



November 29th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 5th December 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Councillor Stokes

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 November 2022

For Information

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 07-11-2022.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 November 2022

For Approval

 [Council Minutes 07-11-2022.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31 October 2022

For Approval


 [Special Council Minutes - 31-10-2022.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2022

For Approval

 [ERT Minutes 14 November 2022.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2022

For Approval

 [Strategy Policy Resources Meeting Minutes 17 -11-2022.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2022

For Approval

 [Minutes of Active & Healthy Communities 21 Nov 2022.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 23 November 2022

For Approval

📎 [Sustainability and Environment Committee Minutes - 23-11-022.pdf](#)

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10.0 Planning Section

There no issues arising from Planning Committee.

Correspondence

11.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Minutes held on 13 October 2022

For Information

📎 [Housing Council Minutes 13.10.22.pdf](#)

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12.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - 10 November 2022

For Information

📎 [Members Bulletin - 10th November 2022.pdf](#)

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13.0 Acknowledgement Letter from Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence re: NOM C/168/2022

For Information

Correspondence dated 13 October 2022 attached.

📎 [Acknowledgement letter C.168.2022.pdf](#)

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14.0 Acknowledgement letter from Minister of Justice, Republic of Ireland re: NOM C/184/2022 Electronic Travel Authorisation

For Information

Correspondence dated 22 November 2022 attached.

📎 [Acknowledgement letter C.184.2022.pdf](#)

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Notices of Motion

15.0 Notice of Motion - Cost of Living Crisis, Students

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Rice:

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

16.0 Notice of Motion - Establishment of an All-Ireland Citizens' Assembly

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Finnegan:

"This Council notes and welcomes the recent commencement of two new Citizens' Assemblies by the Irish Government. Further notes that Citizens' Assemblies are powerful democratic exercises that inform citizens, allowing them to debate specifics, develop positions and inform policy. They have operated effectively in many jurisdictions across the world. This Council calls on the Irish Government to establish an all-Ireland Citizens' Assembly to debate and discuss our future. The debate on our future is live and growing, we must plan for constitutional change. This Council also invites officials from the Taoiseach's Shared Island Unit to present to Council and provide an update on activity and plans for the future. This Council will communicate this motion to the Office of the Taoiseach."

17.0 Notice of Motion - EU Common Agricultural Policy Single Farm Payments

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Magennis:

"This Council recognises the significant investment in rural communities and businesses, and the wider economy derived from the Single Farm Payment under the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); agrees that CAP Single Farm Payments were critical to farm profitability, particularly for small family farms; is concerned with the significant uncertainty facing our farming community with the loss of CAP Single Farm Payments as a result of Brexit and the end of the replacement Basic Payment Scheme, worth £300m a year, beyond 2025; and calls on the British Government and the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to set out urgently what replacement funds will be put in place to support our farmers and the wider agricultural sector."

18.0 Notice of Motion - Broadening Rates Base, Increasing Direct Income and Reducing Costs

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:

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

19.0 Notice of Motion - Cervical Cancer Screening in Northern Ireland

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Devlin:

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

20.0 Notice of Motion - Workers Legal Rights to Tips

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andrews:

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

21.0 Notice of Motion - Fishing and Fish Processing Industry

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Curran:

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

and fish processing in Northern Ireland, to enable the industry to employ foreign workers during the summer months, and continue its valuable contribution to our local economy.”

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/171/2022</i>	<i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 03.10.22</i>	<i>The Action Sheet was agreed.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/172/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 03.10.22</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/173/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26.09.22</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/174/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24.10.22</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i> <i>Follow up on response to questions raised at DFI Road Clinics.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Email sent to DFI Roads, responses to be forwarded in due course.	
<i>C/175/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10.10.22</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/176/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13.10.22</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/177/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17.10.22</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i> <i>It was agreed a review paper on AHC/169/2022: Financial Assistance be brought to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>M Lipsett</i>	Noted Actioned – to AHC 21/11/22	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/178/2022</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 18.10.22</i>	<i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/179/2022</i>	<i>Planning Minutes Extract re: LDP Planning Policy Review</i>	<i>It was agreed to note the extract from the Minutes of Planning Committee held on 19 October 2022 regarding the LDP Planning Policy Review.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	
<i>C/180/2022</i>	<i>Letter from Department for Infrastructure – Warrenpoint Harbour Authority – Councillor Positions</i>	<p><i>The correspondence was noted.</i></p> <p><i>The correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding Appointment Councillor Member to WHA was noted and names of nominees for the public appointment process to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority to be forwarded to Democratic Services Department.</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed an extract from the minute relating to appointments as agreed by Council to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority be forwarded to Members for their information.</i></p>	<p><i>Democratic Services</i></p> <p><i>Democratic Services</i></p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Actioned – Email sent to all Councillors</p>	
<i>C/181/2022</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Social Model of Disability</i>	<i>"This Council recognises that; many forms of disability, including for example impairments of mobility, vision, hearing, communication, neurological issues, mental health issues, neurodiversity, learning disability and chronic illness can impact people's ability to access our services. It has a duty to ensure that every service and facility is fully accessible, providing access to resources and services that remove barriers. This council, therefore, agrees to promote a Social Model of Disability, which says that people with impairments</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>are 'disabled' by the barriers operating in society which excludes and discriminate against them. Further, commits to working with local businesses, community and service providers to ensure facilities and services are accessible for everyone and will ensure that any new service or facility is developed using a co-design approach with disability organisations and local groups".</p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	J Kelly		
C/182/2022	Notice of Motion – Kings Coronation	<p>"This Council recognises that many residents across Newry Mourne and Down will welcome and celebrate the coronation of His Majesty the King. We note that the coronation has been announced for Saturday 6th May 2023. To mark this momentous occasion, we would ask that funding be made available for communities and organisations who wish to join together in Recognition and celebration".</p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	Democratic Services C Moffett	Noted	
C/183/2022	Notice of Motion – Government help with Cost of Living Crisis	Newry Mourne and Down District Council demands that the Government put in place much needed measures to provide much necessary help and support to residents of the District who	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<i>have been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. It was also agreed that Council writes to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, as well as the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland enlisting their support for this motion".</i>			
<i>C/184/2022</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Electronic Travel Authorisation</i>	<i>Council write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland informing him of the serious damage this course of action would inflict upon our business, tourism and healthcare sectors. It was also agreed to write to the Minister for Justice in the Republic of Ireland urging her not to facilitate or cooperate with the imposition of such travel requirements at points of entry or exit into or out of the Republic, if enacted by a UK Government. Furthermore, this Council believes the imposition of an application process and accompanying charges would be tantamount to an act of legislative sabotage, potentially destroying the post-conflict gains in attracting tourists and business travellers alike to Northern Ireland over recent years."</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Correspondence issued.	
<i>C/185/2022</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand</i>	<i>This Council writes to the Irish Tourism Minister requesting assurance that the Counties of Armagh and Down are included in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand. It was also agreed to write to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council to ask them to engage in the process.</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Correspondence issued.	
<i>C/186/2022</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Invitation to An Taoiseach</i>	<i>"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council write to An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to cordially invite him to visit our district."</i>	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Correspondence issued.	
<i>END</i>					

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

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 November 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:

Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor Y Moore
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor K Owen
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Sharvin

In attendance via Teams

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor J Brennan
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

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

Officials in attendance via Teams:

Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/169/2022**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

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There were no apologies received.

On behalf of Council, the Chairperson passed on sincere condolences to Councillor Hanna on the recent passing of his father Kenneth.

The Chairperson congratulated Sophie Lennon from Mayobridge on winning the Irish Junior Eurovision Song Contest and wished her well in representing Ireland in Armenia in December. He also congratulated Niamh Noade and Claire Keeley who also made the final, with all three finalists coming from the Newry based Flynn Performing Arts.

Congratulations were also passed onto the Council team involved in the third Giant Adventures at Halloween with the hugely successful Footsteps in The Forest at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. Thanks were also given to the team involved with the Sticky Fingers at the Newry Halloween Parade.

The Downpatrick Community Collective was mentioned for organising a fantastic Halloween Event that attracted huge crowds to Downpatrick on Halloween Night and Newcastle Community Cinema for delivering a fantastic weekend of events at the hugely successful Hallowtides Festival in Newcastle.

The Chairperson praised those involved in organising Halloween events in Ballynahinch, Killough, Warrenpoint, Newtownhamilton and Ardglass and other areas across the district to make Halloween extra special.

The Chairperson congratulated Sean Gordon from Downpatrick who had been awarded 2nd place in the Ulster Irish Dance Championship.

Congratulations were given to Kilcoo on winning the Down Senior Football Championship, Crossmaglen on winning the Armagh Senior Football Championship, Saval GAC on ending a 27 year wait to win the Down Intermediate Championship and Teconnaught GAC on winning the Down Junior Football Championship.

The Chairperson congratulated Jack Turley from Saval on winning the Ulster Junior B Handball Title and Zak Hanna from the Slieve Croob area who was placed in the World Mountain Running Championships in Thailand.

The Chairperson said well done to all local teams and individuals at underage level who had achieved sporting success in the last month.

Councillor Reilly spoke of the success of Adam McKibben from Ballymartin who was runner-up in the Northern Ireland Boxing Championship.

Councillor Casey asked that Council acknowledge Cormac Duffy who had recently climbed Kilimanjaro and raised funds for PIPS in Newry and Conor Wallace who now lived in Australia on winning a World boxing title.

Councillor Murphy referred to and congratulated Shane O'Neill's on winning the Armagh Intermediate Final.

Councillor Mulgrew queried if the Sticky Fingers Event held in Newry had received financial contribution from Council and that the lack of reporting on financial support from Council had been an injustice to Council and Newry. Mr Mallon confirmed Council had contributed financially towards the event in Newry over Halloween.

C/170/2022

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/171/2022

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/172/2022

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 October 2022 (copy circulated).

C/161/2022: Minutes of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2022

In response to a request from Councillor Reilly regarding the lifting of barriers at recycling centres while awaiting the launch of the app, Mr Cassells confirmed the app would be operational from Mid-November.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

C/173/2022

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 September 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 26 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate

record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Lewis.

C/174/2022 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 October 2022 (copy circulated).

SC/26/2021: Presentation from DFI Roads – Annual Report 2022/23

Councillor McMurray enquired whether a response to questions raised at DFI Road Clinics had been received to date. Mrs Ward advised she would follow up on the matter with DFI Roads.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 24 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/175/2022 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2022 (copy circulated).

ERT/165/2022: Planning Performance Figures

Councillor Owen queried the number of outstanding enforcement cases for over 5 years (for the period April-August 2022 there was an average of 96) and the percentage of planning cases taking over 18 months (14%) and the cost this had to Council.

Mr Mallon advised planning performance improvement measures were in place across all service areas of planning including enforcement and development management to improve timescale and performance against statutory targets. That was ongoing and improving year on year.

Agreed: The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

C/176/2022 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2022 (copy circulated).

SPR/155/2022: Timings of Meetings and Working Groups

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

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

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

C/177/2022 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2022 (copy circulated).

AHC/174/2022: Kilkeel Leisure Centre

When requesting an update regarding the swimming pool and closures at Newry Leisure Centre, Councillor McKeivitt voiced her dismay at a detailed report appearing in local newspapers and Members including those on the Active and Healthy Communities Committee having not been informed. Councillor Casey supported Councillor McKeivitt's comments and voiced his disappointment and concerns.

Mr Lipsett confirmed there was a detailed report on the potential closure of Newry Swimming Pool being presented to the November Active and Healthy Communities Committee with investigatory works to be carried out in December. He added it was unfortunate a report could not have been brought to the Committee earlier, but an emergency situation had arisen regarding tiles at the bottom of the swimming pool and

following an investigation by the consultant team it was recommended works be carried out.

AHC/164/2022: Financial Assistance Report, Calls 3 2022 and Call 1 2023

In response to a query from Councillor Finnegan, Mr Lipsett advised once the calls were completed for the year the budget would be reviewed and any moneys left over could be reallocated. He confirmed the review was ongoing and a report would be brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

AHC/169/2022: Financial Assistance

Councillor Sharvin advised he had been unable to attend the Committee Meeting and voiced concern at the proposed new approach regarding Sports Capital Grants and urged consideration be given for a review of the decision.

Mr Lipsett advised he was happy to bring a report back to the Active and Health Communities Committee for further consideration if Council so wished.

Councillor Ó Muirí advised whilst he was content for the matter to be considered by Committee again, there had been a lengthy debate in which Members had enquired about the pros and cons and the potential impact for groups and on the rates process.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí for a review paper on AHC/169/2022: Financial Assistance be brought to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.**

AHC/181/2022: Drinking Water Inspectorate Annual Report

In response for an update from Councillor McAteer regarding Drumaroad Treatment Plant, Mr Lipsett confirmed an update report would be presented at the November Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

C/178/2022 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 October 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/179/2022 PLANNING SECTION – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2022 Re: LDP Planning Policy Review. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanna to note the extract from the Minutes of Planning Committee held on 19 October 2022 regarding the LDP Planning Policy Review.

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES**C/180/2022 LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE – APPOINTMENT COUNCILLOR MEMBER TO WARRENPOINT HARBOUR AUTHORITY (WHA)**

Read: Correspondence dated 3 October 2022 from the Department for Infrastructure regarding Appointment Councillor Member to Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. (Copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised the correspondence was in relation to a public appointment process, seeking nominations for public appointment process for the position previously held by Cathy Mason as a Member of Sinn Féin and that other positions remain unchanged.

Agreed: The correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding Appointment Councillor Member to WHA was noted and names of nominees for the public appointment process to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority to be forwarded to the Democratic Services Department.

It was agreed an extract from the minute relating to appointments as agreed by Council to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority be forwarded to Members for their information.

NOTICES OF MOTION**C/181/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Taylor:

"This Council recognises that; many forms of disability, including for example impairments of mobility, vision, hearing, communication, neurological issues, mental health issues, neurodiversity, learning disability and chronic illness can impact people's ability to access our services. It has a duty to ensure that every service and facility is fully accessible, providing access to resources and services that remove barriers. This council, therefore, agrees to promote a Social Model of Disability, which says that

people with impairments are 'disabled' by the barriers operating in society which excludes and discriminate against them. Further, commits to working with local businesses, community and service providers to ensure facilities and services are accessible for everyone and will ensure that any new service or facility is developed using a co-design approach with disability organisations and local groups".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Burgess.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6**

C/182/2022 **NOTICE OF MOTION – KING'S CORONATION**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

"This Council recognises that many residents across Newry Mourne and Down will welcome and celebrate the coronation of His Majesty the King. We note that the coronation has been announced for Saturday 6th May 2023. To mark this momentous occasion we would ask that funding be made available for communities and organisations who wish to join together in Recognition and celebration".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6**

C/183/2022 **NOTICE OF MOTION – GOVERNMENT HELP WITH COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Andrews:

"Over the past few months and due to a variety of reasons and circumstances we have seen price hikes and increases on a wide scale that have impacted severely on so many in our district resulting in hardship and unable to make ends meet. Newry Mourne and Down District Council demands that the Government put in place much needed measures to provide much necessary help and support to residents of the District who have been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. If this motion is adopted Council writes to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, also the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland enlisting their support for this motion".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Trainor.

In proposing the motion Councillor Andrews, said the wording of the motion echoed the sentiments and concerns that were at the forefront of residents in the district. He said everyone was affected and impacted by price rises on a daily basis with many people were being forced to make the stark choice of heating or eating. Councillor Andrews said foodbanks were under increasing pressure to deal with the upsurge in demand with people coming to them for the first time in their lives. He said the absence of the Assembly was only exacerbating the already dire situation.

Councillor Andrews said it was extremely difficult to reconcile how the multinational energy companies were making huge profits whilst so many people were struggling. He said drastic action and immediate mobilisation of resources and financial help needed to be put in place to ensure this much needed help and support was made available to those who needed it most.

Councillor Trainor seconded the proposal saying whilst he acknowledged some support packages had been put in place it had not been enough, and the promised packages of support had not been forthcoming. He said not enough was being done and the situation was further compounded by the lack of devolved leadership. He said hardship was being felt by a great number of people as evidenced by the increase in the demand for supplies from foodbanks. Councillor Trainor said the Tory government had not fulfilled their promises and immediate action was needed to deal with the crisis.

Councillor Owen expressed support for the motion and said it was the UK government and not the Northern Ireland Assembly who had the financial power to help support those in need.

Councillor Taylor expressed support for the motion saying the lack of support was very frustrating and the government needed to find a way to get money to people as a matter of urgency. He said the Chancellor's Autumn statement was due to be released on 17 November which would probably see further government cuts and he said as elected representatives it was their duty to ensure all representations that could be made should be made although he had concerns they may fall on deaf ears.

Councillor Murphy expressed support for the motion and said it was unfortunate it was necessary to approach the British government for the support needed and he said Council should follow the lead outlined recently by ABC Council and utilise our own ideas and resources in an effort to mitigate against the worst effects of the cost of living crisis.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the motion and said various mitigation measures could have been put in place but due to the absence of the Assembly this had not been possible.

In summing up, Councillor Andrews thanked Members for their support and said it was necessary to short circuit the process in order to get much needed help to struggling families as a matter of urgency.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor that Newry Mourne and Down District Council demands that the Government put in place much needed measures to provide much necessary help and support to residents of the District who have been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. It was also agreed that Council writes to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, as well as the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland enlisting their support for this motion".**

C/184/2022**NOTICE OF MOTION – ELECTRONIC TRAVEL
AUTHORISATION**

16

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McAteer:

"That this Council strongly rejects the intentions of the United Kingdom Government to introduce Electronic Travel Authorisation for International & Non-Irish EU citizens entering Northern Ireland from the Republic. That this Council write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland informing him of the serious damage this course of action would inflict upon our business, tourism and healthcare sectors. That this Council also write to the Minister for Justice in the Republic urging her not to facilitate or cooperate with the imposition of such travel requirements at points of entry or exit into or out of the Republic, if enacted by a U.K. Government. Furthermore, this Council believes the imposition of an application process and accompanying charges would be tantamount to an act of legislative sabotage, potentially destroying the post-conflict gains in attracting tourists and business travellers alike to Northern Ireland over recent years."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stokes.

In proposing the motion, Councillor McAteer said the UK Government were proposing to amend the Nationality and Borders Bill, which, if passed would result in all non-Irish, non-British and non-EU citizens having to submit an Electronic Travel Authorisation application prior to entering N. Ireland from the Republic of Ireland.

He said if the Bill was passed without amendment it would affect many sectors and cause severe damage to the N. Ireland economy. Councillor McAteer said it would have dire consequences for the tourism sector and Tourism NI had said it would result in many visitors choosing not to visit the area and the potential loss to the economy could be £10m per annum.

Councillor McAteer said residents from the ROI, 9% of whom were non-EU and crossed the border regularly for various reasons would also be affected. He said the UK and Irish Governments had existing bi-lateral agreements in place to fully protect the common travel area between the two countries and the Bill served no purpose.

Councillor McAteer said he appealed to the Secretary of State to listen to what was being said across the political spectrum both in N. Ireland and G. Britain and he said if the UK government insisted on imposing this Bill, he considered it was the duty of the Department of Justice in the ROI not to cooperate in any way with its implementation or information sharing regarding visitors to these shores.

Councillor Stokes seconded the motion saying from a tourism perspective it was important to get as many people to travel to the district from the ROI and he said if such travel requirements were to be implemented it would greatly affect the numbers of people choosing to visit the North and would not be beneficial to what the Council strived to do in terms of promoting Newry Mourne and Down as a tourism destination.

Councillor Owen said the DUP would not be supporting the motion. She said the UK government had released a policy paper that included Electronic Travel Authorisation in

February this year that went through the House of Commons and it would have been better to make representation in opposition to the Bill at that stage rather than now. She said the Electronic Travel Authorisation did not affect British or Irish residents and did not breach the Common Travel Area or the Belfast Good Friday Agreement.

Councillor Owen said border security needed to be rigorously protected and the system was successfully in place in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. She said she had used it in the past and it was a very simple and quick procedure and if it helped to increase border integrity then the DUP were fully behind it.

Councillor Reilly said he would not be supporting the motion. He said there was a big growth in tourism from England, Scotland and Wales and the implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorisation was a simple process and he had used it himself in the USA.

Councillor Taylor said he would not be supporting the motion. He said he did not consider the implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorisation would pose a threat, it would be no different than other countries and assurances had been given by the UK government there would be no checks at borders or people asked for papers.

Councillors O'Muirí, McMurray, Enright and Tinnelly all expressed support for the motion saying tourism was vital to our economy and it was important to ensure everything was done to promote it and not put obstacles in the way of it.

In summing up Councillor McAteer thanked members for their support and said an amendment to the Bill tabled by Alliance and Liberal Democrats had not accepted for debate. He said Lord Brookeborough and Baroness Ritchie were both vehemently opposed to it as was the N. Ireland Tourism Alliance.

The motion was put to a vote by way of roll call and voting was as follows:

FOR:	32
AGAINST:	6
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The motion was carried.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Stokes that Council write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland informing him of the serious damage this course of action would inflict upon our business, tourism and healthcare sectors.

It was also agreed to write to the Minister for Justice in the Republic of Ireland urging her not to facilitate or cooperate with the imposition of such travel requirements at points of entry or exit into or out of the Republic, if enacted by a UK Government.

C/185/2022**NOTICE OF MOTION – INCLUSION OF COUNTIES
ARMAGH AND DOWN IN THE IRELAND'S ANCIENT
EAST DESTINATION MARKETING BRAND**

18

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Byrne:

This Council recognises the four key pillars of Ireland's Ancient East: Ancient Ireland, Early Christian Ireland, Medieval Ireland, and Anglo Ireland; align with and strengthen our districts tourism offering.

This Council supports the inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland's Ancient East destination marketing brand".

Councillor Devlin seconded the proposal.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Byrne said the purpose of the motion was not just about the Council's Tourism Strategy or even about the district but about harnessing the potential of the entire region and making a bid for Counties Armagh and Down to enter the Ireland's Ancient East destination marketing brand.

Councillor Byrne said the motion represented an ambitious aspiration for our District and the broader region and it recognised the synchronicity between the tourism offering of Armagh and Down and the four pillars of Ireland's Ancient East: Ancient Ireland, Anglo Ireland, Medieval Ireland and Early Christian Ireland.

Councillor Byrne said the tourism offering within Armagh and Down was as rich as it was diverse, and presented a unique opportunity for the history and heritage of Ulster to secure a more prominent placement within Ireland's Ancient East.

He said the district was very definitely a part of Ireland's Ancient East, and it was time it was made official so that we could reap the very clear dividend for the communities we all served.

Councillor Devlin seconded the motion saying the tourism industry was the biggest economic driver and it was vital all was done to expand it to make it truly sustainable.

She said over the last number of years both tourism and hospitality had been hit particularly hard between Brexit, recovering from covid, staff shortages and huge increases in the cost of doing business and she said investing in tourism was money well spent.

Councillor Devlin said new and innovative ways needed to be explored to look at how the extensive tourism offering we currently had could be further enhanced.

Councillor Devlin said by supporting our tourism offering, local families, local businesses and local producers were being supported and by investing in our local tourism offering was investing in these local people.

Councillor O Muirí expressed full support for the motion and asked that a slight amendment be made to include that Council write to the Irish Government also asking that they implement the inclusion of Armagh and Down in the Ancient East Marketing Brand.

Councillor Byrne accepted the amendment.

There was unanimous support from Members for the motion.

In summing up, Councillor Byrne thanked Members for their support for the motion saying it was a shared tourism product.

Councillor Hanna asked a further amendment be made to write to Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council to get them engaged in the process.

Councillor Byrne accepted the amendment saying it was in the interests of everyone to push this forward.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Devlin that this Council writes to the Irish Tourism Minister requesting assurance that the Counties of Armagh and Down are included in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand. It was also agreed to write to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council to ask them to engage in the process.**

C/186/2022

NOTICE OF MOTION – INVITATION TO AN TAOISEACH

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Stokes:

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council write to An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to cordially invite him to visit our district.

Councillor McAteer seconded the motion.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Stokes said the Council had enjoyed a long and very proud history of cross border cooperation with numerous current cross border projects on-going. He said a visit from An Taoiseach would allow for a celebration of our cross border work to date and plan for future cooperation.

Councillor McAteer seconded the motion saying the Council had benefitted greatly from Shared Island funding and it was totally appropriate to extend the invitation to An Taoiseach.

Councillor Hanna said the DUP would neither support, vote against or abstain from voting for the motion and said their objection was the inconsistencies in how the motions had been dealt with at the meeting this evening. He said the motion regarding the King's Coronation had been referred to Good Relations and he considered this motion should also have been sent to Good Relations and not heard at Council and in protest, he along with Councillors Moore, Owen and Reilly left the chamber.

The Chairperson said the two motions referred to were entirely different in that the motion re. King's Coronation was a resource issue, whilst this current motion was a straightforward invitation.

Councillor Taylor said he would not be supporting the motion, he said the motion lacked detail and he said he considered there were inconsistencies in how the motions had been dealt with at the meeting.

Councillor McMurray asked if the invitation was specifically for Micheál Martin or An Taoiseach's office, Councillor McAteer clarified it would be sent An Taoiseach's office. Councillor McMurray said the late decision to hear the previous motion at Council did not give much time, in particular for the smaller parties, to prepare.

Councillor Murphy said Sinn Féin would be supporting the motion and it was an opportunity to reinforce the need for investment in the area and showcase what the district had to offer.

Councillor Stokes thanked members for their broad support and said it was chance to celebrate the cross-border work that had been on-going for many years and to plan for the future.

The motion was put to a vote by way of a roll call, the results of which were:

FOR:	29
AGAINST:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The motion was carried.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council write to An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to cordially invite him to visit our district.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.14pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 December 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

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

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31 October 2022 at 3.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor T Andrews **15.02PM – 15.15PM**
Councillor M Savage **15.15PM – 18.07PM**

In attendance in Chamber: (Councillors)
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor D Curran
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor Y Moore

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Trainor

In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)
Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities
Mrs J Kelly, Director Corporate Services
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

In Attendance via Teams: South Eastern Trust
Mrs R Coulter, Chief Executive
Ms H Moore, Director of Planning
Mr M Neill, Assistant Director for Unscheduled Care in Hospital Services
Mrs M O’Kane, Director of Adult Services & Physical Health Care
Mr D Brannigan, Assistant Director Mental Health Services

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service:
Mr M Cochrane, Assistant Director of Operations
Mr S Mullen, Head of Planning

Southern Trust
Dr Maria O’Kane, Chief Executive
Mrs L Leeman, Interim Director of Planning & Reform
Mrs T Reid, Director Surgery, CCS & IMWH

Mr B Beattie, Director of Adult Community Services
 Mrs C Reid, Interim Director Medicine & Unscheduled Care
 Dr Donal Duffy, Community Forum
 Mr K Hughes, Pathfinder Group

SC/27/2021 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Lewis that Councillor Andrews assume the Chair as Councillor Savage was running late.

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, Gallagher, Hanlon, Hanna, Magennis, McEvoy, McMurray, Owen, Reilly and Stokes and the Chief Executive.

SC/28/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/29/2021 PRESENTATION FROM SOUTH EASTERN TRUST

The Chairperson welcomed Mrs R Coulter and the delegation from South Eastern Trust to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mrs Coulter provided an update to members on services and pressures faced across the South Eastern Trust outlining the vision 3 to 5 years down the line for services across hospital, community and primary care settings.

Members asked the following questions:

- Members thanked and commended Mrs Coulter and her team including doctors and nurses for the exemplary work they carry out.
- Was the future of the Downe Hospital secure and would there be assurances that no services or resources be cut to cover the £450 million overspend?
- Were there any plans to change the phone first opening times and was this continuously being reviewed?
- Safe staffing environment, payrise and mileage was a real issue for staff especially with the cost of living crisis, what was the Trust doing to support staff and unions to obtain a fair deal?
- Fantastic to see the efforts that the Trust were making in bringing additional Mental Health Services which were vital post-covid and going through the cost of living crisis.
- What was the impact of covid on the workforce and what areas had been affected the most?
- Was there an update on the Regional Trauma Network?
- The people in the Down area were expecting the Accident & Emergency Department to be reopened after covid, had the staff that had been redeployed during the pandemic been redeployed back to the Downe Hospital and if so were they currently all working within the Urgent Care and Phone First Departments?
- What pressures were the Trust finding in being able to get interest from care providers and allocating care packages? Would the Trust consider in expanding the service they provide to meet the needs and shortfall of care packages and what impact was this

having on Emergency Department, wards and general movement of patients through the system?

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Mrs Coulter welcomed the positive feedback for staff and would pass it on.
- The financial position would not affect the future of the Downe Hospital or its services as they were deemed essential and hoped would be strengthened going forward, the Department of Health would have to manage the financial burdens and make savings without having an impact on service provision. There were ongoing conversations with the Department of Finance and Westminster in relation to this.
- The Trust were very supportive of staff and aware of the conversations with unions, meetings were taking place with trade unions on a weekly basis to keep a close eye on the pressures and the impact of the mileage situation and paying of staff.
- Urgent Care Centre was provided from the Emergency Department in the Downe Hospital and was working very well. Phone First would be rolled out across Northern Ireland across the smaller units, it wouldn't work as well in very large acute departments as those patients are usually very acutely unwell needing urgent attention.
- All staff that were redeployed are all back in the Downe Hospital, keen to ensure all services there are sustainable and on developing other roles eg. Emergency Nurse Practitioner role in Down, Ards, Lagan Valley and Ulster Hospitals.
- Trust was keen to hold a public consultation exercise in relation to what the model should be going forward and what was possible in the Down area, when the time was right.
- Regional Trauma Network - A number of significant workshops had been held over the summer with various organisations to try and pull together shared experiences of what was best way to support those with lived experience of trauma and that point of access clearly understood and pathways clearly identified. There was no date as of yet regarding the launch but would be shared once confirmed.
- Domiciliary care model was struggling, Trust is doing everything they could to support domiciliary care providers, struggling to get enough workforce for the demand required. 20% of domiciliary care was provided by Trust, 80% provided outside by providers, working closely together, the more that could be done to support people to stay in their homes the better especially for elderly.
- This was the only part of UK where domiciliary care was free, the rate that paid to domiciliary care workforce does need adjusted, there were limited resources and going forward was it realistic to provide all of these services for free? Tough conversations were needed going forward, there are currently 6,500 hours unmet in South Eastern Trust.
- Encourage more public support in helping out elderly neighbours, technological advances had helped people be more independent in their own homes, Direct Payments and suitable housing stock are all ways to ease some of the pressures faced.

Mrs Coulter concluded by saying that the relationship and dialogue between the Trust and council was extremely important getting the public message out, appealing to members to support them in whatever way they could and to report any concerns directly.

SC/030/2022: RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Cochrane thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity to attend the Special Council Meeting and apologised on behalf of Ms Byrne and Ms Maxwell who were not able to attend due to covid. Mr Cochrane and Mr Mullen then provided an overview on what services they provide, some of the challenges faced and plans going forward.

Members asked the following questions:

- Councillor Lewis paid tribute to the Slieve Croob and all First Responder teams working across the council area, asking if this had eased any of the pressures?
- Members asked for an update on staffing recruitment campaign and staff shortages.
- What could Members do to help raise awareness with attacks on ambulance staff which had a knock-on effect putting people off applying for the role.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- There were currently 3 community First Responder schemes running in the District and welcomed any further interest in any additional schemes in the community to help.
- Hoped to focus more on health promotion/prevention, community education programmes that had been put on hold due to the pandemic asked members to encourage constituents to get involved.
- Biggest challenge faced at present is in ambulance handover's causing delays and impacting on service.
- Rolling recruitment continues, there are some vacancies however general staffing levels are pretty good.
- Anything members could do to highlight the issue and dispel the myth that it was ok to abuse and attack ambulance staff would be appreciated. The number of attacks were now 12 per week which was the worst it had ever been. Most recent initiative wearing body cameras had been rolled out across NIAS and support would be appreciated to highlight the positive impact this would have in preventing future attacks.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation and their team for the dedication and work that they did which is vital across the District.

SC/031/2022: RESPONSE FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Southern Trust and invited them to make their presentation.

Following a detailed overview from the delegation on some of the challenges currently faced with particular focus on access to services, service update, future working together and next steps, Members asked the following questions:

- The Chairperson highlighted a recent personal experience, stating he could not fault the care received, however travelling to Craigavon to have a dressing changed post-surgery needed reviewed as it was not a very comfortable journey for the patient and was something that could be done at Daisy Hill.
- Concerns were raised with a recent experience with an ambulatory referral which had a communication breakdown and perhaps the system needed reviewed.

- Members while welcoming the recent elective surgery developments, asked whether that would preclude the return of emergency surgery or was it a potential opportunity with having surgeons on site.
- There was a specific need to expedite the Diagnostic Suite so patients could be assessed locally and moved to where they would get the best treatment.
- Members asked for an update on the Primary Care Centre in relation to Newry.
- There were further opportunities to be had with Cross Border collaboration and through the Shared Island Unit.
- Was there an update on the Kilkeel out of hours service?

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- The majority of dressings should be carried out in GP surgeries and people should not have to travel to Craigavon unless it was absolutely necessary, this was something that would be explored further so as to not inconvenience patients.
- A daily huddle took place to pick up on any issues in emergency surgery and hopefully the breakdown in communication would have been fed back to try improve the service going forward.
- A regional consultation would take place on the provision of elective and emergency surgery across Northern Ireland. However due to the absence of an assembly that had been further delayed, it was anticipated this would happen in the new year. It had been a challenge in recruiting surgeons with the level of skills required in Daisy Hill but advertising was ongoing.
- Talks had been ongoing with the Minister and Permanent Secretary with regards the low voltage cable at Daisy Hill site and this was now at an advanced stage and once the detail was agreed it would progress immediately.
- Happy to pursue any opportunity presented regarding Cross Border collaboration and Shared Island Unit within the rules and framework of Northern Ireland and the Assembly.
- The Primary Care Centre remained a committed scheme and was active on the 10 year capital plan, a refreshed strategic case had been submitted and was going through the various stages and queries.
- Kilkeel out of hours service continues to be closed on a temporary basis due to inability to recruit sufficient staff to man the whole of the GP out of hours service that supports the whole of the Trust area, happy to follow up with Councillor Reilly outside of the meeting.

In concluding Dr O’Kane stated that levels of attendance at Emergency Departments weren’t increasing due to new measures put in place to try and support people not to attend Emergency Departments, however the discharge flow was causing the huge backward pressure. Three times as many people had been delayed in hospitals in Daisy Hill and Craigavon than six months ago which was driving up the length of stay for patients and runs the risk of undoing a lot of good work if in hospital too long. Dr O’Kane appealed to members to encourage the wider public to take, in particular, older people home from hospital if given the opportunity as quickly as possible to reduce the risk and reduce some of the back pressure.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.07pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 5 December 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 14 November 2022 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber
Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

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

Non Members: Councillor H McKee (Teams)
Councillor O Hanlon (Teams)

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment &
Regeneration
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture &
Events
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer
Ms T McLoughlin PA ERT Director

ERT/166/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor J Trainor

ERT/167/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/168/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 October 2022.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**ERT/169/2022: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
DE COURCY PLACE / CHURCH STREET DOWNPATRICK**

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the appointment of consultants to progress an EI Scheme for Church Street / De Courcy Place Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed as follows:

- 1. To approve the appointment integrated design team through Council's procurement framework to manage DeCourcy Place Regeneration from concept design**

through to detailed design – RIBA Stage 3 (design development and planning application), at a Capital cost of £25,000.

- 2. To submit a funding application to Department for Communities for DeCourcy Place Regeneration and report back to ERT on the outcome.**

ERT/170/2022: RING OF GULLION LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME TRADITIONAL ARTS PARTNERSHIP (TAP) VISIT

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding a contribution to the Traditional Arts Partnership (TAP) towards 2022 attendance at music exchange visits. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to approve a contribution to the Traditional Arts Partnership of £2,000 towards their 2022 attendance at music exchange visits.

ERT/171/2022: TEDxDOWNPATRICK EVENT

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the provision of sponsorship to the TEDxDownpatrick "making it count" event. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to provide sponsorship to the TEDxDownpatrick "making it count" event of £2,000. Sponsorship for the event is c/o event Curator Catherine Murnin.

ERT/172/2022: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WOODLAND TRUST – WORKS A DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding a Service Level Agreement with the Woodland Trust for works to

address invasive plant species in Delamont Country Park.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with the Woodland Trust for undertaking works to address invasive plant species in Delamont Country Park. The value of the Service Level Agreement is for a maximum of £41,000.

ERT/173/2022: FEASIBILITY STUDIES – GREENWAYS
- **NEWRY CITY**
- **NEWRY TO WARRENPOINT/ROSTREVOR**

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Feasibility Studies in respect of applications for Greenways and Active Travel Projects for:

- Newry City Greenway
- Newry to Warrenpoint/Rostrevor Greenway

(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the "Newry City Greenway", and "Newry to Warrenpoint/Rostrevor Greenway" Active Travel Feasibility Studies, as presented to the representative DEA Councillor grouping on 27 September 2022.

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

AGREED: 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 the next matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed the Committee come out of Closed Session.**

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

ERT/174/2022: ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADES 2023

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the delivery of St Patrick's Day Parades in March 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed the Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Downpatrick Town Committee to deliver elements of the St Patrick's Day Parade in Downpatrick in March 2023.**

FOR NOTING

ERT/175/2022: UPDATE RE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding an update on the business development programme.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the update provided under the following business development initiatives:**

- **Go for It**
- **NMD Growth**
- **Digital Growth**
- **Tender for Growth**
- **Sales Accelerator**
- **Digital Surge**
- **Rural Business Development Grant Scheme**

**ERT/176/2022: DUBLIN-BELFAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (DBEC)
STRATEGY REPORT**

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Strategy Report on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed:

- 1. To note current Strategy, as per Appendix A, as a basis to support delivery of the partnership ambitions.**
- 2. To note intentions to progress to the final stage, an action plan.**

ERT/177/2022: REPORT OF DOWNPATRICK REGENERATION WORKING GROUP – 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a meeting of Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group held on Wednesday 28 September 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the above Report.

**ERT/178/2022: REPORT OF ECONOMIC FORUM MEETING
THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a meeting of the Economic Forum held on Thursday 20 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed:

- 1. To note the Report of the Economic Forum Meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2022.**

2. Officers to establish a focus group of key business and public sector partners to progress the Town Centre Regeneration issues raised.

ERT/179/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/180/2022: UPDATE RE: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 14 November 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the Labour Market Partnership (LMP). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the current update regarding NMD Labour Market Partnership initiatives.

ERT/181/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for September and October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for September and October 2022.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 December 2022.

**Signed: Councillor R Burgess
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**



**Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism**



NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

35

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 17 November 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams &
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)**In Attendance in Chamber**
Councillor R Howell
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B O'Muirí
Councillor M Rice**In Attendance via Teams:**
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Trainor**Non-Committee Members:**
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor C Enright
Councillor H McKee**Officials in Attendance:**
Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Procurement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure & Sport
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Administration
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR
& Safeguarding)
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture &
Events
Mr P Preen, HR Manager
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration
Ms C Hughes, Acting Head of Performance & Improvement
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer**Also in Attendance:** Ms S Stevenson, Director of Legacy Conservation**SPR/160/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Mr G Byrne.

SPR/164/2022: MID-YEAR ASSESSMENTS OF DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS 2022-23

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Mid-Year Assessments of Directorate Business Plans **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, that Elected Members approve the following:**

- **Mid-Year Assessment of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2022-23**
- **Mid-Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2022-23**

SPR/165/2022: MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT – PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-23

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Mid-Year Assessment – Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Elected Members approve the Mid-Year Assessment and Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23.**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

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

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

SPR/167/2022: STRATEGIC REVIEW OF MUSEUMS SERVICE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Strategic Review of Museums Service. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members approve the recommendations included in the Strategic Review of Council's Museums Service as set out in this report.**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed Elected Members approve that the report would be made public once finalised.**

Councillor Gallagher left the meeting at this point – 18.32pm

SPR/168/2022: NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION – BRCD CONTRACT FOR FUNDING

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding, Newry City Centre Regeneration – BRCD Contract for Funding **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the contents of the report, the Contract for funding as per the officer's report and approve the signing of the Contract for Funding between the Department for Communities and Belfast City Council in respect of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Projects**

SPR/169/2022: NEWRY CITY PARK PROJECT – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, regarding Newry City Park Project – Outline Business Case. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve to underwrite any additional financial cost for the Newry City Park Project over and above the funding currently ringfenced for the project.**

SPR/170/2022: LEASE OF LANDS AT ST ANNE'S PARK, MAYOBRIDGE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding lease of lands at St Anne's Park, Mayobridge **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gibbons, it was agreed Elected Members approve to enter into a Lease with the club noted in the report in respect of the lands at St Anne's Park, Mayobridge as outlined in blue on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

Councillor Lewis left the meeting at this point - 18.53pm

SPR/171/2022: **LEASE OF LANDS AT GLEN HILL RECREATION AREA, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding lease of land at Glen Hill Recreation Area, Newry **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members approve to enter into a Lease with the club noted in the report in respect of the lands known as Glen Hill Recreation Area, Newry as outlined in red on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

SPR/172/2022: **RENEWAL OF LEASE OF UNIT 2 THE SQUARE, WARRENPOINT**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Renewal of Lease of Unit 2 The Square, Warrenpoint. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve to proceed with option C: Not to renew the Lease to 26 Extreme and that Council Officers market the Unit either via Council's agents or an Expression of Interest Process.**

SPR/173/2022: **COMMERCIAL UNIT AT MARGARET SQUARE, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Commercial Unit at Margaret Square, Newry. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed Elected Members approve to a 5-year Lease of the subject premises to the successful bidder, at an annual rent as per officer's report plus rates and standard terms and conditions of lease.**

SPR/174/2022: **REQUEST FOR EASEMENT OVER COUNCIL LANDS AT NORTH PROMENADE, NEWCASTLE**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding request for Easement over Council lands at North Promenade, Newcastle **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed Elected Members approve the grant of a licence for works and easement on Council lands as set-out in the report subject to a valuation and payment by the developer of all ancillary costs including legal and valuation fees.**

SPR/175/2022: **PROVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH TENDER**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr P Preen, HR Manager, regarding Provision of Occupational Health Tender. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve the commencement of tender process, for the supply of Occupational Health Services for a two year period, with the option to extend (by mutual agreement) up to a maximum of four years.**

SPR/176/2022: **ARDGLASS ROWING CLUB**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration regarding Ardglass Rowing Club. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed Elected Members approve to defer the decision until next month's SPR Committee to allow officers to engage with the group to explain the rationale regarding Council's leasing policies and procedures.**

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

SPR/177/2022: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2022/23, QUARTER 2**Read:** Management Accounts – 2022/23, Quarter 2**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the 2022-23 Quarter 2 (period ending 30th September 2022) Management Accounts update.****SPR/178/2022: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 12 OCTOBER 2022 & 25 OCTOBER 2022****Read:** Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 12 October 2022 & 25 October 2022. **(copy circulated)****Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 12 October 2022 & 25 October 2022.****FOR NOTING****SPR/179/2022: SICKNESS ABSENCE****Read:** Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr P Preen, HR Manager, regarding Sickness Absence **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Trainor raised concerns at the increase in sickness in the previous twelve months enquiring if a more detailed breakdown was available for reasons of absences and whether measures had been put in place to prevent some elements of sickness and make returning to work easier.

The Chief Executive advised that due to the sensitive nature of sickness absence this information could not be shared, however there were procedures in place to manage sickness and Occupational Health support was available for all staff with management reviewing same on an ongoing basis.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report and the following measures in relation to sickness absence:**

- **ASM have provided satisfactory assurance in relation to the Managing Attendance Procedure and the controls in place to manage sickness absence.**
- **Absence data is analysed and reported on a quarterly basis to both the Senior and Corporate Management Teams to identify opportunities for targeted interventions.**

- **Sickness Absence forms part of the Corporate Risk Register and performance monitored on the Corporate Dashboard.**

SPR/179/2022: **MINUTES OF NEWRY CCR PB MEETING – 06 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 06 October 2022 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 06 October 2022.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.52pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 December 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 21 November 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic
Centre and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)**In attendance in Chamber:** Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor Y Moore
Councillor D McAteer**In attendance via Teams:** Councillor J Brennan
Councillor C Casey
Councillor G Malone
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó'Muirí
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly**Non-Members
in attendance:** Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor H McKee (Teams)
Councillor K Owen (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:** Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer**Officials in attendance
via Teams:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Ms L Cummins Democratic Services Officer**AHC/182/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

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

AHC/183/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/184/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/168/2020: Warrenpoint Community Centre

In response for an update from Councillor McKeivitt regarding Warrenpoint Community Centre, Mrs Hillen confirmed Council had agreed to establish a Governance Project Group with representation from Council officers, the consultant design team, estates department and elected members. She added that it was hoped the first meeting would be scheduled early January 2023 and would be responsible for driving forward any future decision in relation to Warrenpoint.

AHC/080/2022: Hilltown Car Park

Councillor McKeivitt praised the work done completed at the Hilltown car park and at Carcullion House and Mrs Hillen advised she would pass that on.

AHC/152/2022: Ukrainian Crisis Report

Councillor McKeivitt enquired if payments had been made to hosts of Ukrainian refugees. Mrs Hillen advised she had not heard of any further delays in relation to the payments but would confirm following the meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 October 2022.

DIRECTORS PAPERS

AHC/185/2022: MID-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN ASSESSMENT 2022/23

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities presented by Mr P Tamati regarding the Mid-Year Business Plan Assessment 2022/23. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the Mid-Year Assessment for the Active and Healthy Communities' Directorate Business Plan 2022-2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/186/2022: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT – CALL 1

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance Report for Call 1. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Ó Muirí, Mrs Hillen confirmed the Irish Language theme remained within Call 1.

Councillor McAteer referred to community groups who had missed out in the past and asked that they be advised of the Call opening. Mrs Hillen confirmed a reminder email notification would be sent to groups who had previously accessed this fund and that it would be publicly advertised also.

Councillor Sharvin spoke of previous calls where community groups were not successful as they were not aware of what the definition of community facilities was and enquired if the definition had been updated.

Mrs Hillen confirmed the definition for Council of what a community organisation was had been agreed as part of the Community Centre Effectiveness Review and advised that, more recently, discussions were held at DEA level regarding a revised definition. She stated members were engaged directly and the matter would be addressed through the Community Facilities Strategy. Mrs Hillen stated that groups had been advised in the meantime how to update or amend their governance documents in order that they are eligible to apply for funding.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding the ability of unsuccessful groups to reapply within the 4 years, Mrs Hillen confirmed she would check however it was her understating was it was a 4 year call for the SLAs with a 2 year interim call.

Councillor O'Hare enquired about how a new Men's Shed in Hilltown would apply for funding. Mrs Hillen confirmed the Men's Shed constitution would mean they would be eligible for a number of themes and that they should be encouraged to attend training sessions in advance of the call being opened and link in with other Men's Sheds and similar group for advice and guidance.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the following:**
- **To open the Call on 6th December 2022 and close in Jan 2023 to ensure letter of offer are with groups by start of finance year to allow planning.**
 - **To merge Community Events and Festival and Summer Schemes into one theme to reduce duplication.**
 - **To move Arts and Culture and any other relevant themes to Call 2.**
 - **The recommendations for Call 3 as per appendix attached within the report and issue.**

AHC/187/2022: **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS - UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to note the report and approve the actions for the following:**
- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 11 October 2022.**

- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2022.**
- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 1 November 2022**

AHC/188/2022: COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Co-ordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2022.**

COMMUNITY PLANNING

AHC/189/2022: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities Committee presented by Mrs J Hillen regarding a Service Level Agreement with the Education Authority. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Lee-Surginor spoke of the importance of youth provisions and welcomed the initiative.

Councillor Sharvin enquired about the requested allocation of budget as to whether it was new money to be found within the budget or replace existing agreements with the Education Authority. Mrs Hillen advised it was her understating it was in addition to any agreements Council had and that it was to assist in the delivery of different objectives.

Mrs Hillen advised she would confirm if the allocation was annually.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to issue a Service Level Agreement through the Council Programmes Unit, verified in line with Council procedures.**

AHC/190/2022 LIAISON AGREEMENT FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF WORK RELATED DEATHS

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a liaison agreement for the investigation of Work Related Deaths. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí enquired if approval was from now or retrospectively.

Mr Devlin clarified there was one in existence and that this was to modernise and bring it up to date and would be from Council approval on.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to grant approval for Council to sign up to the revised liaison agreement for the Investigation of Work Related Deaths.

AHC/191/2022 **NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEMBERSHIP FEE 2022/23**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding payment of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Membership fee for 2022/23 . **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve payment of the annual subscription for membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities to the value of £1283.00.

AHC/192/2022 **COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding support for the 'Guardians for Grub' and 'Feeding Britain' campaigns. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to approve Council signing up to both Guardians of Grub and Feeding Britain campaigns.

AHC/193/2022 **SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES – APPLYING FOR BRONZE ACCREDITATION**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding Council applying to the Sustainable Food Places network for consideration of their Bronze Award. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that an application for the Bronze Award be submitted to the Sustainable Food Places Network.

AHC/194/2022 **BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2023-2028**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2023-2028.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Devlin confirmed Members could contact the Council's Biodiversity Officer with suggestions as to where to focus the new approach and that they would be seeking formally invited to reach out to stakeholders. Councillor Sharvin added DEA Forums should be included to feed into the Strategy.

Councillor McAteer spoke of previous discussions he had with the Department of Infrastructure in relation to opportunities for biodiversity work in the dual carriageways between Warrenpoint and Newry. Mr Devlin confirmed he had noted the comments and would revisit with the Department.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer that an application for the Bronze Award be submitted.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 12-16 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

AHC/195/2022 **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – MAJOR SPORTS CAPITAL (REFERRED FROM COUNCIL)**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Michael Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities presented by Mr P Tamati regarding financial assistance, major sports capital. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that officers will bring a report back to the December Committee to investigate further the Sports Capital Financial Assistance arrangements.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve to progress a Sports Hub, Expressions of Interest Financial Assistance Call for Higher Level Sports Capital as outlined in 2.1.B of the officer's report.

Councillor O'Hare left the meeting at this point – 6.49pm.

AHC/196/2022 **HOME TO HOSPITAL SCHEMES FOR MOURNES AND SLIEVE GULLION DEAs**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding Home to Hospital Schemes for Mournes and Slieve Gullion DEAs. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to provide funding for Mournes and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital Volunteer Driver Schemes and seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community/Voluntary sector organisations to administer subject to funding being identified within Rates Estimates process.**

AHC/197/2022 **OPEN SPACE STRATEGY – BUSINESS CASE**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a business case for an Open Space Strategy. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the following:**
1.To progress the public tender as outlined in 1.1 of the officer’s report and approve the business case as per appendix 1.
2.That officers undertake the appropriate evaluation of tenders in line with procurement guidelines and appoint a preferred bidder.

AHC/198/2022 **UPDATE REGARDING DERRYBEG COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding an update on Derrybeg Community Centre, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

AHC/199/2022 **LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR ANNSBOROUGH AND LISDRUMGULLION**

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding expressions of interest for Annsborough and Lisdrumgullion. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the contents**

of the officer's report and that expressions of interest for the land outlined in 1.1 of the officer's report would progress to stage 3 of the Sport and Leasing Policy 2016.

AHC/100/2022

NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE – SWIMMING POOL

Read

Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding the swimming pool at Newry Leisure Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the contents of the report and the following:

- **Newry Leisure Centre Swimming Pool would not close in December 2022.**
- **Officers would continue to work with the original project team and contractors to determine a programme for closure of Newry Leisure Centre swimming pool, prioritising minimal disruption to service users.**
- **A future report to Council would be tabled to seek approval for closure arrangements of Newry Leisure Centre swimming pool.**

END OF CLOSED SESSION

FOR NOTING

AHC/101/2022

UPDATE ON MULLAGHBAWN COMMUNITY CENTRE - TERMINATION OF LEASE

Read:

Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding an update on Mullaghbawn Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the Mullaghbawn Community Centre termination of lease had been completed as and from the 31 October 2022, and the keys had been returned to the Parish.

AHC/102/2022

PEACE PLUS LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read:

Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Development regarding the Peace Plus Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the contents of the report and the Minutes from the Peace Plus Partnership Meeting held on 6 October 2022.

AHC/103/2022

INITIATIVES FOR USE OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Read: Report dated 21 November 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities and presented by Mr P Tamati regarding initiatives to help with the Cost of Living crisis. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Lewis enquired about facilities to purchase warm tea and coffee within the Down Leisure Centre to which Mr Tamati advised there was currently no resource for that however options were to be worked on with the community.

Councillor Ó Muiri referred to Councillor Murphy's original motion for warm spaces within community and leisure centres for warmth, wi-fi, somewhere for people to meet and to provide drop off points. He added there was a need to link in with outside agencies to provide hot food.

Mr Devlin referred to work ongoing through the age friendly strategic alliance with partners there to promote activities already going on and work with partner agencies to provide keep warm packs. Members were advised there were to be two cost of living events held in early January 2023.

In response to a query from Councillor Lee-Surginor as to whether more locations could be added to the list, Mrs Hillen advised officers would be looking into all centres and a further report brought back to Members.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.22 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 December 2022.

Signed: Councillor H Gallagher
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Casey (Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Teams)
Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)
Councillor G Malone (Teams)
Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor A McMurray (Chamber)
Councillor K Owen (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)

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

SE/148/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

SE/149/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/150/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the**

Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.

Issues raised

SE/147/2022 – Clock at St. Mary’s Parish Church, Newry

In response to a request for an update from Councillor Taylor, Mr Scullion advised officers needed to consult with representatives from St. Mary’s Church, Newry, to ascertain what input the Council previously had in terms of maintenance of this clock and a report would be brought back to Committee once these discussions had been held.

SE/141/2022 – Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting – request for provision of Christmas tree at Newcastle Harbour and Bessbrook

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed officers meet with local community representatives at the beginning of week commencing 28 November 2022 to see what type of technical solution could be offered to provide Christmas illuminations at the Harbour area of Newcastle. The options to be considered to include the provision of a small artificial tree at this location.**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed officers consider technical solutions which could be offered to provide a better Christmas tree in Bessbrook, as the current sustainable tree had not matured sufficiently to ensure it was a focal point for the Village. Officers to update DEA Councillors on the outcome of their discussions.**

Noted: In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding improved accessibility for the public to the Christmas Crib in Hill Street, Newry, Mr Scullion said officers had contacted Church representatives last year to see what could be done but they had confirmed that, for various reasons, they were reluctant to open the gates for greater access.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

SE/151/2022: ENGAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS FOR CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, regarding

engagement of volunteers to work within Castlewellan Forest Park.
(Circulated).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

Noted: Councillor Clarke asked that officers ensure they engaged with Groups who worked in mental health services and also to engage with the South Eastern Regional College re: career development for students.

SE/152/2022: CONTROL OF GREY SQUIRRELS

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, regarding control of grey squirrels. ***(Circulated)***.

Noted: During discussion on the report Members emphasised the need to ensure diligence in relation to health and safety of users and to ensure minimal impact on other animals and the environment. Members commented that there seemed to be an increase in the red squirrel population in some areas and welcomed this – it was important to create the right habitat to encourage natural predators such as the pine martin.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the content of the report.**

It was also agreed that when officers were replying to DEARA on this issue, that they ask for confirmation on what actions DEARA themselves would be taking to control grey squirrels on their land and parks.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

SE/153/2022: FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Fleet Replacement Programme Update. ***(Circulated)***.

Noted: Ms Murphy advised that since the report issued the supplier of the 26 tonne refuse collection vehicles had indicated that delivery of the first two vehicles would be early January 2023 and not December 2022 as indicated in the report.

In response to queries, Mr Cassells confirmed these were replacement vehicles and not additional vehicles and they were not tied into the street cleansing review.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the content of the report.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 13-15 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

SE/154/2022: **FLEET MANAGEMENT OPERATOR'S LICENCE ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Ms S Murphy regarding Fleet Operator's Licence – Fleet Management Action Plan Update. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the revised Fleet Operator License Action Plan update November 2022.**

SE/155/2022: **BUSINESS CASE FOR FLEET TELEMATICS**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Ms S Murphy regarding Business Case for the Procurement of a Vehicle Telemetry System. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to approve the business case in Appendix 1 for the procurement of a telematics solution for the monitoring of location, movements, status, and behaviour of a vehicle/driver subject to the final award being referred back to the Sustainable and Environment Committee following discussions with the Trade Unions.

SE/156/2022: **PROPOSED EXTENSION TO MONKSHILL MUNICIPAL CEMETERY**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: proposed extension to Monkshill Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to-

- Note the content of the report.
- Accept the conclusions of the Economic Appraisal that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the Council proceed with a construction project to extend Monkshill Municipal Cemetery by the addition of circa 566 new burial plots.
- Upon completion of the tender pack for this project a tender was to be advertised to seek appointment of a suitably qualified contractor to complete the approved works under Planning Application LA07/2021/1270/F.

SE/157/2022: **BUSINESS CASE – UPGRADE WORKS TO WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL CEMETERY**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: upgrade works to Warrenpoint Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to-

- Note the content of the report.
- Accept the conclusions of the Business Case that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option. Under Option 3 the existing paving slabs would be removed and replaced with a new bitmac pathway to match the new pathways within the site. Option 3 addresses vehicular access to the site through the provision of automated timed opening and closing of the site.
- Works to the pathways to be undertaken utilising the Council's Civil Engineering and Minor Works Framework.

Works to provide automated timed opening and closing of the site to be procured through open tender.

SE/158/2022: BUSINESS CASE FOR APPOINTMENT OF COMMERCIAL CLEANING CONTRACTOR

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Case for appointment of a contractor to undertake Commercial Cleaning Services (5 x year contract). *(Circulated)*.

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

- **Note the content of the report and associated Business Case.**
- **Accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 2 is chosen as the preferred option. Option 2 will see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent Commercial Cleaning Contractor who will undertake cleaning of Council offices at Downshire Civic Centre, Strangford Road Depot and ad hoc cleaning services at Council Offices, and Council Depot, Newry.**

(Cllr. Stokes left the meeting)

SE/159/2022: PRESENTATION ON COUNCIL STRATEGIC WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr A Cassells, re: Council Strategic Waste Management Arrangements Update. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed not to adopt the recommendations in the report but to defer this as a single agenda item at a Special Sustainable and Environment Committee Meeting, to which all Councillors would be invited to attend, to be convened at a later date.**

(Councillor Malone left the meeting)

SE/160/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 27 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 27 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.**

SE/161/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.**

FOR NOTING**SE/162/2022: SCHEME OF DELEGATION – 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr A Cassells, re: Scheme of Delegation 1 April 2022 to 31 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the decisions taken by the Sustainability and Environment Director from 1 April 2022 to 31 October 2022 in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation for Officers.**

SE/163/2022: NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2022

Read: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Quarterly Provisional Estimates for April to June 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the above Report.**

SE/164/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday 29 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

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

SE/165/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.05 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 December 2022.

Signed: **Councillor O Magennis**
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: **Mr A Cassells**
Director of Sustainability & Environment

Minutes of the 494th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on Thursday 13 October 2022 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre and via Zoom

	<p><u>PRESENT:</u></p> <p>Councillor A Fitzgerald Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair) Alderman A Bresland Derry & Strabane Council – Left the meeting at 11.25 am Alderman T Nicholl Mid & East Antrim Borough – Left the meeting at 11.20 am Councillor C Elattar Mid Ulster Borough Alderman J Speers Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Alderman A Grehan Lisburn & Castlereagh City Councillor A McQuillan Causeway Coast & Glens</p>
	<p><u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u></p> <p>Mr P Price Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight, DfC Mr D Polley Director, Housing Supply Policy, DfC Mr O McHugh Affordable Warmth & Energy, DfC – Left the Meeting at 11.15 am Ms J Gardiner Affordable Warmth & Energy, DfC – Left the Meeting at 11.15 am Ms G Long Chief Executive Miss M McLaughlin Senior Executive Officer, Chief Executive's office</p>
	<p><u>APOLOGIES:</u></p> <p>Councillor M Cooper Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair) Councillor M Kelly Belfast City Councillor M Ruane Newry, Mourne & District</p>

1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>Cllr Fitzgerald welcome all to the meeting, including representatives from DfC and the Housing Executive. She also welcomed Cllr A McQuillan, who was representing Causeway Coast & Glens. She asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>The above apologies were noted.</p>	
		<u>Action</u>
3.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interests</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
4.0.	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 493rd Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 8th September 2022</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Grehan, seconded by Alderman Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 493rd Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday, 8th September 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	<u>Chair</u>
5.0	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	

6.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The forward workplan was noted.</p>	
7.0	<p><u>Update by DfC on Housing Top Issues</u></p> <p>Mr Price and Mr Polley spoke in detail to their circulated report, which provided the Housing Council with an update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues were outlined under the headings as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing Development Plan • Programme for Government Targets / Co-ownership • Revitalisation • Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme • Supporting People Programme • Homelessness Strategy • Private Rented Sector • Affordable Warmth Scheme • Caravans Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 • ERDF • Housing Executive Historical Debt • Housing Executive Rent • Non-ACM Cladding Remediation Scheme <p>PP and DP voiced a standing offer to provide a more comprehensive update, on any topic, should any member require it.</p> <p>Cllr McQuillan asked if further information could be given regarding where social housing is required and map it against investment and if</p>	<p><u>PP/DP</u></p>

	<p>there are any issues regarding planning in different council areas. DP advised that DfC/NIHE work in partnership with councils on LDP and their ambitions at planning policy level.</p> <p>Cllr Speers asked for an update on the issue of separate storm and foul sewers and the opportunities available to divide both. DP provided a brief update and asked if it would be beneficial to invite NI Water to a future meeting to discuss this issue.</p> <p>GL advised that NI Water, like the Housing Executive, are unable to borrow and has to ensure its statutory functions are met.</p> <p>AGREED: That NI Water should be invited to a future meeting of the Housing Council to discuss separate sewage and storm drains.</p>	<u>MMcL</u>
8.0	<p><u>Presentation on Affordable Warmth Scheme</u></p> <p>JG and OMcH, DfC gave Members a presentation on the Affordable Warmth Scheme outlining the follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Fuel Poverty? • What Impacts Fuel Poverty? • DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy and Engagement • The Path to Net Zero • Mitigations to Tackle Fuel Poverty • What Does the Affordable Warmth Scheme Offer? • Affordable Warmth Scheme statistics to date and for 2022/23 • Challenges Ahead & Next Steps <p>Cllr Fitzgerald thanked JG and OMcH for their very interesting presentation and invited questions from Members.</p>	

	<p>Cllr McQuillan commented that some of his constituents, who owned Housing Executive properties and required removal and replacement Cavity Wall Insulation, were being refused by contractors when they were told that it was an ex Housing Executive property. GL advised that any constituent could contact the Housing Executive’s Energy Advice Unit who would provide advice and signpost them to the relevant agency, even if they were above the threshold for the Affordable Warmth Scheme. Contact details as follows:</p> <p>Nienergyadvice@nihe.gov.uk and 0800 111 4455 https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Community/NI-Energy-Advice/NI-Energy-Advice-GET-IN-TOUCH</p> <p>Cllr McQuillan also commented that DfC had now cut referrals for the Scheme from 30 a month to 20 and asked for the reasoning for this. OMCh confirmed that fewer referrals related directly to budget constraints and the number of referrals had reduced to ensure there is no overspend on the budget. Further discussion took place on the end of the AWS and it was noted that the Minister has been asked to review the Scheme to see if can be extended.</p> <p>Cllr McQuillan commented that the Cold Weather Payment, of £25, needed to be revised.</p>	<p><u>ALL</u></p>
<p>9.0</p>	<p><u>Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Year 1 (2022/23) Business Plan – For Public Consultation</u></p> <p>GL provided a presentation on the Housing Executive’s Corporate Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who the Housing Executive have helped 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successes over the past year • Development of the new Plan including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A need to building and invest in affordable, sustainable housing o A strategic shift to help prevent homelessness o Support economic development by investing in skills and supply chains o The delivery of green growth, to help create a carbon free future • The Role and Purpose of the Housing Executive • The Scale of the Business • Engagement with Customers and Stakeholders and their opinions • Changes in approach • Amended Vision Statement • Strategic Changes • New Objectives <p>GL advised that the Corporate Plan is currently out for consultation with all partners, including the Housing Council. She also advised that she had recently met with the Central Housing Forum who have a pro-active set of tenants who are interested in helping to shape what the Housing Executive do for its customers.</p> <p>Cllr Fitzgerald thanked GL for a very interesting and informative presentation and invited questions from Members.</p> <p>Cllr Fitzgerald commented that there was an issue with private landlords and the standard of accommodation offered from them for emergency accommodation. She asked how programmes are rolled out. GL responded adding that it depends on the programme but the Housing Executive are working with councils.</p>	
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	<p>AGREED: GL to send the Housing Council information on programmes.</p> <p>Cllr Speers voiced his concerns regarding constituency issues and not being able to contact Housing Executive managers directly. He found it unsatisfactory that he couldn't contact relevant managers to receive guidance and updates. GL advised that details should be forwarded to her.</p> <p>GL also advised that the Pandemic has had an impact on the ability to be close to customers and the Housing Executive is building connectivity and relationships are improving. She added that she attends all HIP presentations at councils.</p> <p>GL also asked if it would be beneficial for the Director of Housing Services, Jennifer Hawthorne to attend a future meeting to talk through the changes being made within the organisation regarding customers.</p> <p>AGREED: that Jennifer Hawthorne attend a future meeting of the Housing Council to present on NIHE structures.</p> <p>AGREED: that any individual issues regarding customers should be raised with GL directly.</p>	<p><u>GL</u></p> <p><u>JS</u></p> <p><u>GL</u></p> <p><u>ALL</u></p>
<p>10.0</p>	<p><u>Quarterly Report – Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) Progress Report</u></p> <p>Members noted the Report.</p>	

11.0	<u>Housing Starts – August 2022</u> Members noted the Report.	
12.0	<u>Temporary Accommodation Expenditure</u> Noted.	
13.0	<u>Cost of Living Crisis Paper</u> Members noted the paper.	
14.0	<u>Any Other Business</u> Cllr Speers asked if the full quota, of 11 members, had been reached. It was noted that Cllr McQuillan was now the representative for Causeway Coast & Glens. North Down and Belfast Councils to be confirmed.	MMcL
15.0	<u>Date of next Meeting</u> The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 10th November 2022 at 10 am in the Housing Centre	

Meeting ended 11.40 am



CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

The Housing Centre
 2 Adelaide Street
 Belfast BT2 8P8

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NOVEMBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 10th November 2022 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre of via Conference Call.

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

Present

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

Apologies

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
David Polley	Department for Communities

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive

The Report provided the Housing Council with a monthly update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined as follows:-

1. Planned Maintenance contact
2. Green End Rathcoole
3. Annual Performance with the Minister, Deirdre Hargey MLA
4. Corporate Plan
5. Waterside Triangle
6. New Leasehold Policy
7. Sustainable Development Strategy Update
8. Cost of Living Crisis
9. Future Working Practices & Accommodation Strategy
10. Industrial Action and Pay Claims for 2022/23
11. Pay & Grading Review
12. Staff Conference

Housing Council
495th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

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13. Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA)
14. Ukrainian Resettlement Programme

Members also received a Presentation by the Housing Executive on Lifetime Homes in Northern Ireland

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8th December 2022 at 10.00 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

Secretary, Kelly Cameron
The Housing Centre,
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8PB
Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk Tel: 028 95982752

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



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

13 October 2022

Reference No: DFA-MCO-17520-2022
Your Reference No: C/168/2022



Dear Ms Ward,

On behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Mr Simon Coveney TD, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10 October 2022.

Your letter is receiving attention at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

Ciarán Doyle
Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



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

Received

22 NOV 2022

Minister's Office
Department of Justice and Equality

Our ref: C/184/2022

14 November 2022

Ms Helen McEntee TD
Minister for Justice
51 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
DO2 HK52

Dear Minister

Re: Notice of Motion – Electronic Travel Authorisation

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 7 November 2022, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"Council write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland informing him of the serious damage this course of action would inflict upon our business, tourism and healthcare sectors. It was also agreed to write to the Minister for Justice in the Republic of Ireland urging her not to facilitate or cooperate with the imposition of such travel requirements at points of entry or exit into or out of the Republic, if enacted by a UK Government."

Furthermore, this Council believes the imposition of an application process and accompanying charges would be tantamount to an act of legislative sabotage, potentially destroying the post-conflict gains in attracting tourists and business travellers alike to Northern Ireland over recent years."

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

Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive