

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 February 2019 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 S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor B Ó Muíri
Councillor J Rice	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

Also in Attendance: Councillor A McMurray Councillor M Larkin

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management
Mr F O'Connor, (Acting) Head of Legal Administration
Mr J McGilly, (Acting) Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer
Miss S Taggart, (Acting) Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/022/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

SPR/023/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SPR/024/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hyland, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 17 January 2019 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/025/2019 REPORT ON TUAIRISC CHONRADH NA GAEILGE AGUS AN COISTE UM RIAR AN CHIRT AR CHOMHAIRLÍ ÁITIÚLA DUALGAIS

AGUS AN GHAEILGE:CREATLACH COMHLÍONTA 2018/CONRADH NA GAEILGE & COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION JUSTICE 2018 REPORT ON 'LOCAL COUNCILS, OBLIGATIONS AND THE IRISH LANGUAGE: A FRAMEWORK FOR COMPLIANCE'

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Ms U Mhic An tSaoir Irish Language Development Officer and Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding report on Conradh na Gaeilge & Committee on the Administration Justice 2018 report on 'Local Councils, Obligations and the Irish Language: A Framework for Compliance' **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó'Muiri stated the report was very reassuring and praised officers and Councillors involved in the Working Group.

Councillor Byrne stated his frustration at the lack of uptake by Councillors of the Irish Language training provided by Council and the fact that he wasn't able to attend the training along with staff. He asked that following the elections, training be organised for both Councillors and staff in Irish Language. Councillor Enright concurred with Councillor Byrne.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the findings of the Conradh na Gaeilge & Committee on the Administration Justice 2018 Report on 'Local Councils, Obligations and The Irish Language: A Framework for Compliance

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPR/026/2019: **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING 12 OCTOBER 2018**

Read: Minutes of the Local Development Plan Steering Group Meeting 12 October 2018

Agreed: The Minutes of the Local Development Plan Steering Group meeting 12 October 2018 were agreed to be noted as an accurate record.

SPR/027/2019: **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – TIMETABLE REVISION**

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer, regarding the Local Development Plan – Timetable Revision **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to note the contents of the report and agree to:

- The draft revised Timetable as set out in Appendix 2;
- That following Council approval, the Planning Department liaises with the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) and other key stakeholders prior to submitting the revised Timetable to Department for Infrastructure for its agreement;
- That following agreement of the revised Timetable by the Department for Infrastructure, that it be made available and published in accordance with Regulation 8 of the

Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE

SPR/028/2019: REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLANNING STRUCTURES

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Mr D Patterson, Head of Community Planning, regarding Review of Community Planning Structures (**Copy circulated**)

Members discussed the issue of a reduction in Elected Members on the Thematic Working Groups voicing their concern at such drastic reduction from ten members to one.

Councillor Trainor proposed one member from each political group be appointed and that the Chair be rotated on an annual basis. This was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

The Chief Executive confirmed that poor attendance was one of the factors in deciding to reduce the membership. This was acknowledged by Councillor Byrne, however, he stated if the meetings were more focused they may result in higher attendance.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Hyland, it was agreed in principle to:**

- **Approve amendment to elected Members representation on Thematic Groups to one member from each political party with the Chair to be rotated on an annual basis and a review to take place at the next AGM.**
- **Approve the timetable of work with Community Planning partners to re-focus Thematic Groups on a smaller number of more strategic and shared priorities.**

SPR/029/2019: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS 2019-2023

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance (Acting), regarding Governance Arrangements 2019 - 2023 (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Byrne expressed his concern at limiting the number of Notice of Motions and proposed to accept the officer's recommendations, with the exception of point 5 – Council consider limiting the numbers of Notice of Motions to be tabled at a Council Meeting.

Councillor Trainor seconded the proposal stating that to limit the numbers would be restricting discussions in the chamber.

Councillor Walker stated that Motions should be signposted to Committees prior to coming to Council with Councillors invited to attend the Committee for discussion on the motion.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Traynor, it was agreed to accept the officer's recommendation, with the exception of point 5, as follows:**

- **Council approve the Annual Meeting of Council will take place at 6pm on 20 May 2019 in Downshire Civic Centre, in accordance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, which states that in an election year the Annual Meeting of Council must take place within 21 days of the election.**

- Delegated authority be given to CEO to make essential urgent decisions as required during period from 24 April 2019 to the first Full Council Meeting (3 June 2019) after the Annual Meeting.
- Council agree that Task and Finish groups will not meet during Purdah period and will be reviewed by respective Committees post AGM.
- Council adopt the recommended changes to Standing Orders as detailed in the officer's report.
- Council adopt the changes proposed to Committee Terms of Reference as detailed in the officer's report.
- Council adopt the recommendations outlined in the officer's report in respect to Planning decision making process and that the changes were reflected in the relevant Committee Terms of Reference for term of new Council.
- It was further agreed that the number of motions was not to be limited.

SPR/030/2019: PARTY REPRESENTATIVES FORUM INTERIM TERMS OF REFERENCE 3 MAY – 20 MAY 2019

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance (Acting), regarding Party Representatives Forum Interim Terms of Reference 3 May – 20 May 2019 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed proceed with Option 1- Maintain the current membership and terms of reference as detailed in para 2.1 of the officer's report and to approve the following recommendations:**

- Council agree to utilise the principle of Party Representatives Forum to make recommendations and assist Officers prepare for AGM, with a new structure being agreed after the AGM if the new Council so agrees;
- Council agree representation on the Party Representatives Forum as the current membership for the interim period between elections on 2 May 2019 and AGM on 20 May 2019 (provisional Date subject to Full Council approval at March Council Meeting)

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/031/2019: PROPOSED CHANGES TO REGISTRATION SERVICE (BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES)

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Ms A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) and Mr G McBride, Head of Administration and Customer Services, regarding Proposed Changes to Registration Service (Births, Deaths and Marriages) **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne noted the good service provided by the Registration Department and indicated that the appointment system should be promoted.

- Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Traynor, the following recommendations were agreed:
- From 1 May 2019 introduction of a fixed appointment system for members of the public seeking to access the Registration service in person (births, deaths and marriages), with flexibility that a member of the public calling in without an appointment will be attended to if a member of Registration staff is available.
 - From 1 May 2019 introduction of fixed times for officiating at weddings and civil partnerships across the District of 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm, with flexibility for special circumstances.

SPR/032/2019: REPLACEMENT FENCING AT WINDY GAP PAD

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Ms H. Wilson, Land Management Officer, regarding Replacement Fencing at Windy Gap Pad **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed that quotes for the work be obtained and the fencing be replaced.

FOR NOTING

SPR/033/2019: KEY OUTCOMES REPORT CENTRAL – LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP FORUM – 18 JANUARY 2019

Read: Report dated 18 January 2019 from NILGA, regarding Local Government Political Partnership Forum **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report received from NILGA.

SPR/034/2019 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION FOR NI – POSTPONEMENT OF DISSOLUTION DATE

Read: Correspondence dated 30 January 2019 from The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland, regarding Postponement of Dissolution Date **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence received from Local Government Staff Commission NI – Postponement of Dissolution Date.

SPR/035/2019 ALBERT BASIN PARK

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019 from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the progress of the Working Group and the proposed Delivery Programme attached to the officer's report.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, 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/036/2019: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2018

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019, from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding Management Accounts to 31 December 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: It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report showing budget expenditure for the first nine months of the 2018/19 financial year, comparing actual expenditure and revenue for the same period.

SPR/037/2019: PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, RATHFRILAND ROAD, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019, from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Services, regarding Public Right of Way, Rathfriland Road, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Doran to note the contents of the officer's report and instruct Legal Services to apply for an injunction against the landowner and refer the matter to Newry DEA Councillors for further consideration.

SPR/038/2019: RECRUITMENT: ATLANTIC CULTURESCAPES

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019, from Mr D Rice, Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager **(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 Byrne , seconded by Councillor Ruane , to recruit two new posts within the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate to deliver the Atlantic CultureScape project as described in the application form from April 2019 to March 2022

SPR/039/2019: CORRY SQUARE CARPARK

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019, from Mr C Mallon, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management, regarding Corry Square Carpark (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne to approve the request from Matt D’Arcy Company Limited to sub lease the area of Corry Square car park as marked on the officer’s report from Europarks up to the 1st November 2019

SPR/040/2019: NI PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019, from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer, regarding NI Public Services Ombudsman Complaint (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Byrne to accept the recommendations contained within para 1.1 in the officer’s report, including the £100 conciliatory payment to the Complainant.

SPR/041/2019: UPDATE ON D1 PROCESS RE: RAYMOND MCCREESH PARK

Read: Report dated 14 February 2019, from Ms D Carville, Director Corporate Services and Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding D1 process re: Raymond McCreesh Park (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: Agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Walker, by way of vote, results of which were as follows:

FOR:	6
AGAINST:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	5

to confirm categorically that further consultation will take place with the community, if any expressions of interest are received, under the D1 process, and before any further

decision is made about whether to continue with disposal or not.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.59pm

Signed: Councillor Michael Savage
Chairperson

Signed: Dorinnia Carville
Director of Corporate Services