

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2025

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 28 April 2025 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

Chairperson: Councillor C Galbraith

**In attendance
in Chamber:**

Councillor L Devlin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor K Murphy

Councillor J Jackson
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers

**Committee Members in
attendance (via Teams):**

Councillor R Howell
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H Young

Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor D Murphy

**Non Committee Members
in attendance
(via Teams):**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor J Truesdale

Officials in Chamber:

Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/027/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Finn.

AHC/028/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/029/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2025

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 March 2025. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/022/2025 – Notice of Motion, Running Track in East Down

In response to Councillor Devlin, Mr Haughey agreed to include in the action sheet that an overview be provided to Members in May 2025.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Mathers, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 March 2025.**

AHC/030/2025: NOTICE OF MOTION: TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Co-ordinator regarding an update on a Notice of Motion in relation to Trauma Informed Practice. **(Copy circulated)**.

Councillor Truesdale thanked Mr Scott for the comprehensive and detailed report and spoke of two recent examples of good practice of Council being trauma informed.

Councillor Truesdale spoke at length about trauma and how the need for a trauma informed approach was greater here because of post conflict society and people living within the District with different backgrounds including refugees and asylum seekers who had escaped unimaginable horrors and ethnic communities who had been threatened or attacked in their own homes, as well as those who had experienced trauma either directly or intergenerational.

Councillor Truesdale paid tribute to the work of officers and Councillors including those who were Members of the Good Relations Forum, PCSP and sub committees.

In response to a query from Councillor Truesdale regarding specific training for new Councillors since being elected and before 2023 across Council, Mr Scott advised there had been a Local government e-learning platform for Members and staff and Council had moved on to a new provider about a year ago.

Mr Scott advised he sat on the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) Trauma Informed Practice Committee and one of the things being worked on was the upgrading and improving of the training package and there would be new training programmes including face to face training and an e-learning package that would be implemented moving forward.

Councillor Truesdale spoke of lone workers within Council who faced difficult situations e.g. dog wardens and how those who had to face such situations in people's homes or businesses and how they should be considered when it came to trauma informed care.

Mr Scott agreed and confirmed that there was role for a wider duty of care and management responsibility that would be part of the process and in upgrading policies that

would be taken into account as part of that process. Mr Scott advised he welcomed people to contact him in his role as Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

Councillors Andrews, Lee-Surginor, D Murphy and Lewis voiced support for the commitment to trauma informed practices.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, that Council commits to and continues to develop as a trauma informed organisation and that Council's Safeguarding Co-ordinator collaborates with the SBNI Trauma Informed Implementation Managers to identify opportunities for suitable training to Elected Members and Council Staff.

AHC/031/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Devlin, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:

- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 11 March 2025.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 8 April 2025.

Councillor Truesdale left the meeting at this point.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 6 to 8, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 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.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

AHC/032/2025: SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy living Leisure and Sport, regarding service delivery arrangements. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to approve the enhanced service delivery of programmes within facilities as set out within the Officer's report. It was also agreed that a report be brought to Committee within 3 months reviewing the operating model of the new service delivery arrangements.**

AHC/033/2025: LEISURE FACILITIES CONTRACT

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living Leisure and Sport regarding leisure services contract. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Jackson, to approve the appointment of a contractor via Direct Award Contract to undertake essential servicing and maintenance in facilities as detailed within the Officer's report.**

AHC/034/2025: FACILITIES SEASONAL OPERATIONS

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living Leisure and Sport regarding facilities seasonal operations. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to approve the appointment of a preferred operator for service delivery over a 5-year period, subject to annual review, as set out within the officer's report.**

FOR NOTING

AHC/035/2025: RAISE PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the response from the Minister of Education in relation to the RAISE Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor K Murphy voiced her disappointment at the response received from the Minister of Education stating it failed to address any concerns that educationists and wider society had about the RAISE programme. She added many schools were already

chronically underfunded and running on deficit budgets and the RAISE programme recognised neither of these facts and used a flawed formula to select who would be funded.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to note the contents of the response from the Minister of Education dated 31 March 2025.**

AHC/036/2025: POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding actions arising from recent Newry and Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Meetings and the PCSP Meeting. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to note the following:**

- **Action Sheet of Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on 15 January 2025 approved at Newry NRP held on 26 March 2025.**
- **Action Sheet of Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Meeting held on 5 November 2024 approved at Downpatrick NRP held on 31 March 2025.**
- **Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 28 January 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 25 March 2025.**

AHC/037/2025: SOCIAL INCLUSION UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 28 April 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on the Council's ongoing social inclusion work, highlighting key developments and emerging issues. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to note the Officer's report.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

Signed: Councillor Galbraith
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities