

## **NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 May 2015 at 3.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.**

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<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Councillor R Burgess</b>
<b>Vice Chairperson:</b>	<b>Councillor H Reilly</b>
<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Councillor S Burns Councillor M Carr Councillor W Clarke Councillor G Craig Councillor D Curran Councillor G Donnelly Councillor B Quinn Councillor M Ruane Councillor W Walker</b>
<b>Non-Committee Members:</b>	<b>Councillor P Clarke Councillor C Enright</b>
<b>Officials in Attendance:</b>	<b>Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning &amp; Performance Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources Ms R Mackin, Asst Director, Equality Ms H McKee, Community Planning Manager Miss O McGreevy, Marketing Assistant Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer Mr P Green, Legal Advisor Mr J McBride, Change Manager Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Ms U Mhic An tSaoir, Irish Language Officer Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer</b>

### **SPR/20/2015:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor L Kimmins.

The Chairperson expressed Council's sympathies to Robert Dowey and his family on the death of his mother.

Councillor Reilly entered the meeting at this stage – 3.03pm

**SPR/21/2015:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

**SPR/22/2015:- ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2015**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2015.

**Noted:** **The Action Sheet was NOTED.**

Councillors Carr, Craig, Curran, Donnelly, McGrath and Quinn entered the meeting at this stage – 3.05pm

**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE**

**SPR/23/2015:- INTERIM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

**Read:** Report from Mr J McBride, Change Manager dated 14 May 2015 recommending an Interim Corporate Performance Management Framework for 2015-16. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor W Clarke to agree the Interim Corporate Performance Management Framework as detailed in Mr McBride's Report of 14 May 2015.**

**SPR/24/2015:- ORGANISATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS & EFFICIENCIES**

**Read:** Report from Mr J McBride, Change Manager dated 14 May 2015 regarding Organisational Improvements and Efficiencies (Transformational Programme).(Copy circulated)

Mr McBride presented the above report highlighting to Members that the workshop to be held on Friday 29 May at 12.00pm would now be held in Monaghan Row, Newry as

opposed to the Downshire Civic Centre due to DARD Fisheries' relocation to the Civic Centre on that date.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor W Clarke to note the contents of Mr McBride's report dated 14 May 2015 and agree to the Report's recommendations in relation to:  
The prioritisation, and subsequent implementation, of the recommended improvement projects for 2015-16 and the selection of the integration of Planning with Building Control project as the Council's performance improvement objective in accordance with the statutory requirements.

**SPR/25/29015:- CLOSURE OF LG REFORM PROGRAMME**

**Read:** Report from Report from Mr J McBride, Change Manager dated 14 May 2015 regarding the Local Government Reform Programme – Closure Report. (Copy circulated)

Mr McBride presented the above report advising the Local Government Reform Programme would be closed with the assurance that the transition to the new Council has been successfully completed.

**Noted:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ruane to note the Report on Closure of Local Government Reform Programme.

**MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**SPR/26/2015:- MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS – MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT (FOR NOTING)**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Ms V Keegan, Marketing Manager regarding Marketing and Communications – Monthly Activity Report. (Copy circulated)

Ms O McGreevy advised she would be presenting the report as Ms Keegan was unavailable to attend the meeting. She advised the report reflected the work being delivered by the Marketing and Communications team based in the Downpatrick Office and it was envisaged that as organisational structures and teams were established, the future reports would reflect the work of the entire Marketing and Communications section of the Council.

**Noted:** It was agreed to note the Marketing and Communications – Monthly Activity Report.

**SPR/27/2015:- CPP/MK1 – TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CORPORATE GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Ms V Keegan, Marketing Manager regarding tender for the provision of corporate graphic design services. (Copy circulated)

Ms Keegan advised that based on the Council's objective to transform and modernise, providing accessibility as well as value for money services, it was recommended that Council appoint a Graphic Design Agency to support the marketing and communications activities of the Council. She recommended that a tender for this provision be approved for a four year period, with the option to extend for a further year and the appointment would be subject to annual review.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Walker that a tender for the provision of of corporate graphic design services be approved for a four year period, with the option of a further one year extension.

Councillor Enright entered the meeting at this stage – 3.08pm

**SPR/28/2015:- UPDATE ON WEBSITE**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Ms R Mackin, Assistant Director of Administration (Equality) providing an update on the current Council website and advising of future website requirements. (Copy circulated)

Ms Mackin advised she was seeking permission from Council to draw up the specification for the development of a new fully functional interactive corporate website at a projected cost of between £70,000 and £100,000.

Members raised the following queries:

- Would the website have the capability to accept customer payments?
- Projected costs appeared expensive and would the cost include design and layout of a new website?
- Does the cost include maintenance and changes to website?
- Could the website be tested perhaps as part of the age friendly strategy to ensure it was user-friendly?

Mr E Curtis responded to the queries as follows:

- The website would have capability to accept customer payments for licences etc.
- Experts had been consulted and had stated the cost was standard, however due to the economic downturn when going to tender, costs may be slightly less.
- The cost included design and layout. Maintenance and changes would have to be carried out by trained Council staff.
- The website would be made as user friendly as possible and major consultation would take place across a number of focus groups.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Donnelly to approve the drawing up of specification for the development of a new fully functional interactive corporate website at a projected cost of between £70,000 and £100,000.

Councillor Enright left the meeting at this stage – 3.12pm

**SPR/29/2015:- AGE FRIENDLY CONFERENCE**

**Read:** Report from Ms R Mackin dated 14 May 2015, Assistant Director of Administration (Equality) seeking approval to the hosting of an Age Friendly Conference in Autumn 2015. (Copy circulated)

Ms Mackin provided some background on the legacy Council's partnership with its Age Friendly Strategic Alliance and recommended that permission be granted to host an Age Friendly Conference in late Autumn in partnership with the Age Friendly Strategic Alliance to celebrate the end of the first year of the Age Friendly Action Plan and its achievements.

In proposing to accept the above recommendation, Councillor Burns asked that a small briefing on the Age Friendly Strategic Alliance be provided to those Councillors from the legacy Down District Council and new Councillors.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor W Clarke that Council host an Age Friendly Conference in Autumn 2015 and a briefing on the Age Friendly Strategic Alliance be provided to both new Councillors and those from the legacy Down District Council.

**SPR/30/2015:-      EQUALITY**

**Read:**            Report dated 14 May 2015 from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer giving details of:  
a. Letter from Equality Commission for NI approving Council's Equality Scheme for 2015-16.  
b. Amendments made to the Council's Equality Scheme  
c. Letter from Minister of the Environment re: Councils' obligations to review and update their Disability Action Plans. (Copies circulated)

**Noted:**            **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the reports.**

**SPR/31/2015:-      LETTER FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION REQUESTING APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS AS DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS AND SEEKING SUPPORT FOR EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

**Read:**            Letter dated 29 April 2015 from Local Government Staff Commission regarding appointment of Diversity Champions and endorsement of Equality and Diversity Framework. (Copy circulated)

Ms Mackin advised the Staff Commission had extended an invitation to the Council to participate in the initiative to appoint officers and Elected Members to act as Diversity Champions for the Council. She advised the officer would usually be the Council's Equality Officer. She also stated the Council were required to sign up to the Diversity Framework.

Members raised the following queries on the issue:

- What would be the time commitment required to become a Diversity Champion?
- There was not enough information contained within the report; how many Elected Members and Officers were required?
- What were the cost implications to the Council?

The queries were responded to as follows:

- There would be some time commitment in terms of attending meetings and events as well as training and the promotion of equality both internally and externally.
- A report could be provided at the next Committee in terms of the level of representation and what time commitment was required.
- Only costs would be in terms of time for meetings etc. for officers and travel expenses.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane that a report be provided to the next Committee Meeting to set out the level of representation and time commitment required.

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING**

### **SPR/32/2015:- DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA FORA AND THE ELECTED MEMBERS 'PATCH'**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Ms H McKee, Community Planning Manager recommending:

1. As the DEA Fora will require input from all Council Directorates and Statutory Partners, a detailed report on terms of reference, operating model/s and scope of DEA Fora be prepared by senior Officers and presented to the Senior Management Team, prior to tabling at SPR Committee meeting in June 2015.
2. Organise a workshop for Members to consider the Council's role, from a Member perspective, in relation to Governance; thematic and working basis.
3. A working group of Councillors is established to contribute to the development of an Elected Member Management Information System/'Patch'. (Copy circulated)

Ms McKee advised the 'patch' would be an app available on Members' Ipads which would enable Members to input 'day to day' issues raised by constituents which would then be emailed directly to statutory partners to address the issue.

Councillor Burns proposed the 'patch' be integrated into the new Council website. This was seconded by Councillor Craig.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Carr to accept the officer's recommendations as follows:

1. Prepare a detailed report on terms of reference, operating model/s and scope of DEA Fora to present to the Senior Management Team, prior to tabling at SPR Committee meeting in June 2015.
2. Organise a workshop for Members to consider the Council's role, from a Member perspective, in relation to Governance; thematic and working basis.
3. Establish a working group of Councillors to contribute to the development of an Elected Member Management Information System/'Patch'.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Craig that the 'patch' be integrated into the new Council website.

**SPR/33/2015:- COMMUNITY PLANNING ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Ms H McKee, Community Planning Manager on feedback received from Community Planning Speed Engagement Events. (Copy circulated)

**Noted:** It was agreed to note the Community Planning Engagement Feedback Report.

**SPR/34/2015:- SOCIAL HOUSING REFORM**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Ms H McKee, Community Planning Manager for Council enclosing a recommended response from Council on Social Housing Reform for submission to Department of Social Development. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the response as prepared by Ms McKee.

**SPR/35/2015:- RTPI NI COMMUNITY PLANNING EVENT**

**Read:** Invitation received from RTPI Northern Ireland regarding Community Planning: Linking People and Places event taking place on Wednesday 3 June 2015 at 9.00am at The Mac, 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast.

Ms McKee advised the event was open to Councillors and officers to attend and said she was interested in attending herself. Councillors Burns, W Clarke and Craig put their names forward to attend. Councillor Burns also asked that a place be saved for Councillor Fitzpatrick.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that Ms McKee along with Councillors Burns, W Clarke, Craig and Fitzpatrick attend the Community Planning Event. It was also agreed to circulate the information to all Members.



**SPR/36/2015:- 2<sup>ND</sup> NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN COMMUNITY  
INFORMATION AND NETWORKING EVENT**

**Read:** Invitation received to 2<sup>nd</sup> Newry, Mourne and Down Community Information and Networking Event taking place in the Whistledown Hotel, Warrenpoint on Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 7.30pm.

**Agreed:** **The invitation was noted and it was agreed to circulate to all Members.**

**CORPORATE SERVICES – FINANCE**

**SPR/37/2015:- ARRANGEMENT OF A £5M OVERDRAFT FACILITY FOR  
NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Mr Dowey advised he was asking for approval to arrange a £5m overdraft facility for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Carr to approve the arrangement of a £5m overdraft facility for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.**

**SPR/38/2015:- REPORT ON REQUEST RECEIVED FROM LONGSTONE GAC  
REQUESTING REDUCTION IN LOAN PAYMENT OVER A  
LONGER PERIOD OF TIME**

**Read:** Report dated 7 May 2015 from Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance regarding request from Longstone GAC to reduce monthly payments to less than the £300 per month currently paid. (Copy circulated)

Mr Dowey advised that Longstone GAC were seeking to reduce their monthly payments to less than the £300 per month they currently were paying, which at current repayment rates would take another 19 years to repay this loan. He stated the Local Government Auditor had highlighted this long outstanding loan and the slow progress of repayment each year in the Audit Report.

Members discussed the issue at length and asked whether Council officials could assist the club by giving advice on grants availability.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor W Clarke to refuse the request for a reduction in the monthly payment rate and instead to arrange for officers to meet with the club to offer advice and assistance on grant availability and application.**

**SPR/39/2015:- POLICY FOR GOING TO TENDER AND AWARDING TENDERS**

**Read:** Procedures for going to tender and awarding tenders (Copy circulated)

Mr Dowey advised the awarding of tenders was being held up at this time and asked that the procedures for going to tender and awarding tenders be agreed.

Councillor Craig queried if expressions of interest and pre-quality checks would still continue as was practice in the past.

Mr Dowey advised the purchasing procedures ensured that those tenders below £30,000 were completed electronically and it was important that any supplier wishing to do business with Council was registered on the E-Hub system.

Councillor Carr asked for the wording to be amended in paragraph 1. where it stated "Items under £30,000 are awarded by Officers at appropriate level of authority." He said this wording implied that Officers were in control of the tenders, and instead it should be Councillors.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Donnelly to approve the procedures for going to tender and awarding tenders, subject to the wording of paragraph 1 relating to authorisation of items under £30,000 being amended to reflect Councillor Carr's comments.

**SPR/40/2015:- POLICY ON SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS APRIL 2015-MARCH 2016**

**Read:** Policy on Scheme of allowances payable to Councillors April 2015 – March 2016. (Copy circulated)

Members raised the following questions in relation to the Scheme of Allowances:

- If Members were invited to attend event launches or photoshoots why could they not be reimbursed for such travel?
- In the legacy Down District Council, Councillors were able to claim mileage if they attended events whereby they were officially invited through the Council, would this practice continue?
- The mileage from one end of the new District to the other was substantial and the rate should be reinvestigated to take account of this.

Mr Dowey and Mr Hannaway responded to the queries as follows:

- Only the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson were entitled to receive recompense for attending event launches and photoshoots. 85% of the Scheme of Allowance was set by the Department of Environment
- The process previously operated in the legacy Councils had now changed and this was reflected within the proposed policy.
- Mileage rates were a statutory provision and set by the Department of Environment.

Following discussion it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane that Schedule 1 contained within the report which relating to Special Responsibility Allowances be agreed, and that Schedule 2 be brought to the Party Representatives Forum for further discussion.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane to accept Schedule 1-Special Responsibility Allowances and that Schedule 2 – Travel and Subsistence Allowances be brought to the Party Representatives Forum for further discussion.

**SPR/41/2015:- REPORT ON SRA ALLOWANCES AGREED BY COUNCIL RELATING TO WAY FORWARD IN RELATION TO ONE UNALLOCATED SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE(SRA)**

**Read:** Report from the Chief Executive dated 14 May 2015 recommending:

- The one SRA which remained to be allocated, be allocated among the other 20 positions which receive SRA payments.
- Council agree, in principle, that a similar arrangement be applied on a year to year basis, with any unallocated SRA allowance being divided among remaining Members in receipt of an SRA. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Ruane proposed acceptance of the officer's recommendations, this was seconded by Councillor Burns.

Following discussion, Councillor Brown proposed an amendment that 50% of the unallocated SRA be given to the Chair of Planning Committee, with the other 50% being divided among the remaining positions which receive SRA payments. This was seconded by Councillor Craig.

Councillor Ruane asked if he voted for the amended proposal, would the position of Chair of Planning Committee continue to carry a greater responsibility in the upcoming years.

The Chief Executive advised the Special Responsibility Allowances could be decided on a yearly basis and this was agreed unanimously.

The Chairperson put the amendment to a vote, result of which was as follows:

**FOR: 7**  
**AGAINST: 0**  
**ABSTENTIONS: 5**

**The proposal, as amended, was AGREED.**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Craig that 50% of the unallocated SRA be given to the Chair of Planning Committee with the other 50% being divided among the remaining positions which receive SRA payments.**

**Agreed: It was unanimously agreed the above arrangement to be for the year 2015-16.**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor W Clarke that item SPR/40/2015 – Policy on Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors April 2015-March 2016 be amended prior to the Council Meeting on 1 June 2015 to take account of the decision relating to the re-allocation of one SRA .**

**SPR/42/2015:- AUTHORITY TO BORROW FROM PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BOARD (PWLB) ON AN AS REQUIRED BASIS UP TO LIMIT OF PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AS ADVISED TO COUNCILLORS AT FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 MARCH 2015 AND RATIFIED BY COUNCIL ON 31 MARCH 2015**

**Read: Report from Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance dated 7 May 2015 requesting permission for Council Finance Officers to borrow monies up to Prudential Authorised Limit as agreed at the Finance and Resources Committee Meeting of 18 March 2015 and ratified on 30 March 2015. This limit (excluding Capitalisation) being £65.1million. (Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Curran to grant permission for Council Finance Officers to borrow monies up to Prudential Authorised Limit of £65.1million.**

### **CORPORATE SERVICES – HUMAN RESOURCES**

**SPR/43/2015:- FILLING POSTS IN THE NEW COUNCIL STRUCTURE – FOR NOTING**

**Read:** Report from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources) dated 14 May 2015 regarding update on progress to date and current timetable for filling posts in the new organisation. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Curran asked if the Heads of Service had now changed to Assistant Directors and whether the additional duties would equate to additional salary.

Mr Hannaway advised only the titles had changed to provide more clarification to the management structure.

**Noted:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Donnelly to note the report on filling posts in the new Council structure.

**SPR/44/2015:- DISSOLUTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOINT REFORM FORUM (LGRJF) – FOR NOTING**

**Read:** Report from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources) dated 14 May 2015 regarding the dissolution of the LGRJF and the interim arrangements being put in place. (Copy circulated)

Ms Miskelly advised Members the LGRJF had been dissolved and alternative negotiating forum was being put in place with effect from 6 May 2015, pending the establishment of alternative, more permanent negotiating machinery.

**Noted:** The report on the dissolution of the Local Government Joint Reform Forum (LGRJF) was noted.

**CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SPR/45/2015:- PROTOCOL FOR COUNCILLORS REQUESTING CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS OF A CONSTITUENCY AND SERVICE DELIVERY NATURE**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Mr J McBride, Change Manager and Ms E McParland, Democratic Services Manager regarding protocol for Members requesting the consideration of matters of a constituency or service delivery nature at Committee or Council. (Copy circulated)

Mr McBride recommended that Members agree the protocol for requesting the consideration of matters of a constituency or service delivery nature at Committee or Council. He highlighted the following:

1. Step One – Councillors should raise any enquiry or complaint directly with relevant Assistant Director for resolution;

2. Step Two – If matter is not resolved, it should be escalated to Director for resolution;
3. Step Three – if still not resolved, matter should be escalated to Chief Executive for resolution;
4. Step Four – in the event the matter is not resolved, it should be tabled for consideration of the relevant Standing Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Councillor Curran asked whether the Assistant Directors' contact numbers would be made available to Members.

Mr Curtis advised he would circulate these to all Members.

Some Members expressed their concerns that this protocol would inhibit Councillors being able to raise issues of importance to them and their constituents.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor W Clarke to accept the protocol for Members requesting the consideration of matters of a constituency or service delivery nature at Committee or Council.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**SPR/46/2015:- TO CONSIDER SALE OF PORTION OF LANDS AT LISBURN STREET, BALLYNAHINCH**

**Read:** Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance dated 14 May 2015 regarding approval to proceed to purchase/lease parking spaces at Lisburn Street South Car Park to facilitate planning approval. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Craig to proceed to purchase/lease parking spaces at Lisburn Street South Car Park to facilitate planning approval.**

**SPR/47/2015:- REPAIRS TO AND FUTURE USE OF THE FORMER WARRENPOINT BOAT HOUSE, MARINE PARADE, WARRENPOINT**

**Read:** Report from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director, Environmental Health dated 14 May 2015 regarding approval to:

- Undertake repairs to former Warrenpoint Boat House Premises to comply with terms of current lease in consultation and agreement with the owners legal advisers and the Council's own legal advice.

- Consider whether the Council should seek to continue to lease this building or to discontinue its lease. (Copy circulated)

Mr Scullion highlighted the key issues and advised the estimated costs to comply with repair works was £18,800 which would be split between Council's Building Maintenance Team and external contractors.

Members discussed the issue at length and it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Ruane that Council meet with the Sailability and Corrig Club Groups to discuss whether they would have any use for the building. It was also agreed that officers speak to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and a report would be brought back to the next meeting.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Ruane that officers meet with the Sailability and Corrig Club Groups to discuss whether they would have any use for the building. It was also agreed that officers speak to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and a report would be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

**SPR/48/2015:- TO AGREE FUTURE TWINNING ARRANGEMENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 14 May 2015 from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance regarding the future twinning arrangements for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. (Copy circulated)

Mr Curtis advised Arzamas was not part of the twinning arrangements any longer. He recommended that Council agree to continue with the previous twinning arrangements i.e. Kirovsk, Russia; Co Clare; Western Isles/Stornoway; Bezons (France); Listowel (Ireland); Ballynahinch/Drumaness/Spa & Lamorayle (France); Newcastle & New Ross (Ireland).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor W Clarke to continue with the twinning arrangements, as outlined in Mr Curtis' report.

**SPR/49/2015:- PARTNERSHIP PANEL UPDATE**

**Read:** Various correspondence in relation to Partnership Panel:

1. Partnership Panel - Term of Office
2. Partnership Panel – Work Planning
3. Partnership Panel – Shared Services in Local Government – Current Position
4. Partnership Panel – Draft Work Plan 2015-2019

## 5. Meeting Agenda and Minutes – 28 April 2015

Mr Hannaway advised the Partnership Panel to date had been driven by central government and local government now needed to take more control over setting the agenda. He stated grants were being cut mid-year by central government and this was very concerning, given that Council had set their rates and may now be facing up to 20% or more cuts. He asked that Members discuss the issue within their Party groupings and provide any feedback at the Party Representatives Meeting and a paper would then be tabled at the next Council meeting.

**AGREED: The reports presented on Partnership Panel update were noted and it was agreed that Members discuss the issue within their Party groupings and provide any feedback at the Party Representatives Forum on 26 May 2015, with a paper then being tabled at the next Council meeting.**

### **SPR/50/2015:- GREENWAY PROJECT PHASE 1**

**Read:** Letter dated 5 March 2015 from ENTRUST (the Environmental Trust Scheme Regulatory Body) confirming their approval of the Great Eastern Greenway – Phase 1 Newry project. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burns to note the approval.**

The Meeting concluded at 4.55pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 June 2015.

**Signed: Councillor Robert Burgess**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed: Eddy Curtis**  
**Director of Strategic Planning and Performance**