

AMENDMENTS TO STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES MINUTES OF 12 MAY 2016 AT COUNCIL MEETING OF 6 JUNE 2016

The following amendments were made to the Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee at the Council meeting held on 6 June 2016.

C/112/2016 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2016

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2016 (Copy circulated).

SPR/120/2016 – Report on Lease and Disposal of Playing Fields/Recreation Facilities/General Property

Councillor Carr proposed the following amendment to the recommendation that “in situations where two or more clubs were seeking use of the same facility and meet the criteria but could not agree a partnership arrangement, then the land would not be leased until the interested parties could reach an agreement” to:

“in situations where two or more clubs were seeking use of the same facility and meet the criteria but could not agree a partnership arrangement, that the matter be brought back to Council to decide upon”.

Councillor Devlin seconded this amendment stating a stalemate could ensue if the matter was left to clubs to reach an agreement.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Devlin that the above amendment be approved.**

SPR/114/2016 – Contribution Agreement with Newry Olympic Hockey Club

Councillor D McAteer queried whether the agreed contribution was planned expenditure within the rates estimates process.

Mrs Carville advised the expenditure had not been planned within the rates estimates however it had been agreed earlier in the year although the expenditure had not taken place.

Mr Curtis stated the scheme had been a legacy Newry and Mourne agreement and a commitment existed with a signed letter of offer. He advised the work was now complete and Council were legally bound to cover the costs.

SPR/121/2016 – Warrenpoint Community Hub/Rostrevor Strategic Project

Councillor D McAteer proposed that the recommended action be amended from:

“agreement be given to publicly advertise Expressions of Interest for a Community Health Facility in Rostrevor in a Council owned premises” to:

“agreement be given to publicly advertise Expressions of Interest for any private, community or commercial venture in Rostrevor in a Council owned premises.”

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly that the above amendment be approved.

SPR/130/2016 – Notice of Motion – Video Recording and Live Streaming of Council Meetings

The Chief Executive stated all Committee Meetings that were held in the Downshire Civic Centre would take place in the Mourne Room until the audio recording equipment was provided in the Commedagh Room. He advised that Committee Meetings which take place in Newry would continue to be held in Newry with audio recording commencing as soon as the equipment had been installed.

The Chief Executive also clarified that recordings of Committee Meetings would be available for inspection by the public at the Council offices, but not on the Council website.

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, subject to the above amendments, on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor W Clarke.

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 May 2016 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.

In the Chair : Councillor R Burgess

In Attendance: Councillor T Andrews Councillor P Brown
Councillor S Burns Councillor M Carr
Councillor W Clarke Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor B Quinn Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane Councillor B Walker

Also in Attendance: Councillor P Clarke

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance
Mr C O'Rourke, Director, Regulatory and Technical Services
Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Ms R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Policy
Mr E McManus, Capital Projects
Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer
Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager
Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services, (Administration)
Mrs C McKenna, Assistant Director, Administration
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/102/2016:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies recorded.

SPR/103/2016:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S Burns declared an interest in SPR/128/2016 – Social Investment Fund, as he had an interest in Castlewellan Community

Centre, and advised he would withdraw from the meeting when this item was being discussed.

SPR/104/2016:- ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2016

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2016 (circulated).

SPR/83/2016 – Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2016

SPR/48/2016 – Land for Sale at Upper Dromore Road, Warrenpoint

In response to a request from Councillor Ruane, Mr Curtis explained that a meeting had taken place regarding the estimated costs of the works to the grounds at Warrenpoint Town Football Club, which would be in the region of £60-70k. He further explained that the works could be done on a 50/50 basis, with Council paying 50% and Warrenpoint Town Football Club paying 50%.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, that the cost of the health and safety remedial works of approximately £60,000 - £70,000 would be split 50/50 between Council and Warrenpoint Town Football Club.

SPR/91/2016 - CCTV Cameras

In response to Councillor Andrews' request for an update on the CCTV cameras, Mr Curtis advised that a meeting had taken place with the Technical Officer, Mr Soden and a meeting would be held next week with the Consultant, after which a report would be brought to the June meeting of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

Agreed: The Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 14 May 2016, was agreed.

SPR/105/2016 REPORT OF NARROW WATER BRIDGE PROJECT MEETING

Read: Report of the Meeting of various parties held on 6 April 2016 to discuss the Narrow Water Bridge Project (copy circulated).

Noted: Mr Hannaway provided an update for Members, saying that a number of meetings had been held over the past few months including a meeting with the North/South Ministerial Working Group who were preparing a paper as part of the Fresh Start Agreement.

Noted: **The report of the Meeting of various parties held on 6 April 2016 to discuss the Narrow Water Bridge Project, was noted.**

CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/106/2016 REPORT ON SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the Scheme of Allowances for Councillors (copy circulated).

In response to a question from Councillor Carr, Mr Hannaway advised that in the current year, Councillor Craig had been appointed on two positions for which an SRA was applicable, one as Party Leader and one as a member of Planning Committee, however, under legislation, only one SRA could be paid to any one Member. A Council decision had been taken to distribute the second SRA 50/50 between the Chair of Planning Committee, with the remaining 50% being divided among the other 19 members in receipt of SRA payments.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that the current scheme of allowances payable to Councillors be extended from its current stated date of 31 March 2016 to 31 May 2016.**

SPR/107/2016 COMMITTEE MEETINGS: DATES AND COMMENCEMENT TIMES

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, and Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the start times of Committee Meetings 2016/17 and the date of the next Audit Committee (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Craig, that:**

- **The start time of all June Committee Meetings (with the exception of Planning Committee) is set at 5pm and an item be placed on each of the June agendas for each**

Committee to agree its own start time for meetings from August 2016 to May 2017.

- **Planning Committee Meetings continue with a start time of 10am.**
- **Due to the non-availability of the independent Chair of the Audit Committee for meeting scheduled for 30 June, this meeting be held on Monday 4 July at 2pm.**

SPR/108/2016

MEMORIAL STONE – VICTIMS OF AN GORTA MÓR

Read:

Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the Memorial Stone – victims of An Gorta Mór (the Great Hunger) (copy circulated).

Mrs McParland explained that Council would be required to pay for the cost of a local stone and the engraving, which was €5 per letter. She added that she would be contacting the Irish Famine Community to seek clarity on a number of issues.

Councillor Reilly suggested obtaining a stone from the old hospital site in Kilkeel as that was the site of the old workhouse.

Mr Curtis suggested sourcing the most appropriate stone.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that the request from CCIFF (Irish Famine Community) for Council to participate in a Memorial to the victims of An Gorta Mór, by paying for the cost of provision of a local stone and its engraving, be acceded to.

SPR/109/2016

FUNDING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT BODIES

Read:

Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 12 May 2016, regarding funding to Local Government Support Bodies (copy circulated).

In response to a question from Councillor Curran, Mr Hannaway confirmed the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) was being disbanded as of 1 April 2017. He said a paper would be tabled at Party Representatives Forum advising of collaborative work. He provided details of the services the LGSC provided to Council.

Mrs Miskelly said the Local Government Training Group provided a training programme for Local Government which met the needs of

the Councils in a cost effective way. She said it also provided Council the service of drawing down subsidies for training.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Craig, that breakdown of funding to NILGA and the Local Government Staff Commission for the year 2016/17, be accepted, with the Council making payments in line with the stipulated annual subscriptions.

ESTATE

SPR/110/2016 **NEWRY STREET UNITE PROJECT – HILLSIDE DRIVE, KILKEEL**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 May 2016, regarding Newry Street Unite Project – Council play area site at Hillside Drive, Kilkeel (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Quinn, that:

- The additional land required for this project be leased from the Housing Executive and a sub-lease with Newry Street Unite be entered into of this additional land along with the land in the existing Council lease.
- Discussions take place with the Housing Executive regarding the premiums requested by the Executive for this community project.

SPR/111/2016 **REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND AT LOUGH INCH CEMETERY, BALLYNAHINCH**

Read: Report from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) dated 12 May 2016, regarding the request to purchase land at Lough Inch Cemetery, Ballynahinch (copy circulated).

Councillor Andrews expressed concerns regarding this matter and queried whether safeguards had been put in place with the river being nearby.

Mr Curtis advised that if the Council moved with the extension to the cemetery, a planning application would be required which would

include consultation with the statutory bodies including NI Water and Rivers Agency.

In response to a question from Councillor Craig, Mr Curtis said Council was proposing to undertake an annual review of all of Council's land and that any surplus land would be put on the open market.

Ms Robb urged caution over disposing of any land for cemeteries, saying it was premium land.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Craig, that Council advises the applicant that with regret, it was not currently in a position to consider the disposal of lands requested, nor would a direct disposal be easily facilitated given the lands were vested.**

SPR/112/2016 **LEASE OF LANDS AT KILBRONEY TO KILBRONEY YOUTH CENTRE**

Read: Report from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) dated 9 May 2016, regarding the request to lease a strip of Council land at Kilbroney to Kilbroney Church of Ireland Youth Centre (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Craig, that agreement be given to the proposed 20 year lease of a small portion of Council lands at Kilbroney to Kilbroney Church of Ireland Youth Centre/The Representative Church Body but, as per recommendation of the Council's Senior Management Team, to delete the draft clause agreeing to the Council paying 50% of boundary fencing costs.**

SPR/113/2016 **BURREN VILLAGE GREEN – WAYLEAVE AGREEMENT**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance and Ms A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) dated 12 May 2016, regarding the Wayleave Request – Burren Village Green (copy circulated).

Noted: Councillor Quinn requested that upon completion of the project, local Councillors be given the opportunity to inspect the works to ensure they were up to standard.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Craig, that the valuation in the sum of £15,000 for the wayleave request, subject to a legal agreement and to all matters being in order, be approved.

SPR/114/2016 **CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH NEWRY OLYMPIC HOCKEY CLUB**

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services and Mr K Montgomery, Head of Finance, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the proposed financial contribution to Newry Olympic Hockey Club (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that:

- The contribution of £20,000 be granted to Newry Olympic Hockey Club in the financial year 2016/17 subject to the issue of an updated letter of offer and to all matters being in order.
- A Deed of Priority be entered into with the Bank of Ireland and the borrower giving the Council's contribution second priority, subject to the Council's solicitor having no issues with the Terms and Conditions of the Deed.

SPR/115/2016 **ANNUAL ELECTRICITY TENDER**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the electricity contract tender 2016/17 (copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Burns, that the report on the annual electricity tender, be accepted.

SPR/116/2016 **ENERGY CONSUMPTION REPORT**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the Quarterly Energy Report: January – March 2016 (copy circulated)

Noted: The Quarterly Energy Report: January – March 2016, was noted.

SPR/117/2016

ACQUISITION AND USE OF THE STEEL STRUCTURE IN THE MARKET SQUARE, BALLYNAHINCH

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 May 2016, regarding Ballynahinch Community Facility (copy circulated).

Mr Curtis advised an officer would be appointed to work with the Edge Community Group to ensure successful identification of funding.

Councillor Andrews commended the Edge Community Group and Council for working together on what he described as an eyesore.

Councillor Craig reinforced Councillor Andrews' comments, saying the Edge Community Group did excellent voluntary work across the community in the Ballynahinch area and he welcomed Council assisting with facilitation of the project.

Councillor Walker added his support to the recommendations, saying the group worked with everyone across the community and across the wider Ballynahinch area.

Councillor Burns expressed concerns over the inclusion of capital financial assistance in the 2017/18 Estimates, saying grant assistance should be sufficient.

In response to Councillor Burns query regarding the lease, Ms A Robb explained that the original owners had received substantial funding for the facility, but due to difficulties that had arisen, the Council had taken over the building. She added there were still a few years to run on the lease.

Mr Curtis said it would be exceptionally difficult to identify a funder which would provide 100% funding to a Council owned facility, whether it was leased to Council or in Council's ownership.

Councillor Burns expressed concerns regarding setting a precedent, saying if another community group wanted use of a Council owned facility and asked Council for parity, they could use this as a precedent.

Mr Hannaway advised that this was different to the sporting clubs which had contacted Council asking to lease lands from Council. In this case, Council owned the steel structure and had asked the Edge Community Group to take ownership of it and draw down funding to complete the project.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Craig, that:

- Council Officers provide assistance to the Edge Community Group to identify funding to complete their Community Project in Ballynahinch.
- On the completion of all applications, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council consider including realistic capital financial assistance in 2017/18 Estimates.
- Council to provide a 25 year lease to the Edge Community Group.
- Council agree not to contribute financial assistance for the on-going running costs for the facility.

SPR/118/2016 **ERECTION OF FENCE ADJACENT TO 29 BELFAST ROAD, SAINTFIELD**

Read: Report from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Administration), dated 12 May 2016, regarding erection of fence adjacent to 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield (copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burns, that the erection of a boundary fence between its site at 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield and adjoining lands at 24 Windmill Hollow, Saintfield, be approved.

SPR/119/2016 **NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE PHASE 2 – BOSCO FACILITY – REVISED COST**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 May 2016, regarding Newry Leisure Centre. Phase 2 – Bosco Facility (copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, that the revised costs of providing the Club Pavilion for St John’s Bosco GAC within Phase 2 of Newry Leisure Centre, be approved.

SPR/120/2016 **REPORT ON LEASE AND DISPOSAL OF PLAYING FIELDS/RECREATION FACILITIES/GENERAL PROPERTY**

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Procedures (copy circulated).

Mr Curtis explained that this was the new policy for Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Procedures.

In response to a query from Councillor P Clarke, Mr Curtis advised that with regard to the right of appeal, the decision lay with Council as to whether they wanted to lease the land or not, and there would be very few situations whereby Council would not want to lease the land, as it would benefit the community.

Councillor Burns expressed concerns over the policy, saying it was light regarding conflict management where there were 2 competing bids.

Councillor Burns proposed that the policy be adopted subject to it being amended to provide for situations whereby two or more Clubs were seeking use of the same facility and meet the criteria but could not agree a partnership arrangement. In such circumstances, the facility would not be leased until the interested parties could read an agreement.

This was seconded by Councillor W Clarke.

Ms Robb advised that the policy had been reviewed by Council's solicitor who was satisfied with the conditions set out. She said Council was aiming to provide facilities for the benefit of the community, but Council reserved the right to not proceed and ultimately it was up to the community to work together. She added that the policy also applied to community organisations who wished to secure land for eg. allotments.

Mr Curtis stressed the policy would not answer every query that would arise.

Councillor Carr said the issue of equality was not raised in the Aims of the Procedures.

Mr Curtis said the issue of equality was included within the Principles of the policy and was very important. He added that there would be situations of conflict, and in such cases, it would be up to Council to move forward or not.

Councillor Carr said it was critical that all sporting codes and community organisations would have fair and equitable access to all of Council's sporting facilities in the area, and that this would be added into the policy.

Councillor Burns and Councillor W Clarke agreed to include Councillor Carr's point into their proposal.

Mr Hannaway asked for agreement to add an addendum into the policy to allow the clubs or sporting organisations who had applied to lease Council lands to proceed.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that the Policy on the Lease and Disposal of Playing Fields/Recreation Facilities/General Property be agreed, subject to the inclusion of the following:

- That in situations where two or more clubs were seeking use of the same facility and meet the criteria but could not agree a partnership arrangement, then the land would not be leased until the interested parties could reach an agreement.
- That all sporting codes and community organisations would have fair and equitable access to all of Council's sporting facilities in the area.

Agreed: It was further agreed that the applications already received by Council from clubs or sporting organisations could now proceed.

SPR/121/2016 **WARRENPOINT COMMUNITY HUB/ROSTREVOR STRATEGIC PROJECT**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the Warrenpoint Community Hub/Rostrevor Strategic Project (copy circulated).

Mr Curtis advised there had been a meeting the previous day where representatives of the PSNI, Libraries Association, Health Centre and GPs had been present and all parties had agreed to participate in a joint scheme.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Carr, that

- Agreement be given to advertise for Expressions of Interest for the development of Warrenpoint Community Hub.
- Agreement be given to publicly advertise Expressions of Interest for a Community Health Facility in Rostrevor in a Council owned premises.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

SPR/122/2016 CONSULTATION ON THE ISSUE OF A REVISED CODE OF PROCEDURES ON RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

Read: Report from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Human Resources), dated 12 May 2016, regarding the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Consultation on the Review of the Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that the submission of responses to the above consultation as detailed in the response questionnaire (copy circulated), be approved.**

EQUALITY AND POLICY

SPR/123/2016 SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JANUARY – MARCH 2016

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2016.

Noted: **The Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2016, was noted.**

SPR/124/2016 REQUEST TO HOST CARERS WEEK EVENT ON 6 JUNE 2016

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 12 May 2016, regarding the request from the South Eastern HSC Trust re Carers Week venue (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, that the request to host a Carers Week event organised by South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in the Commedagh Room, Downshire on 6 June 2016 from 10:30 – 1:00pm, be acceded to.**

SPR/125/2016 PROPOSAL FROM CO-OPERATION IRELAND RE: AMAZING THE SPACE EVENT

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer and Mr D Brannigan, Community Relations & Development Manager, dated 12 May

2016, regarding the proposal from Co-operation Ireland re: Amazing the Space event (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that agreement in principle be given, through financial support, and providing local co-ordination and advice, to support delivery of a regional satellite venue for 300/500 school students from the area (St Paul's High School, Bessbrook) for the Amazing the Space event on International Peace Day 21 September 2016. The level of financial support of up to £5,000 being subject to the letter of offer from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister related to the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Strategy.

SPR/126/2016 **REQUESTS FROM NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance and C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 12 May 2016, regarding requests from Newry Maritime Association.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, that approval in principle be given to:

- Erect 3 small information plaques on park benches within Fisher Park (2) to acknowledge the seafarers who played a key role in the development of Newry and remember all those employed in the port of Newry and the pivotal role they played, and at the Glen (1) overlooking the area formerly known as 'Sailortown'.
- Acknowledge the centenary of the Connemara/Retriever tragedy which happened on 3 November 1916 with the loss of 93 lives, through the appropriate siting of a steel plate from the hull.
- As part of the Flagstaff Fiesta on 31 July 2016, place a metal ship's bow on a vacant concrete plinth at the Flagstaff Viewpoint and an information panel as a tribute to Fathom seamen.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Ruane regarding plaques on park benches, Mr Curtis explained that the proposal would be not to name a bench or area after an individual or a family.

Mr Moffett, Equality Officer advised the issue of plaques on park benches had been discussed at the Good Relations Working Group.

In response to a query from Councillor Carr, Mr Hannaway said a report would be brought back to Council regarding centenary commemorations of the Connemara/Retriever tragedy.

In response to Members queries, Mr Curtis advised he would bring further information back to Council regarding the anniversaries of the sinking of the Lusitania and the opening of the Suez Canal.

Agreed: It was further agreed that information would be brought back to Council regarding commemorating the anniversaries of the sinking of the Lusitania and the opening of the Suez Canal.

GRANT AIDED PROGRAMMES

SPR/127/2016 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Read: Report from Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 12 May 2016, regarding Financial Assistance.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, that:

- Approval to fund applications in call one for the 2016/17 period as per the appendix (circulated previously), be given.
- Advances – provision of up to 50% advances on a needs led basis, be given.

Councillor Burns declared an interest in the next item of business and withdrew from the meeting.

SPR/128/2016 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

Read: Report from Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 12 May 2016, regarding Financial Assistance.

Councillor W Clarke asked that the meeting regarding the displacement of the current user groups during the period of construction would take place as soon as possible.

Councillor P Clarke said she was very pleased Council had agreed to the community centre for Castlewellan as it was a much needed facility which would be good for the community.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that the Letter of Offer received from OFMDFM in the amount of £527,951 for Castlewellan Community Centre, be approved.

SPR/129/2016 **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS**

Read: Report from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director of Community Engagement and Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 12 May 2016, regarding Service Level Agreements.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that a new process for the management of Service Level Agreements with Community Centres and services on behalf of Council as outlined in the report, be approved.

SPR/130/2016 **NOTICE OF MOTION – VIDEO RECORDING AND LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown:

“This Council recognises that local government should always strive for the greatest degree of transparency and accountability and therefore agrees that the following measures be taken to increase transparency: video recording and live streaming of all full council meetings, audio recording of all statutory committee meetings and online publication of Councillor’s register of interests. The Council asks that a cost analysis and delivery timetable for this be presented to next month’s SPR meeting for approval’.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Brown said the costs referred to in the report regarding audio recording were not too high and there was no issue with putting the Members’ Register of Interests online, but the major issue was the cost of the live streaming. He queried why only 1 quotation was obtained and asked for clarity over the expense of running the live streaming equipment.

Councillor Andrews seconded the motion.

Councillor Walker said he did not think the live streaming was value for money and queried the number of people watching the live streaming on Belfast City Council’s website.

Councillor W Clarke suggested looking at options for delayed streaming which would not be as expensive as live streaming.

Councillor Burns concurred with Councillor W Clarke's comments querying if the cameras could be used to put up the visuals onto the Council's website.

Mr O'Rourke explained that the costings within the report were obtained through a request in 2013, which the Down legacy Council had voted for, but the technology had not been put in place to enable it. He added that the cameras could visually stream, but the backend technology was not in place to live stream.

Councillor Brown said he was willing to accept Councillor W Clarke's amendment to visually record the Council meetings and upload them to the website at a later stage.

Mr Hannaway said recording was required to be done to a professional standard in case it had to be used as part of a challenge or judicial review and in response to a question from Councillor Brown, suggested obtaining another cost for visually recording Council meetings.

Councillor Brown said he would alter his motion to allow for visual recording with upload to the website at a later date, as opposed to live streaming.

Councillor W Clarke said he still would not be in favour of Councillor Brown's motion, as further investigation was required on the visual transmission being hosted on Council's website.

Mrs McParland explained a way forward was required regarding recording of the Planning Committee meetings and also how long recordings of Committees would be held for. She added that if Committee meetings were to be recorded, they would need to take place in the Mourne Room, Downshire as that was where the recording equipment was situated.

As an amendment, Councillor W Clarke proposed and Councillor Ruane seconded, that further investigation was undertaken on the visual transmission being hosted on the Council's website and that Council's Planning Committee should not be recorded.

The amendment was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 8
AGAINST: 3
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The amendment was declared carried and became the substantive motion, which was put to a vote by a show of hands, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 10
AGAINST: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Burns, that:

- Committee Meetings be audio recorded and recordings made available for inspection by the public at the Council Offices for 6 years from the date of the Meeting.
- A Register of Councillors' interests be published online
- Further investigation is undertaken regarding live streaming of Council meetings.
- Council's Planning Committee is not audio recorded.
- Committee meetings take place in the Mourne Room until such time as audio recording equipment is provided in the Boardroom, Newry.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2015

SPR/131/2016 TRANSFERRED CIVIL SERVANTS PAY

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 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).

Read: Report from Ms D Carville, Director Corporate Services, dated 12 May 2016, regarding Transferred Civil Servants' Pay (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson reported that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Craig, to accede to the recommendations in the report at paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2, regarding transferred civil servants' pay.

The meeting concluded at 6.57pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 6 June 2016.

Signed: Councillor Robert Burgess
Chairperson

Signed: Eddie Curtis
Director of Strategic Planning and Performance