

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15  
March 2018 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,  
Downpatrick.**

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In the Chair: Councillor T Hearty

In Attendance:

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director, Estates & Project Management  
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning & Performance  
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration)  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director, Facilities Management & Maintenance  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**SPR/032/2018      APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

There were no apologies received.

**SPR/033/2018      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SPR/034/2018      ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2018**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2018 (circulated).

**SPR/236/2016 – Right of Way Proposal at Ballyedmond, Killowen, Rostrevor**

Councillor Hyland asked how much of a cut-off there was likely to be with regard to the proposed Killowen Coastal Path and why this was taking place.

Mrs Carville advised she would revert to the Councillor with the requested information as soon as possible.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 15 February 2018 be noted.

### **CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY**

#### **SPR/035/2018      CREDIT CARD POLICY**

Read: Report from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager, dated 15 March 2018, regarding NMDDC Credit Card Policy (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran to approve the amendment to the Credit Card policy to include the provision of a credit card for the Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism.

### **FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**

#### **SPR/036/2018      LAND AT LINKSIDE PARK, NEWCASTLE**

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services, dated 15 March 2018, regarding Land at Linkside Park, Newcastle (copy circulated)

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Ruane to agree to regularise an encroachment adjacent to 12 Linkside Park, Newcastle prior to a transfer of the remainder of lands back to NIHE, subject to the conditions set out in the circulated report.

#### **SPR/037/2018      HOUSEHOLD SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

Read: Report from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director Community Planning & Performance, dated 15 March 2018, regarding Stakeholder Surveys – Residents' Survey (copy circulated)

Councillor Byrne commended officers on the paper presented and stated writing to householders in advance was a very sensible proposal.

Councillor Hyland asked that officers provide a summary of the changes that had occurred as a result of Belfast City Council's surveying exercise. Mr McBride advised he would endeavour to provide Councillor Hyland with this information as soon as possible.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the commissioning of a Residents' Survey was agreed.

**SPR/038/2018** **DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2019-2020**

Read: Report from Ms K Bingham, Head of Performance and Improvement, dated 15 March 2018, regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2019-2020 (copy circulated)

Councillor Byrne queried why the 12 week consultation period had been reduced again this year.

Mr McBride advised there was provision with the equality scheme to reduce a consultation period from 12 to 8 weeks as identified priorities had already been consulted on. He stated this was to avoid a situation of consultation fatigue with members of the public.

Councillor Enright queried whether Councillors had been involved in the formulation of the document, as correct governance would indicate that Councillors should have been involved in the process.

Mr McBride advised the document was prepared by officers, taken through the committee structure for the input and consideration of Councillors, with any comments on the objectives being taken on board at that stage. The document would then go out for public consultation with any additions brought back to the Committee for final approval.

Councillor Hyland asked whether the statistics regarding economically inactive people within the District were reviewed.

Mr McBride advised source data, both qualitative and quantitative was used such as the updated measures of multiple deprivation in order to inform the actions outlined within the report.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Doran to approve the draft performance improvement objectives 2018-19, 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' and the proposed approach and timetable for developing and publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2018-19, by 30 June 2018, including authorisation to proceed with an eight week public consultation on 23 March 2018.

**SPR/039/2018** **REPORT OF HOUSING NEEDS SYMPOSIUM – 22 JANUARY 2018**

Read: Report from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance, dated 15 March 2018, regarding Draft Report – Social Housing Need Symposium, 22 January 2018 (copy circulated)

Councillor Savage welcomed the document stating that since the symposium he had attended a number of housing meetings with Newry BID. He stated that Council need to look at the number of approvals given where developers were seeking to revoke social housing clauses and adopt a zero tolerance policy.

Councillor Byrne stated the problems surrounding identification of a site for the travelling community needed to be reflected within the action plan.

Councillor Carr advised he had not proposed the immediate next steps and that it was Councillor Savage.

Mr McBride advised this would be amended.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Hyland, subject to the agreed amendment, the report of the Social Housing Need Symposium, held on 22 January 2018 was agreed.**

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

**SPR/040/2018      TRANSFER OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER A DEED OF CHARGE – TOURISM FACILITY AT TRASSEY, NEWCASTLE**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services, dated 15 March 2018, regarding Transfer of Obligations under a Deed of Charge – Tourism Facility at Trassey, Newcastle (copy circulated).

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

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to consent to the transfer of obligations under the Deed of Charge relating to the tourism facility at Trassey, Newcastle from current holders, trading as Meelmore Lodge, to the person named in the Officer's Report, subject to the completion of all necessary legal formalities.

It was also agreed to consent to the postponement of Council's existing Charge in favour of a new Charge by the lender of the transferee, subject to there being no effect on Council's Charge and to Council remaining as second Charge holder.

**COUNCILLOR Ó MUIRÍ ENTERED THE MEETING DURING THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS – 5.28PM**

**SPR/041/2018      PROPOSED LEASING OF NEWRY SPORTS CENTRE CAR PARK TO SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Read:** Report from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director, Facilities Management & Maintenance, dated 15 March 2018, regarding proposed leasing of Newry Sports Centre car park to Southern Regional College (copy circulated).

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

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ruane to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's Report and seek a rental valuation from Land and Property Services for the former Newry Sports Centre car park and then to proceed in line with the recommended way forward in relation to short-term use.

COUNCILLOR SHARVIN ENTERED THE MEETING DURING THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS – 5.42PM

**SPR/042/2018      UPDATE ON DOWN LEISURE CENTRE**

**Agreed:**                    On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Read:**                      Report from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, dated 15 March 2018, regarding Down Leisure Centre - Update (copy circulated).

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

**Agreed:**                    When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Hyland to approve the additional projected final costs outlined in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's Report and to grant authority to Council Officers to take appropriate action to investigate the potential for recovery of the additional costs incurred by Council as recommended in paragraph 3.2 of the Officer's Report.

**SPR/043/2018      REPORT ON PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS FOR DOWN LEISURE CENTRE**

**Agreed:**                    On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Read:**                      Report from Mr T McClean, Head of Capital Projects, dated 15 March 2018, regarding Provision of Renewable Energy at Downpatrick and Newry Leisure Centres (copy circulated).

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

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Walker and by 11 votes to 1, to approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 2.1 of the Officer's Report in relation to the installation of PV panels at Newry Leisure Centre, at the costs detailed in the Officer's Report, subject to the correction detailed by the Officer to Committee in relation to the level of KW for panels at Newry Leisure Centre.  
In relation to Down Leisure Centre it was agreed to proceed in line with Option 1 as detailed in the Officer's Report.

### **FOR NOTING**

**SPR/044/2018**      **LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION-DISSOLUTION FUNDING AND CONTINUING OPERATIONS 2018-19**

**Read:** Correspondence received from Local Government Staff Commission, dated 22 February 2018, regarding Dissolution Funding and Continuing Operations 2018/19 (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin asked whether the Council had a choice in whether to pay the dissolution funding.

Mrs Carville advised Council was obliged to pay which would incur a slight budgetary overspend as there had only been budget included for 6 months rather than the full year.

Councillor Byrne stated it was an outrage that this organisation can demand funding at an increased rate when the Northern Ireland Executive had already stated that the body was not required any longer. He said there should be some mechanism for questioning how they were able to ask for increased funding.

Councillor Hearty suggested that the Council's Chief Executive could speak with those of the other 11 Councils to see what their position on the matter was, and consider collectively questioning this continued payment by Councils.

**NOTED:**            **The correspondence was noted.**

**SPR/045/2018**      **DRAFT COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MINUTES – 30 JANUARY 2018**

**Read:** Draft Community Planning Partnership Board Minutes from Meeting held on 30 January 2018 (copy circulated).

**NOTED:**                   **The minutes were noted.**

**SPR/046/2018           LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP – MINUTES  
OF MEETING - 14 FEBRUARY 2018**

Read:                       Local Development Plan Steering Group Minutes from Meeting held on 14 February 2018 (copy circulated).

Councillor Byrne asked that the papers for the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 would be circulated to Members early.

Mrs Carville advised she would ask that the papers were circulated as soon as possible to Members.

**NOTED:**                   **The minutes were noted.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.28pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 9 April 2018.

**Signed:**                   **Councillor Terry Hearty**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:**                   **Dorinnia Carville**  
**Director of Corporate Services**