

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 18
January 2018 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre,
Downpatrick.**

In the Chair: Councillor T Hearty

In Attendance: Councillor R Burgess Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright Councillor D Hyland
Councillor O McMahon Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Murnin Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Ruane Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning & Policy
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning & Performance
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration)
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Ms L Moore, Head of Legal Administration
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
Ms C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/001/2018 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Mr A Wilkinson, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services (Interim).

SPR/002/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/003/2018 ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2017 (circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 14 December 2017 be noted.

POLICIES

SPR/004/2018 RETENTION & DISPOSAL POLICY

Read: Report from Ms M McIlhone, Business Support Manager and Mr P Green, Head of Compliance, dated 18 January 2018, regarding Council's Retention & Disposal Schedule (copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hyland to agree to amend the Planning Section of the Council's Retention and Disposal Schedule as detailed in appendix 2 of the Officer Report.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/005/2018 SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2017

Read: Report from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, dated 18 January 2018, regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October-December 2017 (copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October-December 2017.

SPR/006/2018 EVERY CUSTOMER COUNTS

Read: Report from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, dated 18 January 2018, regarding "Every Customer Counts" Commitment (copy circulated)

Councillor Hyland stated he welcomed the initiative and asked what measures the traders of Newcastle would be taking to promote the scheme and how long the process was likely to take.

Mrs Mackin advised this was an on-going process and a toolkit was provided to traders which gave guidance through the process for them to become accessible to all.

Councillor Byrne queried why Council would not commit to become a signatory.

Mrs Mackin advised the Council had only been asked to register their commitment to the process in the first instance in order to develop the out-workings of the scheme.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Byrne to agree to the Council signing up to the “Every Customer Counts” commitment.

SPR/007/2018 **STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS**

Read: Report from Mr A Beggs, Head of Evidence & Research, dated 18 January 2018, regarding Stakeholder Surveys (copy circulated)

Members expressed their concerns at the cost of conducting the stakeholder surveys querying whether it could be done in-house.

Mr McBride advised he would not know the actual cost until he went to market, however there may be some elements that could be carried out in-house. He stated the carrying out of the analysis would need to be undertaken externally as the resource capacity did not exist in-house to provide this.

AGREED: It was agreed in principle on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Burgess, to commission a number of important stakeholder surveys in support of the development of the new Corporate Plan (2019-2023) and other important Council strategies, with a paper being presented to the next Committee Meeting on methods of reducing the cost of undertaking the surveys and increasing the sample size.

SPR/008/2018 **COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING – 24 OCTOBER 2017**

Read: Minutes of Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board Meeting – 24 October 2017 (copy circulated)

Councillor Byrne highlighted one of the main problems was the feeding up of information into thematic groups with the same information being repeated through the DEA structures. He asked whether an update on this was available.

Mr McBride stated this was being reviewed through the Active & Healthy Communities Directorate as it was operationally responsible for the DEAs. Issues relating to the thematic partnership working groups and attendance were being reviewed at present.

NOTED: The Minutes of Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board Meeting held on 24 October 2017 were noted.

SPR/009/2018 **PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS ON NEW MEASURES OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION**

Read: Report from Mr J McBride, Assistant Director: Community Planning & Performance, dated 18 January 2018 regarding

Proposal for Public Information Events on the updated Measures of Multiple Deprivation (MMD) (copy circulated).

Councillor Savage advised the information provided was much more detailed and reflective of the reality on the ground and there were issues regarding social deprivation and how to tackle it in the Newry DEA. He said it was important to raise living standards through job creation and referred to apprenticeship opportunities with SRC and a job creation strategy across the District, saying it was important to meet with as many stakeholders and decision makers in the District as possible to tackle the issue of poverty.

In response to Members' queries, Mr McBride advised that there would be an opportunity to challenge the NISRA data at the Special Council meeting on 26 February 2018. He said issues around data and DEA's would be picked up on at the public information events at both District and DEA level.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed**

- **To host a NISRA-facilitated public information event on the updated Measures of Multiple Deprivation (MMD) at a suitable venue in Newry City.**
- **To organise similar public information events in each of the Council's seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs).**
- **Representatives of NISRA to be invited to the Special Council Meeting to be held on 26 February 2018.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SPR/010/2018 REQUEST BY NI WATER FOR COUNCIL LAND IN DUNDRUM TO FACILITATE NEW WASTE WATER PUMPING STATION

Read: Report from Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, dated 18 January 2018 regarding request from NI Water for land in Dundrum to facilitate new Waste Water Pumping Station (WWPS) (copy circulated).

Councillors Carr and Murnin expressed concerns regarding the sale of the site and asked why the site could not be leased.

Mrs Moore advised that NI Water were making a £5.5m investment and wanted control over the land. She added they were now offering a 99 year lease to Council for use as a car park once the works were complete.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council sell to NI Water the land identified on the Site Plan and following the construction works leases the same plot back from NI Water, subject to the following conditions:**

- That the Council receives agreement from the previous funders of the site, Tourism NI and the Rural Development Programme.
- Subject to a valuation by LPS.
- Subject to completion of legal formalities.
- Subject to NI Water being responsible for the Council's legal and valuation costs.
- Subject to the lease offered being at nominal value and on agreeable terms to the Council, including a lease term of 99 years.

SPR/011/2018 NILGA SUBSCRIPTION & WORK PLAN 2018/19

Read: Correspondence received from NILGA dated 9 January 2018 regarding NILGA's Summary Product & Work Plan for 2018/19 (copy circulated)

In response to Councillor Hyland's query regarding why there were no independent or Alliance party representatives, Mr Hannaway advised that Councillors were appointed by proportionality.

AGREED: It was agreed that the NILGA Subscription & Work Plan 2018/19, be noted.

SPR/012/2018 NILGA – INITIAL RESPONSE: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BUDGETARY OUTLOOK BRIEFING JANUARY 2018

Read: Correspondence received from NILGA dated 9 January 2018 regarding NILGA's Summary Product & Work Plan for 2018/19 (copy circulated).

Mrs Carville advised if any Member had any suggestions or inclusions for the response, to contact her directly. She added that the Department of Finance had agreed to accept a response in early February due to the tight deadline after Christmas.

Councillor Byrne expressed concerns over the poor state of rural roads, saying a rural needs impact assessment was required and a strong, comprehensive response. He added that it was important to carry out rural proofing.

AGREED: It was agreed that the Initial Response – Department of Finance Budgetary Outlook Briefing January 2018, be noted.

SPR/013/2018 LEASE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN DOWNSHIRE CIVIC CENTRE TO PROBATION BOARD NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration), dated 18 January 2018, regarding lease of Office Accommodation in Downshire Civic Centre to Probation Board Northern Ireland (PBNI) (copy circulated).

Councillor Burgess expressed concerns regarding the lack of car parking at the front of the Downshire Civic Centre.

Mrs Carville undertook to issue correspondence to Civic Centre staff advising them to park at the back of the building.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Council enter into a 3 year lease for the accommodation set out in the report at 1.0, with PBNI, at a yearly rental of £3,250.

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

SPR/014/2018 A1 BEECH HILL TO CLOUGHOGUE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Carr, 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 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

Read: Report from Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, dated 18 January 2018 regarding A1 Beech Hill to Cloughogue – Plot 31 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, 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 Ruane, to note the contents of the Officer's report and accept the compensation figure assessed by the Council's valuer as outlined in paragraph 3.0 of Officer's report, plus interest and legal costs and proceed to complete legal formalities.

SPR/015/2018 CLONALLON PARK – ADVERSE POSSESSION CLAIM – RECOMMENDATION TO SETTLE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Carr, 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 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

Read: Report from Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, dated 18 January 2018 regarding Adverse Possession Claim, Clonallon Park (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, 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 to note the contents of the officer's report and accept the offer as detailed in paragraph 3 of the officer's report in respect of disputed lands at Clonallon Park, Warrenpoint and subject to the purchaser covering the Council's legal costs and registration costs for the conveyance; agreement of the Council's Valuer to the terms; and completion of all necessary formalities.

SPR/016/2018 **ACTION SHEETS OF THE EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUPS HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2017, 25 OCTOBER 2017, 15 NOVEMBER 2017 AND 18 DECEMBER 2017**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Carr, 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 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

Read: Action Sheets of the Efficiencies Working Groups held on 29 September, 25 October, 15 November and 18 December 2017 (copies circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, 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 to note the contents of action sheets of Efficiencies Working Group meetings of 29 September 2017, 25 October 2017, 15

November 2017 and 18 December 2017. (think I may have struck this part out?)

SPR/017/2018 ACTION SHEETS OF THE STRATEGIC PROJECTS WORKING GROUP HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2017

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Carr, 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 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, 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 the Action Sheet of the Strategic Projects Working Group held on 12 December 2017 would be tabled at SPR Committee in February.

SPR/018/2018 REVIEW OF SENIOR STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL – UPDATE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Carr, 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 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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.

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chief Executive advised Members of proposals regarding the Director of Neighbourhood Services, for the interim period prior to making a permanent appointment.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 5 February 2018.

Signed: **Councillor Terry Hearty**
 Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
 Director of Corporate Services