as detailed in legislation.

Key Roles:

- To provide the leadership, vision and strategic direction necessary to manage the interface between elected members and officers and work in partnership with them to create the Council's Strategic Plan and develop policies and relationships which will fulfil the Council's objectives.
- To work in partnership with elected members to define the corporate culture of the Council and promote its core values.
- To ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations and that the highest standards of probity and good conduct are maintained at all times.
- To ensure that appropriate governance arrangements, including risk management measures, are in place.
- To actively promote both the Council and its area locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, taking account of the various communities within the area.
- To provide support to the democratic decision making processes at all levels and to promote the active participation of local people and communities in the Council's affairs.
- To lead in ensuring that the Council's strategic plans and policies are matched to a common purpose across the organisation and the area.
- To take overall responsibility for ensuring that the Council's decisions and policies are implemented.
- To promote equality of opportunity and access in service delivery and in the employment of staff.
- To ensure that service planning and delivery reflect the Council's priorities and take account of the views of citizens, communities and all other stakeholders.

- To lead on partnership working through the Community Planning process, ensuring that through this the Council maximises opportunities for the area so that its citizens attain their full potential.
- To actively foster and enhance positive relationships with all local communities, agencies and partners, including the voluntary sector and local business, as well as with other statutory bodies at regional and national levels.

### **9.3 Functions of the Chief Financial Officer**

The Clerk and Chief Executive of the Council also holds the role of Chief Financial Officer and is responsible for leading and directing a finance function that is resourced and fit for purpose.

Key Roles:

1. To make arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs.
2. To lead the Council in fulfilling its duty to strike a district rate on an annual basis to meet the costs of local services.
3. To keep the Council advised on a regular basis on the robustness of its rate estimates.
4. To develop and implement strategy and to resource and deliver the Council's strategic objectives sustainably and in the public's interest.
5. To ensure immediate and longer term implications, opportunities and risks are fully considered, and aligned with the Council's Corporate Financial Plan
6. To lead the promotion and delivery by the Council of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.

### **9.4 Duty to provide sufficient resources to the Chief Financial Officer**

The Council will provide the Chief Financial Officer with such Officers, accommodation and other resources which are, in its opinion, sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

### **9.5 Conduct**

Officers will comply with the Officer's Code of Conduct and the Local Government Employee and Councillor Working Relationship Protocol set out in **Part 4** of this Constitution.

## **Article 10**

### **Decision making**

#### **10.1 Responsibility for decision making**

- a) The Council will issue and keep up to date a record of what part of the Council or which individual has responsibility for particular types of decisions or decisions relating to particular areas or functions. This record is set out in **Part 2** of this Constitution.

#### **10.2 Principles of decision making**

Decisions of the Council will be based upon the Council's 5 core values;

- Citizen Focused – In making its decisions Council will actively encourage citizen and community engagement, as well as be a listening and responsive Council.
- Accountable – Decisions will be based on an objective assessment of need and operate in a transparent way, as well as openly reporting on performance.
- Collaborative – Council will actively encourage and pursue working in partnership and at all levels to deliver for the district.
- Sustainable – Decisions will take into account the social, economic and environmental on current and future generations.
- Fair – In making decisions Council will proactively target actions at those who are marginalised in the community.

#### **10.3 Decisions to be taken by a qualified majority**

The decisions of a Council that must be taken by a qualified majority – i.e. by 80% of the votes of the members present and voting, are set out in the Council's Standing Orders in **Part 3** of this Constitution.

#### **10.4 Decision making by the Council**

The Council meeting will follow the Council's Standing Orders set out in **Part 3** of this Constitution when considering any matter.

#### **10.5 Decision making by other Committees and sub Committees established by the Council**

Council Committees and sub Committees will follow those parts of the Council's Standing Orders set out in **Part 3** of this Constitution as applied to them.

#### **10.6 Reconsideration of decisions**

Decisions of the Council or a Committee of the Council will be subject to reconsideration if 15% of the Members of the Council present to the Clerk of the Council a requisition on either or both of the grounds specified in section 41 (1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. These are:

- that the decision was not arrived at after a proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues;
- That the decision would disproportionately affect adversely any section of the inhabitants of the district.

The procedures to be followed in relation to a requisition for the reconsideration of a decision are set out in the Council's Standing Orders (standing order number 21) in **Part 3** of this Constitution.

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## **Article 11**

### **Finance, Contracts and Legal Matters**

#### **11.1 Financial and Contract management**

The management of the Council's financial affairs will be conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulations Procedure Rules set out in **Part 3** of this Constitution.

#### **11.2 Contracts**

Every contract made by the Council will comply with the Contracts Procedure Rules set out in **Part 3** of this Constitution.

#### **11.3 Legal proceedings by and against the Council**

The Council's Scheme of Delegation contained within this Constitution at **Part 2** confirms those officers of Council authorised to institute, defend or participate in legal proceedings on behalf of Council.

#### **11.4 Authentication of documents**

Where any document is necessary to any legal procedure or proceedings on behalf of the Council, it will be signed by the Clerk and Chief Executive of the Council or some other person duly authorised by the Council unless any enactment otherwise authorises or requires.

#### **11.5 Common Seal of the Council**

In compliance with Section 120(1) to (4) of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 1972 the Council shall provide for the safe custody of its Common Seal which shall be used under authority of a resolution of Council and in accordance with Council's Standing Orders, contained within this Constitution at **Part 3**.

Every instrument to which the Common Seal is affixed shall be signed by the Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson and Chief Executive of Council.

## **Article 12**

### **Review and Revision of the Constitution**

#### **12.1 Duty to keep the Constitution up to date**

The Clerk and Chief Executive will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect. The Council will perform this role with support of such Officers as the Council considers necessary.

#### **12.2 Changes to the Constitution**

All proposed changes to the Constitution will be debated and agreed by a majority of the Council.

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## **Article 13**

### **Publication of the Constitution**

#### **13.1 Suspension of the Constitution**

##### Limit to suspension

- a) The Articles of this Constitution may be not be suspended. The Procedure Rules specified below may be suspended by the full Council to the extent permitted within those Procedure Rules and the law.

##### Procedure to suspend

- b) A motion to suspend any Procedure Rules will not be moved without notice unless it least one half of the total number of Councillors are present. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved, taking account of the statements of purpose of the Constitution set out in Article 1.

##### Procedure Rules capable of suspension

- c) The following Procedure Rules may be suspended in accordance with Article 12.1.
- All of Standing Orders with the exception of the following:  
Standing Order 20.3; 21; 22 and 23. Suspension must have the support of a qualified majority vote within the meaning of Section 40 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

#### **13.2 Interpretation**

The ruling of the Chairperson in relation to the interpretation or application of this Constitution, or as to any proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purpose of this Constitution contained in Article 1.

#### **13.3 Publication**

A printed copy of this Constitution will be given to each Member of the Council upon delivery to the Clerk and Chief Executive of the Council of that individual's declaration of acceptance of Office on the Member first being elected to the Council. Copies of the Constitution will be made available at the Council's Headquarters in Downpatrick and Newry and will be published on the Council's website.

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- PART 1 – SUMMARY, EXPLANATION AND ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION**
- PART 2 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS**  
**ANNEX 1 – Terms of Reference for Committees**  
**ANNEX 2 – Scheme of Delegation for Officers**
- PART 3 – RULES OF PROCEDURE**  
**ANNEX 1 – Access to Information Procedure Rules**  
**ANNEX 2 – Financial Procedure Rules**  
**ANNEX 3 – Contracts Procedures Rules and Procurement Policy**  
**ANNEX 4 – Council Standing Orders**  
**ANNEX 5 – Planning Committee Operating Protocol**
- PART 4 - CODES AND PROTOCOL**  
**ANNEX 1 – The NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors**  
**ANNEX 2 – Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees**
- PART 5 - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**
- PART 6 - OFFICERS' MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Terms of Reference of Council Committees – review arrangements
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eileen McParland Democratic Services Manager

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	To seek approval to the following review arrangements for the Council's Committee Terms of Reference.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	The Council agreed up-dated Terms of Reference for its Committees at Council Meeting on 7 November 2016.
2.2	In its Audit fieldwork report of Corporate governance for 2015/16, ASM stated that "The terms of reference should be dated to indicate when they were approved and provide an appropriate date for future review."
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	Approval of the following review arrangements for Committee Terms of Reference:  <b>"Terms of Reference shall be kept under review to ensure they remain appropriate annually. A full review of Council's Committee structures, and the corresponding Terms of Reference will be undertaken within the first 3 months of a new Council. Review of Terms of Reference shall be undertaken by the Council."</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	None anticipated.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None



**Derry City & Strabane**  
District Council

Comhairle  
**Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSratha Báin**

**Derry Cíttie & Strábane**  
Destríck Cooncil

7th December 2016

Paul Givan MLA  
Minister for the Department for Communities  
Department for Communities  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lighthouse Building  
Gasworks Business Park  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB

Dear Minister

### **Council Delegation re Rates Support Grant**

Thank you for your Department's response to our letter of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in which we requested a delegation in relation to the importance of future rates support grant allocations to this Council.

We acknowledge the current uncertainty in relation to the Department's 2017/18 budget position, however, following further consideration by our Governance and Strategic Planning Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, we would request that Council's delegation request is re-considered and accommodated as part of upcoming budget discussions.

We would emphasise the impact that even a small cut to this grant would have on ratepayers and services across our Council area, and indeed the ratepayers of the other affected Councils, and it is therefore important that impacted Councils are properly consulted as part of any budgetary decisions.

Councils have a statutory deadline to strike their 2017/18 rates by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and certainty around rates support grant is crucial for proper financial planning.

#### **Derry**

C/o Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7NN

#### **Strabane**

C/o Council Offices  
47 Derry Road  
Strabane  
BT82 3DY

#### **John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE., MIEI**

Chief Executive  
Derry City and Strabane District Council

+44 (0) 2871 253 253  
chiefexecutive@derrystrabane.com  
www.derrystrabane.com

**1**

f Derry City & Strabane District Council  
@dcscouncil



We would therefore be grateful if your office would re-consider this request and advise of availability by emailing Alfie Dallas, Lead Finance Officer on [alfie.dallas@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com](mailto:alfie.dallas@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kelpie", with a large, stylized initial "J" that loops around the name.

John Kelpie  
**Chief Executive**





Department for

**Communities**

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Chief Executive's Office Derry City and Strabane District Council	
17 OCT 2016	
JK	
AD.	

From: The Private Secretary

8th Floor  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG

e-mail: [private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk)

Tel: (028) 90829034

Mr John Kelpie  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
C/O Council Office  
98 Strand Road  
Londonderry  
BT48 7NN

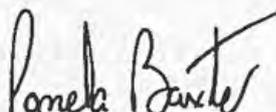
Our ref: INV/1599/2016  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Mr Kelpie

Thank you for your invitation for the Minister for Communities to meet with a delegation from your council to discuss the potential Rates Support Grant allocation for Derry City and Strabane District Council for 2017/18.

Due to the current uncertainty of the Department's 2017/18 budget position the Minister believes there would be no benefit in meeting at this time and would therefore decline your invitation.

