

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2025

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers, Downshire Civic Centre

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor J Jackson
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Mathers
Councillor K Murphy

Councillor A King
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy

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

Councillor J Brennan
Councillor R Howell

Councillor D Finn
Councillor J Truesdale

Non-Committee Members

in attendance via teams: Councillor O Hanlon

Officials in Chamber:

Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living
Ms Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance

Via teams:

Ms Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

AHC/083/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Galbraith, Gibbons, McEvoy and Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development.

Councillor Bowsie highlighted the success of the participatory budgeting events that had been held recently across the district's seven DEAs, commending its role in promoting community ownership and engagement. He praised Mr Alan Beggs and his team for their hard work and expressed support for similar future initiatives.

AHC/084/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/085/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15
SEPTEMBER 2025**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 September 2025. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/080/2025 – Newcastle Centre Site Selection

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Truesdale regarding the timeframe for providing information on site selections and reasons for rejection, Mr Patterson advised that he did not have the information to hand but would revert to Councillor Truesdale outside of the meeting.

Councillor Mathers took the opportunity to commend the recent boxing event hosted by St John Bosco Boxing Club at Newry Leisure Centre, which drew hundreds of families. He emphasised the value of such events and called for greater efforts to attract and retain them within the district's leisure facilities.

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 15 September 2025.**

AHC/086/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUM UPDATE

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding DEA Forum Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- **Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 2 September 2025**
- **Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 11 September 2025**
- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting held on 23 September 2025**

AHC/087/2025: ROWALLANCE DEA MULTI-SPORTS HUB REVIEW

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding Rowallane Multi-Sports Hub Review. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Haughey presented the report and recommendations, noting that 39 one-hour training slots had been identified for multi-sports clubs in the Rowallane DEA.

Councillor Jackson proposed the report, welcomed its content, and outlined his early engagement regarding inadequate facilities at Langley Road. He highlighted that a shared vision for a Ballynahinch sports hub had been put forward, including proposed pitches and a master plan for the site with potential involvement from Ulster Hockey, Ulster Rugby, and the Irish FA. He described it as an exciting project for the local community and thanked all involved for their support.

Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded the proposal, describing it as a positive step and looked forward to collaborative work between Council and stakeholders to implement the review's findings.

Councillor D Murphy supported the proposals, noting the benefits for young people.

Councillor Bowsie referred to section 3.1 of the report and requested examples of infrastructure required to support the Langley Road masterplan. Mr Haughey cited examples of drainage infrastructure or ducting being installed to support the future development potential of the site.

In response to a request from Councillor Brennan for a breakdown of expenditure between Langley Road and St Colman's sites, Mr Haughey advised that exact costings were not yet available but would be provided to Members in due course.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, to note the updated Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Rowallane DEA, and grant approval for:

- **Replacement of the existing AstroTurf pitch at St Colman's High and Sixth Form College with a 3G surface.**
- **Development of a new AstroTurf pitch at Langley Road Playing Fields, to accommodate Ballynahinch hockey club and to install any required infrastructure to assist with the future masterplan for Langley Road project.**
- **Council to commission a masterplan for the Langley Road site and to engage the local constituted group, including sports clubs and representative sports bodies, to progress a lease of the site, allowing the group to seek external funding in order to develop the site for other sports usage.**

AHC/088/2025: DOWNPATRICK DEA MULTI-SPORTS HUB REVIEW

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding Downpatrick Multi-Sports Hub Review.
(Copy circulated)

Mr Haughey presented the report seeking approval to appoint a specialist consultant to engage with sports clubs and stakeholders to address the identified gap of 24 one-hour training slots within the Downpatrick DEA.

In proposing the report, Councillor K Murphy described it as great news for the area.

Councillor A King seconded the proposal and requested clarification on the timeframe for completion. Mr Haughey advised that the process was expected to take 8–12 weeks, allowing for the views of all interested parties to be gathered and subsequently reported back to the committee.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed the report as a positive step forward, noting that the development of a suitable sports hub in Downpatrick had been long awaited and that such

facilities were urgently needed.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor A King, it was agreed to appoint a specialist provider to undertake a new consultation process with local sports clubs and stakeholders within the Downpatrick DEA, and to identify viable sites and delivery models for the Multi-Sport Hub provision.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following items, 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 K Murphy, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/089/2025: LEISURE CENTRE SERVICE DELIVERY

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding Leisure Centre Service Delivery. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to approve the enhanced service delivery arrangements within leisure facilities as outlined within the officer's report.

AHC/090/2025: LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding Leasing of Council Land. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to progress an Expression of Interest for Leasing of Council land via

Councils Sport and Community Leasing Policy as outlined within the officer's report.

AHC/091/2025: LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding License Agreement for Programme Delivery. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor A King, to approve a license agreement for programme delivery as outlined within the officer's report.**

AHC/092/2025: COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME – ADVICE SERVICES FUNDING

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding Community Support Programme – Advice Services Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to note the report and award additional funding from the Department for Communities (DfC) to Community Advice Newry, Mourne and Down for enhanced provision of the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund in 2025/26.**

FOR NOTING

AHC/093/2025: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS – UPDATE ON COUNCIL PROGRAMMES

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – Update on Council Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to note the update provided on Council Programmes on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls**

AHC/094/2025: POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 October 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Minutes**

**of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 29
July 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP
Meeting on 30 September 2025.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.29pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 November 2025

Signed: **Councillor C Bowsie**
 Chairperson

Signed: **Andrew Patterson**
 Director Active and Healthy Communities