

January 18th, 2024

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on Thursday, 18th January 2024 at 6:00 pm in Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre.

**Committee Membership 2023 - 2024**

Councillor S O'Hare **Chairperson**

Councillor C Enright **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor J Brennan

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor R Howell

Councillor T Kelly

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor L McEvoy

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor D Taylor

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from SPR Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2023

*For Approval*

 *Draft SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2023 12 14.pdf*

*Page 1*

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***Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014***

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## 4.0 Industrial Relations Update

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

Nora Largey - Belfast Legal Services in attendance

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### ***Notices of Motion***

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## 5.0 Kilbroney Park Pitches

 *SPR - Kilbroney Playing Pitches NOM - Jan 2024.pdf*

*Page 8*

 *Appendix Schedule 1 -13.pdf*

*Page 15*

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### ***Corporate Services***

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## 6.0 NCCR - Newry Flood Alleviation Scheme

*For Decision*

 *NCCR - Newry FAS.pdf*

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

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## 7.0 Use of Social Media – Mandatory Training

*For Decision*

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.

 **Use of Social Media - Mandatory Training.pdf**

**Not included**

## **8.0 Proposed Renewal of Lease at Milltown Playing Fields to Warrenpoint Tennis Club**

*For Decision*

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.

 **Proposed Renewal of Lease at Milltown Playing Fields to Warrenpoint Tennis Club.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Map for Lease to Warrenpoint Tennis Club NM275-G-1-03.pdf**

**Not included**

## **9.0 Proposed Renewal of Lease for Cabra Community Centre**

*For Decision*

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.

 **Proposed Renewal of Lease for Cabra Community Centre.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Lease Map For Cabra Community Centre.pdf**

**Not included**

## **10.0 Proposed Renewal of Lease at Meigh Community**

*For Decision*

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.

 **Renewal of Lease at Meigh Community Centre.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Lease Map for Meigh Playgroup SPR 18 Jan 24.pdf**

**Not included**

## **11.0 Local Government Training Group Arrangements and Contribution Fees**

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

📄 2024-01-18 LGTG SLA and Contribution Arrangements (002).pdf

*Not included*

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***Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014***

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## **12.0 Specific Delegated Function**

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 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). 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. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

📄 Specific Delegated Function.pdf

*Not included*

## **13.0 Pay Protection Policy**

*For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

- Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

📄 SPRC Pay Protection Arrangements.pdf

*Not included*

📄 Pay Protection Arrangements - v10 October 2023.pdf

*Not included*

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

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## **14.0 Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet 14th November**

## 2023

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.

📎 **SFWG Action Sheet 14.11.23final\_.pdf**

**Not included**

## 15.0 Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet 12th December 2023

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.

📎 **SFWG Action Sheet 12.12.23 final\_.pdf**

**Not included**

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### *For Noting*

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## 16.0 Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2023

*For Information*

📎 **Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period July - September 2023.pdf**

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📎 **Appendix I - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period October - December 2023.pdf**

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## 17.0 Planning Department Update

*For Information*

📎 **Planning Department Update.pdf**

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# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Mrs Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Mr Andrew Cassells

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Ms Marina Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Cllr Tierna Kelly

Cllr Cathal King

Ms Nora Largey (BCC)

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Mr Colin Moffett

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Kate Murphy  
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Cllr Selina Murphy  
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare  
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Cllr Áine Quinn  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Rice  
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Mr Peter Rooney  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
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Donna Starkey  
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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 Jill Truesdale  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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<b><u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023</u></b>					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/171/2023	Specific Delegated Function	It was agreed to defer the report to be re-presented at a future SPR Committee Meeting	M Ward	<b>The paper is to be re-presented at the January 2024 meeting.</b>	Y
<b><u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 14 December 2023</u></b>					
SPR/175/2023	Action sheet of SPR meeting held 16 November 2023	It was agreed to approve the action sheet.	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/176/2023	Draft Newry Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2024-2027	<p>It was agreed to approve the draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027 and to proceed to a 12 week public consultation.</p> <p>It was also agreed to include to reference the Climate Change Emergency more robustly within the Corporate Plan in line with the Sustainability section.</p>	C Moffett	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Amendments are being made to the draft corporate plan. A copy of the revised draft will be emailed to Members.</p>	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
PR/177/2023	Officer report on Notice of Motion - Leid Week	<p>It was agreed to note that the notice of motion had been considered and discussed at the Councillor's Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 20 November 2023 and that members of the Reference group were supportive of the notice of motion and the talk organised in Newry and Mourne Museum on 22 November 2023.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Council hold an event on Leid week every year.</p>	C Moffett	Agreed	Y
SPR/178/2023	Officer report on Notice of Motion - Crossgar's Titanic Victim	<p>It was agreed to approve the amended notice of motion had been considered and discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 20 November 2023 and that members of the Reference Group recommended Council should give consideration to the erection of an information panel in Crossgar and Forkhill referencing the Titanic, explaining Crossgar's link to the Titanic; and that the local community should seek to source funding and submit an application through the appropriate process to place a bench on Council property. Should Council agree to approve the Notice of Motion this will be progressed as per Council's Policy on Naming Council facilities.</p>	C Moffett	Agreed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/179/2023	S95 Audit and Assessment report 2023-24	It was agreed to approve the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment report 2023-24 (Appendix 2)	G Byrne	Agreed	Y
SPR/180/2023	Theatre Conference Revised elevations.	It was agreed to approve the recommendation of the NCCR Programme Board to formally submit the amended elevations for the project to the planning department, as set out in appendix 1 the report.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/181/2023	Mid Year Assessments of Directorate Business Plans 2023-24	It was agreed to approve the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid Year Assessment of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2023-24.</li> <li>Mid Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2023-24.</li> </ul>	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/182/2023	Off Street Car Parking: December 2023 Charging Arrangements	It was agreed to approve the decision made at Party Leaders meeting on Wednesday 6 December 2023 to suspend car parking charges in the Councils pay and display off-street car parks on Saturday 9, 16 and 23 December 2023.	A Cassells	Agreed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/183/2023	Report on Conference Attendance	It was agreed to refocus the Conference budget to reflect Elected Member Development and ensure any attendance at conferences was on the basis of benefit and learning for Council as recommended at Party Rep's meeting.	S Taggart	Agreed	Y
Items restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014					
SPR/184/2023	Extension of lease in respect of Rosconnor Pavillion Playing Fields, Annacloy, Downpatrick	It was agreed to extend the term of the Lease noted in the report by 25 years subject to Departmental Consent.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/185/2023	Renewal of Lease of office Space at Downshire Civic Centre to Probation Board	It was agreed to approve to grant a further lease in respect of the lands shaded red and green to the party noted in the report for a period of five years subject to a market rent to be determined by Council's valuer and subject to the payment as set out in the officer's report towards the costs of removing and reinstating Council's recording equipment.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/186/2023	Renewal of Lease of office Space at Downshire Civic Centre to Youth Justice Agency	It was agreed to approve to renew the lease in respect of the lands coloured red on the map attached to this report with the party noted in this report for a period of five years subject to market rent to be determined by Council's valuer.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/187/2023	Renewal of lease of lands at Cranfield Beach, Kilkeel	It was agreed to approve to enter into a lease in respect of the lands at Cranfield Beach as outlined in red on the map attached to this report for a term of 5 years from 14th September 2021 subject to the annual rent as set out in this report.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/188/2023	Renewal of Stationery and Office Supplies Framework.	It was agreed to approve, that from the expiry of the current Framework Agreement, Council participate in a new 4 year direct award Framework Agreement as set out in the officer's report, from 1 April 2024 for stationery and office supplies.	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/189/2023	NCCR – Professional Fees update.	It was agreed Elected Members note the Compensation Events approved in accordance with the provisions of the NEC Professional Services contract and approve the updated professional fees for the project.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/190/2023	Industrial relations briefing paper	<p>It was agreed to approve option A with any officer papers in relation to Trade Union negotiations coming forward to Committee to be provided to Trade Unions prior to the meeting, with the caveat that any legal or financial information be exempt under the usual rules.</p> <p>It was agreed to advance the proposals in relation to option B to establish if there was the potential for terms of reference that would ensure it protects the governance of the Council and the role of Councillors.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Members meet with Belfast legal services before the next SPR Committee Meeting in January in relation to this matter.</p> <p>It was further agreed to accept the proposed LRA Conciliation Agreement as shown at Appendix 1 of the officer's report. It was also agreed that Members accept the financial and resource implications as set out in section 4 of the officer's report.</p>	C Mallon	<p><b>Agreed</b></p> <p><b>Meeting with Belfast legal services scheduled.</b></p>	Y
SPR/191/2023	The Newry City Park: ICT Appointment	It was agreed to approve to appoint an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) for The Newry Park Project as per the cost outlined in section 4.1 of the report.	C Boyd	<b>Agreed</b>	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SPR/192/2023	Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on Friday 8th September 2023	It was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Project Board Meeting held on Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2023.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
END					

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resource (SPR) Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Kilbroney Playing Pitches - NOM
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport Caolain Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital and Estates
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport Caolain Boyd, Assistant Director: Capital and Estates

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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## 1.0 Purpose and Background

1.1

The purpose of this report is for SPR Committee to note the contents of this report and agree the recommendation outlined in section 3.1 of the report.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 the following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Tinnley.

*"This Council shares the frustration and disappointment of the wider Crotlieve football & sporting fraternity, that almost three years after a planning application was submitted to upgrade the existing playing pitches @ Kilbroney Park, information remains outstanding that would allow the planning department to complete their deliberations and bring forward a recommendation."*

*"Council remains very concerned at the unacceptable delay and inertia that has enveloped this process throughout 2023 and the inability of the project managers to progress the application to the stage where the planning department can conclude their work."*

*"Council notes the latest correspondence on the planning portal dated December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, between the planning department and the project managers and agrees that an intervention from elected members is both appropriate and necessary to help break the logjam."*

*"Council now instructs the project managers to withdraw the pavillion/changing room element from this current application and to immediately provide the remaining outstanding information as requested by the planning department so a recommendation regarding the upgrading the pitches themselves can be made without further delay."*

*"Furthermore, project managers will immediately seek to identify an alternative site for the pavillion and will submit a separate planning application for a pavillion within three months of this meeting."*

*"Project managers will also provide a monthly update to council regarding the other outstanding matters as requested by the planning department."*

### **Kilbroney Playing Pitches Capital Project: Governance and Communication**

- As has been highlighted since the conception of the proposed upgrade of Kilbroney Playing Pitches, the site location of this project is within a historical park and gardens, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a local landscape policy area

incorporating the Fairy Glen walkway and Rostrevor river, borders the site of local nature conservation interest, and is within the 1 in 100 year Flood Plain of Rostrevor Stream which is also hydrologically linked to Carlingford Lough, a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Carlingford Lough an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).

- Given the location of this project, progressing a design concept that is sympathetic to the environmentally sensitives of this area has been challenging with two design proposal competed to date as per appendix 1 & 2.
- The Kilbroney Playing Pitches upgrade project is being progressed under recommendation 2 of the NMDDC Sports Facilities Strategy. This strategy and associated recommendations were approved by Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 as per appendix 3.
- In February 2018, as part of Council's Capital Budget approval process, £50,000 was approved for Kilbroney Park Gaelic and Soccer Pitches project as per appendix 4.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Councils AHC Committee agreed to proceed with the appointment of a design team and business plan consultants for the upgrading of Kilbroney playing pitch provision as per see appendix 5.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, The Director of AHC held a meeting with Crotlieve DEA Councillors to discuss AHC Capital projects, including Kilbroney Playing Pitches Project.
- The Kilbroney Playing Pitches project falls under the status of a 'Major Project' in terms of planning applications. As per the planning process, Council officers completed a public consultation for this project in February and March 2021 and submitted the planning application and timeline is set out at section 2.1.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Councils AHC Committee considered and agreed to appointment an economist to complete an Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Project and to allocate an additional £50,000 to Councils Capital Programme to accommodate the OBC and support any works required to complete the Outline Business Case (see appendix 6).
- On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Director of AHC held a meeting with Crotlieve DEA Councillors to discuss AHC Capital projects, including Kilbroney Playing Pitches Project.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 A meeting was held at the request of Sinn Fein with the Rostrevor GAA, the Council Chief Executive and Assistant Director of Leisure and Sport and Capital Projects to provide an update on the project and the known planning concerns with the project.
- The local government election was in May 2023 with Purdah commencing in April 2023, no further meetings were held until October 2023.
- On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the Assistant Director of Leisure and Sports held a meeting with Crotlieve DEA Councillors to discuss AHC Capital projects. At this meeting Officers

gave an update on the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Project, outlining the planning application challenges in relation to changing pavilion location, car parking, the extent of the engineering operation required to deliver the enhanced playing pitches within this sensitive area, and access/route challenges in terms immobilisation and construction.

In addition to this, officers outlined that planners and statutory consultees had requested further detailed information which would require further commissioning of surveys and consultant fees and therefore additional budget approval would be required as the current budget provision for the project had been exhausted. At this meeting officers sought clarification on how to proceed, and it was agreed that to enable consideration of future spend and any further amendments to the planning applications and that officers engage with clubs regarding planning challenges and discuss potential solutions/alternatives prior to commissioning any future spend.

- On the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the action sheet from the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 was circulated to all Crotlieve DEA Councillors as per appendix 7.
- As per the above request from Crotlieve DEA Councillors, officers met with representatives of Rossownen Football Club and Rostrevor GAA on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to discuss the planning challenges associated with the current Kilbroney Play Pitches project and potential solutions. At this meeting both club representatives requested the opportunity to take this information back to their respective committees to consult and that a meeting be reconvened at a later date to provide responses and feedback.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 the planning department updated the planning portal for the Kilbroney Playing Pitches project with a letter (appendix 8) which reinforced Council officers' correspondence with Crotlieve DEA Councillors and engagements with Rostrevor Football and GAA club representatives.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Council officers re-engaged with club representatives of Rossownen Football Club and Rostrevor GAA to discuss potential solutions to the planning challenges associated with this project. The following was agreed:
  - Relocation of the pavilion would be considered to meet sporting need and planning considerations.
  - In terms of pitch provision officers outlined that one of the key challenges is the requirement of a competitive GAA pitch to be a minimum width of 80m which doesn't fit within the current 'hedge row footprint' of the site.
  - In summary it was agreed that both clubs would continue to work collaboratively with Council officers to review and comment on any future proposal on pitch upgrades at Kilbroney Play Pitches.
- It is important to note that Council officers have been and will continue to work collaboratively with the aim to achieve an approval for the upgrade of the Kilbroney Playing pitches as per the recommendation of Councils Sports Facilities Strategy and in line with planning policy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To date, Council has approved circa £100,000 of financial investment for Kilbroney Playing pitches project via x2 approvals of £50,000 as outlined above. This budget has now been exhausted through completion of the above works and further budget approval is required should Council this will be subject to normal Council approvals processes.</li></ul>																																	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Kilbroney Play Pitches Capital Project – Planning Application Process</b>																																	
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The following table sets out a chronological and continuous list of the planning process for the Kilbroney Playing Pitches upgrade project to date.</li></ul> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Event</th><th>Outcome</th></tr><tr><td>18 Dec 2020</td><td>PAN submitted</td><td>Letter from Planning.</td></tr><tr><td>20 Jan 2021</td><td>Confirmation from Planning for PAN</td><td>12 Week Consultation period LA07/2021/0110/PAN.</td></tr><tr><td>Feb – April 2021</td><td>Public Consultation – Skype meetings</td><td>Views and comments noted.</td></tr><tr><td>30 April 2021</td><td>Planning Application submitted</td><td>LA07/2021/0804/F see appendix 9.</td></tr><tr><td>1 Sept 2021</td><td>Planning request further information and raise concerns over loss of Trees and fauna</td><td>Letter – see appendix 10.</td></tr><tr><td>4 Oct 2021</td><td>Alternative draft layout proposal submitted to planning for consideration</td><td>Alternative draft site layout and Pavilion details.</td></tr><tr><td>Nov 2021 to March 2022</td><td>On going consultation with Statutory bodies and Planning</td><td>Various reports submitted to Planning.</td></tr><tr><td>31 March 2022</td><td>Amended plans submitted to Planning</td><td>New drawings for site layout and Pavilion - appendix 2.</td></tr><tr><td>April 2022</td><td>Planning consideration and consultation to proposed alternative layout</td><td>A new process of consultation with public and Statutory bodies.</td></tr><tr><td>17 Sept 2022</td><td>Planning letter – Concerns over visual impact, Access &amp; hours of operation / usage</td><td>Appendix 11 - Period of further Design consideration, surveys and reports by consultants.</td></tr></table>	Date	Event	Outcome	18 Dec 2020	PAN submitted	Letter from Planning.	20 Jan 2021	Confirmation from Planning for PAN	12 Week Consultation period LA07/2021/0110/PAN.	Feb – April 2021	Public Consultation – Skype meetings	Views and comments noted.	30 April 2021	Planning Application submitted	LA07/2021/0804/F see appendix 9.	1 Sept 2021	Planning request further information and raise concerns over loss of Trees and fauna	Letter – see appendix 10.	4 Oct 2021	Alternative draft layout proposal submitted to planning for consideration	Alternative draft site layout and Pavilion details.	Nov 2021 to March 2022	On going consultation with Statutory bodies and Planning	Various reports submitted to Planning.	31 March 2022	Amended plans submitted to Planning	New drawings for site layout and Pavilion - appendix 2.	April 2022	Planning consideration and consultation to proposed alternative layout	A new process of consultation with public and Statutory bodies.	17 Sept 2022	Planning letter – Concerns over visual impact, Access & hours of operation / usage	Appendix 11 - Period of further Design consideration, surveys and reports by consultants.
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	31 March 2023	Information supplied to Planning	Response to planning letter Sept 2022.
	6 Sept 2023	Additional information provided to Planning – restricted due to ecological time constraints	Consultant submitted updated drawing package to Planning.
	Oct 2023	Information provided to Planning	Anticipated hours of operation and overall use by clubs.
	10 Nov 2023	Meeting held with Planners	Council officers and Planning officials met to discuss status of application.
	7 Dec 2023	Planning letter requesting further details and information	On going Design work and reports to be submitted – appendix 12.
	Note:	For more detailed chronological list of events please refer to appendix 13.	

### 3.0 Recommendations

#### 3.1

#### **That SPR Committee consider and agree:**

- **To note the contents of the report in relation to the progress of the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Upgrade project and associated environmental considerations of the site location.**
- **To agree that Crotlieve DEA meet with Council Officers to consider the appropriate location for a changing pavilion taking into account the environmental and planning considerations and the sporting need.**
- **To approve the continued liaison with the relevant club representatives to reach a solution in relation to the upgrade of the Soccer and Gaelic pitches that meets NMDDC Sports Facilities Strategy recommendations and planning requirements.**
- **To note that regular updates on this project will be provided to the Crotlieve DEA Councillors and Active and Healthy Communities Committee.**

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Revenue:</b> At this stage of the project there are no revenue budget implications associated with this report.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> There are no Capital budget implications associated with this report. It is anticipated that following further engagement with the relevant club representatives to reach a solution as per the recommendation of this report, a future report will be tabled at SPR Committee should further capital funding be required.</p>	
<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> <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>	
<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> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	<b>Appendix Schedule 1 - 13</b>
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<b>Previous Committee Reports as outlined in section 1.1 of this report.</b>

# **Appendix Schedule 1-13**





## APPENDIX 3

### **AHC/10/2017      SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, dated 23 January 2017 regarding the Sports Facility Strategy Update (Copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Council's Sports Facility Strategy Update, be approved.

### **Council Minutes:**

### **C/25/2017      MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2017**

**Read:** Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 23 January 2017 (copy circulated)

**AGREED:** The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

<b>Report to:</b>	AHC Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23 January 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Sports Facility Strategy Update
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Roland Moore – Assistant Director Leisure & Sport
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Conor Haughey – Head of Outdoor Leisure

**Decisions required:**

- **Members approve the Council's Sports Facility Strategy**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	The Council's Sports Facility Strategy is now finalised following the Consultation period with feedback from all stakeholders considered whilst finalising the strategy.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	The complete Final Sports Facility Strategy is contained in the Appendix.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	<p>That the AHC Committee approve the Sports Facility Strategy with the key recommendations being;</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 1</b></p> <p>A feasibility study is undertaken to consider the options for the Newcastle Centre and sports facilities in Newcastle in the future.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 2</b></p> <p>Consider providing additional playing pitches and the improvement of those facilities graded as 'Poor' and 'Standard' quality rated playing pitches – football and Gaelic to meet a 'Good' standard of provision which allows for pitches to have the capacity to provide for 3 games a week.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 3</b></p> <p>The Council to provide for the refurbishment of or for new changing facilities where the strategy has identified the need at outdoor sports facilities.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 4</b></p> <p>The Council to provide capacity building, funding application and business and</p>

	<p>sports development planning advice to Sports Clubs and sports and community organisations through SANDSA.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 5</b></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down to consider the opportunity to designate a multi-sport hub within each of the DEAs. Designation of a multi-sports hub should also involve the provision of support services for High Performance training, operating as a satellite from the Sports Institute NI.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 6</b></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down undertakes a review of its community centres to assess the options for the long term of sports and physical activity provision at these facilities; as well as the locations for future provision, given the population growth expected.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 7</b></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down works with external partners to develop outdoor provision comprising walking and cycling routes/trails linking sports facilities and transport.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 8</b></p> <p>Areas of population growth/areas without access to other formal sports facilities should have access to a MUGA or outdoor recreational grass sports area as minimum provision.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 9</b></p> <p>Partnership working should underpin all future investment in sports facility provision to ensure it 'fits' with and addresses identified needs of the district and can maximize access to and securing of, all available external and internal funding opportunities.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 10</b></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down should consult and work with neighboring authorities and other providers on an ongoing basis on future sports facility provision to ensure there is no duplication of provision.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 11</b></p> <p>Consider a partnership approach to the development of a bubble to cover 2 tennis courts at either Newry Tennis Club or Newcastle Tennis Club to provide a facility within the local authority that provides for all year round tennis.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION 12:</b></p> <p>Consider a shared approach with a school to deliver a 400m 6 lane track with ancillary facilities in the Downpatrick/Newcastle area.</p>
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	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION 13</b></p> <p>Facility specifications should fully reflect inclusive design guidance (Access to Sports Facilities for People with a Disability - 2009), to ensure provision is appropriate for participants with a disability. Disability Sport NI, Governing Bodies and Councils should work together to ensure all sports facilities are fully inclusive (<a href="http://dsni.co.uk/files/design_management_guidelines-2010.pdf">http://dsni.co.uk/files/design_management_guidelines-2010.pdf</a>) and where appropriate, receive Inclusive Sports Facility (ISF) accreditation.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p>There are a considerable number of projects for the Council's capital budget for the next four years primarily upgrading for Council outdoor sports facilities and pavilions.</p> <p>£520k has been recommended for capital provision for grants for 2017/18 for third parties.</p> <p>It is also critical that the Leisure &amp; Sport Department has the resources in tier 5 of the new staff structures deliver the capital schemes required.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	<p>The strategy has been equality screened, and the decision is that it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required). It is anticipated the implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact, and will be delivered taking account of the Council's Section 75 statutory duties to have due regard towards the promotion of equality of opportunity and regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Final Sports Facility Strategy

## APPENDIX 4

### **AHC/051/2018      CAPITAL SCHEME APPROVALS**

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

**Read:** Appendix B from Capital Scheme Approvals report (copy circulated).

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

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, to note the Capital Scheme Approvals Appendix B.

### Council Minutes

#### **C/042/2018      MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2018**

**Read:** Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2018 (copy circulated)

**AGREED:** The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Walker.

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5th February 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>District Rate 2018-19</b>
<b>Reporting Officers (Including Job Title):</b>	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Ken Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance

**Decisions required: Members are asked to approve the considerations of the Efficiencies Working Group in relation to the 2018-19 rate setting process (see Appendix 1) and:**

- 1. Approve the 4 year capital programme budget of £103,590,322 (see Appendix 2);**
- 2. Approve the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2018-19 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 3);**
- 3. Approve financing severance costs of £932,888 from reserves in 2018-19;**
- 4. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018-19 (see Appendix 4);**
- 5. Have regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (see 2.1 below);**
- 6. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2018/19 of 3.38% based on an estimated penny product of 2,305,909 meaning a non-domestic rate of 23.7668 pence and a domestic rate of 0.3817 pence (Appendix 5);**
- 7. Approve the 2018-19 estimates included in the Medium Term Financial Plan (Appendix 5) and authorise the expenditure included in the estimates.**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background:</b>
1.1	The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires that a Council shall fix, for the next financial, the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates made by the Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues:</b>
2.1	<b>Chief Executive's submission to Council on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and robustness of the revenue estimates.</b>  In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance

	<p>Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Chief Executive, as Chief Financial Officer is required to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves position as part of the rate setting process. Detailed estimates have been formulated, presented and scrutinised by members via the Efficiency Working Group meetings. These have taken into account past outturn, current spending plans and likely future demand and pressures. However, it should be highlighted that there are a number of significant uncertainties within the current estimates which have arisen due to current political instability.</p> <p>□ At present there has been no agreed budget by the NI Executive. The absence of an agreed budget has the potential to impact on the ability of the Department for Communities (DfC) to issue rates support grant to Councils. During 2017-18 Council were advised of a 4% cut to the Rates Support Grant. Whilst the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 27 states that "the Department shall for each financial year make a grant under this section to Councils", the DfC has indicated that further reductions should be anticipated to the Rates Support Grant. £2.3m has been included in the estimates for 2018-19 in anticipation of receipt.</p> <p>□ Furthermore, current political instability prevents the determination of a regional rate for 2018/19. Land and Property Services (LPS) have advised that Councils are protected in legislation and, therefore, are guaranteed payment of their rates in instalments. There may however be some delay to these payments, and we have been mindful of this potential delay in our calculations of working capital requirements as part of our Prudential Indicators and MRP Statement 2018/19.</p> <p>□ Included within our 2018-19 estimates are various areas of funding received from central government. We have included amounts on the basis of our previous arrangements with central government. However, it is important to note that until such times as a budget is agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive these funding streams are uncertain.</p> <p>As a result of this process I am satisfied that the estimates presented, subject to the significant uncertainties noted above, should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2018/19 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to the Council have been made in the preparation of the estimates.</p> <p>The minimum prudent level of reserves that the Council should maintain is a matter of judgement. CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) guidance does not set a statutory minimum level so it is up to the Council itself, taking into account all the relevant local circumstances, to make a professional judgement on what the appropriate level of reserves and balances should be. This Council has historically considered 1 month's expenditure to be a prudent level of reserves to maintain. The Council's general fund balance is forecast to be in the region of £10m at 1 April 2018 representing 17% of its gross expenditure. I am therefore content that the current reserves held by the Council are adequate.</p>
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<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations:</b>
3.1	<p>It is recommended that members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the 4 year capital programme budget of £103,590,322 (see Appendix 2);</li> <li>2. Approve the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2018-19 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 3);</li> <li>3. Approve financing severance costs of £932,888 from reserves in 2018-19;</li> <li>4. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018-19 (see Appendix 4);</li> <li>5. Have regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (see 2.1 below);</li> <li>6. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2018/19 of 3.38% based on an estimated penny product of 2,305,909 meaning a non-domestic rate of 23.7668 pence and a domestic rate of 0.3817 pence (Appendix 5);</li> <li>7. Approve the 2018-19 estimates included in the Medium Term Financial Plan (Appendix 5) and authorise the expenditure included in the estimates.</li> </ol>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	Resource implications are as detailed in the appendices.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications:</b>
5.1	Having considered the proposals it is not anticipated the proposals will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Action Sheets of meetings of Efficiency Working Group to consider rate setting process 2018-19.  Appendix 2: Four Year Capital Programme  Appendix 3: Prudential Indicators and MRP Statement 2018-19  Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018-19  Appendix 5: Medium Term Financial Plan</p>

Appendix B

2 of 4

Newry Mourne and Down District Council Capital Programme 2015-2022

Council Meeting: 5th Feb: 20

Project Code	Description	Instructor	Officer	Project Group	2017/2018 Projected	2018/2019 Budget	2019/2020 Budget	2020/2021 Budget	2021/2022 Budget	Total Budget	Grant Income

## APPENDIX 5

**AHC/089/2019: KILBRONEY PARK PITCHES**

**Read:** Report dated 17 June 2019 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director of Leisure and Sport, regarding Kilbroney Park Pitches (**Copy circulated**)

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to proceed with the appointment of a design team and business plan consultants for the upgrading of Kilbroney playing pitches.

### Council Minutes 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

**C/096/2019 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2019**

**Read:** Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2019 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Stokes, subject to the amendments regarding AHC/084/2019 above.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Community
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Kilbroney Park – Pitches
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Michael Lipsett, Director: Active Health and Communities
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	<b>Purpose and Background</b>				
1.1	<b>Purpose</b> To consider and agree the appointment of a design team and consultants to establish detailed costs and business plan for the upgrading of playing pitch provision within the Kilbroney Park lands area.				
1.2	<b>Background</b> Kilbroney Park Pitches, within the Kilbroney public parkland area, currently includes x1 Grass Soccer Pitch and x1 GAA Pitch.  The main users of these pitches are Rossown FC and Rostrevor GAA who use these pitches for training and matches.  The Kilbroney Park and Rostrevor Forest Vision and Masterplan was commissioned by Council in 2015 and identified upgrading these pitches as part of an activity recreation zone and an activity hub.  In January 2017 Council published its Sports Facility Strategy which further referenced the above Kilbroney Park Masterplan and reiterated the need to upgrade Kilbroney playing pitches.				
2.0	<b>Key issues</b>				
2.1g	The two current pitches do not meet the required medium standard set out by their governing bodies and need significant investment to bring them up to this standard.  Currently there is no provision for changing facilities which creates challenges regarding safeguarding and accommodation for both senior and junior teams using the pitches.				
3.0	<b>Recommendations</b>				
3.1	<b>That the Committee agree to proceed with the appointment of a design team and business plan consultants for the upgrading of Kilbroney playing pitch provision.</b>				
4.0	<b>Resource implications</b>				
4.1	There are no resource implications with budget requirements accommodated within existing budgets.				

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
5.1	No equality or opportunity or good relations adverse impact is anticipated.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Rural Proofing implications</b>
6.1	A rural Needs Impact Assessment is not required at this time
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
7.1	None
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
8.1	None

## APPENDIX 6

**AHC/020/2022**

### **KILBRONEY PITCHES – CAPITAL PROJECT**

**Read:** Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding the progression of the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Capital Project. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Tinnelly, Mr Boyd advised an external consultant was required given the bespoke nature of the project to expediate the process so that the economic appraisal was completed within the timeframes concurrent with the planning application.

Councillor Tinnelly asked for commitment that any aspect of the project not subject to Ecological reports be submitted to planning and not hold back the project. Mr Boyd confirmed officers would endeavour to submit those parts of the project.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to approve the following:

- To appoint an economist to complete an Outline Business Case for the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Project.
- To allocate an additional £50,000 to Councils Capital Programme to accommodate point 1 and support any works required to complete the Outline Business Case.

## Council Minutes

**C/025/2022**

### **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2022**

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor O'Hare subject to a minor amendment in relation to the spelling of Councillor Sharvin's name on page 2.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities (AHC) Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Kilbroney Playing Pitches - Capital Project
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Michael Lipsett, Director: Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Paul Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport

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>The purpose of this report is for AHC Committee to consider progressing the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Capital Project and agree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The appointment of an economist to complete an Outline Business Case for the Project.</li> <li>2. To allocate an additional £50,000 to Councils Capital Programme to accommodate point 1 and support any works required to complete the Outline Business Case.</li> </ol> <p>The upgrading of Kilbroney Playing Pitches has been a key project on Council's Capital Programme for a number of years.</p> <p>This project has progressed significantly over the past 18 months with a 12-week public consultation completed in February 2021 and the first stage of planning permission submitted.</p>
<b>2.0</b>			<b>Key issues</b>
2.1			<p>Officers along with a consultant team have been working on the planning application for Kilbroney Park Playing Fields. Given the environmental sensitivities of this area, significant time, consideration and consultation with planners has been spent on ensuring the appropriate ecological surveys are completed and that the final project design has minimal impact on the site and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Significant consultation with planners is key in ensuring successful delivery of this project, and now that design options have been refined as a result of discussions with planners, the appointment of an economists to complete an Outline Business Case will help ensure a timely progression of this project. Delivery of this project will be subject to planning approval.</p>
<b>3.0</b>			<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1			<p><b>That AHC Committee consider and agree:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To appointment an economist to complete an Outline Business Case for the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Project.</li> </ol>

	<b>2. To allocate an additional £50,000 to Councils Capital Programme to accommodate point 1 and support any works required to complete the Outline Business Case.</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	<p><b>Revenue:</b> There are no anticipated revenue budget implications associated with this report.</p> <p><b>Capital:</b> As per the recommendation of the report an additional £50,000 has been requested to be added to Councils Capital programme to appoint economists as per point 1 of the recommendation and support any works required to complete the outline business case.</p>
<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> <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>
<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> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<b>Appendices</b>
	<b>None</b>
8.0	<b>Background Documents</b>
	<b>None</b>

## APPENDIX 7

## ACTIONS SHEET - ARISING FROM CROTLIEVE ELECTED MEMBERS - CAPITAL UPDATE MEETING

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 6pm via Team

In Attendance: Cllr M Ruane, Cllr D McAteer, Cllr M Gibbons Apologies/Absent: Cllr K Murphy, Cllr S Murphy, Cllr J Tinnley

Project	Current Position	Actions requested and agreed by Elected Members	Lead Officer
Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub	Stage 3 completed with report presented to senior management for approval. Project Governance board to be convened asap. Full planning application has been submitted 30/06/23. and validated by the planning service. Promotional Video with draft CGI's to be completed. Council to review method of delivery from D&B to traditional design and construction.	Project Board meetings to be re-established.	A Robb
Rostrevor 16 Square	Contractor terminated and new contractor appointed to complete outstanding items. These works are ongoing with Fire Glazing, Mechanical system and Electrical commissioning.	Commissioning of heating system to be prioritised.	A Robb/C Boyd
Hilltown Community Centre	Minor work to upgrade rear pathways and grade background adjacent to boundary. Contract being drafted with works expected to commence late February upon agreement with user groups.	Noted	N/A
Kilbroney Playing Pitches	Applicant (AHC) has received a recent response from planning in relation to current position which was shared and outlined the following: A number of issues remain to be finalised before a recommendation can be made. The Planning Department continues to have concerns around several aspects of the proposal including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering works required.</li> <li>• Pavilion Location</li> <li>• Increased usage level</li> </ul> In addition, the Planning Department is currently awaiting final responses from a number of other statutory consultees, including NIW, NIEA Natural Heritage, NIEA Historic Monuments, DfI Rivers, & Shared Env Services. The Planning Department has major concerns with a number of aspects of the proposal. Additional information and reports will be required before the assessment of this application can be finalised. Current spend to date is 90k, additional spend required to progress requested additional information and reports. In answering a query officers understanding is if recommended for refusal and overturned at planning committee, project likely to be called into DfI.	Officers to engage with clubs regarding planning challenges and to discuss potential solutions/alternatives prior to commissioning any future spend.	P Tamati

## APPENDIX 8

**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



Caolan Boyd  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate  
Ardglass Road  
Downpatrick

Date: 7th December 2023  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: LA07/2021/0804/F  
Please Patricia Manley  
Contact:

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Location:** Kilbroney Pitches, Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor

**Proposal:** Development of replacement soccer and GAA pitches, changing pavilion, fencing and ball catches

Dear Sir/ Madam

I refer to our recent meeting on 10th November 2023, held to discuss planning issues and the outstanding information required to enable a proper assessment of this application.

The Planning Department has fully considered the additional information submitted, in response to our previous correspondence dated 17th September 2022, together with comments from our statutory consultee responses all of which had raised concerns in relation to the impact of certain aspects of the proposal on this environmentally sensitive area.

While it is acknowledged that attempts have been made to resolve planning issues, it is considered that a number of significant matters remain to be resolved. This will require the submission of further information, as detailed below:

Concerns still remain on the nature and extent of the engineering operation required to deliver the enhanced playing pitches within this sensitive area. In particular it is considered that:

- the detail included within the site layout and site sections drawings are insufficient to fully demonstrate the potential impact on the Fairy Glen Rostrevor River Walkway. The existing and proposed site sections should be drawn to include the entire site including the river/pedestrian walkway.

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- the detailed drawings should also include details of the temporary access, including details of any proposed culverting of adjacent streams towards the NE of the site.
- Further information is also required in relation to levels of ground disturbance required across the site to determine if archaeological mitigation is needed in advance of any site works.
- The site sections reference 'assumed 300mm of existing topsoil to be used for excavation and stored for re-use' the Planning Department is of the view that origins of proposed fill have not been fully detailed and cannot rely upon assumptions in relation to fill. This should be fully detailed.

As advised, the Planning Department considers that the proposed revised location of the pavilion is unacceptable in planning terms. In particular:

- The Planning Department considers that the proposed pavilion/ changing rooms and proposed access/pathway details, if approved at this location, would be visually intrusive at this location and would have a detrimental impact on the recreational amenity value of this sensitive corridor, in particular the pedestrian walkway and river corridor. It also has concerns about the proposed design, details, form and materials which are considered visually unacceptable at this location of the Historic Parkland.
- The proposed revised site for the pavilion is also within the 1 in 100 year Flood Plain of Rostrevor Stream which is also hydrologically linked to Carlingford Lough, Special Protection Area and Carlingford ASSI, both designated protection sites. DFI Rivers and Shared Environmental Services have yet to provide a final response on this aspect of the proposal.
- In light of all of these issues a revised location should be considered for the pavilion (preferably towards the carpark area of the site, beyond the existing tennis courts), or, as an alternative, consideration given to the use of existing buildings within the Park. It is considered that this would represent a more logical, accessible location, closer to any proposed car parking arrangements. It would also have a much-reduced impact on one of the major broader recreational attributes of the park, namely the Fairy Glen River corridor.

The Planning Department has already stated that the proposal represents a significant improvement in the standard of the existing playing fields and has requested details of the intended increase in usage, including any anticipated car parking requirements. You have

stated that information, previously submitted, in response, requires further clarification and this will be submitted. The Planning Department will consider this, in consultation with DfI Roads, as part of its assessment of the proposal.

Information has been provided on tree planting around the pitch. However, it would appear that the construction of the proposed access road/ temporary access will require the removal of trees and hedgerow and will also impact on habitat of this area. In order to properly assess the application amended plans should be provided showing the extent of tree and hedgerow removal and compensatory planting. Details should also be provided in relation to provision, management and maintenance of all planted areas.

Additional information has been provided in relation to ball catches however these remain visually intrusive, particularly when viewed from the Fairy Glen, and a permanent fixture at the ground. The Planning Department have previously raised concerns on this aspect which remains to be addressed and agree with HED that these should be retractable.

An Ecological Appraisal has been submitted to the Planning Department. NIEA in its previous consultation response in terms of ecology reports refer to a Phase 2 Survey to be provided as well as an updated ecology report to include the details of the temporary access road and a badger survey within 25m radius of the site boundary. This information has still to be provided.

Whilst a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been provided. This requires amendment to include construction methods and pollution prevention measures relating to the proposed temporary access road including culverting, in river works including those within the protected area. The current CEMP provided does not give any detail on the proposed construction make-up of the road or culverting. Further details are required. Details of proposed pathways surfaces should also be clarified.

Bollard lighting has been shown on drawing No. 0010 REV P04 (Proposed Site Layout) along the SW boundary of the pitch. The Planning Department has concerns in relation to excessive lighting required and its visual impact within the Historic Parkland as well as potential implications for wildlife. The Planning Department would prefer to see this removed unless required for safety reasons in which case further details are required.

Northern Ireland Water (NIW) recommend planning should be refused due to potential network capacity issues. A Waste Water Impact Assessment (WWIA) or Pre Development

APPENDIX 9

[<](#) Search

☰

# Kilbroney pitches Kilbroney Forest Park Rostrevor

Site inspection complete

LA07/2021/0804/F

Full

Application actions

Proposal Description

Development of replacement soccer and GAA pitches, changing pavilion, fencing, ball catch nets and pathways  
(Amended Plans Uploaded 31.03.22)



Details

Map

More..

Application details

Application reference	LA07/2021/0804/F
Planning Portal reference	PAO913989
Application received	30 Apr 2021

Application decided	Not available
Address	Kilbroney pitches Kilbroney Forest Park Rostrevor
Status	Site Inspection Complete
Decision	Not Available
Authority	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
District Electoral Area (DEA)	Crotlieve
Applicant name	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Contact details	
Important dates	

## APPENDIX 10

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive



Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Ref: LA07/2021/0804/F

Being dealt with by: Patricia Manley

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate  
Ardglass Road

**Location: Kilbroney Pitches, Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor**

**Proposal: Development of replacement soccer and GAA pitches, changing pavilion, fencing, ball catch nets and pathways**

Dear Sir/Madam

The Planning Department has reviewed the proposed development and would like to make you aware of a number of specific concerns and issues which require to be addressed to enable a proper assessment of the application.

These concerns relate primarily to the potential adverse impact upon habitat and wildlife within a Site of Local Nature Conversation Importance, the substantial and significant loss of mature trees within the Local Landscape Policy Area and AONB as well as the visual impact upon the setting and character of the Historic Park, Garden and Demesne. The site is also immediately adjacent to the boundary of Rostrevor Conservation Area.

A number of statutory consultations responses remain outstanding. This includes those from DAERA Natural Environment Division. The Planning Department has issued reminders; further information or amendments may be sought from consultees, including the requirement for further assessments, including a full Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). You will be advised as soon as their formal responses become available. Details of the consultation responses provided to date are attached for your information.

It is considered that existing trees form part of the Historic Parklands, LLPA and AONB and shall be retained and incorporated into your scheme. The Planning Department also has concerns about the proposed erection of fences within an area of public open space and within this historic and visually important setting adjacent to the Fairy Glen. This aspect of the scheme should be reconsidered.

The Planning Department is also concerned about the visual impact of the proposed re-grading of this area and the use of retaining walls. In order to properly assess the

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proposal, it would require more detailed layout plans to show, in particular:

- A detailed survey of existing and proposed ground levels; and
- Cross sections through the site to show the level of cut and fill required. These should be at several sections both horizontally and vertically throughout the development.
- full details of proposed dug outs and fences and elevations of all ancillary structures including ball stop fences and lighting.

The Planning Department also has concerns about the location and design detailing of the proposed dressing rooms. It is considered that the proposed location is inappropriate and further justification is required on the need for this additional structure at this location within this historic landscape and why, for example, existing buildings within the Park cannot be used to serve this proposal. The proposed form, including the design detail and materials are considered inappropriate.

The following information is also required to enable a proper assessment of the application:

- a Design and Access Statement as required under section 6 of The Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- Details of hours of operation and the anticipated number of users. This will be required to assess the need for any future car parking requirement for the proposal and any associated impacts.

Given the nature of the proposal the Planning Department would be grateful to receive the details above as soon as possible in order that it can complete its assessment of the application. The Planning Authority has received several objections in relation to this scheme which have now been uploaded to the planning portal and are now available for viewing.

Should you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact planning on 0300 200 7830 or email [patricia.manley@nmandd.org](mailto:patricia.manley@nmandd.org).

Yours Sincerely

Patricia Manley

## APPENDIX 11

**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



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

Caolan Boyd  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate  
Ardglass Road  
Downpatrick

Date: 17 September 2022.  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: LA07/2021/0804/F  
Please Contact: Patricia Manley

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Location:** Kilbroney Pitches, Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor

**Proposal:** Development of replacement soccer and GAA pitches, changing pavilion, fencing and ball catches

Dear Mr Boyd,

The Planning Department has assessed your amended plans, on the above, received on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and has also reviewed the statutory consultee responses received to date. The Planning Department would now wish to raise a number of concerns that remain to be addressed.

The Planning Department acknowledges the attempts made to address previous concerns raised, particularly in relation to the potential adverse impact upon habitat and wildlife within the Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance as well as the visual impact upon the Local Landscape Policy Area, AONB and the Historic Parkland. It is considered, however, that the revised proposals do not fully overcome those concerns as previously raised in its correspondence with you, dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

The Planning Department remains concerned about a number of aspects of your proposal and its impact on the local landscape and natural heritage. These include:

- the extent and impact of the proposed regrading of land and the significant ground level changes required to facilitate your proposals, including the nature of any retaining structures and the extensive pedestrian pathways proposed. Details on the origins of proposed fill are also required.
- The proposed pavilion/ changing room has now been relocated close to the Fairy Glen and into the 1 in 100 year Flood Plain of Rostrevor Stream which is also hydrologically linked to the Carlingford Lough Special Protection Area and Carlingford Lough ASSI, both designated protection sites. This gives rise to a number of concerns in relation to prominence, flooding, pollution and risk to members of the visiting public.

The Planning Department considers that the proposed pavilion would be visually

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intrusive at this location, given its sensitive location adjacent to the Fairy Glen. It also has concerns about the proposed design, detail, form and materials which are considered visually unacceptable at this location, within this Historical Parkland. The Planning Department requests that the building is removed from this proposed location. Consideration should be given to the use of existing buildings within the Demesne or a relocation to another location (preferable towards the car park area of the site, beyond the existing tennis courts) which would have a lesser visual impact and potential impact on habitat/ wildlife while removing flood risk.

- the use of visually intrusive ball catches and seek clarity on whether or not these are temporarily erected or will be retained as a permanent feature at the ground.
- Information remains outstanding in relation to the hours of operation, the level of usage and the anticipated numbers of users. This will be required to assess the need for any future car parking, the requirement for the proposal and any associated impacts.
- It would also appear that the construction of a proposed access road will require the removal of mature trees and hedgerow. In order to properly assess your proposal, amended plans should be submitted to show the extent of tree and hedgerow removal and details of any compensatory planting.

All consultation responses have now been returned, a number of which require the submission of further information or amendments. Details of the consultation responses, provided to date, are attached for your attention. You should also note that some 150 + letters of objection/ support have also been submitted in relation to this application (these are available on the planning portal).

I would be grateful if amended plans/ information are submitted to the Planning Department as soon as possible to enable it to complete the assessment of this application.

Yours Sincerely

## APPENDIX 12

**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



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

Caolan Boyd  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate  
Ardglass Road  
Downpatrick

Date: 7th December 2023  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: LA07/2021/0804/F  
Please Contact: Patricia Manley

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Location: Kilbroney Pitches, Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor**

**Proposal: Development of replacement soccer and GAA pitches, changing pavilion, fencing and ball catches**

Dear Sir/ Madam

I refer to our recent meeting on 10th November 2023, held to discuss planning issues and the outstanding information required to enable a proper assessment of this application.

The Planning Department has fully considered the additional information submitted, in response to our previous correspondence dated 17th September 2022, together with comments from our statutory consultee responses all of which had raised concerns in relation to the impact of certain aspects of the proposal on this environmentally sensitive area.

While it is acknowledged that attempts have been made to resolve planning issues, it is considered that a number of significant matters remain to be resolved. This will require the submission of further information, as detailed below:

Concerns still remain on the nature and extent of the engineering operation required to deliver the enhanced playing pitches within this sensitive area. In particular it is considered that:

- the detail included within the site layout and site sections drawings are insufficient to fully demonstrate the potential impact on the Fairy Glen Rostrevor River Walkway. The existing and proposed site sections should be drawn to include the entire site including the river/pedestrian walkway.

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- the detailed drawings should also include details of the temporary access, including details of any proposed culverting of adjacent streams towards the NE of the site.
- Further information is also required in relation to levels of ground disturbance required across the site to determine if archaeological mitigation is needed in advance of any site works.
- The site sections reference 'assumed 300mm of existing topsoil to be used for excavation and stored for re-use' the Planning Department is of the view that origins of proposed fill have not been fully detailed and cannot rely upon assumptions in relation to fill. This should be fully detailed.

As advised, the Planning Department considers that the proposed revised location of the pavilion is unacceptable in planning terms. In particular:

- The Planning Department considers that the proposed pavilion/ changing rooms and proposed access/pathway details, if approved at this location, would be visually intrusive at this location and would have a detrimental impact on the recreational amenity value of this sensitive corridor, in particular the pedestrian walkway and river corridor. It also has concerns about the proposed design, details, form and materials which are considered visually unacceptable at this location of the Historic Parkland.
- The proposed revised site for the pavilion is also within the 1 in 100 year Flood Plain of Rostrevor Stream which is also hydrologically linked to Carlingford Lough, Special Protection Area and Carlingford ASSI, both designated protection sites. DFI Rivers and Shared Environmental Services have yet to provide a final response on this aspect of the proposal.
- In light of all of these issues a revised location should be considered for the pavilion (preferably towards the carpark area of the site, beyond the existing tennis courts), or, as an alternative, consideration given to the use of existing buildings within the Park. It is considered that this would represent a more logical, accessible location, closer to any proposed car parking arrangements. It would also have a much-reduced impact on one of the major broader recreational attributes of the park, namely the Fairy Glen River corridor.

The Planning Department has already stated that the proposal represents a significant improvement in the standard of the existing playing fields and has requested details of the intended increase in usage, including any anticipated car parking requirements. You have

stated that information, previously submitted, in response, requires further clarification and this will be submitted. The Planning Department will consider this, in consultation with DfI Roads, as part of its assessment of the proposal.

Information has been provided on tree planting around the pitch. However, it would appear that the construction of the proposed access road/ temporary access will require the removal of trees and hedgerow and will also impact on habitat of this area. In order to properly assess the application amended plans should be provided showing the extent of tree and hedgerow removal and compensatory planting. Details should also be provided in relation to provision, management and maintenance of all planted areas.

Additional information has been provided in relation to ball catches however these remain visually intrusive, particularly when viewed from the Fairy Glen, and a permanent fixture at the ground. The Planning Department have previously raised concerns on this aspect which remains to be addressed and agree with HED that these should be retractable.

An Ecological Appraisal has been submitted to the Planning Department. NIEA in its previous consultation response in terms of ecology reports refer to a Phase 2 Survey to be provided as well as an updated ecology report to include the details of the temporary access road and a badger survey within 25m radius of the site boundary. This information has still to be provided.

Whilst a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been provided. This requires amendment to include construction methods and pollution prevention measures relating to the proposed temporary access road including culverting, in river works including those within the protected area. The current CEMP provided does not give any detail on the proposed construction make-up of the road or culverting. Further details are required. Details of proposed pathways surfaces should also be clarified.

Bollard lighting has been shown on drawing No. 0010 REV P04 (Proposed Site Layout) along the SW boundary of the pitch. The Planning Department has concerns in relation to excessive lighting required and its visual impact within the Historic Parkland as well as potential implications for wildlife. The Planning Department would prefer to see this removed unless required for safety reasons in which case further details are required.

Northern Ireland Water (NIW) recommend planning should be refused due to potential network capacity issues. A Waste Water Impact Assessment (WWIA) or Pre Development

Enquiry will be required from NIW. Currently the Planning Department has no record or evidence that engagement has taken place, details of this must be submitted to the Planning Department.

Shared Environmental Service will require further consultation once NIEA have replied as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) cannot be completed.

I trust this clarifies the nature of the issues to be resolved. Any outstanding information should be submitted, to the Planning Department, at the earliest opportunity to enable it to complete the assessment of the application.

Yours Sincerely

*Patricia Manley*

## APPENDIX 13

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## Kilbroney Pitches

Date	Event	Notes
May-20	Council SMT Report	
Jun-20	AHC Committee	
03.11.2020	Crotlieve DEA Meeting	
06.11.2020	Council SMT Report	
18.12.2020	PAN application submitted	Ref: LA07/2021/0110/PAN
20.01.2021	PAN approval letter	
30.04.2021	Planning Application Submitted	Ref: LA07/2021/0804/F - See Appendix 1
02.07.2021	NIE Response - No objections.	
08.07.2021	NMDDC Environmental Health response - no objections.	
20.07.2021	WYG Submit updated site plan	
28.07.2021	Rivers Agency request more information.	
26.08.2021	HED request additional information / revised proposal more sympathetic to its surroundings.	
01.09.2021	Planning request more information. [Levels, D+A statement and cross sections].	Letter from Planning - See Appendix 2
04.10.2021	Alternative Draft layout proposal submitted to planning for consideration DAERA (NED and fisheries) requires the following information: 1. Ecological Appraisal.	
11.11.2021	2. Report to Inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment.	
20.12.2021	Loughs Agency send through recommendations.	
	DAERA (NED requires) the following information: 1. Ecological Appraisal	
09.03.2022	2. Kilbroney Pitches and Pavilion: Report to Inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment	
31.03.2022	Amended plans and Design and Access statement submitted to Planning.	New drawings for site layout and Pavilion – Appendix 3
01.04.2022	Neighbour notifications sent out.	
05.04.2022	Roads division response - no objections.	
27.04.2022	HED request Visual Impact Assessment.	
09.05.2022	NI Water submit a recommendation for refusal with a chance to make amendments and resubmit.	
11.05.2022	NIE Response - No objections.	
12.05.2022	Rivers Agency request more information.	
16.05.2022	NMDDC Environmental Health response - no objections.	
	DAERA (NED) requires the following information: 1. Ecological Appraisal. 2. Habitats Regulations Assessment. 3. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 4. An updated Construction Environmental Management Plan. 5. Otter survey. 6. Bat Roost Survey. 7. An amended Lighting Plan. 8. Amended plans to clearly show the extent of tree and hedgerow removal required.	
08.06.2022	Loughs Agency response to amended plans - same recommendations apply as before.	
13.06.2022	Planning request amended plans to be submitted to address outstanding concerns.	See Appendix 4
17.09.2022	WYG Submit updated CEMP.	
17.11.2022	Visual impact assessment submitted to Planning.	
31.03.2023	HED advises new proposal satisfies requirements.	
12.06.2023	DfC require information on tree protection and site levels. Archaeology and built heritage dept.	
26.06.2023	Tetra Tech submit updated drawing package to Planning.	
06.09.2023	DfI require more information on Flood Risk Assessment.	
11.09.2023	Tree details and usage information submitted to Planning.	
09.10.2023	Roads division response to amended plans. More time required to carry out internal consultations.	
26.10.2023	Meeting held with Planning to discuss outstanding issues.	
10.11.2023	Letter issued from Planning to say further information required. Amended drawings, Phase 2 Ecological appraisal, CEMP and HRA.	See Appendix 5
07.12.2023		



<b>Report to:</b>	SPR
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	NCCR – Newry FAS
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Mallon, Director ERT
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Mallon, Director ERT

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

For decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>To seek members approval for the recommendations in Section 3.1 of this report</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At the NCCR programme board meeting in December 2023 it was agreed that officers progress discussion with DfI Rivers on the potential of delivering elements of the Newry Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 as part of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Theatre Conference Centre Construction project.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>Council Officials had been liaising with the Department for Infrastructure - Rivers on the Newry Flood Alleviation Scheme over a number of years and the project had been progressing however given the recent floods in Newry, Council officials and Rivers have recently discussed the potential to accelerate some elements of Newry FAS Phase 2 as part of the Theatre/Conference Construction project. This will consider the opportunity to provide a flood wall in the location of the collapsed wall at the rear of Newry Town Hall, increasing the height of the walls in the Sugar Island area and between the Town Hall and Needham Bridge.</p> <p>These discussions have now progressed, and it is proposed that NMDDC officials and Rivers officials now proceed to develop the necessary technical package for the flood alleviation works with the intention of issuing this works package as part of the ITT process for the Theatre Conference Scheme.</p> <p>This will be subject to the DFI Rivers Business Case approval to secure the necessary funding for the works.</p>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	Agree that elements of the Newry FAS Phase 2 at Sugar Island and between the Town Hall and Needham Bridge is included as a works package within the ITT for the NCCR Theatre Conference project
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	All costs associated with the DfI Rivers Newry FAS Phase 2 work package will be funded by DFI Rivers
<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 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> <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>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service

	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input 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	<b>Background Documents</b>
	N/A

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	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>For noting only</b>	<b>X</b>
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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 Policy Screening Report for the period October – December 2023, including screening reports, is available on Council’s website <a href="https://www.newrymournedown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality">https://www.newrymournedown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality</a>. This information has also been forwarded to our 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 2023.
<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>

	<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 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>
<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>
	Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2023.
<b>8.0</b>	<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 2023**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Details of policy</b>	<b>Screening Outcome</b>
Performance Improvement Policy	<p>The aims of this policy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the Council discharges its performance improvement duties under Part 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014.</li> <li>• Mainstream the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which drives and provides assurance that corporate priorities and performance improvement objectives are being delivered.</li> <li>• Ensure that Elected Members and officers have due regard for performance improvement in carrying out their duties.</li> </ul>	No EQIA considered necessary
Pay Protection Arrangements	To set out the transition arrangements that will apply when changes to an employees' terms and conditions of employment affect their pay. The procedure sets out the circumstances when pay protection will apply and for how long such arrangements would remain in place.	No EQIA considered necessary
Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down	<p>Council's first Community Plan sets out a clear, long term vision for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030. It outlines the outcomes we will work towards to achieve that vision and, with it, a better quality of life for all.</p> <p>The Community Plan is the overarching plan for the Newry, Mourne and Down District. It brings together the knowledge, expertise and collective resources of a wide range of partners across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors - all working towards a single agreed vision for the area.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

	The Equality Screening for the Community Plan has been revised as the indicators and measures within the plan have been appraised and updated in line with the availability of data. The indicators and measures within the Community Plan exist to allow the Partnership to assess their process in achieving their overarching outcomes and to enable them to identify emerging priorities for the district.	
Forest Parks Car Park Charges	This relates to the preferred option for the introduction of charging in Council's forest parks	No EQIA considered necessary

<b>Report to:</b>	SPR
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Planning Department Update
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Regeneration
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director Regeneration

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"/>	<b>*</b>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	Following consideration of Corporate mid year Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) at November meeting of SPR committee it was agreed a paper be presented to ERT with more detail around the key indicators and the proposed actions to address the challenges moving forward.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p><b>MAJOR/LEGACY APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>The statistics reported in the PIP are extracted from the planning portal and published each quarter by NISRA. These measures are agreed at a regional level and published in respect of all Councils.</p> <p>The key metrics focus on processing times for local and major applications and enforcement cases, and the number of applications in the system.</p> <p>In relation to the specific query raised at SPR around processing times of major applications in period April – June 2023, the report stated this was 513 weeks. The analysis of this, which is not reflected in the report, is that in that period one application was determined and it had been in the system for 513 weeks.</p> <p>Based on the most recent statistics for period July -September 2023, the processing times for major applications was 421 weeks. This analysis is again based on 1 application.</p> <p>This application was a legacy application that has been in the system prior to RPA.</p> <p><b>LOCAL APPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>Processing times for local applications for the same period are above NI target and have increased since previous quarter. At SPR queries were raised around allocation of planning staff to applications, and at present approximately 656 applications remain to be allocated.</p> <p>At present NMD receive the highest number of applications outside of Belfast, in the quarter relating to these statistics and while 8 Councils received less application than the previous quarter, NMD reported an increase.</p> <p>The increase in processing times and allocations for local applications is due to a combination of factors:</p>

1. Staffing recruitment and retention - Since start of 2023 there have been a significant number of staff leaving the organisation through a combination of retirements and resignations which has resulted in 11 vacancies in planning team, which when fully staffed has 39 staff – excluding administration. This has been as a result of promotion opportunities and enhanced pay in other Councils both in NI and RoI.
2. Time taken by statutory consultees to respond in general to applications. Reconsultation with statutory consultees also add to the processing times.
3. The quality of the application pack submitted by an applicant can directly impact on the processing time. A poor quality application will require repeated consultations and correspondence to reach a stage where the application can be determined. The planning Department will always work with the applicant to achieve an approval if possible, but this adds time to the processing times and additional burden on the team.
4. A high quality application pack can be processed more efficiently by the planning team.

The introduction of new planning portal also caused significant disruption to business as normal. This has been a challenging period and Planning officers were heavily involved in resolving issues with the system and assisting with validation backlog. Work to address system glitches remain ongoing and a workshop was held with all Planning and Administrative staff on 21 November, facilitated by the IT company appointed to develop and manage the roll out of the new portal, to help address issues etc. This was completed with all Councils and the learning from this is now being implemented. In parallel work is progressing to finalise modules relating to enforcement.

### **CURRENT ANALYSIS**

Based on latest available data as of 10/1/24:

1606 live applications

#### **Made up as follows:**

871 applications are allocated & processing

656 awaiting allocation

79 new applications to be validated

Income from Planning is evident from budget reports at year to date however this can be explained by reduction in number of larger applications which would attract a higher fee, the overall trend of applications received is increasing as per the NI stats.

Given the level of unallocated files and the level of staff vacancies over the past 6 months its unlikely the impacts of the recent recruitment and performance measures introduced will be evident for a number of months.

When the full complement of staff (39) are all in place and trained over the next 6-8 weeks the numbers of applications processed will improve but given the length of time applications are in the system stats will reflect processing times not the volume determined.

Detailed below are the current outputs and anticipated outputs moving forward.

### **Current staff compliment**

Decisions issued per month currently 90 – 100

### **Proposed with full compliment.**

Target decisions issued per month with full staff complement 170  
(allowing 1-2 months for new staff induction/training)

### **Workload**

Applications received per month 120-130

Appointment of new staff will allow allocated of backlog of applications.

**Development Management and Majors – fully staffed with Planning Officers And Planning Assistants -18 staff will always carry a live case load of 1000 applications.**

### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Revised Development Plan timetable was agreed by Council in June 2023 and by the Department in September 2023. Based on this timetable a draft Plan Strategy will be completed by end of September 2024 and be consulted on up to December 2024.

A work plan has been agreed with the team and is being reviewed monthly. Monthly reports are tabled at planning Committee to update members against progress.

A members workshop was held on 7 December to look in detail at key aspects of the work and a more detailed analysis of the way forward will be discussed

### **ENFORCEMENT**

The NI target for the Enforcement is that 70% of enforcement cases are concluded within 39 weeks of receipt. With a full staff complement post RPA the number of cases reduced from 1300 to 650. Due to staff resignations and internal promotions the team has been depleted and caseload has increased to approximately 900.

The actions outlined in the next section of this paper will see the team complement returned during Q1 2024.

By end of Q2 2024 this caseload should be reduced to 800 cases with further reduction of 150 by end of Q4 2024.

### **Actions taken to date**

Despite all of the challenges it is accepted that work is required to address performance against key targets and the following actions have been implemented.

Since August 2022 there have been 9 separate recruitment exercises to appoint a range of posts across all levels within the Planning Department. Staff retention and recruitment continues to be an industry wide challenge in both Local Councils and the private sector.

#### **Recruitment / Retention**

- 3 No Senior posts recruited on permanent bases – following a period of acting up
- Planning officer recruitment trawl completed in 2023 to back fill all posts and a reserve list held for future vacancies (all posts filled) – Reserve list is almost exhausted.
- Recruitment of Principal Planning Officer - Development Plan and Enforcement – underway and due to complete February 2024.
- Planning assistant trawl completed October 2023 for 10 posts – 9 staff appointed/ offered posts. Of these, 4 postholder have commenced work by 8 January with remaining start dates being finalised for February. It should be noted that the reserve list has been exhausted and a further trawl for 2 more staff needs to be carried out. Of the 8 staff appointed 1 No staff member has already resigned which demonstrates the challenges and competitiveness of the labour market
- Business Support Manager appointed and in post.
- Business Support Officer trawl completed to recruit 3 no staff – start details to be finalised.
- 5 staff have been absent long term from work (with no back fill) their work has been absorbed within the current staff complement. (2 returned w/c 8 Jan)
- Currently considering redeployment of staff from other departments to address the short term pressures in the Development Management Team.
- Considering apprenticeship scheme to address recruitment challenges

#### **Performance Management**

- Majors and Legacy applications are being reviewed monthly with an agreed action plan to determine / close applications that have been in the system before 2020
- Weekly meetings with Senior Planning staff to review performance and agree actions to address challenges.
- Monthly report on performance presented to SMT

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event planned for January / February 2024 with Agents and Architects etc to update on the above, discuss challenges and discuss a collaborative approach including application quality etc.</li> <li>Ongoing engagement with statutory consultees around response times.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	1. Discuss and note the content of the report 2. Officer table quarterly reports to update members on progress or otherwise against actions outlined above.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	none
<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>
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	<i>Rationale:</i>
<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>
	NA
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	NA