Yours sincerely

  
PAMELA BAXTER  
Private Secretary



Derry City & Strabane District  
Council  
Comhairle  
Chathair Dhoire & Cheantar an tSraitha Báin  
Derry Cittie & Strabane Destrack  
Cooncil



Paul Givan MLA  
Minister for the Department for Communities  
Department for Communities  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lighthouse Building  
Gasworks Business Park  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB

3 October 2016

**Council Delegation re Rates Support Grant**

Dear Minister,

I write following resolution of Derry City and Strabane District Council in which Members resolved to write to the Minister for Communities seeking a delegation in relation to the importance of future rates support grant allocations to this Council.

The Rates Support Grant is a vital source of funding for the less wealthy Councils to ensure they can maintain parity of service provision with the more wealthy Councils. You will be aware that this grant was reduced from £18.327m to £15.5m for the year 2015/16 with significant rates implications for the less wealthy Councils including a District Rates impact on this Council of 1.17%. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Derry City and Strabane District Council led a 7 Council cross-party delegation with the Minister of the Environment following which a Motion was put forward to the Assembly (See Appendix 2 attached) in relation to ring-fencing this funding and a detailed review being undertaken to determine the real level of future need required to ensure that those Councils with proven socio-economic need can maintain parity of service provision with those Councils with stronger, more sustainable ratebases.

For 2016/17, the rates support grant was restored to £18.3m. This Council is currently entitled to £3,884,730 of that sum (21.2% of the total allocation) which represents 7.21% of our total income (See Appendix 1 attached).

Given the significant risk of any potential cuts and the uncertainty that this grant creates for our Council as part of our rates planning cycle, we would therefore be grateful if your office would consider this request and advise of availability by emailing Alfie Dallas, Lead Finance Officer on [alfie.dallas@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com](mailto:alfie.dallas@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com).

Yours sincerely,



**John Kelpie**  
**Chief Executive**

**Derry**  
C/o Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
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BT48 7NN

t +44 (0) 28 7136 5151  
e [anne.cassidy@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com](mailto:anne.cassidy@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com)

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e [anne.cassidy@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com](mailto:anne.cassidy@derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com)

**Appendix 1 Rates Support Grant allocations by Council 2016/17**

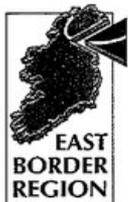
Council	Total rates income (including de-rating grant)	Rates support grant	Total income	RSG as % of total income
DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	50,030,194	3,884,730	53,914,924	7.21%
ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	61,232,654	3,735,096	64,967,750	5.75%
MID ULSTER	35,927,423	2,966,485	38,893,908	7.63%
NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	50,137,996	2,596,719	52,734,715	4.92%
CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	42,403,902	2,390,519	44,794,421	5.34%
FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	32,035,016	1,541,979	33,576,995	4.59%
MID AND EAST ANTRIM	46,944,380	1,184,472	48,128,852	2.46%
ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	46,902,594		46,902,594	0.00%
BELFAST	153,513,200		153,513,200	0.00%
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH	43,122,724		43,122,724	0.00%
NORTH DOWN AND ARDS	45,035,169		45,035,169	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>607,285,252</b>	<b>18,300,000</b>	<b>625,585,252</b>	<b>2.93%</b>

**Appendix 2- 7 Council Cross Party Motion made following delegation with Minister for the Environment held on 11th November 2015**

That this Assembly commits to ring-fencing a sum of f18.325m within Executive budgets from 2016/17 onwards, either from the Department of the Environment budget or otherwise, and until such time that a detailed review is undertaken in conjunction with Local Government officers to determine the real level of future need required to ensure that those Councils with proven socio economic need can maintain parity of service provision with those Councils with stronger, more sustainable rates bases..

The above motion is made on behalf of the 7 Councils who rely heavily on this grant and who represent over 58% of the population of Northern Ireland and in recognition of the following:

- There is a clearly recognised need for the grant to assist Councils with proven socio economic needs and disadvantage and lower wealth (as measured by rates income) to maintain parity of service provision with the more wealthy Councils.
- The Grant is a crucial source of funding for 7 of the new 11 Councils providing funds of up to 7.02% of the most affected Council's total income.
- The grant has been reduced by almost 25% from its' 2009/10 level (£20.497m) to its' current level of £15.5m. This has resulted in significant rates increases in the impacted Councils. Cuts have been applied through a process of top-slicing resulting in the Council with the greatest need being faced with the greatest cuts. Cuts have obviously had no rates implications for the 4 more wealthy Councils who do not rely on this funding.
- The cuts have come at a time of significant challenge for the 7 impacted Councils who are already dealing with significant financial challenges in relation to rates convergence, transferring functions budgets and pension costs whilst striving to generate the necessary efficiencies following reform.
- It is strongly contended that any cuts to the Grant (both already applied and potential) is contrary to the policy objectives of this grant and should therefore be subject to equality impact assessment and rural proofing.
- Failure to ring-fence the grant will result in those Councils who are in receipt becoming poorer and being forced to significantly increase their district rate, putting their ratepayers at a distinct disadvantage in comparison to other more affluent areas of Northern Ireland.



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund  
Investing in your future

This project is part funded by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme

Mr Liam Hannaway  
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council  
District Council Offices  
Monaghan Row  
Newry  
BT35 8DJ

7 November 2016

Dear Mr Hannaway *liam*

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir  
Mhúrn agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne and Down  
District Council   
Date 09 NOV 2016  
**Chief Executive**  
Liam Hannaway

**East Border Region Ltd**  
**Finance: 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018**

I would be grateful if your Council could set aside £20,000.00 in your Council's rates estimates towards the running costs of the East Border Region Ltd for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018.

I attach a copy of the up to date EBR work plan and would be happy to discuss or present same to your council at any time in the future.

Thanking you in anticipation of your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

**Ms Pamela Arthurs**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

2 Monaghan Court, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland BT35 6BH

Tel: NI 028 3025 2684 Rol 048 3025 2684 Fax: NI 028 3025 2685 Rol 048 3025 2685

W: [www.eastborderregion.com](http://www.eastborderregion.com) Email: [admin@eastborderregion.com](mailto:admin@eastborderregion.com)

- ① E mcrpated - SPR dec 16.
- ② Eddy - Info.



**EBR Project Pipeline Update – September 2016**

**Local Authority Projects Approved:**

**INTERREG VA:**

Carlingford Lough Greenway	€5.7m
Ulster Canal Greenway	€5.9m
CANN (Biodiversity project)	€9.6m
Co-Innovate Project	€15.9m
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>€37.10 million</b>

**Commercial Opportunities:**

SWELL Project	€35m
Source-To-Tap Project	€6.2m
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>€41.20million</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€78.30 million</b>

**Transnational Projects – Progressing to Stage 2:**

Nearly Zero Energy Taskforce (Preparatory Funding)	€40,600
SAR (Coastal Erosion – Stage 2)	€2,958,888
Circular Interiors (Stage 2)	€6.5m
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>€9.4 million</b>



<p><b>Greenways/Sustainable Transport</b></p> <p>A number of meetings have taken place with Council representatives to progress Greenways proposals in Armagh/Monaghan &amp; Newry and Louth.</p> <p><b>1) Carlingford Lough Greenway (€5.7m):</b> Louth County Council is Lead Partner. EBR will be a Partner with responsibility for the financial and non-financial management of a proposal to develop the Greenway from Newry to Greenore.</p> <p><b>2) Ulster Canal Greenway (€5.9):</b> Waterways Ireland will be Lead Partner on this proposal to develop a Greenway from Smithborough to Monaghan town centre linking to the existing Greenway, and on to Middletown. EBR will be the Partner with responsibility for the financial &amp; non-financial management of the Project.</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Stage 1 decision 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016</p> <p><b>Both projects Stage 1 application approved</b></p> <p><b>Both projects Stage 2 application Approved</b></p> <p><b>Awaiting Letter of Offer</b></p>
<p><b>Biodiversity:</b></p> <p><b>1) CANN Project (Collaborative Action for Natura Networks) €9.6m</b></p> <p>The EBR Biodiversity steering group are working with EBR secretariat and other key stakeholders such as AFBI (Agri-food and Biosciences Institute), Ulster University, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Sligo IT, Scottish Nat Heritage and Argyll &amp; Bute Council to develop a consortium bid to submit to the Habitats and Species call. NM&amp;DDC are Lead Partner on the bid.</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Stage 1 decision 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2016</p> <p><b>Stage 1 Application approved</b></p> <p><b>Stage 2 Project Approved Awaiting Letter Of Offer</b></p>

<p><b>2) Bathing Water Quality Project: (€1.2m)</b>                  EBR are working with a number of key stakeholders including; Ards and North Down Council, Louth County Council, Newry, Mourne and Down DC, UCD and AFB1 to develop a predictive bathing water quality system for use on beaches. UCD are Lead Partner on this bid.</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016                  Stage 1 decision 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2016   <b>Stage 1 Application approved</b>                   Stage 2 Business Plan submitted April 2016  <b>Project deferred for further information</b></p>
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<p><b>Research and Innovation:</b></p> <p><b>1) Research and Innovation: Co-Innovate Project (€15.9m)</b>                  EBR have entered into Partnership with a consortium which is being led by InterTradeIreland to submit a proposal to deliver all actions within this theme. The consortium includes: Enterprise NI, 6 Border LEO's and Highlands and Islands (Scotland). EBR will be the Partner with responsibility for the financial &amp; non-financial management of the Project.</p> <p>Key Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,408 SMEs will attend workshops to improve their understanding of the innovation ecosystem on a cross-border basis and their capability to benefit from it</li> <li>• business status reviews of 1,408 SMEs to determine progression through the programme</li> <li>• development of a new innovation audit tool designed for SMEs and cross border R&amp;I</li> <li>• in-company innovation audits for 469 SMEs with tailored feedback to support the identification of R&amp;I opportunities for these firms and appropriate interventions</li> <li>• 94 enterprises will receive an intensive capability development programme to address major internal barriers preventing them from realising their full potential of cross-border innovation</li> <li>• 50 enterprises will benefit from research institutions' input as part of a cross-border</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stage 1 Application approved</b>                  Business Plan Submitted 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016   <b>Stage 2 Project approved</b>   <b>Awaiting Letter Of Offer</b></p>
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<p>innovation internship programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70 enterprises will receive a qualified graduate supported by a cross-border research institution from another part of the eligible region to work specifically on a new product/process or service development</li> <li>the development of at least 4 R&amp;I focussed networks that span the entire eligible region in areas such as RE, LHS and Agri Food and 15 cross-border SME partnerships supported by a research institution</li> </ul> <p>at least 5 research institutions will be working with SMES on a cross-border collaboration and 19 enterprises will work in cross-border collaborative partnerships with grant support</p>	
<p>2) <b>Carbon Neutral North</b> – A proposed collaboration of HEIs, East Border Region, Local Government, the Health Sector and the private sector. The project is aiming to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The creation of clusters which will enable the development of virtual centres of excellence within the region, involving capacity and competence building;</li> <li>Clusters will complement existing Research &amp; Innovation strategies within jurisdictions by promoting cross-border cooperation and will take the form of partnership arrangements between existing institutions in academia, public sector agencies and private sector companies;</li> <li>The further development of existing competence centres to facilitate increased levels of cross-border collaboration;</li> <li>The clusters will address market failure in the Research Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) landscape, whereby the risk associated with the longer-term nature of strategic research carried out cannot be addressed by individual companies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stage 1 submitted 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016</b></p> <p><b>Decision July 2016</b></p> <p><b>Project unsuccessful</b></p>

As of Sept 2016 EBR is involved in INTERREG VA approved projects to the value of €37.10 involving Local Authorities

**EU Transnational Programmes:**

EBR have always adopted a thematic approach to project development, which facilitates a bottom up approach resulting in genuinely cross border, needs based projects. Since the end of 2014 a number of workshops/meetings have taken place with officers from all member Councils and key stakeholders to identify potential transnational projects. EBR are working closely with the National Contact Points for these Programmes and seek their views on which are the strongest projects demonstrating the best fit for each particular Programme. This enables EBR to focus our resources and to concentrate our efforts on projects which should have a better chance of success. As a result of these meetings the following potential projects have been identified and will be further progressed by EBR under the most relevant EU fund.

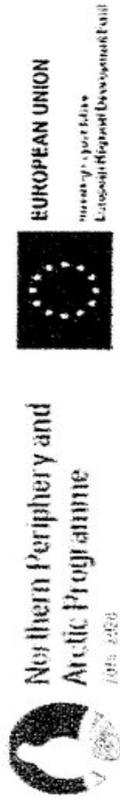


<p><b>1 ) SAR: Sustainable Atlantic Shorelines; Implementing Alternatives to shoreline Stabilization</b></p> <p>An 'expert couplet' involving (a) local authorities/NGOs and (b) academic specialists would be established in each region to undertake a range of activities that complement each other and together lead to direct improvements in strategic management of the Atlantic coast.</p> <p>The expert-couplet concept itself creates a link between those with responsibility for territorial planning and management, and academic specialists whose skills and knowledge can be brought to bear on the situation, to the mutual advantage of both groups.</p> <p>The project would involve a range of complementary actions in the various territories that seek to demonstrate or test various approaches to the coastal change issue. These site-based actions would take various forms according to the particular expertise and priorities at each investigation/demonstration site, but they would collectively inform the development of best practice in living with coastal change. The investigations would be linked by thematic strands that investigate such issues as community engagement, the decision-making framework.</p> <p>The project partners would expand their knowledge and build capacity from (i) new undertakings within the framework of this project; (ii) sharing knowledge of existing good and bad practice and (iii) workshops focussed on specific themes. Collectively, these actions would lead to improved risk management through the implementation of regionally appropriate strategic initiatives.</p>	<p><b>Partners:</b> EBR Lead Partner Ulster University University and LA's in Portugal, Spain &amp; France</p> <p><b>Associate Partners:</b> NILGA National Trust</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 Decision 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016 Stage 1 Approved Score 65.7% Stage 2 to be submitted 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016</p>
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<p><b>2)“Ancient Ways, New Ways”:</b>                  A thematic Programme of events to enhance the Natural and cultural assets of the region, working in Partnership with organisations in Spain, Portugal, France and the UK. The focus of this project is the early spiritual heritage of these regions. They have been selected for their sense of tradition and the richness of their past, and include the neolithic sites at the western edge of Europe, the great sites of the celtic monastic movement, and the pilgrimage routes that surround Saint James of Compostela.</p>	<p><b>Partners:</b>                  EBR Lead Partner                  Southern Regional College                  Visit Cornwall                  Coeur d’Emeraude (Brittany)                  Duero-Douro transfrontier region(Spain/Portugal)                  The Diocese of Beja. (Portugal)                  Chaves-Verin (Spain/Portugal)</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016                  Decision 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016                  Project did not progress to Stage 2                  Scored 55.31%                  Threshold 64%                  Consider re-submitting May 2017</p>
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<p><b>3)Life and Health Science – Innovation within the Value Chain</b>                  The Life and Health Science industry has been identified and prioritised by many countries around the world as one of the future economic drivers for the knowledge based economy and a sector that directly impacts societal benefits. The unparalleled pace of emerging technologies, and new research and commercial opportunities, compels each region supporting these developments to provide a cohesive strategy, an appreciation of the research and commercial capabilities of the academic, business and clinical base, a support mechanism to foster innovation and collaboration and the opportunity for commercial enterprises to be established and grow</p>	<p><b>Partners:</b>                  Lead Partner: East Border Region;                  Bio Business                  University of Vigo: Spain                  Madan Parque, University Nova da Lisboa                  FBGS, Spain                  Innova Partnership, Scotland                  Bordeaux University Hospital, France</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016                  Decision 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016                  Project did not progress to Stage 2                  Scored 59.91%                  Threshold 64%                  Consider re-submitting May 2017</p>
<p><b>4) Climate Change Strategy to Protect Atlantic Ports.</b>                  To develop new solutions to protect port facilities against climate change events (waves, storms, erosion). Involving Local Authorities &amp; port authorities.                  Main activities:                  - Inventory of damages caused by storms or tidal amplification</p>	<p><b>Partners:</b>                  Lead Partner:                  French Association of Local Ports in the Channel                  University Of Aveiro, Portugal</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016                  Decision 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016                  Project did not progress to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future risks analysis – impact of Global warming on storm patterns</li> <li>- Inventory of implemented studies and projects</li> <li>- Assessing and identifying cost of future port protection</li> <li>- Proposal of possible solutions</li> <li>- Comparative analysis of different solutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>5) Turicoast Project:</b>                  General Objective of Turicoast project:                  Designing and implementing a touristic offer based on the natural and cultural coastal heritage in the Atlantic Area (fisheries dependent communities). Portavogie and Annagasson are potential pilot fishing communities.</p>	<p>EBR                  University of Las Palmas/Port of Las Palmas, Spain                  Warrenpoint Harbour Drogheda Port</p>	<p><b>Stage 2</b>                  Scored 51.14%                  Threshold 64%</p>
	<p><b>Partners:</b>                  Lead Partner: Lea Artibai, Spain                  Waterford Institute of Technology                  •Comharnan OileánTeo.                  •NAFC Marine Centre                  •CIM Alto Minho                  •Associação Desenvolvimento Local da Bairradae Mondego                  •ParcNaturel Régionaldu Golfedu Morbihan                  •AGLIA                  •CETECIMA</p>	<p><b>Stage 1 submitted 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016</b>  <b>Decision 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016</b>  <b>Project did not progress to Stage 2</b></p>



Potential project	Partners	Timeframe
<p><b>1) Nearly Zero Energy Taskforce</b></p> <p>The Recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU (EPBD2) requires that new buildings occupied by public authorities erected after 2018, and all other new buildings erected after 2020, must be 'nearly zero energy'. Member States have transposed this requirement into national law, by way of the advance timetable almost 5 years in advance.</p> <p>The Construction sector should now be preparing for the implementation of these challenging standards. This project aims to facilitate research and development into various construction methods &amp; technologies which could successfully be used to meet the 2018/2020 obligations.</p>	<p>EBR as Lead, Norwegian Building Control Authority, Faroese Energy Department and Iceland University as project partners</p>	<p><b>Total approved for €40,600 (at 65% grant rate, match fund all in kind)</b></p> <p>Preparatory project to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016</p> <p>Consultant appointed (First Western, Sligo)</p> <p>Partner meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2016</p> <p><b>Main project to be submitted 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016.</b></p> <p>€2 million budget project.</p> <p>Partner meetings held in Dundalk and Oslo</p>



Potential project	Programme	Timeframe
<p><b>1) Circular Interiors (€6.5m)</b>                      A transnational cluster of SME's in the furniture, lighting, carpet &amp; interior fitting sector to reduce non-renewable resources. To encourage businesses to adopt a "cradle to cradle" approach to raw materials and waste products.                      Crighton Carbon Centre LP: Partnership with organisations in UK, Ireland, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany</p>	<p>Lead Partner: OVAM, Belgium                      EBR                      Luxembourg                      Netherlands                      Germany                      Belgium                      UK</p>	<p><b>Stage 1 approved</b>   <b>Stage 2 submission December 2016</b>                       Partner meetings on-going</p>
<p><b>2) INDICA (Increase Digital Innovation Capabilities) - Stage 1 submitted 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b>                       To establish a transnational network of SME's in the Digital/Creative sector to improve their digital innovation. Support includes a Business Booster programme; graduates employed for 1 year to assist the business.                      EBR Lead Partner: partnership with organisations in France, Belgium, UK and Ireland</p>	<p>North West Europe                       Lead Partner: EBR                      Partners:                      DKIT, Dundalk                      Coventry University, UK                      Thomas More University, Mechelen, Belgium                      WSX Enterprise, UK                      Association Technopole Brest-Iroise, France</p>	<p><b>Stage 1 submitted 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015</b>                       Unsuccessful 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.   <b>To be re-submitted 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b></p>

Potential project	Programme	Timeframe
<p><b>3) Biomass Supply Chain Project (€5m)</b></p> <p>Rural areas of the NWE region contain a huge source of biomass suitable for low carbon energy production however this source of biomass is both underutilised and often difficult to access. In recent years, the potential for this biomass to enter the biomass fuel chain in order to provide a cost effective means for energy production and in doing so GHG reductions as compared to fossil fuel counterfactual, has considerably increased. Compared to large-scale electricity generation systems, which are best in terms of absolute GHG reductions per unit of energy generated, locally produced biomass such as wood chips used in medium-scale district heating systems or micro-scale combustion installations; deliver the highest greenhouse gas reductions per unit of harvested biomass. The EU NWE region is failing to recognize the economic and carbon benefits of such schemes which can significantly help us decarbonise, reduce cost and improve the security of our energy supply on the predominant heating sector. This project will concentrate on making this happen.</p>	<p>Lead Partner: EBR, AFBI (Agri Food &amp; Biosciences Institute South Yorkshire Forest Partnership</p>	<p><b>Stage 1 submission 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b></p> <p>Partner meetings on-going</p>



<p><b>1) LIRE Project (Linking Innovation, R&amp;D and Exporting)</b>                  The LIRE project aims to identify models and services which connect constituents of policy instruments and priorities in Innovation and Internationalisation to enable easier access and engagement with SME's.                  The project will enable public authorities in regions of Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia and United Kingdom to study existing research, conduct gap analysis, evaluate and benchmark models and services connecting technological innovation, R&amp;D and exporting to support SME growth, with a Smart Specialism focus on manufacturing and tourism.</p>	<p><b>Application submitted 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016</b>   <b>Decision Oct 2016</b>   <b>Lead Partner: Coventry University</b></p>
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<p><b>1) LIFE GIFT (Green Infrastructure for Towns (GIFT) on the Irish/UK border to enhance biodiversity) Total budget €2,686,868 (funding rate 60%)</b></p> <p>Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial and marine areas. On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings.</p> <p>In May 2011, the European Union adopted a Biodiversity Strategy to halt biodiversity loss in Europe by 2020. The strategy has six mutually supportive targets, which address the main drivers of biodiversity loss. The first target relates to the full implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives i.e. reaching favourable conservation status of all habitats and species. The second target focuses on maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services and restoring degraded ecosystems by incorporating green infrastructure in spatial planning. It aims to ensure that 'by 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing Green Infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems'.</p> <p>Our vision of the cross-border region of which we are part, is one where the high-end implementation of the resource efficient model is achieved. This vision is only deliverable through a combination of actions, and key to this is the implementation of the Green Infrastructure concept - sustainable landscape management approaches, which enable natural processes to take place and thereby increase the resilience of ecosystems.</p>	<p>LIFE Programme</p> <p>Fully worked up proposal to be with Accountable Departments for their approval and support letter by end of March 2016.</p> <p><b>Project submitted 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b></p> <p><b>Decision May 2017</b></p>
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# ERASMUS

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UK ACROSS EUROPE

<p><b>1) Coding for Digital Innovation</b></p> <p>To create a Transnational Strategic Platform to enhance the growth of Digital technologies across NI/Ireland/Spain. The project focuses on providing computer coding skills to adult learners targeting; economically inactive, unemployed, underemployed adults. The key elements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of high end training materials including technologies such as Scratch and HTML coding, Artificial Intelligence, 3D printing etc..</li> <li>• Train the Tutor element: 45 Tutors from across the 3 regions will be trained</li> <li>• Delivery of 18 pilot programmes across the Regions</li> <li>• Participation in EU wide events such as: EU Code week, The EU Coding Initiative to learn from Best Practice across the EU.</li> </ul> <p>Development of high end online teaching materials</p>	<p>ERASMUS +</p> <p>Similar application was submitted last year and was 4 marks off the threshold. Project to be re-worked with new Partners.</p>
<p>Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017</p>	

**Commercial Opportunities:**

<p><b>1) Improve Water Quality in transitional waters: (€35m) SWELL Project</b>                  EBR have entered into Partnership with a consortium being led by NI Water to submit a proposal to deliver all actions within this theme. The consortium also includes; Irish Water, AFBI and the Loughs Agency. EBR will be the Partner with responsibility for the financial &amp; non-financial management of the Project</p>	<p><b>Stage 1 Application approved</b>                  Business Plan submitted 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016</p> <p><b>Stage 2 Project approved</b>                  Awaiting Letter Of Offer</p>
<p><b>2) Source To Tap Project: Improve fresh water quality in cross border river basins (€6.2m)</b>                  EBR have entered into Partnership with a consortium being led by NI Water to submit a proposal to deliver some actions within this theme. The consortium also includes; Irish Water, AFBI, Ulster University and the Rivers Trust. EBR will be the Partner with responsibility for the financial &amp; non-financial management of the Project</p>	<p>Stage 1 submitted 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016                  Stage 1 decision 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2016</p> <p><b>Stage 1 Application approved</b>  <b>Stage 2 Project approved</b>                  Awaiting Letter of Offer</p>

As of April 2016 EBR is a partner on these two INTERREG VA projects to the value of €41.2m

**Summary Projects Approved:**

**INTERREG VA:**

Carlingford Lough Greenway	€5.7m
Ulster Canal Greenway	€5.9m
CANN (Biodiversity project)	€9.6m
Co-Innovate Project	€15.9m
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>€37.10 million</b>

**Commercial Opportunities:**

SWELL Project	€35m
Source-To-Tap Project	€6.2m
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>€41.20million</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€78.30 million</b>

**Transnational Projects – Progressing to Stage 2:**

Nearly Zero Energy Taskforce (Preparatory Funding)	€40,600
SAR (Coastal Erosion – Stage 2)	€2,958,888
Circular Interiors (Stage 2)	€6.5m
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>€9.4 million</b>

### Unsuccessful projects:

#### Atlantic Area Programme:

1. Ancient Ways, New Ways
2. INNOVAIN (Life Sciences)
3. Climate Change Ports
4. Touricoast

#### INTERREG VA

1. Carbon Neutral North

#### North West Europe:

- 1) Biomass Energy, Resource Efficiency Need, Innovative Circular Economy (BERENICE) - Stage 1 submitted 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- 2) INDICA (Increase Digital Innovation Capabilities) - Stage 1 submitted 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015
- 3) SEA-RCLE – Reducing Energy costs in Ports - Stage 1 submitted 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### Horizon 2020

- 1) European Stimulation of local Efficiency Financing Mechanisms (EUSEF)

#### ERASMUS +

- 1) Coding for Digital Innovation

#### COSME

- 1) Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs



<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategy, Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>International Relations Policy and Reference Group</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Justyna McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Co-Ordinator
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
To agree the recommendations in Section 3.	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
	The purpose of this report is to approve Council's Policy on International Relations, the associated framework and terms of reference for a reference group to support the implementation of the policy.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The policy is required to ensure a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to the development of Council's European and international partnerships and engagement.</li> <li>b. The policy will provide a framework for the development of international relationships between the Council and its European and non-European partners.</li> <li>c. The policy is complemented by the International Relations Framework which includes principles guiding decisions on international engagement and examples of actions to support policy delivery.</li> <li>d. A reference group will be established to support the implementation of Council's International Relations Policy and the associated framework.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	It is recommended that Council approves the policy and the associated framework.
3.2	<p>It is recommended that a reference group is established as one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A sub-committee of the SP&amp;R Committee</li> <li>b. A partnership between Council and external agencies as per TOR</li> </ul> <p>The proposed terms of reference will be reviewed accordingly to reflect the agreed option.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications:</b>
4.1	Budget for resourcing the policy including Sister Cities/Twinning to be agreed, as per rates setting process.  Officer support through the Strategic Programmes Unit.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	The policy has been equality screened and it is recommended it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Appendix I</b> – <i>International Relations Policy</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Appendix 2</b> – <i>International Relations Framework</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Appendix 3</b> – <i>International Relations Reference Group: Terms of Reference</i></li> </ul>

## Newry, Mourne and Down District Council International Relations Policy

### 1. Title

International Relations Policy

### 2. Statement

Council approves the policy to ensure a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to the development of district's European and international partnerships and engagement.

### 3. Aim

The Policy aims to provide a framework for the development of international relationships between the Council and its European and non-European partners.

The Policy will support Council's Corporate Plan and will ensure the best global positioning and advantage for the Council and people of Newry, Mourne and Down.

The main objectives of the Policy are:

- Strengthening international partnerships and fostering linkages
- Enhancing district's reputation & influence internationally
- Maximising funding opportunities
- Developing better joined-up working with our key partners

### 4. Scope

The International Relations Policy applies to everyone who works for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, including:

- All Elected Members
- All permanent staff and managers, full-time or part-time, at all levels
- Staff working for the Council on secondments from other organisations or staff appointed jointly with another organisation

### 5. Related Policies

NMD International Relations Framework  
NMD Corporate Plan  
NMD Good Relations Strategy  
NMD PEACE IV Action Plan  
NMD Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy

**6. Definitions**

N/A

**7. Policy Owner**

Director of Strategic Planning and Performance

**8. Contact details in regard of this policy are:**

Director of Strategic Planning and Performance

**9. Policy Authorisation**

SMT Authorised on 11 November 2016

Strategy, Policy and Resources  
Committee Authorised on \_\_\_\_\_

Council Authorised on \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Policy Effective Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Policy Review Date**

The policy will be reviewed in line with the Council’s agreed policy review cycle i.e. every 4 years (as per Council’s Equality Scheme commitment 4.31), or sooner to ensure it remains reflective of legislative developments.

**12. Procedures and arrangements for monitoring the implementation and impact of the policy**

The Policy is complemented by the International Relations Framework which includes principles guiding decisions on international engagement and examples of actions to support policy delivery.

The Policy will be realised through specific actions and projects which will be reported to and approved by the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

Responsibility for the overall Policy delivery and monitoring will lie with the Council’s Strategic Programmes Unit.

A Reference Group will be established to support the implementation of the Policy.

### **13. Equality Screening**

The policy has been equality screened and it is recommended it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FRAMEWORK

10/4/2016



## CONTEXT

Located in the south east of Northern Ireland, and covering parts of Counties Down and Armagh, Newry, Mourne and Down District is easily accessible from both Belfast and Dublin. Renowned for its scenic beauty, we are bounded on the east by Strangford Lough and Carlingford Lough, and on the west by Slieve Gullion and Slieve Croob, with the picturesque Mountains of Mourne at our centre. To complement our outstanding natural assets, we are also home to a number of significant built heritage assets including Struell Wells in Downpatrick, Dundrum Castle and Bagenal's Castle in Newry City.

### Population

As the third largest Council, we make up approximately 11% of the total land area of Northern Ireland, more than 100 miles of coastline, and provide services to 171,533 residents (2011 Census). This represents 9.5% of the total population of Northern Ireland. 28.5% of our population is aged 19 or younger, 58.1% are 20-64 and 13.4% are over 65.

### Urban & Rural

In addition to Newry City, our principal settlements are Downpatrick, Ballynahinch, Kilkeel, Newcastle, Warrenpoint and Crossmaglen. Our challenge is to take advantage of the wider EU as well as other funding opportunities to regenerate our urban and rural areas, including those available for cross-border initiatives.

### Connectivity

Our District enjoys excellent road and rail links with Dublin as well as Belfast and contains a number of ports and harbours, providing direct access by water.

### Tourism

Our tourism potential is enormous with three areas of outstanding natural beauty in Strangford & Lecale, Slieve Gullion, and the Mourne, numerous Blue Flag beaches and an unrivalled link to St Patrick.

### Enterprise & Employment

Our District is an attractive location for business. Newry City is strategically placed on the A1 / M1 Belfast to Dublin corridor and Downpatrick is in close proximity to Belfast. The district is well served with a strong retail offering and a diverse range of service industries, manufacturing and agro-food businesses.



### **Existing partner and sister cities links**

Newry, Mourne and Down has a strong and well established history of working in formal relationships with cities/towns from around the world. These relationships include Sister City agreements with Southern Pines (USA) and Twinning agreements with Bezons (France), Listowel (Ireland) and Kirovsk and Grozny (Russia).

These existing relationships have built numerous excellent examples of successful co-operation over a number of years that will enable the district to facilitate renewed and refocused activities in support of delivering the district's priorities and ambitions.

### **Links with countries of origin**

Newry, Mourne and Down is a welcoming district and has recently attracted migrants from EU and non-EU countries. Most notably the district has a large population of residents from Central and Eastern Europe and from other parts of the world including Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This trend of inward migration has contributed to the demographic of nearly 5% of the district's population being from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

These ties and links back to those countries of ethnic origin offer the district an enormous opportunity to use its citizens as ambassadors for the district in support of a number of its priorities. Of particular interest are those ambitions around tourism, education, culture, community cohesion, trade and investment.

### **European and international networks/projects**

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have been involved in a number of EU transnational programmes and have realised the benefits of this collaborative working in terms of policies, innovation and good practice.



## PURPOSE

This document complements Council's International Relations Policy.

The purpose of the International Policy is to provide a framework for the development of the district's European and international engagement.

The Policy will enable a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to promoting the district globally, enhancing its reputation, attracting investment, encouraging trade and developing cultural and educational links and tourism.

We believe that the Policy and its actions will benefit:

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council as organisation directly in the following ways:

- Developing the skills and knowledge of elected members and officials and making the organisation more open and efficient through learning from and engagement with other regions.
- Opening up funding and partnership opportunities to advance more efficient and relevant provision of services.
- Extending the leadership and facilitation role of the Council through collaboration with stakeholders to advance economic, social and cultural positioning and promotion of the district on the global stage.

Newry, Mourne and Down district and its people, communities, business, cultural bodies and education institutions:

- Creating access to opportunities for economic, cultural, tourism and education growth.
- Developing collaboration among stakeholders in the interests of promoting the district.
- Enhancing the reputation and positive perception of the district globally.
- Supporting the integration of migrant communities in the district.
- Building co-operation around the international agenda with other local authorities in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Some international partnerships will be underpinned by Council's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility for the benefit of under-resourced communities in selected countries.

## POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Policy will support Council's Corporate Plan along with its main strategic objectives and will ensure the best global positioning and advantage for the Council and people of Newry, Mourne and Down.



### Objectives:

#### 1. Strengthening international partnerships and fostering linkages:

- Enhancing and refocusing our existing international relationships with Europe, the USA and Russia and consider other emerging opportunities.
- Pursue new relationships that offer economic opportunities, support tourism through attracting conferences/international events, provide learning opportunities for Council officials, elected members and stakeholders and provide opportunities to influence policy at national, European and Global level.
- Engage through bi-lateral and multi-lateral relationships in advancing solutions to global challenges of urban/rural growth, economic development, sustainability, democracy & citizen participation.

- Building on countries of origin – building on well-established connections that local people and communities have with their countries of origin with a particular focus on tourism, culture, education, community cohesion and trade.

## **2. Enhancing influence & reputation internationally**

- Promotion of the district as a place of innovation, creative energy and natural beauty and enhancing our international reputation.
- Sustaining and strengthening relationships with the key EU institutions.
- Enhancing our international relationships.

## **3. Maximising funding opportunities**

- Targeting relevant funding opportunities to support the international objectives.
- Leveraging European initiatives to further support and develop international opportunities with countries beyond Europe.

## **4. Developing better joined-up working with our key partners**

- Working with key stakeholders to develop our international engagement with a shared vision for growth and prosperity of the district.
- Facilitating better communication and mutual learning across partners.

## **PRINCIPLES GUIDING DECISIONS ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACTIONS**

1. Any new partnerships or projects must fit with Council's corporate strategic objectives or be part of our commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility.
2. All international relationships and associated projects must be built around collaboration and co-operation with local, national and global stakeholders.
3. All international relationships must be assessed regularly on their current reality and continuing potential to deliver demonstrable and practical benefits to the district.

4. International relations initiatives of Newry, Mourne and Down Council must not replicate initiatives or actions already developed or being delivered by stakeholders in the district.

The following table identifies the main categories of stakeholders, their possible roles and interests, and Council's potential roles in respect of each category. This is not a complete list and other key stakeholders may emerge over time. Council will engage with stakeholders to inform forward planning of international relations activities and work with them to deliver same.

Categories of stakeholders	Council's potential role(s)
<b>Regional Govt Departments and Regional Agencies, e.g. Executive Office, Department for Communities, Enterprise Ireland, Invest NI, SEUPB, NI Tourist Board, etc.</b>	Work in partnership to promote the district globally and maximise funding opportunities.
<b>Business Community in the District</b>	Facilitate connections and projects that open up access to markets globally, attract global talent, business and investment.
<b>Further Education</b>	Facilitate connections and collaboration through projects that promote and extend Further Education
<b>Cultural /Sporting Institutions in the City</b>	Facilitate and support connections that enrich the cultural and sporting life of the district and extend its global reach
<b>Community/voluntary organisations</b>	Work in partnership with those organisations that have an international reach and/or that have close ties to countries of origin of local communities
<b>Council, its elected members, staff and service delivery partners.</b>	Identify and promote learning through knowledge exchange and staff exchange programmes internationally that enhance skills and contribute to organisational



change and efficiency. Identify and advise on funding opportunities that could benefit Council service provision.

## **ACTIONS TO SUPPORT POLICY DELIVERY**

### **Bi-lateral relationships**

These can be formalised in the traditional manner of Twinning or through Sister City/Friendship Agreements. In both situations the bi-lateral agreement must be time-defined, have specific objectives and an agreed programme of work or project commitment between the two cities/regions.

### **Multi-lateral relationships through organisations of common purpose**

Participation must involve relevant units of the Council and/or stakeholder organisations and /or elected members. The objectives of involvement may include: policy-focused, project-focused, promotion of the district, learning/skill development. The regular review must be based on the value they bring to the district, and the feedback of participants.

### **Economic development projects/partnerships external to the district**

This involves working closely with the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Department in the Council, local business and agencies such as Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, Invest NI and Enterprise Ireland. It involves identifying funding opportunities to underpin such activity, relevant partners/projects and advising and negotiating of a time-defined and target/goal - focused programme of actions. The action would seek to develop collaboration and innovation, support access by local business to new markets globally, attract technical expertise and entrepreneurs, and stimulate trade.

### **Networks/projects of learning, international best practice and staff exchange**

These may be networks/projects with an international focus on learning and exchange. The objective is to provide ideas, knowledge and information to the Council and stakeholder organisations that result in project activity designed to benefit Council, stakeholders and the district.



### **Supporting business tourism**

This involves providing support for organisations and stakeholders who bid or seek business conferences or events to locate in the district.

### **Promotion and global marketing of the district**

This involves using and creating opportunities through web-based promotion, social media, conferences/events speaking engagements and use of print, radio and TV/Film media to promote the district as destination for inward investment, conference/events and tourism. This action will be fulfilled in close collaboration with Council's Communication & Marketing Department.

### **Providing advice, speech material and policy drafts as required on international matters**

This involves providing advice and informed opinion to the CEO, Management Team, the Chairperson and Councillors on international issues as required. It also involves drafting policy options and preparing speech material as required for international meetings and events.

The International Relations Policy has connections with other strategies and Council activities including:

- NMD Corporate Plan
- Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy
- PEACE IV Action Plan
- Good relations Strategy
- The media relations and communications functions of the Council
- International connections and networks developed by Council departments around learning, best practice, expertise exchange, or professional membership organisations.

### **DELIVERY, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Policy will be realised through specific actions and projects which will be reported to and approved by the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

Responsibility for the overall Policy delivery and monitoring will lie with the Council's Strategic Programmes Unit.

A Reference Group will be established to support the implementation of the Policy.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REFERENCE GROUP

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### - Terms of Reference -

#### **Scope:**

The International Relations Reference Group will support the implementation of Council's International Relations Policy and the associated framework. It will play a role in the development and delivery of actions and projects which will contribute to achieving policy objectives, and in particular specific actions and projects under Sister Cities and Twinning arrangements between the Council and its international partners.

#### **Membership:**

Membership shall be composed of:

- Two Councillors nominated from Sinn Féin
- Two Councillors nominated from SDLP
- One Councillor nominated from DUP
- One Councillor nominated from UUP
- One representative nominated from the smaller parties/independents
- One representative from the education sector
- One representative from the private sector
- One representative from the tourism sector
- One representative from the arts and culture sector

#### **Chairperson:**

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be appointed at the first meeting. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson will chair the meeting. If both are not present, the meeting will select a Chair from those present.

#### **Meetings:**

The International Relations Reference Group does not have decision making powers, it makes recommendations only. Recommendations arising will be tabled at the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

It does not operate to any quorum and meetings proceed regardless of numbers in attendance. The meetings will be arranged on a quarterly basis.

Meetings will be convened by the Director of Strategic Planning and Performance.

#### **Officers:**

Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, Head of Strategic Programmes Unit, Programmes Co-ordinator and a representative from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Department.

#### **Press:**

Not open to the press.

**Public:**

Not open to the public.

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Growth Region
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive

### Decisions required:

That the Council agree to participate in this initiative in line with the recommendations in paragraph 3.0.

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	<p>The Economic Corridor from Belfast to Dublin is one of the key areas of growth on the island of Ireland. It contains 3 million of a population which is predicted to grow faster than any other part of the island and is comparable to Manchester, Hamburg and Milan.</p> <p>Belfast is an important part of this growth; the local authority accounts for nearly 3 in every 10 jobs in Northern Ireland and is a strong attracter of Foreign Direct Investment. Yet the city could not function, let alone thrive, without the assets of the nearby airports, the people living in nearby local authorities, and the businesses and supply chains that all interact across the wider city region and throughout the Dublin to Belfast economic corridor. Growth happens by playing to the strengths of all five authorities.</p>
1.2	<p>Recognising the inter-related nature of the local economy and the potential this creates for councils to work together to support jobs, economic growth and more opportunities for residents, the chief executives propose to convene an Economic Opportunity Group. This will work in close partnership with other public sector institutions, including education, and the private sector. Working together to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the local economy and how best to improve infrastructure, housing and skills, will benefit not only residents across all five authorities, but the wider Northern Ireland region and Southern counterparts within the economic corridor.</p>
1.3	<p>Belfast City Council see a Belfast City Region Growth Deal as a necessary condition for renewal, in delivering economic growth, transforming public services and closing the gap on inequality – not just for Belfast city-region, but ultimately for Northern Ireland as a whole. Focussed investment at this time in infrastructure, key business sectors, regeneration schemes, tourism product and skills sector is essential. This will ensure that the city and Northern Ireland as a whole can improve productivity and competitiveness, afford the agreed reduction in Corporation tax while maximising the opportunities this will create, and also deal with many of the deep seated social and economic issues in the city-region.</p> <p>The international evidence from successful world cities, including those that have</p>

1.4	<p>completely reversed their cycles of decline such as Bilbao, Malmo and Pittsburgh – suggests that cities perform better in those countries that are less centralised. With greater powers, resources, and responsibilities cities are able to undertake bold experiments and calculated risks to reinvent themselves. This can be achieved by a City Deal designation.</p> <p>Belfast City Council wish to partner with its neighbouring Councils, Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Antrim and Newtownabbey and Newry, Mourne and Down to advocate and promote the concept of a City Deal for the Belfast Growth Region</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	<p>While local government in Northern Ireland has recently received additional powers, councils currently have far less powers than those in England and Scotland. In particular, we do not hold key physical regeneration powers, which are essential to effective place-making functions and which have been open to other UK cities for decades. These need to sit alongside Council's planning powers to truly bring about place-based physical, economic and social regeneration.</p>
2.2	<p>Similarly, skills, employability, business support and transportation are all responsibilities held by the Northern Ireland Executive. We also lack access to or the flexibility to use innovative forms of finance and revenue-raising that are available elsewhere, such as the Greater Manchester earn-back deal.</p>
2.3	<p>We also lack the required level of funding to help local small/medium businesses that are available in England, for example through the Local Enterprise Partnerships.</p> <p>Appendix A provides an example of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal. This initiative on the East Coast of Ireland could help drive the potential growth of the Eastern corridor into reality.</p>
2.4	<p>The impact of Brexit on the Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor will be profoundly felt in this part of Ireland given the level of economic activity on this part of the East Coast.</p>
2.5	<p>In 2006 the Newry to Dundalk Twin city region undertaken by ICRD was the last attempt at making the case for the creation of a Twin City region centre in Newry and Dundalk which would be of sufficient critical mass to attract investment secure economic benefits and become a destination in its own right. This has had some success but not yet fulfilled its full potential.</p> <p>By linking this initiative to the Belfast growth deal there is a strategic approach and case to be made for increased investment for this corridor, region and district.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	<p>1. Newry, Mourne and Down Council agree to collaborate with Belfast city Council and Neighbouring Councils to advocate a City deal for the Eastern Region.</p>

	<p>2. Senior Management and Party Group Leaders meet with their counterparts in the other Councils to discuss how the authorities can begin to work together in a wider partnership with a shared agenda.</p> <p>3. Begin conversation with Louth County Council on linking into this initiative on a Cross Border basis. This may include revisiting the Twin City region arrangement developed in 2006.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None at this time but there may be consultancy support to provide enhancement and market the concept.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	None
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	One

## Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal

### 1. Summary<sup>1</sup>

Eight neighbouring local authorities across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley secured the second largest City Deal in the UK. The deal was formally approved by government in August 2014.

Over the next 20 years, the Glasgow City Region City Deal will fund major infrastructure projects; create thousands of new jobs and assist thousands of unemployed people back to work; improve public transport and connectivity; drive business innovation and growth and generate billions of pounds of private sector investment.

The City Deal will support the local area to achieve its shared long-term vision for the local economy through:

- **Improved infrastructure** - £1.13 billion fund to support the delivery of an improved transport network across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, key development and regeneration sites and improved public transport.
- **Growth in life sciences** - establishment of world class research and development and commercialisation facilities.
- **Supporting business innovation** - providing additional business incubator and grow-on space for entrepreneurs across the region enabling more small and medium enterprises to grow.
- **Tackling unemployment** - creation of thousands of new jobs and establishment of programmes to provide targeted support to 16-24 year olds and vulnerable residents, and testing new ways of boosting the incomes of people on low wages to make them more self-reliant.

### 2. How will the City Deal benefit the Glasgow and Clyde City Region?

Overall, economists have estimated that it will lead to a permanent uplift of 4.4% in the regional economy. Over its lifetime, local leaders in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley anticipate that City Deal will:

- Support an overall increase in the economy of around 29,000 jobs in the city region.
- Work with 19,000 unemployed residents and support over 5,500 back into sustained employment.
- Secure £1 billion of Scottish Government and UK Government capital funding to support proposed infrastructure investment programme for the area. This will be complemented by a minimum of £130 of investment from Glasgow and Clyde Valley local authorities.
- Leverage an estimated £3.3 billion of private sector investment into the proposed infrastructure investment programme.
- Spread the benefits of economic growth across Glasgow and Clyde Valley, ensuring deprived areas benefit from this growth. In terms of access to jobs for the most deprived wards, it will be above the average for the city-region.

<sup>1</sup> Primary source: <http://www.glasgowcityregion.co.uk/>

- An additional £1 in GVA would be expected to bring in 38p in tax income across all taxes at a UK Exchequer level.

The key aim is for the City Region to be seen as one of Europe's leading destinations of choice for residents, businesses, visitors and investors. The characteristics of the City Region include a strong growing core in Glasgow, but able to exploit growth opportunities across the region, reducing economic inequality, and a highly skilled and entrepreneurial workforce able to engage fully with the labour market.

### 3. Funding and delivery

The UK and Scottish Governments will each give the city region £500 million in grant funding, and the local authorities will borrow a further £130million. This is additional funding outside of the Barnett formula.

The £1.13 billion fund, one of the biggest single funds agreed in a City Deal, will support the delivery of a once in a generation investment into Glasgow and the city region's infrastructure. This is borrowed up-front by the local authorities for the 10 year programme, and the capital grants are paid by central and Scottish governments at periodic points throughout the programme to service Council borrowing. (The financing costs are covered by the local authority.)

This funding will be used to: enhance transport infrastructure; unlock new sites for housing and employment; and improve public transport over the next 10-20 years.

Further funding of £18.8 million from BIS (Department of Business, Innovation and Skills) and £4.8 million from Department of Work and Pensions will fund the Business Growth and Innovation and the Employability schemes respectively over three years.

Funding provided by the UK Government and the Scottish Government will be paid over a twenty year period in annual instalments. This funding will be unlocked in five-year blocks, subject to Glasgow and Clyde Valley meeting agreed outputs and outcomes assessed through a Gateway Review mechanism.

A Project Management Office administers and manages the Programme; liaises with the UK and Scottish Governments and other stakeholders; analyses and reports on the impact and delivery of projects and the overall programme.

### 4. Projects contained in Glasgow and Clyde City Deal

The programme of 26 projects is spread over three themes:

- **Infrastructure:** Based on proposal developed by the Clyde Valley Authorities the infrastructure fund will deliver twenty new projects across the region (excluding East Dunbartonshire): an improved transport network across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley; key development and regeneration sites, unlocking new sites for housing and development; and improved public transport.
- **Employability:** Three schemes will be established to support the labour market and local employment challenges:

- **Working Matters:** employment scheme for those in receipt of Employment Support Allowance to work with 4,000 people, assisting at least 600 into sustained work.
- **Youth Gateway:** an integrated employment programme for young people (16 - 24) will work with 15,000 people over the next three years, helping 5,000 into sustained work.
- **In Work Progression:** a pilot labour market progression programme in the Care sector to support the training and development of staff in low income jobs, boosting wages and reducing reliance on in-work benefits.
- **Business Growth and Innovation:** Schemes to support the growth of small and medium enterprises and enhance the life science sector.
  - **Imaging Centre of Excellence:** the development of the Glasgow University led Imaging Centre (ICE) of Excellence at the new Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Campus will provide ground-breaking medical research and commercialisation facilities for clinical researchers and companies developing new products and services in the life science sector. ICE has secured £16 million of City Deal funding from the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills.
  - **Integrated Grow-on:** the development of a new Centre for Business Incubation and Development in Glasgow's Merchant City will provide quality, flexible work spaces for growing small to medium sized enterprises and a highly focused account managed service from dedicated business advisers.
  - **MediCity:** the MediCity Scotland facility based at Euro Central Business Park in North Lanarkshire will bring together academics, entrepreneurs, clinicians and business support services to boost the development of new healthcare services and medical technology. This project is expected to create 150 jobs within new med-tech companies over the next 5 years.

## 5. Key stages to developing Glasgow and Clyde City Deal

Over an 18-month period of intensive consultation, analysis and negotiations, there were 3 key work streams<sup>2</sup> to develop the City Deal:

- Strategy, stakeholder management and governance, with a feasibility study to agree shared objectives, a distributed governance model and 'asks' on the basis of technical and economic analysis;
- Economic modelling and project selection, prioritised on basis of GVA return on investment, regional gain and balanced access to employment; and
- Finance and funding, to determine affordability and whole-life costs as well as required changes to local government accounting regulations.

The eight local authorities participating in the City Deal are East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Council.

<sup>2</sup> Source: KPMG



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Business Support Unit  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lighthouse Building  
1 Cromac Place  
Gasworks Business Park  
Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB**

Mr Liam Hannaway  
Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne and Down Council  
District Council Offices  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry  
BT35 8DJ

Dear Mr Hannaway,

22 November 2016

The Minister for Communities has written to the Lord Mayors, Mayors and Chairpersons of Councils to advise of his decision not to progress the Regeneration Bill in this mandate. This was announced by way of an oral statement to the Assembly on 22 November. The Minister also announced reviews of the Department's current strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and of the population thresholds for physical regeneration programmes.

As you will be aware the powers to regenerate towns and cities across Northern Ireland currently sit with the Department for Communities. However, through the Reform of Local Government, it had been agreed that these would be extended to the new Councils but this was unable to progress within the mandate of the previous Assembly.

In the intervening period new Central Government Department's have been established with a broader range of functions and a new approach to the Programme for Government has been adopted by the NI Executive.

The Minister believes that the Programme for Government sets out an entirely new context for the delivery of our services, including the way in which we address poverty and disadvantage, and the way that we use our statutory powers to drive economic growth and lever new investment to benefit everybody in this society. The key message from the Executive is that we all, whether in central government, local government or outside of government, must ensure we work in a joined-up way, across departmental, organisational and sectoral boundaries, and that we must use all our resources and skills to deliver lasting change.

It is the Minister's assessment therefore, that the new context calls for a new direction of travel with the Department at the forefront of that change, using all of the powers and resources at its disposal to achieve the outcomes and the ambition the Executive has for our society as set out in the Programme for Government. The Minister has stated that this is not the time to tinker with who is responsible for what, or to concern ourselves with

the splitting up of the regeneration budget. Rather it is the time for all the stakeholders to work together to maximise our joint effect and achieve positive change.

The Minister wants to see both central and local government, operating within our respective existing legislative, community planning and resource frameworks, working with other stakeholders whether in the community, or private sectors, to maximise the impact that we can make together.

The Minister's announcement also indicates that the Department will be reviewing the current strategies for tackling deprivation, including Neighbourhood Renewal, with a view to replacing them with a programme that will be more closely aligned to support the delivery of the new Programme for Government outcomes.

In addition the Minister wants to explore whether there is a case for extending our regeneration activities to settlements of less than 5,000 people. There are many small settlements which serve the same role in the community as larger places but which, because of our current policy to restrict access to town centre regeneration funding to towns with populations above 5,000, do not directly benefit from the investment in the enhancement of public and shared space available to their larger neighbours.

In closing the Minister expresses his hope that the excellent arrangements and relationships that have been built up between the councils and the Department will continue as we work together on delivering these key services for the citizens of Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,



**Damian Mulholland**  
**Director**  
**Regional Development Office**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategy Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15 December 2016</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Carlingford Lough Greenway – from Weir on Middlebank to Victoria Lock</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	<b>Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance</b>
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	<b>Eamon McManus, Estates/Capital Projects Manager</b>

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to consider and agree to :-	
<p>Council to proceed to seek tenders for the second phase of the Greenway from the Weir on Middlebank to Victoria Lock and to carry out this scheme during 2017 . This contract is to form the first part of the Cross Border Carlingford Lough Greenway Project funded under the Interreg VA Programme.</p> <p>The tender process, project management and contract supervision to be carried out by the Phase 1 Consultant who was appointed to deal with the development of the Greenway from Newry to Victoria Lock with Consultancy costs to be funded by Council through the Landfill Communities Fund administered by Ulster Wildlife.</p>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p>Work on the first phase of the Greenway from Dublin Road Bridge in Newry to the Weir on Middlebank- a distance of 2.2 kms is well advanced with the contract due to be completed by the end of January 2017.</p> <p>The Consultant has carried out a detailed inspection and survey of the second phase of the scheme from the Weir to Victoria Lock and the final detailed design will be completed soon . A Pre Tender Estimate for this section has been prepared by the Consultant .</p> <p>Louth County Council as lead partner has now received a formal letter of offer for the proposed Cross Border Carlingford Lough Greenway Project to be funded under the Interreg VA Programme and carried out by the two Councils in partnership with East Border Region Ltd .</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
<b>2.1</b>	The second phase of the Greenway from the Weir to Victoria Lock has already received the necessary Statutory Approvals .

	<p>The Pre Tender Estimate for this phase is within the grant allocated for Capital construction costs of this section within the Interreg VA Letter Of Offer . Funding is available for the consultancy costs for this phase from the Council and the Landfill Communities Fund administered by Ulster Wildlife . Additional consultant costs, based pro rata on the original tender, will arise due to the fact that the project from Newry to Victoria Lock has had to be carried out in two phases to suit the availability of funding.</p> <p>This matter has been discussed with officials from the Interreg VA funding body , Louth County Council and East Border Region Ltd and approval given for the Council to proceed with a contract during 2017 for the section from the Weir to Victoria Lock which will form the first part of the Cross Border Carlingford Lough Greenway funded under the Interreg VA Programme.</p> <p>Completion of the Greenway from Newry to Victoria Lock during 2017 in advance of the Cross Border Contract will enable this 5.5 Km section to be opened for public use towards the end of next year .</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council to proceed to seek tenders for the second phase of the Greenway from the Weir on Middlebank to Victoria Lock and to carry out this scheme during 2017 . This contract is to form the first part of the Cross Border Carlingford Lough Greenway Project funded under the Interreg VA Programme.</li> <li>• <b>The tender process</b>, project management and contract supervision to be carried out by the Phase 1 Consultant who was appointed to deal with the development of the Greenway from Newry to Victoria Lock with Consultancy costs to be funded by Council through the Landfill Communities Fund administered by Ulster Wildlife.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
<b>4.1</b>	Construction costs for Phase Two of the Greenway from the Weir to Victoria Lock shall be funded by the Interreg VA Programme with Consultant costs funded by the Council through the Landfill Communities Fund . Council Officers time to oversee the Phase 2 scheme shall also be required .
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<b>None</b>

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategy, Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Peace IV Local Action Plan</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sonya Burns, Programmes Manager
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Sonya Burns, Programmes Manager Justyna McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Coordinator

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept the Letter of Offer as issued by SEUPB for the Councils local action plan.</li> <li>Proceed with implementation of non risk aspects of the letter of offer such as staff.</li> </ul>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
	<p>The Council recently submitted an application for the Peace IV local action plan – Beyond Tolerance. SEUPB have committed that the letter of offer will be issued to the Council in time for the SPR Committee meeting for approval as we have 28 days to return a signed copy.</p> <p>There are Peace Officers to be funded through the programme to undertake delivery and it is recommended that we proceed with this to ensure a timely implementation of the programme.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any under allocation is resubmitted to SEUPB by 14 February.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accept the Letter of Offer as issued by SEUPB for the Councils local action plan.</li> <li>Proceed with implementation of non risk aspects of the letter of offer such as staff.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications:</b>
4.1	Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	This was undertaken as part of the application process.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Letter of Offer to follow upon receipt.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15 December 2016</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Capital Project Update</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	<b>Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance</b>
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	<b>Eamon McManus, Capital Projects</b>

<b>Decisions required:</b>	
<b>Members are asked to note the contents of the report .</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
<b>1.1</b>	The purpose of the report is to inform Members of progress in relation to Capital Projects.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
<b>2.1</b>	To update Members on Capital Projects.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
<b>3.1</b>	To note the report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
<b>4.1</b>	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
<b>5.1</b>	None
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices:</b>
<b>6.1</b>	None.



## CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONTHLY REPORT TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

DATE - December 2016



Updates in Blue - Dec 16

PROJECT	MONTHLY ACTIVITY	PROGRAMME	BUDGET	SMT	ACTIONS
<b>ACTIVE &amp; HEALTHY COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE</b>					
Saintfield Community Centre	ITT documents formulated, agreed and released to E-Hub	Detailed design provided to stage D. Discussions with third party to provide alternative solutions - decision to be taken to Council for Approval.	Current scheme total budget £3m as matched funding with private sector partner.	ML/EC	Tender documents returned on 11th November 2016. Assessment to follow and appointment of preferred bidder programmed for December 2016
Community Operated Sports Pitches - Ballyhornan, Downpatrick, Kilcooley.	Overall PID established. Individual risk registers included. CPD to provide PQQ/ITT documents for consideration.	Completion due June 2018	As per LoO - Ballyhornan £647,489.00; Downpatrick £1,042,986.00; Kilcooley £900,700.00; NMDDC Management Fee £257,353.00	ML/EC	Letter of Commencement for procurement of IDT received from Executive Office August 2016. Outstanding issues to be resolved before proceeding with PQQ process. PQQ process started - to close on 9th Dec 16. 3rd project board meeting held on 29 Nov 16.
<b>REGULATORY &amp; TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE</b>					
Household Recycling Centre – Downpatrick	Topographical survey completed. RPS putting forward outline drawings to project group 31/8/16	RPS working on full planning submission for site.	Budget estimates Purchase = £90,000 Build = £750,000.00 Fitting = £180,000.00 £20,000 to be spent 2015/2016. Remainder of spend 2016/2017.	COR	Confirm outline drawings to allow submission of final planning application. No change.
Aughnagun Final Capping	Tender has been approved by R&TS Committee. Now waiting Council approval, early September. Tender approved	Award contract to preferred bidder September 2016. Now working on awarding tender.	Financial Provision £1,901,164 Final Capping £385,925, inclusive of a model compensation event ( £341,861.25, excluding model). Note: Financial Provision is covered by Reserves & Landfill Gas Income.	COR	Award Final Capping Contract by Sept 2016. Working on awarding tender.

Drumanakelly Final Capping	Golders collating CQA plans & tender documents. Part 4-2012 & Part 5 -2016. Finalising Drumanakelly Closure Plan for submission to NIEA	7,500m <sup>2</sup> of 21,000m <sup>2</sup> had been part of an earlier tender awarded to TAL but not completed. Working towards agreed pricing for this phase of the tender Part 4 -2012	Financial Provision £1,953,586. Final Capping 21,000m <sup>2</sup> estimated at £400,000. Note: Financial Provision covered by Reserves.	COR	CQA Plan & Tender to be completed by September. Still ongoing.
Drumanakelly Wind Turbine Project	Granted approval by R&TS Committee to proceed with single tender action with B9 Energy. Awaiting approval by Council early September 2016. Approved by Council	Finalise Bird survey during September for planning requirements. Engage with B9 to progress project. Bird Survey Completed. Working on noise survey.	Some planning costs to move project forward. B9 Energy will cover all other costs.	COR	Engage with B9 to progress project. Working on noise survey.

### ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM DIRECTORATE

Newry Town Hall Upgrade	Ph I External Works Contract and Lighting Scheme complete. Ongoing meetings regarding Phase II - Project to roll over into 17/18 financial year.	Ph 1 works Budget of £330,000 was spent 15/16. £685,000 Capital Budget for 16/17. With works now moved back to 17/18 re-budgeting will need to take place.	MW	At ERT Committee Meeting 12 Sept it was agreed to (a) To close Newry Town Hall for Main Hall bookings from 15 May – 15 September 2017. (b) Mood Boards be produced to inform all groups and others of progress of works.(c) Meeting be convened at later date with Director of ERT, user groups and Theatre consultant, to inform them of proposed works. (d) Consultation process to begin in Autumn with Arts Groups/relevant bodies for Audience Development Strategy.
Newry Arts Centre - Refurbishment	Skylight windows replacement complete. Estates now proceeding with other elements of proposed works.	Total Capital Budget £178,537 £3,537(15/16) £175,000(16/17)	MW	ERT Officials working with Estates on remaining items.
Derrymore Domain	Partnership pursuing funding application to Sport NI with a view to submitting an application in December 2016 for a grant of £120K which will require match funding from Council.	Total Capital Budget £70,000 £50,000(16/17) £20,000(17/18)	MW	Ongoing discussions. A request to move unspent monies from 16/17 budget into 17/18 will be made during the rates process. <b>Underspend due to unsuccessful application</b>
Rural Village Regeneration	Rural Development Programme now open. EOI submitted for Village Plan application. Grant application to be submitted November 2016 with outcome to be known Feb/Mar 2017.	Total Capital Budget £150,000 £75,000(16/17) £75,000(17/18)	MW	Report went to August ERT regarding application to RDP to fund £14K towards updating of current plans and for new plans to include extended Council area.

Camlough Lake Repairs	The contract commenced in May 16 and has made good progress. The current timetable has projected completion in May 2017. Project Task and Finish Group established. Vesting underway. Project on target although minor changes to contract implementation. First invoice anticipated by start of November 16.	Council monies of £300,000 in 15/16, £1,100,000 in 16/17 and a possible further £300,000 to be budgeted for 2017/18. NIW will 50% match Council contributions to Scheme.	MW	Follow up with NI Water in regards to progress and keep local community sporting Reps informed. Mtg with Cllrs and Local Community Rep's held in June and August 2016 to update on Scheme. Last meeting of T&F Committee in early November 16 and further mtgs in 2017 to be held with works to be completed by May 2017.
Forest Parks Development	Review of Forest Park licences and opportunity for projects being considered. Caravan Park economic appraisal and business plan to be developed.	Total Capital Budget £200,000 £50,000(16/17) £150,000(17/18)	MW	Meeting was held with Forest Service on 14th Oct. to finalise arrangements. Project progressing and assessment to commence in Jan 2017.
Kilbroney Park Schemes	DAERA Rural Tourism EOI pending. Review of the walking project underway and trees trails project planned. Detailed design of blue mountain trail proposed and costing obtained from ORNI to assist with appointment of trail specialist.	Total Capital Budget £153,000 £3,000(15/16) £50,000(16/17) £50,000 (17/18) £50,000(18/19)	MW	Walking Trails detailed assessment specification currently being finalised. Tender Issued and due for assessment on 14/12/16.
Slieve Gullion Projects	Detailed design of Glamping Undertaken.	Total Capital Budget £55,000(16/17)	MW	Discussion with Estates underway
Slieve Gullion Land Acquisitions	Issue of Land Acquisition fully explained to Slieve Gullion Cllrs. New parking proposals being worked up.	Total Capital Budget £100,000(16/17)	MW	Issue of Land Acquisition fully explained to Slieve Gullion Cllrs. New parking proposals being worked up.
Kilbroney Toilet Block Enhancement	Meeting with Estates and programme of works agreed.	Total Capital Budget £20,000(16/17)	MW	Tenders closed and assessment completed. Clarification on budget commitments being sought.
Slieve Gullion -Toilet Block	Pre application planning enquiry submitted. Slieve Gullion Forward Planning meeting held 1 August to agree location. Consultants now appointed in late October to move the scheme forward.	Total Capital Budget £150,000(16/17)	MW	Planning application being submitted at end of November 2016 with newly appointed Consultants now working on detailed design / tendering to be commenced in Jan 2017.
Annalong Harbour Gate	Any expenditure likely to be associated with walls and not the Gate. ERT have agreed community based project required before any consideration from HLF. A potential scheme may include the Gates. Update provided in July 16 from the consultant, no movement noted therefore to date no solution on any works to the Walls.	Total Capital Budget £259,430: £9,430(15/16) £50,000(16/17) £200,000(17/18)	MW	Currently waiting on consultant survey of harbour wall for decision on further investment at the harbour.

Mourne Signature Project	TNI current assessment complete.	Total Capital Budget £125,000: £25,000(16/17) £100,000(17/18)	MW	TNI assessment to be reviewed in line with Tourism Strategy and way forward to be agreed.
Ballykinler Hut Project	The work required and associated costs should be confirmed by end December 16. Overall costs estimated at £120,000. Application to PEACE IV had been proposed for balance of £100,000 required 2017-18.	Total Capital Budget £30,000: £10,000(16/17) £20,000(17/18)	MW	Planning permission to be applied for. Assessment of requirements and costs to be sought a) from building contractors to reconstruct a Ballykinler hut (used 1900-2013) in Museum courtyard, b) from exhibition designers to fit out exhibition telling the story of the hut.
Mourne Coastal Walking Route	Currently no funding programmes available to address next agreed stage of project.	Total Capital Budget £98,000: £16,000(16/17) £32,000(17/18) £50,000(18/19)	MW	Currently no funding programmes available to address next agreed stage of project.
Newcastle Gateway/Gondola Development	Tender process for visioning document complete. LUC were the winning tenderer.	Total Capital Budget £210,000: £10,000(15/16) £200,000(17/18)	MW	Document due for completion March 2017. Cost £86,960
Delamont Schemes	Meeting held with Estates 9.9.16 to establish costings. Project to progress upgrade to the Walled Garden and Playground.	Total Budget £150,000: £50,000(16/17) £50,000(17/18) £50,000(18/19)	MW	Estates are drawing up designs and pricing the work in the walled garden to start work early in the new year
Forkhill Green Space Project	Planning permission granted. £250K DAERA funding now in place. AECOM appointed as Design team to tender works and manage project. Works being tendered in November 16. with actual site works to be commenced in December 2016 through to end March 2017. Steering Group met Consultants in July / August/ October to agree the exact works to be tendered.	Total Capital Budget £100,000(16/17) with £250K being provided in 16/17 from DAERA.	MW	Scheme Tendering for Contractors up-to early December 2017. Thereafter site works to get underway in Jan 2017.
Warrenpoint Public Realm Scheme	Contractor has confirmed that they are still on programme to substantially complete works at the end of the 2016 Calendar year. Elements of the works associated with the new street lighting will not be completed until Jan 17, given the ongoing investigation.	Council Budget of £250,000 in 2016/17 to match fund the DFC £1.7million Other Council monies being sought in 17/18 to cover the associated scheme retention.	MW	On going site management with design and contractor teams. Continuing to work closely with traders and contractor on site works.
Newry Cathedral Corridor PR Scheme	On site works completed at beginning of September 2016. Now working with TNI on the follow up road re-surfacing scheme in advance of the overall project launch in January 2017.	Council Budget of £72,100 in 2015/16 to match fund £650,000 from DSD. Other Council Revenue monies confirmed in 2016/17.	MW	TNI resurfacing completed and now beginning to work on the follow-up Revitalisation Scheme.

Mourne Esplande	Final defects addressed in October 2016 and final retention being released at the start of November 2016.	Total Capital Budget: £14,000 (16/17)		Retention paid out in November 2016 following the completion of the outstanding defects.
Cranfield Beach - Sea Defence	Phase 1 works completed in July 2015 and final retention released in October 2016. Now working with Consultants to move forward the planning application for Phase 2.	£11,000 in 2016/17 budget (retention)	MW	Retention released and working with Consultant and NIEA in regards Phase 2.
Warrenpoint Municipal Park	Letter of offer received July 2016 from HLF for £850K over 5 years until 2021. Currently updating Permission to Start documents with HLF	Total Capital Budget £447,029. £37,029 (15/16) £100,000 (16/17) £300,000 (17/18) £10,000 (18/19) Grant aid £850K	MW	Construction timetable is now May - November 2017
Ballynahinch Environmental Improvements.	Dispute resolution and final issues in the process of being resolved. Works are in Practical Completion 22 April. Defects and snagging list issued to Contractor.	Dispute resolution and final issues in the process of being resolved.	MW	Dispute resolution and final issues in the process of being resolved.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING & PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE**

Downshire Centre	Discussions have commenced with the South Eastern Trust re 2 items: 1. Location of Social Enterprise café in the Downshire. We are currently awaiting a progress report from the Trust on this proposal. They will request a Capital Contribution from Council. 2. Additional Office Space has been requested from the Trust to provide much needed office accommodation. Currently awaiting LPS valuation.	March 2016	To be provided when all information is available.	EC	Making good of defects certificate issued and final retention paid. Outstanding issue regarding two possible claims from contractor still to be finalised. Work to Stair Core 4 still to be resolved. <a href="#">Final Account agreed and approved by Council.</a>
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Downpatrick Leisure Centre	Piling contractor on site. Exploratory test holes excavated for services.	Current Programme : Production information & Tender period Sept - Oct 15. Report & approvals November 15, proposed commence on site 18 January 2016.	This invoice received. Spend to date £885,960.00	EC/ML	Design team submitted non-material change regarding levels to Planning. Remediation Strategy approved by NIEA. Piling work and soil stabilisation completed. Work on pilecaps, ground beams and lid shaft well progressed. <a href="#">Fourth site progress meeting held 1st Dec 16.</a>
Newcastle Leisure Centre	To be commenced November 2016.	To be advised.	Feasibility Stage: Current scheme budget £7.5m. 17/18	EC/ML	Options appraisal to be completed by Consultant and to be tabled at SPR Feb/March 2016.
Newry LC Phase II	Project Team has been finalised. ITT to commence in Oct 2015	Completion date - end of June 2017. Project to commence in early January 2016.	£9.5m E Curtis passed figures to R Dowey.	EC/ML	On site from 18th January 2016. Now in week 44 of contract with good progress to date. Erection of Structural Steel completed. Concrete floors completed. Work in progress on brick walls. Murtagh's yard handed over and site entrance road now formed. Work on roof well advanced. <a href="#">Roof over 8 Court Hall, 4 Court Hall, Bosco Clubroom and Fitness Suite completed. Approx 11 week delay on completion of Contract.</a>
North Street Flat Site	Property will not now be transferred.	N/A	N/A	EC	DSD completing TOR to develop this site.
Albert Basin Site	Site clearance has been completed and site is being upgraded for Famine Commemoration event in Sept 2015. Second site access report being updated by DSD.	August 2015	Make provision for Consultancy Fees	EC	Consultants have been appointed to consider strategic sites and report to be tabled at SPR in near future.
Newry Civic Centre	Terms of Reference for site identification proposal currently being developed and finalised.	March 2016 for site identification.	Make provision for Consultancy Fees	EC	Consultants appointed and site identification commenced.

Newry Greenway Project	Project Plans completed and consultation commenced September 2015. Planning approval expected November 2015 with Tender Process commencing December 2015.	Completion late Spring 2016	Budget has been finalised with grant aid from Landfill Tax, NIEA & Council. Council monies spent 15/16. Grant Aid spend 16/17.	EC	Phase 1 of Greenway - (Newry to spillway to Middlebank) - Tender accepted within budget and contractor appointed. Work started 5th September 2016 and good progress made to date. Work should be completed by December 2016. Greenway path completed to Spillway. Fishing stands completed. 8 D.E.s approved to date at a total cost of £27,833.93 (within budget). Work should be completed by December 2016.
Castlewellan Community Centre Refurbishment and Extension	Survey of dry rot in existing building carried out and quotation process to obtain prices for remediation of works required	Works due to be completed June 2018. Extension to LoO required to reflect this completion date.	SIF Funded. LoO for £527,951 including NMDDC management costs. Dry rot budget set by revenue at £25,000.00	EC	Remedial works complete, defects period and monitoring for 12 months. PQQ process started - to close 6th Dec '16.
Review of CCTV Services	Consultant draft report provided for consideration	Works due to complete March 2017 for Phase 1	Consultants fees to be confirmed.	EC	Draft report to be presented to SP&R in September
Disposal of lands at 24 Strangford Road, Downpatrick	Planning application lodged on behalf of NMDDC for new front entrance.	Works to be complete March 2017	Nil cost to NMDDC. Cost to be absorbed by Education Authority.	EC	Meeting with Councillors took place and report to be submitted to Committee for consideration.
Demolition of former Newry Swimming Pool	Tenders sought. Closed on 20 May 2016	Tender Refurb issued on 30 June 2016	Standstill period ended 26 July 2016	EC	Order issued to contractor on 26 July 2016. Work commenced 22nd August 2016 with a 12 week contract period. Building has been demolished. Site clearance works completed on Monday 28th Nov 16 and site handed over to Contractor for Newry Leisure Centre to construct car park.

Liam Hannaway  
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

164

16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Gareth Coughlin  
Environmental Team Leader  
AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited  
Beechill House  
40 Beechill Road  
Belfast  
BT8 7RP

Dear Gareth,

### **Newry Southern Relief Road – Stage 1 Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your letter of 13<sup>th</sup> October regarding the changes to the proposals presented on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016.

While I have not been able to get Elected Members view point on the new option and changes to options 1 and 2, the proposals are in line with the Councils desire to see a road link which will connect the A1 to the A2 Warrenpoint Road and provide a relief Road to Newry.

I attach our environmental statement which is also valid for the revised changes. The Council welcome the ongoing work on the new Southern Relief Road and the Council in principle support the new proposed route but reserve the right to provide more detailed comment when the final options are produced.

Yours sincerely

**Liam Hannaway**  
**Chief Executive**

Encs

AM/

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15 December 2016</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Newcastle Harbour Project</b>
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	<b>Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance</b>
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	<b>Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance</b>
<b>Decisions required:</b>	
<p>The Strategic Programmes Committee is asked to note the report and agree to:</p> <p>Officers to continue to support the proposed developers of the Newcastle Harbour Project and investigate the legal position of the Council in considering either a joint venture or allowing the use of land in its ownership by the Prince's Foundation.</p> <p>Officers to discuss with the developers the inclusion of the harbour and the implementation of an Environmental Improvements project to improve the health and safety of this site.</p>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p>This report is to give a progress report to members on the project .</p> <p>Officers were requested to organise a PAD meeting with the Developers and NMDDC Planning Department to assist in the submitting of a full Planning Application for the above mentioned project .</p> <p>This PAD meeting has been held and officers have agreed to assist the Developer's in other ways so their final design can be considered at a Strategic Programmes Committee.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p>The Legacy Council and current Council have attempted for a number of years to develop a project on the Harbour site without success .</p> <p>The Council needs to see the final design before future approvals can be considered .</p> <p>The Developer's need to design a consultation proposal to ensure all groups etc are fully consulted with . This needs to be forwarded to the Council .</p>

	<p>Council' s legal position on their participation in this scheme needs to be clarified with the Council's legal advisors .</p> <p>Council Officials to discuss possible Environmental Improvements to the Harbour as part of the overall Harbour proposal .</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<p>Council continue to support in Principle the Newcastle Harbour Development .</p> <p>Council to seek legal advice re Joint Venture etc .</p> <p>Council agree to examine Environmental Improvements Proposal as part of the overall Harbour Development .</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
<b>4.1</b>	Officers time.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
<b>5.1</b>	None at this stage
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None.