

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2025

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers, Downshire Civic Centre

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor J Brennan Councillor A King
Councillor C Galbraith Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Mathers Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Murphy

Committee Members in attendance (via Teams): Councillor D Finn Councillor R Howell
Councillor O Magennis 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
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/095/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Jackson and McEvoy.

Councillor Bowsie congratulated Killyleagh Community Association for being named Runner-Up in the Best Kept Large Village category at the 2025 Best Kept Awards.

AHC/096/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/097/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2025

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025. **(Copy circulated)**.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025.**

AHC/098/2025: MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT OF AHC DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2025-26

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mr A Patterson, Director: Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Mid-Year Assessment of AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26. (**Copy circulated**)

In proposing, Councillor D Murphy noted the positive progress made on the good relations events, the Digi Hub in Bessbrook, and a range of ongoing works within the various community centres and funding for community groups throughout the district. Councillors Truesdale, A King and Finn echoed Councillor D Murphy's sentiments.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Truesdale regarding the Newcastle Centre and Newcastle Rock Pool, Mr Patterson confirmed that further information on the projects would be provided to Members in the coming weeks.

Councillor A King referred to page 5 of the report, which highlighted positive health outcomes reported by participants in targeted health programmes, and enquired how this data had been gathered and whether a benchmark existed.

Mr Haughey explained that participants had been referred either by their GP or through the exercise referral process, which was a 12-week programme. He advised that progress was monitored throughout and upon completion. He noted that many participants with health conditions tended to drop out after six or seven weeks, but that monitoring was undertaken for those who completed the course and continued to use the facilities independently.

Councillor Finn requested an update on the installation of communication boards at Council play parks to increase accessibility for children across the district. Mr Haughey confirmed that these had been rolled out at all new parks and stated that boards would also be installed at parks completed within the past year. Councillor Truesdale referred to her previous notice of motion that had called for the installation of communication boards in play parks, and she welcomed the roll out of this initiative.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor A King, to approve the Mid-Year Assessment of the AHC Directorate Business Plan 2025-26.**

AHC/099/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUM UPDATE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report. (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Finn noted that Davina's Ark had won the Community Wellbeing Initiative Category at the All-Ireland Pride of Place community awards and highlighted the valuable service they provided across the district. Councillor Finn stated that it was important that organisations such as Davina's Ark were recognised for the work they undertook and proposed that a letter of congratulations be issued.

Mr Patterson advised that the Chair of Council would be hosting a reception for Davina's Ark following their success.

Councillor Mathers spoke on the excellent service provided to people in the Newry area and noted that the recent Newry DEA Forum had proposed that the Chairperson be invited to host the reception for Davina's Ark in recognition of their work.

AGREED:

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

- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025**
- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 14 October 2025.**
- **Rowallane DEA Forum Meeting held on 21 October 2025.**

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

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, 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 D Murphy, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/100/2025: PROGRAMME DELIVERY PARTNER

Read:

Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding Programme Delivery Partner. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, to proceed with the procurement and appointment of a suitable provider under the revised contract arrangements as outlined within the officer's report.

AHC/101/2025: AHC FACILITY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding AHC Facility Framework Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor Mathers, to enter into a Framework Agreement for the design, supply, delivery, installation renewals and inspection of facilities as outlined within the officer's report.**

FOR NOTING

AHC/102/2025: NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 November 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development, regarding Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the Minutes of the Newry NRP Meeting held on 25 June 2025, approved at the Newry NRP Meeting held on 8 October 2025, and the Minutes of the Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on 24 June 2025, approved at the Downpatrick NRP meeting held on 15 October 2025.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.20pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 December 2025

Signed: **Councillor C Bowsie
Chairperson**

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