

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 September 2018 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In Attendance:

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor C Enright
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor Ó Muiri	Councillor J Rice
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor W Walker

Also in Attendance:

- Councillor T Andrews
- Councillor G Craig
- Councillor M Larkin
- Councillor K Loughran

Officials in Attendance:

- Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
- Mrs M Ward, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
- Mr J McBride, Asst. Director Community Planning & Performance
- Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
- Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
- Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
- Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/111/2018: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Clarke, Councillor Doran, Councillor McMahon and Mr L Hannaway.

Councillor Ruane stated that two Councillors were unable to make the meeting due to a DEA Meeting taking place at the same time and he said it was important that clashes in the diary, such as this, be avoided.

Mrs Carville said she would follow up on this matter.

SPR/112/2018: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SPR/113/2018: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2018

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 August 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 16 August 2018 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

PLANNING

SPR/114/2018: PROPOSED CHANGES TO PLANNING COMMITTEE SCHEME OF DELEGATION & OPERATING PROTOCOL

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding proposed changes to the Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation and Operating Protocol. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ruane said he had concerns regarding the call in procedure and proposed to defer making a decision until further discussions had taken place. Councillor Rice seconded this proposal.

The proposal was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR:	2
AGAINST:	5
ABSTENTIONS:	3

The proposal was declared 'lost'.

Councillor Byrne said the Planning Workshop held on 5 September 2018 had addressed all issues of concern including the call in procedure and further discussion would therefore be counterproductive. Councillor Byrne proposed to approve the revised Scheme of Delegation and Operating Protocol. Councillor Walker seconded this proposal.

The proposal was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR:	5
AGAINST:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	4

The proposal was declared 'carried'.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Walker it was agreed that the Committee approve the revised Planning Committee scheme of delegation and operating protocol.**

EQUALITY AND POLICY

SPR/115/2018: REPORT ON SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT - QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2018

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mrs Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2018.**

SPR/116/2018: REPORT ON NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC AUTHORITY STATUTORY EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS DUTIES ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2017-2018

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2017–2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report for the period 2017-18 for submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.**

SPR/117/2018: REPORT ON EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2017-18

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding Equality Action Plan 2017-18. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the contents of this Report and that following the closing of the 12 week public consultation period, Officers would now proceed to work to implement the positive actions identified in the Equality Action Plan 2018-2020.**

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

SPR/118/2018: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2017/18

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Johnny McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning and Performance regarding Assessment of Performance 2017-18. **(Copy circulated)**

In referring to the report Councillor Byrne raised the following issues:

- Community centre user groups had reported they were often 'locked out' from community centres for various reasons such as public liability insurance and he would like to see this advanced for the coming year.
- Community run events and festivals funded through Council financial assistance and the tourism fund should receive more recognition for the contribution they made in terms of increased direct spend and increased tourism figures, and these figures should be reported back to Council.
- Acknowledged the review that was on going into recycling centres in the area and said the dumping of domestic waste throughout the district was a cause for concern and he would like to see the rules relaxed at recycling centres.
- Commended the Council on the 14% decrease in the amount of black bin waste collected and district wide educational awareness scheme was excellent.
- The results of the employee stress audit to be made available to Councillors.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to agree:**

- **The Assessment of Performance 2017-18**
- **The publication of the Assessment of Performance by 30 September 2018, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline.**
- **The results of the employee stress audit to be made available to Councillors**

SPR/119/2018: **DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO NILGA "DEVOLUTION WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND" REPORT**

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Johnny McBride Assistant Director, Community Planning and Performance detailing a draft Consultation response to NILGA "Devolution within Northern Ireland" Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ruane said he was concerned groups had not had sufficient time to discuss the response in enough detail and asked that Council request an extension to the closing date for submissions, which was 28 September 2018.

Councillor Byrne said that prior to the collapse of the Assembly, there had been a commitment from the last Minister to explore a case for extending regeneration activities to settlements of less than 500 people and he agreed it was very important to explore this option as part of any future campaign for devolving local government.

Mr McBride asked that the respective party groups feedback any responses to him ahead of the next Council Meeting on 1 October 2018.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to write to NILGA to request an extension to the deadline date for responses.

Party groups to feed back all responses directly to Mr McBride in advance of the next Council meeting on 1 October 2018 to facilitate the preparation of any additional content to the draft response.

SPR/120/2018: COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL ICO REGISTRATION FEES

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Councillor's Annual ICO Registration Fees. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed:

- Council pay the ICO registration fee on behalf of Members;
- Council amend its Scheme of Allowances in order to have the vires to reimburse this cost;
- Council reimburse the registration fee to any Member who had already paid same for the current year.

SPR/121/2018: ACTION SHEET FROM SPWG MEETING RE: CCTV – 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet from Special Strategic Projects Working Group re: CCTV dated 11 September 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed:

- To suspend the decision of the Council on 8 January 2018 in relation to public space CCTV.
- To authorise Officials to engage external technical assistance to complete a detailed scoping exercise, with key stakeholders, for the purposes of identifying future public space CCTV requirements. A final report to be presented to the SPWG in due course.
- To continue with the current arrangements in relation to public space CCTV, including essential maintenance, whilst the detailed scoping exercise is being undertaken.

FOR NOTING

**SPR/122/2018: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP
- MINUTES OF MEETING 13 APRIL 2018**

Read: Minutes of the Local Development Plan Steering Group Meeting held on 13 April 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: The Local Development Plan Steering Group Meeting was noted.

SPR/123/2018: RESIDENTS' SURVEY

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Johnny McBride, Assistant Director Community Planning & Performance regarding an update on the Residents' Survey. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne said the questionnaire was very long and the quality of responses might not be suitably reflective if residents had to answer 59 questions.

Mr McBride replied that a pilot of the survey had been undertaken and no one would be required to answer all 59 questions.

Agreed: The report giving an update on the Residents' Survey was noted.

SPR/124/2018: PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PILOT PROJECT

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Johnny McBride, Assistant Director Community Planning & Performance regarding Participatory Budgeting Pilot Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: The Participatory Budgeting Pilot Project report was noted.

**SPR/125/2018: ACTION SHEET FROM SPWG MEETING
- 11 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Read: Action Sheet from Strategic Projects Working Group dated 11 September 2018. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve the Action Sheet from SPWG Meeting – 11 September 2018.

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6
OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (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.

**SPR/126/2018: ACTION SHEET FROM EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUP
- 3 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Read: Action Sheet from Efficiencies Working Group dated 3 September 2018.
(Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed to approve the contents of the Action Sheet of the Efficiencies Working Group meeting held on 3 September 2018.

**SPR/127/2018: ACTION SHEET FROM ALBERT BASIN TASK AND FINISH
- 2 AUGUST 2018**

Read: Action Sheet from Albert Basin Task and Finish dated 2 August 2018.
(Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Enright it was agreed to approve the contents of the Albert Basin task and finish action sheet of meeting held on 2 August 2018.

SPR/128/2018: NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE, DOWN LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Conor Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management regarding an update on Newry and Down Leisure Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the recommendation contained in para. 3.1 relating to the revised capital budget for the Down leisure centre scheme.

SPR/129/2018: UPDATE ON BALLYEDMOND PROW

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Conor Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management regarding an update on Ballyedmond PROW. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report on progress with implementation of Terms of Settlement between the Council and the Ballyedmond Estate relating to a right of way.

SPR/130/2018: UPDATE ON NEWRY DEA ASSETS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mrs Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Walker, by 8 votes to 3, to proceed to declare McCreesh Park, Newry as surplus and proceed to the D1 disposal process, as some of Council's statutory partners could potentially make use of the land for the benefit of the community.

SPR/131/2018: USE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S POWER TO SETTLE A CLAIM

Read: Report dated 13 September 2018 from Mr Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive regarding the use of Chief Executive's power to settle a claim. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed that Members note the contents of the Officer's report relating to the settlement of a claim for damages against the Council.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.35pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 1 October 2018.

Signed: **Councillor Michael Savage**
 Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
 Director of Corporate Services