

June 25th, 2020

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on **Thursday, 25th June 2020 at 6:00 pm in Skype Meeting.**

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

Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

Vice Chair: Councillor O Hanlon

Members: Councillor P Brown

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor S Doran

Councillor C Enright

Councillor H Gallagher

Councillor R Howell

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor H McKee

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor B Ó Muirí

Councillor M Savage

Councillor W Walker

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies & Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Irish Language Bursary Scheme

📎 *Report re Suspended Irish language Bursary Scheme 2020-2021.pdf*

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## 4.0 Pavement Café legislation & Utilisation of council open spaces

📎 *SPR 25 June 2020 - Pavement Cafe provisions across the district.pdf*

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## 5.0 Brexit Forum Membership

📎 *Brexit Forum- SPR 25 June 2020.pdf*

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***Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014***

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## 6.0 Event Contracts

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.

📎 *SPR Committee 25 June 2020 SPD Event Invoices.pdf*

*Not included*

## 7.0 Car Parking Charges

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.

📎 *SPR 25 June 2020 Carpark charging and enforcement.pdf*

*Not included*

## 8.0 Asset Disposal

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.

📎 *25 June 20 -Assets.pdf*

*Not included*

## 9.0 Rates at John Mitchell Place, Newry

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.

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Mr Colin Moffett

Mr Ken Montgomery

Mr Roland Moore

Cllr Roisin Mulgrew

Cllr Declan Murphy  
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí  
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Mr Fearghal O'Connor  
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Linda O'Hare  
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
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Cllr Kathryn Owen  
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Mr Andy Patterson  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Michael Savage  
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
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Donna Starkey  
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Cllr Gary Stokes  
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Sarah Taggart  
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Cllr David Taylor  
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
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Cllr John Trainor  
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Cllr William Walker  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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<b>Report to:</b>	Special Strategy, Policy and Resources meeting
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 June 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Suspended Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2020-2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Ursula Mhic An tSaoir, Irish Language Unit Manager Daria Ní Fhaoláin, Irish Language Officer (Development)

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>A report on the Suspended Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2020-2021 was considered at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 11 June 2020.</p> <p>At this meeting it was proposed to proceed with option 2 with a slight amendment, and the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to review the proposal and suggestion of payment in advance of attendance and that a report be brought back to the Irish language Working Group for consideration.</i></b></li> </ul>
1.2	<p>The proposal agreed at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 11 June 2020 was discussed at a meeting of the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group on 23 June 2020.</p> <p>At this meeting, those present agreed the following be tabled for consideration at a Special Strategy, Policy and Resources meeting on 25 June 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council's Irish Language Unit proceed to re-open the Irish Language Bursary Scheme for period 2020/2021 for calls related to periods April – September 2020 and October 2020-March 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In re-opening the Irish Language Bursary Scheme the agreed governance and processes will continue to be implemented.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Underspend within the Irish Language Bursary Scheme budget for the period April – September 2020 be ring-fenced for the next financial year (2021-2022). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council will be in a position to identify the level of uptake and underspend for the April – September 2020 period in October 2020. This will be considered at a meeting of the Irish Language Cross Party Strategy Working Group in October 2020.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers to give consideration as to the appropriate governance, including applicants' letters of offer and opening date of a call for applications to an Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2021-2022; this to be tabled for consideration at a future meeting of the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>Due to improved operational arrangements, wherein Officers are now in a better position to access offices, collect post and so record the dates applications are being received, Council is in a position to re-open the 2020/2021 Irish Language Bursary Scheme.</p> <p>Additional factors for consideration as part of the decision-making process are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of the scheme is to assist individuals to improve Irish Language skills through providing scholarships or bursaries for Irish Language courses, including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses and third level courses taking place within the Council's financial year (1 April – 31 March).</li> <li>The Council's Irish Language Bursary Scheme is an open call for applications from individuals of all ages in relation to Irish language courses. While the majority of applications submitted for the April – September period each year relate to individuals seeking assistance towards their attendance at a Summer Gaeltacht scheme it must be noted the Council's Bursary Scheme is not a specific 'Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme'.</li> <li>Applicants must be registered to attend an Irish Language course and not already have a scholarship from public funds. In addition, to ensure appropriate corporate governance, applicants are required to provide Council with proof of full payment of fees and attendance at the Irish Language course before they receive their bursary payment from Council.</li> <li>There is no closing date for applications. This is a rolling scheme and for 2020-2021 the budget is allocated across two six-monthly periods 1) April – September 2020 (budget allocation £45,000) and 2) October 2020 – March 2021 (budget allocation £5,000).</li> <li>While all applications received by Council prior to our scheme's suspension have been logged and recorded, applicants have not been forwarded letters of offer in relation to their applications.</li> <li>A gradual easing of the COVID-19 related lockdown may lead to Irish language courses being organised and/or organisations promoting online courses during the 2020-2021 financial year.</li> </ul>
2.3	<p>The decision to suspend the 2020/2021 Irish Language Bursary Scheme was primarily due to governance concerns regarding processing applications.</p> <p>Re-opening the Irish Language Bursary Scheme for period 2020-2021 for calls related to periods April – September 2020 and October 2020- March 2021 provides the most effective means to forward plan and give individuals the opportunity to make applications for a bursary towards courses during 2020-2021 which may arise due to a gradual easing of the lockdown period.</p>

	<p>Re-opening the scheme and ring-fencing underspend within the Irish Language Bursary Scheme budget will enable Council to process current and future applications.</p> <p>In addition, reviewing the implementation of the re-opened scheme in October 2020 will enable the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group to consider a 2021-2022 Irish Language Bursary Scheme.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>It is proposed that the Special meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee give consideration to three recommendations as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council's Irish Language Unit proceed to re-open the Irish Language Bursary Scheme for period 2020/2021 for calls related to periods April – September 2020 and October 2020-March 2021.</li> <li>2. Underspend within the Irish Language Bursary Scheme budget for the period April – September 2020 be ring-fenced for the next financial year (2021-2022).</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers to give consideration as to the appropriate governance, including applicants' letters of offer and opening date of a call for applications to an Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2021-2022; this to be tabled for consideration at a future meeting of the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>There are no additional resource implications for the 2020-2021 financial year associated with re-opening the Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2020-2021.</p> <p>Ring-fencing underspend within the Irish Language Bursary Scheme budget has potential to have implications for Council's rate-setting process for 2021-2022.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	<p>The Irish Language Bursary Scheme has previously been equality screened and the decision was that it did not require to be equality impact assessed.</p> <p>The recommendations set out within this report provide the most effective means to forward plan and give individuals the opportunity to make applications for a bursary towards courses during 2020-2021 which may arise due to a gradual easing of the lockdown period. Re-opening the scheme would therefore enable Council to process current and future applications.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	<p>Due regard to rural needs for people living in rural areas has been considered and a rural needs impact assessment has been completed in relation to the implementation of the Irish Language Bursary Scheme.</p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>



	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	None

<b>Report to:</b>	SPR Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 June 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Pavement Café & provision of outdoor space
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Mallon - Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Colum Jackson – Assistant Director Building Control and Licensing

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>		
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>To present proposals to the committee for Pavement Café license processing and making available council owned outdoor space to accommodate the hospitality sector during the recovery period and to advise on the proposals for the DfC Covid Revitalisation Fund</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The current Government Guidance on social distancing will make it very challenging for our tourism and hospitality industry to operate in a safe and efficient manner as we move out of lockdown. With restrictions on the number of customers they will be able to accommodate within their premises many may find that it's not financially viable to open at this time.</p> <p>With efficient and appropriate use of Council assets there is the potential to assist this sector during the recovery period by making available council owned land as outdoor space, that can be utilised by the sector to increase their customer numbers.</p> <p>In addition, Council have the responsibility for the management of the Pavement Cafes Act, Council are encouraging business to consider this as an option for increasing the number of customers they can cater for and we are providing whatever assistance we can to business who wish to avail of this option</p>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>		
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014, it is the responsibility of each district council to design a pavement café licensing regime appropriate to their area. The Act contains a significant degree of flexibility to enable councils to respond to local circumstances.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pavement café licence authorises a person who carries on a business involving the supply of food or drink to place furniture on a public area for use by customers. Furniture placed is required to be temporary in nature and must be capable of being removed within 20 minutes.</li> <li>• Before deciding to grant a Pavement license the Council must consult DfI Transport NI who publish guidance on acceptable pavement widths.</li> <li>• Council issue the license upon receipt of an application and confirmation that the necessary insurances are in place.</li> <li>• The 28 day consultation period is under review and may be relaxed.</li> <li>• A pavement café license attracts a fee of £375 and lasts for 3 years.</li> <li>• Council have assets in strategic locations that could be used by local businesses where a pavement café license could be considered.</li> <li>• Council have applied to the DfC Covid Revitalisation Fund within our District. This will be subject to further engagement and will be dependent on business case approval and budget availability.</li> <li>• Council should consider using the fund to enhance existing public realm, provide permanent infrastructure in the form of benches, tables, chairs etc on Council owned open spaces to facilitate outdoor gathering in a socially distanced manner.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Members approve that officers develop a list of open spaces that are considered suitable to be made available to hospitality traders to make an application for a pavement café license
3.2	Members consider temporary relaxation of the current Pavement Café license fee of £375.
3.3	If we are successful in securing a letter of Offer from the Department, members approve that officials develop and deliver a programme of revitalisation works in the form of seating, benches, tables, pergolas etc to facilitate outdoor gatherings in a socially distanced manner.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>Staff time processing applications</p> <p>Potential loss of income from license fees</p> <p>Staff time to deliver Covid Revitalisation Fund</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	This report is not subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required)
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	I confirm due regard to rural needs has been considered, and the proposal has not been subject to a rural needs impact assessment

7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	N/A
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

<b>Report to:</b>	SPR Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	25 June 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Brexit Forum Membership
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Mallon – Director ERT
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly – Assistant Director EER

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><b>Purpose.</b> To agree the recommendation detailed in section 3 of this report</p> <p><b>Background</b> Council has an established Brexit forum made up of elected members that has met on an ongoing basis to discuss Brexit related issues</p> <p>The forum last met in the in December 2019 in the run up to finalisation of the last round of negotiations with EU.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>During the period of lockdown as a result of the Covid Crisis discussions have been ongoing around the NI protocol and the shape of the exit deal.</p> <p>The trade deal which will play a major part in what EU exit will mean for NI and most importantly for this region given its position on the border, the strong reliance on cross border trade for many of the regions SMEs and the implications for Warrenpoint Port operations.</p> <p>The Brexit forum will next meet on 30 June and will hear updates from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and Council staff on some of the implications of the protocol as they currently stand.</p> <p>The Forum membership was agreed at the AGM of Council after the 2019 election, with one member form each of the 5 main political groupings.</p> <p>It is anticipated that information flows and activity in respect of Brexit and the NI protocol will escalate in the coming months and as a result the forum will be required to meet on a more regular basis to reflect on the emerging negotiations and make recommendations to Council via ERT committee on actions and programmes required to assist the local business community to adjust and prepare for the changes that will come into effect on 1 January 2021.</p>

	<p>While these changes are still not fully clear or understood it is apparent there will be implications for local business in terms of accountability and increased bureaucracy to ensure their products get to market and supply chains are not disrupted or delayed.</p> <p>With this in mind it is suggested that the membership of the forum to be reviewed and numbers increased to ensure forum business is not delayed if there are competing demands from members and to allow for wider debate on key recommendations that may be required.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Council consider the current membership of the Brexit forum and adopt a membership structure similar to Council Project Boards of 2 SF, 2 SDLP, 1 UU, 1 DUP, 1 Ind/Alliance
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	All implications fully considered, recommendation is reflective of other project board membership structures.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	All implications fully considered
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	N/A
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A