



January 4th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 9th January 2023** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 05-12-2022.pdf](#)

Page 1

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022

[Council Minutes 05.12.2022.pdf](#)

Page 8

5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 November 2022

[Special Council Minutes - 28-11-2022.pdf](#)

Page 27

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2022

[ERT Minutes 12 December 2022.pdf](#)

Page 30

7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2022

[Strategy Policy Resources Meeting Minutes 15 -12-2022.pdf](#)

Page 38

8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2022

[Active_and_Healthy_Communities_Minutes_19-12-2022.pdf](#)

Page 45

9.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2022

[Sustainability and Environment Committee Minutes - 20-12-2022.pdf](#)

Page 54

10.0 Planning Section - Local Development Plan

There were no issues arising.

Correspondence

11.0 NI Housing Council Minutes held on 10 November 2022

[📄 Housing Council Minutes - 10th November 2022.pdf](#)

Page 59

12.0 NI Housing Council Bulletin - 8 December 2022

[📄 Members Bulletin - 8th December 2022.pdf](#)

Page 71

13.0 Response from Mid Ulster District Council re: C/183/2022 Government help with Cost of Living Crisis

[📄 Response from Mid Ulster DC re NOM C.183.2022.pdf](#)

Page 73

14.0 Response from Northern Ireland Office re: NOM C/184/2022 Electronic Travel Authorisation

[📄 Response from Minister of State for Northern Ireland re Electronic Travel Authorisations.pdf](#)

Page 74

15.0 Acknowledgement from Private Secretary to Minister for Justice re. NOM 184/2022: Electronic Travel Authorisation

[📄 Acknowledgement re NOM C.184.2022.pdf](#)

Page 76

16.0 Response from Causeway Coast and Glen Borough Council re: C/183/2022 Government help with Cost of Living Crisis

[📄 Response from Causeway Coast and Glen BC re C 183 2022.pdf](#)

Page 77

17.0 Response from Department for the Economy re. NOM C.207.2022: Workers Legal Rights to Tips

[📄 Response from DfE re NOM C.207.2022..pdf](#)

Page 78

18.0 Response from Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon Council re. NOM C/185/2022: Inclusion of Counties Armagh & Down in the Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand

[📄 Response from ABC re NOM C.185.2022.pdf](#)

Page 79

19.0 Response from Office of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence re. NOM 184/2022: Electronic Travel Authorisation

📄 *Response from M. Foreign Affairs & M. for Defence re NOM C.185.2022.pdf*

Page 81

20.0 Response from Catherine Martin TD re. NOM C/185/2022: Inclusion of Counties Armagh & Down in the Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand

📄 *Response from Catherine Martin TD re. NOM C.185.2022.pdf*

Page 85

Conferences/Events

21.0 SOLACE Local Government Conference 23 February 2023

📄 *LG Conference 23.02.2023.pdf*

Page 87

Notices of Motion

22.0 Notice of Motion - Warrenpoint PSNI Station

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Ruane:

'This Council recognises that the vacant Warrenpoint PSNI station has been surplus to requirements for a number of years;

Recognising the strategic location and the size of the site, this Council believes that efforts should be undertaken to return the vacant PSNI station to community use for the benefit of local people;

Acknowledging that approximately 2,000 people are currently in housing stress across South Down this Council recommends that the site of the old PSNI station in Warrenpoint be used to address the identified need for affordable housing in the Warrenpoint & Rostrevor areas;

Given that the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association have officially expressed an interest in acquiring the site via the D1 process;

This Council should extend its full support behind them throughout this process and offer whatever practical assistance may be required to ensure the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association successfully acquire this site in order to deliver much needed social housing;

Council should also write to the Chief Constable and to the Chair of the Policing Board to put on record the Council's support for this proposal".

23.0 Notice of Motion - Business Improvement Districts

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:

'This Council recognises the important role that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) can play in promoting regeneration, leading economic development, and providing a collective voice for local businesses. It also recognises the excellent work already being done by Newry BID, and that this can serve as an exemplar for BIDs across the district. Council will use its human or other resources to enthusiastically welcome and support plans to establish new BIDs across the district, particularly in our main towns.'

24.0 Notice of Motion - Non Functioning Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McMurray:

'This Council notes with concern previous, current and prolonged non-functioning of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly. This Council shall communicate to both the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of our opinion that structural reform of the institutions is a pressing necessity to end ransom politics and support continuous governance for the betterment of all in our society.'

25.0 Notice of Motion - 180th Anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:

'This Council acknowledges that this month (January) is the 180th Anniversary of the Newcastle fishing disaster in which 73 fishermen lost their lives; This Council in partnership with The Harbour Heritage Association, and the harbour community should install a memorial garden as a permanent and fitting tribute to those who lost their lives in the 1843 tragedy as well as all those who have lost their lives through the dangerous occupation of fishing'.

26.0 Notice of Motion - Daisy Hill Hospital Elective Overnight Stay Centre

Notice of Motion received from Councillor O'Hare:

"That this Council acknowledges the announcement on the 19th October 2022, by the then Health Minister, Robin Swann that Daisy Hill Hospital would become an Elective Overnight Stay Centre for patients requiring intermediate complexity surgery with an overnight stay.

Accepts that this announcement demonstrates the confidence of the Minister, Department of Health and clinicians that Daisy Hill Hospital can provide this regional service and improve access and reduce waiting times for planned elective surgical care for the people of Newry, Mourne, South Armagh and Down.

Further accepts that key to implementing plans to make Daisy Hill a Overnight Elective Stay Centre will require acquisition of the Monaghan Row Council site.

Commits as a matter of priority, to make public its plan to facilitate the transfer of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Trust, so that Daisy Hill can join the Elective Care Centre model and play an important role in tackling our lengthy waiting lists and improving outcomes for our patients.”

27.0 Notice of Motion - Funding Cuts by the Education Authority

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Rice:

This Council recognises the potential for devastating funding cuts by the Education Authority on youth services;

We accept that the impact of these cuts will be devastating for youth providers, for youth services and ultimately for young people across this council area. Youth groups are already under immense pressure and further cuts will have a detrimental impact that will be felt for years to come;

It has been extremely disappointing in the manner in which these matters have been communicated to youth service providers and service users. The lack of clarity and effective communication has meant that Youth Groups have been left in limbo wondering what the outcome of these cuts will have on the services they can provide for our young people;

This Council commits to writing to the Education Authority urging them to scrap any plans which cut youth services in Newry Mourne & Down.

This Council further calls on the DUP to get back to work around the Executive table with the other parties to get locally elected ministers in place and support the public against British Government budget cuts.

28.0 Notice of Motion - Good Friday / Belfast Agreement

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Stokes:

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council appropriately mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement.

29.0 Notice of Motion - Former Down District Council Building

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Sharvin:

Newry, Mourne and Down Council recognises the significant history that the former Down District Council building has to this area and through this motion will carry out full research into the history of the Workhouse, resulting in an interpretive panel being erected at the site for visitors and residents, and a temporary exhibition at Down County Museum to be arranged.

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>C/178/2019</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – C/131/2019: Live Animals in Circuses</i> | <i>At the request of Councillor McAteer it was agreed the motion remain on the action sheet.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | | <i>N</i> |
| <i>C/084/2022</i> | <i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28.03.22 – with NIAS & SHSCT</i> | <i>It was agreed to bring forth problem solving solutions to the NIAS in all facets of their work and for this action to be retained on the Action Sheet to keep track of progress</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | | <i>N</i> |

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>C/189/2022</i> | <i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 07.11.22</i> | <i>The Action Sheet was agreed.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/190/2022</i> | <i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 07.11.22</i> | <i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--|---|
| <i>C/191/2022</i> | <i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31.10.22</i> | <i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/192/2022</i> | <i>Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14.11.22</i> | <i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/193/2022</i> | <i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17.11.22</i> | <i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/194/2022</i> | <i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21.11.22</i> | <p><i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed to approve the minutes of the Active and Healthy Community Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2022 as follows: AHC/194/2022: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer that the Biodiversity Officer drafts a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for NMDDC to lead biodiversity action across the district for the next 5 years.</i></p> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | <p>Noted</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | <p><i>AHC/200/2022: Newry Leisure Centre – Swimming Pool</i> Councillor Reilly spoke of staffing issues in Kilkeel Leisure Centre to which Mr Lipsett advised he would speak to him following the meeting.</p> <p><i>AHC/194/2022: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028</i> Councillor McAteer enquired whether the Department for Infrastructure had agreed to biodiversity work in the Warrenpoint area as he had become aware of some public commentary regarding it. Mrs Ward advised the Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing would revert to him on the matter.</p> | <p><i>M Lipsett</i></p> <p><i>E Devlin</i></p> | <p>Actioned by P Tamati in M Lipsett's absence.</p> <p>Actioned</p> | |
| <i>C/195/2022</i> | <i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 23.11.22</i> | <i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/197/2022</i> | <i>NI Housing Council Minutes – 13 October 2022</i> | <i>The Minutes were noted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/198/2022</i> | <i>NI Housing Council Bulletin – 10 November 2022</i> | <i>The bulletin was noted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/199/2022</i> | <i>Acknowledgement letter from Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and</i> | <i>The letter was noted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | <i>Minister for Defence re: NOM C/16/2022</i> | | | | |
| <i>C/200/2022</i> | <i>Acknowledgment letter from Minister of Justice, Republic of Ireland re: NOM C/184/2022 Electronic Travel Authorisation</i> | <i>The letter was noted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/201/2022</i> | <i>Letter from Department of Health re: Regulation of Cosmetic Treatments</i> | <i>The letter was noted.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted | |
| <i>C/202/2022</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – Cost of Living Crisis, Students</i> | <p><i>It was agreed that this Council recognises the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on local students who either live away from home or who commute to campuses every day. The stark rise in the cost of fuel, heating, and rent has left students struggling to get by. This has had a detrimental impact on their health, wellbeing, and studies.</i></p> <p><i>This Council condemns the DUP for their boycott of the Assembly which has prevented the Executive from supporting people during this cost of living crisis.</i></p> <p><i>This Council expresses its frustration with the increase in student loans announced for Undergraduates and Postgraduates, which will take effect next September. Students, particularly those</i></p> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted Letter sent | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | <p><i>from a working-class background, are being priced out of education. This will have an untold negative impact on society for generations to come. This Council is deeply concerned that due to Brexit, the loss of the European Social Fund puts funding for apprenticeships, traineeships and skills programmes all at risk.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore, this Council calls on the DUP to end its boycott of government, which is punishing hard pressed students. We call on them to get back into the Executive so that we can support students and get money into their pockets.</i></p> <p><i>It was further agreed that Council writes to the University of Ulster calling on them to establish a hardship one-off payment scheme fund similar to one offered by Queens University.</i></p> | | | |
| <i>C/203/2022</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – Establishment of an All-Ireland Citizens’ Assembly</i> | <i>The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</i> | <p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>C Moffett</i></p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>Notice of Motion discussed at Councillors’ Equality & Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 14 December 2022. An Officer Report to be tabled at a future Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting.</p> | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| <i>C/204/2022</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – EU Common Agricultural Policy Single Farm Payments</i> | <i>The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</i> | <i>Democratic Services C Mallon</i> | Noted To be tabled at January 2023 ERT Committee Meeting | |
| <i>C/205/2022</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – Broadening Rates Base, Increasing Direct Income and Reducing Costs</i> | <i>The Motion was referred to the Strategic Finance Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</i> | <i>Democratic Services J Kelly</i> | Noted To be tabled at the SFWG January 2023 | |
| <i>C/206/2022</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – Cervical Cancer Screening in Northern Ireland</i> | <i>It was agreed that Council expresses serious concern that cervical cancer screening in NI is less accurate than the rest of the UK. Women in NI are being tested using a different method called cytology, which is less sensitive than HPV screening. Cervical cancer is one of the few cancers that are preventable, and it is estimated that in a well-screened population, eight out of ten cervical cancers can be prevented. The introduction of HPV testing was included in the Regional Cancer Strategy but is yet to be introduced. This Council writes to the Permanent Secretaries for the Department of Health and Finance, as well as the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and calls for a start date for this urgent and lifesaving change.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted Letters sent | |
| <i>C/207/2022</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – Workers Legal Rights to Tips</i> | <i>It was agreed that Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls upon the extension of laws that are being proposed at Westminster giving workers a legal right to their tips be extended here to Northern Ireland . If this motion is adopted, we write to the other ten local authorities seeking their support and also to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Economy and the relevant Minister at Westminster strongly urging that the legislation in</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted Letters sent | |

