



May 12th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on **Thursday, 12th May 2022 at 6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)**.

Chairperson - Councillor O Hanlon

Deputy Chairperson - Councillor P Brown

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor H Gallagher

Councillor R Howell

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor B O'Muirí

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Rice

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor W Walker

Agenda

1.0 Introduction and Apologies

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from SPR Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2022

 *SPR-Action Sheet arising from 14 April 2022.pdf*

Page 1

Notices of Motion

4.0 Notice of Motion – Cashless Donations


 *Cashless Donations NOM Report final.pdf*

Page 6

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

5.0 Albert Basin Park Project – Outline Business Case

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.

 *Albert Basin Park Project -Outline Business Case_.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 1 - Newry Park OBC Executive Summary.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 2 Concept Design Preferred Option.pdf*

Not included

6.0 Proposed Lease of lands adjacent to Derryleckagh playing fields, 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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 *Lease of lands at Derryleckagh - 12 May 22.pdf*

Not included

 *Report to SPR.pdf*




Not included

 *Map for valuation.pdf*

Not included



7.0 Vehicular access to New Quay, Strangford

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|  <i>SPR Committee Report New Quay.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Katrina Hynds - Proposed Safety Control Measures at Strangford and Portaferry Harbours.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Location of New Quay and proposed works Strangford.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |

8.0 Requests to purchase land at Islands Park, Newcastle

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|  <i>SPR report - 12th May 2022 - Requests to purchase land at Islands Park Newcastle.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Council lands to the rear of 32 and 32A Bryansford Avenue Newcastle.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |

9.0 2022/23 Insurance Premiums – update Officials Indemnity Insurance

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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|  <i>SPR Report Insurance Premiums 202223 - Update May 2022 rev 1 (002).pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|

10.0 Corporate Health & Safety Training

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.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|  <i>Corporate Health Safety Training.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |
|  <i>Appendix 1 Business Case.pdf</i> | <i>Not included</i> |

11.0 Theatre/ Conference – Contract Strategy

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.

 ***Theatre Conference Contract Strategy.pdf***

Not included

12.0 Regional Negotiating and Consultation Framework for Councils in Northern Ireland

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraphs 3&4 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 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. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***RNCF report to SPRC 120522.pdf***

Not included

 ***App1. LGSC Regional Negotiating Machinery Proposal Sep21.PDF***

Not included

 ***App2. LGSC letter.pdf***

Not included

13.0 Appointment of Director: Sustainability and Environment

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraphs 3&4 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 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. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***SPRC Appointment of Director - Sustainability and Environment (002).pdf***

Not included

 ***SE Director Appendix 1 (002).pdf***

Not included

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

14.0 Legal costs on recent litigation settlement

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to an individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.




 ***SPR Report - Legal costs on litigation settlement.pdf***

Not included

 ***SPR Report - Litigation settlement.pdf***

Not included



15.0 Statutory reporting – (I) Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022 (II) Policy reviews for period 2021/2022

-  *Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period January March 2022 and Policy reviews for period 2021-2022.pdf* *Page 13*
-  *Appendix I - Quarterly Screening Report January - March 2022.pdf* *Page 16*
-  *Appendix II - Policy reviews 2021-2022.pdf* *Page 21*


16.0 Statutory reporting – Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

-  *Statutory reporting - Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022.pdf* *Page 22*
-  *Appendix I - NMDDC Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.pdf* *Page 25*



17.0 Statutory reporting – Commissioning letter from Department of Education for Report on Children Services Co-operation Act 2015

-  *Statutory reporting - Commissioning letter from Department of Education for Report on Children Services Co-operation Act 2015.pdf* *Page 34*
-  *Copy of Appendix I - CSCA Reporting - Newry Mourne Down District Council response.pdf* *Page 37*


18.0 Annual report for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 on requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property

-  *Annual report for the period 1 April 2021 31 March 2022 on requests related to naming Council facilities planting trees and to locate artworks sculpt.pdf* *Page 38*

19.0 Response to Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel's Recommendations Report

-  *Response to Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panels Recommendations Report.pdf* *Page 42*
-  *Appendix I - NMDDC response to DfC call for views on expert advisory panel Irish Language Strategy recommendations.pdf* *Page 45*


20.0 2021/22 FOI/EIR/DP/RM monitoring statistics

 *Compliance Team 2021-22 Year End Report.pdf*

Page 65

 *FOI-EIR- DP 2021-22 Stats.pdf*

Page 68

 *RM 2021-22 stats.pdf*

Page 69

21.0 Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 9th May 2022

 *Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting - 09.05.2022 final.pdf*

Page 70

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Ms Kate Bingham

Mr Caolain Boyd

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mr Colin Campbell

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr Charlie Casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Ms Nora Largey

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Catrina Miskelly
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Mr Colin Moffett
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muiri
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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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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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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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ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – T H U R S D A Y 20 JANUARY 2022

Minute Ref:	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Action taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/004/2022	Notice of Motion - Contactless Payment Solutions to tackle Homelessness	<p>Elected Members agreed to approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers to follow up on the cost, security and equality issues outlined at section 2.1 and also conduct further research of suppliers. • Officers will then bring proposals back to Members for consideration before the end of this financial year. • Council explore avenues to roll this out including through the Chairs charitable fund as soon as possible. • Council write to the local bank's or the services that service the governance of the ATM'S about the option of being able to donate through ATM's to charities on a rotational basis. 	G Byrne	Report to SP&R May 2022	N

<u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – T H U R S D A Y 1 4 A P R I L 2 0 2 2</u>					
Minute Ref:	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Action taken/Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/058/2022	Action sheet of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2022	It was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 16 March 2022 be approved.	D Carville	Agreed	Y
SPR/059/2022	Safeguarding Policy – Update	It was agreed that the updated policy (Version 3 as appended to the report), be approved for adoption and that members agree to Appendices being updated as required without the need to revert to the committee for approval to do so.	G Scott	Agreed	Y
SPR/060/2022	Castlewellan Forest Park NLHF Project Governance.	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Terms of Reference, structure and membership of Project Board. <p>The Terms of Reference, structure and membership of Castlewellan Forest Park – Regeneration Stakeholder Forum.</p>	J McGilly	Agreed	Y
SPR/061/2022	Ukraine Assistance Centre	<p>It was agreed to note the contents of the report and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The continued use of the Newry Leisure Centre as a Ukrainian Assistance Centre. That the Ballymote Centre be offered as a suitable venue for a Ukraine Assistance Centre in the Downpatrick area and remains closed until a final decision is made. 	M Lipsett	Noted	Y

SPR/062/2022	Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowances	It was agreed that Elected Members approve to proceed with Option 1 - To retain the current position of allocating any outstanding SRAs among those positions that receive SRA payments. The position can be monitored by Parties during preparations for the AGM to try to ensure that there are no overlaps in SRA allocation.	D Carville	Approved	Y
<u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u>					
SPR/063/2022	Extension of Lease with Northern Ireland Fire &	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the new rental valuation for the duration of the 2-3 year extension of this Lease, with no further rent review to take place during the 2-3 year extended term.	A Robb	Approved	Y
SPR/064/2022	Proposed Lease of The Generator House, Newcastle Harbour, Newcastle.	It was agreed that Elected Members approve to extend the term of years previously agreed from 5 years to 25 years in respect of the proposed lease of the Generator House, Newcastle Harbour subject to revised Departmental Consent from the Department of Communities.	F O'Connor	Approved	Y
SPR/065/2022	Bann Road, Castlewellan – Storm Attenuation Project	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to note the content of the report and approve to add an additional £36,009 to the Capital Programme budget for this project. 	F O'Connor	Approved	Y
SPR/066/2022	Director Recruitment	It was agreed that Elected Members agree to note the contents of the report and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the recruitment for a Director: Corporate Services. Confirm their agreement to the proposal at 2.3 of the report. 	D Carville	Approved	Y

SPR/067/2022	Surplus Asset Update	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:</p> <p>Abbey Heights Amenity Area. To Proceed with Outline Planning Application (as per Appendix B).</p> <p>Daisyhill – Grills House Section. To Proceed to Open Market (as per Appendix D).</p>	C Boyd	Approved	Y
SPR/068/2022	2022/23 Insurance Premium	It was agreed that Elected Members agree to review and approve the payment of the insurance premiums for 2022/23 at the costs outlined in the officer's report.	C Boyd	Approved	Y
SPR/069/2022	BRCD Project Governance – Mourne Gateway	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the project governance arrangements for the Mourne Gateway project as detailed in the report.	A Patterson	Approved	Y
SPR/070/2022	Retirement on Grounds of Ill Health	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All employees who, since 1 April 2020, have terminated their employment under the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Managing Attendance Procedure, due to ill-health retirement, be paid a leaving payment which mirrors the statutory notice provisions as set out in the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (see 4.1). <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Going forward, employees who, due to ill-health retirement, terminate their employment under the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Managing Attendance Procedure, be eligible to receive a leaving payment which mirrors the statutory notice provisions as set out in the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 	D Carville	Noted	Y

SPR/071/2022	Business Administration Voluntary Redundancy	It was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and to agree in principle that SMT can progress with the 49 voluntary redundancy 'Expression of Interest' applications. As detailed in this report any VR recommendations will be subject to formal consultation and all applicants will be required to make a formal voluntary redundancy application, which will be subject to further SPRC approval. And this will also be subject to formal consultation with TUs.	D Carville	Noted	Y
SPR/072/2022	Planning for the future Update	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To pause the voluntary redundancy of the Tier 3 posts, to be revisited by August SPR Committee. • Approve the recruitment of Assistant Director Finance & Performance and Assistant Director Capital & Procurement via a publicly advertised recruitment process. 	D Carville	Approved	Y
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FOR NOTING –</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014</p>					
SPR/073/5022	Annual Digital Communications and Marketing Activity Report (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022).	It was agreed to note the Annual Digital Communications and Marketing Activity Report from April 2021 – 31 March 2022.	R Mackin	Noted	Y

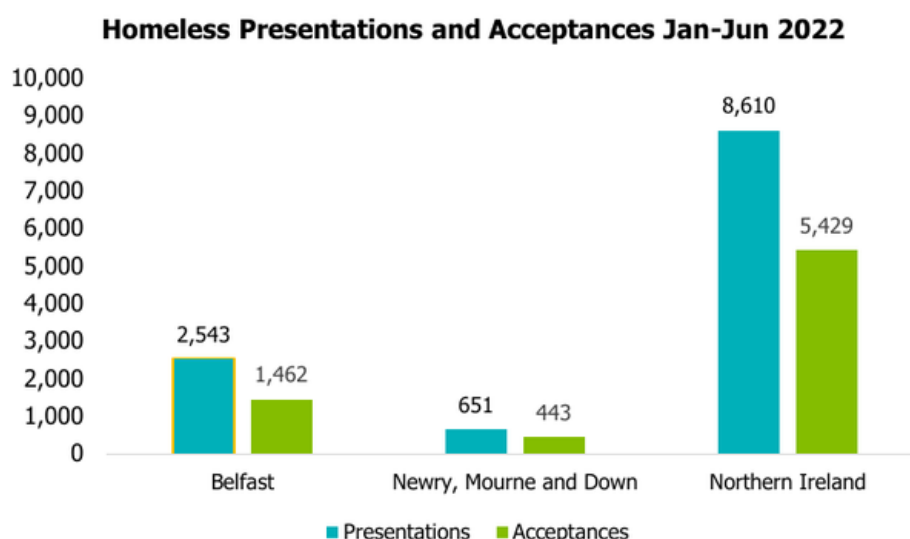
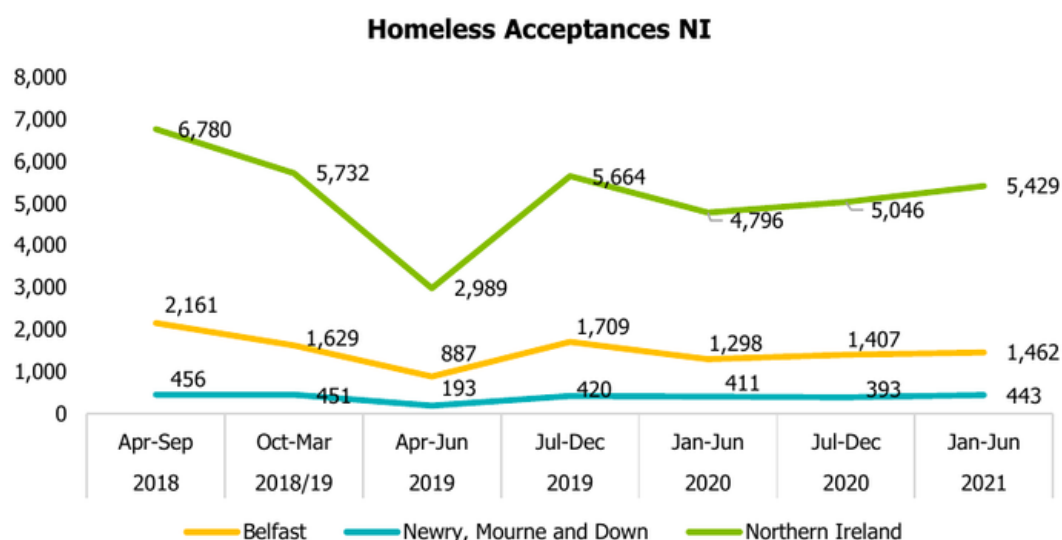
END

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2022
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Cashless Donations
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Gerard Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting)
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Gerard Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting)

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p>The following Notice of Motion, in the name of Councillor Brown, was considered by the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on 20 January 2022.</p> <p>Notice of Motion: 'Given the continued high homelessness rates in the District and the rise in cashless transactions, this council commits to installing a number of contactless payment stations in main urban areas across the District which can gather donations for homelessness charities based in the District to distribute to those most in need.'</p> <p>At this meeting, Elected Members agreed to approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers to follow up on the cost, security and equality issues outlined at section 2.1 and also conduct further research of suppliers. • Officers will then bring proposals back to Members for consideration before the end of this financial year. • Council explore avenues to roll this out including through the Chairs charitable fund as soon as possible. • Council write to the local bank's or the services that service the governance of the ATM'S about the option of being able to donate through ATM's to charities on a rotational basis. 		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>Homelessness: The statutory context</p> <p>Many different circumstances can lead to an individual being defined as homeless. These include poor living conditions that are damaging your health, staying in a hostel, staying with friends or family, risk of violence, living in very overcrowded conditions, sleeping on the streets or living in a house that is unsuitable.</p> <p>The Housing (NI) Order 1988 (as amended) states that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive is responsible for responding to homelessness. The Order places a statutory duty on the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to provide interim and/or permanent accommodation for certain homeless households, dependent upon</p>		

	<p>investigations and assessment of their circumstances. For households to be accepted as statutorily homeless, the NIHE must ensure that accommodation is made available for the household as well as the provision of temporary accommodation where necessary and assistance with the protection of the household’s belongings.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2017-20 aims to prevent homelessness and ensure cross departmental and interagency approaches to ending homelessness. The strategy acknowledges the valuable contribution made by many agencies across the statutory and voluntary sectors in preventing homelessness and complementing the statutory role played by the NI Housing Executive.</p>																																
2.2	<p>Homelessness: The baseline</p> <p>Between January-June 2021, there were 8,610 homeless presenters in Northern Ireland, 63% of whom (5,429) were accepted as statutorily homeless. This represents an increase of 680 when compared to January-June 2020. The top reasons for presenting as homeless are accommodation not reasonable, sharing breakdown and loss of rental accommodation.</p> <p>Between January-June 2021, Newry, Mourne and Down recorded 651 homeless presenters which is the fifth highest across Northern Ireland. This represents an increase of 1 homeless presenters when compared to January-June 2020 and 24 when compared to July-December 2020. 68% (443) of homeless presenters in Newry, Mourne and Down were accepted as statutorily homeless during this period.</p> <p>Rough sleepers</p> <p>18 people were estimated to be sleeping rough in Northern Ireland on the night of Thursday 26 November leading in to the morning of Friday 27 November. This represents a 50% decrease from the 2019 figure of 36. The number of rough sleepers in Newry, Mourne and Down increased from 5 in 2018 to 6 in 2020, which is the second highest in Northern Ireland, after Belfast which recorded 10 rough sleepers. The rough sleeper count in Northern Ireland is substantially lower than the 2,688 rough sleepers in England and 176 rough sleepers in Wales.</p> <div><p style="text-align: center;">Homeless Presentations NI</p><table><tr><th>Period</th><th>Belfast</th><th>Newry, Mourne and Down</th><th>Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><td>Apr-Sep 2018</td><td>3,169</td><td>623</td><td>9,675</td></tr><tr><td>Oct-Mar 2018/19</td><td>2,578</td><td>621</td><td>8,527</td></tr><tr><td>Apr-Jun 2019</td><td>1,353</td><td>281</td><td>4,302</td></tr><tr><td>Jul-Dec 2019</td><td>2,597</td><td>574</td><td>8,278</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-Jun 2020</td><td>2,346</td><td>652</td><td>7,930</td></tr><tr><td>Jul-Dec 2020</td><td>2,300</td><td>627</td><td>7,927</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-Jun 2021</td><td>2,543</td><td>651</td><td>8,610</td></tr></table></div>	Period	Belfast	Newry, Mourne and Down	Northern Ireland	Apr-Sep 2018	3,169	623	9,675	Oct-Mar 2018/19	2,578	621	8,527	Apr-Jun 2019	1,353	281	4,302	Jul-Dec 2019	2,597	574	8,278	Jan-Jun 2020	2,346	652	7,930	Jul-Dec 2020	2,300	627	7,927	Jan-Jun 2021	2,543	651	8,610
Period	Belfast	Newry, Mourne and Down	Northern Ireland																														
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2.3

Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Homeless Connect

The Council has made contact with the Homelessness Policy and Strategy Manager at the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Homeless Connect to discuss the Notice of Motion further, with a view to potentially collaborating with partners and initiating a joined-up approach. Officers are currently awaiting a response.

Homeless Connect represents the views of organisations within the homeless sector and works closely with service users to co-design homelessness services and develop housing and homelessness policy and strategy. As the voice of the sector, Homeless Connect works collaboratively to create a community of support, delivering direct assistance to those in need. Homeless Connect offers a 'donate' option on its website to help end homelessness in Northern Ireland: <https://homelessconnect.org/donate/>. All charitable donations go towards the Home Starter Pack project, Frontline Network, Regional Service User Network and FareShare Northern Ireland, which seeks to fight hunger and tackle food waste. There is an option to also fundraise on behalf of Homeless Connect.

There are a range of charities in Northern Ireland which are focused on reducing homelessness, including the Simon Community NI, Shelter NI, Women's Aid, Salvation Army Homeless Service, Depaul Ireland (regional office in Belfast), MACS Supporting

	<p>Children and Young People (includes offices in Newry and Downpatrick) and Newry Helping the Homeless. However, all charities, apart from Newry Help the Homeless operate at a regional level, and further contact would be required to ascertain whether any donations raised would benefit Newry, Mourne and Down.</p>						
2.4	<p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030 sets out the existing settlement hierarchy and populations as per current area plans.</p> <p>For this proposal, consideration has been given to Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements which are as follows.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Settlement Hierarchy</th><th>Newry, Mourne & Down Settlement Populations</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tier 1 City & Main Town</td><td>Newry (26,893) Downpatrick (10,874)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tier 2 Local & Small Towns</td><td>Newcastle (7,743) Ballynahinch (5,715) Warrenpoint/Burren (8,721) Crossmaglen (1,608) Kilkeel (6,521) Newtownhamilton (800)</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Should Council be minded to establish contactless payment points, consideration must be given to the geographic locations of these to enable access for both rural and urban dwellers.</p> <p>Considering both Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements, Council must give consideration to initially locating paypoints within a minimum of two settlements up to a maximum of 8 settlements.</p> <p>Decisions on the geographic location, and the number of paypoints within each settlement, should be underpinned by a projected cost / benefit analysis to implement and maintain.</p>	Settlement Hierarchy	Newry, Mourne & Down Settlement Populations	Tier 1 City & Main Town	Newry (26,893) Downpatrick (10,874)	Tier 2 Local & Small Towns	Newcastle (7,743) Ballynahinch (5,715) Warrenpoint/Burren (8,721) Crossmaglen (1,608) Kilkeel (6,521) Newtownhamilton (800)
Settlement Hierarchy	Newry, Mourne & Down Settlement Populations						
Tier 1 City & Main Town	Newry (26,893) Downpatrick (10,874)						
Tier 2 Local & Small Towns	Newcastle (7,743) Ballynahinch (5,715) Warrenpoint/Burren (8,721) Crossmaglen (1,608) Kilkeel (6,521) Newtownhamilton (800)						
2.5	<p>Equality Screening</p> <p>The outcome of equality screening is that it is recommended the proposal to establish contactless payment points with monies donated to the Council Chairperson's charitable fund to be specifically used to tackle homelessness not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures / alternative policies).</p> <p>Establishing contactless payment points with monies donated to the Council Chairperson's charitable fund to be specifically used to tackle homelessness would be designated as establishing a new specific function of Council.</p> <p>The proposal contains two key elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing payment points to collect towards the Chairperson's charitable fund 2. Donations collected are to be specifically used to tackle homelessness <p>In relation to establishing payment points to collect towards the Chairperson's charitable fund the decision to do this should be underpinned by a projected cost / benefit analysis to</p>						

	<p>implement and maintain. It should be acknowledged that establishing paypoints to collect towards the Chairperson's charitable fund has potential to improve equality of opportunity through maximising charitable donations across a spectrum of charities, not just those dealing with homelessness.</p> <p>Therefore, should Council be minded to proceed to establish paypoints it should give consideration as to how this may be better delivered through extending beneficiaries beyond those tackling homelessness.</p> <p>However, if Council proceed to establish paypoints for donations that will be specifically designated for use to tackle homelessness Council must be cognisant that the Northern Ireland Housing (NI) Order 1988 (as amended) tasks the Northern Ireland Housing Executive with responding to homelessness, and places a statutory duty on the Housing Executive to provide interim and/or permanent accommodation for certain homeless households, dependent upon investigations and assessment of their circumstances.</p> <p>Therefore, should Council be minded to proceed, it should ensure it is in a position to demonstrate how Council will add value and not duplicate roles and statutory responsibilities designated to the NI Housing Executive etc.</p> <p>In addition, from an equality of opportunity perspective given the scope of what is meant as 'homelessness', Council will need to have a clearly defined evidence-base as to why this is restricted to supporting homelessness; how and for what purpose (restricted / unrestricted) it will allocate collected monies; and the homeless charities it proposes to support.</p>
2.6	<p>Cashless donations</p> <p>Cashless donation solutions allow charities to receive instant, direct payments authorised by the donor's existing mobile banking app. Supported Giving's charity whitepaper 'Contactless & Cashless Donations: The Options for Charities' provides a comprehensive overview of the technologies available to charities. However, the whitepaper highlights the conundrum that 86% of charities expect cash giving reduce further, yet 74% of charities have not yet launched cashless payment systems to collect donations.</p> <p>According to Pingit, 28% of UK consumers would prefer to make a donation via their mobile devices than traditional methods. 27% of those surveyed said that they would donate more if they could do so using a mobile device or payment card. By the end of 2018 around 8.5 million people (16% of the UK adult population) had registered for mobile payments and 79% of these registered users recorded a payment, according to UK Finance figures.</p> <p>Supported Giving offers a range of solutions that provide quick and simple alternatives to cash donations. These include:</p> <p>QR2DONATE TEXT2DONATE VIA WEBSITE Contactless Terminals (Goodbox) Live Agent / Automated donations</p>

2.7	<p>Cost to Council for Contactless Payment Stations</p> <p>Based on the Rural Needs Assessment, Council would need at least 2 contactless payment stations, but possibly up to 8 so that people in rural areas are not disadvantaged. Officers have concluded that Goodbox is the most popular contactless payment station on the market. They have several models available, but for a podium type device (possibly located at reception areas in Council facilities), Indicative costs would be as follows;</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>2 Contactless Stations</td><td>8 Contactless Stations</td></tr><tr><td>Purchase Cost (GBX Podium - £1,455 per unit)</td><td>£2,910</td><td>£11,640</td></tr><tr><td>Annual Service cost (£210pa per unit)</td><td>£420</td><td>£1,680</td></tr></table> <p>The supplier takes 2.5% of each contribution plus another 10p of every transaction. The costs in the table above are not currently included within the Council estimates. Consideration would have to be given to how Council would secure these devices and protect them from vandalism if they are included in high footfall areas and are accessible outside of normal Council opening hours.</p>		2 Contactless Stations	8 Contactless Stations	Purchase Cost (GBX Podium - £1,455 per unit)	£2,910	£11,640	Annual Service cost (£210pa per unit)	£420	£1,680
	2 Contactless Stations	8 Contactless Stations								
Purchase Cost (GBX Podium - £1,455 per unit)	£2,910	£11,640								
Annual Service cost (£210pa per unit)	£420	£1,680								
3.0	<p>Recommendations</p>									
3.1	<p>Officers recommend that that this proposal is tabled at the Community Planning Partnership for consideration. The Housing Executive are represented at this forum and the issue of contactless payments can be discussed in detail.</p> <p>Council could assist the Housing Executive who have the statutory responsibility for homelessness in setting up contactless stations if the Housing Executive believed this would assist their current efforts in tackling homelessness.</p> <p>Based on the decision of Members, the Assistant Director of Finance can communicate with the local banks about the option of being able to donate through ATM's to charities on a rotational basis, if required.</p>									
4.0	<p>Resource implications</p>									
4.1	<p>No resource implications presently.</p>									
5.0	<p>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</p>									
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input type="checkbox"/></p>									

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	n/a
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2022
Subject:	Statutory reporting – (I) Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022 (II) Policy reviews for period 2021/2022
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>In line with Council’s Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly and policies should be reviewed on a four-yearly basis, or sooner as necessary, to ensure they remain up to date with legislative advancements or changes to working arrangements.</p> <p>The Quarterly Report for the period January – March 2022, including screening reports, is available on Council’s website www.newrymournedown.org. This information has also been forwarded to all equality consultees.</p> <p>Fourteen policies were reviewed during the 2021/2022 period.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>As per the Council’s approved Equality Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All policies Council proposes to adopt must be equality screened, prior to implementation, to assess the likely impact of the policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations. • Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council’s website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees. • Policies should be reviewed on a four-yearly basis, or sooner as necessary, to ensure they remain up to date with legislative advancements or changes to working arrangements. • All fourteen policies reviewed during the 2021/2022 period have been subject to equality screening and rural needs impact assessment.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022 (Appendix I) and Policy reviews for period 2021/2022 (Appendix II).

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022.</p> <p>Appendix II: Policy reviews for period 2021/2022</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme.

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report January – March 2022**

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
New policies		
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2022-23	<p>The following five performance improvement objectives have been developed, all of which are clearly linked to the Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2021-23.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will encourage local people to lead healthy and active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces 2. We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs 3. We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents 4. We will build the capacity of local communities through the Financial Assistance Scheme 5. We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme 	No EQIA considered necessary
Notice of Motion - Contactless Payment Solutions to tackle Homelessness	The notice of motion seeks Council to establish contactless payment points with monies donated to the Council Chairperson's charitable fund to be used specifically to tackle homelessness.	No EQIA considered necessary

<p>NMDDC Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Financial Assistance Programme</p>	<p>2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952.</p> <p>Following discussion, the consensus of the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 18 February 2022 was to recommend Council establish a Queen's Platinum Jubilee financial assistance programme with a fund of £40,000.</p> <p>This was considered and agreed at the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 16 March 2022.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
<p>Reviewed policies</p>		
<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Non-Current Asset Procedure</p>	<p>The aim of the Non-Current Asset Procedure is to clearly set out the Council's procedures in relation to the appropriate management, recording and monitoring and accounting of Non-Current Assets and to ensure that all members and officers are aware of their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>The procedures apply to all officers with responsibility for Non-Current Assets and sets out how they are identified and to ensure Council officers are aware of the financial implications of acquiring and disposing of assets, and to provide guidance on how managers should ensure the maintenance and safeguarding of the assets within their area of responsibility.</p> <p>The procedures do not aim to be prescriptive with regard to providing monetary values and levels of management authorisation for aspects of asset management. These provide guidance on good practice. It is recognised that further policies and procedures may be required for 'Donated Assets', 'Inventory of Assets' and 'Disposal of Assets'</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>

Media Policy	<p>The aim of the Policy is to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with all media communications activity.</p> <p>Our purpose in media relations is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a strong image and identity for the Council and strengthen its reputation • Improve citizens' awareness and understanding of the work of the Council • Ensure information about our aims, objectives and services is targeted to and accessible by key stakeholders as highlighted under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. • Invigorate local democracy and encourage and enable people to participate in the work of the Council • Build up a relationship of trust and mutual understanding that will benefit both the Council and the media. 	No EQIA considered necessary
Policy for Dealing with Changed Circumstances Affecting Licensed Street Trading	<p>The purpose of this Policy is to outline the approach to be taken by the District Council where the following circumstances arise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the location of a street trading pitch on which a licence holder trades as a stationary trader has become unsuitable, or, • the space in the street has become inadequate to permit trading by a stationary trader without causing undue interference or inconvenience to persons or vehicles. 	No EQIA considered necessary
Pavement Cafes Designation Policy	<p>The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to designate a street or part thereof as a pavement café and whether to grant or refuse an application for a pavement café.</p> <p>Its aim is to provide, insofar as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

Pavement Cafes Enforcement Policy	<p>By virtue of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council may regulate street trading through enforcement powers in a street or part thereof in its District.</p> <p>The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to take enforcement action against a person of whom there is reasonable grounds to suspect commission of an offence under this Act while involved in Pavement Cafés. Its aim is to provide, in so far as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary
Protocol for Hearing of Statutory Referrals to Committee	<p>The key aims of the protocol are to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who make, or make representation to, applications before the Committee are able to make informed representations and know the case which they have to meet; and • The Committee makes decisions in a soundly based, lawful, and transparent way and in a timely and efficient manner. 	No EQIA considered necessary
Risk Management Policy	The aim of this policy is to ensure that risk management is fully embedded within NMDDC strategic and operational planning processes.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Designation Policy	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to designate a street or part thereof for Street Trading.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Enforcement Policy	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to take enforcement action against a person of whom there is reasonable grounds to suspect commission of an offence under this Act while involved in Street Trading.	No EQIA considered necessary

Street Trading Mobile Licence policy	The purpose of this policy document is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant or refuse an application for a mobile street trading licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Stall Design and Trading Policy	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on the minimum standard of stall design, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant to a person a street trading licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Stationary Licence Policy	The purpose of this policy document is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant or refuse an application for a Stationary Licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
Street Trading Temporary Licence Policy	The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant to a person a Temporary Licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
Temporary Road Closures on a Public Road for the purpose of holding a Special Event Policy	<p>The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 amends the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) 1997 Order to provide relevant authorities (district councils and DRD Road Service) the power to prohibit or restrict the use of a public road for the purpose of holding a special event on a public road. A 'special event' is defined as any sporting event, social event or entertainment which is held on a public road or the making of a film on a public road. Consent of the Department for Infrastructure (Roads Service) (DfI) is required. If the DfI Roads Service objects on the grounds of road safety issues or traffic management issues, then approval shall not be given.</p> <p>This Policy is intended to ensure that the District Council's Members and Officers are aware of those matters to be taken into consideration when determining if a street or part thereof should be prohibited or restricted for the purpose of holding a special event on a public road.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

Appendix II: Policy reviews for period 2021/2022

Reference	Policy title	Equality screened	Rural needs impact assessed
CS40	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Non-Current Asset Procedure	✓	✓
CS10	Media Policy	✓	✓
ERT2	Policy for Dealing with Changed Circumstances Affecting Licensed Street Trading	✓	✓
ERT9	Pavement Cafes Designation Policy	✓	✓
ERT15	Pavement Cafes Enforcement Policy	✓	✓
ERT22	Protocol for Hearing of Statutory Referrals to Committee	✓	✓
CS24	Risk Management Policy	✓	✓
ERT3	Street Trading Designation Policy	✓	✓
ERT4	Street Trading Enforcement Policy	✓	✓
ERT5	Street Trading Mobile Licence policy	✓	✓
ERT6	Street Trading Stall Design and Trading Policy	✓	✓
ERT7	Street Trading Stationary Licence Policy	✓	✓
ERT8	Street Trading Temporary Licence Policy	✓	✓
ERT8	Temporary Road Closures on a Public Road for the purpose of holding a Special Event Policy	✓	✓

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2022
Subject:	Statutory reporting – Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 (the Act) became operational for government departments and district councils on 1 June 2017 and for the remaining public authorities listed on the schedule to the Act on 1 June 2018.</p> <p>In order to fulfil its statutory duty under the Act, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) must publish a Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report detailing the information compiled by public authorities on how they have exercised the due regard duty under section 1 (1) of the Act.</p> <p>DAERA has forwarded a note commissioning the annual returns for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.</p> <p>DAERA have requested that completed returns be sent to rural.needs@daera-ni.gov.uk by Thursday 30 June 2022.</p>
1.2	The appendix accompanying this report, providing information related to twenty-eight rural needs impact assessments, will be submitted to DAERA to meet DAERA's return deadline i.e. Annex I - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>There is a duty on public authorities to monitor and report. Under section 3(1) of the Rural Needs Act, Council must, in such manner as may be directed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compile information on the exercise of its functions under section 1 of the Act, • include that information in the public authority's own annual report; and • send a copy of that information to DAERA.
3.0	Recommendations

3.1	To note completed annual return prepared for submission to DAERA by requested deadline of 30 June 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1 - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix I: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022
8.0	Background Documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be Compiled

Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Reporting Period: April 20 to March 20

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service³.</i>
Developing a plan – Performance Improvement Objectives 2022-23.	Cross cutting	<p>Progress in delivering the performance improvement objectives 2021-22 has informed the 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' which underpin the 2022-23 objectives, and seek to have a positive impact across all areas of the District.</p> <p>Some objectives are underpinned by 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' which will have an indirect positive outcomes for rural areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has parks, open spaces and community trails in rural areas • Economic development programmes can be accessed by businesses and individuals in rural areas

- The creation of new jobs and businesses in coastal areas
- Community clean ups are supported across the District, in urban and rural areas
- The Financial Assistance Scheme can be accessed by all communities, including those from rural areas
- The Planning Service is open to all stakeholders and customers across both urban and rural areas
- Slieve Gullion Forest Park to renew 'Green Flag' status

Developing Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022	Cross cutting	<p>The Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 is focused on recovery and identifying opportunities for recovery and transformation in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Plan sets out a number of key delivery actions which will positively impact upon people living in rural areas such as the delivery of the rural development programme, implementation of village plans, Castlewellan Park redevelopment and the Mournes Gateway project. These initiatives will include funding allocated specifically to rural areas programmes.</p>
Developing Chief Executive Department Business Plan 2021-2022	Cross cutting	The actions/objectives detailed with the Chief Executives Business Plan are corporate objectives which will benefit all residents of the district.
Developing a plan – Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building in Newry, Mourne and Down	Cross cutting	This is an initial stage which will undertake a diagnostic process whereby Newry, Mourne and Down District Council assesses its activities and begins exploring the issue of social value by applying the principles of Community Wealth Building (CWB), leading to the development of a Community Wealth Building Action Plan.
Developing Council's new Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy 2022-2027	Rural Tourism	The key themes of the strategy are the foundations upon which subsequent delivery plans, programmes, initiatives and grant schemes will be created and delivered over the next five years.

These include:

- Establishing a new arts, culture & heritage forum that represents key stakeholders in order to improve collaboration and co-ordination of the sector development across the District.
- Creating networking opportunities between local culture, arts and heritage providers with health and education representatives to enhance opportunities for greater collaboration.
- Developing an outreach programme to provide arts, culture and heritage activities to local communities throughout the district.
- Growth of audiences and the participation of our citizens in arts, culture and heritage programmes and activities.

Developing the Active and Healthy Communities (AHC) Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022	Cross cutting	<p>When developing the AHC Business Plan consideration has been given to information provided by the Council's Evidence and Research Team in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>While the AHC Business Plan details positive actions for all the community, there are some specific actions which will directly positively impact on people living in the rural areas.</p>	
Developing an Active Travel Masterplan for the Newry, Mourne and Down district.	Cross cutting	<p>Social and economic needs identified included promoting transport which balances the needs of our environment, society and economy; that needs of the pedestrian should be foremost considerations in how places are planned and designed, the quality of the infrastructure contributing greatly to these ends; the need to support those in Newry, Mourne and Down who live in the least walkable and least cycleable parts of the district to become active and travel sustainably, spatial planning needs to deliver more people-oriented environments – higher density, mixed land-use, low-car developments with permeable street networks; and</p>	

considering access needs for those with protected characteristics, particularly those using non-standard and larger cycles, and those in wheelchairs.

The Active Travel Masterplan:

- details recommendations for Newry City, the towns of Warrenpoint, Ballynahinch, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton and smaller settlements across the district. The implementation of the recommendations are positive active travel changes for residents of the district regardless of where they are located.
- recognizes that the majority of the district is designated as rural and highlighted the difficulties with rural infrastructure.

Examples of some of the recommendations to take place in the rural areas include narrowing radial roads, widening footways on through roads as traditionally these type of roads are wide and providing controlled crossings and dropped kerbs for pedestrians. By doing so helps concerns regarding road safety.

The masterplan also acknowledges that there is traditionally a higher speed by vehicles in rural areas and smaller settlements rarely feature controlled pedestrian crossings. The masterplan recommends that these should be implemented in key destinations in rural areas.

Developing a Plan related to a Notice of Motion - Contactless Payment Solutions to tackle Homelessness

Cross cutting

For this proposal, consideration has been given to Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements which are as follows.	
Settlement Hierarchy	Newry, Mourne & Down Settlement Populations
Tier 1 City & Main Town	Newry (26,893) Downpatrick (10,874)
Tier 2 Local & Small Towns	Newcastle (7,743) Ballynahinch (5,715) Warrenpoint/Burren (8,721) Crossmaglen (1,608)

		<p>Should Council be minded to establish contactless payment points consideration must be given to the geographic locations of these to enable access for both rural and urban dwellers.</p> <p>Taking into account both Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements Council must give consideration to initially locating paypoints within a minimum of two settlements up to a maximum of 8 settlements.</p> <p>Decisions on the geographic location, and the number of paypoints within each settlement, should be underpinned by a projected cost / benefit analysis to implement and maintain.</p>
Developing the Mourne Gateway Project Strategy	Rural Tourism	<p>The project proposal is for the establishment of the Thomas Quarry Visitor Centre in the Mourne, with a Gondola/cable car uplift that will commence in Donard Park.</p> <p>Key issues considered included accessibility, transport provision and jobs and employment opportunities.</p> <p>The project will deliver:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased access to the Mourne by all abilities & age groups 2. The project will contribute to the Belfast Region City Deal's ambition to deliver a step change in the region's economic prosperity, help achieve a 15-year programme of inclusive growth, an increase of £470m Gross Value Added and create up to 20,000 new and better jobs, accessible to people from all communities. 3. The estimated economic benefits of the project include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 226 direct, indirect and induced jobs b. 251 construction jobs

Developing Corporate Communications Strategy 2021-2023	Internal	No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy.
Developing Corporate Digital Communications Strategy 2021-2023	Cross cutting	<p>The following data was extracted from NMDDC residents survey conducted in 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents in urban areas compared with rural areas were more likely to say they follow or engage with the Council via social media platforms (54% vs. 42%); 73% of rural residents support more services being available online compared to 54% of urban residents <p>Appendices I and II within pages 17 -34 of the Corporate Digital Communications Strategy 2021-2023 set out action plans, associated areas of work, activities and actions related to implementing the Social Media Short Term Strategy and the Development of the new Corporate Website respectively.</p>
Developing Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022	Cross cutting	<p>The Corporate Services Business Plan 2021-2022 is focused on recovery and identifying opportunities for recovery and transformation in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. It details positive actions for all the community through the delivery of internal structures.</p> <p>However, there are some specific actions which will directly positively impact on people living in the rural areas. Capital project delivery is an objective with the Corporate Services directorate and some of the proposed projects identified as needed will be delivered within rural areas.</p>
Revising Dealing with Changed Circumstances Policy	Internal	No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy.

		No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy.
Developing Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022	Cross cutting	<p>The Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 is focused on recovery and identifying opportunities for recovery and transformation in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.</p> <p>The delivery actions detailed in the business plan will impact all citizens of the district, regardless of where they live.</p>
Developing Non-Current Asset Procedures Policy	Internal	The procedures set out inward-facing internal requirements. No direct or indirect impact upon people living in rural or urban areas has been identified.
Reviewing Pavement Cafes Designation Policy	Internal	No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy.
Reviewing Pavement Cafes Enforcement Policy	Internal	No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy.
Developing a policy on Management of Bonfires on Council Land	Cross cutting	<p>Council's policy has been informed by the process to develop a Bonfire Management Framework which was part of a process led by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, supported by Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP (Policing & Community Safety Partnership) and other public agencies, to provide a local, bespoke framework for the management of bonfires in the District.</p> <p>No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.</p>
Designing a service in relation to a proposed Children Memorial Gardens Landscape Scheme	Cross cutting	The proposal is to establish two memory gardens, one within each health trust area, at Ross Monument, Rostrevor and The Quoil, Downpatrick. While the actual provision is not likely to impact people in rural areas differently than people in urban areas, it is acknowledged that all people will require access to a mode of transport to visit the memory gardens and will experience varying travel times.

Revising a policy - Council's Protocol for hearing of statutory referrals to committee	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Risk Management Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing a Risk Management Strategy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the strategy.
Revising Street Trading Designation Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Street Trading Enforcement Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Street Trading Mobile Licence Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Stall Design and Trading Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Street Trading Stationary Licence Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Street Trading Temporary Licence Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Temporary Road Closures on a Public Road for the Purpose of Holding a Special Event Policy	Rural Tourism	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing a Vehicle Fuel Management Policy	Internal	No social and economic needs specific to people in rural

NOTES

- 1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
- 2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
- 3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2022
Subject:	Statutory reporting – Commissioning letter from Department of Education for Report on Children Services Co-operation Act 2015
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

For decision		For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>Council received a commissioning letter from the Department of Education on 16 March 2022 seeking information from Council by 8 April 2022 for inclusion within a Report on Children Services Co-operation Act 2015.</p> <p>As the report is designed to be high level and strategic in nature the Department of Education requested Council provide up to a maximum of 3 priority Actions and associated information.</p>
1.2	The reporting template (appendix I) providing information on three Council initiatives; Youth Voice, the District Council Good Relations Fund and our Play Strategy, was completed and forwarded on 7 April 2022 to meet the requested deadline.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (CSCA), required the Northern Ireland Executive to adopt a strategy for children and young people. The Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) for the period 2020-2030 was adopted by the NI Executive on the 10 December 2020. The Strategy is the strategic framework through which all Northern Ireland Executive departments will improve the well-being of children and young people.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is listed in the Children's Services Co-operation Act (NI) 2015 as a designated 'children's authority'.</p> <p>A requirement of the Act is that the Executive reports to the Assembly on the delivery of the eight outcomes outlined in the CYPS and also specifically on how children's authorities have co-operated with each other and with 'other children's service providers' to achieve these outcomes. Other children's service providers are defined in the Act as, 'any person or body, of whatever nature, who provides a children's service or is engaged in activities which contribute to the well-being of children and young people'.</p>

	It is the responsibility of all children's authorities to provide input to the report within the remit of their children's functions. The Department of Education have responsibility to lead on the compilation of the report.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note completed submission to the Department of Education forwarded on 7 April 2022 by requested deadline of 8 April 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1 - Children's Services Co-operation Act Reporting – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix I – Children’s Services Co-operation Act Reporting – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response
8.0	Background Documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 • Department of Education Guidance on the Children’s Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 – Commissioning Guidance to Children's Authorities

37

Background: The Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (CSCA) , required the Northern Ireland Executive to adopt a strategy for children and young people. The Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) for the period 2020-2030 was adopted by the NI Executive on the 10 December 2020. The Strategy is the strategic framework through which all Northern Ireland Executive departments will improve the well-being of children and young people. It will be supported by a series of three year Delivery Plans setting out the Actions which will be taken to achieve the outcomes identified in the Strategy.

Action: Your organisation is listed in the CSCA as a 'children's authority' (see Annex 1 for full list). A requirement of the Act is that the Executive reports to the Assembly on the delivery of the eight outcomes outlined in the CYPS (see Annex 2) and also specifically on how children's authorities have co-operated with each other and with 'other children's service providers' to achieve these outcomes. Other children's service providers are defined in the Act as, 'any person or body, of whatever nature, who provides a children's service or is engaged in activities which contribute to the well-being of children and young people'.

Who is responsible for contributing to the Report: It is the responsibility of all children's authorities to provide input to the report within the remit of their children's functions. The Department of Education have responsibility to lead on the compilation of the report.

Criteria of the Report: The report is designed to be high level and strategic in nature. We are aware that many children's authorities provide a very wide range of policies, programmes and services to improve the well-being of children and young people. The goal of the CYPS and reporting process is to identify improvements which have been made in policies, programmes and services and in opportunities for improved cooperation, as well as any potential gaps.

We would therefore seek to **limit the content of the report** and ask that you provide **up to a maximum of 3 priority Actions** and associated information.

To provide your input please complete Tabs (1) Cooperation, (2) Pooling of Resources and (3) Gaps and Opportunities of this Excel Workbook. Should you have any questions or queries please contact paul.wright@education-ni.gov.uk or donna.mcdowell@education-ni.gov.uk in the Children and Young People's Strategy Team.

Please provide your contact details below and your completed response to irene.currie@education-ni.gov.uk by close of business Friday 8 April 2022.

Children's Authority:	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Contact Name:	Colin Moffett
Contact Email:	colin.moffett@nmandd.org
Contact Telephone:	7951831086

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2022
Subject:	Annual report for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 on requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background																
1.1	<p>Requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property fall within the scope of the following Council policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy on naming Council facilities• Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property• Policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property <p>Applications are administered as per each policy’s specific agreed guidelines and associated procedure.</p>																
1.2	<p>During the reporting period Council received seven applications; four related to the policy on naming Council facilities, one related to the policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property and two related to the policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property.</p>																
1.3	<p>The following table sets out details related to the applications received during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022:</p> <table><tr><th>Applicant</th><th>Relevant Policy</th><th>Detail of request</th><th>Decision</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property</td><td>To plant a tree at The Links Playing Field, Strangford to recognise the 40th anniversary of Strangford Football Club</td><td>Approved</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Policy on naming Council facilities</td><td>To place an information panel within the grounds of Norman Brown Park outlining ‘details of the life and achievements of Norman Brown’</td><td>Approved</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Policy on naming Council facilities</td><td>To locate a ‘chatty bench’ in Crossmaglen Square</td><td>Approved</td></tr></table>	Applicant	Relevant Policy	Detail of request	Decision	1	Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property	To plant a tree at The Links Playing Field, Strangford to recognise the 40 th anniversary of Strangford Football Club	Approved	2	Policy on naming Council facilities	To place an information panel within the grounds of Norman Brown Park outlining ‘details of the life and achievements of Norman Brown’	Approved	3	Policy on naming Council facilities	To locate a ‘chatty bench’ in Crossmaglen Square	Approved
Applicant	Relevant Policy	Detail of request	Decision														
1	Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property	To plant a tree at The Links Playing Field, Strangford to recognise the 40 th anniversary of Strangford Football Club	Approved														
2	Policy on naming Council facilities	To place an information panel within the grounds of Norman Brown Park outlining ‘details of the life and achievements of Norman Brown’	Approved														
3	Policy on naming Council facilities	To locate a ‘chatty bench’ in Crossmaglen Square	Approved														

	4	Policy on naming Council facilities	To locate a 'chatty bench' at Creggan lawns	Approved
	5	Policy on naming Council facilities	To name the green/park in Crossgar as ' <i>Bassetts' Field</i> '	<p>Refused based upon the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council does not accept requests to memorialise a deceased person (or family). • Having checked historical records, the panel did not establish this as a specific unique geographical location.
	6	Policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property	Request to erect a mural at Ardmore Avenue Play Park	Approved
	7	Policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property	To locate an artwork in the main lobby or in the small meeting room of Saintfield Community Centre	<p>Refused based upon the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Council's Guidelines and associated procedure in relation to the policy the request was forwarded to members of the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group (Stage 1). • The Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group believed the request merited discussion and the application proceeded to Stage 2 - Consideration by Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group. • At Stage 2 of the process a request must receive unanimous approval from the Councillors present at the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group meeting to progress to Stage 3 for appraisal and assessment. • At Stage 2, following consideration and discussion at a meeting of the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group the application did not receive unanimous approval.

2.0	Key issues
2.1	No issues have been identified.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to note Annual report for the 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 period on requests related to naming Council facilities, plant trees and locate artworks/sculptures on Council property
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2022
Subject:	Response to Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel's Recommendations Report
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The Department for Communities is taking forward the development of an Irish Language Strategy which is a New Decade, New Approach commitment. Minister Hargey established an Expert Advisory Panel with representatives from across academia and the Irish language sector to produce a recommendations report to help inform a strategy.</p> <p>A call for views was launched alongside the publication of the Expert Advisory Panel Recommendation Report. The attached response (appendix I) was completed on the template and submitted to meet the deadline for responses of 29 April 2022.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>The Expert Advisory Panel Recommendation Report presents recommendations in relation to five key sections: Vision and Context; the basis of any Irish Language Strategy; Aims, Objectives and Outcomes; Action Areas; Implementation. Within the Actions Areas section, the report further outlined a number of recommendations organised into nine key themes: Irish Language Legislation and Status; Public Services; Education; Irish Language Transmission in the Family – Early Intervention; The Irish Language and the Community; Young People; Media, Publications and Technology; Economic Life; Research.</p> <p>Following analysis of the responses received, the Department for Communities will publish a report on the departmental website, which will outline feedback received and the next steps. This will also feed into the development process for a draft strategy.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the response (appendix I) to the Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel's Recommendations Report which was submitted to meet the deadline for responses of 29 April 2022.
4.0	Resource implications

4.1	This is a consultation response - no financial or resource implications are anticipated.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices

	Appendix I – NMDDC response to Department for Communities call for views on expert advisory panel Irish Language Strategy recommendations
8.0	Background Documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMDDC Irish Language Strategy • NMDDC Bilingualism Policy • NMDDC Bilingualism Procedures • Guidelines for the use of Irish Language in NMDDC • NMDDC Equality Scheme • NMDDC Brand Identity Guidelines • NMDDC Development Naming Postal Numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy and Procedures V2 Nov 19 • The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995 • Section 75 of the NI Act 1998

Opens: 00.00 7 March 2022

Closes: 23:59 29 April 2022

Contact

Language Strategies Team

Department for Communities

Tel: (028) 9082 3118

LanguageStrategiesTeam@communities-ni.gov.uk

Call for Views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel's Recommendations Report

Overview

A Call for Views has been launched alongside the publication of the Expert Advisory Panel Recommendations Reports. The information gathered will help inform the development of two new draft strategies led by the Department for Communities:

- (i) an Irish Language Strategy; and
- (ii) an Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy

There is a commitment under the New Decade, New Approach agreement to adopt the principals and practice of citizen and community engagement, co-design and coproduction during the development and delivery of both strategies. In addition, Section 28D of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) commits to the development of both strategies, and will enhance and protect the development of the Irish language and enhance and develop the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture.

Minister Hargey established two Expert Advisory Panels to bring

together a wide range of academic and community experience for the purpose of providing recommendations that the strategies should seek to address.

Why are we doing this survey?

Thank you for your interest in taking part in this survey. We are interested in hearing the public's views on the Recommendations Reports produced by the Expert Advisory Panels. This information will be of great assistance and will be used to help us develop the Irish Language Strategy and Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy.

Each survey is open to individuals aged 16 and above and everyone is welcome to complete one or both. For those aged under 16, we are asking our partner organisations to facilitate targeted focus group discussions.

What does my participation involve?

There are no right or wrong answers; please give as honest an opinion as you feel able.

All responses to the questions will be totally anonymous and no-one will know that you participated. We do not ask for your name at any point (except for your email address if you want a copy of your response). We will, however, ask about some of your characteristics (e.g. age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc.) as it is helpful for us to understand the views of individuals from a range of demographic backgrounds. These questions are, however, voluntary and there is

no pressure on anyone to answer them.

Why your views matter

Your views are being sought in order to inform the development of the new draft Ulster-Scots language, Heritage and Culture Strategy and the Irish Language Strategy.

It is advisable to read the Call for Views document prior to completing the survey.

The information you provide in completing this survey will be controlled and processed in line with Data Protection Legislation by the DfC and its Communications Unit. To find out more about how we handle your personal information, DfC's Privacy Notice can be viewed online at [DfC Privacy Notice](#).

Further Information

In responding to this review please do not submit any sensitive personal data or information. You are under no obligation to provide personal details in responding to this review.

We will only use your information for the purposes of analysis of feedback in responding to this review.

Thank you for participating.



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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2022 Call for Views

The Irish Expert Advisory Panel's Recommendations Report

WRITTEN RESPONSES

Part A – EAP Recommendations in relation to Vision & Context – provides the context for an Irish Language Strategy.

Question 1 - What are your views on this section?

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council welcome the recommendations in relation to vision and context which sets out matters related to protecting, promoting and enhancing Irish language and Irish language community development. These are complementary to the strategic objectives and positive actions within our Council's Irish Language Strategy and Bilingualism Policy.

This section sets out ambitious 20-year targets of 500,000 people having a knowledge of Irish language, and 20,000 people have Irish as their main language and people use Irish on a daily basis.

Given the subjective nature of this terminology and the use of Census it may be useful to provide an explanation as to what will constitute people 'having a knowledge of Irish' and what designates using Irish on a daily basis i.e. where and with whom.

Evidence-based decision-making must be central to designing positive actions and the strategy's vision should seek to move beyond 'creating an environment of tolerance' (A.5).

While the Expert Advisory Panel recommends the strategy creates opportunities for everyone in the community to contribute to this positive future, given the statistics provided in A.10 and A.11 it will be a challenge to positively and meaningfully engage with people from a Protestant community background to build confidence, support and consensus.

Section A.15 should reference the more recent National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23.

Part B – EAP Recommendations in relation to the Basis of any Irish Language Strategy – provides context in relation to recent Irish language legislation which could inform an Irish Language Strategy.

Question 2 - What are your views on this section?

This section provides a comprehensive context.

Part C – EAP Recommendations in relation to Aims, Objectives and Outcomes – details various targets and goals for the Strategy.

Question 3 - What are your views on this section?

While the section sets out aims, objectives and outcomes it would benefit from greater detail as to the monitoring metrics which will be used to review progress.

In addition, consideration should be given to collecting data relevant to the Section 75 equality categories, in particular that related to religion, political opinion and ethnic origin to analyse information related to community background, national identity and unionist/nationalist community participation and engagement.

Council, in particular, supports the development of local Irish language plans and initiatives (objective 10) and agrees that there should be quarterly core funding for the Irish language voluntary sector in Northern Ireland (objective 15).

In relation to objective 17, while it is important to tackle bias within policies, in relation to implementing, '...positive language campaigns opposing oppressive opinions...' this must be delivered within the context of promoting free speech.

Part D – **EAP Recommendations in relation to Action Areas**
– outlines a number of recommendations within 9 action areas.

[Please note: questions on each Action Area are found later in this survey]

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council concurs with the nine action areas under seven key themes.

Part E – EAP Recommendations in relation to Implementation – proposes the creation of three groups to oversee the enactment of the recommendations.

Question 4 - What are your views on this framework?

Local Government, in particular Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, Derry City & Strabane Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid-Ulster Council have played an important strategic role and implemented good practice policies, plans and initiatives to facilitate, encourage and mainstream bilingualism within their organisational structure and the development of Irish language and Irish language communities within their districts.

Taking account of the expertise and experience within the local government sector consideration should be given to including representation of this sector within the Strategic Delivery Group.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Irish Language Legislation and Status.**

Question 5.1 - What are your views on these recommendations?

The New Decade, New Approach (NDNA) deal represented a fair and balanced basis upon which to restore the Stormont institutions. Accordingly, the first stage must be the introduction of the agreed NDNA legislation. This legislation should be equality screened to assess its impact upon promoting equality of opportunity and good relations.

Section 1.15 misunderstands the role of the Equality Commission and the interpretation of the Section 75(2) statutory duty requirements that public authorities must have regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations in the delivery of their functions.

Council acknowledges the European Charter is an unincorporated treaty which does not set out individual rights for speakers of minority languages and supports its adoption into domestic legislation.

Sections 1.23 and 1.24 in terms of language standards and services seeks to influence future standards. However, this is a role for the Irish Language Commissioner whose main function will be to protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities by providing advice and guidance, and introducing, supporting and monitoring the use of best practice language standards.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Public Services**.

Question 5.2 - What are your views on these recommendations?

As required under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998, all the recommendations should be equality screened to assess their impact upon the Section 75 statutory duties to have due regard to promoting equality of opportunity and regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations.

While Newry, Mourne and Down District Council currently utilises Irish language objective justification principles in relation to recruitment and selection and has an Irish Language Unit (3 Officers), a Bilingualism Policy, Bilingualism Procedures for Employees, an Irish Language Strategy and a simultaneous translation system for meeting, it must be acknowledged not all public bodies will be at the same stage of development.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Irish Language Commissioner act in a proportionate and reasonable manner when reviewing and approving plans.

In addition, given the current organisational resources and current bilingual competence of employees, consideration should be given to implementing an approach which embraces progressive realisation.

Setting service delivery, policy making, operational, promotion and record keeping standards with annual monitoring and reporting compliance will provide direction and clarity for public services. Currently, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council report to the Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group on the implementation of its Irish Language Strategy.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Education**.

Question 5.3 - What are your views on these recommendations?

Council is supportive of these recommendations.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Language Transmission in the Family – Early Intervention.**

Question 5.4 - What are your views on these recommendations?

Language transmission within the family and early intervention initiatives have an important role to play in encouraging growth in the number of Irish language speakers and the development of sustainable Irish language communities. The proposed recommendations have potential to make a positive impact directly and indirectly.

EAP recommendations in relation to **the Irish Language and the Community**.

Question 5.5 - What are your views on these recommendations?

Building a shared community continues to be an action as Northern Ireland moves from peace keeping to peace building. It is important that the new Programme for Government embraces the NDNA recommendations as a cornerstone of this process.

Local plans for the Irish language with specific initiatives will play a positive role in developing cohesive and vibrant Irish language communities. Greater support and visibility in relation to Irish language and the arts will also make a valuable contribution to creating greater choice, and preserving and growing the Irish language cultural offering within the arts sector in Northern Ireland.

Maintaining funding and resources for specialist resources centres is critical. The Irish language community within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has benefited from the work of such centres as Gaelaras Mhic Ardghail based in Newry.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Young People**.

Question 5.6 - What are your views on these recommendations?

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, through its Irish Language Strategy, currently delivers an Irish language bursary scheme of £50,000 for individuals seeking to attend Irish language courses. This is open to people of all ages and is not confined to Gaeltacht summer colleges.

While it is accepted scholarships to Gaeltacht summer colleges are an effective method for young people to learn and use the Irish language, the Department for Communities should give consideration to widening opportunities to bursaries for people of all ages who may be interested in attending courses.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Media, Publications and Technology**.

Question 5.7 - What are your views on these recommendations?

Council is supportive of these recommendations.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Economic Life**.

Question 5.8 - What are your views on these recommendations?

As stated previously, Local Government, in particular Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, Derry City & Strabane Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Mid-Ulster Council have played an important strategic role and implemented good practice policies, plans and initiatives to facilitate, encourage and mainstream bilingualism within their organisational structure and the development of Irish language and Irish language communities within their districts.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has an Irish Language Unit (3 Officers), a Bilingualism Policy, Bilingualism Procedures for Employees, an Irish Language Strategy and a simultaneous translation system for meetings.

In relation to services and signage (including street signage), Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has agreed Brand Identity Guidelines and a robust policy with regard to managing requests related to the erection of dual language nameplates.

Council concurs that any future strategy should address the specific needs and opportunities associated with special development areas and cultural tourism.

EAP recommendations in relation to **Research**.

Question 5.9 - What are your views on these recommendations?

Council is supportive of these recommendations. Evidence and research must be a bedrock to enable long-term evaluation of the effectiveness of any future strategy and the associated policies.

Question 6 – Do you have any further views on this report?

Thank you for completing this Call for Views

Your response should be sent by email to CallforViews@communities-ni.gov.uk or by post to the address below by 11.59pm 29 April 2022. *[Please note that if you opt to email your response this information will be transferred across the internet which could result in your personal information being compromised].*

Call for Views

Language Strategies Team

Department for Communities

1-7 Bedford Street

BELFAST

BT2 7EG

A range of alternative formats are available upon request from this Department. Please telephone 028 9082 3118 or write to the address above.

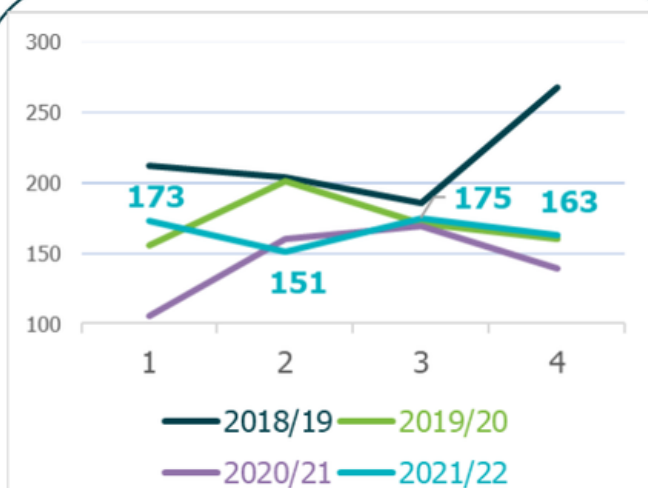
Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	12 May 2022
Subject:	2021/22 FOI/EIR/DP/RM monitoring statistics
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration)
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Edel Cosgrove Head of Compliance

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

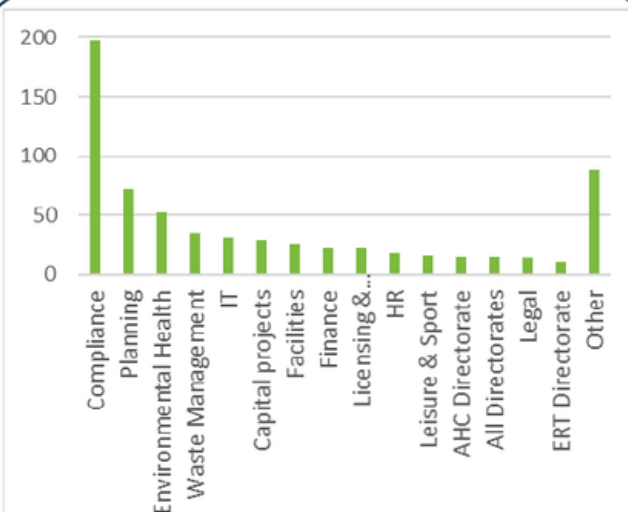
	For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p>The purpose of this paper is to present the monitoring statistics for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 in relation to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 662 requests for information (RFI) received to Council and processed under either the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018; and Internal Records Management project. 		
1.2	<p>14 Breach Reviews are also included within the 662 count for FOI/EIR/DP RFI. Breach reviews are conducted in line with Council's Breach Management Plan. They ascertain if there has been a breach in Data Protection, capture learning to enhance compliance of the legislation and whether Council needs to inform the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Details of each individual breach are reported in the Corporate Services Quarterly Assurance Statement under the section risks realised.</p>		
1.3	<p>Analysis for FOI/EIR/DP RFI commenced in the 2018/19 financial year. 2020/21 was the first year we reported progress on our Records Management work. See section 8 for background information.</p>		
1.4	<p>Council was invited by the ICO to submit a case study for their accountability framework webpage, marking a key achievement during the reporting period.</p>		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<p>The collection and reporting of this information will enable Council to establish trends in requests for information and records management, allocate resource and determine staff training needs.</p>		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	<p>Councillors are asked to note the monitoring statistics.</p>		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	<p>None.</p>		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		

5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>N/A</p>

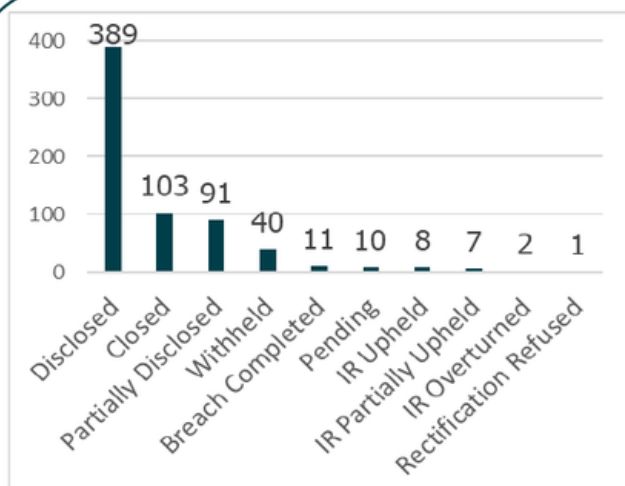
7.0	Appendices
	FOI/EIR/DP and Records Management monitoring statistics.
8.0	Background Documents
	<p>Access to Information Policy and Procedure (presented to the Committee on 13 June 2019, pages 220 – 252).</p> <p>A copy of the 2018/19 statistics was presented to the Committee on 13 June 2019 (page 219)</p> <p>2019/20 statistics on 11 June 2020 (page 234).</p> <p>2020/21 statistics on 13 May 2021, (page 45), commencing collecting Records Management statistics.</p>



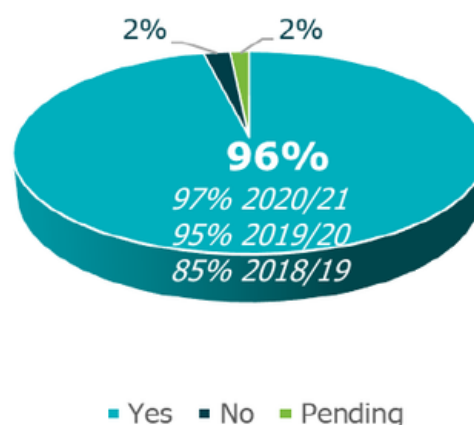
Number of annual requests for information from 1 April – 31 March 2022 per quarter.



Number of requests for information from 1 April – 31 March 2022 per lead Department.



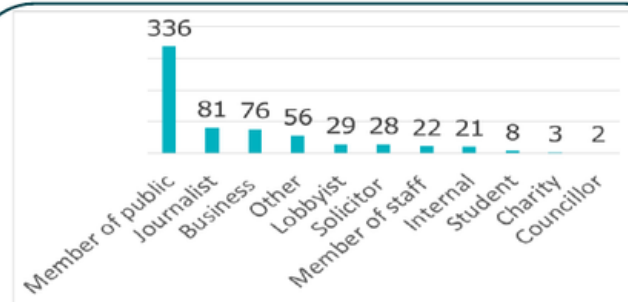
Decisions on the number of requests for information from 1 April – 31 March 2022.



Percentage of requests for information from 1 April – 31 March 2022 responded within the deadline.

Most common reasons for withholding information:

- Personal information of a third party
- Information already publicly available
- Manifestly unreasonable



Type of Requester from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2022

217
FOI

292
EIR

138
DP

Number of requests for information from 1 April – 31 March 2022 per regime.

Number of Data Breach reviews conducted from 1 April – 31 March 2022.

14



Number of ICO complaints from 1 April – 31 March 2022:

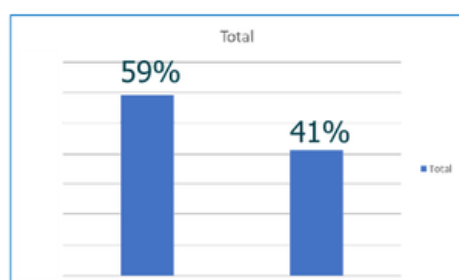
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Annual comparison on Confidential Waste Disposal:

Year	Collections	Cost	Weight (approx.)	Trees Saved
2019/20	35	£10,500.43	7200 kg	119*
2020/21	8	£40.00	13000 kg	221
2021/22	7	£518.06	7200 kg	122.75*

**Although the same weight, the difference in figures is due to different calculations applied*

Functional Classification Scheme



41% of business areas have commenced development of their functional classification scheme

Retention and Disposal

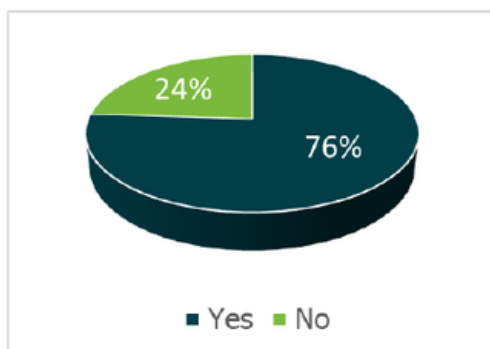
New Retention and Disposal Schedule approved by:

Council on 10 January 2022,

Department for Communities 23 March 2022;

Laid before the NI Assembly 24 March 2022 and awaiting ratification.

Audit of Information



7 business areas added 18 new or updated privacy notices to their audit data.

5 business areas added 9 new or updated Data Sharing Agreements.

98% of teams contacted have completed the requested changes to their section of the Council website.

76% of business areas have completed their audit of information during 2021/22

Data Cleanse

As part of the ongoing data cleanse, the Records Management Team have catalogued over 5,400 corporate files from both legacy Councils to assist in departmental disposition.

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting
held on Monday 9th May 2022, 10.00am
Hybrid: Council Chamber, Newry & MS Teams**

In Attendance:

Programme Board Members

Councillor Roisin Mulgrew – Chair
Councillor Gary Stokes
Councillor Pete Byrne (Teams)
Councillor Glyn Hanna (Teams)
Councillor Gavin Malone (Teams)

NMDDC Officials

Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Adrian Grimshaw, Project Director
Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment & Regeneration
Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Caolain Boyd, Assistant Director, Estates & Capital Projects
Anthony McKay, Chief Planner (Teams)
Andy Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism Culture & Events (Teams)
Tracie McLoughlin, PA

External Members

Damian Mulholland, Dept for Communities (Teams)

Also Attending:

Angela Reavey, Capaxo
Darren Price, TetraTech
Adrian McNaughton, TetraTech

Apologies

Dorinnia Carville
Michael Lipsett
Cllr Casey
Cllr Taylor

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Angela Reavey, Darren Price and Adrian McNaughton who would present on the Albert Basin Park Project.

EXEMPT ITEMS

The following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of 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).

NCCR/115 Presentation: Albert Basin Park Project Outline Business Case

Mr Darren Price and Mrs Angela Reavey presented a summary of the Newry Park Outline Business Case. The presentation covered executive summary, design options, capital and revenue costs, social and value analysis, programme and funding.

Mr Price/ Mrs Reavey identified Option 4 'Design Option B' as the highest scoring option, and the associated outline design proposals for this option were presented.

Cllr Glynn Hanna noted he was content with the proposed option 4B but said he was concerned about the potential disturbance of canal sediment arising from construction works and associated contamination pathways.

Mr Price acknowledged the potential contamination risk, and the need to protect against this contamination occurring. Mr Rice noted in-channel works proposed with design option 4B were minimal, with in-channel works focussed to the water sports area and that no dredging was proposed. Mr Rice noted all contamination pathway risks would need to be addressed pre-works with agreement of relevant agencies such as NIEA, Loughs Agency and DFI Rivers.

Cllr Hanna enquired as to water quality in the canal. Mr Rice said he did not have that information at this stage. The Chairperson advised that as a new member on the Programme Board he could contact the Officers for a further response to this query.

Cllr Pete Byrne thanked the team for the presentation and was content to propose option 4B, Cllr Byrne noted this option included the dedicated water access and main plaza that were needed as a first phase. Cllr Byrne noted the proposed car parking provision, and that car parking provision needs to be considered in the wider car parking and transportation strategy for the city.

Cllr Byrne queried the OBC approval timeframe proposed, and why the programme showed 2 to 3 years until works began, and queried if the NI Executive wasn't functioning during this period, could the OBC still be signed off by the Department.

Mr Damian Mulholland responded to Cllr Byrne's queries noting the Department would review the OBC as quickly as possible once received. Mr Mulholland noted Departmental funding was scheduled against a 3 year timescale, but the various approvals required and time to complete works proposed showed a worst case 5/6 year delivery timescale. Mr Mulholland committed to speak with the Dept of Finance regarding the delivery timescale.

The Chairperson said she agreed with Cllr Byrne on both the timeline questions, and that car parking is a key issue. The Chairperson also asked Officers if additional funding had been identified at this stage. Cllr Byrne also enquired as to potential additional funding sources, such as shared Ireland funding for infrastructure and greenways given the Newry Park linkages.

Mr Conor Mallon confirmed Interreg funding had been secured for the greenway towards County Lough and that Officers were also working with Louth County Council to identify opportunities to apply for funding under the shared Ireland fund.

The Chairperson confirmed that all elected members in attendance supported the recommendations in the report to proceed to the agree the Outline Business Case report and recommend approval to SPR

The TetraTech and Capaxo representatives left the meeting.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Pete Byrne, seconded by Councillor Roisin Mulgrew and by Members in attendance it was agreed that:

- 1. Proceed with Option No.4 of the Albert Basin Park Project Outline Business Case;**
- 2. Officers seek approval from Strategic Policy & Resources Committee to submit the OBC to the Dept for Communities for consideration and approval;**
- 3. Officers seek approval from Strategic Policy & Resources (SPR) Committee to commence procurement for an Integrate Consultants team via the Central Government Consultant's Framework Agreement and that further detail on this be provided at the SPR Meeting scheduled 12th May 2022.**

NCCR/116 NCCR Programme Board Dashboard

- a) Programme Dashboard Report
- b) Programme Dashboard
- c) Risk Register
- d) Look Ahead Programme

On the proposal of Councillor Gary Stokes, seconded by Councillor Pete Byrne the NCCR Programme Board Dashboard items were accepted.

NCCR/117 Minutes of the Albert Basin Park Project Board Meeting held on 3rd May 2022

Members agreed to 'Note' the Minutes as circulated.

NCCR/118 Minutes of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project Board Meeting (NMD & BRCD+ projects) held on 3rd May 2022

Members agreed to 'Note' the Minutes as circulated.

NCCR/119 Theatre/Conference Contract Strategy

Mr Adrian Grimshaw presented the Theatre/ Conference Contract Strategy report.

Noting reference to the full height atrium within the report, Cllr Pete Byrne questioned whether stakeholder had approved the atrium design. Mr Grimshaw confirmed the report reflected the current design proposals including the full height atrium and stakeholders were considered supportive of this element of the design.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Gary Stokes, seconded by Councillor Roisin Mulgrew and by Members in attendance it was agreed that:

1. Approval is sought from the next Strategic Policy & Resources committee, that the RIBA stage 4 technical design for the Town Hall and connecting atrium structure are transferred into the Consultants scope.

NCCR/120

Cllr Byrne and the Chairperson requested Officers consider opportunities for a design information board design to be sited at Albert Basin alongside other media opportunities.

Mr Mallon confirmed preparations were being made for further media communications and consultation.

NCCR/121 Date for Next Meeting

Meeting to be arranged for end of July 2022.

This concluded the business of the Meeting. The Meeting ended at 11.30am

**Approved by Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board.
For Noting at the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee
Meeting 12th May 2022**