

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2025

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 December 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers, Downshire Civic Centre

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

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

Committee Members in attendance (via Teams): Councillor D Finn Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor R Howell

Non-Committee Members
In attendance: Councillor T Andrews

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 F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer
Mr C Smyth, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/103/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan and Truesdale.

Councillor Bowsie requested that all Members of the Committee ensure their cameras remained switched on for the duration of the meeting to enable full engagement.

Councillor Bowsie offered his condolences following the death of Council member of staff Mr Bill Donnelly.

AHC/104/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/105/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2025

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025. (**Copy circulated**).

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025.

AHC/106/2025: PRESENTATION – NMD SPORTS AWARDS 2026

Read:

Presentation from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director: Healthy Living, regarding NMD Sports Awards 2026 (copy appended to the minutes)

Mr Haughey advised that the Sports Awards were an annual celebration held in partnership with the Sports Association, Newry, Down and South Armagh, (SANDSA) and provided an opportunity to acknowledge athletes, clubs, volunteers, coaches, officials, and sports personalities across the District. He outlined that the awards categories for this year had been reduced to eight, as detailed within the presentation, and explained that the reduction involved combining junior and senior categories for coach and volunteer into single awards.

Mr Haughey advised that nomination forms would go live on the website on 5 January 2026 and would be available online or as hard copies at leisure centres, with the closing date for nominations being 26 January 2026. He further advised that shortlisting would take place shortly thereafter, with Council officers and the Sports Development Panel meeting to agree a shortlist, followed by the SANDSA Executive judging independently and meeting on 23 February to select the overall winners. He confirmed that the awards ceremony would take place on 20 March at the Slieve Donard, with tickets going on sale from 26 January at a cost of £30 per ticket, which included speakers, interviews, the presentation of awards and dinner.

Mr Haughey noted that the awards sat within the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and formed part of the Council's annual process for recognising sporting achievement. He encouraged Councillors to engage with the nomination process and emphasised the importance of providing detailed information on nomination forms to support the judging process effectively.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, to note the presentation.

AHC/107/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUM UPDATE

Read:

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

Councillor Mathers thanked Chairperson Councillor Campbell for hosting Davina's Ark following their receipt of the Community Wellbeing Initiative Award at the All-Island IPB Pride of Place Awards, which he stated was a testament to their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Councillor Andrews offered Mr Pat Power his best wishes on his forthcoming retirement, thanking him for his many years of service and hard work.

AGREED:

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

- **Sieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 4 November 2025.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 13 November 2025**
- **Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held on 18 November 2025.**

FOR NOTING**AHC/108/2025: PCSP & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) UPDATE**

Read:

Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director of Community Development, regarding Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, it was agreed to note the following:

- **Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held 8 October 2025 and approved on 26 November 2025.**
- **Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 30 September 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 25 November 2025.**

AHC/109/2025: 2025 SPORTS AWARDS

Read:

Report from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Leisure & Sport, regarding Council Sports Awards 2026. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.16pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 12 January 2026

Signed:

**Councillor C Bowsie
Chairperson**

Signed:

**Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities**

Sports Awards 2026

Conor Haughey
Assistant Director: Healthy Living
Active Healthy and Communities Directorate

Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down and South Armagh


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1

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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Awards 2026

Hosted in association with SANDSA

Awards Evening: Friday 20 March 2026

Venue: Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle



2

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Event Overview

- Annual celebration of sporting excellence across the district
- Recognising athletes, clubs, volunteers, coaches & officials
- Delivered by Council, supported by SANDSA
- Councillors invited to attend and support

3

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Award Categories

8 Award Categories including:

- Junior Club Team of the Year
- Senior Club Team of the Year
- Sport Volunteer of the Year
- Club Coach of the Year
- Sportsperson/Team of the Year with a Disability
- Life-Time Services to Sport
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year

4

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Key Dates



- Nominations Open:** 5 January 2026
- Nominations Close:** 26 January 2026
- Shortlisting:** 28 & 29 January 2026
- Judging Panel:** 23 February 2026
- Awards Ceremony:** Friday 20 March 2026
- Eligible Period:** 1 Jan 2025 – 9 Feb 2026

5

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Judging Process

- Shortlisting completed by Council officer panel
- Judged by community representatives from SANDSA Executive
- Independent and score-based



6

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Venue & Format

Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle

- Dinner included in price of tickets (£30)
- Guest speaker interviews
- Presentation of 8 award categories



7

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2026 Sport awards

Be Active – Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2025–2030

Theme 2 sports providers



8

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Thank You

We look forward to celebrating our district's sporting achievements by our clubs and individuals

Questions?

9