

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 August 2017 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 S Doran Councillor M Murnin
Councillor B Ó Muíri Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin Councillor W Walker

Also in Attendance: Councillor M Larkin Councillor D McAteer
Councillor J Trainor

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning & Policy
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (HR)
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning & Performance
Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/126/2017 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Carr, Enright and McMurray. Apologies were also received from Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Policy & Performance and Mr A Wilkinson, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services (Interim).

SPR/127/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

It was unanimously agreed at this point in the Meeting, to take the Items Restricted in Accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

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

SPR/128/2017 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, dated 17 August 2017 regarding Management Accounts to 30th June 2017 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, 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 Management Accounts for the first quarter of the 2017-2018 financial year; the three months ending 30 June 2017.

SPR/129/2017 LEASE AGREEMENT – UNIT 1, WARRENPOINT SQUARE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Ms B Magill, Administration Manager, dated 17 August 2017 regarding Lease Agreement – Unit 1, Warrenpoint Square (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, 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 Doran to note the contents of the Officer's Report and approve the recommendation in paragraph 3.0 that the Council agree to the early termination of the Lease in respect of Unit 1, the Square, Warrenpoint and seek to identify a new tenant via expressions of interest, with a rent review being carried out before letting to any new tenant.

SPR/130/2017

REGULATING LEASE OF FORESHORE FOR NEWRY AND MOURNE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Ms A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration), dated 17 August 2017, regarding Regulating Lease of Foreshore for Newry and Mourne (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, 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 Walker to approve the recommendations in paragraph 3.0 of the Officer's Report and proceed to finalise the new Head Regulating Foreshore Lease for Newry and Mourne with the Crown Estate Commissioners in line with the recommendations listed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.8 of the Officer's Report.

SPR/131/2017

COMPLAINT TO NI PUBLIC SERVICE OMBUDSMAN

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Ms A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration), dated 10 August 2017 regarding Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman Complaint (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, 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 Ó Muíri to authorise a consolatory payment, in the sum outlined in the Officer's Report at paragraph 3.1, as recommended by the N Ireland Ombudsman.

SPR/132/2017 DOWN LEISURE CENTRE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 T McClean, Capital Project Manager, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Progress Report on Down Leisure Centre (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, 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 Burgess to agree the design changes listed in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's Report in relation to:
Substructure redesign; structural concrete columns; curtain walling and windows; lift 2 to second floor; works to vitality pool totalling the sum as detailed in the Officer's Report and also noting that the overall contract value remains within the agreed spend.**

SPR/133/2017

REQUEST RE REDUNDANCY APPROVAL

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director Human Resources, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Redundancy Approval (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, 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 by 5 votes to 4 that the report be referred back to Officers for further consideration and report back to Committee; a proposal by Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Muiri that the contents of the Officer's Report be approved, having been amended.

SPR/134/2017

WIFI DEPLOYMENT PROCESS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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 G Ringland, IT Department, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Wifi Deployment Process (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised it had been agreed to note the contents

of the Officer's Report outlining the approach to determining where and when the new wifi solution would be deployed.

SPR/135/2017

MINUTES OF EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2017

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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: Minutes of Efficiencies Working Group Meeting held on 15 May 2017 (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Ruane to note the Minutes of the Efficiency Working Group Meeting held on 15 May 2017.

SPR/136/2017

MINUTES OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2017

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane, 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: Minutes of Strategic Projects Working Group Meeting held on 23 June 2017 (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised it had been unanimously agreed to note the Minutes of the Strategic Projects Working Group Meeting held on 23 June 2017.

SPR/137/2017 **ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2017**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources (SPR) Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2017 (circulated).

SPR/109/2017 – Performance Improvement Plan 2017-2018

In response to Councillor Byrne’s query regarding the selection of groups being carried out by DEAs, Mrs Carville advised that this matter would be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities department for a response.

SPR/119/2017 – Regional Pay Briefing

In response to Councillor Byrne’s query, Mrs Carville advised the Human Resources Manager from the Council attended the conference and the Efficiencies Working Group would be concentrating on the effect of the Regional Pay Briefing.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 15 June 2017 be noted and the actions identified in the right hand column as completed be removed.

PRESENTATION

SPR/138/2017 **COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE**

Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning and Performance, presented an update on the Community Plan to the Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Sharvin, Mr McBride advised some of the data was not current and could therefore be considered out of date, however he was trying to establish data sharing protocols with partners to ensure the Council could obtain more current data but also adhere to its data protection obligations.

Councillor Sharvin queried how the issue of broadband was being tackled and whether new programmes would be established to address health and wellbeing in the District as opposed to linking into existing programmes.

Mr McBride advised rural broadband access was a huge issue and something that was being tackled on a regional basis. In response to a query concerning why the health and wellbeing delivery plan largely reflected existing partner activity, he stated that one of the challenges within this theme was to identify what activity was already being undertaken and whether areas of duplication or indeed gaps existed.

In response to Councillor Murnin’s queries regarding a public sector working group and the lack of reference to hospitals or health facilities within the document, Mr McBride

advised there was a business advisory forum which had been established to advise the Council on wider economic issues but that public sector jobs had been identified as a priority area, and that the aim of Community Planning was more long-term in focus, therefore its primary aim in respect of health and wellbeing was to help prevent people from going into hospital rather than linking in the short-term where hospitals and facilities were located.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPR/139/2017 LDP STEERING GROUP

Read: Report from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer, dated 17 August 2017 regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan: Steering Group (copy circulated).

Councillor Ruane proposed and Councillor Doran seconded that the contents of the Officer's Report be approved.

As an amendment, Councillor McAteer proposed and Councillor Byrne seconded that an additional representative from the Planning Committee for SF, SDLP, UUP and DUP be permitted to sit on the LDP Steering Group.

The amendment was put to a vote, and was defeated by 3 votes to 4.

The proposal by Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran to accept the Officer's Report was then put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 4
AGAINST: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 3

The proposal was **CARRIED**.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran to accept the Officer's Report.**

SPR/140/2017 LDP MEMBER WORKSHOPS

Read: Report from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan: Member Workshops (copy circulated).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to have a series of 4 Local Development Plan: Member Workshops.**

SPR/141/2017 **DFI LETTER AGREEING THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Read: Correspondence received from Department for Infrastructure, dated 30 June 2017, regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council – Statement of Community Involvement (copy circulated).

NOTED: **The correspondence received from Department for Infrastructure regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council – Statement of Community Involvement was noted.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/142/2017 **CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Read: Report from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Policy, dated 17 August 2017, regarding the Consultation/Engagement Framework (copy circulated).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri, it was agreed to adopt the Consultation/Engagement Framework and approve the development of the Consultation/Engagement Toolkit.**

SPR/143/2017 **REPORT ON SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT, QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL-JUNE 2017**

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 17 August 2017, regarding the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April-June 2017 (copy circulated).

NOTED: **It was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April-June 2017.**

SPR/144/2017 **REPORT ON NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC AUTHORITY STATUTORY EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS DUTIES ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2016-17**

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 17 August 2017, regarding the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Policy (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin asked that, if possible, future reports should highlight the minorities in the District that were not currently being engaged with.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to note the Progress Report for 2016-17 for submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland by 31 August 2017.**

SPR/145/2017 **REPORT ON EXTENSION OF PILOT SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME IN NEWCASTLE**

Read: Report from Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer, dated 17 August 2017, regarding the request to extend pilot Shopmobility Scheme in Newcastle (copy circulated).

Councillor Doran proposed and Councillor Ruane seconded that the recommendations as set out in the Officer's Report be approved.

AGREED: **As an amendment, Councillor Byrne proposed and Councillor Sharvin seconded, that the word 'pilot' be dropped in relation to this scheme and that Council go to tender to extend the Shopmobility Scheme across the District. The amendment was unanimously agreed.**

SPR/146/2017 **TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF ADVERTISING AGENCY SERVICES AND CORPORATE DESIGN SERVICES**

Read: Report from Ms V Keegan, Head of Communications and Marketing, dated 17 August 2017, regarding tender for provision of advertising agency services and corporate design services (copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri to approve the Officer's recommendation to tender for the provision of Advertising Agency Services and Corporate Graphic Design Services while building in any social clauses possible to ensure local organisations can tender for these services.**

SPR/147/2017 **CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUSTS**

Read: Report from Ms A Rennick, Investing for Health Officer, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Consultation Arrangements with Health and Social Care Trusts (copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway provided an update on the consultation arrangements advising that the Ambulance Service were keen to participate in these arrangements also.

In response to a query from Councillor Byrne, Mr Hannaway advised representatives of all parties had attended the Party Representatives Forum which had discussed this matter at three separate meetings. He stated Council Committees were statutory bodies established in line with the regulations, and therefore must be as set out in the NI Local Government Act 2014. Additionally the legislation required that only one-third of a Committee could be made up of unelected representatives. If a Committee was established, this would mean that some Councillors may not have a role on the Committee.

Mr Hannaway said the purpose behind the recommendation for establishment of a Working Group which then referred its minutes and reports to the Council, was to ensure all local interested health organisations would have their say and that all Councillors could be involved.

Following further discussion, Councillor Ruane proposed to accept the officer's recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Doran.

Councillor Byrne requested a recorded vote on the matter.

The motion was put to a recorded vote, the results of which are appended to the minutes:

FOR: 4
AGAINST: 3
Abstentions: 0

The motion was **CARRIED**.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran to approve the proposed arrangements for consultation with Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts as set out below:

- Following consideration by the Party Representatives Forum the following is proposed in respect of the consultation arrangements with Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts. Northern Ireland Ambulance Service will also be invited to attend.
- The Council hold a Council meeting with the Southern and South Eastern Trusts to discuss issues relating to Health Service provision in the Newry, Mourne and Down District twice yearly.
- Should a relevant issue arise which requires addressing on an urgent basis, additional meetings may be arranged on an ad hoc basis. The Trust may use these Fora as a means of consultation.
- Six weeks prior to the quarterly meeting the Southern and South Eastern Health Working Groups will meet to identify issues and concerns. These will be Chaired by the Chairperson of Council.

CORPORATE SERVICES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/148/2017

SRA ALLOWANCES

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 E McParland, Democratic Services Manager, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Allocation of one outstanding Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) (copy circulated)

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

Agreed: **When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran to accept the officer's recommendation in line with arrangements made in 2015/16 and 2016/17 that 50% of one unallocated SRA be paid to the Chair of the Planning Committee, with the remaining 50% being divided among the other positions which received SRA payments and this arrangement be back-dated to 1 June 2017; and that an amendment proposed by Councillor Byrne and seconded by Councillor Murnin had been defeated.**

CORPORATE SERVICES – HUMAN RESOURCES

SPR/149/2017 LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING GROUP ARRANGEMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP FEES

Read: Report from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Human Resources, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Local Government Training Group Arrangements and Membership Fees (copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and to support the Local Government Training Group and payment of the membership fees.**

CORPORATE SERVICES – FINANCE

SPR/150/2017 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Read: Report from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, dated 17 August 2017, regarding Financial Regulations (copy circulated)

In response to Councillor Byrne's query, Mrs Carville advised the specification was that capital receipts must be used for capital purposes, as opposed to revenue purposes. Mr Montgomery added that debts and liabilities, including those funded under the Council's REFCUS policy, could be met from capital receipts.

Councillor Sharvin queried whether forecasted budget overspends should be reported to the various Committees or to the SP&R Committee only.

Mrs Carville advised the SP&R Committee had a financial oversight role within its Terms of Reference, therefore all budgetary overspends and corrected actions needed to be reported back to this Committee.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Ó Muíri, it was agreed to approve the NMDDC Financial Regulations.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 4 September 2017

**Signed: Councillor Terry Hearty
Chairperson**

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 17 August 2017 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: SP&R Committee Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 13 – Consultation Arrangements with Health and Social Care Trusts

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews				X
R Burgess				X
P Byrne		X		
M Carr				X
S Doran	X			
C Enright				X
T Hearty	X			
D Hyland				X
O McMahon				X
A McMurray				X
M Murnin		X		
B Ó Muiri	X			
M Ruane	X			
G Sharvin		X		
B Walker				X
TOTALS	4	3	0	8