

Please note it was agreed at the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2015 to adopt the Active and Healthy Community Committee Minutes of 20 April 2015 as an accurate record, and to approve all recommendations, subject to the below amendments:- the Minutes of 5 May 2015 will be listed for formal approval at the Monthly Meeting of the Council on 1 June 2015

C/26/2015

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2015**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 April 2015 (copy circulated).

AHC/07/2015 – Hire Charges for Private Contractors, Leisure and Community Facilities

Councillor Devlin expressed her disappointment that her comments expressing concerns about the negative impact of increases in charges for swimming and leisure activities, particularly swimming lessons, was having on families and children in the Down district, had not been recorded in the minutes.

Councillors discussed the issue of charging policies at the Council's leisure and swimming facilities at length with many expressing their disappointment at the increase in price for children to avail of swimming lessons, as well as a 25% increase in the cost of summer schemes in Down District.

Councillor McGrath said the matter of hire charges for private contractors at the Council's Leisure and Community facilities, should be brought back to the AHC Committee for further consideration.

Councillor Sharvin said he agreed fully with Councillor McGrath and agreed the matter must be reviewed.

The Chief Executive advised the only issue that can be discussed at the Meeting was the private charges at Downpatrick as the issue of the other charges had already been agreed upon by Council. He said the Council could not simply hand its premises over to private enterprise to run private lessons and if it wished to do this, an open and transparent process would need to take place so as not to leave the Council open to challenge. He advised that the ratepayer subsidised swims within each of the swimming pools, and arrangements for private companies must be cost-recovery.

Mr Moore advised Council that the cost per swim per child was £2.15 and this would remain, however the tutor would now be required to pay £4.85. He advised this model had been operating in the Newry and Mourne area with no issue, with pupils and tutors availing of 1-to-1 lessons.

Councillor McGrath proposed holding the implementation of costs for private 1-to-1 swimming lessons for a month at Downpatrick Leisure Centre until an assessment on the financial and equality impact on residents of the District could be carried out. This was seconded by Councillor Curran.

Councillor Burns called for a recorded vote on this matter.

Councillor Kimmins questioned whether the decision taken at the Active and Healthy Communities Committee regarding the cessation of swimming lessons at the end of June would be impacted upon by this proposal.

Mr Moore advised the proposal referred to the private 1-to- lessons and the group lessons would end at the end of June, based on the recommendation that came from the Committee.

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 23
AGAINST: 17

The PROPOSAL was declared CARRIED.

Copy of recorded vote attached.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McGrath, seconded by Councillor Curran, to hold the implementation of costs for private 1-to-1 swimming lessons for a month in Downpatrick Leisure Centre until an assessment on the financial and equality impact on residents of the District could be carried out.

AHC/08/2015 – Fixed Call for Voluntary Contributions to Community, Sporting and Recreation Capital Schemes

Councillor Carr asked that it be recorded that £350,000 had been provided by the Shadow Council for capital schemes already in the system. He expressed his concern that an open call would jeopardise the schemes currently in the system agreed by the legacy Councils, and may create a requirement for additional funding which has not been budgeted for. He requested that these comments be recorded.

The Director of Strategy, Planning and Performance advised that Council had agreed to include £350,000 for major capital schemes known to Council at that stage. These schemes now being advertised would require substantial match funding and, as per the criteria, needed to have planning approval in place with the schemes ready to complete by 31 March 2016, and seeking between £20,000 and £100,000 in grant aid from the Council. He said therefore the number of schemes expected to be received would be fairly low, due to these conditions.

AHC/09/2015 – Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities

Councillors expressed concern that the list provided only included facilities that were currently receiving funding and said this should be available to all Associations/Clubs in the District.

The Chief Executive advised this list related only to those currently receiving funding and the purpose of the SLAs was to formalise these agreements for one year only in order to then bring forward an open and transparent policy going forward.

Councillor Fitzpatrick asked it to be noted that the Mayobridge Community Association was in receipt of this type of funding and she had confirmation from the Director, Mr M Lipsett, confirming this.

AGREED: **Agreed to review the list presented by Officers to ensure completeness.**

AHC/05/2015 – Establishment of Sports Association for new Council District

Councillor McAteer proposed the establishment of the Sports Association be referred back to the Committee to consider further additional representation for Councillors and increased sporting representation. This was seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick.

Councillor Burns stated there were 2 levels and the elected Members would sit at Board level where they would be slightly better represented.

The proposal was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	23
AGAINST:	13
ABSTENTION:	1

The proposal was declared CARRIED.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, following a vote, that the establishment of a Sports Association be referred back to the Active and Healthy Committee to consider further additional representation for Councillors and increased sporting representation.**

AHC/06/2015 – Proposal to develop the pitch and putt area in Newcastle

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Doran that Council begin a consultation process for future development plans for Islands and Castle Parks in Newcastle.

The Chief Executive left the meeting during the above discussions – 7.05pm
The Chief Executive re-entered the meeting during the above discussions – 7.24pm.

AGREED: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 April 2015 were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Kimmins subject to the following issues listed below:-

- **Councillor McGrath's proposal, seconded by Councillor Curran to hold the implementation of costs for private 1-to-1 swimming lessons at Downpatrick Leisure Centre for a month until an assessment on the financial and equality impact on residents of the District could be carried out was carried by 23 votes to 17.**
- **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick that the establishment of the Sports Association be referred back to the Committee to consider further additional representation for Councillors and increased sporting representation.**
- **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Doran that Council begin a consultation process for the future development plans for Islands and Castle Parks in Newcastle.**
- **It was unanimously agreed that Officers review the list presented by Officers in relation to SLA's to ensure completeness.**

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2015

Minutes of Inaugural Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 April 2015 at 6.00pm in the Commedagh Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

Chairperson: Cllr L Kimmins

Vice Chairperson: Cllr L Devlin

In attendance: (Councillors)

Cllr S Burns	Cllr M Carr
Cllr G Fitzpatrick	Cllr V Harte
Cllr H Harvey	Cllr D Hyland
Cllr K Loughran	Cllr B Ó'Muirí
Cllr D Taylor	Cllr B Walker

(Non Committee Members)

Cllr T Andrews

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mr P Green, Legal Advisor
Mr D Brannigan
Ms S Burns
Mr J Campbell
Mr E Devlin
Ms S Fearon
Mrs J Hillen
Mrs G McEwen
Mr R Moore
Ms K Morrow
Mr P Power
Ms S Rice
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/01/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors S Doran and B Quinn.

Councillor Kimmins welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. She stated, if Members were in agreement, she intended that each Member would only speak on items once and non-Committee Members would not be permitted to speak, in order to complete the business more efficiently.

AGREED: **Members agreed that they would speak once on items and non-Committee Members would not be allowed to speak, in order to complete the business more efficiently.**

AHC/02/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were put forward as follows:

Councillor S Burns declared an interest in Item 9 – Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities as he was a member of a community group in receipt of funding from Council.

Councillor V Harte declared an interest in Item 9 – Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities as she was a member of a community group in receipt of funding from Council.

The Chief Executive declared an interest in Item 9 – Service Level Agreements for Community Facilities as he had family members involved in community groups in receipt of funding from Council.

AHC/03/2015: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Read: Report on Terms of Reference for Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

NOTED: It was agreed to mark the report on terms of reference noted.

It was agreed to take item 5 at this stage.

AHC/05/2015: ESTABLISHMENT OF SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR NEW COUNCIL DISTRICT

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr P Power, Sports Officer recommending: (copy circulated)

- The proposed new name of the association is: Sports Association Newry & Mourne (SAND). The Core Committee will consist of
 - Chairperson (elected at AGM from membership)
 - Vice Chairperson (elected at AGM from membership)
 - Secretary (elected at AGM from membership)

- Treasurer (elected at AGM from membership)
- Public Relations Officer (elected at AGM from membership)
- Up to 4 Councillors
- Up to 3 Council Staff
- Sports Club Membership (max of one representative from each sport)

Mr Lipsett provided some background information on the establishment of the Sports Association advising that the Association is a company limited by guarantee which means they can avail of grants and funding schemes that are not available to Council. The Association will also have charitable status which assists sports clubs wishing to develop their facilities to avail of reduced planning fees.

Members discussed the issue asking if there would be any scope for increasing the Sports Club Membership for the larger sports such as soccer, GAA and rugby. Mr Lipsett advised the reason for limiting to one per sport was in order to keep some control over the size of the Association so that it does not become unworkable.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Walker, seconded by Councillor D Hyland to approve the above report and recommendation.**

It was agreed to take item 4 at this stage.

PRESENTATIONS

**AHC/04/2015: PRESENTATION FROM MR MICHAEL LIPSETT –
OVERVIEW OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE**

Mr Michael Lipsett provided an overview of the Directorate advising the key areas it would be involved in were:

- Community Engagement including:
 - Community Engagement and Social Exclusion
 - Peace and Good Relations
 - Community Services, Facilities & Events
 - Community Development & Voluntary Contributions
 - PCSP
- Leisure & Sport including:
 - Leisure and Recreation
 - Parks and Open Spaces
 - Sports Development
- Health & Well Being including:
 - Environmental Health
 - Environmental Education & Biodiversity
 - Health Promotion and Prevention

Mr Lipsett outlined the current Strategies and Development Plans advising of their current status and planned start dates. He also advised Members of the Committee of the Current Leisure Centre Developments. (Copy attached)

NOTED: The information contained within the presentation was noted.

AHC/06/2015: PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP THE PITCH AND PUTT AREA IN NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 19 March 2015 from Mr M Bryce, Assistant Director, Leisure & Recreation Services recommending that Council approve the Licence Agreement for FootGolf in Newcastle Pitch and Putt area. (Copy circulated)

Mr Lipsett advised Down District Council had approved a 5 year lease agreement for FootGolf facility to be put in place in Newcastle and asked that this be noted.

Members discussed the issue questioning if it would be possible for some funding to be made available to allow local golf clubs to smarten their clubs up before the Irish Open and whether Council are in a position to develop the existing Pitch and Putt facility in Newry.

The Chief Executive advised Council had written to the Minister and £21,000 had been received from DSD and DRD, however there was no further funding available. He stated the Pitch and Putt facility in Newry was not contained within the capital programme and had not come before the Shadow Council, however he would follow this up.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the report. It was further agreed that the Chief Executive would investigate the position with the Pitch and Putt facility in Newry.

AHC/07/2015: HIRE CHARGES FOR PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr R Moore, Assistant Director, Waste Management /Technical & Leisure Services recommending: (copy circulated)

- That the new Leisure Services Department of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council adopt the same principles to swimming tuition. All leisure facilities within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area to have their own swim programmes for aged 4 years and above and do not offer their facility to commercial organisations on a private group hire basis.
All group swim programmes aged 4 years and above would be delivered directly by the Council. Where this is not

possible, the procedure detailed in the report would be implemented.

- It is recommended that the new Leisure Services Department of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council adopt the same principles to private individual swimming lesson as detailed in the report.

Members discussed the issue at length with Councillor W Walker stating his opposition to the recommendations contained in Mr Moore's report.

Mr Lipsett advised the reason for the recommendations was to have more programmes, more frequency of lessons at a cheaper price for parents who will use it and to have a fair and consistent pricing policy across the District. He stated that when the public understand the level of programme and the increased standard in service available across the District, they would be satisfied with the new programme. Mr Lipsett also stated the current position within Down Leisure Centre was to remain until 30th June 2015 and this would facilitate the Council is communicating the revised arrangements to the public.

The Chairperson put the matter to a vote, the results of which are as follows:

FOR:	8
AGAINST:	3
ABSTENTIONS:	1

The vote was CARRIED.

Councillor Burns proposed that a tour be organised to inform Members of the Committee what facilities exist within the District. This was seconded by Councillor Hyland.

Councillor Walker proposed that Officers talk to the parents of the children who currently use Down Leisure Centre in order to advise them of the benefits of the new programmes. This was seconded by Councillor Burns.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Burns, to approve the above report and recommendation.**

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hyland that a tour of the facilities within the District be organised.

It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burns that Officers talk to the parents of the children who currently use Down Leisure Centre in order to advise them of the benefits of the new programmes.

**AHC/08/2015: FIXED CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO
COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION CAPITAL
SCHEMES**

- Read:** Report dated 20 April 2015 from Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager and Mr D Brannigan, Community Relations & Development Manager recommending:- (copy circulated)
- That the Council issues a call for capital scheme applications for financial assistance for match funding towards capital projects in community, sporting and recreation only.
 - The fixed call opens on Monday 27th April 2015 and closes on Friday 15th May 2015.
 - Capital Scheme to follow Financial Assistance Procedure with additional capital scheme basic eligibility criterion.
 - Adopt the updated Review Procedure.

Mr Lipsett advised £350,000 has been provided by the Shadow Council for capital scheme applications and as these need to be utilised before the end of the year, the Committee should approve the above recommendations. He stated the schemes must have a minimum spend of £20,000 and a maximum of £100,000 and 50% match funding would be the maximum available from Council. He advised the schemes need to have planning permissions in place and be ready to begin as the funding needs to be used before the end of the year.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor S Burns, seconded by Councillor G Fitzpatrick to approve the above report and recommendations.**
On the advice of the Chief Executive, it was noted that Council approval to the recommendations contained in the above report would be required before any matters in relation to report can be actioned.

Having previously declared an interest in the next item, The Chief Executive and Councillors Burns and Harte left the meeting at this stage – 7.55 pm

**AHC/09/2015: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY
FACILITIES**

- Read:** Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr P Green, Legal Advisor recommending:-
- The Committee agrees to the Council entering into SLA's with the list of groups as listed for a period of one year to allow for a review of these funding arrangements to be carried out:

Councillor G Fitzpatrick asked the Officers to investigate if Mayobridge Community Centre received funding.

Members discussed the issue and Councillor D Hyland proposed that the Committee should visit the centres to see what they provide within the local areas, this was seconded by Councillor B Ó'Muirí.

Councillor W Walker proposed that the Committee should also approve the Officer's recommendation, as well as visiting the various community centres. This was seconded by Councillor L Devlin.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Hyland, seconded by Councillor B Ó'Muirí to visit the centres to see what they provide within the local areas.**
It as agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Walker, seconded by Councillor Devlin to approve the above report and recommendations.

The Chief Executive, Councillors Burns and Harte re-entered the meeting at this stage – 8.05pm

AHC/10/2015: PCSP TRANSITIONAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mrs J Hillen, District Partnership Manager recommending:-

- That Council approves the Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP Transitional Action Plan.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor B Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor D Taylor to approve the above report and recommendation.**

AHC/11/2015: LETTER FROM HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY DHSSPS - EVALUATION

Read: Letter dated 3 March 2015 from Alastair Campbell, Deputy Director Secondary Care from Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the correspondence.**

AHC/12/2015: ADDITIONAL ITEM – FOOD STANDARD AGENCY GRANT FUNDING TO DISTRICT COUNCILS

Read: Report dated 20 April 2015 from Mr J Farrell recommending:-

- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council accept the Food Standard Agency's food grant proposal.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor M Carr,
seconded by Councillor W Walker to approve the above
report and recommendation.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.10pm.

For adoption at the Monthly Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to
be held on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Signed: Councillor L Kimmins
Chairperson

Signed: Mr L Hannaway
Chief Executive