

## **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Ref: AHC/2025**

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

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**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:
- Slieve 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



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

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

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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



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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

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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

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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

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## Judging Process


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



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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



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## 2026 Sport awards


Be Active – Sport &  
Physical Activity  
Strategy 2025–2030  
**Theme 2** sports  
providers



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## Thank You

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

Questions?

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