



January 26th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 1st February 2021** at **6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 January 2021

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 04 01 2021.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 January 2021

 [Council Minutes-04-01-2021.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

5.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 January 2021

 [ERT Minutes 11 Jan 2021.pdf](#)

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6.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2021

 [Minutes Audit Committee Jan 2021.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 January 2021

 [SPR Minutes 14th January 2021.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2021

 [Active and Healthy Communities Committee 180121.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021

 [Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 20-01-2021.pdf](#)

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10.0 Planning Section

There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 January 2021.

Correspondence

11.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 10 December 2020

 *Housing Council minutes 10th December 2020.pdf*

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12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin January 2021

 *Members Bulletin - January 2021.pdf*

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Correspondence

13.0 Fermanagh & Omagh District Council - Coronavirus Pandemic Impact on GCSE & A Level Students

Correspondence dated 4 December 2020 attached

 *Letter to District Councils re Motion Coronavirus Pandemic Impact on GCSE and A Level Students.pdf*

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14.0 Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council - Contribution to Health & Social Care Workers

Correspondence dated 12 January 2021 attached.

 *ABC Council - contribution to HC Workers.pdf*

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15.0 Response from Department of Justice and Department for Infrastructure re: C/186/2020 Annual Christmas Anti Drink Drive Campaign

Correspondence from Department of Justice dated 19 January 2021 attached.

Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure dated 22 January 2021 attached.

 *Reply - Anti Drink-Drug Campagin.pdf*

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 *Reply - Anti Drink Drugs Campaign Dept for Infrastructure.PDF*

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16.0 Response from Department of Finance re: Pedestrian Road Safety Measures

Notices of Motion

17.0 Notice of Motion - Universal Credit payments

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Andrews:-

“As part of his Covid-10 response the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak increased Universal Credit payments by £20 per week until March 2021 , This was a welcome and timely initiative given increased heating , energy and food costs from the pandemic . It must be noted that not all benefits were increased and so some in need did not get support. We must remember benefit cuts, in real terms took place over the past 10 years. However this increase for what it is worth, is welcome . The Chancellor of the Exchequer now needs to ensure that the £20 increase extends beyond March of this year. As the economic facts show, this extra amount has helped families and claimants to meet the extra costs due to the pandemic and has supported many local businesses. In this motion we are asking that Newry Mourne and Down District Council to support the campaign to retain this extra payment and extend it to other benefits, the 120,000 children living in poverty in Northern Ireland deserve any assistance available to them “

18.0 Notice of Motion - Steel Import Duty

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McAteer and Councillor Gallagher

"Noting the UK Government's decision to impose a 25% steel import duty on all steel that does not originate from GB; this Council out of sincere concern for local businesses and the future of the steel industry in the north opposes this move, will write to the Department for Economy seeking support for our local steel businesses directly affected by this move and will write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer seeking the removal of this levy and ask why this decision was taken without warning and without any consultation with local businesses".

19.0 Notice of Motion - Outdoor Recreation Group

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McMurray:-

‘In light of the increase on visitors accessing outdoor amenities which are prevalent in our district, this Council shall, within its structures, create a group regarding Outdoor Recreation within the district. The primary objectives of this group will be to Manage, Promote and Educate regarding outdoor recreation within our district. This will be a constituted group within Council. Its makeup will be representative of both statutory and voluntary sector agencies. As well as those who have a remit for development & management of outdoor recreation. Communication will be made in the first instance with

National Governing Bodies and Agencies to ascertain what role Councils in other areas of Ireland, Britain and Europe have had in positively managing access and recreation with our outdoor spaces.'

20.0 Notice of Motion - Student Support Grant

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor G Stokes, seconded by Councillor D Curran:-

"The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all citizens and that the impact on our young people has been severe. This Council recognises the difficulties faced by those young people in full-time third level education, both at universities and further education colleges, who, because of restrictions, are unable to attend classes in person or live in student accommodation which they have paid for. This Council recognises that many university students have found themselves suffering financial hardship which has caused significant distress and led to poor mental health. This Council calls on university accommodation providers and private landlords who have not provided rent waivers to do immediately and calls on the Department for the Economy and Department of Finance to develop and fund a Student Support Grant for all full time third level students, many of whom cannot gain any employment at this time and are unable to claim benefits".

21.0 Notice of Motion - Child Poverty Task Force

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor G Sharvin, seconded by Councillor L Devlin:-

"This Council notes with alarm the Department of Communities Family Resources Survey 2018/2019 which show that 122,000 children in Northern Ireland live in relative poverty (24% of children) with 109,000 of those living in absolute poverty and expresses deep concern that these figures have increased significantly since the previous year and have not improved at all in the last five years. The rise of the Universal Credit claimant count and expected end of the furlough scheme could see a further increase in these numbers, with the two-child tax credit rule and benefit cap only adding to the pressure on families with children. This Council calls on the Minister for Communities to immediately convene a child poverty task force, to set out how her department will reduce child poverty by next year and over the next decade".

22.0 Notice of Motion - Brexit, Shared Prosperity Fund

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor M Savage, seconded by Councillor P Byrne:-

"This Council expresses deep concern about the financial consequences of Brexit for Executive departments including the loss of £70 million in EU Structural Funds for the Department for the Economy; regrets that the level of funding promised to the devolved institutions by the British government will not be equivalent to EU Structural Funds; notes that any loss of funding will result in significant negative consequences for Northern Ireland's economy and society; expresses concern that plans to operate the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from Westminster represent moves to centralise regional development

policy; and calls upon the Minister for the Economy and the Minister of Finance to urge the British Government to commit to using the Shared Prosperity Fund to replace in full the EU funding lost as a result of Brexit and operate in a way that respects devolution settlements"

23.0 Notice of Motion - 'Big Spring Clean Up'

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Tinnelly:-

"Throughout the Covid pandemic, many residents of and visitors to our district have taken the opportunity to exercise in the parks, rural roads & pathways of our towns & villages to help their physical and mental wellbeing and in so doing, many have found a renewed sense and awareness of the stunning beauty of our district. Regrettably, this increased volume of cyclists and walkers has also lead to a marked increase in the amount of rubbish that is discarded along those very roads and pathways. To that end Newry Mourne & Down Council will organise and supervise a district wide 'Big Spring Clean Up', particularly on our rural roads on a chosen Saturday morning this coming Springtime, delivered through the respective DEA's and involving as many community groups, schools and residents of our district as possible, public health advice permitting.

Councils role will be to coordinate what is happening within each DEA and to provide logistical support like litter pickers, bags, hi-vis vests, rubbish collection points etc; on request, and to engage external groups who may wish to partner us in this project. If successful, this initiative will then become an annual event for our Council to lead, in this time of increased environmental awareness".

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Catrina Miskelly
.....
Mr Ken Montgomery
.....
Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muiri
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Mr Fearghal O'Connor
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
.....
Cllr Michael Savage
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Mr Kevin Scullion
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr John Trainor
.....
Central Support Unit
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/178/2019	Notice of Motion – C/131/2019: Live Animals in Circuses	At the request of Councillor McAteer it was agreed the motion remain on the action sheet.	Democratic Services		N

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/003/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 07.12.2020	<p>The action sheet was agreed</p> <p><i>Page 2, Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 December 2020- C/170/2020</i></p> <p>It was agreed to invite the Trade Unions to address the Special Meeting of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p>At the request of Councillor McKeivitt it was agreed a copy of the Discretionary Policy 2015 be circulated to Members.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Miskelly</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	
C/004/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 07.12.2020	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, subject to the following amendment: <i>Page 5, C/171/2020: Extract of Draft Planning Minutes of 18 November 2020, Update one Local Development Plan</i></p>	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		'Councillor McAteer wished for it to be put on record his strong objection to the revised timetable. He advised the new proposed date for the publication of the Local Development Plan was the second quarter of 2026/27 and that it was hoped it would be delivered ahead of this date'.			
C/005/2021	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30.11.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/006/2021	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 14.12.20 Newry BID Revote Strategy	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. Correspondence noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/007/2021	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 15.12.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/008/2021	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 17.12.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. <u>SPR/199/2020 – PHA Report</u> It was agreed to contact the Public Health Agency as a matter of urgency outlining the concerns regarding accessibility issues at the walk-in testing facility at Albert Basin site and request that it revert back to a drive-in test centre or provide an alternative facility for the frail and elderly as soon as possible.	Democratic Services Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/009/2021	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 21.12.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/010/2021	Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 07.12.20	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/011/2021	Planning Committee Meeting held on 16.12.20	There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2020.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/012/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes - November 2020	The bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/113/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin – December 2020	The Minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/114/2021	NI Planning Conference 2021	It was agreed by all that Councillors Murphy and McAteer attend the above conference. Any other Councillor wishing to attend should contact Democratic Services Department. It was also agreed that the Chief Planning Officer or Principal Planning Officer attend if available.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/115/2021	Notice of Motion – Northern Mutual Bank	The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/116/2021	Notice of Motion – Contribution to Health & Social Care, Care Home Workers	<p>It was agreed that this Council recognises the importance of our National Health Service and the heroic contribution of our health and social care workers, and care home workers, throughout the pandemic; express our thanks for their commitment to the care for community and will write to the Executive asking them to administer a “thank you” payment of at least £500 as a practical demonstration of our gratitude.</p> <p>The Council also calls for nursing registration and social care fees for 2021 to be waived in line with the sentiments expressed in this Motion and for this Council to write to and circulate this Motion to the other 10 Local Authorities seeking their support and writing also to the Executive calling for fee waivers to be implemented for this year.</p>	Democratic Services	Noted	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 4 January 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
	Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
	Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Gallagher
	Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor M Larkin
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
	Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
	Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKevitt
	Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Owen
	Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
	Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
	Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
 Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting)
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Service, Human Resources & Safeguarding
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events
 Mr P Preen, HR Policy & Projects Manager
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

C/001/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Owen and Trainor.

The Chairperson wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Council staff who continued working over the festive break.

The Chairperson raised Covid-19 and the dangerous place which we continued to be in with case numbers on the rise. She re-emphasised the need to limit social interactions and to follow the public health guidance.

The Chairperson appealed to people that, although she encouraged tourism, now was not the time to be flocking to the Mourne nor any of the prominent beauty hot spots across the District. The Executive had warned against any "non-essential" travel and she advised she had engaged with the PSNI and Mr Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism and an urgent meeting of the Mourne Multi Agency group would be called. She appealed to everyone to stick to the Public Health messaging and take exercise close to where they live. The Chairperson thanked volunteers across the District involved in the mammoth tasks of collecting and distributing food and gifts to those in need before Christmas and on an ongoing basis. She praised those within the community who still managed to add some festive cheer with Community groups thinking outside the box and being innovative in terms of how to make their area more festive in line with current restrictions.

The Chairperson spoke of the 5k a day challenge, a charitable initiative in memory of Ellen Finnegan who died tragically at the age of 18 in a fire in Castlewellan. This had proven very popular locally, with a challenge of covering 5kms a day, whether it was a walk, a run, cycle or even a row with its organisers wanting to raise awareness of dealing with grief and youth mental health.

C/002/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/003/2021 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 07 December 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 December 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

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 Savage, 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 para. 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.**

Page 2, Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 December 2020- C/170/2020

Councillor McAteer requested an update regarding the ongoing situation with Trade Unions and the implementation of work to rule as there were conflicting messages being given to Councillors regarding recent missed bin collections. He spoke of the importance of the correct information being provided to the public.

The Chief Executive provided an update to Members on all recent conciliation meetings that had taken place involving the Labour Relations Agency and Trade Unions surrounding current negotiations. An overview of legal advice provided to the Chief Executive was also shared with Members, both verbally and on screen.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to come out of closed session.**

The Chairperson advised that, whilst in closed session, the Minute ref C/170/2020 on page 2 of the action sheet was discussed at length.

Members received an overview of the issues surrounding the current negotiations with the Trade Unions and it is anticipated that a Special Council Meeting would be arranged later in the week.

It was proposed by Councillor Malone, seconded by Councillor Brown to invite the Trade Unions to address a Special Meeting of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee.

The Chairperson put Councillor Malone's proposal to a recorded vote, (copy of which is appended to these minutes), the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	19
AGAINST:	17
ABSTENTIONS	0

The proposal was CARRIED.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Malone, seconded by Councillor Brown to invite the Trade Unions to address the Special Meeting of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee.**

At the request of Councillor McKeivitt it was agreed a copy of the Discretionary Policy 2015 be circulated to Members.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/004/2021 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 December 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 December 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess subject to the following amendment:**
Page 5, C/171/2020: Extract of Draft Planning Minutes of 18 November 2020, Update one Local Development Plan
 'Councillor McAteer wished for it to be put on record his strong objection to the revised timetable. He advised the new proposed date for the publication of the Local Development Plan was the second quarter of 2026/27 and that it was hoped it would be delivered ahead of this date'.

C/005/2021 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2020 WITH DFI

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30 November 2020 with Dfi. (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 30 November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/006/2021 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

Read: Correspondence dated 22 December 2020 from Newry Bid re: Business Proposal for Newry Business Improvement District. – Revote Strategy. (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence.

C/007/2021 MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

C/008/2021 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

SPR/199/2020 – PHA Report

Councillor Savage voiced concern at how the provision of a walk-in Covid Testing site at the Albert Basin, Newry had been operating over the last number of weeks. He advised that some of his constituents were deeply concerned relatives of people who had to use the walk-in facility and the challenges the location posed, particularly for the frail and elderly.

Councillor Savage also highlighted the need for a drive-in testing facility within the Newry area as Craigavon was the nearest site with a drive of 1 ½ hours or more for some people and with the amount of cases spreading at a rapid rate, the amount testing required would also be rising.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McAteer, to contact the Public Health Agency as a matter of urgency outlining the concerns regarding accessibility issues at the walk-in testing facility at Albert Basin site and request that it revert back to a drive-in test centre or provide an alternative facility for the frail and elderly as soon as possible.

C/009/2021 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 December 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 December 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

C/010/2021 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 07 December 2020. (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

PLANNING

C/011/2020 **EXTRACT OF DRAFT PLANNING MINUTES 16 DECEMBER 2020**

Noted: There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2020.

FOR NOTING

C/012/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 2020

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 12 November 2020.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 12 November 2020 were noted.**

C/013/2021 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2020

Read: Bulletin dated December 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted.**

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

C/014/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND PLANNING CONFERENCE 2021

Read: Correspondence re: Northern Ireland Planning Conference to be held on Thursday 11th February 2021 online – fee £145 plus VAT. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed by all that Councillors Murphy and McAteer attend the above conference. Any other Councillor wishing to attend should contact Democratic Services Department.**

It was also agreed that the Chief Planning Officer or Principal Planning Officer attend if available.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Devlin advised a further Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor Walker before Christmas and on time. However she advised, for expediency the Motion was referred to the Good Relations Committee Meeting to be held on Friday 8 January 2021.

C/015/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – NORTHERN MUTUAL BANK

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown:

‘That this Council recognises the need for greater resilience and community wealth building in the council region in light of the coronavirus pandemic and future crises that will inevitably arise due to global warming; and looks to solutions beyond business-as-usual which can help build this necessary resilience and community wealth. In seeking such solutions, this council agrees to assess the financial and practical viability of the Northern Mutual bank—a bank that will be regional, ethical, complementary to our Credit Unions, and not driven by profit but by the needs of the

- 7

Councillor Taylor said he was conscious that there was a budget that had to be worked within and asked if Councillor Hanna would consider a further amendment to the Motion to write to the Executive collectively rather than specifically the Minister because it would ultimately be a decision for the Executive to find the necessary finance to ensure this payment could be made.

Councillor Hanna confirmed he was willing to accept this further amendment from Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Mulgrew stated Sinn Féin were happy to support the Motion and the amendments. She said frontline health service staff had endured many years of pay freezes and then very low percentage pay rises and what they needed was proper and appropriate payment for the job they did. She also paid tribute to the community shops that stayed open without any PPE in the beginning and also to workers in care homes and the community sector; postmen; binmen and community associations. Councillor Mulgrew said she would like to think that when the pandemic was over the Council should come back and review this as a collective, to acknowledge the work of all front-line staff.

Councillors McMurray, McKeivitt and Reilly spoke of his support for the Motion emphasising that the pandemic was a long way from being contained and being over and also the importance and contribution made by Student Nurses and those who provided health care in the private sector.

The Motion and amendments were unanimously agreed.

Agreed: It was agreed that this Council recognises the importance of our National Health Service and the heroic contribution of our health and social care workers, and care home workers, throughout the pandemic; express our thanks for their commitment to the care for community and will write to the Executive asking them to administer a “thank you” payment of at least £500 as a practical demonstration of our gratitude.

The Council also calls for nursing registration and social care fees for 2021 to be waived in line with the sentiments expressed in this Motion and for this Council to write to and circulate this Motion to the other 10 Local Authorities seeking their support and writing also to the Executive calling for fee waivers to be implemented for this year”.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 February 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 January 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor A McMurray

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor D Curran
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly

Non Members: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor C Enright
Councillor D Murphy

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer
Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Regulation
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer
Ms T McLaughlin PA to Director ERT

ERT/001/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

Councillor McMurray thanked officers for sending a letter to St Malachy's Primary School, Castlewellan.

ERT/002/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/003/2021: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/206/2020 – Update re: Irish Street Car Park

Noted: Following a request for an update from Cllr Curran, Mr Mallon advised it had not been possible to secure a meeting prior to Christmas with representatives from the Department regarding the Irish Street Car Park Regeneration, however a meeting had now been arranged for Thursday 14 January 2021 to discuss the proposed development brief, including a timeline, and a date for the next meeting, which it is hoped would be held by the end of January 2021 or early February 2021.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 December 2020.

NOTICES OF MOTION

ERT/004/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION RE: HOUSING SYSTEM

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor D Murphy and Councillor V Harte:

“This Council welcomes the recent announcement by Communities Minister, Caral Ni Chuilin regarding her plans to fundamentally address the significant challenges facing our housing system. We call on the Planning Service to urgently place more emphasis on planning as an activity that is both integrated with other local government agencies and is focused on delivery.”

Councillor Murphy formally proposed the Motion.

He referred to the housing crisis and that he supported the announcement by the Minister for Communities, Caral Ni Chuilin to address the challenges facing the housing system.

He referred to the widening gap between what was needed and what was available in terms of housing provision and gave a breakdown of waiting list figures for the Newry area which was in severe housing stress.

Councillor Murphy said a radical plan was needed to provide high quality affordable housing to ensure people remained longer in areas sustaining and investing in communities. He said adequate housing was a basic human right and in light of the recent ministerial announcement he stressed the importance of all relevant public sectors working together to help tackle the housing crisis.

Councillor Harte formally seconded the Motion. She stated that adequate housing was universally viewed as a basic human right and that in light of the Minister’s announcement she stressed the need for all sectors to work together to help tackle the housing crisis.

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer regarding a Notice of Motion on the Housing System.
 (Copy circulated)

Mr McKay presented his report. He said the Planning Department supported the essence of the Motion and whilst the Minister’s announcement was ambitious and wide ranging in it’s scope, the Planning Department would endeavour to help deliver on housing provision across the District. He referred to ongoing interagency work with Planning Department to progress applications to assist in the delivery of social housing. He spoke of the scope of the Area Development Plan and said work was also required on the Council’s Community Plan and he hoped the Minister would bring forward a reform to create mechanisms that will allow the Planning

Department to assist in the future delivery of housing.

Discussion followed during which Members indicated cross party support for the Motion and the following points were raised:

- Reference was made to the successful Social Housing Needs Symposium which was held in Newry in 2018 and Members called for this event to be held again.
- Concerns were expressed at the rising figures for people in housing stress in Newcastle and Warrenpoint but in particular the Newry area.
- The development of the new Area Plan needs to be addressed.
- Impact housing stress has on families due to being separated and effects on development of children.
- The need for an asset review to be carried out across all statutory/social agencies to identify land and for all sectors to work collectively to tackle the housing crisis.
- Greater input needed from the Stormont Executive to ensure delivery of the plan announced by the Minister.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion formally proposed by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Harte regarding the Housing System.

AGREED: Mr Mallon Director ERT to contact Councillor Savage regarding a potential Social Housing Needs Symposium in 2021.

ERT/005/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: NZEB CODE
(NEARLY ZERO ENERGY BUILDING)

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor C Enright and Councillor P Brown:

"This Council calls upon Finance Minister Conor Murphy to immediately implement the NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building Code) that the EU Directive requires the NI Department of Finance to implement by the end of this year. This Directive has been adopted into UK law 13 Council alerts the Minister to the following facts;

1. NI building code is 20 years behind GB. Every private sector house built between now and 2030 will have to be retrofitted to meet the UK's energy efficiency targets at 2030.
2. Every new house built in RoI is now more than £1000pa cheaper to run than an equivalent house in NI because of out of date building standards. All new homes in RoI thus have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or better.
3. RoI in November 2019 signed into law the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) regulation under part L of the Building Code for all domestic homes – not just public buildings as in GB. New Public Buildings in RoI have already been NZEB since 31st December 2018."

Councillor Enright formally seconded and presented the Motion. He said the Motion focused on ending fuel poverty, preventing millions of pounds flowing out of the Northern Irish economy annually in fossil fuel payments and to fight climate change in a way that will help keep money in the pockets of families across Northern Ireland. He explained 4/5 of properties across Great Britain will fail the carbon targets set for 2030-50 and as result all properties will have to be part of a retro fit programme on a massive scale of expenditure. The equivalent figure in the Republic of Ireland is 2/3.

He said as Northern Ireland failed to adopt and implement the last 3 versions of Building Code - uneconomic and out of date properties were still being built and we are approximately 15 – 20 years behind Great Britain and Republic of Ireland, which will result in every new build having to undergo retro fit to meet UK wide climate change targets.

Councillor Enright said the NZEB Code is now law in the UK as a whole, but that the regulations to have the law implemented have not been issued by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland – the Department have only adopted the latest NZEB code in order to catch up with neighbouring jurisdictions.

He said failure to implement the NZEB Code was leaving families in new homes in Northern Ireland less well off than a family living in a new build home in the Republic of Ireland.

Councillor Enright asked that the Motion be copied to the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland.

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation Chief regarding a Notice of Motion on the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Code (NZEB).
(Copy circulated)

Discussion followed during which Members indicated their support for the Motion. Issues were raised with regard to measures to ensure energy efficiency; the likely timescale for Northern Ireland to upgrade regulations and the implementation of a Green Deal.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion regarding the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Code (NZEBC) which was formally proposed by Councillor P Brown, and seconded by Councillor Enright, with an amendment included that the Motion be copied to the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/006/2021: **CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed as follows:

1. Council now approve the Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway 'Site Investigation Study' and issue the relevant Purchase Order, following tender assessment and award.
2. Council asked to include funding towards the Carlingford Lough Greenway project within the Capital Programme for 2021/22.

ERT/007/2021: **ERDF RECOVERY PROGRAMME**
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the 11 Council collaborative bid to ERDF Recovery Programme – Digital Transformation. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by

Councillor Savage it was agreed the Council work in partnership with 11 Councils to develop and submit bid to Invest NI by 31 January for a regional business support programme looking at digital transformation/ innovation for SMEs. As the application progresses further detail to be provided on likely number of participant companies for each Council area. Cost to Council is £25,000 over 2 financial years.

Noted: Councillor Mulgrew asked for it to be recorded that she welcomed any assistance to support businesses at this time but added that until the necessary infrastructure is put in place to provide digital support, many businesses will fall behind and this was utterly unacceptable as digital access was a basic need in today's society.

ERT/008/2021: FORKHILL FORMER BARRACK SITE

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the Forkhill Former Barrack site. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed as follows:

1. Council to note the Report of the meeting on the 17/11/2020 and acknowledge the work of the sub-group set-up to agree the community consultation questionnaire on the future of the Former Forkhill Barracks site. Subject to full partnership group sign off in January 2021, support the Public Consultation process in early 2021.
2. Council agree to the putting in place/extension of the License Agreement between it and the Department for Communities for those pathway and play elements of the Forkhill Greenspace Site that it is currently responsible for.
3. Council agree to the finalisation/extension of the License Agreement between it and Forkhill Parish to enable the Church Car Park Access point to the site to be maintained.

ERT/009/2021: SRC BIG APPRENTICESHIP EVENTS

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Southern Regional College Big Apprenticeship Event.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed the Council issue a Service Level Agreement to Southern Regional College for sponsorship towards the delivery of their Big Apprenticeship Event in April 2021.

Mr C Mallon Director ERT to report back to Councillor H Reilly regarding access to the apprenticeship levy.

ERT/010/2021: WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE PR SCHEME

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Frontshore PR Scheme.**(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed as follows:

1. Members area asked to accept the broad Concept Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with suggested adjustments and proceed to a Consultation Process in early 2021.
2. Officers report on feedback from the consultation process to the Task and Finish Group, before proceeding to finalise the design for submission to planning.
3. Officers complete and submit the Economic Appraisal to Council and the Department For Communities for consideration of the funding package for the scheme.
4. Members approve the Business Case to carry out a Site Investigation Survey and other smaller surveys costs as required to prepare for the planning submission.
5. Once completed officers will present the DFI One Way system proposal for Warrenpoint at a future meeting of Crotlieve Cllrs in early 2021.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/011/2021: FRAMEWORK: ACCOMMODATION/CATERING/VENUE HIRE

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a business case for a 3 year Accommodation / Catering / Venue Hire framework. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to accept a business case for a Framework appointment for a three-year accommodation/venue hire/ catering procurement for the entire Council valued at circa £165,000 per annum.

ERT/012/2021: DAERA: RURAL TOURISM COLLABORATIVE EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the appointment of a Facilitator for the DAERA Rural Tourism Collaborative Experience Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to issue a tender for a Facilitator at a cost of £37,500 which includes market research.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following 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).

ERT/013/2021: ANNALONG NORTH PIER WALL RESTORATION

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Arts, regarding Annalong Harbour North Pier Wall restoration. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/014/2021: CLOSING ORDER APPEAL
RE: BAY OF BENGAL**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation regarding an Appeal to the Closing Order for the Bay of Bengal premises.
(Copy circulated)

(7.40pm – Councillor Mulgrew left the meeting)

ERT/015/2021: CAR PARKS – FUTURE SERVICE PROVISION

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding the appointment of a consultant to assist the ROSPG regarding the future service delivery of Off-Street Parking Enforcement.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following decisions:

ERT/013/2021: Annalong North Pier Wall Restoration

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed:

1. Council approve the Business Case for the Annalong Harbour North Pier Project and issue the relevant Purchase Orders to Contractor and Consultant.
2. Council include the necessary funding towards the Annalong North Pier project within the Capital Programme for 2021/22, and seek funding through FLAG (Fisheries Local Action Group)

ERT/014/2021: Closing Order appeal – Bay of Bengal

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to amend our Closing Order to permit the premises to open to 1am from Friday to Sunday and close the premises at 12 midnight on weekdays and, that the owner provides a self-closing device on the external door.

ERT/015/2021: Car Parks – Future Service Provision

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed:

1. Council officially inform the Department for Infrastructure of the Council's intention to test the market and seek options outside of the current Agency Agreement for the service delivery of the Off-Street Parking enforcement contract post October 2022.

FOR NOTING

ERT/016/2021: DOG EUTHANASIA

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation regarding Dog Euthanasia. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the update provided regarding Dog Euthanasia in Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation.

ERT/017/2021: UPDATE RE: PROJECT STRATUM

Read: Report dated 14 December 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration providing an update on Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the update provided regarding Project Stratum, in particular:

- Details of the deployment plan available on Hyperfast NI portal <https://hyperfastni.com>
- Postcode checker will be added to the portal over the

- coming weeks and actively promoted when available.
- DfE and Fibrus will engage with Local Councils regularly throughout the deployment.
- Local Council Engagement is essential to keep stakeholders informed and to encourage citizens to take up enhanced services.

AGREED: Officials to invite representatives from Fibrus to attend a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee to give a presentation to Members on work they are carrying out in the District.

ERT/018/2021: RURAL VILLAGES – CONSULTATION

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a consultation completed in 5 rural area on future public realm/environmental improvement works that may be eligible for inclusion on the Department for Communities capital forward work plan. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the consultation reports, completed in 5 rural areas regarding future public realm/environmental improvement works that may be eligible for inclusion on the Department for Communities capital forward work plan.

ERT/019/2021: BREXIT FORUM MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2020 (ACTION SHEET)

Read: Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on 15 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on 15 December 2020.

ERT/020/2021: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKETS

Read: Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Artisan Markets. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note Report dated 11 January 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Artisan Markets

ERT/021/2021: **ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

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

AGREED: To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/022/2021: **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES – DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for December 2020.

The Chairperson wished everyone a happy new year.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.50pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 01 February 2021.

Signed: Councillor A McMurray

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2021
via Microsoft Teams.**

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor M Gibbons

Non Members: Councillor D Curran
Councillor A Finnegan

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward, Chief Executive
Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett Director Active & Healthy Communities
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance)
Ms K Bingham, Head of Performance and Improvement
Ms A Robb Assistant Director Administration
Mr G McBride Head of Administration & Customer Services
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan, ASM
Mr B O'Neill, NIAO
Ms D McKim NIAO

AC/001/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor K Owen
Councillor C Enright

AC/002/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest received.

**AC/003/2021: ACTION SHEETS ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 24 SEPTEMBER 2020
SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 24 NOV 2020
SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 07 DEC 2020**

Read: Action Sheets arising from Minutes of the following: Audit Committee Meetings:-

- Audit Committee Meeting - Thursday 24 September 2020.
- Special Audit Committee Meeting – Tuesday 24 November 2020
- Special Audit Committee Meeting – Monday 07 December 2020.

(Copies circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Action Sheets arising from:

- Audit Committee Meeting - Thursday 24 September 2020.
- Special Audit Committee Meeting – Tuesday 24 November 2020.
- Special Audit Committee Meeting – Monday 07 December 2020.

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)

AC/004/2021: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville said the Corporate Risk Register had been presented to the Senior Management Team Meeting on 09 December 2020 together with quarterly assurance statements

Ms D Carville, presented the Corporate Risk Register highlighting the following points:

- All corporate risks have been reviewed, updated and aligned to the Council's new strategic objectives. A corporate risk in relation to the impact of Brexit has also been included in the Corporate Risk Register, outlined at CR15.

- Directorate Risk Registers are currently being reviewed and updated.
- Corporate Risk 10 regarding Industrial Relations was reviewed at the Senior Management Team Meeting on 09 December 2020, and will be updated to take account of more recent developments.
- A Corporate Risk regarding IT will remain on the Corporate Risk Register focusing on Cyber Security, while a Corporate Risk regarding IT in terms of operational and statutory requirements, may be retained as a risk at Directorate Level.

AGREED: It was agreed as follows:

- a) To note the Corporate Risk Register.
- b) The Planning Consultant report to be brought back to a meeting of the Audit Committee in due course.
- c) ASM to include an update report on Health and Safety, as part of their reporting on follow up work, to the Audit Committee Meeting in April 2021.
- d) Information regarding progress on outstanding Planning Applications and historic Planning Applications, to be provided to Councillor Casey.
- e) The current corporate risk regarding IT to be refocused on the Corporate Risk Register towards cyber security risk.

AC/005/2021: **PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS**

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms K Bingham Head of Performance & Improvement, regarding Prompt Payment Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Bingham presented the above Report.

AGREED: It was agreed to note Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms K Bingham Head of Performance & Improvement, regarding Prompt Payment Statistics.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this

matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during these items of business.

AC/006/2021: UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms K Bingham Head of Performance & Improvement, regarding an update on Internal Audit Recommendations made since formation of Newry Mourne & Down District Council and a review of progress on NIAO recommendations.
(Copy circulated)

AC/007/2021: UPDATE
RE: FRAUD AND WHISTLEBLOWING

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services regarding Fraud and Whistleblowing. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/008/2021: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms K Bingham Head of Performance & Improvement regarding Direct Award Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/009/2021: UPDATE
ASM INVESTIGATION – SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services providing an update on the ASM Internal Audit Investigation regarding Council's use of Single Tender Actions. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: Report from ASM dated 01 December 2020 regarding the Investigation into the Council's use of Single Tender Actions. **(Circulated – Committee Members only)**

**AC/010/2021: REGISTER OF INTERESTS
(ELECTED MEMBERS)**

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville
Director Corporate Services regarding Elected Members'
Register of Interests. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/011/2021: OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Mr G McBride Head
of Administration & Customer Services regarding an
overview of complaints received by Council.
(Copy circulated)

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/012/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT - SUMMARY REPORT

Read: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 12 January
2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/013/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 07 January
2021 regarding a Review of Accounts Payable.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/014/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
CAPITAL GRANTS MANAGEMENT**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 05 January
2021 regarding Capital Grants Management.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/015/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 05 January
2021 regarding Emergency Planning.
(Copy circulated)

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)**AC/016/2021: NIAO
REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

Read: Correspondence dated 04 January 2021 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office regarding Newry Mourne and Down District Council Financial Statements for year ended 31 March 2020 – Report to Those Charged with Governance. **(Copy circulated)**

On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

When the Committee came out of Closed Session the Chairperson reported the following decisions had been taken on the items discussed:

AC/006/2020: Update re: Audit Recommendations

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms K Bingham Head of Performance & Improvement, regarding an update on Audit Recommendations.

AC/007/2021: Fraud & Whistleblowing

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services regarding an update on Fraud & Whistleblowing.

AC/008/2021: Direct Award Contracts

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms K Bingham Head of Performance & Improvement regarding Direct Award Contracts.

AC/009/2021: Update re: ASM Investigation re Single Tender Actions

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the update in relation to the ASM investigation into the Council's use of Single Tender Actions, as outlined in Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services.

AC/010/2021: Register of Interests – Elected Members

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note:

The outstanding Register of Interest form has now been completed and uploaded to the Council website.

Elected Members will regularly review their Register of Interest Forms.

On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gibbons it was agreed a six-monthly Report on Elected Members Register of Interests will be brought to the Audit Committee to ensure compliance.

AC/011/2021: Overview of Complaints

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the number and profile of complaints received over the reporting period and note the progress made and in hand, to improve complaints handling, as outlined in Report dated 12 January 2021 from Mr G McBride Head of Administration & Customer Services.

AC/012/2021: ASM Internal Audit – Summary Report

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 12 January 2021.

Noted: Councillor Devlin asked it be recorded that staff should be commended on how they responded during the period of the pandemic ensuring lines of communication were open and proper processes were followed which resulted in no impact on our services.

AC/013/2021: ASM Internal Audit Report – Accounts Payable

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 07 January 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on a Review of Accounts Payable.

AC/014/201: ASM Internal Audit Report – Capital Grants

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 05 January 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on Capital Grants.

AC/015/2021: ASM Internal Audit Report – Emergency Planning

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 05 January 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on Emergency Planning.

AC/016/2021: NIAO: Report to Those Charged with Governance

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note covering letter dated 04 January 2021 to the Chief Executive , from the Northern Ireland Audit Office and note final report regarding Newry Mourne and Down District Council Financial Statements for year ended 31 March 2020 – Report to Those Charged with Governance.

NIAO (OPEN SESSION)

**AC/017/2021: NIAO
MANAGING ATTENDANCE IN CENTRAL
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Read: NIAO Managing Attendance in Central and Local Government.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to note NIAO Managing Attendance in Central and Local Government.

**AC/018/2021: NIAO
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR'S REPORT 2020**

Read: NIAO Local Government Auditor's Report – 2020.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to note NIAO Local Government Auditor's report.

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)

AC/019/2021: UPDATE RE: PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Read: Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding an updated on performance and improvement. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to note the update in relation to current and future performance management arrangements as outlined in Report dated 12 January 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services.

CIRCULARS

**AC/020/2020: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
GUIDANCE RE: DISPOSAL OF LAND**

Read: Correspondence dated 04 January 2021 from Department
for Communities regarding Guidance for Councils:
Disposal of Land at Less Than Best Price.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **It was agreed to note correspondence from
Department for Communities regarding Guidance for
Councils on the Disposal of Land at Less Than Best
Price.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.40pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 01 February 2021.

Signed: **Ms D Carville**
Director Corporate Services

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
Independent Chairperson

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 14 January 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre
(Hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor Enright	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor H McKee
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Savage
Councillor W Walker	

Also in attendance:

Councillor D Curran	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor J Trainor

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding
 Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
 Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing (Administration)
 Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
 Mrs J McMurray, Legal Advisor
 Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/01/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Doran.

SPR/02/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/03/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/169/2020 – PHA Report

Councillor Savage expressed his disappointment regarding the verbal response that was received by the Public Health Agency particularly given the rates of Covid-19 in the BT34 and BT35 postcode areas. Although there was a current walkthrough facility and they have indicated that there was drop off facility within the site, this had been very poorly communicated and was not suitable for those with reduced mobility, the elderly and the medically vulnerable.

Councillor Savage proposed that Council write as a matter of urgency to the Health Minister asking him to intervene and contact the Public Health Authority to facilitate both a drive-in and walkthrough facility in Newry. Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal and stated that Sinn Féin would be urging their MLA's to speak to the Minister and encouraged other parties to do the same to provide a dual facility in Newry.

Members spoke in support of Councillor Savage's proposal.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 17 December 2020, be approved and that Council write to the Health Minister Mr Swann and contact the Public Health Authority as a matter of urgency to request both a drive-in and walkthrough facility in Newry.**

Mrs Ward and Mrs Miskelly left the meeting at 18.13pm.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/04/2020: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - RACISM

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, report on Notice of Motion - Racism **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hanlon spoke on behalf of Councillor Clarke who was unable to attend the meeting, welcoming the report stating that it had been noted within the PCSP statistics that this type of racism was on the increase in the area and with the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign it was important to give this area attention and education through young people in schools was the best way forward.

Councillor Byrne and Councillor Ó Muirí supported the paper highlighting the good work that was ongoing through the Good Relations Forum, the Travellers Forum and through the work of the DEA's. Those type of events should be promoted more and included in the corporate booklet sent out to the district and residents advised where to find support.

In a response to a query raised by Councillor Enright, Mrs Mackin confirmed that any programme developed would be aimed at addressing all forms of racism.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Enright, that Council agree to continue to recognise the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, note the planned schools' initiative and reaffirm its commitment to address racism in all its forms**

through its programmes and initiatives. It was also agreed that the corporate booklet include examples of good practice across the District as well as advising on support services.

SPR/05/2021: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – NORTHERN IRELAND 100 YEARS

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, report on Notice of Motion – Northern Ireland 100 Years **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Murphy, Byrne and Brown welcomed the report stating it was a positive step forward and provided an equal opportunity for everybody, open to all sections of the community and showed the positive work of the Good Relations Forum.

Councillor Enright queried whether an anniversary fund would be available for other significant events and commemorations.

Councillor Walker thanked members for their support stating the fund was to be used to mark the centenary and was open to all sections of the community.

Councillor Lewis welcomed the fund stating he hoped the fund would be used in a respectful manner and an educational way to celebrate those type of events.

Mrs Mackin advised members that due to timing constraints the funding programme would not be included until the second financial call in February and not call one as detailed in the report.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that Council approve to provide financial support to mark the 100th anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland and agree to establish a Centenaries Funding Programme of £40,000 to be included in the second financial call for 2021/2022.

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

SPR/06/2021: MINUTES OF NEWRY CCR PB MEETING – 07.01.2021

Read: Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 07.01.2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Savage welcomed the appointment of the Consultants and Design Team on the Albert Basin Park and asked for clarity on how the budget would be drawn down in coming months and whether the budget would be a rolling one to deliver phase one and beyond.

Councillor Enright asked whether the overall project would have revenue impact in the coming year and would it impact upon the rates process?

Councillor Brown asked what the consultation facilitator would be used for i.e. procurement for Newry City Centre or Albert Basin project and would Strategy Policy and Resources Committee get full sign off before it would go to public consultation?

Councillor Brown proposed that the budget of £150,000 be increased to £1.5 million for the park project to deliver the first phase of the park within this Council term and possibly more if other external funding could be brought in. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Mrs Carville advised a capital budget was agreed at any stage of the financial year once a business case had been adequately drawn up, considered by committee and approved, therefore there was no cut off point. If something was not in the budget at the start of the financial year this did not hold up the project, as capital projects were considered throughout the year.

Mrs Carville cautioned Councillors against voting a sum of money in advance of the presentation of a business case. She stated the £150,000 outlined was for the next stage of the park project which was largely consultancy spend to help develop the business case and once developed the full financial requirement for the park would proceed go through the relevant processes and be considered by the Project Board and Strategy Policy and Resources Committee.

In response to Councillor Enright's query, Mrs Carville confirmed in relation to the Newry City Centre Regeneration project, the costs would not impact the rate until the project is completed.

Mr Mallon confirmed that the consultation facilitator was for the Newry City Centre Regeneration programmes which included all projects that made up the outline business case submitted to the Belfast Region City Deal. It was hoped that the process would begin within the next two weeks with stakeholder engagement workshops to try and develop the questionnaire that would be published online for the public. The questionnaire would be presented to the Programme Board in draft format, any recommendations would be taken on board and the survey would be amended, then taken back through the Programme Board and ratified through Strategy Policy and Resources Committee and through normal Council structures.

Councillor Byrne and Councillor Walker commended officers for ensuring the meeting of the Albert Basin Project Board was organised expediently in order to be able to provide an update in advance of the Programme Board meeting. Councillor Byrne highlighted that Council had the opportunity to apply for additional funding through the Innovation Hub and other sources that would work in tandem with strands of the NCCR Programme.

The Chairperson confirmed that Council policy was to present a business case to secure the financial amount required to complete the project and the recommendation of the paper circulated was to progress the project to business case stage.

In response to a question by Councillor Enright as to why officers were referring to procurement when this project was not yet at tender stage, Mr Mallon advised members that procurement was an end to end to process and did not just cover the tendering process. He stated it began at the inception of the project and continues through the life cycle until disposal of the item or product procured, hence why the term was used. Mrs Carville reiterated when referencing procurement, she was signposting Councillors to where the policy with regard business cases was located, which was within the procurement policy.

The Chairperson asked Councillor Brown if he still wished to proceed with his proposal given the advices provided to him by the Director. Councillor Brown confirmed he still wished to proceed and requested a recorded vote.

Members asked for clarity on the proposal.

Councillor Brown clarified the proposal was to increase the current budget set aside in the Capital Programme for the Albert Basin Park from £150,000 to £1.5 million and all other recommendations as contained within the officer's report.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy appended to these minutes):

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 12
ABSTAIN: 0

The proposal was **LOST**.

Councillor Savage proposed that Members proceed with the officer's recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Walker.

Councillor Brown indicated he was not in agreement and the Chairperson put the matter to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 12
AGAINST: 1
ABSTAIN: 1

The proposal was **CARRIED**.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council proceed with the recommendations detailed in the minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 07.01.2021

Councillor Brown left the meeting at 19.19pm

FOR NOTING

SPR/07/2021: **STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October - December 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SPR/08/2021: **LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULAR 21/2020**

Read: Copy of Local Government Circular 21/2020 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the circular.

SPR/09/2021: **DFC LAND CASES- GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILS JANUARY 2021**

Read: Copy of Dfc Land Cases – Guidance for Councils January 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Enright left the meeting at 19.20pm

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 Gallagher, 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 para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/10/2021: CANN PROJECT P/T OFFICER POST

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing, regarding CANN Project P/T Officer Post. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Council recruit an additional part-time officer specifically for stakeholder engagement at the Magheraveely Special Area of Conservation.

SPR/11/2021: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Chief Executive and Corporate Services Procurement Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, that members agree:

- The Chief Executive and Corporate Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan
- To approve the STA's outlined in the Appendix in excess of £30,000.

SPR/12/2021: LANDS AT DAISY HILL, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs J McMurray, Legal Advisor, regarding Lands at Daisy Hill, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to approve a transfer of the lands shaded red on the map attached hereto to the Contractor at the market value of two thousand five hundred pounds (£2500.00) with the Contractor being responsible also for any legal and valuation costs.

SPR/13/2021: LETTER OF COMFORT TO SUFFOLK COASTAL

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing, regarding letter of Comfort to Suffolk Coastal.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, to grant retrospective approval for the Chief Executive to sign the attached letter of Comfort to Suffolk Coastal.

SPR/14/2021: SIB PROJECT DIRECTOR - NCCR

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding SIB Project Director - NCCR
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, to approve that council avail of the option to extend the Project Directors contract by a further year.

SPR/15/2021: PARKING CONTROL MEASURES INCEPTION PROCESS

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Parking control measures inception process.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve:
- The proposed Parking Control Measures Inception Process, both from the traffic management and potential increased revenue aspects and provide authorisation to commence the inception process, with the expectation of delivery by 1st November 2022 for the 8 car parks identified within Appendix A of the officer's report.
 - To appoint a Consultant to undertake the consultation process.

FOR NOTING

SPR/16/2021: **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21**

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Treasury Management MID-Year Report.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.42pm.

Signed: **Councillor Gareth Sharvin**
Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 14/01/2021 VENUE: Teams Meeting MEETING: SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Proposal from Cllr Brown regarding Albert Basin Park increased funding. Seconded by Councillor Enright

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown	1			
P Byrne		1		
S Doran				1
C Enright	2			
H Gallagher		2		
O Hanlon		3		
R Howell		4		
A Lewis		5		
H McKee		6		
O Magennis		7		
D Murphy		8		
B Ó Muíri		9		
M Savage		10		
G Sharvin		11		
W Walker		12		
TOTALS	2	12		

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2020

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 18 January 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor G O'Hare

In attendance: **(Councillors)**
 Councillor T Andrews
 Councillor A Finnegan
 Councillor M Gibbons
 Councillor C Mason
 Councillor McMurray
 Councillor D Taylor
 Councillor W Walker
 Councillor C Casey
 Councillor H Gallagher
 Councillor G Malone
 Councillor K McKeivitt
 Councillor B Ó Muirí
 Councillor J Trainor

Also in attendance: Councillor W Clarke
 Councillor D Curran
 Councillor O Hanlon
 Councillor A Lewis
 Councillor G Sharvin

Officials in attendance: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
 Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
 Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/001/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor McEvoy.

In the absence of the Chairperson Councillor McEvoy, Vice Chairperson Councillor O'Hare assumed the Chair.

AHC/002/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/003/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding a site for the Willie Maley Statue in Newry Mr Lipsett confirmed he would follow up with him on the matter.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 December 2020.**

AHC/004/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION: FINANCIAL CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS IN NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a Notice of Motion on Financial Call for Assistance for Community Groups in Newry, Mourne & Down. **(Copy circulated)**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Lewis:

"We note that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council aims to embed the ethos of sustainability throughout its operations. Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of people today and providing them with a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. With that in mind this Council commits to producing a report on how we could be making funding available which could be utilised by community groups for the benefit of creating community gardens, encouraging the planting of apple, peach and pear trees, along with other edible fruit and veg plants. Making use of vacant lands which are within our ownership. We also commit to helping community groups engage with other public agencies to identify land which could be used for any such project."

Councillor Lewis presented the motion and stated there was a lot of interest for community groups to create community gardens and sustainable growth within their areas and for the utilisation of vacant lands. Councillor Lewis commented that it would be a great tool for educating young people, ensuring community collaboration and showing Councils commitment to sustainability in a positive way.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Taylor suggested an amendment to include that Council allocate a £10,000 Financial Assistance Scheme to allow a spread of applications from community groups across the Newry, Mourne and Down District, subject to approval in the rates process.

Councillor Lewis agreed with Councillor Taylor's proposed amendment.

Councillor McMurray seconded the amended motion.

In response to Councillor Mason, Mr Devlin, clarified that whilst there may be some small element of overlap with other funding streams such as the Love Here Live Here initiative and

the Biodiversity Action Plan there would not be duplication. He added that there would be specific criteria for the scheme.

Councillors Mason, Gallagher and McMurray spoke in support of the motion.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to approve the motion along with the allocation of a £10,000 Financial Assistance Scheme to allow a spread of applications from community groups across the Newry, Mourne and Down District, subject to approval in the rates process.

AHC/005/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION: DUNLEATH PARK, DOWNPATRICK

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding a Notice of Motion on Dunleath Park. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Trainor proposed to proceed as per the Motion with the establishment of a Working Group for Council Officers and Downpatrick Councillors as a whole to progress the issue and explore the viability of what could be developed on the site at Dunleath Park, Downpatrick. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which these Members questioned why a Working Group was not being set up to move forward with Dunleath Park, similar to those Working Groups set up for projects such as the Albert Basin.

Councillor Walker pointed out a full bona fide Working Group was necessary to represent the whole District. Councillor Trainor agreed to amend his proposal to allow representation to reflect the full political spectrum of the District.

Mr Lipsett stated that he had understood the Motion to be a working group with Downpatrick DEA Councillors and Council officers and if it was to be broader than that with representation to include Councillors from across the District then it would be a matter for the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee.

Councillor Sharvin enquired if it was possible to establish a working group of DEA Councillors and then once established seek unionist representation onto that to ensure representation from both nationalist and unionist community.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that an update on Dunleath Park be brought to a meeting of the Downpatrick DEA Councillors as soon as possible and any recommendations from that would come to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/006/2021 RENEWAL OF WAYLEAVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNCIL AND CLANRYE GROUP

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant

Director, Community Engagement, regarding the renewal of Wayleave Agreement between Council and Clanrye Group. **(Copy circulated)**

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to note the report provided and approve the following:
- Annual Wayleave and consent agreement between Council and the Clanrye Group to be renewed.
 - Officers to explore the opportunities to extend approval for a 3 year period once this Agreement requires renewal.

AHC/007/2021 CAPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Capital Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

Members discussed the officer's recommendation at length and welcomed the provision of an additional 2 weeks for the Capital Financial Assistance Call 2021-22.

Clarification was sought on a number of issues in relation to the extension of allowances for capital projects and deed of charge costs.

Councillor McKevitt enquired about the number and type of groups that it may affect and how much money was involved and Mrs Hillen, confirmed she could provide this information at a later time.

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the report provided and approve the following:
- ***Capital Call 2021-2022***
Capital themes to be open for 8 weeks and the revenue themes for 6 weeks. Capital theme recommendations going to the May AHC meeting.
- It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews to delay a decision on the following and await presentation of more detailed information on existing capital projects at the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting:
- ***Extension Allowances for Capital Projects 2021-2022 Capital Projects.***
Council to cap the extension period for projects to no more than 6 months post letter of offer end date. Projects which initiate some elements of delivery before this end date will only be considered for further extension.
 - ***Existing Capital Projects.***
Capital project for the period 2019-2020 or earlier, which require an extension beyond 31st March 2021 should only be considered if the project has been initiated. If the project confirms it has not initiated, then the Letter of Offer will be withdrawn.

Funds which are not utilised will be put back into the Capital Grants funds for reallocation and any groups which have de-committed or not been allowed further extension can re-apply with new timeframe.

- *Deed of Charge costs for projects which do not make a finance claim or decommit.*

Approval for this cost to be paid through the most appropriate cost code.

AHC/008/2021

COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Community Co-ordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the report provided and approve the actions attached for the Community Coordination Hub Meeting held on Wednesday 16 December 2020.

AHC/009/2021

DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the report provided and approve the actions in the actions sheets for:

- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020.
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/010/2021

CAAN PROJECT EXTENSION

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the CAAN Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to approve Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to submit an extension request to the funder to allow for CANN project completion.

**AHC/011/2021 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM MEETING
HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Meeting held on 17 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to approve the actions from the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Meeting held on 17 December 2020.

**AHC/012/2021 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO THE
AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a Service Level Agreement in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion Mr Devlin, provided a complete overview of the Affordable Warmth Scheme and the criteria used for the scheme.

In response to a query from Councillor Trainor, Mr Devlin confirmed the drop in referrals were due to the amount of money available to the Housing Executive to the adaptations and that officers were content with the level of 32 referrals from now until end of March 2021.

In response to Councillor Finnegan, Mr Devlin confirmed he would make representation to DfC regarding concerns that means tested benefits such as PIP and attendance allowance were considered under the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement as attached to the report with the Department for Communities in relation to the provision of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

It was further agreed for representation to be made to DfC regarding concerns that means tested benefits such as PIP and attendance allowance were considered under the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

**AHC/013/2021 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY
FOR DELIVERING OF 'LEADING THE WAY' PROGRAMME PILOT
WITH NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN**

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a Service Level Agreement with Public Health Agency for Delivering of 'Leading the Way' Programme Pilot with Newry, Mourne and Down **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Trainor, to approve the signing of a Service Level Agreement with Public Health Agenda NI to run a Pilot Active Travel Programme within the District, based on the 'Leading the Way' programme.

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/014/2021 DISABILITY ACCESS ONTO NEWCASTLE BEACH

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Disability Access onto Newcastle Beach.

Councillor Clarke highlighted the notice of motion had been primarily to deal with access to Newcastle Beach from the promenade, not about toilet facilities. He acknowledged that the matter fell across several departments within Council however the motion was about provision of access for all onto the beach and replicating disabled beach access facilities such as those provided at Cranfield.

Councillors Trainor and McKeivitt also spoke about how the motion had not been about public conveniences but about the lack of access for all onto Newcastle Beach.

Mr Lipsett explained the issue was cross departmental and confirmed that Neighbourhood Services and Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism departments were doing a piece of work in relation to improving access onto the Newcastle Beach. He explained the reason the report presented detailed toilet facilities was due to the work required by the May Murray foundation to give accreditation similar to that at Cranfield.

Mr Lipsett advised a report would be brought back to the next Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting in February 2021.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to officers explore options for accessibility onto Newcastle Beach.

It was agreed to note that the disabled toilet facilities were currently not suitable to accommodate a large changing table and therefore would not be suitable for disabled beach access facilities similar to Cranfield. The Council was currently developing a Public Toilet Strategy which would be brought to the Neighbourhood Services Committee for consideration in the Spring.

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

AHC/015/2021 SPORT NI YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CLUB FUNDING UPDATE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public

and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Sport NI Your School Your Club Funding Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the update provided on Your School Your Club Funding as per the contents of the officer's report and appendix 1.
It was agreed to approve 100% funding and delivery of projects at Kilkeel High School in Kilkeel and St Marys High School in Newry as outlined including:

- Kilkeel High School, Ball Stop
- St Marys High School, Changing Room and Gym Upgrade

AHC/016/2021 SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE – LONG TERM ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR DONARD PARK SPORTS FACILITIES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Shimna Integrated College, long term access agreement for Donard Park Sports Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Mason, to enter into a long-term access agreement with Shimna Integrated College in relation to Sports Facilities at Donard Park and a report brought back to Active & Healthy Communities Committee for approval once the detail of the access arrangement had been agreed with the school.

AHC/017/2021

SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY – SPORTS HUB

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr Paul Tamati Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Sports Facilities Strategy, Sports Hubs. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Casey, to appoint consultants to develop a sports development strategy for the Council and further develop and prioritise the establishment of Sports Hubs across the District including progressing these to detailed design and planning stage as appropriate.

It was also agreed the budget as outlined in the officer's report for the above is added to Councils Capital programme as part of Councils Sports Facilities Strategy list of projects.

AHC/018/2021

**ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE
PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities regarding the Active & Healthy Communities Directorate Procurement Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to approve the Active and Healthy Communities Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan.**

AHC/019/2021

PURCHASE OF DRINKING WATER FOUNTAIN

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.**

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing, regarding the purchase of drinking water fountain. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to approve the use of a Single Tender Action to procure the Drinking Water Fountain from MIW Water Cooler Experts part funded by the Sea Changers Charity for installation at Cranfield Beach.**

AHC/020/2021

SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS FOR FACILITY ALARMS WITHIN COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding single tender actions for facility alarms within community facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to approve the following single tender actions to the value listed within the officer's report to be completed to extend current Facility Alarm contracts (Intruder & Fire) until a Corporate procurement exercise has been completed (Est - April 2021).

1. Atlas
2. CHUBB Fire & Security Group
3. Digital Fire & Security
4. Electronic and Security Services Ltd
5. JBC Security Services

AHC/021/2021 EXTENSION OF LEISURE SOFTWARE SOLUTION, LEGEND

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters 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.

Read: Report dated 18 January 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing, regarding the extension of Leisure Software Solution, Legend. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed by all to note the contents of the officer's report and that an extension of the software solution for Leisure Management, Legend be extended up to 11th January 2029.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.03pm.

Signed: Councillor G O'Hare
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 6.00pm via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

Deputy Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	

Officials in Attendance:

Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
 Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
 Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing
 Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
 Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/001/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Owen and Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management.

NS/002/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/003/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020. ***(Circulated)***.

Action Sheet – NS/271/2020 – Pest Control Service for the Public

In response to a request for an update from Councillor Casey, Mr McBride advised he had spoken to the Director of AHC about the potential for the re-introduction of a pest control service for the public who had confirmed he would raise the issue with the Assistant Director of Health and Well Being.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/004/2021: USE OF FLORAL HANGING BASKETS FOR COUNCIL SUMMER DISPLAY IN 2021

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: proposed summer floral display across the district for 2021. ***(Circulated)***.

Councillor Andrews said he was concerned about the proposal to discontinue the provision of hanging baskets which he believed enhanced the towns and villages throughout the District and he would propose that the current provision remain.

Councillor Curran asked if there was any way that the Council could provide hanging baskets which could then be maintained by community groups.

In response Mr Scullion advised that consideration could be given to entering a service level agreement with interested groups who would be willing to maintain and water hanging baskets during the growing season, with expressions of interest being sought from various Groups, if the Committee agreed this course of action. He said this would be a more environmental sustainable approach for the Council.

In response to a query from Councillor McKee, Mr Ellis confirmed that planters, such as those provided in Kilkeel, would continue to be planted out by Council.

Following discussion Councillor Andrews advised he would withdraw his proposal.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to recommend approval of the roll out of the key themes as outlined in Section 2 of the above report but with the addition that community input be explored with the aim of community groups maintaining hanging baskets if they were provided by Council.**

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/005/2021: REFUSE COLLECTION UPDATE

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr J Parkes providing an update on the recovery of the refuse collection service. ***(Circulated)***.

In presenting the report, Mr McBride outlined the issues which had significantly disrupted the collection of waste from week commencing 28 December 2020. He advised that the recovery plan to deal with the backlog of collections had concluded on Monday, 18 January 2021.

Mr McBride further advised the Waste Management Department had worked extremely hard to continue to provide a service in very difficult circumstances and outlined the various measures that had been put in place to help during the disruption.

Mr McBride added that the Department would also be undertaking a "lessons learned" process to identify any improvements that could be implemented in the future.

Mr McBride confirmed if any Member had individual issues with bin collections, they should raise these with him after the Meeting.

Issues raised by Members

- Thanked all staff for their work during this very challenging period.
- Members condemned incidences of abuse which had been directed at refuse collection staff during the disruption.
- Concerns that some areas did not receive a catch-up service and were now at their normal collection stage, which had led some households to having to store excess rubbish.
- Complaints had been received by Members from customers who were unable to get through to customer services.
- Members to be provided with the additional costs incurred arising from the implementation of the recovery plan when these were available.
- Officers to look at the format of the daily update reports provided to Elected Members with a view to simplifying the format and making them easier to understand.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed note the refuse collection update and that future daily update reports to Members should be provided in a simpler and clearer format.**

FOR NOTING

NS/006/2021: **DAERA MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Read: Letter dated 11 January 2021 from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, in response to Council correspondence on climate change. ***(Circulated)***.

Mr McBride said the Minister had referred to the Climate Change Bill and that the Council would be responding to this consultation through the AHC Directorate.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the above correspondence.

NS/007/2021: **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 8-9 are deemed to be exempt under 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.

On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/008/2021: **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF STRUELL CEMETARY AMENITY BUILDING**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case – refurbishment of Struell Cemetery Amenity Building. *(Circulated)*.

NS/009/2021: **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE – RESOURCES UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr J McBride providing an update on the resourcing of the the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan, specifically in relation to Waste Management. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Mason, seconded to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:-

Item 8 – Business case for the refurbishment of Struell Cemetery Amenity Building

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to accept the conclusion of the business case that option 2 be approved. Option 2 would see the appointment, through tender, of a competent contractor to undertake refurbishment works to Struell Cemetery amenity building which was extensively fire damaged in 2020.**

Item 9 – Neighbourhood Services Procurement Resources Update

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan resources update**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 February 2021.

Signed: **Councillor O Magennis**
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: **Mr J McBride**
Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)



Minutes of the 475th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council
The Housing Centre, Belfast or Conference Call via Webex
Thursday, 10th December 2020 at 10.30 am

Present at Meeting:

Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Present by Video Conferencing

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City

In Attendance:

Clark Bailie	Chief Executive (NIHE)
Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight (DfC)
David Polley	Director of Housing Strategy & Co-ordination (DfC)
Heloise Brown	Deputy Director of Social Housing Policy and Oversight (DfC)
Danny O'Reilly	Senior Principal Officer, PSIS (Housing Executive)
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies

John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

It was agreed that the Secretary write to Alderman Finlay to send best wishes and support following his recent operation.

1.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
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Housing Council
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2.0	<p><u>To adopt the 'In Committee' Minutes of the Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th November 2020</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Ruane, seconded by Alderman Bresland and resolved, that the 'In Committee' Minutes of the Housing Council held on Thursday 12th November 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The Plan was noted.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 474th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th November 2020</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Ruane, seconded by Alderman Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 474th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 12th November 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
5.0	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p>	
5.1	<p>Building Regulations Re Lifetime Homes Standards</p> <p>Members noted the response from the Department of Finance, there were no further comments.</p>	
5.2	<p>Invitation to the Minister for Communities - Carál Ní Chuilín to attend future Housing Council meeting</p> <p>It was reported that an invitation had been sent to the Minister for Communities inviting her to attend a future meeting, a reply was awaited.</p>	
6.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Board Bulletin Board Meeting – Wednesday, 25th November 2020</u></p> <p>Mr Bailie reported on the Housing Executive Board's deliberations under the following headings:-</p>	
6.1	<p>330A-F Lisnafin Park, Strabane – Refurbishment, Assisted Living pilot and a Local Lettings Policy</p>	

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6.2	CTO83 – Electrical Testing & Inspections Services 2020	
6.3	HR Policy Revisions	
6.4	Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) 2020/21	
6.5	Delivery Update and Approval of the Draft 3-Year SHDP 2021/22 – 2023/24 and accompanying SHDP Strategic Business Case	
6.6	Alternative Options to Supporting People Standardised Regional Payment Rates Other information papers noted by the Board were as follows:-	
6.7	Performance Monitor at the end of October 2020	
6.8	Supporting People Programme Update	
6.9	Tower Blocks Action Plan – Proposed Private Sector Disposals	
6.10	Soft Market Test Exercise	
6.11	2nd Annual Safeguarding Report	
6.12	The Board had received a presentation on Supporting People Programme Scoping <u>Other matters arising</u> Alderman Speers referred to a new Task Force set up in relation to Town Centres, and felt that Councillors should be aware of this Group and potentially feed into their discussions. Mr Bailie stated that the Housing Executive has identified the changing nature of town centres which offers potential options for housing and he added that there may be an opportunity to purchase vacant properties and bring back into use. In response to Councillor Cooper, Mr Bailie confirmed that the Monkscoole House and Abbotscoole tower blocks is still on the 1 to 5 year schedule with a slight slippage of a couple of weeks due to Covid-19. Councillor Cooper undertook to provide Mr Bailie details on a particular case in relation to the length of time to repair a Smoke Alarm for a hearing impaired tenant (three days requiring a specialist	
		CX

Housing Council
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	<p>contractor, as opposed to two hours when a smoke alarm is reported faulty as an emergency response).</p> <p>At the request by Alderman Grehan, Mr Bailie undertook to provide a breakdown of how many Affordable Warmth scheme applications that have been successful by Council area.</p> <p>Councillor Mathison referred to the Councils targets for the numbers of referrals for the Affordable Warmth scheme has been reduced, with a potential of a reduction of income to Council's for the operation of the scheme and in-turn could result the payments of staff, he asked was there a possibility of this decision being reversed.</p> <p>Mr O'Reilly explained that the referral targets were set at 44 per month to off-set against the allocated budget, realistically approximately 30 referrals per month are manageable for the Housing Executive process.</p> <p>Councillor Mathison expressed his disappointment and dissatisfaction of the scheme and the challenge for Councils with this inconsistency of targets and staff models based on these targets.</p> <p>Councillor Kelly commended the Housing Executive's response to Homelessness during COVID-19. She referred to temporary accommodation being obtain for all homeless during the lockdown with several agencies working collaboratively and hoped that in the long-term this could be the case.</p> <p>In response Mr Bailie confirmed that the current arrangements are still in place and there are a significant number of people in temporary accommodation. The Housing Executive are keen to continue to build on the success and there is a Plan, which will require additional funding. He added that in the future it is important to provide support were it is required.</p> <p>In response to Councillor Kelly's question, Mr Bailie gave an update on a recent incident regarding a shower unit which overheated and went on fire.</p> <p>Mr Bailie assured that all tenants have been issued with guidances, and the Housing Executive are visiting all properties and inspecting the properties who have these showers installed.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Bailie for his comprehensive Report.</p>	CX
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7.0	<u>Housing Issues, Department for Communities</u>	
	Mr Paul Price and Mr David Polley highlighted the changes under the specific headings on the Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Issues:-	
7.1	Social Newbuild starts	
7.2	Co-ownership	
7.3	Programme for Social Reform	
7.4	Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy	
7.5	Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers	
7.6	Supporting People Delivery Strategy	
7.7	Homelessness Strategy	
7.8	Regulation of the Private Rented Sector	
	The Department for Communities will provide a Presentation at the January Meeting.	DfC
7.9	Increasing Housing Supply	
7.10	Affordable Warmth Scheme	
7.11	NIHE Rent Increase	
7.12	ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020	
7.13	Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework	
7.14	Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax	
7.15	Long term rent trajectory	
7.16	Affordability of social rents	

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	<p><u>Other Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Alderman Grehan thanked the Department for Communities for their response regarding homes with the need for disability access and ways for Housing Associations when developing newbuild schemes to address the issue of a larger property for a family in need with disabled children, in order for her to examine the response she would address this issue further at the January Meeting.</p> <p>Alderman Grehan welcomed the proposed changes in raising the income threshold within the Affordable Warmth schemes, which could result in several applicants now being eligible to avail of the scheme, expected to be implemented in April 2021.</p> <p>Alderman Grehan asked when the Department are writing to Councils advising them of the proposed changes, that they ask Councils to retain applicants who just fell short of the threshold, to avoid them having to go through the application process again.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper highlighted the Covid-19 Christmas and New Year supporting funding allocated to Councils to target neighbourhood renewal areas and to make other Councillors aware of this funding within their Councils, he suggested that the Housing Executive Patch Managers and Housing Advisors should be informing tenants of this fund which is available for those in most need. Mr Polley to comeback with more details on the scheme in relation to additional funding for electricity, gas etc.</p>	<p>A Grehan</p> <p>DfC</p> <p>D Polley</p>
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6.0	<p><u>Revitalisation of the Housing Executive</u></p> <p>Presentation by Heloise Brown, Department for Communities on the Revitalisation of the Housing Executive. (Copies of the slides are appended to these minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>Ms Brown highlighted the key areas to revitalise the Housing Executive for their future as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalisation of the Housing Executive Landlord so that it may borrow to fund investment with a preference for a co-operative or mutual model; • Ensure rents are at a level affordable for tenants and able to provide a sustainable future for the Housing Executive; 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempting NIHE liabilities from Corporation Tax and finding options for removal of legacy debts; • Get the Housing Executive building again; • Consultation on Housing Executive's House Sales scheme. <p>In relation to the setting and regulating of Housing Executive rents, Mr Price confirmed that the Minister for Communities has indicated that rents is an area, she wants to address across the whole social housing sector.</p> <p>Ms Brown confirmed that following the split of the Landlord side of the Housing Executive this side of the business will be accountable by the Department.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper referred to higher rents for Housing Associations properties were justified due to the quality of their homes, as Housing Executive have faced the lack of investment in their stock for many years and he felt that bringing the rents in line with Housing Associations would be unwarranted.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Brown for a very informative presentation.</p>	
8.0	<p><u>Update on the Housing Executive's Disability Facilities Grants (DfG)</u></p> <p>Members received an update by Danny O'Reilly on the Housing Executive's Disability Facilities Grants. (Copies of the slides are appended to these minutes – Appendix B).</p> <p>Members welcomed a presentation in the future, on the impact of the changes following the review of services of the DfC systems.</p> <p>In response to Alderman Speers question, Mr O'Reilly confirmed that the Housing Executive have emergency processes in place in the event of a boiler breaking down, he added that if the tenant replaces the boiler themselves the Housing Executive cannot provide a grant retrospectively. Mr O'Reilly undertook to provide Mr Speers with a written explanation of the Housing Executive's emergency process in relation to the boiler replacement scheme.</p> <p>Members supported Alderman Grehan suggestion that properties that have had major disabled facilities grant works invested in the property, when the occupier moves on, the property should be offered to either Housing Associations or Housing Executive to purchase those properties,</p>	<p>D O'Reilly</p> <p>D O'Reilly</p>

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	<p>to retain for individual who needs adaptations, as opposed to the properties being put on the open market.</p> <p>The Department and Housing Executive Officers took on board the suggestion and recognised the benefits of the proposal.</p>	
9.0	<p><u>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions</u></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
10.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts November 2020</u></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
11.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 14th January 2021 at 10.30 am</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the monthly meetings would be held in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre, for the foreseeable future. Members would liaise with the Secretary on preference(s) to attend in person or participate remotely, depending on personal circumstances and attendance numbers.</p>	

The Meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.



NIHE Landlord – The Challenge

- NIHE owns and needs to maintain its 85,000 homes
- These homes need investment (using 2018 figures):
 - £7.1billion over 30 years
 - £3 billion over the first 11 years
- Currently NIHE can only afford c.£160million/year

How did this happen?

- Low rents
 - Insufficient increases in rents over last 15-20 years; and
 - A HMT-imposed rent freeze (welfare reform)
 - Aging stock
 - Liabilities
 - Corporation Tax
 - Historic Debt
 - Inability to borrow without scoring in terms of public expenditure
-



The proposed solutions

- **A comprehensive rental review**
 - Ensure rents are at a level affordable for social tenants and sufficient to provide a sustainable future for the Housing Executive
 - **Revitalisation of the Housing Executive Landlord**
 - Changing the Landlord so that it may borrow to fund investment without this scoring against public expenditure
-



Cost of 'doing nothing'

- Significant loss of NIHE homes over 5-10 years;
- Cycle of decline for entire NIHE;
- Acute territorial difficulties – how to make decline neutral in its impact?
- Negation of new social housing development;
- Negative curve on housing stress and housing supply



Minister's Commitment

- Revitalisation of the Housing Executive Landlord so that it may borrow to fund investment with a preference for a co-operative or mutual model,
- Ensure rents are at a level affordable for tenants and able to provide a sustainable future for the Housing Executive
- Exempting NIHE liabilities from Corporation Tax and finding options for removal of legacy debts
- Get the Housing Executive building again
- Consultation on Housing Executive's House Sales scheme



Benefits

- Turning the curve on "housing Stress";
- More good, sustainable social homes;
- Investment in Housing Executive homes
- Change but continuity for tenants



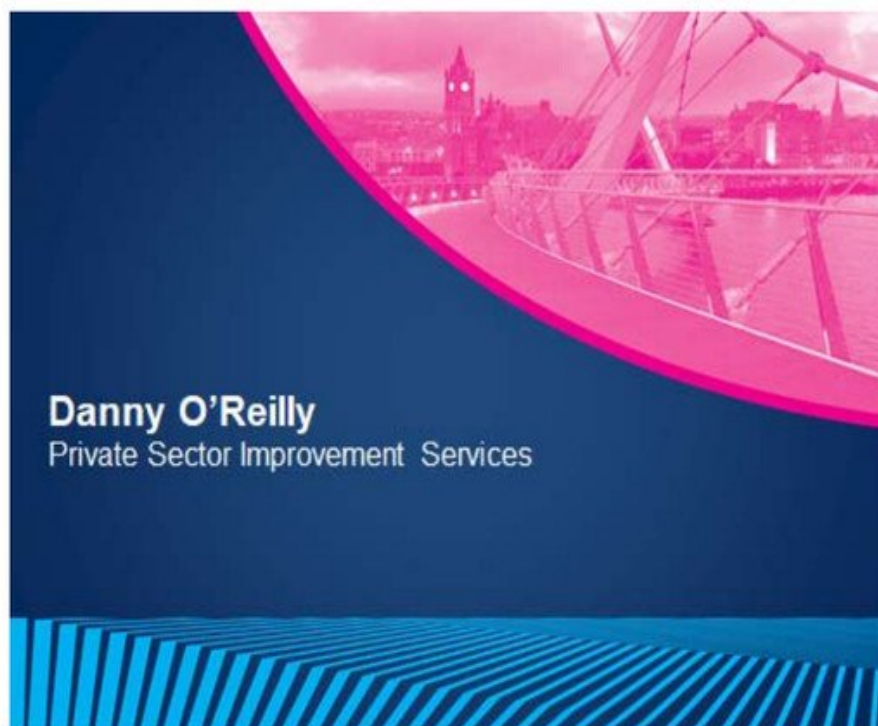
How long would reform take, once agreement is reached?

- Years 1-3 – Implementation:
 - Rent agreement
 - Political agreement
 - Primary legislation;
 - Tenant consultation;
 - Set up new organisation
 - Secure borrowing
 - Stock and employee transfers
- Years 4-9: £350m of investment per year



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Appendix B



What we Do...

- Provide funding for adaptations to enable people to remain in their own homes
 - Critical Service
 - Helps to prevent Homelessness
 - Provides a better quality of life
- Assist people who are living in a property which poses a risk to their health and safety
- Provide financial assistance to people who are living in fuel poverty to make their home more comfortable and energy efficient

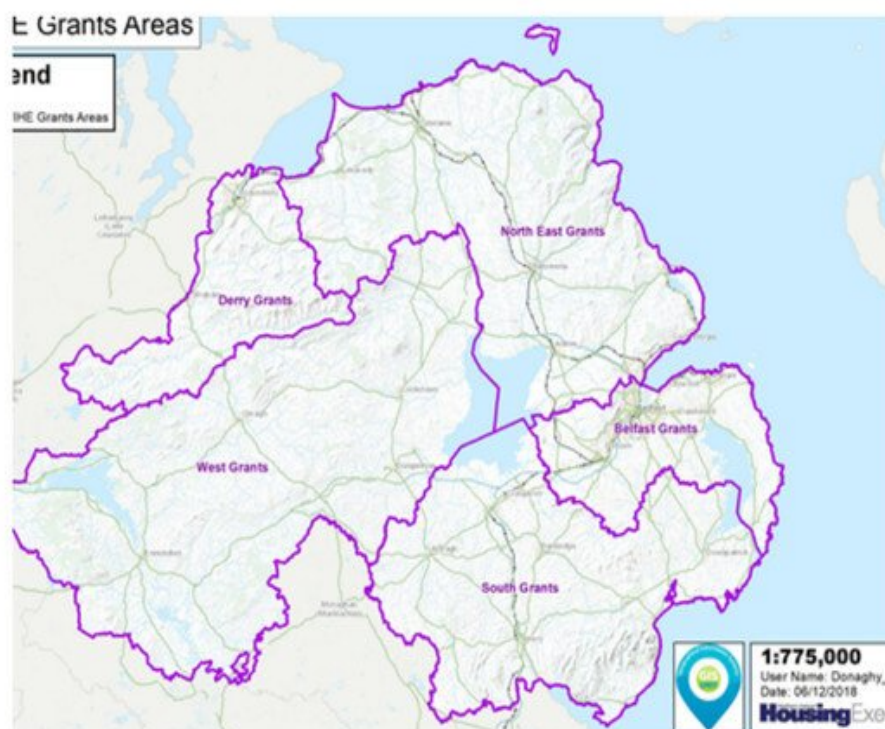
How we Help

- Mandatory
 - Disabled Facilities Grants
 - Repair Grants
- Discretionary Grants
 - Renovation
 - Replacement
 - Home Repairs Assistance
 - Group Repair
- Energy Efficiency Schemes
 - Affordable Warmth Scheme
 - Boiler Replacement Allowance

Delivery Model

- 5 x Grants Offices (+1 sub office)
- 4 x Management Teams
- Central PSIS Policy Department
- Approximately 155 FTE posts

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475th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council



Gervase's Story...

- Gervase is 68 Years old
- Has serious health issues
- His wife is still dealing with serious illness
- Home is 140 years old

How we helped Gervase

By offering a 'whole house' solution, to ensure all of his needs were met in relation to accessibility, safety, and thermal comfort.

Gervase received Renovation, Disabled Facilities, and Affordable Warmth Grants

Making a Difference



5 -Year Spend

Expenditure	Energy Efficiency		Private sector Grants
	Affordable Warm	Boiler Replacements	PSG
Year	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend
2015 / 16	£11,555,851	£3,523,600	£12,040,307
2016 / 17	£21,812,027	£2,103,500	£12,990,626
2017 / 18	£18,245,758	£1,950,250	£13,968,850
2018 / 19	£14,542,409	£1,863,118	£14,508,529
2019 / 20	£12,331,383	£1,424,536	£15,611,329
Grand Total	£78,487,428	£10,865,004	£69,119,641

Challenges Driving Review

- Time taken to process DFG's
- Replacing our IT System with a more flexible bespoke system
- Complying with new Regulations
- Ongoing pressure on Revenue budget

Service Delivery

A number of changes have been implemented following the review of services completed in 2018

- Policy
- Processes and procedures
- New IT system
- Roles and Responsibilities reviewed

Policy & Procedures

Test of Resources

A Test of resources is completed to assess the contribution which will be made by the Grants applicant towards the cost of the works

Changes: - Now completed at beginning of application process.
Use of Renovator software not imbedded in system to allow flexibility

Impact: -

- Customer makes informed decision to proceed or cancel application before making any major financial commitment.
- NIHE focuses resources on viable cases.
- More accurate financial forecasting possible.

Verification of Benefits

Verification of entitlement to particular benefits are required in relation to assessing the need for a Test of Resources.

Changes: - Data Sharing Agreement established with Pensions and Benefits Agency to provide formal notification of Benefits in payment - directly to Grants office staff.

Impact: -

- Significantly reduced response times
- Ensures accuracy of information.
- Simplifies process for customer.
- Partnership working with other agencies enhanced.

Verification of ownership

Verification of ownership of the dwelling is a legal requirement for the grant application to proceed

Changes: Policy regarding verification amended to include alternative acceptable documentation for DFG's.

Impact: -

- Reduced time taken for submission of documentation ensures applications are processed more quickly.
- Simplified option assists customer with completion of documentation.

Revised Application forms

Applicants must submit formal application forms to apply for grant aid

Changes: Clear and concise form of language used throughout documentation with one form for all.

Impact: -

- Ease of understanding for customer
- Fewer forms to complete
- Efficiency of printing creates savings.

Roles and Responsibilities

Technical Officer

Changes: Technical Officer to progress case from start to finish without need to transfer to another Tech. Officer mid – process.

Impact: -

- Increase in Customer confidence due to Tech. Officers knowledge of case and having a consistent link throughout process.
- More consistent approach to liaison with other agencies.
- Improve processing times due to decreased hand-offs.
- Increased job satisfaction in managing a job from start to finish.

Case Officer

All approvals and completions are currently signed of by a Senior Officer

Changes: Level of requirement for authorisation by Senior Officer to be reduced to a percentage check, following analysis of previous data.

Impact: -

- Improvement to processing times through fewer 'hand offs'
- Improved job satisfaction
- Improvement in ability to manage case and move it through process.

IT System

July 2019- Implementation of a new bespoke IT system developed 'in-house' specifically for Grants.

Changes: System has more flexibility to provide staff with the ability to move cases forward as required without unnecessary steps.

Impact: -

- Ability to add enhancement where required
- Ability to amend where/if required
- System built to our specification
- Retention of knowledge
- Adaptable to provide focused reporting opportunities

Customer Satisfaction Survey 2020

- Monitor impact of our service and impact of improvements
- Previous survey 2017- overall satisfaction with service 92%
- 2020 Survey underway – target 95%
- Specific area of questioning around difference works have made to day-to-day living; service provision and where/if difficulties arose; timeliness of service
- Areas identified for improvement present opportunities for continued development

Current Challenges

- Covid-19 Restrictions
 - Enabling Staff to work Remotely
 - Emergency procedures during lockdown
 - Ongoing cautious approach
- Implementing new Case Officer role
- Recruitment of Technical Staff
- Identifying further improvements



JANUARY HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 14th January 2021 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City

Members Apologies

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Members then received an update from Paul Price and David Polley Department for Communities, on the **Departments' Housing Top Issues** to date, which included:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- NIHE Rent Increase
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework

- Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents

Members received the following presentations:-

1. Professor Peter Roberts, Chair of the Housing Executive gave a presentation on the Next 50 Years: Working Together to create the future of Northern Ireland Social Housing;
2. Eilish O'Neill from the Department for Communities gave a presentation on the Review of Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector.

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 11th February at 10.30 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre, Belfast or via conference call.

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

Contacts

Chair, Alderman Tommy Nicholl MBE

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Secretary, Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

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

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

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Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 4 December 2020

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
By email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Marie

Re: Motion – Coronavirus Pandemic Impact on GCSE and A Level Students

At the Council meeting held on 1 December 2020, the Council approved the following Motion:

“Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council recognises the unprecedented stress that has been placed on this year’s GCSE and A Level students.

This Council;

- **Notes that Covid-19 has had a disproportionate impact on some schools and pupils over others**
- **Also acknowledges that those students that have had to study from home, within this district area, are faced with one of the worst broadband infrastructures on this island and therefore are left at a serious disadvantage to other students**
- **Recognises that it is impossible to have a level playing field for exams to take place.**

As such this Council shall write to the Minister of Education Peter Weir, the Executive office and all the Political Party leaders with in the Northern Assembly to ask that we follow the Welsh model of Assessment based on work throughout the year which can take into account whether a pupil has missed substantial periods of time due to self-isolation and removes entirely the risk of exams being cancelled at the last minute as they were this year.

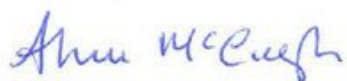
This Council will further write to the other 10 Councils asking them for support in this motion.

That the Council asks the Education Authority to give a briefing at the Informal Meeting on 25 January 2020 specifically on counselling for young people in our schools at this time and in youth settings and to establish if there is any data or information beginning to emerge to show the burden on young people’s mental health and their overall sense of wellbeing from the imposition of exams during a pandemic.”

As outlined above, the Council would ask for your Council's support of the Motion.

The Council looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison McCullagh'.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

Roger Wilson
Chief Executive



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

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12 January 2021

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry and Mourne District Council
Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT35 8DJ

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter dated 7th January 2021 re Contribution to Health and Social Care Workers.

This matter was considered at the December meeting of Council at which the following was agreed:

“This Council recognises the importance of our National Health Service and the Herculean effort from our Health Minister, health and social care workers, domiciliary and care home workers throughout the pandemic; expresses our thanks for their commitment to and care of our community and will write to our Health Minister Robin Swann MLA asking him to consider a suitable ‘thank you’ act as the NI Executive sees fit to demonstrate our gratitude”.

Your letter will be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Kind regards,

Roger Wilson
Chief Executive

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Minister's Office Block B,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 9076 5725
DOJ.MinistersOffice@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Your Ref: C/186/2020
Our ref: CORR-0013-2021

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

19 January 2021

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter of 15 December advising of the motion that was passed by the Council on 7 December.

I note that the motion agreed was to call on both the Department of Justice and the Department for Infrastructure to take forward changes to the drink/drug drive legislation but note that you appear only to have written to me.

While my Department has what can best be described as an oversight role in relation to offences and penalties in Northern Ireland generally, responsibility for road traffic legislation, including setting the maximum penalties associated with each offence and drink/drug driving limits, lies with the Department for Infrastructure.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



I have noted your recommendations but suggest that you redirect your correspondence to the Minister for Infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,

NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.



Department for
Infrastructure
An Roinn
Bonneagair
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne
and Down District Council

council@nmandd.org

Room 708
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10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C/186/2020
Our reference: CORR-0087-2021

22 January 2021

Dear Ms Ward,

DRINK DRIVE LIMIT

Thank you for your letter of 15 December 2020 concerning a motion agreed by members of the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council on the drink drive limit and associated penalties.

I welcome your support for PSNI's Christmas drink drive annual campaign which seeks to detect those drivers who pose a very great risk within our communities during the festive season. I note Council members have considered campaign findings from previous years and therefore may be interested in the recently published (provisional) information from PSNI's recent campaign which ran from 1 December 2020 to 1 January 2021 inclusive. Obviously this campaign was very different due to Covid-19 but, despite this, a total of 280 people were arrested during this period for drink/drug driving related offences. The majority of arrests were made in Belfast (49) followed by Newry, Mourne & Down district with 35.

Responsibility for drink driving legislation sits with my Department and I am happy to provide members with an update on lower drink drive limits and other related drink drive developments. As you have noted, the drink drive limit in Scotland is 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. In Northern Ireland, enabling legislation is already in place that

would enable my Department to introduce two new lower drink drive limits – 50mg and 20 mg alcohol per 100ml blood. The lower of these would apply to novice and some professional drivers. As well as lower limits, the legislation provides for a new penalty regime, new police powers in the form of authorised breath-testing check points, removal of the Statutory Option and increased use of drink drive rehabilitation courses.

The first phase of implementation of the new regime was introduced in November 2016 with the commencement of breath testing at authorised check-points. This was first used as part of the PSNI's Christmas drink drive campaign and has been an important step in strengthening enforcement activity in advance of the introduction of the new lower limits.

I had hoped that the remaining package of measures could be implemented collectively as a second and final stage. This, however, has not been possible due to difficulties in procuring the evidential breath testing devices required by PSNI to undertake road side testing at the new lower limits. This type of testing equipment is not just a priority for PSNI but for police forces in England and Wales, albeit at the higher limit of 80mg. In order to meet this demand the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety is currently running an award based competition to encourage the development of devices which, importantly, will meet Home Office rigorous type approval requirements which protect the integrity of our testing process.

As work continues on the acquisition of devices, we are continuing to implement the proposed new regime as far as is possible. On 9 November 2020, I removed the 'statutory option' from legislation. This removes a driver's right to request a replacement blood or urine specimen where a breath specimen is marginally above the limit. Originally this had been used as a safeguard when testing equipment was a new technology but given the reliability of modern equipment this option had become redundant. In fact it was being used as a delaying tactic in the hope of evading prosecution by delaying testing. A link to the press release which I released in November on this issue is attached for the information of members along with a link to the PSNI's published Christmas drink drive campaign 2020/21 figures.

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/minister-mallon-clamps-down-drink-driving>

https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/motoring-offences-statistics/2020/christmas-factsheet-2020_21.pdf

Finally, your letter makes a reference to drug driving. While I am working on delivering drink drive legislation, I am concerned about the problem of drug driving in Northern Ireland and want to do whatever it takes to make it quicker and easier to hold drug-drivers to account.

I trust this legislative update will be of interest to you and the members of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. I can assure you that implementation of the new lower drink drive limits and penalties is a priority for my Department and I will continue to work with my road safety partners to make that happen as quickly as possible.

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

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

-Annex A



From the Minister of Finance

Marie Ward

*Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council*

www.newrymournedown.org

Private Office
2nd Floor
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BELFAST
BT3 9ED
Tel: 028 9081 6216
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: SC/22/2020
Our reference: CORR-2932-2020

Date: 11 January 2021

Dear Marie

PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2020 regarding the budget for DfI Road Service.

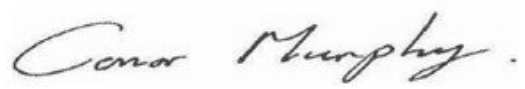
It is a matter for the Infrastructure Minister to determine how much priority she gives to Roads Service from within her budget.

In the opening 2020/21 budget the Executive allocated the Department for Infrastructure an additional £33m in Resource funding, bringing the Resource budget to £417.9m (an 8.7% increase). The Executive also gave DfI a Capital DEL Budget of £558.2m. This represents a 19% increase on the Department's 2019-20 opening Budget. No bids were received in year from DfI for roads safety measures.

I note that you have also written to Minister Mallon on this same subject and I would encourage Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to continue to engage with her regarding this issue.

I am copying this letter to the Infrastructure Minister.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Conor Murphy." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CONOR MURPHY MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



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

Our ref: SC/22/2020

10 December 2020

Mr Murphy
Minister for Infrastructure
Room 317
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Minister Murphy

Re: Pedestrian Road Safety Measures

At a Special Council Meeting of Newry Mourne & Down District Council held on Monday 30 November 2020 with DfI Roads Service, It was agreed to write to write to DfI Minister Mallon and Finance Minister Murphy to seek an increase in the overall budget for DfI Road Service to allow for an increased spend with regards to pedestrian road safety measures.

During discussion, Members expressed their concern and frustration that the amount of money allocated to pedestrian road safety measures is not adequate.

I would ask that you give this matter serious consideration and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Marie Ward
Chief Executive