

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

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### **Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2016 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.**

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In the Chair:	Councillor P Brown	
In Attendance:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor P Byrne Councillor W Clarke Councillor C Enright Councillor B Quinn Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor R Burgess Councillor M Carr Councillor S Doran Councillor B Ó'Múiri Councillor M Ruane Councillor W Walker
Also in attendance	Councillor G Craig Councillor J Macauley	Councillor G Hanna Councillor D McAteer
Officials in Attendance:	Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Policy and Performance Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Policy Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Transformation, Innovation & Performance Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer Mrs S Burns, Programmes Manager Mr P Preen, HR & Projects Manager Mr E McManus, Capital Projects Mrs N Doran, Health Inequalities Officer Mrs J McCabe, Diversity & Inclusion Projects Co-ordinator Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer	

#### **SPR/264/2016      APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors N Bailie, L Devlin and K Loughran.

#### **SPR/265/2016      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Andrews and Ruane declared interests in SPR/279/2016 – Correspondence received from East Border Region.

**SPR/266/2016:- ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2016**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2016 (circulated).

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Curtis explained that Mr Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, had contacted the Department of Education to request the transfer of the site of the former Kindle Primary School to Council under the Community Transfer Scheme. The response, when received would be tabled at the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.

**Agreed:** **The Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 November 2016, was agreed.**

It was agreed to take the Proposed Changes to Planning Committee Operations as the next item of business.

**SPR/267/2016 PROPOSED CHANGES TO PLANNING COMMITTEE OPERATIONS**

**Read:** Report of from Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, dated 15 December 2016, regarding Proposed Changes to the Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation and Operating Protocol (copy circulated).

Mr O'Rourke explained that the Planning Committee had held a workshop on 22 November 2016, aimed at identifying issues that were impacting on the performance measures for the Planning Department and the operational effectiveness of the Planning Committee.

Mr O'Rourke explained the key issues which were identified and discussed at the workshop under the following headings:

1. The Performance Measures and the backlog
2. Operational Effectiveness of Committee:
  - a. Speaking Rights
  - b. All Refusals going to Committee

Councillor Clarke welcomed the proposed changes, saying the idea was to improve streamlining of the planning process for the public. He said the 20 minute speaking rights time had

improved the flow of the business, especially for single dwellings and rural dwellings.

Councillor Clarke referred to enforcement, saying if an application had an enforcement on it, it would not come before Committee, and he asked for clarification on this. He said that the main obstacle was all of the refusals were currently coming to Committee and there was currently a 5 month waiting list of these.

Councillor Clarke placed on record his thanks to the administrative staff for all their hard work in the administrative side of the committee, which was a huge task.

Councillor Clarke proposed the recommendations set out in the report.

Councillor D McAteer said he had no issue with proposed change to the operating protocol relating to applications that had significant cross border, environmental, economic or social reason impact, or the 20 minutes speaking rights. However, he did not agree with the delegation of all local development applications to officers. He said the agents and applicants were getting used to the process and this would be the second fundamental change of protocol in 12 months.

Councillor D McAteer also said he did not agree with the proposed establishment of a panel consisting of Chair, Vice-Chair and 3 officers to discuss material planning grounds and said it was a mistake to delegate powers to officers as decisions would be taken out of the Councillors' hands. He also referred to a Councillor only being able to speak on an application within their DEA, saying this was very disappointing and he thought that the Planning Committee had been working well.

Councillor Hanna concurred with Councillor D McAteer's comments, saying he did not agree with the panel of Chair, Vice Chair and 3 officers to consider material planning grounds. He also said the speaking rights of Councillors not on the Planning Committee should be retained.

Councillor Hanna also suggested once the submission had been made for speaking rights, no further refusal reasons could be added to an application.

Councillor Craig concurred with Councillors D McAteer and Hanna's comments, in particular the consideration by the panel of 5 of the material planning reason.

Councillor Carr referred to the DEA speaking rights, saying it was a right that most Councillors expected and it should be retained.

Councillor MacAuley concurred with Councillors D McAteer and Hanna.

Councillor Andrews also suggested leaving the process the way it was.

Mr O'Rourke suggested that due to the levels of concern expressed by Members, a working group be set up to look at alternative proposals.

In response to comments from Members, Mr O'Rourke explained that planning staff could not prepare application cases for more than 2 Planning Committees per month. He said there were currently more than 100 applications waiting to come to Committee and on average the Committee was processing 19 per meeting. He further advised that it would take 5 months to process the applications currently waiting. He said there were on average 32 new applications per month.

Councillor Ruane seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal that, that the recommendations within the report be approved.

As an amendment proposal, Councillor Brown proposed and Councillor Enright seconded that the proposals be referred back to a Planning Committee Working Group to review the process.

A vote was taken on Councillor Brown's amendment the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>4</b>

**The vote was declared CARRIED.**

The Chairperson put the substantive motion proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Enright to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>4</b>

**The substantive motion was CARRIED.**

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Enright, that proposals for the proposed changes to the Planning Committee be referred back to a sub-committee of the Planning Committee for further discussion.

**SPR/268/2016**      **COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF ELECTORAL SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Read:** Future Delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland – NMDDC Response

The Chairperson welcomed Mr G Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Office Northern Ireland, to the meeting.

Mr Shields thanked Council for the invitation to speak about the proposals for electoral reform and advised the consultation process would close on 9 January 2017, after which an announcement would be made regarding the future delivery of elections in Northern Ireland.

Mr Shields advised Council there were 3 main drivers for change which would shape how electoral services were delivered in Northern Ireland in the years ahead. These were:

1. Digitalisation and the use of new technology and how an online election registration system for Northern Ireland was being developed.
2. Normalisation – there were proposals for a greater role for local Councils in the electoral process.
3. Financial sustainability of the Electoral Office, which had been subject to budget cuts.

Questions from Members were answered by Mr Shields as follows:

- Election ID Cards could still be used to vote once their 10 year lifespan had expired, as long as the photo still looked like the person.
- Applications to the electoral register could be made by post and there would also be a helpline number.
- Registration surgeries would be running prior to any elections.
- The consultation paper had set out 2 options: complete centralisation of the electoral office in Belfast with provision for a range of registration services at key council locations or the electoral office head-quarters would be retained in Belfast with 3 outer offices which would be located within Council accommodation.
- The staff would still be employed by the Electoral Office, but would work at council premises.

- A limited range of services could be provided by Council staff including taking photos, checking identification, handing out registration forms and sending on information to the Electoral Office in Belfast.
- Electoral Office staff would not be transferred into the Councils' responsibility and would still be independent of Council.
- Approximately 10 Electoral Office jobs were to be lost through the voluntary exit programme.
- An internet connection was not required to register to vote; a 3g or 4g signal on a mobile phone would be sufficient.
- There were 1650 polling stations in Northern Ireland, which were reviewed by law every 5 years. This number would not change substantially prior to the election in 2019.
- Election counts had been constrained by the size of the venues in previous elections, but this could be addressed by engaging larger count sites which could hold up to 12 counts at a time.
- There were problems at elections with postal and proxy votes, but there was a set process which staff were required to go through by law to process the votes.

In response to Councillor Walker's concerns regarding Crossgar polling station, Mr Shields undertook to flag up the issue to his successor.

In response to Councillor Quinn's query regarding the number of postal applications a Councillor could verify, it was agreed that this issue would be raised with the Northern Ireland Office.

**Agreed: It was agreed that correspondence be sent to the Northern Ireland Office requesting the number of postal applications that a Councillor could verify to be extended from 10.**

The Chairperson thanked Mr Shields and he departed from the meeting.

Mrs McParland advised that Dooley Harte from NIPSA had also been invited to the meeting. She said that the consultation date submission could be extended to 12 January 2017, and a draft response would now be drawn up, which would include points made by Members, and this would be tabled for consideration at the Council meeting on 9 January 2017.

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING AND WELL-BEING**

### **SPR/269/2016      RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT**

Read: Report from Ms N Doran, Health Inequalities Officer, dated 15 December 2016, regarding the Programme for Government (copy circulated) enclosing comments on the outcomes, indicators and their delivery plans from the Councils perspective.

Councillor Enright confirmed his support for the consultation document and comments, saying more local regeneration powers should be delegated to Councils and he asked that Council address infrastructure projects.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Doran, that the response to the Consultation on the Programme for Government be approved subject to the amendment suggested by Councillor Enright.

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **SPR/270/2016 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT – FINAL REPORT FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR**

**Read:** Report from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director: Transformation, Innovation & Performance, dated 15 December 2016, regarding Performance Improvement – Audit & Assessment report for 2016-17 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Doran, that agreement be given to accept the findings of the Local Government Auditor concerning the audit and assessment of the Council's compliance with the Duty of Performance Improvement in 2016-17.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

### **SPR/275/2016 TO AGREE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

**Read:** Report by Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 15 December 2016, regarding Meeting of the Partnership Panel – 31 January 2017 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Doran, that the following agenda items from NMDDC be raised at the Partnership Panel on 31 January 2017:

1. Joint Working between education authorities and Councils on community/recreation provision.
2. Contribution from Transport NI towards grass cutting/maintenance carried out by Councils.
3. Community asset transfer scheme.
4. Planning process – response times by statutory consultees.

**SPR/276/2016      COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

**Read:** Report by Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 15 December 2016, regarding the Council Constitution (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that the draft of Council's Constitution be approved and tabled at the Council meeting on 9 January 2017 for consideration.**

**SPR/277/2016      REVIEW DATE – COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Read:** Report by Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 15 December 2016, regarding review arrangements for Terms of Reference (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Múiri, seconded by Councillor Doran, that Terms of Reference for Council's Committee structures, and the corresponding Terms of Reference be undertaken within the first 3 months of the new Council and a review of Terms of Reference be undertaken by the Council.**

**CORPORATE SERVICES – FINANCE**

**SPR/278/2016      RATES SUPPORT GRANT**

**Read:** Copy correspondence sent to the Minister for the Department for Communities from Derry City & Strabane District Council dated 7 December 2016 regarding the Council Delegation re Rates Support Grant (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that Council jointly lobby the Minister for the Department for Communities regarding the importance of future Rates Support Grant allocations to Councils with Derry City & Strabane District Council.**

**Councillors Andrews and Ruane declared interests in the next item of business, being a member of East Border Region.**

**FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION**

**SPR/279/2016      CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM EAST BORDER REGION**

**Read:** Copy correspondence received from Ms P Arthurs, CEO, East Border Region, dated 7 November 2016, requesting that Council allocate £20,000 within its budgets towards the running cost of



the East Border Region Ltd for the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that the request received from East Border Region be referred to the Rates Estimates Process.

**SPR/280/2016** **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICY & REFERENCE GROUP**

**Read:** Report by Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance, dated 15 December 2016, regarding the International Relations Policy and Reference Group (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Carr, that a reference group is established as a partnership between Council and external agencies to approve the Terms of Reference and Framework outlined in the report.

**SPR/281/2016** **BELFAST CITY REGION GROWTH DEAL BRIEFING SESSION**

**Read:** Report by Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, dated 15 December 2016, regarding Belfast Growth Region (copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised of the importance of the Growth Deal in relation to Newry being a city on the Dublin/Belfast economic corridor. He said it would be important to partner into the growth deal for connectivity into the corridor and a collective approach from the Councils on the east coast regarding the impact of Brexit.

Councillor Andrews highlighted the poor roads infrastructure in the District, saying the roads needed to be upgraded.

Councillor Sharvin said it was important that it was not just Belfast that saw the benefits of the Growth Deal, but that it would be for the betterment of all of the Councils.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor Andrews and Sharvin's comments.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Quinn, that:

1. Newry, Mourne and Down Council agree to collaborate with Belfast City Council and Neighbouring Councils to advocate a City deal for the Eastern Region.
2. Senior Management and Party Group Leaders meet with their counterparts in the other Councils to discuss how the authorities can begin to work together in a wider partnership with a shared agenda.
3. Begin conversation with Louth County Council on linking into this initiative on a Cross Border basis. This may include revisiting the Twin City region arrangement developed in 2006.

**SPR/282/2016**      **CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE REGENERATION BILL**

**Read:** Correspondence from Mr D Mulholland, Regional Development Office, Department for Communities, dated 22 November 2016 regarding Regeneration Bill (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Doran, that Council write to the Minister for Communities asking him to reconsider the decision not to progress the Regeneration Bill.

**SPR/283/2016**      **CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY – FROM WEIR ON MIDDLEBANK TO VICTORIA LOCK**

**Read:** Report by Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 15 December 2016, regarding Carlingford Lough Greenway – from Weir on Middlebank to Victoria Lock (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that Council proceed to seek tenders for the second phase of the Greenway from the Weir on Middlebank to Victoria Lock and to carry out this scheme during 2017. The tender process project management and contract supervision to be carried out by the Phase 1 Consultant who was appointed to deal with the development of the Greenway from Newry to Victoria Lock with Consultancy costs to be funded by Council through the Landfill Communities Fund administered by Ulster Wildlife.

**GRANT AIDED PROGRAMMES**

**SPR/284/2016**      **PEACE IV UPDATE**

Read: Report by Mrs S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 15 December 2016, regarding the Peace IV Local Action Plan (copy circulated).

Councillor Walker commended Mrs Burns and her team for their work on the application for the Peace IV local action plan.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that Council accept the Letter of Offer as issued by SEUPB for the Councils local action plan and proceed with implementation of non-risk aspects of the letter of offer, such as staff.

**SPR/285/2016**      **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Read: Report by Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance, dated 15 December 2016, regarding Capital Project Update (copy circulated).

**Noted:** The Capital Project Update report was noted.

**SPR/286/2016**      **CORRESPONDENCE TO G COUGHLIN RE NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD – STAGE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Read: Correspondence sent from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive to G Coughlin, Environmental Team Leader, AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd re Newry Southern Relief Road – Stage 1 Environmental Assessment (copy circulated).

**Noted:** The correspondence sent from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive to G Coughlin re Newry Southern Relief Road – Stage 1 Environmental Assessment, was noted.

**SPR/287/2016**      **NEWCASTLE HARBOUR/PRINCESS DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE**

Mr Curtis advised this item would be discussed at the Strategic Projects Working Group on 20 December 2016.

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

**CORPORATE SERVICES - HR**

**SPR/288/2016**      **ORDINARY PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

**Read:** Report from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources), dated 15 December 2016, recommending approval of a new Ordinary Parental Leave Policy for Council.(copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Walker that the Ordinary Parental Leave Policy be approved.**

**SPR/289/2016      CAR PURCHASE ASSISTANCE SCHEME POLICY**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

**Read:** Report from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources), dated 15 December 2016, recommending approval of a revised Car Purchase Assistance Scheme (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that the Car Purchase Assistance Scheme Policy, be approved.

**SPR/290/2016** **TRAVELLING & EXPENSES AND SUBSISTENCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Read:** Report from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Human Resources), dated 15 December 2016, recommending approval of a new Travelling Expenses and Subsistence Policy and Procedures (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Clarke, seconded by Councillor Doran, that the Mileage & Expenses Policy, be approved.

**SPR/291/2016** **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COLLABORATIVE WORKING ARISING FROM THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office

**holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

**Read:** Report from Mr L Hannaway dated 15 December 2016, regarding Recommendations for Collaborative Working Arising from the Dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Walker, seconded by Councillor Ó'Múiri, that the recommendations for collaborative working arising from the dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission, be approved and noted the potential impact on Councils on the dissolution of the Staff Commission.

**SPR/292/2016** **MINUTES OF EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2016**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 3 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 18 November 2016 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Doran, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the report of the Efficiencies Working Group held on 18 November 2016.

**SPR/293/2016** **MINUTES OF EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUP HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2016**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 3 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 30 November 2016 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane to accept the report of the Efficiencies Working Group held on 30 November 2016.

**SPR/294/2016**  
**Agreed:** COUNCIL LANDS AT ALTNAVEIGH, DORANS HILL, NEWRY  
On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 3 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 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services dated 15 December 2016, regarding Council Land at Altnaveigh, Dorans Hill, Newry (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Clarke to approve the recommendation to proceed with the sale of the land to Thomas Davis GFC restricted to recreational use, subject to the conditions set out in the report.

**SPR/295/2016**

**TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CORPORATE GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 3 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 Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy dated 15 December 2016, regarding the Tender for the Provision of Corporate Graphic Design Services (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Byrne that a tender for the provision of Corporate Graphic Design be approved for a 6 month period, with the option to extend for a further period if required, compliant with the Council's Financial Policy and Procedures Regulations.

**SPR/296/2016**

**DISABLED ANGLING FACILITY - WHITEWATER, KILKEEL**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 3 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 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Administration), dated 15 December 2016, regarding the Disabled Angling Facility at Whitewater, Kilkeel (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Doran, seconded by Councillor Quinn to approve the recommendation relating to rental of land currently maintained by the Council subject to the completion of a suitable Legal Agreement and to the terms and conditions being agreed by the Council's legal advisor.

**SPR/297/2016**      **PROPOSALS TO INCREASE PERMANENT HEADCOUNT IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran, 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 3 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 C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, dated 15 December 2016, regarding the Proposal to Increase Permanent Professional Headcount in the Planning Department (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Carr, seconded by Councillor Clarke that the decision to increase the permanent headcount in the Planning Department be taken after the Efficiencies Working Group to be held on 22 December 2016.

The meeting concluded at 8:20pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 9 January 2017.

**Signed:**                    **Councillor Patrick Brown**  
**Chairperson**

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