

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2026

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2026 at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers, Downshire Civic Centre

Chairperson: Councillor C Bowsie

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor J Brennan	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor A King
Councillor N Lawlor	Councillor Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor K Murphy

**Committee Members in
attendance via Teams:**

Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor R Howell
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor J Truesdale	

**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/009/2026: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Finn.

AHC/010/2026: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/011/2026: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 JANAUARY
2026**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 26 January 2026. **(Copy circulated)**.

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 26 January 2026.

AHC/012/2026: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUM UPDATE

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

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

- Mournes DEA Forum Meeting held 20 January 2026
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held 3 February 2026
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum meeting held 6 January 2026
- Newry DEA Forum Meeting held 15 January 2026

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 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 Jackson, 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/013/2026: COMMUNITY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Read: Report from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director of Healthy Living, regarding Community Trail Development. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor A King, it was agreed to progress the Hilltown Community Trail project to RIBA Stage 3, utilising existing budgets, subject to Committee and Council approval.

FOR NOTING

AHC/014/2026: POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director of Community Development, regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the minutes of the Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held 25 November 2025 and approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 3 February 2026.

AHC/015/2026: YOUTH AND FUTURE TALENT AWARDS (YAFTA)

Read: Report from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Community Development, regarding Youth and Future Talent Awards. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor K Murphy, it was agreed to note the upcoming YAFTA awards ceremony on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at Killeavy Castle Estate.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.13pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 2 March 2026

Signed: _____
Councillor C Bowsie
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities