



January 14th, 2021

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on **Thursday, 14th January 2021 at 6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams**.

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

Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

Vice Chair: Councillor O Hanlon

Members: Councillor P Brown

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor S Doran

Councillor C Enright

Councillor H Gallagher

Councillor R Howell

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor H McKee

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor B Ó Muirí

Councillor M Savage

Councillor W Walker

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies & Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from SPR Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020

 *SPR-Action Sheet arising from 17 December 2020.pdf*

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### *Corporate Planning and Policy*

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## 4.0 Report on Notice of Motion – Racism

 *Report on Notice of Motion - Racism.pdf*

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## 5.0 Officer report on Notice of Motion – Northern Ireland 100 Years

 *Report on Notice of Motion - Northern Ireland 100 Years.pdf*

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### *For Discussion/Decision*

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## 6.0 Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting - 07.01.2021

 *Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting - 07.01.2021.pdf*

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### *For Noting*

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## 7.0 Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October - December 2020


 *Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period October - December 2020.pdf*

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 *Appendix I - Quarterly Screening Report October - December 2020.pdf*

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## 8.0 Local Government Circular 21/2020

 *LG Circular 21 2020 - Guidance to councils - Disposal of land at less than best price.pdf*

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## 9.0 DfC Land Cases - Guidance for Councils January 2021

 *DfC - Lands cases - Guidance for councils - January 2021.pdf*

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## **10.0 CANN Project P/T Officer Post**

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.

 **CANN PT Post.pdf**

**Not included**

## **11.0 Chief Executive and Corporate Service's Procurement Action Plan**

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.

 **CX and CS Procurement Action Plan Cover Report.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Copy of Copy of CS and CX Procurement Action Plan Jan 2021.xlsx**

**Not included**

## **12.0 Lands at Daisy Hill, Newry**

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.

 **Report re lands at Daisy Hill Newry.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Map - Daisy Hill Newry.pdf**

**Not included**

## **13.0 Letter of Comfort to Suffolk Coastal**

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.

 **Letter of Comfort.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Mr Clack 21.12.2020.pdf**

**Not included**

## **14.0 SIB Project Director - NCCR**

This Item is deemed to be restricted 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), and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ***SIB Project Director.pdf***

***Not included***

## **15.0 Parking Control Measures Inception Process**

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.

 ***Parking Control Measures Inception Report.pdf***

***Not included***

 ***Parking Charges - Appendix 1.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***

## **16.0 Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2020/21**

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.

 ***Treasury Management Mid-Year report 2020-21.pdf***

***Not included***

 ***Appendix 1 - Treasury-Management-Strategy 2020-21 - Mid Year Update.pdf***

***Not included***

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

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 Ken Montgomery  
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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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Colin Quinn  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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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 15 OCTOBER 2020**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/160/2020	Request to use Monaghan Row	It was agreed to proceed with reviewing the accommodation at Monaghan Row to determine if there is any current/future office space that could be used by the Trust and for officers to continue to liaise with the Trust on the assumption of receiving a commercial rent for the letting of office space	C Quinn	Awaiting decision of the Trust to proceed	N

**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – T U E S D A Y 1 D E C E M B E R 2020**

SPR/185/2020	Trade Union Dispute/Terms and Condition of Employment	<p>It was agreed to approve the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Members note the discussions which had taken place as set out in Appendices 1-4.</li> <li>That Members approve, in principle, for ratification at full Council, the MS proposal which would mean all Drivers and Loader/Operatives move onto the same JD with effect from 1st December 2020; based on the previously evaluated legacy Newry and Mourne District Council job descriptions LGV category C Driver (post 126) and Refuse Loader (post 189). The material impact of this would be that Refuse Operatives from the former Down Council will move from Scale 2 to Scale 3 and Refuse Drivers from the former Down Council will move from Scale 3 to Scale 4. Those working in the former Newry and Mourne Council area are already employed on Scale 3 &amp; 4 respectively. This will be agreed without prejudice to further discussions/negotiations in relation to the legal standing of the Down District Council Single Status Agreement.</li> <li>That Members agree, in principle, to make available the necessary resources through paid release; to support the delivery of the agreed programme of work to the end of March 2021 relating to negotiations on Terms and Conditions; which will be brought back through SPRC.</li> </ul>	D Carville/ M Ward	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Agreed</p>	N
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**ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – T H U R S D A Y 17 DECEMBER 2020**

SPR/188/2020	Action Sheets of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 12 November 2020 & Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2020.	It was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 12 November 2020 & Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 1 December 2020, be noted, and actions removed as marked with SPR/160/2020 - Request to use Monaghan Row and SPR/185/2020 - Trade Union Dispute/Terms and Condition of Employment to remain on the action sheet	D Carville/ M Ward/ C Quinn	Noted	Y
<b><u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u></b> <b><u>THIS ITEM ONLY</u></b>					
SPR/189/2020	Verbal update to Members on the Council Finances, Trade Union disputes and the Executives' restrictions announcement.	It was agreed to Council officers update to Members on the Council Finances, Trade Union disputes and the Executives' restrictions announcement.	D Carville/ M Ward	Noted	Y
SPR/190/2020	Newry Mourne and Down Corporate Plan 2021 - 2023	It was agreed that Members approve the draft Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2021-2023.	R Mackin	Approved	Y
SPR/191/2020	Action sheet for Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group meeting – 19 November 2020.	It was agreed to note the contents of the Action Sheet.	D Carville/ M Lipsett	Noted	Y
SPR/192/2020	Performance and Improvement Update	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	D Carville	Noted	Y



SPR/193/2020	Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 12.11.2020 & 10.12.2020	It was agreed to note the contents of the minutes.	D Carville/C Mallon	Noted	Y
<b><u>ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014</u></b>					
SPR/194/2020	Planning Advisory Consultant.	It was agreed that Members consider the report, and approve the extension of the Planning Advisory Consultant commission for a further 12 weeks at the cost indicated in the officer's report with a 3 month period review.	C Mallon	Approved	Y
SPR/195/2020	Covid-19 – Impact on Leisure Services Update.	It was agreed that Elected Members note the additional financial impact of Covid-19 on indoor leisure income, noting that membership discounts and extensions had been applied due to the pandemic. And consider and agree to approve officers to continue to make appropriate adjustments to these memberships based on COVID-19 restrictions for the remainder of the financial year.	M Lipsett/ P Tamati	Noted	Y
SPR/196/2020	Carlingford Lough Greenway	It was agreed that Council now proceed to take the necessary legal action, including potentially vesting the property to secure the required land title to allow the Carlingford Lough Greenway project to proceed.	F O'Connor	Agreed	Y
SPR/197/2020	Conacre agreements	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the issue of an Expression of Interest in respect of the lands listed in the officer's report which will include a minimum conacre licence fee as provided by the Council's Valuer. The Expression of Interest to be advertised once in a local paper available in the vicinity of the lands listed in the report. That Elected Members agree to Council entering into a Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of three years in respect of each of the lands listed.	F O'Connor	Agreed	Y

SPR/198/2020	Health Cash Plan.	It was agreed that Members support the continuation of the Employee Health Cash Plan through the alternative provider identified at 2.1.2; for the reasons outlined within 2.1-2.3 of the report.	C Miskelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/199/2020	PHA Report	<p>It was agreed that Members consider &amp; agree the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Members give approval for a further report be brought to SP&amp;R Committee prior to the end of the initial 3 months, to gauge if the testing facility is to remain in place for the remaining 3 months of the lease period (or potentially longer) and how this would impact on future council events at Albert Basin.</li> <li>• That Members give approval for a peppercorn rent to be received from PHA for this lease and that associated approval be sought from the Department for this sub-value disposal.</li> <li>• That Members give approval for the lease to agreed and signed in advance of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Departmental approval being received for this sub-value disposal;</li> <li>- and full Council approval of the SP&amp;R minutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	C Quinn	Agreed	Y
SPR/200/2020	Surplus Asset Update	<p>It was agreed that Elected Members note the content of the report and agree the following:</p> <p>3.2 - Play Area at Bleary Bungalows, Chancellors Road, Newry. Members approved to accept the offer listed as option 3 of the officer's report, with continued discussions with potential purchasers.</p> <p>3.3 - Daisy Hill Nursery, Carnagat Section, Daisy Hill, Newry. Members approved to proceed with Option 4 within this report and further proceed with Option 3, if necessary.</p> <p>3.4 - Land for No.13 and No.15 The Square, Ballynahinch, BT24 8AE (Steel Structure). Members approved for this site to remain on the open market in order to determine the level of interest from potential purchasers.</p> <p>3.5 - Members approval for the next stages of the conveyancing process listed in 3.2 and 3.3 to proceed immediately.</p>	C Quinn	Agreed	Y

SPR/201/2020	Multi – Council Tender provision of Insurance services for the Eastern Sub Region – Approval	It was agreed that Elected Members approve the appointment of Willis Tower Watson as per the 'Multi-Council Tender – Provision of Insurance Services for the Eastern Sub Region Exercise' for a 4 year term, with the contract to be reviewed prior to any extension following the initial 2-year period.	C Quinn	Agreed	Y
SPR/202/2020	Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 14 December 2020.	It was agreed to note the contents of the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 14 December 2020.	D Carville	Noted	Y

END

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Report on Notice of Motion – Racism
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	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:-

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p>The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Clarke came forward for consideration at Council Meeting on 5 October 2020:</p> <p><u>C/136/2020 Notice of Motion – Racism</u></p> <p><i>"That this Council recognises that racism is a scourge across this society. This Council further recognises the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; deplores the discrimination Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities face regularly; condemns racism in all its forms, and calls on this Council to work together with the sector; local BAME representative groups; schools and colleges; private businesses and public enterprises to ensure that this Council area becomes a racism free zone".</i></p> <p>Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6</p>
1.2	<p>The Motion was discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 23 October 2020.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that the notice of motion be forwarded to a meeting of the SP&amp;R committee and that Officers investigate available funding to develop a schools' programme to address the motion discussed.</p>
1.3	<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Shared Schools programme brings students from maintained and controlled schools together every year to explore a range of good relations issues. The programme engages with primary 6 to 2<sup>nd</sup> year secondary school students delivering a range of interactive activities.</p> <p>This year, a programme will be delivered virtually and will focus on the four key Good Relations Themes set out by The Executive Office below:</p> <p>4 Good Relations Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Shared Space</li> <li>• Our Safe Space</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Expression</li> <li>• Children and Young People</li> </ul> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has appointed a digital production company to produce 5 animations with Good Relations themes. (one for each of the above themes and an additional animation focussing on Cyber Safety for young people). Each video will include 10-15 minutes of a good relations theme outlined above, and 10-15 minutes of interactive content related to that theme. The animations will also be accompanied by an education digital resource pack to include instructions for teachers and activities for the young people. This will be made available to all schools in the district who wish to avail of it. The Programme will be completed by end of March 2021.</p>
<b>Sc</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>Council continues to undertake positive actions to meet its statutory duty obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to have due regard to promote equality of opportunity between people of different racial group and regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different racial group.</p> <p>Specific positive actions which seek to address barriers and acknowledge the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, include:</p> <p>I. <u>Ethnic Minority Support Centre</u></p> <p>In acknowledgement of the ongoing growth of migrant workers and ethnic minority community within the Newry and Mourne District Council area, the Council has continued to take forward projects aimed at addressing the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic residents.</p> <p>The key initiative was to maintain and further develop the Ethnic Minority Support Centre based in Newry, and advice clinics in Newry Housing Executive, Newry Citizens Advice Bureau and Downpatrick. This has encompassed a number of projects aimed at addressing the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic residents, providing advice and support, signposting of services, and examining the barriers to services and cultural awareness. Advice and information is available in English, Bulgarian, Polish, Lithuanian, Russian and Romanian.</p> <p>In 2019-2020 almost 2400 people availed of the service. The nationality of the clients requiring assistance were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 55% Roma from Romania and Bulgaria</li> <li>➤ 25% Polish Nationals</li> <li>➤ 15% Lithuanians, Latvians as well as Moldavian Nationals</li> <li>➤ 5% Syrian Nationals</li> </ul> <p>A number of initiatives were held in the 2019-2020. Approximately 400 people attended seven Information sessions on the EU Settlement Scheme at venues across the district in Newry, Newtownhamilton, Kilkeel and Newcastle. The purpose was to make migrant communities aware of mandatory EU Settlement Scheme registration.</p> <p>The centre has opened registration clinics and more than 200 individuals availed of guidance and support to secure pre-settled or settled status during the reporting period.</p>

	<p>With regards to work undertaken with the clients from the Roma community, language and literacy are the main issues being addressed with advice and guidance offered on support services available.</p> <p>In addition, 15 -20 people attend the weekly Arabic Clinic.</p> <p>II. <u>Financial assistance</u></p> <p>Continued the provision of a Good Relations and Minority Communities funding programmes for community groups and organisations to avail of for good relations initiatives in their local area.</p> <p>The Council's Minority Communities Fund has two distinct themes; Theme 1: Cultural Expression - This theme is for projects/initiatives that positively promotes minority community culture, tradition and identity, and Theme 2: Positively engaging minority communities - This theme is for projects/initiatives to build positive relations, raise awareness and understanding, address perceptions and promote respect for minority communities.</p> <p>III. <u>Council's Good Relation Programme and District Electoral Area Forums</u></p> <p>Council continues with the implementation of the Council's Good Relations Programme through the Good Relations Strategy. The Council's Good Relations Strategy complements the themes outlined in the Together Building and United Community Strategy and the policy context both locally and regionally. Many of the actions detailed with the action plan are addressed at a local level through the Council's seven DEA forums.</p> <p>In the 2019-2020 financial year each DEA forum was allocated a budget of £18,000 from the action plan to deliver good relations activities within their specific area.</p> <p>Examples of initiatives supported included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ cross community school's projects,</li> <li>➤ cultural diversity events,</li> <li>➤ crime prevention events for older people within the community,</li> <li>➤ youth recognition awards and</li> <li>➤ health and well-being events.</li> </ul> <p>The Good Relations action plan also supports several initiatives directly such as those related to the Traveller Community and the management of bonfires.</p> <p>Support for Travelling Community programmes is delivered through the Newry, Mourne and Down District Traveller Forum. The Traveller Forum aims to promote an inclusive and civil society in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area by championing Traveller rights and addressing current provisions for the Traveller community within the district. Four meetings were held in the 2019-2020 financial year and issues discussed included Traveller accommodation provision, youth initiatives and Traveller support.</p>
2.2	<p>As noted in 1.2, the Motion was discussed at a meeting of the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 23 October 2020</p>

	<p>Discussions centred upon the number of hate crime incidents; whether the motion should also include make reference to crime relating to sectarianism and its impact on society; and funding programmes within schools to address the racism.</p> <p>It was agreed the Motion to be forwarded to a meeting of the SP&amp;R committee and that Officers investigate available funding to develop a schools' programme to address the motion discussed.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	It is recommended that Council give consideration and agree to continue to recognise the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, note the planned schools' initiative and reaffirm its commitment to address racism in all its forms through its programmes and initiatives.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	The cost for the programme is £15,000. 75% of this cost will be funded by The Executive Office. Cost to Council is £3.750 (25%). This money has been allocated in the Council's Good Relations Action Plan and across the seven DEA action plans.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>



	<div> <div> Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div> Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/> </div> </div> <div> <i>Rationale:</i> </div>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	N/A
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Officer report on Notice of Motion – Northern Ireland 100 Years
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	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:-

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>		
1.1	<p>Following discussion at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group at its meeting on 8 January 2021 it was agreed that the following be tabled for consideration:</p> <p><u>Notice of Motion – Northern Ireland 100 Years</u></p> <p><i>"Next year 2021 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland. This holds great importance for many in our district Council area.</i></p> <p><i>This Council should recognise this, and in so doing provide financial support to mark this important Anniversary by establishing a Centenaries Funding Programme of £40,000 to be included in the first financial call for 2021/2022."</i></p>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Key issues</b>		
2.1	It was agreed that the Centenaries Funding Programme would be established for the 2021/2022 financial year only.		
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>		
3.1	It is recommended that Council give consideration to providing financial support to mark the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland and agree to establish a Centenaries Funding Programme of £40,000 to be included in the first financial call for 2021/2022.		
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>		
4.1	The additional financial resource in 2021/2022 for the proposed Centenaries Funding Programme is £40,000.		
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>		
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>		

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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	<b>Appendices</b>
	N/A

8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

## NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### **Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 2pm MS Teams/Chamber, Monaghan Row Newry**

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#### **In Attendance:**

##### Councillors

Councillor Roisin Mulgrew- Chair  
Councillor Pete Byrne  
Councillor Charlie Casey  
Councillor Gary Stokes  
Councillor David Taylor  
Councillor William Walker  
Councillor Gavin Malone

##### NMDDC Officials

Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism  
Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities  
Adrian Grimshaw, Project Director  
Anthony McKay, Chief Planner  
Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration  
Colin Quinn, Assistant Director, Estates and Capital Projects  
Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport  
Andy Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism Culture and Events  
Tracie McLoughlin, PA

##### External Participants

Catherine McInerney, Dept for Communities.

#### **Apologies:**

Damian Mulholland

#### **NCCR/39:- Minutes of Previous Meeting of Newry City Centre Regeneration Project Board held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Noted:** Minutes have been previously agreed by Members and  
noted at Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020.

**NCCR/40:- Programme Governance**

The Newry CCR programme governance arrangements have been updated as the circulated Version 8 dated 5th January 2021 to reflect the December 2020 Full Committees ratification that the 15acre Albert Basin Park project should sit within and align with the Newry CCR governance structure.

Members considered the contents of the report and appended governance arrangements, and accepted recommendation that the programme governance arrangements are tabled at the Strategy Policy & Resources Committee.

**Agreed:** It was agreed to Note the Report and on the proposal of Councillor G Stokes, seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to table the updated Governance Arrangements as part of the Board minutes at the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.

**NCCR/41:- Albert Basin Park Project Board**

Mr P Tamati advised it was recently agreed at Council Committee that the Albert Basin Task and Finish Working Group would be discontinued, and an Albert Basin Park Project Board established as a 6<sup>th</sup> Project under the NCCR scheme and governance structures.

The first meeting of the Albert Basin Park Project Board commenced on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with minutes of this meeting to be tabled at the next NCCR Programme Board in February 2021.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor G Stokes, seconded by Councillor C Casey and unanimously agreed, the following recommendations were approved:

1. An additional 150k is allocated to the Albert Basin Park project to:
  - a) Appoint Consultants as part of Councils Capital framework to assist Council in:
    - establishing a detailed specification for the appointment of an integrated design team and economists.
    - Develop an initial concept design with indicative high-level costings based on the public consultation and surveys to date.
  - b) Support any surveys and future expenses that may be incurred to progress the project to final design stage.

**NCCR/42:- Innovation Hub**

Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) are bringing forward an initiative that is proposing the implementation of a network of Innovation Spaces across the City Deal Region. An Outline Business case (OBC) has been completed for this regional proposal, which will enable Council to access funding in the region of £1.2 m for an innovation space facility in Newry City as part of the Newry City Centre Regeneration project, which also sits under BRCD.

Council commissioned Xpand Consultancy to complete a feasibility study to explore options for the creation of an innovation space as part of the Newry Regeneration project. The development of the Innovation Hub is a key requirement for the region to attract private sector investment, and Foreign Direct Investment

The Feasibility study considered 3 options for taking forward an Innovation Space, with option 3 the preferred option:

**Option 1 – Creation of an Innovation Hub in an independent space, that is built from scratch or incorporated into a location that has yet to be constructed**

**Option 2 - Host in Newry Theatre & Conference centre, however utilising current Design Proposal with Minimal Changes to Building Plans**

**Option 3 - Host in Newry Theatre & Conference centre, with the Hub Integrated into Centre at a Singular Location. This would require significant modification to Current Design Proposal**

**Timescales:**

- Regional Project Business Case to be submitted to Executive Board in January 2021 for consideration prior to commitment to UK Government for consideration
- Specific Outline Business Case for NMDDC Regional Innovation Hub required for submission thereafter

Cllr P Byrne referred to the Value Engineering Workshop held in Dec 2020 and asked that this information be considered when making decisions on reductions as part of the VE process.

**Agreed:                      On the proposal of Councillor G Stokes, seconded by Councillor C Casey and unanimously agreed, the following recommendations were approved:**

- a) Approve option 3 as outlined above to host the Regional Innovation Hub within Newry Theatre and Conference Centre, and to progress design integration into the facility
- b) To commission the completion of an Outline Business Case for NMDDC Regional Innovation Hub at a cost of 30k, which is required to access funding through the Belfast Region City Deal



- c) Consider these options when making decisions on reductions as part of the Value Engineering process.

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor R Mulgrew seconded by Councillor C Casey it was agreed that discussion on the following matter 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/43:- Consultation Facilitator (Exempt)**

Following closed session discussion, members unanimously agreed:

**Agreed** On the proposal of Councillor P Byrne, seconded by Councillor C Casey it was agreed to approve the appointment of a Consultation Facilitator following tendering process to the successful bidder in the tendered sum of £13,500.

### **NCCR/44:- NCCR Infographics**

**Agreed unanimously that the new infographic is used in all future communications**

### **NCCR/45:- AOB**

- a) C Mallon advised members that Officials to continue to have positive meetings with the Newry Parish representatives and met this week to present preliminary concept designs and proposals. Further details will be presented to the Parish reps at further meeting in 4-6 weeks.
- b) C Mallon suggested that 3 standing items per project be included in future NCCR Programme Board agendas:
  - Risk Register
  - Delivery Plan
  - Budget

Cllr Casey asked if the Covid Testing Centre currently based at Albert Basin would delay future plans for development. C Quinn advised this is being reviewed by SPR Committee every 3 months. The Chairperson Cllr Mulgrew asked that this item be placed on the Risk Register.

**Agreed:**                    **On the proposal of Cllr C Casey, seconded by Cllr G Stokes it was agreed that:**

**3 standing items be included in future NCCR Project Board agendas:**

- **Risk Register**
- **Delivery Plan**
- **Budget**

This concluded the business of the Meeting. The Meeting ended at 2.50pm

**Approved by Project Board on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**To be ratified at the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October - December 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	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:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
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.</p> <p>The Quarterly Report for the period October - December 2020, including screening reports, is available on Council's website <a href="http://www.newrymouredown.org">www.newrymouredown.org</a>. This information has also been forwarded to all equality consultees.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>As per the Council's approved Equality Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council's website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October - December 2020.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
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	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October - December 2020.
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme.

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report  
Quarterly Report October – December 2020**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Details of policy</b>	<b>Screening Outcome</b>
Corporate Social Media Policy	<p>The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with all social media communications activity. Its aims are to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective engagement with the public and successful promotion of the Council and its services through the use of social media.</li> <li>• A consistent and corporate approach is adopted and maintained in the use of social media.</li> <li>• Council employees are aware of, fully comply with and operate within existing policies, guidelines and relevant legislation.</li> <li>• The Council's reputation is enhanced and not damaged or adversely affected.</li> </ul>	No EQIA considered necessary
Replacement of Trojan Horse & upgrade of adjacent play park, Oriel Drive, Downpatrick	<p>Replacement of the Trojan Horse with a new brick build facility that will enable the local and surrounding communities to avail of a safe and friendly environment that will promote positive health &amp; wellbeing. This will be achieved through the ability to provide new and innovative programmes/projects that will also help improve education &amp; work skills and reduce levels of crime in the area.</p> <p>The upgraded play facility that will increase the number of children becoming involved in physical activity thus resulting in a healthier lifestyle. It will also help to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments</p>	No EQIA considered necessary



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

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Chief Executive of each District Council

Local Government & Housing  
Regulation Division  
Level 4  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Town Parks  
BELFAST  
BT2 7EG  
Phone: 028 9082 3387

Email: [lgprd.secretariat@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:lgprd.secretariat@communities-ni.gov.uk)

4 January 2021

Dear Chief Executive

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULAR 21/2020**

### **GUIDANCE TO COUNCILS - DISPOSAL OF LAND AT LESS THAN BEST PRICE**

Please find attached guidance to council staff on the disposal of land at less than best price and should be adhered to for all future lands cases applications.

This will also be placed on the Department for Communities website in the coming days as a Local Government Circular.

Yours sincerely

**ROBERT COUSINS**

**Local Government & Housing Regulation Division**





# Department for Communities (Northern Ireland)

## Guidance for District Councils

### Local Government Disposal of Land at Less Than Best Price

**Local Government & Housing Regulation Division**

**January 2021**



## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. District Councils in Northern Ireland on occasion have a business need to dispose of or lease a portion of its property or properties within their area of responsibility for a specific purpose which provides a benefit in serving the wider community.
- 1.2. Land & Property Services within the Department of Finance (DoF) have produced updated guidance for public sector organisations in a framework document called 'Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property in Northern Ireland (October 2018)'. This document provides useful guiding principles for public sector organisations (including district councils) in the disposal of land within their area of responsibility.
- 1.3. The legislative context for councils which provides these enabling powers is provided in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 – Part VII - Miscellaneous Functions – Land: 96 Acquisition, etc., of land.
- 1.4. This guidance is specifically aimed to assist council staff dealing with the Disposal of Land at Less Than Best Price and the processes which should be followed for specific cases where full council have agreed to dispose of or lease a particular area of land.
- 1.5. In cases where any other land related exchange is under consideration by council Local Government & Housing Regulation should be consulted for advice on what necessary steps should be followed to bring about the desired outcome. Such cases tend to fall into one of three other categories:
  - i. Acquisitions;
  - ii. Transfer of former local council properties; or
  - iii. Transfer of land/property between public sector bodies.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. The purpose of this guidance is to set out the processes to be used when a council wishes to dispose of land without charging the prospective recipient of that land the full market value.
- 2.2. All references throughout this guidance to land equally apply to land, property or buildings.
- 2.3. All references to the disposal (of land) applies equally to the
  - sale;
  - leasing, letting or granting in fee farm;
  - exchanging, giving or receiving money for equality of exchange;
  - surrender (if leasehold); granting a licence for use for any purpose or
  - for such purposes as are mentioned in the licence; or
  - granting (by way of sale, lease, letting or licence) any easement, profit or rightin respect of the land (as per section 45 the Interpretation Act (NI) 1954).
- 2.4. The Community Planning & Central/Local Government Relations team within DfC's Local Government & Housing Regulation Division is responsible for the policy, administration, advice and guidance on the disposal at less than best price of council land.
- 2.5. All Northern Ireland local councils should adhere to this guidance with regard to their approach to the disposal of land at less than best value ("market value").

### 3. LEGAL CONTEXT

- 3.1. A council may acquire and hold land for the benefit of the inhabitants of its district and for the improvement, development or future development of its district.
- 3.2. A council must seek the approval of the Minister to dispose of any land at less than best price or at less than best rent or otherwise on less than best terms that can be reasonably obtained.
- 3.3. District councils are granted authority in law to dispose of land under two main pieces of legislation:
  - Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 and in particular Section 45: References relating to land; and
  - Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and in particular Section 96: Acquisition, etc., of land.
- 3.4. This is the legal basis on which councils may dispose of land at less than best price after Ministerial approval has been granted.
- 3.5. The specific wording in Section 96(5) is, “The right of a council to dispose of land shall be subject to the following restrictions—
  - (a) except with the approval of the Ministry, any disposal of land shall be at the best price or for the best rent or otherwise on the best terms that can be reasonably obtained”.
- 3.6. Section 96(5) forms the basis for district councils to provide justification for a project and that disposal is for the well-being of the district.

## 4. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1. After the council has received internal approval from appropriate committee(s) and the matter has been ratified by full council, a letter of application should be drawn up covering broadly the following areas for departmental consideration.
- 4.2. Council applications should not be retrospective and should provide sufficient time for the department to process and seek permission from the Minister for approval.
- 4.3. The overall purpose of the project should be outlined, detailing the bodies involved and the benefits to the wider community. For example, it may be to expand recreation and youth services within the council area.
- 4.4. A standard application should be in letter form and include the following key areas of information:
  - Licence agreement, Deed of Dedication, Business case or leasehold agreement, depending on the nature of the project;
  - Copies of council meetings minutes where the decision was taken to proceed with the project;
  - Valuation report on the land. This should have been obtained within 6 months of the “application” and be independently verified. This is an important inclusion and should not be overlooked as approval has been previously delayed due to the absence of a recent land valuation;
  - Maps, where appropriate, as these are helpful in providing a visual representation of the area of land under consideration and scale etc;
  - Details of the lease period; this is important particularly where a lease is for a shorter term as council may need to revisit the project seeking a renewal of the approval once it expires. If this is the case the Department will notify the council of this requirement; and
  - Any other information deemed necessary and which may be unique in considering this type of application.
- 4.5. The entire application process should be via electronic scanning of documents and email communication. There is no need for councils to send hard copy versions to DfC. The details of each case including emails are electronically stored on the department’s storage system where access is restricted to limited numbers of staff authorised to deal with the case.

- 4.6. Upon receipt of the application, including all documentation deemed necessary to process the application, the Department will prepare a submission to the Minister, via senior management, for consideration.
- 4.7. The outcome of the application process will be communicated back to the council representative who made the original request.

## 5. CONTACT INFORMATION

5.1. Further information or enquiries regarding lands cases in general should be made in the first instance to:

Department for Communities  
Causeway Exchange  
Local Government & Housing Regulation Division  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG

By e-mail to [lgprd.secretariat@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:lgprd.secretariat@communities-ni.gov.uk) and marked for the attention of Piers Dalgarno.