

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2016 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.

In the Chair:	Councillor P Brown	
In Attendance:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor P Byrne Councillor C Enright Councillor B Ó'Múiri Councillor M Ruane Councillor W Walker	Councillor R Burgess Councillor M Carr Councillor M Murnin Councillor B Quinn Councillor G Sharvin
Officials in Attendance:	Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Policy and Performance Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Transformation, Innovation & Performance Ms H McKee, Assistant Director Community Planning Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Policy Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance) Mrs S Burns, Programme Manager Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer Mr E McManus, Capital Projects Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer	

SPR/212/2016 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, W Clarke, Craig, Doran and Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive.

Councillor Carr extended sympathies to the family of Cos Barnes, a well-known writer in Southern Pines, North Carolina and asked that a wreath be sent on behalf of the Sister Cities Committee and the Chairperson of Council.

Councillor Carr asked that a letter of congratulations be sent from the Sister Cities Committee and the Chairperson of Council to Carol Heaney, the wife of Mike Heaney, former Mayor of Southern Pines, who had recently been co-opted onto the Southern Pines Council.

Councillor Andrews extended congratulations to all involved in the Local Democracy Week event.

SPR/213/2016

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in SPR/237/2016 – Carnbane League.

SPR/214/2016:-

ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read:

Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2016 (circulated).

SPR/200/2016 – Report on Brexit

In response to questions from Councillor Andrews regarding the progress of Brexit, Councillor Brown advised that a report was being written about the recent meetings held in Brussels by the Council delegation.

Mr Curtis said that Terms of Reference, in association with the Strategic Programmes Unit in Council and East Border Region, had been drawn up and circulated to all CEO's on both sides of the border and the majority of Councils had signed up. This had now been put out to tender and would be reported on in the next few months. This would provide a report on the scenarios of Brexit relating to Council. He further advised the proposal for a conference on Brexit had been agreed.

SPR/192/2016 – Former Kindle Primary School – Business Case

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Curtis advised Council had agreed to purchase the site subject to a full business case and economic appraisal.

SPR/207/2016 & SPR/208/2016 – Ballynahinch Community Centre Department of Education Youth Capital Fund: Ballynahinch Community Hub

Mr Curtis advised Members that an application for a grant in the region of £1m had been applied for, progress on which would be reported back as soon as there was any feedback.

Agreed:

The Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 15 September 2016, was agreed.

SPR/215/2016:-

REPORT OF NARROW WATER BRIDGE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2016

Mr Curtis advised as the Report of the Narrow Water Bridge Stakeholder Group meeting held on 3 October 2016 was not available, it would be deferred to the November Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND WELL-BEING

SPR/216/2016 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT BOARD MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Report from Community Planning Project Board Meeting – 15 September 2016 (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report from the Community Planning Project Board Meeting held on 15 September 2016.

SPR/217/2016 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING AND DETERMINATION FROM NIEA

Read: Report from Mrs H McKee, Assistant Director Community Planning, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report and Determination from NIEA. (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Screening Report and the Determination from NIEA.

EQUALITY AND POLICY

SPR/218/2016:- TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY CROSS PARTY WORKIN GROUP

Read: Report from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy, dated 13 October 2016, regarding Terms of Reference: Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, to approve the Terms of Reference for the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group.

Councillor Walker stated that his Party would not be involved in the Strategy, saying the time was not right.

SPR/219/2016 SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2016

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2016.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report July – September 2016.**

SPR/220/2016 CONSULTATION: EDUCATION AUTHORITY DRAFT
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL 478 – KILLYLEAGH
INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the Consultation: Education Authority Draft Development proposal 478 – Killyleagh Integrated Primary School (copy circulated).

Councillor Walker suggested sending a letter to the Education Authority advising that Council supported their aspirations of Killyleagh Integrated Primary School having a nursery with integrated status. This was seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Councillor Ruane said consultation should be responded to on an individual Party basis.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burgess, that a letter of support be sent to the Education Authority regarding the nursery unit at Killyleagh Integrated Primary School.**

CORPORATE SERVICES – FINANCE

SPR/221/2016 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 AUGUST 2016

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 13 October 2016, regarding Management Accounts to 31 August 2016 (copy circulated).

Mrs Carville advised that the accounts were showing an adverse variance of £239k, but the figures had not yet been reviewed by the Senior Management Team and further scrutiny and an action plan would be undertaken to mitigate the risk of a year deficit position.

Councillor Shavin said some departments had underspent and some dramatically overspent and if all departments spent what was budgeted for and the overspend was included, the overspend figure would be higher. He said the figures did not show why there was an over-spend, which was unacceptable.

In response, Mrs Carville explained there had been issues with the amalgamation of Council's coding structures which were not aligned yet, but

there was an exercise underway to ensure all coding was attributable to the correct department. She added that staffing costs had been overspent but the Senior Management Team would be scrutinising this issue and putting in place an action plan.

In response to Councillor Sharvin's query regarding redundancy, Mr Montgomery explained redundancy costs were funded through Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and were not allocated to cost centres.

Councillor Enright welcomed the fact that management accounts were brought to the Committee and requested further explanatory information be provided in the future.

In response to Members' concerns, Mr Curtis advised Members that a report would be brought back to the next SPR Committee meeting with a full explanation.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Management Accounts to 31 August 2016.

Councillor Ó'Múiri joined the meeting – 5:36pm.

CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/220/2016 REPORT OF PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETINGS 2017 - 2018

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the dates for Annual Meetings of Council (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Walker, to approve the following dates:

Annual Meetings to be held on the following dates:

- Thursday 1 June 2017
- Thursday 31 May 2018

Mock Annual Meetings to be held prior to the Annual Meetings – dates being:

- Thursday 25 May 2017
- Thursday 24 May 2018

SPR/221/2016 REPORT ON FORMER CHAIRPERSON'S PORTRAITS

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration), dated 13 October 2016, regarding the disposal of legacy Down District Council's Chairman's Portraits.

In response to a query from Councillor Burgess regarding the old Down and Down Rural Councillors portraits, Mrs Carville undertook to investigate where these were situated and revert to Councillor Burgess.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the former Chairperson's portraits be disposed of as follows:

- If the subjects of the original portraits are still alive, the portraits should be offered to them at nil consideration. If an individual does not respond or does not wish to accept his/her portrait the Council will hold it for a period of 3 months and then arrange for appropriate disposal.
- If the subject of a portrait is deceased the original portrait should be offered to his/her personal representatives in line with the distribution of estates priority list as set out in the Administration of Estates Act (NI) 1955 at nil consideration.
- If there is more than one eligible person in an entitled group eg. if the deceased has no surviving married or civil partner and there are children and more than one child wishes to obtain the original portrait then the matter will be resolved by the drawing of lots.
- Either the original portrait subject or any person claiming a portrait on his/her behalf will be responsible for collection of the portrait from Down County Museum and its care and maintenance thereafter, and will accept the portrait as seen i.e. in its existing condition.
- If there was no interested party in obtaining a portrait the Council will hold same for a period of 3 months and then arrange for appropriate disposal.
- The above process will be facilitated by Down County Museum.

SPR/222/2016 **REQUEST FROM UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION NI FOR COUNCIL TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER**

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the United Nations Charter (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Walker, to:

- Agree in principle to receive the Charter, subject to agreement by Committee and Council.

- **Agree that a presentation event be organised for both Downpatrick and Newry, with local schools/s being invited by the United Nations Association NI, in line with their original letter to Council dated 22 July 2016.**

SPR/223/2016

REQUEST FROM THE NI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the NI Human Rights Commission (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that the NI Human Rights Commission be invited to make a presentation to Special Council Meeting on 23 January 2017 and offered use of Council facilities to enable them to organise sessions for external organisations and the public.**

SPR/224/2016

REPORT ON STREAMING/VIDEO CONFERENCING

Read: Report from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director, Facility Management & Maintenance, dated 13 October 2016, regarding video conferencing facility between Council Chambers for Full Council Meetings and Streaming of Full Council Meetings (copy circulated).

Mr Scullion advised he had investigated the ability to hold Council meetings using video conferencing technology with attendees at Newry and Downpatrick Council chambers and the ability to record Council meetings at the council chamber in Downpatrick and make these available to the public.

Members asked the following questions:

- Were the proposals included in the IT Strategy?
- Were the costs included in the IT Strategy?
- Was there a business case to justify the cost?
- Did officers check the viewing figures of live streaming of Belfast City Council's Council meetings?

Questions from Members were answered as follows:

- A business case had not been carried out on either of the proposals.
- A project had been included in the IT Strategy around enabling optimum working between sites, which had not yet been scoped in detail but could be included in a future business case as part of the IT Strategy.

Councillors Andrews and Carr gave their support in principle to the proposals. Councillor Quinn queried the proposal for video conferencing due to bad weather, saying it would not be possible for Mourne and South Armagh Councillors to travel to Newry or Downpatrick at all in bad weather.

Councillor Sharvin said he would be reluctant to move forward with the proposals until a business case had been carried out.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Shavin, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that the IT Strategy takes into consideration the contents of the report and that the proposals be carried through as part of the IT Strategy.

SPR/225/2016 ELECTED MEMBER TO UNDERTAKE ACCREDITED TRAINING

Read: Report from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources), dated 13 October 2016, regarding Elected Member Application to undertake Accredited Training (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin noted that the application form attached did not fully answer the questions required regarding the objectives of the course.

In response Mr Curtis advised Council officials could assist with the application process for any Member wishing to undertake training.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, that the application from a Councillor to undertake accredited training as detailed in the report, be approved.

SPR/226/2016 CORPORATE SERVICES AND SPP BUSINESS PLANS

Read: Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2016-17
SPP Directorate Business Plan 2016-17.

Corporate Services Business Plan 2016-17

In response to queries from Councillor Enright, Mr Curtis advised that a report would be brought back to a future Committee meeting regarding the disposal of Council's assets. He said a complete review of all land in Council's ownership had recently been undertaken which had included legacy areas and which would identify surplus to requirement land. He further advised that a report would be brought to the November Committee meeting regarding energy efficiency at the community centres.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that approval be given to the Corporate Services Business Plan 2016-2017.

Strategic Planning & Performance Business Plan 2016-17

Mr Curtis outlined the SPP Business Plan 2016-2017, highlighting the Strategic Programmes Unit, which had been successful in drawing down funding, applications had been made through SIF for 3g football pitches, the new Down Leisure Centre and Newry Leisure Centres had commenced and were moving forward and the Saintfield Community Centre project was out for full appraisal, a report on which would be brought to the December Committee meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Burgess, that approval be given to the Strategic Planning & Performance Business Plan 2016-2017.

ESTATE

SPR/227/2016 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE ROCK POOL, NEWCASTLE

Read: Correspondence from the Department for Communities dated 16 September 2016, regarding the Notice of Listing of Buildings of Special Architectural of Historic Interest – Rock Pool, Newcastle.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence from the Department for Communities dated 16 September 2016, regarding the Notice of Listing of Buildings of Special Architectural of Historic Interest – Rock Pool, Newcastle.

SPR/228/2016 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM LAND & PROPERTY SERVICES RE DISPOSAL OF LAND AT SUGAR ISLAND, NEWRY

Read: Correspondence from Land & Property Services dated 21 September 2016, giving details of the disposal of land at Sugar Island, Newry.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence from Land & Property Services re the disposal of land at Sugar Island, Newry.

SPR/229/2016 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CARNBANE, NEWRY

Read: Correspondence from Land & Property Services dated 22 September 2016, giving details of the disposal of land at Carnbane Road, Newry.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence from Land & Property Services re the disposal of land at Carnbane Road, Newry.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SPR/230/2016 LETTER FROM MAYOR OF KIROVSK RE CITY 85TH ANNIVERSARY

Read: Letter from the Mayor of Kirovsk dated 20 September 2016 regarding the 85th Anniversary of Kirovsk city and inviting Council to participate in the celebration from 28 to 30 October 2016.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ó'Múiri, that Council accepts the invitation to attend the 85th Anniversary of Kirovsk city with a delegation comprising 2 Elected Members and 1 Council official.

SPR/231/2016 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 13 October 2016, regarding Scheme of Delegation (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the Schedule of Decision and Authorisations delegated to the Director of Strategic Planning and Performance for the period April 2016 to October 2016.

GRANT AIDED PROGRAMMES

SPR/232/2016 THE AGE FACTOR PROJECT

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the Age Factor Project (copy circulated).

It was highlighted that there was no cost to Council for their participation in this project.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Enright, that the relevant Council officers attend the project kick-off meeting and subsequent meetings/events as required.

SPR/233/2016 THE PEACE IV SUBMISSION

Read: Report from Mrs S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the Peace IV Submission (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Enright to note the submission of the Peace IV plan.

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

SPR/234/2016 RIGHT OF WAY PROPOSAL AT BALLYEDMOND, KILLOWEN, ROSTREVOR

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 13 October 2016, regarding proposals for Killowen Coastal Path around the Big Moat, Ballyedmond (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Raune, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 Murnin, seconded by Councillor Brown to accept the officer's recommendations as follows:

- Approval of the details of the proposed Killowen Coastal Path around the Big Moat at Ballyedmond as per the presentation at the meeting, ie. the design drawings and technical specification.
- A joint application for Planning Permission will be submitted by the Ballyedmond Estate and the Council for the creation of the proposed Coastal Path as per the approved details.

SPR/235/2016: REPORT OF EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUP

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Read: Report of Efficiencies Working Group held on 26 September 2016 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 Ruane, seconded by Councillor Burgess to accept the report of the Efficiencies Working Group held on 26 September 2016.

Councillor Brown departed from the meeting – 6:50pm and Councillor Enright assumed the Chair.

SPR/236/2016 FUTURE USE OF THE FORMER WARRENPOINT BOAT HOUSE, MARINE PARADE, WARRENPOINT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 13 October 2016, regarding the future use of the former Warrenpoint Boat House, Marine Parade, Warrenpoint (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 Ruane, seconded by Councillor Carr to agree the following:

- Subject to an agreement between the Lessor and the Council's Valuer on an annual rent, the Council continue to lease the building.
- If the rent is agreed, to then sub-lease with permission of the owner, to the Currach Club (the only organisation which responded to Expression of Interest)

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in the following item, being a member of the Carnbane League.

SPR/237/2016 ADDITIONAL ITEM – CARNBANE LEAGUE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in

Mr Curtis provided Members with a verbal report on the lease of land at Carnbane Road to the Carnbane League.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Enright, 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 Ó'Múiri, seconded by Councillor Carr that Council offers the lease of the land at Carnbane Road to the Carnbane League in the first instance.

The meeting concluded at 7:00pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 7 November 2016.

Signed: **Councillor Patrick Brown**
Chairperson

Signed: **Eddy Curtis**

Director of Strategic Policy and Performance