

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

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### **Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 November 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 N Bailie
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B Ó'Múiri
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor W Walker

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 J McBride, Assistant Director, Transformation, Innovation & Performance  
Ms H McKee, Assistant Director Community Planning  
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director Transformation, Innovation and Performance  
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance)  
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration)  
Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer  
Mr E McManus, Capital Projects  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

#### **SPR/238/2016      APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

There were no apologies received.

#### **SPR/239/2016      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in SPR/251/2016 – Disposal of Land at Carnbane Road, Newry beside Carnbane Playing Fields as he was a member of the Carnbane League.

**SPR/240/2016:- ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2016**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2016 (circulated).

Mr Curtis advised that SPR/200/2016 – Report on Brexit on the Action Sheet was now complete.

**Agreed: The Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 October 2016, was agreed.**

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

**SPR/241/2016 WILLIAMS & SHAW ENERGY CONSULTANTS PRESENTATION RE: DOWN LEISURE CENTRE**

Read: Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 17 November 2016 regarding Renewable Energies at Down Leisure Centre (copy circulated)

The Chairman asked for a proposer to go into closed session. Councillor Sharvin queried the need for the discussions to be held in closed session stating the figures included were as detailed previously therefore any discussions should take place within the open forum.

Mr Curtis advised Council had already taken a decision on the requirements for the leisure centre and entered into a contract. Therefore discussion might take place relating to financial and business affairs, and requiring consideration in closed session.

Councillor Enright stated he agreed with Councillor Sharvin stating these figures had been public knowledge and should not affect the current arrangements.

Mr Curtis reiterated that a contract was in place and any recommendations or discussions heard in public could affect this contract.

- Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Byrne, 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.
- Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Byrne, 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 Burgess to refer the matter of use of renewable energies within the Down Leisure Centre to the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Forum for consideration, to include input from Building Control and the Council's Energy Officer.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **SPR/242/2016      PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN**

Ms McKee presented the draft Community Plan stating there had been many engagement events and a lot of excellent work had been achieved in quite a short timeframe. She highlighted the key indicators which were aspirational in terms of what the Council wanted to achieve.

Ms McKee advised the draft Community Plan was out for consultation until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 with a review due to take place at the end of January. She stated she hoped the Community Plan would be reviewed and published by the end of March.

Members praised the work that Ms McKee and her team had completed to date and wished Ms McKee well in her new post.

Councillor Sharvin stated the DEA Forum event at Halloween in Downpatrick was well received, however the surveys took a long time

to complete and he therefore asked officers to consider ways to shorten these.

Councillor Sharvin also highlighted that a lot of elderly people would like access to basic life skills education, specifically designed to address their needs.

Councillor Clarke stated the document sat neatly with the Programme for Government and there was always a need to improve on engagement especially with communities and youth organisations. He suggested pop-up events would be an excellent method of engagement.

Councillor Clarke went on to say buy-in was needed from all Councillors in order to get the best outcomes for the community.

#### **FOR NOTING**

##### **SPR/243/2016      REPORT OF NARROW WATER STAKEHOLDER MEETING – 3 OCTOBER 2016**

Read:                      Report of the Narrow Water Stakeholder Group Meeting held on 3 October 2016 (copy circulated)

**Agreed:                      It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Doran to note the report from the Narrow Water Stakeholder Meeting held on 3 October 2016.**

##### **SPR/244/2016      REPORT FROM NMD/LOUTH CC JOINT FORUM MEETING – 9 NOVEMBER 2016**

Read:                      Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 9 November 2016, regarding the report from NMD/Louth CC Joint Forum Meeting held on 9 November 2016 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                      It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to note the report of the NMD/Louth CC Joint Forum Meeting held on 9 November 2016.**

#### **FINANCE/BUDGET/IT**

##### **SPR/245/2016:-      COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES**

Read: Correspondence received from the Department for Communities dated 3 October 2016, regarding the Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (copy circulated).

Mrs Carville advised the only regulation not in Council's current scheme of allowances, was the reference to submission of travel claims within a 3-month period.

In response to Councillor Enright's questions, Mrs Carville advised that details of expenses such as carers allowance and mobile devices were contained in Local Government policies and the Regulations now being consulted on were the overarching document, but she added that Members comments had previously been fed back to the Department.

Councillor Andrews referred to Councillor Enright's comments, saying he was his Party Representative on the NAC, whose overall objective was uniformity across the 11 councils.

In response to Councillor Walker's question, Mrs Carville confirmed there was provision for a Member to claim childcare costs within Council's own scheme of allowances on dependents.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muir, seconded by Councillor Burgess, that Council should confirm its approval of the contents of the proposed Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.**

Mr Curtis advised that the next two items would be taken together.

**SPR/246/2016:- FUTURE DELIVERY OF ELECTORAL SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**NIPSA RESPONSE – FUTURE DELIVERY OF ELECTORAL SERVICES**

Read: Consultation paper from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland regarding the Future delivery of electoral services in Northern Ireland.

Read: Correspondence received from NIPSA dated 16 November 2016 regarding the Future Delivery of Electoral Services – NIPSA Response to Public Consultation.

Mrs McParland advised that a draft response to the Electoral Office for NI had been prepared by officers, which indicated Council would be in favour of the transfer of elections to Council, provided the transfer of duties was adequately funded, to include staff training on the transferring function. She said NIPSA's response had

been received after the draft response had been prepared and it included their concerns on a number of matters.

Councillor Sharvin suggested Council should review its response to the Consultation in light of NIPSA's response. He referred to the online registration to vote, saying some people did not have broadband, especially in the rural areas.

Councillor Sharvin proposed Graham Shields be invited to Council to make a presentation on the future delivery of Electoral Services.

Councillor Sharvin's proposal was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Councillor Clarke said he supported the proposal to involve Councils in future elections and he also welcomed online registration which was a massive step forward. He suggested having an electoral office in the District and said that registration for elections should come from census figures.

Councillor Andrews expressed concerns over how staff would cope with the workload and also the funding required. Councillor Walker concurred with these concerns.

Councillor Brown suggested inviting NIPSA along to the meeting with Graham Shields. Councillors Sharvin and Andrews agreed to this amendment to their motion.

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

- **That Council review its response to the Electoral Office NI in light of NIPSA's response.**
- **That Graham Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, be invited to a meeting to make a presentation on the future delivery of electoral services in Northern Ireland and that NIPSA also be invited to the meeting. Following these presentations, Council consider its response to the Consultation on this matter.**

## **EQUALITY AND POLICY**

### **SPR/247/2016      CORPORATE CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 17 November 2016, regarding the Corporate Consultation Arrangements – Equality Scheme Commitments (copy circulated).

Councillor Andrews expressed concerns in the reduction in the consultation period.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Council maintains the consultation commitments as laid out in Section 3, and specifically Section 3.2.6, of Council's Equality Scheme, as an interim measure, pending the outcome of the planned review of the effectiveness of the Section 75 duties scheduled by the Commission during the coming three years.

**SPR/248/2016      UPDATED GUIDELINES AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURE IN RELATION TO (RE) NAMING OF FACILITIES**

**Read:** Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 17 November 2016, regarding the Updated Guidelines and associated procedure in relation to (re)naming of facilities (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that approval be given to the updated Guidelines and associated procedure in relation to (re) naming of facilities.

**ESTATE**

**SPR/249/2016      CORRESPONDENCE FROM LIDL RE PLANNING PERMISSION IN NEWCASTLE**

**Read:** Correspondence received from Lidl dated 14 September 2016, regarding planning permission in Newcastle (copy circulated).

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke, Mr Curtis advised there was no reason why Councillors on the Planning Committee could not meet with representatives from Lidl, provided they did not proffer a view regarding the planning permission.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that the invitation from Lidl to meet with Councillors be accepted.

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in the following item – Disposal of Land at Carnbane Road, Newry beside Carnbane Playing Fields as he was a member of the Carnbane League and did not participate in discussion on this matter.

**SPR/250/2016      DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CARNBANE ROAD, NEWRY BESIDE CARNBANE PLAYING FIELDS**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 17 November 2016, regarding disposal of land at Carnbane Road, Newry (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Muirí:

- **That Council expresses an interest in the disposal of land at Carnbane Road, Newry as this land is important for the future management and development of Carnbane Playing Fields and the land is under Council control as present. The acquisition will also resolve any discrepancies in the Council boundary.**
- **The Council should seek a transfer at nominal value in the first instance.**
- **If the Council is unsuccessful in acquiring this land, the Council agree to re-imburse NIE for any costs incurred in the relocation of their equipment on this site in the event of development and also agree to enter into a Wayleave Agreement with NIE for the equipment.**
- **Easements may also be required for Transport NI, BT and NI Water.**

**SPR/251/2016      DISPOSAL OF LAND AT SUGAR ISLAND, NEWRY**

Read: Report from Mrs B Magill, Administration Manager dated 17 November 2016, regarding disposal of land at Sugar Island, Newry (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that:-**

- **Council express an interest in the disposal of land at Sugar Island, Newry.**
- **That Council seeks a transfer at nominal value in the first instance.**

**CONFERENCES/EVENTS**



**SPR/252/2016**      **CONFERENCE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NI – KEY CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES POST BREXIT**

**Read:**                      Economic Development in NI – Key Challenges and Future Opportunities Post Brexit – 16 January 2016, Belfast. Cost £210 + VAT.

**AGREED:**                It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Councillor Curran attend the Economic Development in NI Conference on 16 January 2016.

**SPR/253/2016**      **NILGA PLANNING SESSION – THE COUNCILLOR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS**

**Read:**                      NILGA Planning Session ‘The Councillor Role in the Development Plan Process’ – 13 December 2016.

**NOTED:**                The above mentioned conference was noted.

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

**SPR/254/2016**      **BIG SCREEN - NEWRY**

**Read:**                      Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 17 November 2016, regarding Newry Large Media Screen.

Mr Curtis provided Members with an update on the big screen saying the proposed solution was to remove the screen and make it mobile. Destination Newry would then use the screen to show films in the summer. He added the cost to remove the screen would be in the region of £5,000 for the crane and reinstatement of the ground and that the hire of the screen would be approximately £10,000 per annum for 3 years.

Questions from Members were answered by Mr Curtis as follows:

- Destination Newry owned the large screen.
- The large screen cost £70k which was paid for with a £50k contribution from Destination Newry and a grant of £20k from DSD. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council paid approximately £40k for the erection of the screen.

- The cost of £60,000 to convert the screen from static to mobile was a figure provided by Destination Newry. The size and weight of the screen is substantial.
- The big screen was initially erected with full planning permission for 2 years at the request of the private sector.
- The Council received 5 hours of free advertising per week and there was no cost to Council for the running costs of the screen.
- One of Council's objectives is the organisation of festivals and events and the screen could be used at these.
- The screen could be utilised at between 10 and 20 events per year.
- The metalwork was owned by Council and would therefore be retained by Council.

Councillor Clarke stressed the importance of utilising the screen at as many Council events and festivals as possible. He suggested bringing a report back to ERT Committee highlighting the number of events that the screen was guaranteed to be at, and how to maximise the screen's full potential.

Mr Curtis advised that part of the agreement with Destination Newry was that information on Council's major events would be shown at the start of a film or during the intervals.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Burgess, that:**

- **A report be brought back to ERT Committee highlighting the number of events that the screen was guaranteed to be at, and how to maximise the screen's full potential.**

**That the following decisions be agreed in principle:**

- **The large screen would be removed and made mobile by Destination Newry.**
- **The large screen would be utilised at Council major events (Council officers to agree list of Major Events and cost of same).**
- **Destination Newry would be allowed to use Council parks, public spaces etc to use Council event spaces, parks etc to show films etc.**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 17 November 2016, regarding Update on Energy and Sustainability Officer Works (copy circulated).

Mr Curtis provided an update on solar panels, advising that this matter would be reported in future to Active and Healthy Communities on a quarterly basis.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Curtis confirmed a review of all community centres was being undertaken with regard to solar panels, but advised that the roof was required to be suitable.

**Noted:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that the above report, giving details of progress on Solar Panels, be noted.

**SPR/256/2016      REPLACEMENT OF SUB-STATION AT MOURNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KILKEEL**

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration), dated 17 November 2016, regarding the replacement of sub-station at Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel (copy circulated).

Councillor Enright expressed concerns over this item of business, saying diesel generators were being used by businesses along the east coast due to the grid being inadequate.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Quinn, that approval be given for a 99 year lease. The lease to be entered into between the Council and Northern Ireland Electricity Networks in relation to the replacement of the sub-station at Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel in the consideration of £1000 with NIEN to be responsible for the Council's reasonable legal costs.

**GRANT AIDED PROGRAMMES**

**SPR/257/2016      PEACE IV**

Read: Report from Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager, dated 17 November 2016, regarding the Peace IV Capital Call (copy circulated).

In response to Councillor Carr's query on the Derryleckagh playing field project, Mr Curtis advised a series of meetings had been held with Rivers Agency, who had made it clear that the project would not be eligible due to the site being on a flood plain on which planning permission would not be granted.

In response to Councillor Murnin's query regarding the Ballynahinch project, Mr Curtis undertook to ascertain whether the ground floor of the building would be used for retail. He further advised the business case was currently being finalised, details of which would be brought back to Committee in December.

In response to Councillor Sharvin's query, Mr Curtis said there were strong indications that the Ballynahinch project funding would be signed off prior to Christmas.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muire, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to submit an application to Shared Spaces and Services funding call for the John Doyle Peace Centre.**

**SPR/258/2016      BREXIT**

Read: Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 17 November 2016, regarding proposals re Brexit and its implications (copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised Members a survey of businesses would be undertaken to gain an understanding of the implications Brexit may have on them and this would be fed into the all Island Civic Dialogue.

Councillor O'Muire requested contact would be made with The Border Community Against Brexit as they had already liaised with many organisations.

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

- Both Councils Newry, Mourne and Down DC and Louth County Council, collectively work on gathering information important to our combined areas.
- Begin an engagement with businesses, fishing, farming and community societies.
- Agree what was wanted for our combined areas in any negotiations.
- Submit a paper to all three Governments on the issues for our combined areas.

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

**SPR/259/2016      ST. JOHN BOSCO GFC – PHASE 2 NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE**

**Agreed:**                      On the proposal of Councillor Enright, 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).

**Read:**                         Report from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, dated 17 November 2016, regarding the lease of premises/land to St John Bosco GAC for clubhouse facilities at Newry Leisure Centre Phase 2 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                      On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 Doran to proceed with a 25 year lease at a peppercorn rental subject to the Department for Communities (Local Government Policy Division) approval and subject to the Club being responsible for all utilities and services.

**SPR/260/2016:      DOWNSHIRE CIVIC CENTRE FINAL ACCOUNT**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Enright, 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).

**Read:** Report from Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, dated 17 November 2016, regarding the Downshire Civic Centre Final Account (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 Enright to approve the final account for Downshire Civic Centre in the sum outlined in report dated 17 November 2016 from Mrs M Ward.

**SPR/261/2016      REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Enright, 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).

**Read:** Report from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 17 November 2016, regarding the review of Management Accounts (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 Andrews to note the Management Accounts to 31 August 2016.

**SPR/262/2016      LPS VALUATION FOR KINDLE**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Enright, 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).

Read: Business Case in regard to the purchase of the former Kindle Primary School from the Education Authority NI to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to develop a new facility. (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews, 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 Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that Option 3 – Transfer the site to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council at nil premium, be accepted and that discussions commence with the Ministry of Defence regarding the sale of part of the Ballykinler army camp and that a master plan would be looked into for this proposal.

The meeting concluded at 7:56pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 5 December 2016.

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

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