

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2020

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 15 February 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor G O'Hare

In attendance: **(Councillors)**
Councillor T Andrews Councillor C Casey
Councillor A Finnegan Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor G Malone Councillor C Mason
Councillor McMurray Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor D Taylor Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker

Officials in attendance: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
Mrs Sonia Burns, Head of Programmes
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/022/2021: **APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher, McEvoy and McKevitt.

In the absence of the Chairperson Councillor McEvoy, Vice Chairperson Councillor O'Hare assumed the Chair.

An apology was also received from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement.

AHC/023/2021: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/024/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2021

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/206/2019: Adoption of Suicide Down to Zero

Councillor Gibbons proposed doubling the budget for the Suicide Down to Zero initiative from £10,000 to £20,000 as it would be needed more now than ever with Covid-19. Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the proposal.

Mr Devlin confirmed he would seek to add the increase to the estimates.

Members were advised dates had been confirmed for the Suicide Down to Zero training as being the 9, 18 and 25 March 2021. Members were urged to partake in the training and confirm their wish to attend with the Democratic Services Department as soon as possible.

In response to a query from Councillor Taylor regarding recent incidents of anti social behaviour on leisure centre grounds and elsewhere, Mr Tamati confirmed officers were working closely with members of the DEA, PSNI, PCSP and other Community Groups on how to move forward.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to double the budget for finance for the Suicide Down to Zero initiative from £10,000 to £20,000.

It was agreed by all to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021.

AHC/025/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION: OUTDOOR RECREATION NI

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a Notice of Motion on Outdoor Recreation NI. **(Copy circulated)**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor McMurray:

'In light of the increase on visitors accessing outdoor amenities which are prevalent in our district, this Council shall, within its structures, create a group regarding Outdoor Recreation within the district. The primary objectives of this group will be to Manage, Promote and Educate regarding outdoor recreation within our district. This will be a constituted group within Council. Its makeup will be representative of both statutory and voluntary sector agencies. As well as those who have a remit for development & management of outdoor recreation. Communication will be made in the first instance with National Governing Bodies and Agencies to ascertain what role Councils in other areas of Ireland, Britain and Europe have had in positively managing access and recreation with our outdoor spaces.'

In presenting the motion Councillor McMurray highlighted the wide range of activities that made up many different aspects of outdoor recreation and how as a Council development of these could be facilitated.

Councillor McMurray spoke at length about the impact Covid-19 and the ensuing lockdown had had on people's connection with the outdoors and its increasing popularity. Reference was made to the statutory, voluntary and private outdoor centres and providers within the District and how Council must investigate whether schemes could be facilitated to allow people to meet while partaking in outdoor recreation to help physical and mental recovery from the pandemic.

Other key points highlighted by Councillor McMurray included that Council had a stated aim to become an 'Outdoor Capital' with MTB Trails, Community Walking Trails and a potential climbing facility at Moorhill Quarry. He commented that whilst Council organised and facilitated interagency meetings, a more permanent structure was required to deal with issues as they arose and develop solutions to problems including for example litter, erosion, contamination and work with initiatives such as Leave no Trace and DAERA Sponsored Bill regarding the environment.

Councillor McMurray urged Council to work with groups and agencies to see how best they fed into Councils decisions in order to best place Council regarding outdoor recreation within the District.

Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the motion.

In supporting the motion Councillor Trainor advised the only concern he had was around duplication with various aspects of Council looking at outdoor recreation and that officers should take that into consideration.

Councillors Taylor, Gibbons and Walker also spoke in support of the motion.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the Notice of Motion and that officers consider the Notice of Motion and table a report at the March Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting outlining the next steps.

In response to a query from Councillor Gibbons, Mr Lipsett agreed to contact the Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism in relation to BBQ facilities within Kilbroney Park being opened for outdoor learning by schools.

Mr Devlin agreed to follow up a query regarding fly tipping from Councillor Malone with Neighbourhood Services Department.

AHC/026/2021

PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership (as agreed on 14 January 2021):**

- **Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver Capacity Building Programmes for Community Groups in the area of Risk Assessment and Health & Safety in response to Covid-19 situation across the 7 DEAs. Estimated Cost £35,000.**
- **Additionally, it was agreed by the Partnership on 10 September to withdraw project I.8 (Ballyhornan) due to time and budget constraints, and to re-allocate budget to I.12 (BMX Track) if no additional funding became available.**

As no additional funding has become available, approval is requested:

- **To re-allocate £50,957 from I.8 (Ballyhornan) to I.12 (BMX Track) (subject to SEUPB approval).**

AHC/027/2021

HIRE CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding hire charges for community centres. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to maintain the hire charge pricing that had been adopted for the 2020/21 financial year for a further year and to adopt the tiered insurance level approach to hirers for, the next two financial years.**

AHC/028/2021

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE AND SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding a service level agreement with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to develop a three-year service level agreement with both the Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College to progress & manage recreational/accredited training programmes to be facilitated in Council Community Facilities.**

AHC/029/2021

COMMUNITY FACILITIES STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the Community Facilities Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to agree to postpone further development of the Draft Community Facility Strategy in order to explore and incorporate strategic priorities as a result of lessons learned from Covid 19.**

AHC/030/2021

COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2021.**

AHC/031/2021

DFC 3rd TRANCHE COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUNDING

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding DfC 3rd Tranche Covid-19 Community Support Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the report and agree to the following:**

- **Approval to the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to distribute, allocate or award £213,916.85 of the 3rd Tranche of DfC COVID-19 Community Support Funding of £225,175.63, provided by the Department for Communities (DfC), in keeping with the purposes of and conditions of the funding.**
- **Council using up to a maximum of 5% (£11,258.78) of the funding of £225,175.63 to fund internal council costs, such as staffing and overheads.**

AHC/032/2021

DEA FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding DEA Forums Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for:

- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2021.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 2 February 2021.

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/033/2021 PLAY STRATEGY UPDATE

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sports, regarding the Play Strategy Update.

Members discussed the report at length and the recommendations contained within were welcomed. The following points were clarified by Mr Tamati:

- Any additions to the current Play Strategy would require Council to review the Strategy as it was coming to end of the final year.
- Concerns over consolidation projects and the provision of appropriate disabled equipment in place - There was an independent consultation process carried out by Playboard and everyone’s voices must be heard as part of that consultation process. Results of the consultation process would come back to Active and Healthy Committee for approval.
- Members were reminded that ongoing issues with the maintenance and repairing of current playparks was the responsibility of the Maintenance Department.

At the request of Councillor Finnegan who referred to an underspend by DAERA, Mr Lipsett confirmed he would write to DAERA to request additional funding to allow enhancement of Councils Play Strategy and open up opportunities for more rural areas to be added to the Strategy.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to agree the following Play Strategy Projects and budget to be progressed in 2021/22:

• New Builds	
Mullagh Close, Ballymartin	£140,000
Darragh Cross, Barnamaghery	£140,000
Teconnaught, Kilmore	£140,000
Martin’s Lane, Newry	£220,000
Downs Road, Newcastle	£180,000
• Upgrades	
Kitty’s Road, Kilkeel	£50,000
• Consolidations	
Bessbrook, 4 to 2 Charlemont, College, Fr Cullen and Pond field	£80,000
Rowallane, 2 to 1 Hillfoot 1 & Hillfoot 2	£80,000
Newry, 2 to 1 Windmill and Heather Park	£100,000

Newry, 2 to 1 Springhill and Shandon Park £80,000
Annalong, 2 to 1 Cornmill and Mona View £100,000

It was agreed to write to DAERA to request additional funding to allow enhancement of Council's Play Strategy and open up opportunities for more rural areas to be added to the Strategy.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/034/2021 DAERA CLIMATE BILL CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the DAERA Climate Bill Consultation Response. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to return the Consultation response as presented. The response had been returned by the required date on the proviso that it would be subject to Council Approval.**

AHC/035/2021 CONSULTATION ON CLEAN AIR STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the consultation on Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to return the Consultation response as presented.**

AHC/036/2021 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN RELATION TO FOOD FRAUD

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with National Food Crime Unit in relation to Food Fraud. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that the Chief Executive sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the National Food Crime Unit in relation to Food Fraud.**

AHC/037/2021

CONSULTATION ON ORGAN DONATION

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation on Organ Donation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by O'Hare, to return the Consultation response as presented supporting the proposed statutory opt-out system of organ donation.**

FOR NOTING

AHC/038/2021

POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding a PCSP Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the report and Minutes of the PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26 November 2020, approved at the PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 19 January 2021.**

AHC/039/2021

NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report.**

AHC/040/2021

SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (SIF) UPDATE

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Social Investment Fund (SIF) Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the report and minutes as presented.**

AHC/041/2021

NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE DISABLED PARKING UPDATE

Read: Report dated 15 February 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Newry Leisure Centre Disabled Car Parking Upgrade. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Taylor regarding enforcement, Mr Tamati confirmed it was a matter that had been given consideration and confirmed there would be significant signage in the car parks and an implementation period to allow customers to get used to the new provision.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the planned upgrades works for NLC Disabled Car Parking as per appendix 1 of the report and the securing of £29,925 of funding from the DFC Access and Inclusion Fund.**

It was agreed to carry out a 6-month review once the Disabled Car Parking upgrade was completed.

Councillor Casey left the meeting at this point – 7.06pm

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

AHC/042/2021

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (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 dated 15 February 2021 from Mrs J Hillen Assistant Director, Community Development presented by Mr Lipsett and Mrs S Burns regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the following:**

- **Extension Allowances for Capital Projects**
2021-2022 Capital Projects: Council to cap the extension period for projects to no more than 12 months post letter of offer end date.

- **Existing Capital Projects**
Capital project for the period 2019-2020 or earlier, which require an extension beyond 31st March 2021 will be provided with one further 12-month extension (in light of the negative impact on the delivery of projects due to the pandemic).
Deed of Charge costs for projects which do not make a finance claim or decommit.
Approval for this cost to be paid through the most appropriate cost code.
- **Call 2**
Go out to Call 2 in line with themes above which are subject to funding.

Councillor Gibbons left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.12pm.

AHC/043/2021

SCHEME OF DELEGATION REPORT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (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 dated 15 February 2021 from Mr Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Scheme of Delegation. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the officers report and attachments regarding the Scheme of Delegation for the Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

AHC/044/2021

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR COUNCIL SOLAR FARM

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (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 dated 15 February 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a Feasibility Study for Council Solar Farm. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McMurray to approve Officers procuring a feasibility study for development of solar farm pilot on identified council land.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.21pm.

Signed: Councillor G O'Hare
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities