

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14
January 2016 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,
Downpatrick.**

In the Chair : Councillor R Burgess

In Attendance: Councillor S Burns Councillor M Carr
Councillor W Clarke Councillor G Craig
Councillor G Donnelly Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor B Ó'Muirí Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Ruane
Councillor B Walker

Also in Attendance: Councillor T Andrews Councillor P Clarke
Councillor C Enright Councillor H Harvey
Councillor D McAteer Councillor M Murnin
Councillor G Stokes Councillor J J Tinnelly
Councillor T Hearty

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and
Tourism
Ms R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning
and Policy
Ms C McKenna, Administration (Land & Property
Section)
Mr E McManus, Capital Projects
Mr P Green, Legal Advisor
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director, Facilities
Management and Maintenance
Mr A Hay, Development Plan Manager
Mrs S Fegan, Planning Officer
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/1/2016:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Brown,
Councillor Curran, Councillor Taylor and Mr E Curtis,
Director of Strategic Planning & Performance

SPR/2/2016:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive, Mr Hannaway, declared an interest in the item: SPR/12/2016 - Forkhill Peadar O'Doornin GAA – Lease Of Soccer Field, as a family member was in the aforementioned GAA.

SPR/3/2016:- ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2015

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2015.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Burns, the Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 December 2015, be approved.**

SPR/4/2016:- LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PAPER 6 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies. Paper 6 – Environmental Assets (copy circulated)

Mr A Hay presented the Local Development Plan: Preparatory Studies – Paper 6: Environmental Assets stating the studies were essential in providing the evidence base for preparing the Local Development Plan. He advised the Paper provided an overview on the regional policy context for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the built, natural and landscape heritage, an overview of the built, natural and landscape heritage within the District, and an audit and summary of all designated environmental assets within the District.

Members discussed the issue at length, raising the following questions:

- Did the Environmental Assets paper include listed buildings?
- Were Newry, Mourne and Down District Council pursuing the de-listing of the Old Workhouse on the Strangford Road?
- Would the military history of the District be included in the Plan?
- The definition of environmental assets had been defined too narrowly and should be broadened out, it did not address air quality and sea quality issues.

Mr Hay responded to the queries as follows:

- The paper addressed listed buildings. The listing of buildings was the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Serving as an audit, Paper 6 reflected the number of listed buildings currently designated in the District.
- Any proposed listing or delisting of a building was a matter for NIEA in consultation with the Council. The Plan team would be liaising with NIEA in the preparation of the Plan, any issues about the merits of particular listings can be raised as part of these discussions.
- As well as historic building, structures and features, the designation of assets as listed buildings or monuments could include features of more recent times, including military history sites. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency would be responsible for the designation of military history sites; the Plan team would be liaising with NIEA in the preparation of the Plan, consideration of any new sites identified, including military history sites could be raised as part of these discussions.
- The Local Development Plan was primarily concerned with the land area of the District. While this would include coastal areas and any associated designations such as the marine conservation zones, the coastal sea areas were the responsibility of the DOE and considered under the Marine Plan. The Plan team would be liaising with the DOE Marine Team in the preparation of the Plan, and the respective areas of responsibility.
- The paper concerned the environmental assets of built, natural and landscape heritage, the definition of these had been taken from the RDS and SPPS documents. The wider environmental consideration and objectives, including air quality, were encompassed in the theme of furthering sustainable development, a theme that ran through all areas of the plan as already reflected in previously presented Local Development Plan papers.

Noted: The Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies – Paper 6: Environmental Assets was NOTED.

CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/5/2016 TIME OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Noted: Councillor Ó’Muirí explained that he wished to attend all Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meetings, but as he was a

teacher, it was not possible to attend the 3pm meetings and he asked for a later start time.

Councillors Walker, Kimmins and Burns added their support to Councillor Ó'Muirí's suggestion. Councillor Kimmins said the Active and Healthy Communities Committee had agreed to start at 6pm each month and this arrangement was working well with good attendances.

The Chairperson, Councillor Burgess suggested a 5pm start.

The Chief Executive advised meeting timings could be reviewed at the AGM.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Kimmins, that Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meetings start at 5pm until the AGM in June 2016, at which point a review of Committee start times would be undertaken.**

SPR/6/2016 **PROCEDURES FOR SOD CUTTING AND CIVIC RECEPTIONS**

Read: Report from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive dated 14 January 2016 regarding the Arrangement for Council Events: Sod cuttings and official openings (copy circulated).

The Chief Executive advised that the procedures for civic receptions, hospitality and chairpersons attendance at external events had already been agreed.

The Chief Executive said custom and practice in Newry and Mourne had been the Chair, Chief Executive or nominee, Consultant and Contractor would attend the sod cutting photo-call. If there was a large strategic event, such as an official opening of a major facility, this would be attended by Councillors, MP's and MLA's and the he reminded Members that the District comprised the 3 constituencies of Strangford, South Down and Newry and Armagh with 3 MP's and 18 MLA's.

A discussion ensued with Councillor Walker stating that he would be in favour of the Chief Executive, Chair of Council, Chair of Committee and Councillors for the DEA in which the project was situated, being invited to sod cuttings. He said this was because it was often the case that DEA councillors would have worked tirelessly to ensure that a project got to the point whereby the first sod was being cut.

The Chief Executive advised there would probably only be a few strategic projects ie. leisure centres, which would require sod cutting photo-calls.

It was proposed by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that the recommendations contained within the Report be agreed.

Councillor Walker said whilst he would like Councillors for the DEA in which the project was located to attend, if this was not possible, then the Chair of the relevant Committee should attend and he asked that this amendment be made to the arrangements.

Councillors Burns and Ruane agreed to accept Councillor Walker's amendment to the arrangements detailed in the Report.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that the recommendations contained in report dated 14 January 2016 be agreed to, subject to the inclusion of the Chairperson of the relevant Committee in sod cutting photo-calls, (appendix attached details agreed arrangements).

CORPORATE SERVICES – HUMAN RESOURCES

SPR/7/2016 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY 2016

Read: Correspondence from the Local Government Association dated 18 December 2015, regarding Local Government Pay 2016.

Noted: The correspondence from the Local Government Association dated 18 December 2015, regarding Local Government Pay 2016, was noted.

CORPORATE SERVICES - FINANCE

SPR/8/2016 REPORT ON PROCUREMENT/TENDER AWARDS TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

Read: Excel spread sheet from Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance, detailing current tenders anticipated over £30k up to 31 December 2015.

Agreed: The Excel spread sheet detailing current tenders anticipated over £30k up to 31 December 2015, was noted.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

SPR/9/2016 DRAFT NILGA RESPONSE TO THE BUSINESS RATES CONSULTATION

Read: Report from Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance, dated 14 January 2016, regarding the Draft NILGA response to the Business Rates Consultation.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig, that the draft response prepared by NILGA to the Business Rates Consultation, be submitted as the Council's response on or before 29 January 2016.

ESTATE

SPR/10/2016 ANNALONG MARINE PARK – 2 NO ADDITIONAL EASEMENTS FOR COVE DEVELOPMENTS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Craig, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial of business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 14 January 2016 regarding the request for 2 No additional Easements at Annalong Marine Park

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that:

- The valuations from the Council's Valuer dated 6 November 2015 for the granting of 2 No additional easements be approved in principle,

- **The Council would not make any financial contribution to the development of the roadway as requested by the developer.**

SPR/11/2016 LEASE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AT SAINT PATRICK VISITOR CENTRE

Read: Report from Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, dated 14 January 2016, regarding the lease of office accommodation at Saint Patrick Visitor Centre for Downpatrick’s Visitor Information Centre.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Burns, that Council enters into a 5 year lease from 1 February 2015 to 31 January 2020 with the Saint Patrick Visitor Centre in respect of the Downpatrick Visitor Information Centre at an annual cost of £16,800 + VAT.**

SPR/12/2016 FORKHILL PEADAR O’DOIRNIN GAA – LEASE OF SOCCER FIELD

The Chief Executive, Mr Hannaway, declared an interest in this item of business, as a family member was in the above mentioned GAA and left the meeting during discussion on the matter.

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 14 January 2016, regarding Council Soccer Pitch at Bog Road, Forkhill.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Ó’Muirí, that the valuation report be approved and discussions be entered into with Peadar O’Doinin GAA Club regarding the way forward.**

In response to a query from Councillor Ó’Muirí, Ms McKenna advised that Shanro Santos FC had been written to on 15 November 2015, but there had been no reply as yet.

Councillor Burns referred to the legacy Down Council, saying if a club wished to take over a Council facility, in order for them to obtain a lease, a draft agreement was put in place which was triggered as soon as the club drew down money to develop the facility or provided their own funding for development. He said a

policy on this type of requests was required and he asked that officers investigate this matter, including any relevant precedent, and draw up a policy for agreement.

Councillor Quinn requested that agreements which Council had with other soccer clubs in the area would be looked into, as some already had a commitment with Council.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that officers investigate this matter, including any relevant precedent, and draw up a policy for the leasing of Council facilities by sports clubs. The legacy agreements also to be looked at regarding how they fit into the policy.

SPR/13/2016 **FUTURE USE OF THE FORMER WARRENPOINT BOAT HOUSE, MARINE PARADE, WARRENPOINT**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 14 January 2016, regarding the future use of the Former Warrenpoint Boat House, Marine Parade, Warrenpoint.

Mr K Scullion, Facilities Manager, advised that there were 3 options regarding the Warrenpoint Boat House, which had recently been brought up to standard by Council:-

- Seek to continue to lease the building but not to sub-lease.
- Seek to continue to lease the building but to sub-lease with permission of owner to either the Harbour Authority or to the Currach Club (Both had expressed interest in sub-leasing).
- To discontinue its lease.

In response to a question from Councillor Ruane, Mr Scullion confirmed no-one was currently using the Boat House, although the Currach Club had stored equipment there in the past.

Mr Scullion said he had attempted to contact Sailability by telephone on a number of occasions, but had received no response, although he would be happy to meet them on site.

Mr P Green, Legal Advisor said if Council was minded to sub-let the premises to a community or voluntary organisation it would be appropriate to advertise this in the local area by way of an expression of interest.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor W Clarke, that an expression of interest for the Warrenpoint Boat House be advertised in the local area and that the matter be brought back to the February Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

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

SPR/14/2016 VICTORIA LOCK REFURBISHMENT SCHEME – PROGRESS REPORT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial of business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Read: Report from Mr E McManus, Capital Projects, dated 14 January 2016, regarding Victoria Lock Refurbishment Scheme – Revised Progress Report.

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Carr, that the recommendations within the report be accepted relating to the Victoria Lock Refurbishment Scheme and, in addition that advice be sought from Central Procurement Directorate (part of DFP) in relation to over spend on this scheme.

SPR/15/2016 REPORT ON TENDERS – REPAIRS TO CANAL BANK AT MIDDLEBANK

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial of business affairs of any

particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 14 January 2016, regarding the Report on Tenders – Repairs to Canal Bank at Middlebank, Newry Canal.

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, that approval be given to the recommendations contained within report dated 14 January 2016 relating to the repairs to the Canal Bank at Middlebank, Newry Canal.

SPR/16/2016 **MOUNTAIN BIKE CONTRACT, KILBRONEY**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Donnelly, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial of business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Read: Report from Ms M Ward, dated 14 January 2016, regarding the Mountain Bike Contract at Kilbroney.

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that approval be given to the recommendations contained within the report dated 14 January 2016 in relation to the Mountain Bike Contract at Kilbroney.

SPR/17/2016 **BEST WISHES:**

The Chairman, Councillor Burgess passed on his best wishes to Councillor Donnelly in her forthcoming retirement from the Council.

SPR/18/2016

FLOODING

Councillor Carr referred to the recent flooding, in particular at Moygannon river and requested an environmental scheme be put in place for the bridge which was in a dangerous condition.

Agreed: It was agreed that officers would look at an environmental scheme for the bridge at Moygannon river.

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 1 February 2016.

**Signed: Councillor Robert Burgess
Chairperson**

**Signed: Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive**

Appendix A

Procedures for Council events: sod cuttings and official openings

Type of Event	Recommended Invitees
Sod cutting for Council projects of District significance eg. Leisure Centres, Civic Buildings etc.	Chairperson, Chief Executive or Nominee, Chair of relevant Committee, consultant, contractor It is not recommended that sod cuttings be held for projects which are DEA specific
Official opening of DEA specific projects e.g. extension of community centre	Chairperson, DEA Councillors, Chief Executive, relevant directors or nominees
Official opening of projects of district significance e.g. phase II Newry Leisure project	All Councillors, MLA's and MP's of specific constituency/constituencies in which the project is located, Chief Executive, relevant Directors and/or nominees
Official Opening of major projects of district significance e.g. new Civic Building for Council	All Councillors, MLA's and MP's of three constituencies within the Newry, Mourne and Down District, Chief Executive, relevant Directors and/or nominees

Note: The Council's corporate marketing section will arrange event appropriate PR in line with the corporate media policy.