| Minute Ref | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/ Progress to date | Remove from Action Sheet Y/N |
|-------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | <i>Northern Ireland be brought into line with Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland as a matter of urgency.</i> | | | |
| <i>C/208/2022</i> | <i>Notice of Motion – Fishing and Fish Processing Industry</i> | <i>The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</i> | <i>Democratic Services C Mallon</i> | Noted To be tabled at January 2023 ERT Committee Meeting | |
| <i>C/209/2022</i> | <i>Emergency Motion - £600 Energy Support Payment</i> | <i>It was agreed that Council is deeply concerned that the £600 energy support payment due to people across the North of Ireland who are enduring severe cost-of-living pressures has not yet been made, despite Tory Government and DUP assurances it would be paid in November. Notes that as a result of the DUP boycott of power-sharing, responsibility for delivering this payment rests with the British government. Is further concerned that as temperatures drop and winter deepens many families struggling to pay soaring energy bills will have budgeted for this payment being made before Christmas as promised. And therefore, calls on the British government to urgently provide clarity on the delivery of the payments, it is well past time that these were delivered with no more broken promises.</i> | <i>Democratic Services</i> | Noted Letter sent | |
| <i>END</i> | | | | | |

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/**

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 December 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:

Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Councillor T Andrews | Councillor J Brennan |
| Councillor R Burgess | Councillor P Byrne |
| Councillor C Casey | Councillor D Curran |
| Councillor L Devlin | Councillor A Finnegan |
| Councillor O Hanlon | Councillor G Hanna |
| Councillor V Harte | Councillor R Howell |
| Councillor D Lee-Surginor | Councillor A Lewis |
| Councillor O Magennis | Councillor D McAteer |
| Councillor L McEvoy | Councillor K McKeivitt |
| Councillor Y Moore | Councillor R Mulgrew |
| Councillor D Murphy | Councillor G O'Hare |
| Councillor B Ó Muirí | Councillor K Owen |
| Councillor H Reilly | Councillor M Rice |
| Councillor G Sharvin | Councillor D Taylor |

In attendance via Teams

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor W Clarke | Councillor C Enright |
| Councillor H Gallagher | Councillor M Gibbons |
| Councillor M Larkin | Councillor G Malone |
| Councillor H McKee | Councillor M Ruane |
| Councillor J Tinnelly | Councillor J Trainor |

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance via Teams:

Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/187/2022**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

9

Apologies were received from Councillors McMurray and Stokes.

The Chairperson spoke of the violence that had returned to the streets with the brutal murder of Mark Lovell in Ardcarne, Newry and conveyed his sympathies to the family of the deceased at this traumatic time and offered support to the people of Ardcarne. He advised he had received assurances from the PSNI that they had upscaled their presence in the area and encouraged residents to continue to go about their business as normal. He also encouraged anyone with information which may assist the police with their investigation to contact the PSNI.

The Chairperson congratulated Liatroim Fonenoy's who became the first Down Club to win the Ulster Intermediate Hurling Title and wished them well for the All-Ireland Semi Finals.

The Chairperson wished Kilcoo GAC well in the Ulster Senior Football Final and hoped they would bring back the Ulster Title and continue their journey to retain the All Ireland Crown.

The Chairperson wished Strangford FC and Celtic Bhoys FC best wishes as they contest the Bobby Dalzell Cup on St. Stephen's Day and wished Drumanness Mills FC every success when they contest the Border Cup Final on December 27th.

On behalf of Council, the Chairperson passed on best wishes to Sophie Lennon from Mayobridge who was representing Ireland in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in Armenia on December 11th.

The Chairperson then advised it was the last full Council meeting for two long serving Councillors, Councillor Charlie Casey and Councillor Roisin Mulgrew.

Councillor Casey had been a Councillor since 2001 and was a former Mayor of Newry and Mourne District Council in 2011 and of Newry Mourne and Down District Council in 2019.

Councillor Mulgrew had been a Councillor for 9 years and was Chair of Newry Mourne and Down District Council in 2017.

The Chairperson paid tribute to them both and wished Charlie, Roisin and their families well for the years to come.

C/188/2022**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

C/189/2022**ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2022**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 November 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 November 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**C/190/2022****MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 November 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

C/191/2022**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31 October 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 31 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**C/192/2022 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/193/2022 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis.

C/194/2022 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2022 (copy circulated).

Ms Taggart advised an amendment was required as the incorrect information had been circulated due to a duplication. The minute was to read as follows:

AHC/194/2022: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer that the Biodiversity Officer drafts a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for NMDDC to lead biodiversity action across the district for the next 5 years.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to approve the minutes of the Active and Healthy Community Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2022 as follows:
*AHC/194/2022: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028***

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES**C/197/2022 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES – 13 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes – 13 October 2022.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 13 October 2022 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

C/198/2022 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – 10 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin – 10 November 2022.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin dated 10 November 2022 was noted on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

C/199/2022 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER FROM OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE RE: NOM C/168/2022

Read: Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence re: NOM C/168/2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence.

C/200/2022 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER FROM MINISTER OF JUSTICE, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND RE: NOM C/184/2022 ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION

Read: Correspondence from the Minister of Justice, Republic of Ireland re: NOM C/184/2022, Electronic Travel Authorisation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note

**the correspondence from the Minister of Justice,
Republic of Ireland.**

**C/201/2022 LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RE: REGULATION
OF COSMETIC TREATMENTS**

Read: Correspondence from Department of Health re: Regulation of Cosmetic Treatments. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor
Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note
the correspondence from Department of Health.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/202/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – COST OF LIVING CRISIS, STUDENTS

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Rice:

"This Council recognises the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on local students who either live away from home or who commute to campuses every day. The stark rise in the cost of fuel, heating, and rent has left students struggling to get by. This has had a detrimental impact on their health, wellbeing, and studies. This Council condemns the DUP for their boycott of the Assembly which has prevented the Executive from supporting people during this cost of living crisis. This Council expresses its frustration with the increase in student loans announced for Undergraduates and Postgraduates, which will take effect next September. Students, particularly those from a working-class background, are being priced out of education. This will have an untold negative impact on society for generations to come. This Council is deeply concerned that due to Brexit, the loss of the European Social Fund puts funding for apprenticeships, traineeships and skills programmes all at risk. Therefore, this Council calls on the DUP to end its boycott of government, which is punishing hard pressed students. We call on them to get back into the Executive so that we can support students and get money into their pockets."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Hanlon said she seen first-hand the pressures that students were under as she had a child who was a student and he and his peers were having to work full time hours in what should be part time jobs in order to make ends meet and to avoid putting pressure on their parents. Any assistance students could get should be given as this had to be impacting on their studies due to being unable to give the time they should be to their education.

Councillor Hanna made comment that it was wrong for Sinn Féin to be using this as a political football. He added students across the United Kingdom and the world were having difficulty and complaining about money issues but ultimately, they would come out with better prospects than those undertaking apprenticeships or traineeships.

Councillor Hanna spoke of assurances provided from the British Government for apprenticeships etc with new colleges in Armagh and Portadown and that he believed the motion presented was wrong. He added students in Northern Ireland were supported with fees being less than other parts of the United Kingdom.

Councillor Hanna proposed an amendment to the motion with the removal of the line that read "This Council condemns the DUP for their boycott of the Assembly which has prevented the Executive from supporting people during this cost of living crisis" and for the motion to be as follows:

"This Council recognises the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on local students who either live away from home or who commute to campuses every day; The stark rise in the cost of fuel, heating, and rent has left students struggling to get by. This has had a detrimental impact on their health, wellbeing, and studies. This Council expresses its frustration with the increase in student loans announced for Undergraduates and Postgraduates, which will take effect next September. Students, particularly those from a working-class background, are being priced out of education. This will have an untold negative impact on society for generations to come. This Council is deeply concerned that due to Brexit, the loss of the European Social Fund puts funding for apprenticeships, traineeships and skills programmes all at risk; Therefore, this Council calls on the DUP to end its boycott of government, which is punishing hard pressed students. We call on them to get back into the Executive so that we can support students and get money into their pockets."

Councillor Owen seconded the proposed amendment.

Councillor Rice rejected Councillor Hanna's proposed amendment.

Councillor Hanna's proposed amendment was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

| | |
|----------|----|
| For: | 8 |
| Against: | 30 |

The amendment proposed by Councillor Hanna was lost.

Councillor Sharvin spoke of how the cost of living crisis knew no boundary and students of today faced some of the toughest of challenges with the ever increasing rises in fuel, oil, food, travel, electric and accommodation. Students were having to decide between moving to the area closer to university/college to stay at home, as all costs continued to increase, impacting on the hopes of living a student lifestyle.

He referred to an announcement from Queen's University in mid-October for a £7.69 million package for students and staff facing the current cost of living crisis. Students from families earning £25,000 or below would get a one-off payment of £400 and all other students receiving £150.

Councillor Sharvin stated that interest rates for student loans charges continued to increase with the new loan repayment threshold for this new plan was set at £25,000, decreasing from the current £27,295 meaning more graduates will start repaying sooner.

Councillor Sharvin proposed an amendment with an addition to the motion stating that Council write to the University of Ulster calling on them to establish a hardship one-off payment scheme fund similar to one offered by Queens University.

Councillor McKeivitt seconded Councillor Sharvin's proposed amendment.

Councillor Rice accepted Councillor Sharvin's amendment.

Councillor Taylor stated that the UUP wanted to see a fully functioning Assembly and Executive in operation and did recognise that, whilst having it in place might not have all the answers for the cost of living crisis, it would be able to assist with the difficulties that many sections of society were encountering including students.

Councillor Taylor spoke about his concern about the heavy party political content of the motion and proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Burgess to read as follows:

"This Council recognises the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on local students who either live away from home or who commute to campuses every day; The stark rise in the cost of fuel, heating, and rent has left students struggling to get by. This has had a detrimental impact on their health, wellbeing, and studies. This Council recognises that a fully functioning Executive could assist in supporting people during this cost of living crisis. This Council expresses its frustration with the increase in student loans announced for Undergraduates and Postgraduates, which will take effect next September. We have concerns that Students, particularly those from a working-class background, are being priced out of education. This will have an untold negative impact on society for generations to come. This Council would ask the UK Government to ensure that a necessary funding programme for apprenticeships, traineeships and skills schemes is secured as a replacement for the European Social Fund programme".

Councillor Rice rejected Councillor Taylor's proposed amendment.

Councillor Taylor's proposed amendment was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

For: 8
Against: 30

The amendment proposed by Councillor Taylor was lost.

Councillor Ó Muirí pointed out it was too serious an issue and that any party taking a motion to Council had to be party political. He added the motion was to support students in a cost of living crisis and that it was Sinn Féin's view that the DUP were making a mistake.

Councillor Reilly responded by voicing his disappointment at Sinn Féin playing party politics and that it was a worldwide crisis being faced and that recession was coming due to sanctions from Russia and that we were going to have to adjust how we live lives and how Government spend money. Councillor Reilly made reference to the UK Government having published the 2022/2025 Proposals for Shared Prosperity Fund which was going to be more superior than the EU Social Fund. He also wished to point

out that if the Assembly was up and running it would make no difference to the cost of living crisis and that Westminster was the only place that would affect that.

Councillor Byrne stated the motion had huge merit and that students were really struggling and it provided a voice for the people and tell Stormont to get back in and make decisions. He added all other parties want back to help those that are struggling and do what is right for the people and one party does not.

Councillor Owen wished to take the opportunity to point out the DUP had been clear that they did want back to the Assembly but until there was fundamental change to the protocol that could not happen.

Following the lengthy debate the Chairperson asked for a vote on the motion, proposed by Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Hanlon and including the agreed addition from Councillor Sharvin as outlined above. The results of the vote were as follows:

For: 30
Against: 8

The motion was carried.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that this Council recognises the impact that the cost of living crisis is having on local students who either live away from home or who commute to campuses every day. The stark rise in the cost of fuel, heating, and rent has left students struggling to get by. This has had a detrimental impact on their health, wellbeing, and studies.**

This Council condemns the DUP for their boycott of the Assembly which has prevented the Executive from supporting people during this cost of living crisis.

This Council expresses its frustration with the increase in student loans announced for Undergraduates and Postgraduates, which will take effect next September. Students, particularly those from a working-class background, are being priced out of education. This will have an untold negative impact on society for generations to come. This Council is deeply concerned that due to Brexit, the loss of the European Social Fund puts funding for apprenticeships, traineeships and skills programmes all at risk.

Therefore, this Council calls on the DUP to end its boycott of government, which is punishing hard pressed students. We call on them to get back into the Executive so that we can support students and get money into their pockets.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/205/2022 **NOTICE OF MOTION – BROADENING RATES BASE, INCREASING DIRECT INCOME AND REDUCING COSTS**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

"Council notes that a Notice of Motion was passed by Council last year, requiring Management to report back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee by April 2022 on delivery dates and detailed plans for Council to glean the benefits of the 'Green Electrified Economy'. The purpose of the motion was to help tackle our budget shortfall. So far, no plans have been presented to meet these targets. The detail of the original motion is; "Council formally adopts indicative revenue targets from renewables as follows; 2022 - £1 million per annum, 2025 - £5 million per annum, 2030 - £10 million per annum. Council directs that these targets can be met by rates from renewables projects, income from councils own renewables and from a revitalised energy savings programme." Council thus resolves that Council Management are required to create an inter-departmental team to report by 31st January 2023 with detailed plans to fulfil these indicative targets so they can be included in the rates estimate looking forward. Council notes that this motion is primarily aimed at improving Council's financial position, but it will also have the effect of delivering on Councils "Climate Change Emergency" policy as well."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Strategic Finance Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/206/2022 **NOTICE OF MOTION – CERVICAL CANCER SCREEING IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Devlin:

"This Council expresses serious concern that cervical cancer screening in NI is less accurate than the rest of the UK. Women in NI are being tested using a different method called cytology, which is less sensitive than HPV screening. Cervical cancer is one of the few cancers that are preventable, and it is estimated that in a well-screened population, eight out of ten cervical cancers can be prevented. The introduction of HPV testing was included in the Regional Cancer Strategy but is yet to be introduced. This Council writes to the Permanent Secretaries for the Department of Health and Finance, as well as the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and calls for a start date for this urgent and lifesaving change".

Councillor McKeivitt seconded the motion.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Devlin spoke of how at present women in Northern Ireland were tested using a different method called cytology despite the rest of the UK using HPV (high-risk human papillomavirus) and despite the NI Cervical Screening Programme recommending HPV as the primary screening test.

Councillor Devlin advised that in recent years an average of 81 people had been diagnosed with cervical cancer in Northern Ireland per year which unfortunately resulted in an average of 21 deaths per year. Cervical cancer was one of the few cancers that was preventable, and it was estimated that in a well-screened population, eight out of ten cervical cancers could be prevented. In Northern Ireland women were given less of a chance to survive, a postcode lottery for women whilst across the water screening was more accurate and more precise giving women a greater chance of survival.

Councillor Devlin questioned why the introduction of HPV testing which had been included in the Regional Cancer Strategy had never implemented. Women in Northern Ireland continued to be left behind by outdated measures used and were being failed. It was pointed out the change to HPV had been approved by the Department before the collapse of the institutions and an Executive in place was needed.

Councillor McKeivitt advised that since the vaccination for HPV introduced in 2008 for young women, women from the age of 25 were coming forward for smear tests which would see reduction in cases and that with the introduction of the vaccine for young men in 2019 that would strengthen the argument for less HPV in society.

To those that fought hard in raising awareness and highlighting the seriousness of cervical cancer like Vicky Phelan who recently passed away with the illness this motion made sense and would save lives, time and money.

Councillors Hanna, Lee-Surginor, Taylor, Hanlon and McKee all spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Lee-Surginor spoke of a personal experience on how this impacted upon women and how things needed to change for Cervical Cancer Screening in Northern Ireland.

Councillor Devlin thanked all Members for their support for the motion and appealed to those blocking a devolved government to think about this issue and that this is what politics should be about.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt that Council expresses serious concern that cervical cancer screening in NI is less accurate than the rest of the UK. Women in NI are being tested using a different method called cytology, which is less sensitive than HPV screening. Cervical cancer is one of the few cancers that are preventable, and it is**

estimated that in a well-screened population, eight out of ten cervical cancers can be prevented. The introduction of HPV testing was included in the Regional Cancer Strategy but is yet to be introduced. This Council writes to the Permanent Secretaries for the Department of Health and Finance, as well as the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and calls for a start date for this urgent and lifesaving change.

C/207/2022

NOTICE OF MOTION – WORKERS LEGAL RIGHTS TO TIPS

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Andrews:

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls upon the extension of laws that are being proposed at Westminster giving workers a legal right to their tips be extended here to Northern Ireland . If this motion is adopted, we write to the other ten local authorities seeking their support and also to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Economy and the relevant Minister at Westminster strongly urging that the legislation in Northern Ireland be brought into line with the mainland and the Republic of Ireland as a matter of urgency."

It was noted that Councillor Andrews advised there was a change to the wording of the motion in that mainland would be changed to Great Britain.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Andrews called upon Westminster Government to use the legislative means at its disposal to bring in and extend the necessary legislation that would enable Northern Ireland to come into line with what was going through the House of Commons, mirroring a new law that recently came into force in the Republic, that gave employees a legal entitlement to get the service charge paid in electronic form.

He added this would be a positive step towards improving the rights and entitlements of lower paid workers and whilst a whole lot of employers treated their workers and staff fairly, this legislation would help stamp out bad practice and give customers confidence that gratuities/tips were paid to staff who work so hard and go the extra mile in providing a service second to none to customers and patrons and help boost their income.

Councillor Andrews urged that the terms of the Bill that was currently going through Parliament were extended, and the Secretary of State could do this by bringing in order to Council to make this happen as a matter of urgency.

Councillor McAteer seconded the motion and spoke of the importance of having the legislation into Northern Ireland.

Councillor Taylor, Hanna and Clarke on behalf of their party's each took it in turn to speak in support of the motion and thanked Councillor Andrews for bringing the motion to Council.

Councillor Andrews thanked Members for their support and stated that he hoped sooner rather than later that the legislation be implemented.

Agreed:

It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McAteer that Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls upon the extension of laws that are being proposed at Westminster giving workers a legal right to their tips be extended here to Northern Ireland . If this motion is adopted, we write to the other ten local authorities seeking their support and also to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Economy and the relevant Minister at Westminster strongly urging that the legislation in Northern Ireland be brought into line with Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland as a matter of urgency.

C/208/2022

NOTICE OF MOTION – FISHING AND FISH PROCESSING INDUSTRY

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Curran:

“That this Council noting the valuable contribution made to our local and national economy at the ports of Ardglass and Kilkeel; expressing its concern that the impact Brexit continues to have on our fishing and fish processing industry across Newry Mourne and Down; affirming it’s support for our fishing and fish processing industry, and expressing it’s concern for the absence of a functioning Assembly and Executive to promote and support our fishing and fish processing industry, that this Council will write to the United Kingdom Home Office to highlight the valuable contribution made by our local fishing and fish processing industry; calls for the recognition of the Fish Processing Industry in Northern Ireland as Seasonal, and further calls for the Home Office to recognise exemptions for EEA and non-EEA staff employed in fishing and fish processing in Northern Ireland, to enable the industry to employ foreign workers during the summer months, and continue its valuable contribution to our local economy.”

Councillor Devlin seconded the motion.

Agreed:

The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

The Chairperson advised Councillor Ó Muirí wished to bring forward an Emergency Notice of Motion and in order to do so, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders, for which a qualified majority vote of 80% of the Members present and voting was required. (30 out of the 38 Members present at the meeting).

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 30
AGAINST: 8
ABSENTIONS: 0

It was agreed by qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Order 16.1. (Copy attached, appendix 1).

AGREED: It was agreed that Standing Order 16.1 be suspended in order to allow the Emergency Notice of Motion received from Councillor Ó Muirí.

C/209/2022

EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION - £600 ENERGY SUPPORT PAYMENT

The following motion was received from Councillor Ó Muirí:

"This Council is deeply concerned that the £600 energy support payment due to people across the North of Ireland who are enduring severe cost-of-living pressures has not yet been made, despite DUP assurances it would be paid in November.

Notes that as a result of the DUP boycott of power-sharing, responsibility for delivering this payment rests with the British government.

Is further concerned that as temperatures drop and winter deepens many families struggling to pay soaring energy bills will have budgeted for this payment being made before Christmas as promised.

And therefore, calls on the British government to urgently provide clarity on the delivery of the payments, it is well past time that these were delivered with no more broken promises."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Howell.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ó Muirí said families were struggling and it was deeply concerning the £600 energy support payment would not be paid before Christmas to assist with energy bills. He said a functioning Executive was urgently needed and parties working together to ensure families received the payment without delay. Councillor Ó Muirí said as a result of the DUP boycotting government, people were suffering and worrying about a cold winter without support. He said people should and could have had the payment and the DUP had promised the payment would be made in November.

Councillor Hanna said the DUP was in no way responsible for the payment not having been paid out, it was entirely the responsibility of the British Government, and he said the British Government had moved the goalposts. Councillor Hanna said the DUP had

passed on in good faith, what it had been told by the British Government, which was that the money should be paid by November. He said the DUP wanted the protocol addressed and without that happening, there would not be a functioning Executive for the foreseeable future. He said the British Government could, if they wished, have the money paid out straight away and the Sinn Féin was using this issue as a political football.

Councillor Taylor said the UUP wanted to see an Executive and Assembly established to work on peoples' behalf, however like the DUP, it had concerns regarding the protocol. He said it was important to note the Sinn Féin party had boycotted the Assembly for three years during which time fuel poverty strategies could have been implemented. Councillor Taylor said the Notice of Motion did not call for action, just clarity and he said action was needed urgently.

Councillor Taylor proposed an amendment to the Motion as follows:

"This Council is deeply concerned that the energy support payments promised to people across Northern Ireland who are enduring severe cost-of-living pressures has not yet been made, despite assurances it would be paid in November.

Notes with concern that during the 3 years Stormont was collapsed previously (2017-2020) vital work to tackle the root causes of poverty were severely inhibited.

Acknowledges that as a result of the latest lack of functioning power-sharing executive, responsibility for delivering equivalent support rests with the UK government.

Is further concerned that as temperatures drop and winter deepens many families struggling to pay soaring energy bills will have budgeted for this payment being made before Christmas as promised.

And therefore, calls on the UK government to immediately deliver on the payments, as it is well past time that these were delivered with no more broken promises."

Councillor Burgess seconded Councillor Taylor's proposed amendment.

Councillor Ó Muirí rejected Councillor Taylor's proposed amendment.

Councillor Taylor's proposed amendment was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

For: 8
Against: 30

The amendment proposed by Councillor Taylor was lost.

Councillor Sharvin spoke at length about how it was disgraceful that people in the North had yet to receive a single penny whilst money had begun to be paid to those in England, Scotland and Wales and the Irish Government had also brought forward a number of policies to support people. He stated the then DUP Economy Minister Gordon Lyons had clearly indicated the money would arrive in November, raising the hopes of people who desperately need this money.

Councillor Sharvin stated the lack of urgency from the British government showed how little they cared about people here and issues impacting them. The inability of both the DUP and British government to deliver any help to the people during emergency would have devastating impact on people's physical and mental wellbeing.

Councillor Sharvin then proposed an amendment with the addition of the wording "despite Tory Government and DUP assurances" for the motion to read as follows:

"This Council is deeply concerned that the £600 energy support payment due to people across the North of Ireland who are enduring severe cost-of-living pressures has not yet been made, despite Tory Government and DUP assurances it would be paid in November.

Notes that as a result of the DUP boycott of power-sharing, responsibility for delivering this payment rests with the British government.

Is further concerned that as temperatures drop and winter deepens many families struggling to pay soaring energy bills will have budgeted for this payment being made before Christmas as promised.

And therefore, calls on the British government to urgently provide clarity on the delivery of the payments, it is well past time that these were delivered with no more broken promises."

Councillor Byrne seconded Councillor Sharvin's proposed amendment.

Councillor Ó Muirí accepted Councillor Sharvin's proposed amendment.

Councillor Reilly pointed out the payment was made more difficult because the protocol tied into an All-Ireland Energy Policy and that was the reason why DUP was adamant there needed to be changes to the Protocol.

He added the Tories did take note of local sentiment and changed it to allow the cash out and would facilitate those that had coal fires and oil fired central heating. Councillor Reilly stated to blame DUP for everything was ridiculous and that Sinn Féin were hypocritical. He said the DUP were thinking of the long term and welfare of the people.

Councillor Lewis said it worth noting that Sinn Féin had brought down the Executive for almost three years. He added it was right and proper that the fuel payment was made, and that DUP MPs were making that case in Westminster as was SDLP. He stated that the motion would have held more sway if all parties of the chamber had said on a united front that the payment needed to be paid.

Councillor Lee-Surginor supported the motion on behalf of the Alliance Party.

The Chairperson asked for a vote on the motion, proposed by Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell including Councillor Sharvin's amendment, the results of which were as follows:

For: 30
Against: 7

The motion was carried.

Councillor Ó Muirí wished to state he was glad to see the motion go through and in making reference to comments made that party political agenda should not be confused with the wish of the people.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell that Council is deeply concerned that the £600 energy support payment due to people across the North of Ireland who are enduring severe cost-of-living pressures has not yet been made, despite Tory Government and DUP assurances it would be paid in November. Notes that as a result of the DUP boycott of power-sharing, responsibility for delivering this payment rests with the British government. Is further concerned that as temperatures drop and winter deepens many families struggling to pay soaring energy bills will have budgeted for this payment being made before Christmas as promised. And therefore, calls on the British government to urgently provide clarity on the delivery of the payments, it is well past time that these were delivered with no more broken promises.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.03pm.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMC/SC**

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 November 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor T Andrews**In attendance in Chamber: (Councillors)**Councillor R Burgess
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor Y Moore**In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright
Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Rice
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor**In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)**Mrs J Kelly, Director Corporate Services
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer**In Attendance via Teams: Irish League of Credit Unions**Mr M Fisher, Head of Northern Ireland
Ms C Morris, Affiliate Engagement Officer
Ms M Cushley, Marketing and Communication Officer**SC/032/2022****APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Due to the unavailability of both the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McMurray that Councillor Andrews assume the Chair.

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne, Finnegan, Hanlon, Lee-Surginor, Magennis, Owen, Savage, Stokes and the Chief Executive.

SC/033/2022**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Enright, McMurray, Ó Muirí, Sharvin & Taylor declared an interest as being members of their local branch of Credit Unions.

SC/034/2022**PRESENTATION FROM IRISH LEAGUE OF CREDIT UNIONS**

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from the Irish League of Credit Unions and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Fisher thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity to present to members and apologised on behalf of Mr Smith from the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions as he was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Fisher then went onto present a detailed background to the Credit Union movement, highlighting some of the products and services the Credit Union provide in Northern Ireland and the important work Credit Unions do across the whole of Ireland.

Members asked the following questions:

- Most Credit Unions didn't accept Community organisations to open accounts, were there any plans for this to change?
- Were there any plans for Credit Unions to invest in sustainable assets with much better rates of return eg. Social and affordable housing?
- Councillor Sharvin highlighted that the SDLP had a long history with the Credit Union, with John Hume opening the first ever branch in the North.
- Other Credit Unions provide mortgages across the UK and Ireland, were there any plans for this to be done in the North?
- There was a real need and market for self-build loans especially in rural areas, could this be something looked at going forward?
- In light of the cost of living crisis, was there a dedicated team that people could reach out to if in financial difficulties?
- Members thanked the delegation for their detailed presentation and for the vital service and initiatives they provide especially in the current cost of living crisis.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- All Credit Unions could now accept corporate members since 2017, however it was up to each individual Credit Union if they wished to do so. Uptake had been slow, it was mostly the larger branches who had opted in mainly due to it being a difficult process, having appropriate legislation in place and completing relevant paperwork. Happy to encourage other Credit Unions to do this and support them ensuring they are complying with relevant legislation.
- Social housing investment was something currently being investigated further, there was a consultation paper currently looking at ways to expand investment and some branches in the Republic of Ireland were already doing this.
- Liaising with various departments in NI and the regulator in London to bring together a pot of money for Social Investment and Local Authority Investment. Difficulties in persuading regulators how NI operate and to change the rules.

- DfC Housing Supply Strategy had acknowledged that Credit Union funding had a role to play, however the absence of an Executive meant that the strategy was still in draft form.
- Those Credit Unions in Great Britain who offered mortgages where legacy authorisations and industrial Credit Unions which didn't have to go through the new process. In the Republic of Ireland they could provide mortgages automatically and didn't need to go through the same cumbersome process those credit unions in Northern Ireland.
- There was currently a strategy document looking at potential solutions or options in partnership for Northern Ireland to look at offering mortgages, however it would most likely be only the larger Credit Unions who would avail of this.
- Self-build loans were something they were acutely aware of and would endeavour to look at in future strategies.
- There were resources available on the website if anyone was in financial difficulties, always encourage members to have the first conversation with their local Credit Union to see how they can best help before things spiral out of control. Each Credit Union had a range of approaches depending on the needs of their members.
- Delegation to share the PRA consultation paper to members.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their detailed presentation and asked that the presentation be circulated to members.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.56pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 9 January 2023.

Signed:

Chairperson

Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 12 December 2022 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber
Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft
Teams.**

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor G Hanna (Teams)
Councillor V Harte (Chamber)
Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
Councillor R Mulgrew (Chamber)
Councillor H Reilly (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor P Byrne (Teams)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment &
Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture &
Events
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Cummins Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer

ERT/182/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last ERT Meeting of this year.

He then informed the Committee that the Newry Mourne & Down District Council's submission bid for the Mourne Gullion and Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark Status had been approved on 09 December 2022, and would be submitted for ratification at the UNESCO's Executive Board Meeting in Paris in May 2023.

He said the Geopark will be supported by a more sustainable community and will boost the local economy through conservation, education, interpretation and sustainable tourism and he looked forward to the official announcement in May 2023 of the UNESCO Global Geopark Status for the Mourne Gullion and Strangford which will be a tribute to this incredible place and its people.

The Chair commended everyone involved.

ERT/183/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in Item No. 6, regarding Newry Chamber Cross Border Conference.

ERT/184/2022: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 November 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 November 2022.**

ERT/185/2022: MID YEAR ASSESSMENT OF ERT BUSINESS PLAN 2022-23

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding Mid Year Assessment of ERT Business Plan 2022-23. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve the Mid Year Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan is outlined at Appendix 1.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/186/2022: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Newcastle Harbour Conservation Management. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor the following was agreed:**

- 1. To adopt the Conservation Management Plan and Strategic Development Framework for Newcastle Harbour.**
- 2. To move forward with the development of projects identified within the SDF to feasibility stage subject to funding being available.**

ERT/187/2022: NEWRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE: CROSS BORDER CONFERENCE MARCH 2023

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Newry Chamber Cross Border Conference. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to issue a Service Level Agreement to Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade for Sponsorship of £5,000 towards a Cross Border conference to be held in March 2023.**

ERT/188/2022: SMALL SETTLEMENTS SCHEME

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Small Settlements Scheme Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor Andrews the following was agreed:**

- 1. To note the update on the 4 EI Schemes, 7 Revitalisation Schemes and Make it Local Campaign.**
- 2. To accept the updated Letter of Offer with additional funding and approve the amended project Business Case.**

ERT/189/2022: SRC BIG APPRENTICESHIP EVENT

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding SRC Big Apprenticeship Event 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to issue a Service Level Agreement to Southern Regional College (SRC) for sponsorship towards the delivery of their Big Apprenticeship Event scheduled to take place during Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week 2023 (February 2023), at a cost of £5,000.**

Noted: Officers noted concerns raised by Councillor Hanna regarding the lack of apprenticeships coming forward for the motor trade industry and agreed to reflect this view to both Colleges.

ERT/190/2022: TOURISM STRATEGY & BRANDING

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism Strategy & Branding. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to approve the proposed process and timelines to finalise the Council's draft Tourism Strategy and overarching Destination brand**

as set out in the report.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 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 Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed the Committee come out of Closed Session.

Mr C Mallon Director ERT, advised the following had been agreed while in Closed Session:

ERT/191/2022: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR – PILOT FISHING TOURS

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Newcastle Harbour – Pilot Fishing Tours. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to approve a pilot programme of Fishing Tours from Newcastle Harbour effective from April – October 2023 with expressions of interest to be completed by 01 February 2023.

ERT/192/2022: TOURISM NI MARKET LED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism NI Market LED Product Development Programme 2022/23.

(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the delivery of the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2022/23, subject to a successful funding bid, as set out in the report.**

FOR NOTING

ERT/193/2022: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKET

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding an update on Artisan Markets. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the six-month attendance figures at the monthly artisan markets.**

ERT/194/2022: DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION WORKING GOUP

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the report.**

ERT/195/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

Read: Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Sheet for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

ERT/196/2022: UPDATE RE: MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding an update Re: Museum.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the current update.

ERT/197/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for November 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for November 2022.

ERT/198/2022: REPORT OF LOUTH/NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Report of Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting – Wednesday 14 September 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note report.

The Chair on behalf of the ERT Committee extended best wishes to Councillor Mulgrew on her retirement from Council.

He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 09 January 2023.

Signed: Councillor R Burgess

Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

38

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 15 December 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams &
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre****In the Chair:** Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)**In Attendance in Chamber** Councillor A McMurray**In Attendance via Teams:**
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Rice
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor**Officials in Attendance:**
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Administration
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director Finance & Performance
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration
Mr P Rooney, Legal Advisor
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Ms V Keegan, Head of Communications & Marketing
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer**SPR/180/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Howell, Lewis, Murphy and Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive.

The Chairperson wished Mr F O'Connor best wishes as he was leaving council to take up a new post and welcomed Mr P Rooney as his interim replacement.

SPR/181/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

SPR/182/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Magennis to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2022.**

FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

SPR/183/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION – SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY

Read: Report dated 15 December 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding Notice of Motion – Social Model of Disability **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Taylor thanked officers for the work completed to date and requested the following additional points be added to the recommendations for further clarification and to ensure Council was doing all they could to anticipate the needs and ensure facilities and services were fully accessible to everybody in the community.

'Full accessibility audit of all council facilities detailing any required action and the timeline for completion of such. This should include the likes of play parks- for example accessible play equipment?

A co-design stakeholder forum be established to support and assist council in ensuring they are delivering fully accessible facilities. That a co-design stakeholder list be developed who are engaged on accessibility within council's facilities.'

Councillors McMurray, Ó Muirí and Sharvin spoke in support of the motion, agreeing with Councillor Taylor's comments.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that Elected Members confirm the motion broadly reflects Council's corporate Section 75 and Disability Duties responsibilities, and commitments and positive actions set out within Council's Equality Scheme, Equality Action Plan and Disability Action Plan.**

It was also agreed that a full accessibility audit of all council facilities be carried out detailing any required action and also the timeline for completion of such. This should include the likes of play parks- for example accessible play equipment.

A co-design stakeholder forum be established to support and assist council in ensuring they are delivering fully accessible facilities. That a co-design stakeholder list be developed who are engaged on accessibility within council's facilities.

SPR/184/2022: STATUTORY DUTY COMPLIANCE: A) DRAFT EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2023-2027, B) DRAFT DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2023-2027

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding Statutory Duty Compliance: A) Draft Equality Action Plan 2023-2027, B) Draft Disability Action Plan 2023-2027 **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query raised by Councillor Ó Muirí, Mr Moffett confirmed that each consultation would be a singular stand-alone process with documents to be completed with responses, it was solely for advertising they were being grouped together.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muiri, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that Elected Members approve the following:**

- **Draft Equality Action Plan 2023 - 2027**
- **Draft Disability Action Plan 2023 – 2027**

SPR/185/2022: DRAFT IRISH LANGUAGE STRATEGY 2023 - 2027

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding Draft Irish Language Strategy 2023 - 2027 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí, Hanlon & Sharvin welcomed the report highlighting that user groups who benefitted from the financial assistance scheme or the bursary schemes were getting better every year being assisted by council in capacity building and the scheme had enabled Irish language groups and local clubs across the DEA's to offer Irish language courses and as a result reaching a wider audience. The next 4 years looked positive. The 6-month monitoring reports were very helpful and needed to continue to be tracked to ensure the strategy was meeting its targets and if not, what was needed to be reviewed to change it.

Councillor Taylor advised that he had previously raised concerns regarding the implementation of the strategy and did not agree with the comments in the report as any strategy seeking to expand or be enhanced would require additional significant resources and support, he felt this was in disproportion compared to other events i.e. Ulster Scots or PUL activity. Councillor Taylor stated he did not agree with the assessment and felt it would have an impact on community relations as people would draw comparisons about the level of support required and offered to different cultural activities.

Councillor Ó Muirí stated that it didn't always cost money to do something better, it was about everyone trying a bit harder to do things better through capacity building without extra money and resources. It was not about culture, history or tradition it was purely about language. An argument could be made that there are millions of pounds spent on the English language in comparison to the Irish language as this is the only real like for like comparison.

The Chairperson put the matter to a vote, the results of which are as follows:

FOR: 8
AGAINST: 1
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was carried.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muiri, seconded by Councillor Magennis, that Elected Members agree the draft Irish Language Strategy 2023 – 2027 for 12 week public consultation.

SPR/186/2022: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT 2022-23

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director: Finance and Performance regarding Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2022-23 (**Copy circulated**)

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Byrne confirmed that there had been no change since 2015, there had always been an unqualified opinion. The Audit Office would normally report in relation to improvement planning and the publication of improvement information however since Covid they were unable to assess all councils statistics as figures had been slightly skewed due to the impact of the pandemic on services.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muiri, that Elected Members agree the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2022-23.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (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 Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Councillor Gallagher left the meeting at this point - 18.33pm

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

- SPR/187/2022: BUSINESS CASE – INTERNAL AUDIT PROVISION**
- Read:** Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, Internal Audit Provision. **(Copy circulated).**
- Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members approve to proceed with option 2 – Outsource Internal Audit Function for the details outlined within the full Business Case.**
- SPR/188/2022: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK**
- Read:** Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding, Castlewellan Forest Park **(Copy circulated).**
- Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the budget increase for NLHF project posts for three years and associated payroll budget.**
- SPR/189/2022: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK – RE-ROOTING OUR PAST IN OUR FUTURE PROJECT**
- Read:** Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding, Castlewellan Forest Park – Re-Rooting our Past in our Future Project **(Copy circulated).**
- Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed that Elected Members note the Project Board meetings held on 16 September 2022, 14 October 2022 and 12 December 2022. It was also agreed to approve progressing PQQ and ITT process to appoint an IST.**
- SPR/190/2022: LEASE OF LANDS AT BALLYNOE ROAD DOWNPATRICK**
- Read:** Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Lease of lands at Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed Elected Members approve to enter into a Lease with the Group noted in the report in respect of the lands at Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick as outlined in red on the attached map for a term of 25 years at market rent, subject to the group receiving an offer of funding within a period of 5 years.

SPR/191/2022: **PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE DATED 4TH NOVEMBER 2013 BY TRUSTEES OF CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS**

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding proposed assignment of lease dated 4th November 2013 by Trustees of Crossmaglen Rangers **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members approve to the assignment of the lease dated 4th November 2013 to a new corporate tenant which will be controlled by representatives of Crossmaglen GFC.

Councillor Taylor left the meeting at this point – 18.47pm

SPR/192/2022: **ARDGLASS ROWING CLUB**

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Ardglass Rowing Club **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to defer this item to the January SP&R Committee Meeting.

SPR/193/2022: **NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION – FUNDING AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Newry City Centre Regeneration – Funding Agreement **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed Elected Members consider the contents of the report, the funding agreement attached and approve the signing of the Funding Agreement between Belfast City Council and NMDDC in respect of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Projects.

FOR NOTING – This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the October 2022 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

SPR/194/2022: 'ROVING REPORTER' PILOT – EVALUATION REPORT

Read: Report dated 12 December 2022 from Ms V Keegan, Head of Communications and Marketing, regarding Roving Reporter Pilot – Evaluation Report. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

SPR/195/2022: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 16 NOVEMBER 2022 & 7 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 16 November 2022 & 7 December 2022. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 16 November 2022 & 7 December 2022.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/196/2022: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting – 01 December 2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting – 01 December 2022.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 18.59pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 09 January 2023.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Josephine Kelly**
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Ref: AHC/2022**

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 19 December 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic
Centre and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)**In attendance in Chamber:** Councillor J Brennan
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor G Sharvin**In attendance via Teams:** Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor D Lee- Surginor
Councillor G Malone
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó'Muirí
Councillor J Tinnelly**Non-Members
in attendance on Teams:** Councillor T Andrews**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:** Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer**Officials in attendance
via Teams:** Ms L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Mr B Rankin, Head of Sustainability

AHC/204/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor McKeivitt and Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson congratulated Clonduff Camogie team on winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Final at the weekend.

Commiserations were paid to Leitrim Fontenoys hurlers who missed out on the All-Ireland Club Intermediate Hurling Semi-Final.

The Chairperson wished Drumaness Mills good luck in the Border Cup Final.

AHC/205/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/206/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 November 2022. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/096/2022: Dunleath Park Enhancement

Councillor Sharvin enquired about a timescale for feedback on the outcome of the levelling up applications that had been submitted. Mr Tamati advised that was stage one of the process and that there was no timescale on stage 2, and it was hoped to see something in the new year.

Councillor Sharvin asked if officers were continuing to identify money available to fund those defibrillators that had not been funded. Mr Devlin advised a suitable resource for funding defibrillators had not yet been identified however as year-end was approaching any significant underspend would be considered and possibly diverted to that financial call.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 November 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**AHC/207/2022: PEACE IV REPORT**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding PEACE IV. **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming the Public Art Feature for the Tom Dunn Project, Councillor Tinnelly asked that Committee be given the opportunity to see what the proposed artwork would look like.

Mrs Hillen advised artwork had not yet been designed and would have to be agreed through the Peace IV Partnership and that she would make sure the Active and Healthy Communities Committee would have sight of it.

Councillor Ó'Muirí commented that he had thought the Urban Sports Track would have been more advanced. Mrs Hillen advised they had hoped the consultation would have been completed at this stage however there had been some recommendations from the DEA Forum and that recommendations from the consultation would be presented at the next meeting of the Peace IV Partnership.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Ó'Muirí to approve recommendations agreed by the Partnership on 24 November 2022 as detailed within section 2.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/208/2022: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS - UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin took the opportunity to speak about how beneficial the DEA Forums were particularly in engaging with local communities.

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer about a report from the Crotlieve DEA Mrs Hillen confirmed she would check the date of the last meeting and when the report would be presented.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Brennan, to note the report and approve the actions for the following:

- Downpatrick DEA Forum Ad Hoc Meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2022.
- Newry DEA Forum Special Meeting held on Tuesday 22 November 2022.
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2022.
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 13 December 2022.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2022.**

AHC/209/2022: COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Co-ordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2022.**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/210/2022 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE NI (SNI)

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a request for support for Sustainable NI. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer spoke of the importance of requests such as this being subject to scrutiny within the rates process.

Mr Devlin confirmed that within the resource implications section of the report it was accounted for within existing budgets, subject to the rates process.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to provide financial support and sign a Service Level Agreement with Sustainable NI for 2023-24 year.**

AHC/211/2022 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM ACTIONS – 20 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding actions arising from the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Meeting held on 20 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the report from the Sustainability & Climate Change Forum held on Thursday 20 October 2022 and approve the actions contained within the action sheet.**

AHC/212/2022 **CONSULTATION RESPONSE DFE ONE STOP SHOP FOR ENERGY**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a consultation from the Department for the Economy (DfE) on proposals for an Energy 'One Stop Shop' in Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor McAteer to return the attached Consultation response as attached to the officer's report.**

AHC/213/2022 **GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH OFFICE OF PRODUCT SAFETY AND STANDARDS (OPSS)**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a grant funding agreement with the Office of Product Safety and Standards. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve the signing of the Contract with Office of Product Safety and Standards as attached to the officer's report and accept the offer of Grant Funding.**

AHC/214/2022 **RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT PROCEDURES UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding an on the recognition of achievement procedures.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the updated Recognition of Achievement for High Performance Levels in Sport - Criteria & Processing Procedures as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 12-16 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (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 McAteer, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/215/2022 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – MAJOR SPORTS CAPITAL

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding financial assistance, major sports capital. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the new financial assistance arrangements for Sports Capital as outlined in 1.1.A of the officer's report and to approve the budget for Sports Capital as outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report, subject to the rates estimates process for 2023/24.

AHC/216/2022 PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing and presented by Mr B Rankin regarding the procurement of energy contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve initially proceeding with option 2 and procure energy collaboratively with other Councils. Should this not be feasible to procure directly for the Council.

AHC/217/2022 LEASING OF LAND – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport providing an update on expressions of interest received for the leasing of land and facilities as per the Sport and Community Leasing Policy 2016 in relation to former Playground, Station Avenue, Castlewellan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the contents of this report and that Expressions of Interest for the former playground, Station Avenue, Castlewellan progress to stage 3 of the Sport and Leasing Policy 2016.**

AHC/218/2022 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY – SCHEME OF DELEGATION SCHEDULE

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities regarding the scheme of delegation for the Active and Healthy Communities April – December 2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Brennan it was agreed to note the report and attachments.**

END OF CLOSED SESSION

FOR NOTING

AHC/219/2022 POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT

Read Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding the Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer regarding the installation of SIDs including one at Mill Street, Burren, Mrs Hillen confirmed she would get back to him with a timescale on the full implementation of the SID.

Mr McAteer referred to the community safety aspect of the report and expressed concern that Community Policing overtime had been severely cut and the implications of that. Mrs Hillen confirmed she would raise those concerns to the PCSP.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 2022, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 29 November 2022.**

AHC/220/2022 **DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis to note the report and Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 21 September 2022, approved at Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2022.**

AHC/221/2022 **NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the report and Minutes of Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2022 and the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Action Plan for 2022/2025, approved at Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022.**

AHC/222/2022 **REPORT ON COST OF LIVING INITIATIVES**

Read: Report dated 19 December 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding initiatives to help with the Cost of Living crisis. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó'Muirí referred to Councillor Murphy's motion presented in November 2022 in relation to cost of living and congratulated officers on the work.

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer regarding attendance at the open houses Mrs Hillen confirmed she would present an evaluation report to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting.

Councillor Sharvin enquired as to the timing of the health and wellbeing events being during the working day to which Mr Devlin explained they had been scheduled around open space at that time and he appreciated the point made about people who work during the day and would take that on board.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the report and actions outlined in appendix 1.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.48pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 9 January 2023.

Signed: Councillor H Gallagher
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20 December 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

Members: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)
Councillor G Malone (Teams)
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance
Ms G Kane, Head of Facilities Management
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

SE/166/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Magennis and Councillor Stokes.

SE/167/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/168/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 23 November 2022. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 23 November 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**SE/169/2022: FUTURE MODEL FOR PROVISION OF CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND AD HOC CELEBRATORY LIGHTING**

Read: Report dated 20 December 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, regarding future model for provision of Christmas illuminations and ad hoc celebratory lighting. *(Circulated)*.

Noted: Mr Scullion responded to queries raised by Councillor McMurray regarding the flexibility and responsiveness of any new future model for the provision of Christmas illuminations and ad hoc celebratory lighting.

Councillor Tinnelly asked that his thanks and appreciation for the work carried out by Mr Scullion and his staff in relation to the provision of Christmas illuminations throughout the District be noted.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 05-10 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (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 Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

SE/170/2022: UPDATE ON REQUEST TO SUB LEASE THE BOG ROAD AMENITY AREA FORKHILL

Read: Report dated 20 December 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: update on request to sub lease the Bog Road Amenity Area, Forkhill. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the content of the report and agree to the recommendations contained within section 2.3 of the report.**

SE/171/2022: NEWRY MARKET REVITALISATION

Read: Report dated 20 December 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: Newry Market Revitalisation. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and agree to the recommendations contained within section 2.3 of the report.**

SE/172/2022: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE DECEMBER 2022

Read: Report dated 20 December 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: Facilities Management and Maintenance Procurement Action Plan Update December 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to:-**

- **Note the progress update report;**
- **Approve an extension to the Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan to the 30th of June 2023.**
- **Note that services will continue "out of contract" until new contracts are awarded and regularised.**

SE/173/2022: WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE DECEMBER 2022

Read: Report dated 20 December 2022 from Ms S Murphy re: Waste Management Procurement Action Plan Update December 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to:-**

- **Note the progress update report in Appendix 1;**
- **Approve an extension to the Waste Management Procurement Action Plan to the 30th of June 2023.**

- **Note that services will continue “out of contract” until new contracts are awarded and regularised.**
- **Note procurement update concluding issues previously highlighted.**

SE/174/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ MONTHLY BULLETIN – 06 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members’ Monthly Bulletin held on 6 December 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.

SE/175/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL ‘IN COMMITTEE’ JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 27 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 ‘In Committee’ Joint Committee Meeting held on 27 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.

FOR NOTING

SE/176/2022: NI LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Read: NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Annual Report 2021/22. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note this report.

SE/177/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday 27 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the above Minutes.

SE/178/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Historic Actions

Tracking Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.40 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 9 January 2023.

Signed: Councillor T Andrews
Deputy Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment



**Minutes of the 495th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 10th November 2022 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald | Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair) |
| Ald Jim Speers | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough |
| Ald Amanda Grehan | Lisburn City & Castlereagh |
| Ald Adrian McQuillan | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough |
| Ald Allan Bresland | Derry & Strabane Borough |
| Ald Tommy Nicholl | Mid & East Antrim Borough |
| Cllr Catherine Elattar | Mid Ulster Borough |
| Cllr Michael Ruane | Newry, Mourne & Down District |

In Attendance:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Paul Price | Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight, Department for Communities |
| Grainia Long | Chief Executive, NIHE |
| Adrian Blythe | Quality Improvement Manager, NIHE |
| Kelly Cameron | Secretary (NIHE Secretariat) |

Apologies:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Cllr Mark Cooper | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair) |
| Cllr Michelle Kelly | Belfast City |
| David Polley | Director, Housing Supply Policy, Department for Communities |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | <p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price and Julie Lavery from the Department for Communities and from the Housing Executive, Grainia Long.</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenter Adrian Blythe, Quality Improvement Manager from the Housing Executive.</p> | |
| 2. | <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations were received.</p> | |

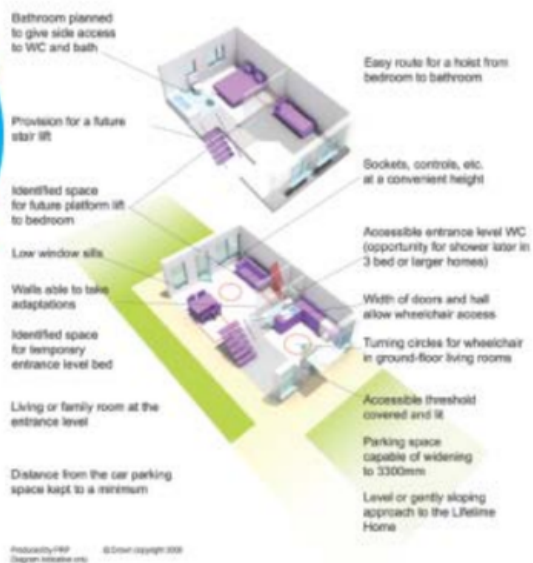
| | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 3. | <p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 494th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 13th October 2022</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor C Elattar and seconded by Alderman J Speers and resolved, that the Minutes of the 490th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 13th October 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p> | |
| 4. | <p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>NI Water Service</p> <p>It was reported that a letter had been sent to the NI Water, inviting a representative to a future Meeting on waste water infrastructure, a reply is awaited.</p> | |
| 5. | <p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The forward workplan was noted.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><u>Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive</u></p> <p>The Report provided the Housing Council with a monthly update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned Maintenance contract <p>The Chair reiterated the importance of communication channels in place, to ensure tenants were briefed on the impact for planned improvement works to their homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green End Rathcoole • Annual Performance with the Minister, Deirdre Hargey MLA • Corporate Plan • Waterside Triangle • New Leasehold Policy <p>Agreed: to provide more information to Members on the new Policy, in order to promote this policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Strategy Update • Cost of Living Crisis • Future Working Practices & Accommodation Strategy • Industrial Action and Pay Claims for 2022/23 <p>Members welcomed the national pay offer of £1,925 for all employees. Several Members commended the staff of local Housing Executive offices, in particular at the forefront through the pandemic and added that their work is appreciated by both Councillors and tenants and asked that this sentiment is passed onto staff.</p> | <p>GL</p> <p>GL</p> |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay & Grading Review • Staff Conference • Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA) • Ukrainian Resettlement Programme <p>The Chair thanked Grainia Long for a very informative Report.</p> | |
| 7. | <p><u>Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland</u></p> <p>Adrian Blythe gave Members a Presentation by the Housing Executive on Lifetime Homes (LTH) in Northern Ireland. (Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>Members agreed to encourage and promote their Councils to exploring Lifetime Homes through their Local Development Plans.</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to be sent to Building Regulations seeking clarification on the regulations, in which Private developers are currently adhering for new build properties and their views on the issue; • Letters to be sent to the 11 Councils in relation to urge Councils when developing your Local Development Plans to consider including Lifetime Homes within their Plans; • G Long suggested the inclusion to Councils Housing Investment Plans Annual Presentation on LTH in their Development Plans; • Members to visit the Ultra Low Energy New Build pilot scheme in Ballysillan Road, Belfast when completed. <p>The Chair thanked Mr Blythe for an excellent Presentation.</p> | <p>ALL</p> <p>Sec</p> <p>Sec</p> <p>GL</p> <p>Sec</p> |
| 8. | <p><u>Housing Starts – October 2022</u></p> <p>Members requested if more information could be provided on the Housing Starts.</p> <p>The Report was noted.</p> | |
| 9. | <p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was no other business.</p> | |
| 10. | <p><u>Date of next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 8th December 2022 at 10 am in the Housing Centre or via Zoom</p> | |

Appendix A

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Lifetime Homes Diagram



Adrian Blythe
Quality Improvement
Manager

www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

CONTENT :

- Housing Standards in Northern Ireland
- Lifetime Homes' Concept
- Comparison between Part R and Lifetime Homes
- Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
- Social and Economic Benefits
- Some adaptations explored
- What is happening elsewhere?
- Accessible Housing Register
- AHR Accessibility Classifications
- Ultra Low Energy New Build Pilot
- Any Questions?



www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Housing Standards in Northern Ireland



Part R Building Regulations for new private housing

Lifetime Homes standards for social housing

Wheelchair housing

Adaptations for all sectors of housing

www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Lifetime Homes Concept



- The Lifetime Homes (LTHs) concept was initially developed in 1991 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Habinteg (England) Housing Association
- 'Lifetime Homes' standards currently apply to all new Housing Association social dwellings in Northern Ireland since 1998
- LTHs are a nationally recognised set of criteria that aim to make housing sufficiently accessible and adaptable to meet the existing and changing requirements of occupants at minimal cost
- Allows people to stay in their homes, or for longer when their needs change. Such household might include older people, families with children and some people with physical disabilities.
- From 1st April 2012 the LTH standards and the 'LTH Additional Departmental Requirements' became part of the core design standards and an adjustment made to the TCI Baseline costs

www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Comparisons between Part R and Lifetime Homes



- Part R (Building Regulations NI) implemented for all new dwellings since April 2001
 - Are minimum regulatory standards
 - Are a visitable standard
 - Make a home accessible primarily for the visitor

- Lifetime Homes implemented for Social Housing since 1998
 - Incorporates 16Nr Design Standards
 - Make a home accessible for most people including visitors, with priority given to the occupant who lives there
 - Includes flexibility and adaptability designed in from the start to cater for most long term needs
 - Are not a substitute for purpose-designed wheelchair standard housing

www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Comparisons between Part R and Lifetime Homes

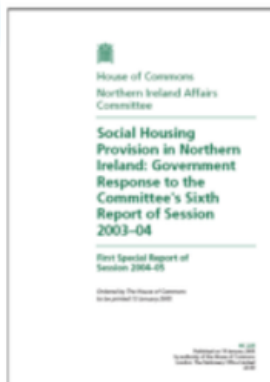


| Design Standard | Lifetime Homes | Part R Building Regs |
|--|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Car Parking Width | ✓ | |
| 2. Access from Car Parking | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3. Approach Gradients | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4. External Entrances/Covered Approach | ✓ | |
| 5. Communal Stairs & Lifts | ✓ | |
| 6. Doorways & Hallways | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7. Wheelchair Accessibility | ✓ | |
| 8. Living Room at entrance level | ✓ | |
| 9. Entrance Level Bedspace | ✓ | |
| 10. Entrance Level WC& Shower Drainage | ✓ | ✓ No shower drainage |
| 11. Bathroom & WC Walls | ✓ | |
| 12. Stair Lift/Through-Floor Lift | ✓ | |
| 13. Tracking Hoist Route | ✓ | |
| 14. Bathroom Layout | ✓ | |
| 15. Window Specification | ✓ | |
| 16. Controls, Fixtures & Fittings | ✓ 600mm-1200mm | ✓450mm-1200mm |

www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee



21. We recognise the substantial benefits for people with disabilities in having all new dwellings built to Lifetime Homes standard as well as the potential longer term savings on the cost of adaptations. We call on Ian Pearson, the Minister with responsibility for Finance and Personnel, to introduce the Lifetime Homes standard as soon as possible by amending the relevant building regulations (Paragraph 118)

www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Lifetime Homes Social Benefits



- Most people didn't realise they were living in a Lifetime Home due to the ordinary appearance
- Lifetime Homes are a significant move in "designing in" the current and future needs of the occupier
- Lifetime Homes have a valuable role in home accident prevention
- Lifetime Homes were seen to have a positive impact upon the physical and social needs of the respondents
- Increased visitability and accessibility were regarded as positive aspects of the dwelling
- Lifetime Homes need to be provided in conjunction with wheelchair standard housing to meet the full range of community needs

www.nihe.gov.uk



first floor – typical LTH



- Planning for a future stair or inter-floor lift
- Ceiling capable of taking a future tracking hoist from bedroom to bathroom
- Bathroom walls capable of taking fixtures
- Bathroom designed to incorporate ease of access to bath, WC and WHB
- Adequate circulation space

www.nihe.gov.uk

Ground & first floor – adaptations



www.nihe.gov.uk

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

www.nihe.gov.uk

What is happening elsewhere?



- Belfast City Council's draft Local Development Plan references LTHs in their Housing Technical supplement. Other Councils such as Mid & East Antrim Council are also following suit.
- In 2015 LTHs in England were largely superseded by their Building Regulations. Approved Document M sets three levels of accessibility
 - a. Category 1: Visitable dwellings
 - b. Category 2: Accessible and adaptable dwellings (generally equivalent to LTHs)
 - c. Category 3: Wheelchair user dwellings
- New social housing in Wales (under their Development Quality Requirements 2021) are still required to achieve LTHs
- BS9266: Design of accessible and adaptable general needs housing (2013) was drawn up by the British Standards Institute with a view to superseding LTHs
- LTHs website has been closed down although the LTHs Design Guide is still available to purchase
- Habinteg (England) own the copyright on the name 'Lifetime Homes.'

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

www.nihe.gov.uk

Accessible Housing Register



- The development of an Accessible Housing Register (AHR) is a Department for Communities (DfC) objective within their Facing the Future Housing Strategy 2012-17 Action Plan.
- Demographic trends indicate that the Northern Ireland elderly population is rising and while people are living longer they will do so with some form of disability. Demand & costs for adaptations continues to rise.
- **An Accessible Housing Register is:**
 - **Allocation tool** – Housing Authorities will be able to identify specific properties that may meet the needs of a particular group of applicants on the waiting list.
 - **Information tool** – provide frontline staff with accessible stock information which will enable them to assist disabled people to make more informed housing choices. Landlords will also know where their accessible stock is located and make better use of that stock.
 - **Planning tool**- it will help place shapers identify unmet need.

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

www.nihe.gov.uk

AHR Accessibility Classifications

A Wheelchair accessible throughout

These properties have been designed to meet wheelchair design standards offering extra space and full access to all rooms and facilities. This standard provides more space and ensures that all rooms are accessible.

B Wheelchair accessible essential rooms

Properties designed or adapted to provide access for wheelchair users to essential facilities of the property (that is bedroom, bathroom, living room, dining room (if applicable) and kitchen). Other rooms within the house may not be wheelchair accessible such as upper floor bedrooms.

C Lifetime Homes

Designed to meet the space standards of lifetime homes. Main features include a level approach/entrance and wider doorways. Properties may have an internal flight of stairs which will be wide enough to accommodate future provision of a stair lift subject to technical feasibility.

D Mobility Standard

The main features of these properties include a level approach to the entrance, wider doorways and more space than in general needs housing. Properties may have an internal flight of stairs and if so may be wide enough to facilitate future provision of a stair lift subject to technical feasibility.

E Step Free

These are properties that are considered general needs housing but have a level approach/entrance into the property. The main access feature is level access to the property and throughout. The property may have an internal flight of stairs which may be able to accommodate future provision of a stair lift.

EE Minimal Steps

Properties that do not meet any accessible housing design guidance and have a limited number of steps to enter the property. Properties in this category **will have no more than 4 steps** to access the principal door and are likely to be ground floor properties or properties in a block with a lift and a small number of communal or property front door steps.

F General Needs

General needs housing does not meet any of the above criteria. Properties in this category **will have more than 4+ steps** or a ramp access that is steeper 1:12 to access the property front door.



Ultra Low Energy New Build Pilot

www.nihe.gov.uk



Background

- DfC request for NIHE to assess Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) as an optimal model for future social housing new build in Northern Ireland
- Site on the Ballysillan Road Belfast
- 6 no. 3P2B semi-detached dwellings designed to Lifetime Homes



Benefits

- Help reduce risk of fuel poverty
- Lower carbon emissions
- Improvements in energy efficiency
- Comfortable and healthy indoor environments
- Informing policy and legislation in shaping future energy standards
- Wider societal benefits e.g. improved health and well-being for occupants
- Future proofing- utilising the LTH standards

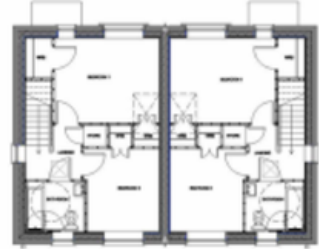


LTH House Type Design

- 6 no. semi-detached dwellings designed to Lifetime Homes
- 2 bedroom, 3 person units
- Utilising MMC and ultra-low energy building techniques
- Incorporation of passive building systems



www.nihe.gov.uk



Proposed 1st Floor Plan

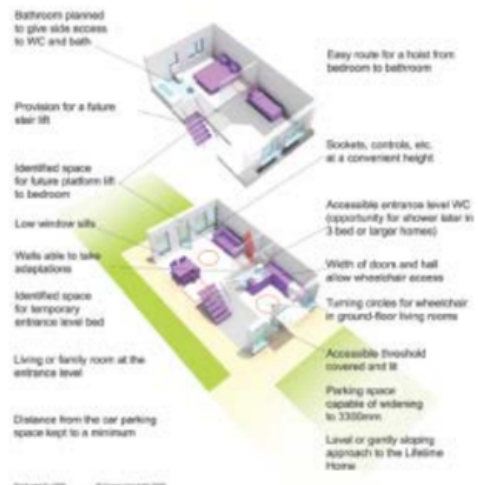


Proposed Ground Floor Plan

Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

Any Questions?

Lifetime Homes Diagram



Produced by NIHE © Crown Copyright 2008 Diagram illustrative only

www.nihe.gov.uk



CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

The Housing Centre
 2 Adelaide Street
 Belfast BT2 8P8

T: (028) 9598 2752
 E: kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk
 W: nihousingcouncil.org

71

DECEMBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 8th December 2022 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre of via Conference Call.

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Present

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Anne-Marie Fitzgerald | Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair) |
| Mark Cooper | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair) |
| Jim Speers | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough |
| Adrian McQuillan | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough |
| Allan Bresland | Derry City & Strabane District |
| Catherine Elattar | Mid Ulster Borough |

Apologies

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Moore | Ards & North Down Borough |
| Tommy Nicholl | Mid & East Antrim Borough |
| Michael Ruane | Newry & Mourne District |
| Grainia Long | Housing Executive |

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Paul Price & David Polley from the Department for Communities on the Housing Top Issues.

A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined *as follows*:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- Review the Caravans Act (NI) 2011
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax

Housing Council
496th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

72

- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework
- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents
- Housing Executive Rent
- Non ACM Cladding Remediation Scheme
- Climate Act DfC will lead on the 'Residential and Buildings Sector Plan'

Members also received a Presentation by the Housing Executive on Latent Demand Testing in Rural Areas

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the January Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12th January 2023 at 10.00 am via conference call.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

Contacts

Secretary, Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk Tel: 028 95982752



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

73

29 November 2022

Our ref: C234/22

By Email: chief.executive@nmandd.org

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Dear Ms Ward

Council at its November meeting considered your correspondence dated 14 November 2022 regarding the motion passed in relation to Government help with Cost of Living Crisis. Council agreed to support the motion and to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding the matter.

Yours sincerely

Joseph McGuckin
Head of Strategic Services & Engagement



Northern
Ireland
Office

Steve Baker MP
Minister of State for Northern
Ireland

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Erskine House
20-32 Chichester St
Belfast
BT1 4GF

E: correspondence@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

Marie Ward

Chief Executive

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

By email: council@nmandd.org

12 December 2022

Your reference: MC/22/308

Dear Ms Ward,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State of 14 November, in which you highlighted Council's Motion in relation to Electronic Travel Authorisations and its concerns on this matter. I am responding on his behalf.

I wish to reassure you that, as now, the UK will not operate routine immigration controls on the Common Travel Area, with none whatsoever on the Ireland-Northern Ireland land border.

Those entering the UK - including those crossing the land border into Northern Ireland - will continue to be required to follow the UK's immigration rules. This includes any ETA requirement when it is introduced, if it is applicable to them. However, as is consistent with the CTA, ETA requirements will not apply to British and Irish citizens.

For those who do need an ETA, the application process for obtaining one will be quick and light-touch to complete. Crucially for regular travellers to the UK, such as those involved in freight on the island of Ireland, an ETA will be valid for multiple journeys over an extended period.

The exact cost of an ETA will be announced in due course. I can, however, confirm to you that the fee will remain competitive with that of equivalent systems run by

other countries. The experience of other countries with similar schemes, such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, shows that an ETA system is very unlikely to deter a genuine visitor.

Please also be assured that the UK Government fully intends to work with both the Government of Ireland as well as all relevant stakeholders in ensuring any ETA requirement is communicated effectively through targeted messaging and that it is fully understood including by those in the travel and tourism sector. We are very clear that a clear communication strategy is key to tackling any misunderstanding about the policy.

Thank you for taking the time to write and for sharing these concerns with me,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Baker', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

STEVE BAKER MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Received 23.11.2022

76

Email acknowledgement re NOM C/184/2022: Electronic Travel Authorisation

Dear Ms. Ward,

I write to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 14th November 2022.

However, as this matter is more appropriate to the Department of Foreign Affairs I have referred your correspondence to that Department for appropriate attention.

Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice



Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Your ref: C/183/2022

By Email: council@nmandd.org

15 December 2022

Dear Chief Executive,

Re: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Resolution

At its Council meeting held 6th December 2022, Council was presented with correspondence from Newry Mourne and Down District Council regarding its **Notice of Motion – Government Help for Cost of living Crisis.**

At its Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council meeting, it was further **Resolved:** *that Council write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, to demand that the Government put in place much needed measures to provide much necessary help and support to residents of the Borough who have been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis.*

I advise notification of Council's resolution accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Sinéad Duggan
Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer

FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
Mike Brennan



Marie Ward
Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne District Council

Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast, BT2 8FD
Tel: 028 90529441
Email: Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gov.uk

Patricia.McKeever@nmandd.org

Our Ref: SCOR-0257-2022

21 December 2022

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12th December 2022, regarding the recent motion of Newry and Mourne District Council that laws being proposed at Westminster, giving workers a legal right to their tips, be extended to Northern Ireland.

As employment law is devolved to Northern Ireland, the legislation currently progressing through Westminster does not apply here. However, my Department continues to liaise with its counterpart in GB on the topic more generally. Any policy proposals for similar legislation in Northern Ireland would be subject to appropriate public consultation and the necessary approvals from the Executive and the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Brennan', written in a cursive style.

MIKE BRENNAN
Permanent Secretary

Roger Wilson
Chief Executive



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

79

12 December 2022

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT35 8DJ

Dear Marie

NOTICE OF MOTION – INCLUSION OF COUNTIES ARMAGHAND DOWN IN THE IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST DESTINATION MARKETING BRAND

I refer to your letter dated 14 November 2022 in connection with the above which was considered by the Council at its meeting held on 28 November 2022.

The Council would support this Notice of Motion and has written to Minister Catherine Martin TD to seek assurances that the Counties of Armagh and Down are included in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand.

Yours sincerely

Roger Wilson
Chief Executive

Armagh Office
The Palace Demesne
Friary Road
Armagh
BT60 4EL

Banbridge Office
Civic Building
Downshire Road
Banbridge
BT32 3JY

Craigavon Office
Craigavon Civic &
Conference Centre
Lakeview Road
Craigavon
BT64 1AL

☎ 0300 0300 900

✉ info@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk
🌐 armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

① Demographic Services - FYA.

Oifig an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Aire Cosanta
Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence



81

Ms Marie Ward
 Chief Executive
 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
 O'Hagan House
 Monaghan Row
 Newry
 BT35 8DJ

6 December 2022

Reference No: DFA-MCO-18096-2022



Dear Ms Ward,

On behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Mr Simon Coveney TD, thank you for your correspondence of 14 November regarding the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme provided for in the British Government's Nationality and Borders Act.

The Minister notes the important Notice of Motion agreed by Newry, Mourne and Down District with respect to the proposed scheme.

The Nationality and Borders Act provides that the UK's immigration rules may require that non-Irish and non-British citizens obtain an ETA before travelling to the UK, including for journeys across the land border to Northern Ireland. The proposed ETA scheme will not apply to Irish or British citizens and the British Government has made clear that there will continue to be no immigration checks on the land border on the island of Ireland. While Nationality and Borders Act became law on 28 April, decisions still need to be taken on how the scheme will be implemented in practice.

The Irish Government has a number of concerns with regard to this proposed ETA scheme. As the members will be aware, the movement of people on the island of Ireland – particularly those in border areas such as Newry, Mourne and Down – is unique. Tens of thousands of people cross the border every day in the course of their daily lives, including to access essential services, for tourism, business, family reasons, and for travel from one part of Ireland to another. This way of life is something that both the Irish and British Governments recognised and committed to facilitating in Strand 2 of the Good Friday Agreement.

The introduction of the ETA scheme for cross-border journeys could cause considerable disruption to the lives and livelihoods of many people across the island who are not Irish or British citizens, particularly those residing in border areas. As noted in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Notice of Motion, the scheme could have particularly negative implications for Northern Ireland's tourism sector, given that over two-thirds of visitors from mainland Europe and the United States arrive in Northern Ireland via this jurisdiction. The Irish Government also shares the Council's concerns with regard to the scheme's potential impact on cross-border healthcare, business, and integrated supply chains.

① Democratic Services - FYA

② M Wood - FYI.

The Irish Government has been engaging with the British Government at both official and political level to express our serious concerns in relation to the proposed ETA scheme. Minister Coveney raised the potential impact of such a scheme at the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference meetings in March and October. The Minister for Justice wrote to the former Home Secretary to set out the Irish Government's concerns. Officials from the Department of Justice and the Department of Foreign Affairs are in ongoing contact with UK counterparts on this issue. In the last month, Minister Thomas Byrne and our Ambassador in London have both engaged with UK political level contacts on the UK's ETA proposals.

The Minister welcomes the engagement of the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Office on this matter in recent months. The Irish Government will continue to engage with British Government counterparts with respect to our concerns and urge them to reconsider their approach and apply exceptions to their ETA proposals given the complexities such a scheme would present in the context of Northern Ireland and the serious implications it could have for daily lives and livelihoods on the island.

Yours sincerely,



Ciarán Doyle
Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Ms. Marie Ward
council@nmandd.org

December 2022

Our Ref: CHG-MO-02644-2022

Dear Marie,

I refer to your correspondence of 14 November 2022 regarding a notice of motion agreed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, requesting assurance that Counties Armagh and Down will be included in Ireland's Ancient East tourism experience brand.

As the National Tourism Development Authority, in line with its statutory functions as set out in Section 8(1)(a) of the National Tourism Development Authority Act 2003, Fáilte Ireland's role is to support the long-term sustainable growth of tourism in Ireland. Tourism Northern Ireland, which is a body under the aegis of the Department for the Economy in the North, is responsible for the development of tourism in Northern Ireland.

Fáilte Ireland develops, supports and promotes tourism at regional and county level within the State in line with the relevant tourism experience brands, which provide the overarching context for enterprise supports, tourism product development and related marketing. There are four regional tourism experience brands covering all counties of the Republic of Ireland – the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Dublin.

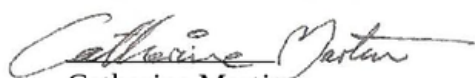
Because Fáilte Ireland's remit does not extend to Northern Ireland, it is not possible to include Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East tourism experience brand.

Tourism Ireland promotes the island of Ireland in more than 21 markets overseas as a compelling holiday destination, using the Ireland brand to position the island as strongly as possible against the more than 200 other destinations with which Ireland competes. Tourism Ireland promotes Ireland's four regional experience brands, as well as Northern Ireland's experience brand Embrace a Giant Spirit, on a range of platforms, including online, overseas trade platforms and other publicity.

My Department and both tourism agencies will continue to foster north-south co-operation to enhance an all-island tourism offering and grow international visitor numbers to the entire island. My officials continue to liaise with their counterparts in the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland - through regular meetings and also quarterly operational meetings with both the Department for the Economy and Tourism Ireland.

My Department will continue to work with the Department of the Taoiseach on implementing our commitments to the North/South development of tourism as included in the Shared Island chapter of the renewed National Development Plan. This includes supporting Tourism Ireland in its mission to grow tourism into the island of Ireland, to promote the recovery of the sector post-pandemic and to work with the Northern Ireland Executive on developing large scale North/South tourism initiatives which will support the sustainable growth of the sector including cross-border walking and cycling trails as well as new marketing opportunities.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Martin

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



the voice of local government

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
District Council Offices
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

8th December 2022

Dear Marie,

The 2023 Local Government Conference will be held on Thursday 23rd February in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh.

The theme for the conference is **“Responding to Future Challenges”** and will focus on how local government should innovate and collaborate across all sectors to achieve its ambitions. The conference programme is available [here](#). Dedicated workshops for councillors and officers will take place on the afternoon of the conference.

This will be the first in person conference for our sector since February 2020 and offers an opportunity for councillors and officers to learn from each other and proactively engage in shaping the strategic direction of the local government sector. We have confirmed participation from some of the most up and coming, expert speakers in their fields, who will challenge us and share their insight into how councils can effectively respond to the challenges ahead.

NILGA and Solace NI encourage councillors and officers from the 11 councils to attend this conference, the main event of the 2023 local government calendar. To support this, we are offering competitively priced tickets at £99 for councillor and officer attendance.

To confirm your council's places and for further information, please email events@nilga.org.

We are looking forward to a great event!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Wilson".

Roger Wilson
Chair, Solace NI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Allen".

Alison Allen
Chief Executive, NILGA

Solace NI

c/o Craigavon Civic & Conference Centre
Lakeview Road
CRAIGAVON
BT64 1AL
Tel: 0300 0300 900

Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Bradford Court,
Upper Galwally,
Castlereagh,
BT8 6RB
Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org
web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA