



May 4th, 2021

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Tuesday, 4th May 2021 at 6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams Meeting**.

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 April 2021

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 07 04 2021.pdf](#) Page 1

[Response from Dept of Justice NOM C.087.2021 and C.088.2021.pdf](#) Page 10

[Response from R Swann NOM C.092.2021.pdf](#) Page 14

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### *Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing*

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## 4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 April 2021

[Council Minutes 07.04.2021.pdf](#) Page 16

## 5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 April 2021

[Special Council Meeting Minutes - 28-04-2021.pdf](#) Page 39

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### *Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption*

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## 6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 April 2021

[ERT Minutes 12 April 2021.pdf](#) Page 41

## 7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2021

[SPR Minutes 15 April 2021.pdf](#) Page 54

## 8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 April 2021

[Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 190421.pdf](#) Page 60

## 9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 21 April 2021

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## 10.0 Planning Section

Local Development Plan

[Extract from Planning Minutes - 10-03-2021.docx](#)

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[Extract from Planning Minutes - 08-04-2021.docx](#)

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### Correspondence

## 11.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - April 2021

[Members Bulletin - April 021.pdf](#)

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## 12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes - 11 March 2021

[Housing Council Minutes - 11th March 2021.pdf](#)

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## 13.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council, Attendance at Meetings 2020/21

Copy letter from Northern Ireland Housing Council dated 1 April 2021 attached.

[Northern Ireland Housing Council 2020-21 Attendance.pdf](#)

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## 14.0 Response from Minister of Health re NOM C/091/2021 Commitment to the Retention and Expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry and to Downe Hospital, Downpatrick

Response from Minister of Health dated 19 April attached.

[Response from R Swann NOM C.091.2021.pdf](#)

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### Notices of Motion

## 15.0 Notice of Motion - Mental Health, Covid 19 Recovery Strategy

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Mason:

“This Council is alarmed at the findings of the recent Down Business Centre Survey

which revealed the impact that Covid-19 has had on local self-employed and notes that the two-thirds of small businesses in the Newry Mourne and Down Council area and over a third of business owners have experienced major or severe mental health problems as a result.

This Council will ensure that mental health services, support and resources are made a priority within the Covid-19 recovery strategy.

This Council will create specific action plan for supporting the mental health of our businesses owners and local self-employed.”

## **16.0 Notice of Motion - Digital Poverty**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Savage:

"This Council acknowledges that blended learning is likely to be with us for some time to come due to the graduated easing of restrictions relating to the Pandemic.

Council recognises that Digital Poverty needs to be urgently addressed across our district and throughout the North in order to tackle growing inequalities in education with children in many families unable to access online learning due to lack of computers in the home and lack of access to adequate broadband.

Council agrees to set up a Working Group to work with local schools, community groups, youth organisations and sports clubs to devise a community-based short-term initiative to assist families to gain access to online learning and adequate broadband.

Council calls for a Digital Poverty Task Force to be set up within the NI Executive to ensure that no child loses out in their education due to lack of access to a computer or broadband and requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Education Minister and the Executive Office outlining the Council's call for a Digital Poverty Taskforce to be established".

## **17.0 Notice of Motion - Council Committee**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Malone:

I refer to recent announcements by the Government on its proposals to provide additional funding to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales totalling 800m. This funding is to replace lost EU funding and will target Town/ City Centre regeneration etc. I am calling on the Council to set up a committee including Councillors, Senior Management Officers, Chambers of Commerce, Newry Bid, Voluntary Sector etc to develop an innovative strategy and action plan to maximise our opportunities with this substantial pot of money. I also request that the Council's Number 1 priority ie; ' The People's Park' on the Albert Basin site be seriously considered as a priority for this funding.

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## **18.0 Notice of Motion - Dental Services during Covid 19 Pandemic**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McKeivitt:

“That this Council notes the severe impact that the Covid-19 crisis has had on people and communities across our district; offers our thanks and support to health service workers who have gone the extra mile to keep our communities safe; congratulates the Minister for Health on the successful implementation of the vaccination programme; expresses concern at the delay and disruption to routine health and dental services during the pandemic; further notes that women who have given birth have not been able to access the promise of free dental care in pregnancy and the 12 months following delivery of their child due to the cessation of dental services and; agrees to write to the Minister of Health asking him to explore an extension to the 12 month free dental care period for mothers who have given birth during the Covid-19 pandemic period”.

## **19.0 Notice of Motion - Accessing Healthcare Services**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Howell:

“This Council believes that any member of the public accessing healthcare services is entitled to do so free of abuse, fear and intimidation and will write to both the Health Minister and the Justice Minister asking them to take steps to ensure this.”

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee  
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Patricia McKeever  
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Cllr Karen McKeivitt  
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Cllr Andrew McMurray  
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Catrina Miskelly  
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Mr Ken Montgomery  
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew  
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Cllr Declan Murphy  
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí  
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Mr Fearghal O'Connor  
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Linda O'Hare  
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
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Cllr Kathryn Owen  
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Mr Andy Patterson  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Ms Alison Robb  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Michael Savage  
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Mr Kevin Scullion  
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
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Donna Starkey  
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Cllr Gary Stokes  
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Sarah Taggart  
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Paul Tamati  
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Cllr David Taylor  
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
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Cllr John Trainor  
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Cllr William Walker  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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**ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

**ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 1 MARCH 2021**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/067/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 01.03.21	The action sheet was agreed	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/068/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 01.03.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/069/2021	Minutes of Special Council 22.03.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted  It was agreed to bring forward the date of the next Special Council Meeting with the South Eastern Trust, Southern Trust and NIAS to June or August 2021.	Democratic Services  S Trainor	<b>Noted</b>	
C/070/2021	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 08.03.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. <i>ERT/049/2021: Brexit Forum</i> Investigate alleged abuse towards a member of Council	Democratic Services  D Carville	<b>Noted</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>staff at Warrenpoint Docks.</p> <p><i>ERT/052/2021: Licence Agreement Donard Forest</i> Management of Donard Park to be included as an element of the Visitor Management Plans for the Mourne.</p> <p>Mr Mallon confirmed he would report back to Councillors Clarke and Devlin regarding the motion and the direction given from Council to ensure it was included in the work being issued over next few weeks.</p>	C Mallon	<b>Noted</b>	
C/071/2021	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 11.03.21	<p>The Minutes, with the exception of SPR/44/2021, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>Item SPR/44/2021 was deferred for a further report to be presented to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on 15 April 2021.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>D Carville</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	
C/072/2021	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 15.03.21	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>It was agreed to review the current policy around the use of Council grass pitches for training in light of recent announcement from NI Executive.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>P Tamati/ K Scullion</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Considered in collaboration with Councils grounds maintenance team, pitches remain closed for training, ongoing review. Designated Grass Pitches for Training have been made available to book from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b></p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>In response to a query from Councillor McKeivitt regarding an opening date for Warrenpoint Tennis Club, Mrs Carville confirmed officers were examining tennis clubs and that Mr Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport would contact Warrenpoint Tennis Club directly.</p> <p>Councillor McAteer also asked for clarification regarding the tennis court in Warrenpoint Park and the two person rule.</p>	<p>P Tamati</p> <p>P Tamati</p>	<p><b>Club designated Council liaison contacted.</b></p> <p><b>Referred to NS who have the remit for Warrenpoint Park.</b></p>	
C/073/2021	<p>Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 16.03.21</p> <p><i>NS/038/2021: Enforcement Improvement Plan Update</i></p>	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>Examine the timings of targeted dog fouling in areas throughout the District.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>J McBride</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	
C/074/2021	<p>Minutes of Special Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2021</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>	
C/075/2021	<p>Planning Committee Meeting held on 10.02.21</p>	<p>There were no issues referred from Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2021.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/076/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin – March 2021	The Bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/077/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 11 February 2021	The minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/078/2021	Response from Minister for Infrastructure RE: C/032/2021 Pedestrian Road Safety Measures	It was agreed to write again to the Minister for Infrastructure advising that the Council welcomed continuing bids being made for finance for roads infrastructure and asking the Minister to detail what resources have been specifically allocated for pedestrian road safety measures across the Newry, Mourne and Down District.	Democratic Services	<b>Letter sent</b>	
C/079/2021	HM Treasury Re: Budget 2021	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/080/2021	Response from Minister for Finance Re: C/041/2021 Proposed Cuts to Advice Services	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/081/2021	Response from Minister for the Economy Re: C/061/2021 Covid Disruption Payment for Students	The correspondence was noted.  It was agreed to write again to the Minister for the Economy asking that whatever needed to be done should be done, to ensure all students were treated equally in receiving the Covid disruption payment, even if it meant a change in legislation.	Democratic Services	<b>Letter sent</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/082/2021	Response from Department for Communities and Department for Education Re: C/038/2021 Child Poverty Task Force	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/083/2021	Response from Minister for Finance re: Nearly zero energy building standards	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/084/2021	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to the Minister for Education re: Holiday Hunger	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/085/2021	Irish Climate Summit 2021	It was agreed any Councillor who was interested in attending the Irish Climate Summit virtual meeting on Thursday 29 April 2021 should advise Democratic Services.	Democratic Services	<b>Email reminder sent to Members – No attendees confirmed.</b>	
C/086/2021	Notice of Motion – Downpatrick Town Centre Development	The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services C Mallon	<b>Noted</b>	
C/087/2021	Notice of Motion – LGBT+ Community	It was agreed that Council opposes the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past through the denial of rights and equal treatment and further recognises that discrimination still occurs today. This Council acknowledges and stands against the	Democratic Services	<b>Letters sent</b>  <b>Response received from Minister for</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>ongoing harm the practice of conversion therapy brings to LGBT+ people. This Council calls on the Minister of Communities to continue to work with the Minister of Health and Minister of Justice to introduce an effective ban on conversion therapy within Northern Ireland, supported by a programme of work to help tackle these practices in all their forms. Furthermore this Council will highlight and promote the continued support, counselling and advocacy our local groups provide to members of the LGBT+ Community.</p> <p>This Council to also write to the UK Prime Minister on this issue.</p>		<b>Justice and attached for information.</b>	
C/088/2021	Notice of Motion – Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy	<p>It was agreed Council recognises women's concerns across the UK and ROI after the disappearance and subsequent murder of Sarah Everard. It has placed a spotlight on the safety of women and girls. This Council is to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request the Northern Ireland Assembly initiate a Violence Against Women &amp; Girls (VAWG) strategy.</li> <li>• Endorse and promote the Women's Aid petition calling for a VAWG strategy to be implemented.</li> <li>• To form a task force to develop a publicity campaign promoting safety apps and engaging with the PSNI, Women's Aid and Soroptomists Great Britain and Ireland.</li> <li>• Ask other Councils to do the same.</li> <li>• We will write to the Minister for Justice begins work on developing a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, as a matter of urgency.</li> <li>• In addition, this Council agrees to consider developing a financial support fund for women's groups across our district and declares its</li> </ul>	Democratic Services	<p><b>Letters sent</b></p> <p><b>Response received from Minister for Justice and attached for information.</b></p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		commitment to making our area a safe place for everyone and acknowledges that women should feel safe in in public places everywhere.			
C/089/2021	Notice of Motion – Condemnation of the Genocide against Ulghr and Kazakh Muslims in China	It was agreed Council condemns the genocide against Uighur and Kazakh Muslims in China, up to one million of whom have been detained in re-education camps in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region; expresses solidarity with the Uighur and Kazakh people and the many others living in China who face the violation of their basic human rights every day and resolves to write formally to the Chinese Consul General to express our horror and disgust at the treatment of these minorities”.	Democratic Services	<b>Letter sent</b>	
C/090/2021	Notice of Motion – GP Counselling Services	<p>It was Council recognises that the demand for Mental Health services has been rising considerably, even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. It notes that there is currently a postcode lottery in operation for GP counselling services and that residents in this district are severely disadvantaged when accessing counselling services, compared to other areas.</p> <p>This Council commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing to the Minister for Health and to the NI Executive to put in place additional funding and resources to support these essential services for all who will need and avail of them and to ensure that the Mental Health Strategy commits to end the postcode lottery for access to in house GP counselling services.</li> <li>• Lobbying the South Eastern and Southern health trust to ensure adequate resources are in place for GP surgeries to provide in house GP counselling services.</li> </ul>	Democratic Services	<b>Letter sent</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively supporting the GP surgeries across our district to become fully operational providers of counselling services, providing quick and accessible support.</li> <li>• Actively promote in house GP counselling services across our district.</li> </ul>			
C/091/2021	Notice of Motion – Department of Health, Commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry and the Downe Hospital, Downpatrick	<p>It was agreed Council calls on the Health Minister Robin Swann to reaffirm the Department of Health's commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry and the retention and expansion of the Downe Hospital in Downpatrick. Council notes with concern media reports that there are plans to close half of the hospitals across the North within the next 10 years and calls for clarity from the Minister to allay the fears of residents of this district who have had to fight to retain vital services at our two cherished local hospitals.</p> <p>Council requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister seeking assurances from him that there are no plans to close or downgrade the Downe Hospital or Daisy Hill Hospital within the next 10 years or beyond and requests an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss the future plans for our two local hospitals to seek guarantees that neither of our two local hospitals will be downgraded or closed as part of any future plans for the delivery of healthcare across the North.</p> <p>The Chief Executive also writes to the Executive requesting that the necessary funding is made available to the Health Minister to retain and enhance services at our local hospitals.</p>	Democratic Services	Letters sent	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Council also requests the Chief Executive to invite the Down Community Health Committee and Daisy Hill Pathfinder Group to meet full Council to discuss the challenges and threats to our local hospitals in a post pandemic environment.		<b>Cllr Workshop was set up for 27.04.21 but postponed and to be rescheduled</b>	
C/092/2021	Notice of Motion – Mother and Baby Homes	It was agreed that Council recognises the upset and distress that the destruction of records by the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes has caused to women, their families and their representative groups; That this Council recognises that this issue is an all-island one and will affect survivors in the north who were sent to these homes; That this Council recognises that survivors have already waited far too long to access their records and calls on the Dublin Government's Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman, to publish without delay access to records legislation; That this Council calls on the Minister of Children to fully support Deputy Kathleen Funchion's Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 to ensure that all adopted people are given unconditional access to their birth certificates; That this Council also calls on the Executive's Minister for Health, Robin Swann, to do everything in his power, including legislate if necessary, to preserve and protect the records from the institutions in the north and to make this documentation easily accessible for victims and survivors".	Democratic Services	<b>Letters sent</b>  <b>Response received from Minister for Health and attached for information.</b>	
END					

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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

Our ref: CORR-0447-2021

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

30 April 2021

Dear Ms Ward,

**NOTICE OF MOTION – VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY**

Thank you for your letter of 15 April relating to the Council's motion on the issue of violence against women and girls and the need to develop a strategy as well as a motion around a ban on conversion therapy in the LGBT+ community.

On the first issues I have been clear in recognising the specific experience of women and girls as victims of both direct and non-direct violence, and am supportive of any measures to ensure that we take a coordinated and joined up approach to tackling the perpetration and effect of such violence.

As you are aware this matter was debated in the Assembly on Tuesday 23 March 2021, where the recognition and commitment to address structural violence which impacts the lives of women and girls was supported unanimously.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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As you will no doubt appreciate any steps to address this issue are not solely, or even primarily, for the Department of Justice. Any strategy to address violence against women and girls, to be effective and holistic, requires societal and cultural change from the roots up as early as possible. We also need to change behaviours, ensuring that there is meaningful change upstream, on preventative initiatives, and a commitment to changing societal attitudes through more targeted education and relationship awareness. As such, it is my view that this is a cross cutting issue that requires Executive leadership, cross-departmental co-operation and support to deliver effectively. I, therefore, brought a paper to the Executive proposing a cross-Departmental violence against women and girls strategy, to be coordinated by the Executive Office and which will focus on tackling root causes of violence against women and girls, and this has now been agreed.

The Council's motion also makes reference to it forming a taskforce to develop a publicity campaign promoting Safety Apps and engaging with PSNI, Women's Aid and Soroptimists. Any work in this area is to be welcomed. You will wish to note that over the last three years my Department has run a multi-media advertising 'See the Signs' campaign to raise awareness of domestic violence, encourage reporting and promote the support available. In 2020, the police ran their 'Behind closed doors' campaign raising awareness and reassuring victims that help remains available, while Crimestoppers also ran an awareness raising campaign this year.

A further multi-media advertising campaign is currently in development in relation to domestic abuse and the new domestic abuse offence, to ensure that there are no 'hidden voices' and that we reach the most vulnerable, including older and younger people and LGBTQI+ members of the community. The campaign will be delivered across a range of platforms to reach as wide an audience as possible.

On the issue of safety apps, I understand that the police are looking at this, in the context of prioritising and highlighting emergency calls from the highest risk domestic abuse victims.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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If progressed this would ensure immediate access to help and support for individuals at their most vulnerable.

I note the work to be carried out by the Council in considering developing a financial support fund for women's groups across your district and your commitment to making your area a safe place for everyone. I welcome the efforts that are being made by the Council in this regard.

Turning to the issue of a ban on conversion therapy, the Council asks that the Communities Minister works with myself and the Health Minister to introduce an effective ban on conversion therapy. As you may be aware the matter of conversion therapy has been widely condemned, with medical institutions warning that such practices are ineffective and potentially dangerous to recipients, both physically and psychologically. I wrote to the Communities and Health ministers last year to initiate a discussion on banning conversion therapy in Northern Ireland; reflecting my concern at reports that conversion therapy continues to be practiced here. We met later in the year and I was heartened by the Department for Communities commitment to take this issue forward.

The Department of Justice's responsibilities lie in the prosecution and conviction of those who commit serious and recognisable offences as part of this so-called therapy. However, current legislation cannot easily pick up the coercive and brain washing techniques applied in this, often hidden, practice.

In July of 2020 the Prime Minister announced that plans to ban controversial "gay conversion therapy" would be brought forward after the government completed a "study" on conversion therapy. Little appears to have happened since then. The lack of any legal power to stop conversion therapy being practiced in Northern Ireland is leaving the way clear for more of our young and vulnerable people to be damaged by this dangerous practice. I am fully supportive of the campaign to end this unacceptable and dangerous practice.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Given the issues raised in the LGBTQI+ community motion, my response is copied to both the Communities and Health Minister (both of whom were sent your original Newry, Mourne and Down motion).

More generally you will wish to note that the *Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse* strategy is aimed at tackling domestic and sexual abuse for all victims, regardless of gender, gender identity or sexual orientation etc. in line with Section 75 requirements. This is a position that will continue to be important taking forward awareness raising on the new domestic abuse offence as well as in progressing work in relation to a new domestic and sexual abuse strategy that would be due to be in place from 2023/24 onwards. Importantly the justice system does not differentiate between people on the basis of their gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.

I trust that you find this response helpful and look forward to seeing the outworking's of the steps that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is considering taking forward in this area.

Yours sincerely,



**NAOMI LONG MLA**  
**Minister of Justice**

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

## FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



14

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

[council@nmandd.org](mailto:council@nmandd.org)

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 028 9052 2556  
Email: [private.office@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@health-ni.gov.uk)

Your Ref: C/092/2021

Our Ref: CORR-1538-2021

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear *Marie*,

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 April relating to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's recent motion on Mother and Baby Homes.

In terms of records held by Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries or by other organisations on their behalf, I wrote to the holders of those records, and the Health and Social Care Board, in December 2020 to request all reasonable steps are taken to preserve records in their possession and to maintain them in keeping with best archival practice.

I also requested the immediate suspension of any routine or procedure for deleting or destroying any such records, and that the suspension remains in place for the duration of any future investigation into these institutions. My correspondence made clear that all staff and former staff (where appropriate) should be notified of the ongoing need to preserve the records and that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that any agents or third parties do not delete or destroy potentially relevant records.

As Council members will be aware, in January this year, the First Minister announced an independent investigation into Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries. The independent investigation will be shaped by victims and survivors of these institutions. This will be done by way of a co-design process facilitated by a team of experts (Truth Recovery Design Panel) over a six month period. Further information relating to the co-design process, the work and membership of the Truth Recovery Design Panel and how to become involved in this important work can be found at:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/mother-and-baby-and-magdalene-laundry-institutions-truth-recovery-design-panel>

Alternatively, individuals can become involved in the co-design process via one of the methods below:

Email: [truthrecovery.mbi-magdalene@nigov.net](mailto:truthrecovery.mbi-magdalene@nigov.net)

Phone: 0300 0200 789 or

Registering your interest at:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/forms/mother-and-baby-institutions-investigation-register>

I trust this information will be of use to Council members.

Yours sincerely



**Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister of Health**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

NMD/C/

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**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor L Devlin

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

**(Officials)**

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism (Acting)  
 Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
 Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting)  
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events  
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer  
 Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

C/065/2021

**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Gallagher, McEvoy, Trainor and Walker.

Apologies were also received from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson paid tribute to James Savage, former SDLP Councillor in the legacy Newry and Mourne District Council who sadly passed away. James had represented the Fewes DEA from 1977-1997 and been Chair of the previous Council, a farmer and had a strong background in the GAA and campaigned strongly for improved sports facilities in the District. Thoughts of Council were with his family and friends following his passing. Councillor Ó Muirí also paid tribute to James Savage who would be missed by the Gaels.

The Chairperson praised the continued success of the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccination programme and encouraged those citizens within the District who were offered the vaccine to take it.

The Chairperson welcomed the recent announcement of the £2.69million funding boost to Castlewellan Forest Park. The significant cash injection had been secured in recent weeks from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and would create a destination which would protect the heritage of Castlewellan Forest Park for future generations, whilst also providing opportunities for local people and visitors to learn more about the landscape. She expressed sincere thanks to the members of the Task and Finish Board that had supported the development of this project since 2015, along with Aveen McVeigh, Project Development Officer and every other Council employee involved in the pitch to Heritage Lottery.

The Chairperson passed on her sympathy and that of Council to Colum Jackson, Assistant Director and his family following his father's passing.

Members were advised the Chairperson had received a request for an emergency Notice of Motion which would require the suspension of Standing Orders and the vote of 80% of those present and voting to allow this motion to be heard. If successful, the motion would be dealt with after all other matter of business and copies of the wording of the motion had been circulated.

#### **C/066/2021                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Andrews declared an interest in item 6, Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee Minutes held on 8 March 2021, ERT/053/2021 Service Level Agreements 2021-22 as a member of East Border Region.

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services declared an interest in items 24, Notice of Motion Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and item 25, Gender Based Violence.

The Chairperson and Councillor Clarke declared an interest in item 6 Minutes of the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee Minutes held on 8 March 2021, ERT/052/2021 Licence Agreement as Board Members of the Mourne Heritage Trust.

In response to a query from Councillor Hanna regarding declarations of interest in relation to the emergency motion, the Chairperson advised it was for Members themselves to declare any interests.

#### **C/067/2021                      ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2021**

**Read:**                                      Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 March 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                                      **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 1 March 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING****C/068/2021                    MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 March 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                                **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.**

**C/069/2021                    MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 22 March 2021 with representatives of the South Eastern Trust; Southern Trust and NIAS (copy circulated).

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Miss Taggart confirmed the planned date for the next Special Council Meeting with representatives of the South Eastern; Southern Trust and NIAS was scheduled for October 2021. Councillor Sharvin spoke of the importance of keeping pressure on the Trusts to redeliver services that were there before Covid and therefore there was a need to meet sooner.

**Agreed:**                                **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Owen to bring forward the date of the next Special Council Meeting with the South Eastern Trust, Southern Trust and NIAS to June or August 2021.**

**Agreed:**                                **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 22 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION****C/070/2021                    MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 March 2021 (copy circulated).

***ERT/051/2021: Warrenpoint Baths***

Councillor Ruane pointed out the proposal was providing the opportunity for Council to progress Warrenpoint Baths for the first time in 25 years and allow Council officials to seek potential funders and proceed with a business case and economic appraisal. He appealed to Members not to oppose the proposal.

Councillor Reilly and Gibbons spoke in support of Councillor Ruane's proposal.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Councillor McAteer reiterated commitment to Warrenpoint Baths. Councillor McAteer proposed the inclusion of a bathing facility within the current building for the business case and economic appraisal in future options. Councillor McKevitt seconded the proposal.

Councillor Ruane stated he would not deviate from the planning permission proposal as contained within the minute.

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

**FOR: 11**  
**AGAINST: 18**  
**ABSTAIN: 6**

**The proposal was LOST and the Chair advised they would revert back to the actual Minutes as they stood in the papers for tonight's meeting.**

*ERT/049/2021: Brexit Forum*

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Reilly regarding an alleged incident of abuse towards a member of Council staff at Warrenpoint Docks and his request to write to the Joint Committee regarding that matter, it was agreed Mrs Carville would look into the allegation further.

*ERT/052/2021: Licence Agreement Donard Forest*

Councillor Clarke spoke of the ongoing issues regarding the management of Donard Park and enquired about a report that was to be tabled on the management of the park until the Gateway Project was in place. He also referred to a motion he had brought forward regarding the Donard Demense and requested an update.

Mr Mallon confirmed work was ongoing in relation to Visitor Management Plans for the Mourne linked and aligned with the Gateway Project, and that he would include the management of Donard Park as an element of that. Mr Mallon also confirmed he would report back to Councillor Clarke regarding the motion and the direction given from Council to ensure it was included in the work being issued over next few weeks. The Chairperson requested that she be included in the update.

**Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Stokes.**

**C/071/2021 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2021**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2021 (copy circulated).

*SPR/44/2021: Terms and Conditions Staff Working at Warrenpoint Port*

Mrs Carville asked that this minute be deferred for a further report to be presented at the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on 15 April 2021.

*SPR/41/2021: Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Project Board Meeting held on 2 March 2021*

Councillor Stokes voiced concern at Newry Cathedral Parish stating opposition to proposals regarding the gardens and new Council offices behind the Cathedral. Councillor Stokes commented that it was understood Officers were in positive discussions with the Parish and given that it seemed not to be the case he asked that parish representatives be invited to meet with the Programme Board and that the minutes of that meeting be circulated. Councillor Taylor seconded the proposal.

Members debated this issue at length with Councillor Mulgrew pointing out there were governance issues regarding inviting individual stakeholders into a Programme Board Meeting.

Councillor Savage advised that he had made a proposal at the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting that Council prepare for whatever came out of the consultation and that there was a need look at other options.

Councillor McKee left the meeting at this stage – 6.49pm

Councillor Malone proposed that a full Council Meeting be arranged to meet with Parish representatives. Councillor Brown seconded the proposal.

The Chairperson pointed out this was a matter for the Project Board Meeting scheduled to take place on 13 April 2021.

Councillor Malone asked that it be put on record that he was very concerned that Members had been told everything was going smoothly when it was blatantly obvious that that was not the case.

Mrs Carville advised she did not have the Terms of Reference at hand and pointed out officers were unable to advise Members of the governance implications of inviting one stakeholder to meet without due consideration. Mrs Carville also advised there had been an accusation from Councillor Malone that he had been misled and that matter would need to be picked up on outside the meeting once Councillor Malone provided the evidence to support his claims.

A lengthy discussion continued during which Councillors Byrne, Mulgrew, Clarke and Taylor spoke of the need for clarity on governance arrangements.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews to adjourn the meeting.

The Chairperson reminded Members there was an agenda item at the Project Board Meeting to be held on 13 April 2021 that would deal with the Parish in terms of consultation and communication.

The meeting was adjourned – 7.12pm

The meeting resumed – 7.18 pm

Mrs Carville advised it was important to address the point ahead of any evidence from Councillor Malone and confirmed officers had had a number of meetings with the Parish and at those meetings there had been an agreed position to be reported back to the Programme Board. She further confirmed at the last meeting with the Parish, it had been agreed to report back to the Project Board that officials continued to have positive meetings with Newry Parish representatives.

Following recess, Mr Mallon was able to provide an overview of Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy as previously agreed by Council and which formed part of the governance arrangements for the Programme Board for the Newry City Regeneration Project.

Members were advised that on the assumption a Parish was in the category community organisation, the agreed method of engagement for individual stakeholder meetings was to be led by Council and focus groups on specific schemes, and therefore did not include Programme Boards or Council Committees.

At the request of Councillor Malone, the Chairperson put his proposal to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy appended to these minutes):

**FOR:** 8  
**AGAINST:** 21  
**ABSTAIN:** 6

The proposal was LOST.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 March 2021, with the exception of SPR/44/2021, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Item SPR/44/2021 was deferred for a further report to be presented to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on 15 April 2021.

**C/072/2021**                      **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2021**

**Read:** Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2021 (copy circulated).

*AHC/206/2019: Suicide Down to Zero*

Councillor Gibbons commended officers Eoin Devlin and Sinead Trainor for organising the recent Suicide Prevention Training.

*AHC/059/2021: Leisure Services and Sports Scale of Charges*

Councillor Sharvin asked that following the announcement from the NI Executive regarding the reduction on restrictions whether Council could temporarily suspend the current policy around the use of council grass pitches used for training. Councillor Sharvin highlighted many sports clubs did not have access to their own facility and relied on Council pitches to be able to train.

Councillor Ó Muirí also spoke of the need to bring Council policy into line with guidance of the NI Executive in terms of return to play so that Council facilities, of which many sporting clubs were reliant upon, were made available quickly.

Mrs Carville confirmed officers would look into the matter and report back.

In response to a query from Councillor McKeivitt regarding an opening date for Warrenpoint Tennis Club, Mrs Carville confirmed officers were examining tennis clubs and that Mr Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport would contact Warrenpoint Tennis Club directly.

Councillor McAteer also asked for clarification regarding the tennis court in Warrenpoint Park and the two person rule.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

**Agreed:** It was agreed to review the current policy around the use of Council grass pitches for training in light of recent announcement from NI Executive.

**C/073/2021**                      **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2021 (copy circulated).

*NS/037/2021: Council's Tree Strategy*

In welcoming this initiative, Councillor Casey asked that trees damaged on Castle Street, Newry be replaced, and that consideration be given to planting trees along the whole of the tow path at Canal Bank, Newry.

Councillor Clarke also welcomed the Council's Tree Strategy further to a motion he brought forward some time ago, and thanked officers involved. Councillor Clarke referred to land released on conacre and asked if land in those areas could be put out for tree planting and the Council should examine land it owns and that of statutory partners also.

*NS/040/2021: Refuse Collection Holiday Arrangements 2021/22*

In response to a query from the Chairperson, Mr McBride confirmed the refuse collection calendars would be issued to all households and the timetable to do so would be presented to the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting on 21 April 2021. Mr McBride also confirmed there would be no changes to the refuse collection schedules.

*NS/038/2021: Enforcement Improvement Plan Update*

Councillor McAteer referred to the recruitment of staff to deal with dog fouling and asked that consideration be given to target most fouled areas in Warrenpoint in the early mornings and late evenings.

The Chairperson suggested Mr McBride examine the timings of targeted dog fouling in areas throughout the District and Mr McBride confirmed he would do so.

**Agreed:**                                **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

**C/074/2021**                      **MINUTES OF SPECIAL ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2021 re: application for the renewal of licence to operate a house of multiple occupation for 31 and 19 Kilmorey Street, Newry (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                                **The Minutes of the Special Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Mason.**

**PLANNING**

**C/075/2020**                      **PLANNING MINUTES 10 MARCH 2021**

Noted:                                There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2021.

**FOR NOTING****C/076/2021                    NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – MARCH 2021**

Read:                                    Bulletin dated March 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

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

**C/077/2020                    NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 2021**

Read:                                    Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 February 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:                                    **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 February 2021 were noted.**

**CORRESPONDENCE****C/078/2021                    MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RE: PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY MEASURES**

Read:                                    Correspondence dated 4 March 2021 from the Minister for Infrastructure re: Pedestrian road safety measures. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:                                    **The correspondence was noted.**

Agreed:                                    **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to write again to the Minister for Infrastructure advising that the Council welcomed continuing bids being made for finance for roads infrastructure and asking the Minister to detail what resources have been specifically allocated for pedestrian road safety measures across the Newry, Mourne and Down District.**

**C/079/2021                    HM TREASURY RE: BUDGET 2021**

Read:                                    Correspondence dated 11 March 2021 from HM Treasury re: Representations in advance of Budget 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:                                    **The correspondence was noted.**

**C/080/2021                    MINISTER FOR FINANCE RE: PROPOSED CUTS TO ADVICE SERVICES**

Read:                                    Correspondence dated 8 March 2021 from the Minister for Finance re: Proposed cuts to independent advice sector. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:                                    **The correspondence was noted.**

**C/081/2021****MINISTER FOR THE ECONOMY RE: COVID DISRUPTION PAYMENTS FOR STUDENTS**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 18 March 2021 from the Minister for the Economy re: Covid disruption payments for students. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** The correspondence was noted.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed to write again to the Minister for the Economy asking that whatever needed to be done should be done, to ensure all students were treated equally in receiving the Covid disruption payment, even if it meant a change in legislation.

**C/082/2021****DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION RE: CHILD POVERTY TASK FORCE**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 10 March 2021 from the Department for Communities and 09 March 2021 from the Department for Education re: Child Poverty Task Force. (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The correspondence was noted.

**C/083/2021****MINISTER FOR FINANCE RE: NEARLY ZERO ENERGY BUILDINGS (NZEB)**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 4 March 2021 from the Minister for Finance re: Nearly zero energy building standards. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** The correspondence was noted.

**C/084/2021****MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: HOLIDAY HUNGER**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 29 March 2021 from the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to the Minister for Education re: Holiday Hunger. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** The correspondence was noted.

**CONFERENCES/EVENTS****C/085/2021****IRISH CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021**

**Read:** Invitation to the Irish Climate on line Summit 2021 to be held on Thursday 29 April 2021 at a cost of €195 plus VAT at 23%.

**Agreed:** It was agreed any Councillor who was interested in attending the Irish Climate Summit virtual meeting on Thursday 29 April 2021 should advise Democratic Services.



orientation or gender identity. That could include attempting to change someone's sexual orientation from lesbian, gay or bisexual to straight, or gender identity from transgender or non binary to cisgender. It was also known as 'gender critical therapy' and 'ex-gay ministry' among other terms intended to mask its purpose and intent. Evidence from the Trevor Project in the US suggests up to 10% of LGBT individuals have been subjected to conversion therapy at some point in their lives, mostly when they were children under 18.

Councillor Brown said the majority of conversion therapy was administered through 'talk therapy', often invoking biblical texts, spiritual teachings and prayer, which has been colloquially known as 'pray the gay away'. However, even more harmful forms of therapy existed, such as physical aversion therapy or, in some parts of the world, electric shock treatment. Adverse childhood experiences or trauma were often wrongly given as the reason for a person's orientation or identity, with conversion therapy suggested as 'treatment' for this. He said conversion therapy was often performed by unlicensed counsellors, life coaches and ministries, although whilst much contemporary conversion therapy had been associated with faith communities, it's important to note the role many faith leaders have played in attempting to ban the practice.

In conclusion, Councillor Brown said it was therefore integral that Newry, Mourne and Down Council sent a strong message out to the people of the district and Stormont that they will not accept this disgraceful practice and want to see it permanently banned from being carried out in Northern Ireland. He said he hoped all Councillors would support this Motion.

During the discussion that followed, Councillor Byrne spoke in support of the Motion and said that to have to speak on this issue in 2021 was beyond distressing and he hoped everyone in the Chamber would give it their support. He said it was long past time that the NI Executive stood up together and banned these abusive practices.

Councillor Byrne provided a personal account of his own difficult experiences stating it was the shaming and the attitudes on how people spoke and engaged with the LGBT community that needed full attention and the voice of everyone in the Chamber was needed to support the LGBT community who should not be sign posted to change. He said the SDLP fully supported the Motion and asked Councillor Brown to include an amendment that the Council also write to the UK Prime Minister since it was 9 months from he had said that changes would be announced, and they were still waiting, as well as to the NI Executive.

Councillor Brown said he would be happy to include this in the Motion.

Councillor Enright left the Meeting at this stage – 8.10pm

Councillors Clarke, Sharvin, Hanlon and McMurray spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Taylor spoke on the need for education on this issue and referred to the increased level of debate, both locally and nationally. He said he was aware the issues around conversion therapy would be discussed within the Assembly next week and he hoped concerns would be addressed.

Councillor Hanna advised the DUP would be abstaining on this Motion as he believed it would suppress the views of those who do not agree with the position of those who were supporting it.

Councillor Reilly said he did not know enough about the issue but to ban things because you did not like someone's ideology or philosophy was the start of a dark path and he did not like the concept of outright bans.

The Motion was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

FOR:	28
AGAINST:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	2

The Motion was declared carried.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Mason, that 'This Council opposes the harm caused to our LGBT+ community in the past through the denial of rights and equal treatment and further recognises that discrimination still occurs today. This Council acknowledges and stands against the ongoing harm the practice of conversion therapy brings to LGBT+ people. This Council calls on the Minister of Communities to continue to work with the Minister of Health and Minister of Justice to introduce an effective ban on conversion therapy within Northern Ireland, supported by a programme of work to help tackle these practices in all their forms. Furthermore, this Council will highlight and promote the continued support, counselling and advocacy our local groups provide to members of the LGBT+ Community.

**This Council to also write to the UK Prime Minister on this issue”.**

Councillor Tinnelly left the meeting at this stage – 8.17pm.

The Chair advised that 3 Motions on the agenda, items 24, 25 and 29 were quite similar and said it would be ideal for the elements from the further Motions be included in the first Motion.

**C/088/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) STRATEGY**

The following Notice of Motion came forward from Councillor Owen:-

**“This Council recognises women's concerns across the UK and ROI after the disappearance and subsequent murder of Sarah Everard. It has placed a spotlight on the safety of women and girls. This Council is to**

- **Request the Northern Ireland Assembly initiate a Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) strategy.**
- **Endorse and promote the Women's Aid petition calling for a VAWG strategy to be implemented.**
- **To form a task force to develop a publicity campaign promoting safety apps and engaging with the PSNI, Women's Aid and Soroptimists Great Britain and Ireland**
- **Ask other Councils to do the same.**

Councillor Hanna seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Owen started by giving some startling statistics and stated there was not a woman around that had not been touched by the murder of Sarah Everard who was only walking home.

Councillor Owen said she spoke on this topic from personal experience and went on to outline the challenges she faced in getting people to believe her and this was the first time she felt strong enough to speak out about it, as she felt those on a public platform must help others.

Councillor Owen said sadly in 2021, many female victims still felt like this, and with only 39.2% of suspects getting charged, who could blame them. She said they put their neck on the line, swallow the shame and report it, for more often than not, it to be ignored. Women and girls must feel empowered to come forward.

Councillor Owen said for these reasons, a Violence Against Women and Girls strategy was needed and it was needed now to protect the next generation.

Councillor Hanlon said it was unacceptable that the North was the only place on these Islands that did not have a strategy to tackle gender-based violence. She said it was crucial to look at education including educating sons that they treat women with respect and that they understood consent.

Councillor Hanlon said given the seriousness of the issue, combining the 3 Motions together would send a really strong message from Newry, Mourne and Down Council and said after the Motions had been submitted to Council, the Assembly had passed a Motion to back a Gender Based Violence Strategy. She asked that the Motion be amended to include the Council write to the Minister for Justice and the Joint First Ministers and Executive Team and ask that they really press ahead with this Strategy and that it just did not become a Motion that got a few headlines and fell by the wayside again and that the Council wanted to see it being progressed as quickly as possible.

Councillor Owen confirmed she was happy to accept this amendment.

Councillor McKeivitt paid tribute to Councillor Owen and stated the SDLP would be fully supporting the Motion. She then asked Councillor Owen if she would accept the inclusion of the last line of their Motion that in addition, this Council agrees to consider developing a financial support fund for women's groups across our district and declares its commitment to making our area a safe place for everyone and acknowledges that women should feel safe in in public places everywhere.

Councillor Owen confirmed she was happy to accept this additional amendment.

Councillors Lewis, Andrews, Brown and Clarke spoke in support of the combined Motion.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was unanimously agreed:-**

**“This Council recognises women's concerns across the UK and ROI after the disappearance and subsequent murder of Sarah Everard. It has placed a spotlight on the safety of women and girls. This Council is to:-**

- **Request the Northern Ireland Assembly initiate a Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) strategy.**
- **Endorse and promote the Women's Aid petition calling for a VAWG strategy to be implemented.**
- **To form a task force to develop a publicity campaign promoting safety apps and engaging with the PSNI, Women's Aid and Soroptimists Great Britain and Ireland.**
- **Ask other Councils to do the same.**

- We will write to the Minister for Justice begins work on developing a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, as a matter of urgency.
- In addition, this Council agrees to consider developing a financial support fund for women's groups across our district and declares its commitment to making our area a safe place for everyone and acknowledges that women should feel safe in in public places everywhere.

C/089/2021

**NOTICE OF MOTION – CONDEMNATION OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST UIGHUR AND KAZAKH MUSLIMS IN CHINA**

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

**“This Council condemns the genocide against Uighur and Kazakh Muslims in China, up to one million of whom have been detained in re-education camps in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region; expresses solidarity with the Uighur and Kazakh people and the many others living in China who face the violation of their basic human rights every day; abhors the decision by the Member of Parliament for South Down to express solidarity with the regime responsible for these crimes; and resolves to write formally to the Chinese Consul General to express our horror and disgust at the treatment of these minorities”.**

Councillor Savage seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McAteer said the Motion evolved from recent incidents and news coming out of China regarding the situation around the Uighur and Kazakh ethnic minorities in the Xinjian Region. He said these people were being subjected to human rights abuse which had extended to the internment of at least 1m people who were being held in over 380 camps where they were supposedly being re-educated. He said this re-education was aimed at eradicating the religion, language and culture and there was also physical and psychological abuse of detainees, including torture and forced labour. He referred to the abuses of children and women.

Councillor McAteer said the growing relationship with China was valued and welcomed as was the move to a more open society there but this behaviour was a retrograde step which could not be ignored or compromised on.

Councillor Hanna spoke of the DUP's support for the Motion.  
Councillors Taylor, McMurray and Lewis also spoke on the Motion.

Councillors Mason, O'Muirí and Clarke spoke on Sinn Fein's stance against human rights abuses and said there was no doubt that this was also the referred to MP's stance. They said the Motion simply did not reflect the tweet that the proposer of the Motion was making reference to and said the reference to solidarity was in line with the ending of absolute poverty and the MPs views on tackling health inequalities.

Councillor Mason said she felt the Motion was very disingenuous and the scoring of political points was not what the Chamber should be used for and therefore Sinn Fein could not support the Motion as it currently stood.

Councillor O'Muirí proposed an amendment to the Motion, seconded by Councillor Clarke, as follows:-

**“This Council condemns the genocide against Uighur and Kazakh Muslims in China, up to one million of whom have been detained in re-education camps in the Xinjiang**

**Uighur Autonomous Region; expresses solidarity with the Uighur and Kazakh people and the many others living in China who face the violation of their basic human rights every day and resolves to write formally to the Chinese Consul General to express our horror and disgust at the treatment of these minorities”.**

Councillor McAteer said he would not be happy to accept the amendment and as he said the MP for South Down had every opportunity to correct his tweet and he did not do so.

The Chair said that as the proposer of the Motion was not accepting the amendment, under Standing Orders, she would put the original Motion to a vote.

The Motion was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

**FOR: 13**  
**AGAINST: 14**  
**ABSTENTIONS: 2**

The Motion was declared LOST.

The amendment was then put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

**FOR: 27**  
**AGAINST: 0**  
**ABSTENTIONS: 2**

The amendment was declared CARRIED.

**Agreed:** It was agreed “This Council condemns the genocide against Uighur and Kazakh Muslims in China, up to one million of whom have been detained in re-education camps in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region; expresses solidarity with the Uighur and Kazakh people and the many others living in China who face the violation of their basic human rights every day and resolves to write formally to the Chinese Consul General to express our horror and disgust at the treatment of these minorities”.

#### **C/090/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – GP COUNSELLING SERVICES**

The following Notice of Motion came forward from Councillor Mason:-

“This Council recognises that the demand for Mental Health services has been rising considerably, even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. It notes that there is currently a postcode lottery in operation for GP counselling services and that residents in this district are severely disadvantaged when accessing counselling services, compared to other areas.

This Council commits to:

- Writing to the Minister for Health to ensure that the Mental Health Strategy commits to end the postcode lottery for access to in house GP counselling services.
- Lobbying the South Eastern and Southern health trust to ensure adequate resources are in place for GP surgeries to provide in house GP counselling services.

- **Actively supporting the GP surgeries across our district to become fully operational providers of counselling services, providing quick and accessible support.**
- **Actively promote in house GP counselling services across our district.**

Councillor Finnegan seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Mason said it was inspired by a recent meeting with a fantastic group of Campaigners from the PPR project running. The #123GP campaign was made up of people with direct experience of seeking mental health support, their families and carers, and those who had lost loved ones to suicide. They were campaigning for changes within and beyond mental health services, to ensure that anyone who was experiencing emotional distress, pain or trauma could access timely and appropriate support and help.

Councillor Mason said that having engaged with the #123GP Campaign in recent months, she was now working with Newry, Mourne & Down Council to actively pursue the Health Trusts to commission these urgent services for the local community. She said the Health and Social Care Board and the regional Health Trusts could be allowed to pass the buck when it came to the District's health and well-being.

Councillor Mason said there was little doubt that Covid-19 had exacerbated the existing mental health crisis in our society; however it could also present an opportunity to open up access via digital methods such as video calls especially in those surgeries where physical space was an obstacle. As we begin to ease out of the restrictions it was critical that the appropriate support is in place for both providers and those seeking help and it was essential to see dedicated regional and all-island plans as a matter of urgency.

In concluding Councillor Mason said this Council must play its part in ending this postcode lottery for counselling services currently operating here in South Down.

Councillors Andrews, Taylor, Owen and Gibbons spoke in support of the Motion.

At the request of Councillor Andrews, Councillor Mason agreed to include an amendment to also write to the NI Executive to put in place additional funding and resources to support these essential services for all who will need and avail of them.

**Agreed:**

**It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, "This Council recognises that the demand for Mental Health services has been rising considerably, even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. It notes that there is currently a postcode lottery in operation for GP counselling services and that residents in this district are severely disadvantaged when accessing counselling services, compared to other areas.**

**This Council commits to:**

- **Writing to the Minister for Health and to the NI Executive to put in place additional funding and resources to support these essential services for all who will need and avail of them and to ensure that the Mental Health Strategy commits to end the postcode lottery for access to in house GP counselling services.**
- **Lobbying the South Eastern and Southern health trust to ensure adequate resources**

are in place for GP surgeries to provide in house GP counselling services.

- Actively supporting the GP surgeries across our district to become fully operational providers of counselling services, providing quick and accessible support.
- Actively promote in house GP counselling services across our district.

**C/091/2021    NOTICE OF MOTION – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – COMMITMENT TO THE RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF DAISY HILL HOSPITAL, NEWRY AND TO DOWNE HOSPITAL, DOWNPATRICK**

The following Notice of Motion came forward from Councillor Savage:-

**“This Council calls on the Health Minister Robin Swann to reaffirm the Department of Health’s commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry and the retention and expansion of the Downe Hospital in Downpatrick. Council notes with concern media reports that there are plans to close half of the hospitals across the North within the next 10 years and calls for clarity from the Minister to allay the fears of residents of this district who have had to fight to retain vital services at our two cherished local hospitals. Council requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister seeking assurances from him that there are no plans to close or downgrade the Downe Hospital or Daisy Hill Hospital within the next 10 years or beyond and requests an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss the future plans for our two local hospitals to seek guarantees that neither of our two local hospitals will be downgraded or closed as part of any future plans for the delivery of healthcare across the North.**

**Council also requests the Chief Executive to invite the Down Community Health Committee and Daisy Hill Pathfinder Group to meet full Council to discuss the challenges and threats to our local hospitals in a post pandemic environment.”**

Councillor Curran seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Savage said the Motion was self-explanatory and was seeking clarification from the Health Minister on rumours of his Department potentially hatching plans post-Covid to halve the number of hospitals across the North over the next decade. He said if the rumours were to be believed we could be looking at the scenario of having the 5 so called “Golden Hospitals” with the remaining hospitals including Daisy Hill and the Downe being potentially relegated to phone ahead urgent care centres.

Councillor Savage said there had been a review headed up by a Consultant at the Royal entitled “Review of Urgent and Emergency Care” and said it was imperative this report was published and consulted on.

Councillor Savage said if there were proposals to downgrade Daisy Hill and Downe hospitals then everyone needed to stand in solidarity and not allow this to happen.

Councillors Hanlon, Murphy and Hanna spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Taylor said the UUP would also support the Motion but said the necessary finance needed to be provided to the Department of Health and he asked if Councillor Savage would include this amendment in the Motion.

Councillor Savage advised he would be happy to include this amendment.

**Agreed:**

It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Curran that “this Council calls on the Health Minister Robin Swann to reaffirm the Department of Health’s commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry and the retention and expansion of the Downe Hospital in Downpatrick. Council notes with concern media reports that there are plans to close half of the hospitals across the North within the next 10 years and calls for clarity from the Minister to allay the fears of residents of this district who have had to fight to retain vital services at our two cherished local hospitals.

Council requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister seeking assurances from him that there are no plans to close or downgrade the Downe Hospital or Daisy Hill Hospital within the next 10 years or beyond and requests an urgent meeting with the Minister to discuss the future plans for our two local hospitals to seek guarantees that neither of our two local hospitals will be downgraded or closed as part of any future plans for the delivery of healthcare across the North.

The Chief Executive also writes to the Executive requesting that the necessary funding is made available to the Health Minister to retain and enhance services at our local hospitals.

Council also requests the Chief Executive to invite the Down Community Health Committee and Daisy Hill Pathfinder Group to meet full Council to discuss the challenges and threats to our local hospitals in a post pandemic environment.

**C/092/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION- MOTHER AND BABY HOMES**

The following Notice of Motion came forward from Councillor Howell:-

"That this Council recognises the upset and distress that the destruction of records by the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes has caused to women, their families and their representative groups; That this Council recognises that this issue is an all-island one and will affect survivors in the north who were sent to these homes; That this Council recognises that survivors have already waited far too long to access their records and calls on the Dublin Government's Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman, to publish without delay access to records legislation; That this Council calls on the Minister of Children to fully support Deputy Kathleen Funchion's Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 to ensure that all adopted people are given unconditional access to their birth certificates; That this Council also calls on the Executive's Minister for Health, Robin Swann, to do everything in his power, including legislate if necessary, to preserve and protect the records from the

**institutions in the north and to make this documentation easily accessible for victims and survivors".**

Councillor Magennis seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Howell said that the Mother and Baby Homes & Magdalene Laundries Report was a sad and troubling insight into the suffering of thousands of women and their children.

She said the report was a difficult read, but an important step towards addressing the harm caused to survivors and the pain they have endured. It gave a sad and troubling insight into the lived experiences of the thousands of women and girls, and their now adult children. She said the harsh treatment of these women was cruel, unjust and inhumane. As a woman who was a young unmarried first-time mother, she said her heart broke for the women and girls who did no wrong, whose rights were ignored and whose children were so cruelly taken from their arms. For those children who never knew their mothers, who for too long had been kept in the dark. They were failed on every level and we could not allow them to be failed any longer.

Councillor Howell said the upset and distress caused to these women, their families and their representative groups on learning of this along with previous media leaks, disrespectful language and poor consultation had only compounded their grief and in many ways added further insult to the enormity of their pain and suffering

In conclusion Councillor Howell asked that this Council recognise that this issue was an all-island one and would affect survivors in the north who were sent to these homes and that this Council carry out the actions as outlined in the Motion.

Councillors McKeivitt, McMurray, Owen and Taylor spoke in support of the Motion.

**Agreed:**

**It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, "that this Council recognises the upset and distress that the destruction of records by the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby homes has caused to women, their families and their representative groups; That this Council recognises that this issue is an all-island one and will affect survivors in the north who were sent to these homes; That this Council recognises that survivors have already waited far too long to access their records and calls on the Dublin Government's Minister for Children, Roderic O'Gorman, to publish without delay access to records legislation; That this Council calls on the Minister of Children to fully support Deputy Kathleen Funchion's Civil Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 to ensure that all adopted people are given unconditional access to their birth certificates; That this Council also calls on the Executive's Minister for Health, Robin Swann, to do everything in his power, including legislate if necessary, to preserve and protect the records from the institutions in the north and to make this documentation easily accessible for victims and survivors".**

**C/093/2021:                    EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Chair advised an emergency Notice of Motion had been received, the wording of which had been emailed to all Councillors and to enable it to be heard, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Order 16.1.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting).

The requirement to suspend Standing Orders to allow the tabling of the emergency Motion was put to a recorded vote and voting was as follows:- (copy appended to these Minutes)

**FOR:                                14**  
**AGAINST:                        14**  
**ABSTENTIONS:                0**

**Agreed:**                        It was agreed not to suspend Standing Orders and therefore the emergency Notice of Motion would not be heard.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.30 pm

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 4 May 2021.

**Signed:**                                \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Executive**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

36

DATE: 7 April 2021      VENUE: Hybrid      MEETING: Council  
**SUBJECT OF VOTE: Councillor McAteer proposed the inclusion of a bathing facility within the current building for the business case and economic appraisal in future options. Councillor McKeivitt seconded the proposal.**

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
P Brown			1	
R Burgess			2	
P Byrne	2			
C Casey		1		
W Clarke		2		
D Curran	3			
L Devlin	4			
S Doran				1
C Enright				2
A Finnegan		3		
H Gallagher				3
M Gibbons		4		
O Hanlon		5		
G Hanna	5			
V Harte		6		
R Howell		7		
M Larkin		8		
A Lewis			3	
O Magennis		9		
G Malone		10		
C Mason		11		
D McAteer	6			
L McEvoy				4
H McKee			4	
K McKeivitt	7			
A McMurray			5	
R Mulgrew		12		
D Murphy		13		
G O'Hare		14		
B Ó Muirí		15		
K Owen	8			
H Reilly		16		
M Ruane		17		
M Savage	9			
G Sharvin	10			
G Stokes	11			
D Taylor			6	
J Tinnelly		18		
J Trainor				5
B Walker				6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

37

DATE: 7 April 2021 VENUE: Hybrid

MEETING: Council

**SUBJECT OF VOTE: Councillor Malone proposed the Newry Cathedral Parish representatives be invited to attend full Council Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Brown**

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		1		
P Brown	1			
R Burgess			1	
P Byrne		2		
C Casey		3		
W Clarke		4		
D Curran		5		
L Devlin		6		
S Doran				1
C Enright	2			2
A Finnegan		7		
H Gallagher				3
M Gibbons	3			
O Hanlon		8		
G Hanna			2	
V Harte		9		
R Howell		10		
M Larkin		11		
A Lewis			3	
O Magennis		12		
G Malone	4			
C Mason		13		
D McAteer		14		4
L McEvoy				
H McKee				
K McKeivitt		15		
A McMurray	5			
R Mulgrew		16		
D Murphy		17		
G O'Hare		18		
B Ó Muirí		19		
K Owen			4	
H Reilly	6			
M Ruane		20		
M Savage		21		
G Sharvin			5	
G Stokes	7			
D Taylor			6	
J Tinnelly	8			
J Trainor				5
B Walker				6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

38

DATE: 7 April 2021 VENUE: Hybrid MEETING: Council

**SUBJECT OF VOTE: To suspend Standing Order 16.1.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting) to enable an emergency Notice of Motion to be heard**

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
P Brown	2			
R Burgess				1
P Byrne	3			
C Casey				2
W Clarke		1		
D Curran	4			
L Devlin	5			
S Doran				3
C Enright				4
A Finnegan		2		
H Gallagher				5
M Gibbons		3		
O Hanlon		4		
G Hanna	6			
V Harte		5		
R Howell		6		
M Larkin		7		
A Lewis	7			
O Magennis		8		
G Malone				6
C Mason		9		
D McAteer	8			
L McEvoy				7
H McKee				8
K McKeivitt	9			
A McMurray	10			
R Mulgrew		10		
D Murphy		11		
G O'Hare		12		
B Ó Muirí		13		
K Owen	11			
H Reilly				9
M Ruane		14		
M Savage	12			
G Sharvin				10
G Stokes	13			
D Taylor	14			
J Tinnelly				11
J Trainor				12
B Walker				13
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

**NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on  
Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 5.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor L Devlin

**In attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor V Harte
Councillor C Mason	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor H McKee
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Owen	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

**Officials in attendance:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Strategy Policy & Resources  
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
 Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
 Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)  
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

**SC/012/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Doran.

The Chairperson advised members that the regulations which allowed the hosting of remote meeting expires on 6 May 2021, therefore action was required to allow meetings to still take place and the legal appropriate authority to do so. An amendment of Standing Orders was required in accordance with Standing Order 29.2 and would subsequently be adjourned without discussion until the next full Council meeting.

**SC/013/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SC/014/2021: AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS**

**Read:** Report from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) dated 28 April 2021, regarding the Amendment of Council Standing Orders **(Copy Circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Members agree to option 3 to amend Council's Standing Orders by the inclusion of the wording as set out in the Appendix to the officer's report to facilitate the continued holding of 'remote' Committee and Council meetings until the necessary legislation is in force.

The meeting concluded at 17.04pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 04 May 2021.

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**Signed:** Councillor L Devlin  
Chairperson of Council

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**Signed:** Ms M Ward  
Chief Executive

**NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 12 April 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor A McMurray

**In attendance:** **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor D Curran

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor R Howell

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor R Mulgrew

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor M Savage

Councillor G Stokes

Councillor J Tinnelly

**Non Members:** Councillor T Andrews

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor L Devlin

Councillor D Taylor

**Officials in attendance:** Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events

Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration

Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer

Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations

Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager

Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance:** Mr Colin Neill CEO Hospitality Ulster

Mr Stephen Magorrian Horatio Group

Ms Angela Reavey Independent Economic Assessor

**ERT/063/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The Chairperson expressed his condolences to the Queen and her family on the passing of the late Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh. He said Prince Philip was a husband, a father, a grandfather and a great grandfather and he understood this was a difficult time for the family. He said Prince Philip was one of the last surviving veterans of World War II having served in the Royal Navy which would be of poignance to many people who had relatives who fought in this war and to whom have been paid homage to in the District by way of presentation of silver poppies. He spoke of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which he himself had taken part in setting him on a trajectory to the career he now had in outdoor pursuits through which he can see the benefit and value the scheme has for young people.

The Chairperson extended thanks to the Chair of Council for opening an online Book of Condolences.

An apology was received from Councillor W Clarke.

**ERT/064/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Burgess declared an interest in Item No. 8 regarding All Ireland Smart Cities, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

Councillor T Andrews declared an interest in Item No. 8 regarding All Ireland Smart Cities, as he was a board member of the East Border Region.

**PRESENTATIONS****ERT/065/2021: PRESENTATION  
HOSPITALITY SECTOR COLLABORATION**

**Note:** Members from the Council's Covid Recovery Working Group were invited to be in attendance for this item.

Mr Colin Neill Chief Executive Hospitality Ulster thanked the Council for the opportunity to present to Members, and began his presentation together with Mr Stephen Magorrian Horatio Group.

The presentation included the following points which focused on an introduction to Hospitality Ulster and on the Hospitality Ulster Recovery Plan:

- Hospitality Ulster was created circa 1872 and it's membership today covers a base of pubs, restaurants, hotels, coffee shops, visitor attractions and airports with hospitality offerings.
- Provides the hospitality industry with an extensive range of resources and support, including one to one support, plus lobbying for the industry which is mainly made up of micro businesses.
- Hospitality within the Newry Mourne and Down District accounts for 25% of all private sector employment and is the fourth largest employer of private sector employment in Northern Ireland.
- Pre Covid the industry generated an annual turnover of £2billion, sustained 72,000 jobs, bought one third of Northern Ireland agri-food and accounted for two thirds of tourism spend.
- The Hospitality Ulster Recovery Plan took approximately 3 months to develop with the assistance of economists, strategists' and the establishment of a strategy group within the Hospitality Ulster Board.
- The plan takes a very strategic and long term approach to recovery - consumer habits and trends have changed and the plan takes into account the role of the hospitality industry going forward in a changed environment; the circular economy will be key to ensure businesses support local suppliers and important that business know who local suppliers are.
- Endeavour to work with Council to identify opportunities to build together in terms of hospitality and tourism.
- The closure of hospitality has shown the knock on effect this has had on other industries.
- Hospitality is an industry that young people can join without the need for a lot of qualifications, learn skills, run their own business with little investment and provide many opportunities including travelling the world.
- There is a concern that many Hospitality Ulster members, which are small businesses, will be returning to higher costs; supplier costs will increase due to Covid and Brexit and there will be a role for Hospitality Ulster and the Council going forward as it will be vitally important people are prepared in the right way for the changes ahead.

- The Recovery Paper is about rebuilding, revitalising and re-imagining what the future might be post Covid.and help people rethink their businesses.
- A Webinar will open on 20 April 2021, in partnership with Hospitality Ulster and Council which will be open to any hospitality business, whether member or non member. The Webinar will help people to revisit their business model and look at what will need to be addressed as businesses prepare to reopen.

Discussion followed during which the following points and responses were raised:

- How can pubs and hospitality business with little space be supported.
- Pub is the Hub – very important in rural communities and we should lobby Department for Communities to put proper legislation in place to allow community hubs.
- Did businesses benefit from Eat Out to Help Out initiative and hotel vat reductions, and will the introduction of 5% vat on high streets be beneficial?
- Creation of ambience in town centres for people to eat and socialise outdoors – bringing people into city centres requires looking at the European model where people are back living in city centres, congregating and socialising. Need to look at re-zoning areas within cities to create plaza square developments and create communities within cities again.
- Importance of pubs, post offices, shops etc in local villages to the rural community.
- Hospitality Ulster are campaigning the Government to continue with support grant for the smaller venues who cannot open in the Covid environment to sustain them until such times as it is safe for them to open.
- Outdoor space will be important going forward therefore a radical approach is needed in towns to look at how to create this space.
- VAT (and rates) reduction for hospitality was beneficial and it is essentially important VAT is kept low.
- Eat Out to Help Out was very successful and contributed to helping businesses build up reserves.

- Hospitality will have a key role in attracting people to towns and cities. The key challenge is the lack of public space needed to create family friendly space where locals want to spend time, and this will require a radical approach.
- Although the level of grant aid provided for businesses has been higher in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the UK it is however costing £1m per day to keep the hospitality industry closed.

The Chair thanked Mr Neill and Mr Magorrian for attending the meeting.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed:**

- 1. Council send a letter to the Department for Communities requesting the Minister consider altering regulations to Licensing laws to support introduction of Pub is the Hub model for Northern Ireland and revitalise rural communities.**
- 2. The Hospitality Ulster Recovery Plan be circulated to all Councillors for information.**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).**

**ERT/066/2021: PRESENTATION  
RE: ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF WATER BASED  
ACTIVITIES**

**Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding findings of the independent economic assessment on potential future economic benefit a lifting bridge would bring to Newry City, as part of the Southern Relief Road proposals. (Copy circulated)**

**ERT/067/2021: ICONIC PLAY STRUCTURE: TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding an updated Licence Agreement for the Iconic Play Structure at Tollymore Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/068/2021: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS  
ST PATRICK'S VISITOR CENTRE  
RE: NETWORKED VISITOR SERVICING**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the provision of the networked visitor information service by the St Patrick's Visitor Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Burges it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.**

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

**ERT/066/2021: Economic Assessment of Water Based Activities**

Councillor Mulgrew proposed to accept the officer's recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Ruane. The Chairperson put the matter to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 5  
AGAINST: 8  
ABSTENTIONS: 1

The proposal was LOST

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to defer consideration of Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the economic assessment of water based activities to the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 10 May 2021. Councillor Hanna seconded the proposal.**

**ERT/067/2021: Iconic Play Structure: Tollymore Forest Park**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the updated Licence Agreement for the play structure at Tollymore Forest Park.

**ERT/068/2021: Service Level Agreements – St Patrick’s Visitor Centre - Re: Networked Visitor Servicing**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve funding support to St Patrick’s Visitor Centre to operate the visitor information services and provide the necessary standards to meet Networked Status. The value of this support is £3,000 to be added to SPVC Service Level Agreement for 2021/22FY.

**FOR AGREEMENT****ERT/069/2021: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
- MONDAY 08 MARCH 2021**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 March 2021.

**ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION****ERT/070/2021: ALL IRELAND SMART CITIES FORUM**

**Read:** Report dated 08 March 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an update on the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. To approve the cost of renewal of membership of €4,809 per annum. This cost includes facilitation support of Maynooth University Business School, the bi-monthly meetings and the Annual All Ireland Smart Cities Conference.**
- 2. To note Newry Mourne and Down District Council continue to avail of the expertise from the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. An ERT Officer and representative from East Border Region will continue to attend the meetings and disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders.**

**ERT/071/2021:** **CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- To note the extension to DAERA Letter of Offer to 31 August 2021.**
- To accept the award from National Lottery Heritage Fund and proceed with the**
- implementation of “Re-rooting Our Past in the Future: Castlewellan Historic**
- Demense” project as per award offer via Task and Finish Board.**
- To note the continuation of Integrated Design Team.**
- To note the submission of the Planning Application for Castlewellan Forest**
- Park.**
- To note the action report from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 12 March 2021.**

**ERT/072/2021: FREEPORTS**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Freeports. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. Council remain involved in the Invest NI lead working group and participate in the research work as per the term of reference summarised as per Report.**
- 2. Council provide information on the top sectors within the District that would need to be included in any proposal going forward.**
- 3. Council seek clarity on the proposed governance and decision making structures in relation to a Freeport in Northern Ireland and what, within this, would be the role and expectations of Councils, including any resources required.**

**ERT/073/2021: SHARED HISTORY FUND**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Service Level Agreements for delivery of Shared History Fund – AONB and Geopark. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- To sign Service Level Agreement with Ms Una Walsh Lead Facilitator, for the period April 2021 to March 2022, for the total £15,000.**
- To sign Service Level Agreement with Queen's University Belfast, for the period April 2021 to March 2022, for the total £7,500.**

**BUILDING CONTROL AND LICENSING****ERT/074/2021:      RESIDENTS SURVEY  
RENAMING NEW PHASE: FOREST HILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Read:                      Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director ERT Building Control regarding postal numbers for a new phase development at Forest Hills Newry.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**                **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed that given the exceptional circumstances in this case, Council set aside policy and undertake a Residents' Survey for a proposal to name the phase of new sites at Nos 23A to 23Q Forest Hills Newry, as Forest Hills View, and thereafter renumber this new phase.**

**ERT/075/2021:      ON STREET CARPARKING - NEWRY**

Read:                      Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director ERT Building Control regarding a review of on street car parking in Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**                **On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed the Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking a review of the legislation associated with On Street Car Parking in Newry City Centre and to include the Council, Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade and Newry BID as key stakeholders in the design of any alternatives.**

**FOR NOTING****ERT/076/2021:      BID REVOTE**

Read:                      Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the BID revote. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**                **To note that the Newry BID ballot was passed and activity will continue for the next 5 years as per the agreed strategy**

and action plan.

**ERT/077/2021: BREXIT FORUM MEETING  
TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 23 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on Tuesday 23 March 2021.**

**ERT/078/2021: COVID 19 REVITALISATION PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding and update on delivery of Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation funding. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the update contained in Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding progress of delivering the Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation funding.**

**ERT/079/2021: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr J McGilly Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Action Reports from Steering Group Meetings held on 17 December 2020 and 25 February 2021.**

**ERT/080/2021: LICENSING 6 MONTHLY REPORT**

Read: Licensing Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Licensing Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021.**

**ERT/081/2021: BUILDING CONTROL 6 MONTHLY REPORT**

Read: Building Control Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Licensing Report for 6 month period from 01 September 2020 to 28 February 2021.**

**ERT/082/2021: SEA FLAG 2**

Read: Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr G McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the delivery of Union Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note Report dated 12 April 2021 from Mr G McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the delivery of Union Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.**

**ERT/083/2021: SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Read: Scheme of Delegation – 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: To note the Scheme of Delegation 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.**

**ERT/084/2021: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

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

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

**ERT/085/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE**

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**           **To note the Planning Performance Figures for February 2021.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 04 May 2021.

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**Signed:**           **Councillor A McMurray**  
**Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on  
Thursday 15 April 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)****In the Chair:** Councillor G Sharvin

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor A Lewis
	Councillor H McKee	Councillor O Magennis
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
	Councillor M Savage	Councillor W Walker

**Also in attendance:** Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in Attendance:** Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR & Safeguarding  
 Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing (Administration)  
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services  
 Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates & Capital Projects  
 Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor  
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events  
 Mr P Preen, HR Policy & Projects Manager  
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager  
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

**SPR/53/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Doran.

The Chairperson congratulated Mr C Mallon on his appointment as Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Director on a permanent basis.

**SPR/54/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SPR/55/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2021****Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**SPR/041/2021 – Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting - 02.03.2021**

In response to a query from Councillor Savage, Mrs Carville confirmed that the matter had been referred to the Programme Board and it would be on the agenda of their next meeting. She advised she would revert to Councillor Savage with confirmation of the next meeting date.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 11 March 2021, be approved.

**CORPORATE SERVICES**

**SPR/55/2021: WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Women's Working Group (**Copy circulated**)

Mrs Carville advised members that the working group would be inclusive and requested that parties put forward nominations to Democratic Services within the next 2 weeks to allow the group to be operational and have their first meeting in May.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to approve the Terms of Reference which set out the working group's scope, purpose and proposed membership.

**FOR NOTING**

**SPR/56/2021: NMDDC CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO DRAFT OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT (PfG)**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding NMDDC Consultation response to draft Outcomes Framework for the Programme for Government (PfG) (**Copy circulated**)

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

**SPR/57/2021 STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JANUARY – MARCH 2021**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2021 (**Copy circulated**)

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

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

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

**SPR/58/2021: NILGA ANNUAL PAYMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding NILGA Annual Payment. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, that Elected Members agree to pay the annual subscription fee for 2021/22 at a cost of £51,259.

**SPR/59/2021: DRUMEE ROAD CASTLEWELLAN – THE LANE**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) regarding, Drumee Road, Castlewellan – The Lane' **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, that Elected Members agree to Option 3 and refute responsibility for maintenance of whole or part of the Lane going forward and write to residents to confirm this.

Council to correlate a list of roads in a similar situation and write to the Department of Infrastructure to highlight the roads identified for adoption.

**SPR/60/2021: PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT NEWRY STREET CAR PARK KILKEEL TO NIEN**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Acting Head of Legal Administration, regarding proposed lease of lands at Newry Street Car Park, Kilkeel to NIEN **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Elected Members agree to grant a Lease to NI Electricity Networks of the lands outlined in red on the Map at Appendix 1 for the term of 99 years subject to a one-off premium of £1000.00.

**SPR/61/2021: LAND OWNERSHIP AT DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mr F O'Connor Acting Head of Legal Administration, regarding land ownership at Delamont Country Park **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that Elected Members agreed the following:

- i) That Members approve officer's continued engagement with EA and seek a fresh agreement, in place of the 1988 Declaration of Intent, which will reflect recent discussions and clearly define the legal issues and respective legal obligations regarding the proposed land transfer;
- ii) That Council pursues a formal commitment by EA to allow use of the proposed slipway by Council;
- iii) That Members authorise the carrying-out of works at the slipway by EA subject to achieving the desired outcomes at i) and ii) above.

**SPR/62/2021: SEASONAL TOURISM ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events, regarding Seasonal Tourism Enforcement Officers. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, that Elected Members approve the recommendation for the recruitment of seven Seasonal Tourism Enforcement Officers, with an extra three in reserve for deployment if required, to ensure safe and responsible use of key tourism sites across the summer, at the cost outlined in the officer's report.

**SPR/63/2021: WARRENPOINT BATHS**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events, regarding Warrenpoint Baths **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Howell, that Elected Members approve that no further use of Warrenpoint Baths is permitted at this time, including as a storage space, for reasons outlined in the officer's report.

*At this point in the meeting it was agreed to take item 14 of the agenda*

Mrs Carville asked all officers not involved in Trade Union negotiations to leave the meeting at this point and reminded members of the confidentiality of the papers contained within the report. Councillor Byrne requested an email was issued to all Councillors who had been in the meeting advising of the confidentiality point, in case they had left the call and not received Mrs Carville's advices.

Councillor Brown left the meeting at 19.13pm

**SPR/64/2021: TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Terms and Conditions Update **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Elected Members approve the new Night Rate of all employees whose work pattern includes the hours between 11pm and 5am.

**SPR/65/2021: TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPDATE – TRADE UNION FACILITY RELEASE**

**Read:** Report dated 15 April 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Terms & Condition Update – Trade Union Facility Release. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, that Elected Members consider the release of 2 Trade Union Representatives on full time basis

until 31 December 2021, to support the agreed workplan with indicative completion date of 31 December 2021. Members agree this release including a request from NIPSA for 2 days a week to support NIPSA General Council work; this release to be reviewed on 31 December 2021.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.29pm.

Signed: **Councillor Gareth Sharvin**  
**Chairperson**

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

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2021

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 19 April 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor L McEvoy**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**  
Councillor T Andrews                      Councillor C Casey  
Councillor A Finnegan                      Councillor M Gibbons  
Councillor C Mason                          Councillor McKeivitt  
Councillor McMurray                        Councillor B Ó Muirí  
Councillor D Taylor                         Councillor W Walker**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing  
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement  
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer**AHC/065/2021:                      APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Malone and Trainor.

The Chairperson thanked Councillor O'Hare for chairing the Active and Healthy Committee Meetings whilst she had been off and thanked Members for their kind wishes following the birth of her son.

**AHC/066/2021:                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor McKeivitt declared an interest in item 21, Ballyholland GAC Lease.

**AHC/067/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

*AHC/049/2021: Installation of RAPID bins on Council sites*

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews regarding the possibility of installing a RAPID bin at the Bridge Centre Killyleagh, Mrs Hillen confirmed she had spoken with Members about their requests for additional bins and had asked PCSP to keep those areas in consideration for any future RAPID Bins going into the District.

*AHC/047/2021: Play Strategy Update*

At the request of Councillors Mason and Andrews, Mr Tamati agreed to report back directly to them regarding an update on new builds and consolidations including Teconnaught, Hillfoot 1 and 2, Ballynahinch and Darragh Cross.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Mason to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021.**

**AHC/068/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION: COVID 19, MENTAL HEALTH**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding a Notice of Motion on Covid 19, Mental Health. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Mason spoke on behalf of Councillor Howell and welcomed the report in a time when there was a mental health crisis resulting from the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Mason commented that Councillor Howell wished to ensure there was a new emphasis put on mental health and a budget allocated as a matter of priority to give young people the tools to build resilience over the months and years to come.

Mrs Hillen pointed out the report provided a snapshot of activity ongoing in relation to mental health within the DEAs and that there were a host of initiatives also being undertaken by Health and Wellbeing and Leisure and Sport departments.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to note the report and approve the following proposed actions for the DEA Forums and DEA Coordinators in response to the Notion of Motion:**

- 1. Mental Health and Wellbeing to be placed as an agenda item for the next scheduled meeting of each DEA Forum.**
- 2. DEA Coordinators to continue to engage groups and services to effectively promote support available for Mental Health and Wellbeing.**
- 3. Agreement to be sought from the Council's Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to provide the DEA Forums with a programme budget (through the DfC COVID-19 response & recovery funding that is**

administered by the CCH with AHC Committee approval) to support local Mental Health and Wellbeing initiatives and programmes and provide a coordinated response with key partners.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### AHC/069/2021 PEACE PLUS CONSULTATION

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding consultation on PEACE PLUS Programme 2021-2027. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey, to submit the draft consultation response to meet SEUPB deadlines and subsequently present to AHC & Council for consideration and final approval. Council to consider resources required to assist with the development of the Peace Plus District Plan.

### AHC/070/2021 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding an update on the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor McKeivitt regarding funding and if it was only open to groups who had applied in the first round, Mrs Hillen confirmed there were still opportunities for groups to get involved.

Councillor Ó Muirí commended the work of the Community Coordination Hub and spoke about its importance in identifying those areas within the community most at risk and in need and how if anything was ever to happen again Council would be quick to respond and know exactly where to target.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached within the report for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021.

Mr Lipsett joined the meeting at this stage – 6.15pm

**AHC/071/2021**      **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding DEA Forums Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors McMurray, Mason and Andrews welcomed the proposal for the provision of plaques to those groups who had assisted DEAs with the Food Parcel Delivery Scheme.

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Mourne DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 31 March 2021 and approve the proposal that the Council through the DEAs provides plaques to those groups who assisted the DEAs with the COVID-19 Food Parcel Delivery Scheme between April and July 2020 to thank them for their assistance to the DEAs during the scheme and their service to their local communities.**

**AHC/072/2021**      **DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – COVID FOOD & ESSENTIAL ITEMS TRANSITION FUND**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding a draft Memorandum of understanding, Covid Food and Essential Items Transition Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí welcomed the funding from DfC as a huge boost to strategically plan for recovery and the future. Councillors Andrews and McKeivitt also spoke in support of the funding.

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews to note the report and give approval to the Council's COVID-19 Community Coordination Hub (CCH) to distribute, allocate or award the £143,729.12 of COVID-19 Food & Essential Supplies Transition Funding provided by the Department for Communities (DfC), in keeping with the purposes of and conditions of the funding.**

**AHC/073/2021**      **COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS AT MEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding community allotments at Meigh Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Finnegan, McMurray and Ó Muirí spoke in support of the community allotments.

Mrs Hillen confirmed approaches from community groups to set up initiatives such as this were welcomed.

Mr Devlin advised there was a financial assistance call out for community growing schemes and the sustainability section worked with City Farms Organisation to promote allotments and grow your own across the District.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McMurray to permit Meigh Community Association to use vacant land beside the playpark at Meigh Community Centre and that this proposal is built into the groups Facilities Management Agreement with Council.

**AHC/074/2021      FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – CALL 1**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Financial Assistance, Call 1, 2021-22. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Andrews to approve the following:

- The attached appendices for revenue and capital projects within the report.
- Disaggregate the Minor Items from the Sports Development Summer programmes. Incorporating a cap of £2500 for Sports Development Summer programmes.
- Undertake a mid-year review of capital budgets to identify any potential shortfall to support successful Sports Development Minor Capital applicants.
- Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer.

**LEISURE AND SPORTS**

**AHC/075/2021      CYCLE HUB – DOWN LEISURE CENTRE/DUNLEATH PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sports, regarding a Cycle Hub, Down Leisure Centre/Dunleath Park.

In welcoming the report, Councillor McMurray suggested officers reach out to Sustrans and also investigate the possibility of a pump track similar to the facility at Killinchy Community Centre.

Councillor Mason spoke in support of the scheme and welcomed making good use of the vast area at Dunleath Park with a bike park, skateboard park facility.

Mr Tamati confirmed that following on from a notice of motion to Council, officers were working closely with Downpatrick DEA members on developing proposals for Dunleath Park and he would raise the proposed idea of a pump track with that grouping.

In response to a request from Councillor Gallagher, Mr Tamati agreed to speak with Mr Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture and Events regarding an upgrade of Castlewellan Pump Park as part of the Walking Trail Development.

In response to Councillor O'Hare's request for an update on Hilltown/Ardmore Area pump track, Mr Tamati confirmed it was being developed through the Community Trail Plans, which would be determined by funding and a report would be presented at a later time.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Mason for the following:**

- 1. To establish a cycle hub at Downpatrick Leisure Centre/Dunleath Park in partnership with Cycling Ireland.**
- 2. That Council enter into a license agreement and memorandum of understanding with Cycling Ireland and officers agree the detail of this in conjunction with Councils legal team.**

**AHC/076/2021**      **COUNCIL PITCHES BEING USED FOR TRAINING PURPOSE AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR Ó MUIRÍ**

Councillor Ó Muirí advised he had requested the item be considered by the Committee as a lot of communication had been received in relation to the matter pertaining specifically to the South Down area.

Councillor Mason spoke at length about calls being received from local football clubs and whilst acknowledging there were grounds maintenance issues, there was a need to put arrangements in place to open areas to enable juveniles to train in these unprecedented times.

Councillor Mason also referred to issues relating to Council Policy that the pitches were not for training but for matches only, and the need to consider the unforeseen circumstances and prioritise young adults and children ability to train for their mental health and wellbeing. She pointed out that this further highlighted the underdeveloped and underinvested sports facilities, particularly for soccer specifically in and around the Downpatrick area and there was a need to discuss the sustainability of local youth leagues and plans for meeting the needs for the future of these clubs.

Councillor Mason proposed Council contact the local sports clubs affected to make arrangements for the use of these pitches and examine the Council policy to have it updated to allow training can be allowed. Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the proposal.

Councillor McMurray and Hanlon spoke in support of the proposal.

Mr Tamati confirmed there had been discussions and collaborative working with the Neighbourhood Services department regarding the protocol for training on grass pitches, especially with the announcement that matches were to recommence on 23 April 2021.

Mr Tamati confirmed he would work with the clubs and try and designate some grass pitches across the District, particularly in Downpatrick with a caveat for the preparation for matches.

Mr Lipsett added that officers would begin immediate joint-working with the Neighbourhood Services and Grounds Maintenance departments as there were a number of pitches that



**AHC/078/2021      SUSTAINABLE NI ANNUAL SUPPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Sustainable NI Annual Support. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to provide funding of £5000 to Sustainable NI for 2021-22 year and signing of an SLA with SNI.**

**AHC/079/2021      FUNDING SUPPORT FOR HSENI PARTNERSHIP LIAISON OFFICER**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding contribution to the provision of a Partnership Liaison Officer between the 11 Councils and the Health and Safety Executive N. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O’Hare, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to provide funding to support the HSENI Partnership Liaison Officer post.**

**AHC/080/2021      COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION – DECARBONISING ROAD TRANSPORT IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Committee of Infrastructure Consultation on Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the attached response to the Infrastructure Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly which had been returned by the requested date of 14 April 2021, with the caveat that it would need to receive Council approval.**

**FOR NOTING****AHC/081/2021      2021/22 DfC AREAS AT RISK FUNDING FOR BESSBROOK AND CROSSMAGLEN**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding 2021/22 DfC Areas at Risk Funding for Bessbrook and Crossmaglen. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed to note the report and that Council secured £24,000 per location to run educational programmes for**

residents from the Crossmaglen and Bessbrook areas, through DFC Areas at Risk funding.

**AHC/082/2021**      **POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP)**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Police and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2021, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on Tuesday 30 March 2021.**

**AHC/083/2021**      **NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed to note the report and the Minutes of Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021.**

**AHC/084/2021**      **SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Social Investment Fund Update. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed to note the report and the Minutes of the Social Investment Fund Capital Project Board Meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021.**

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

**AHC/085/2021**

**BALLYHOLLAND GAC LEASE – CONSENT TO DEVELOP LAND**

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

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr P Tamati Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Ballyholland GAC Lease, Consent to Develop Land. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to consent to Ballyholland Harps GAC developing Council owned land currently leased to the club, as per the terms of the lease and subject to planning permission being granted for the proposed development.

**AHC/086/2021**

**LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSIONS ON INTEREST**

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

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr P Tamati Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Leasing of Council Land, Expressions of Interest. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the contents of the report and that Expressions of Interest for the following land and facilities will progress to stage 2 of the Sport and Leasing Policy 2016.

1. Moorehill Quarry: Adjacent to Newry recycling Centre, Newry.
2. Derryleckagh Field/Land: Adjacent to Derryleckagh playing fields, Newry.
3. Generator House: Adjacent to the yacht club, Newcastle.
4. Burren Village Green Field/land: Adjacent Play park and community centre, Burren.
5. Drumaness Cricket Pitch: Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness.
6. Drumaness Soccer Pitch: Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness.

**AHC/087/2021**

**FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR BATTERY STORAGE PILOT**

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

**Read:** Report dated 19 April 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a Feasibility Study for Battery Storage Pilot. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Gallagher for Officers procuring a feasibility study to assess the suitability of Council community buildings with PV for battery storage pilot.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.38pm.

Signed: Councillor L McEvoy  
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett  
Director Active and Healthy Communities

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

### **Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 6.00pm via MS Teams.**

**Chair:** Councillor O Magennis

**Deputy Chair:** Councillor T Andrews

**Members:**

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

**Non-Committee Members:** Councillor G O'Hare  
Councillor A McMurray

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement  
Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance, Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

#### **NS/056/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor G Malone and Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director. The Chair also advised that Councillor Mason had to leave the meeting at 7.00 pm.

#### **NS/057/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

#### **NS/058/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2021**

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021. ***(Circulated)***.

**AGREED:**               **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

## **FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION**

### **NS/059/2021:    NOTICE OF MOTION – BIODEGRADABLE BAG DELIVERY SYSTEM**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Owen (referred to Neighbourhood Services Committee in accordance with SO 16.1.6 from the Council Meeting of 6 January 2020 where it was proposed by Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Walker):-

**“This Council will maximise food waste collection contributing to our recycling targets and reduction of our carbon footprint by simplifying its biodegradable bag delivery system to residents.”**

Councillor Owen said the sustainability of the environment was a hugely important factor to all and she said now was the time this needed to be looked at. She said when she lived in England refuse collectors delivered the green bags and that when a household needed a new supply they would either tie a bag to the wheelie bin or there was a tag supplied to put on the back of the bin. Councillor Owen said this simple process made it easier and more inviting for households to recycle their food waste.

She said she was surprised that this Council had not adopted something similar and instead were asking householders to drive to HRCs and pick them up. Constituents were saying that sometimes there was not always stock available, meaning a second trip needed to happen.

Councillor Owen said the objective of the Council should be to cut green-house emissions, not increase them and the Council should be doing all they could to make recycling attractive and easier for residents. She said the Council should be delivering the bags to residents’ homes or come up with something similar.

Read:                    Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr J McBride, recommending Members agree to the recommendation that a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on a preferred option for distribution of biodegradable bags.  
*(Circulated).*

**AGREED:**               **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the report and approve the above recommendation.**

**It was agreed that Mr McBride bring back a report on the preferred option for distribution of biodegradable bags to the August Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting for consideration.**

**It was also agreed that in the interim Mr McBride arrange for a supply of biodegradable bags to be delivered to each Councillor for distribution to the community, similar to the arrangements that had been put in place when HRCs were closed due to COVID restrictions (subject to stock being available).**

**NS/060/2021: TREE PLANTING STRATEGY**

Noted: In response to a query from Councillor Casey, seeking clarification as to whether the Council would be planting trees along the length of the tow path for which they had responsibility for, Mr Ellis advised they were limited in the amount of tree planting that could be carried out by Historic Environment Division, as the whole length of the Canal was a scheduled monument and HED's position was that they did not want tree planting on the formal tow path to any great extent. However Council's aim was to plant linear abutorium at gateway areas and also to plant living shelters at strategic points along the waterway.

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**NS/061/2021: BUS SHELTER REQUEST FOR MAIN STREET HILLTOWN**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: bus shelter applications for Hilltown. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to approve the recommendations in Appendix 1 circulated for the erection of a bus shelter at Spelga Park, Hilltown, and also the erection of a bus shelter at Main Street, Hilltown.**

**It was also agreed Mr K Scullion provide an update to the Rowallane Councillors on specific requests for bus shelters in Saintfield and Crossgar.**

**NS/062/2021: FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR EV INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE COUNCIL'S DEPOTS**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: feasibility study for the provision of electric vehicle charging points infrastructure at the Council's depots. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to approve the recommendation that a Business Case be prepared which examined the investment and benefits of the EV charging system, together with costings.**

**It was further agreed as part of the Business Case, that officials consider the need for a generator at the proposed sites, in the event of an interruption to electricity supply.**

**It was also agreed officials investigate potential sources of funding for the provision of electric vehicle charging points from the East Border Region Committee.**

**NS/063/2021: PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: public convenience strategy consultation. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised by Members

- The need for the provision of public conveniences in Dundrum and a request that officials liaise with local community groups and organisations and local businesses, including Dundrum Village Association, on this matter.
- An update was provided by Mr Scullion in relation to the resource issues which were delaying the re-opening of the public conveniences in Saintfield. Noted officials would be bringing a report back to Committee on an opening up plan for Council facilities across the District.
- Continuous issues with the toilets in Newcastle including maintenance and cleansing issues that needed to be addressed. If toilets were closed signage should be erected to direct people to nearby toilets.
- If toilets were well maintained and cleaned, the public may be receptive to a small charge being put in place for usage.
- Important that Council liaise with local community groups; businesses and other Statutory Agencies as part of the PC Strategy.

- Consideration to providing a radar key for public conveniences to certain users such as delivery people as a revenue generator.
- The employment of seasonal staff to pick up litter and clean toilets etc. during busy times.

**AGREED:**           **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note contents of this report and to approve the recommendation to finalise the Public Convenience Strategy, taking into consideration results of the 12-week consultation process. The finalised strategy document to be presented to the Neighbourhood Services Committee before setting out of each work package as part of the implementation process for delivery of the service going forward.**

(Councillor Mason left the meeting).

**NS/064/2021:    RE-WILDING UPDATE**

Read:                Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: rewilding and landscape improvements for health and wellbeing on Council land. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:**           **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note contents of this report and to recommend approval of the key themes set out within section 2.1.**

**It was also agreed that a list of the areas to be re-wilded should be circulated to Councillors for their information.**

**WASTE MANAGMENT**

**NS/065/2021:    DNA DOG TESTING**

Read:                Report dated 21 April from Mr L Dinsmore re: DNA testing for dog-fouling enforcement. *(Circulated)*.

In response to issues raised by Councillor Clarke regarding the need for education and a strong enforcement message, including a blitz with officers throughout the District, in high viz jackets, enforcing the message about littering and dog fouling, Mr Dinsmore said these issues would be addressed in the update on the Environmental Improvement Plan that would be taken back to a future Committee Meeting.

**AGREED:**           **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the recommendation that on basis of**

**findings, it was not recommended that Council implement a scheme for DNA Testing for Dog-Fouling Enforcement at this point in time but that Council continues to monitor developments in the area of DNA Testing and to review further following any future developments in this area, through participation with Northern Ireland Dogs Advisory Group and/or other sources. Council to also continues to promote Responsible Dog Ownership as proposed in the Council's Enforcement Improvement Plan.**

(Councillor McKevitt left the meeting)

**NS/066/2021: FIXED PENALTY NOTICES**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: update on issue of fixed penalty notices. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the content of this report.**

**NS/067/2021: CLEANER, GREENER COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr J McBride re: community clean-ups. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the following recommendations:-**

- **Continue with support to Community Groups to undertake one-off roadside litter collection and Community Clean-ups, where Government Guidance permits.**

**Council to provide assistance as follows:**

- **Litter pick pack to be provided and kept by registered group, comprising 6 no. litter picks (senior)**
- **Litterbags**
- **6 sets of gloves**
- **Receipting arrangements to receive wastes at HRC site**
- **Mechanical sweep to be arranged for areas as appropriate**
- **Promote and signpost to the KNIB Adopt a Spot Scheme those Groups who would like to carry out a number of community clean ups in their area.**
- **Council to provide number of litter pickers (10) and brown bin caddies (10) for each of the 101 primary**

**schools in the District to compliment the ongoing schools' education work at schools relating to recycling and protection of the environment.**

- **Responsible Dog Ownership to be promoted within schools**

**It was also agreed that officials email clear guidance to all Councillors with a step by step guide on what needs to be done if organising a community litter pick and relevant contact details for officers.**

**Noted:** In response to concerns raised about the amount of litter at Damolly Retail Park in Newry, Mr Dinsmore said he had visited the site and had contacted Centre Management about this issue. He said this area would be targeted as part of the fixed penalty notice process.

**NS/068/2021: REFUSE COLLECTION CALENDARS**

**Read:** Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore, re: provision of Waste Calendar 2021/22. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the following recommendations:**

- **Officers to arrange for Waste Calendars to be made available and distributed in accordance with the proposed timetable.**
- **Detail to be displayed to web-page that calendar was currently being updated and advise householders:**
  - (a) no change in their current collection sequence**
  - (b) householders who are unsure of their collection sequence to contact Customer Services at 0330 137 4047**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was also agreed officials investigate the provision of an app for the refuse collection service which would give information such as collection days; delays in collection; recycling information etc.**

**FOR NOTING**

**NS/069/2021: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – 25 MARCH 2021**

**Read:** Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – 25 March 2021. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

**NS/070/2021:** Arc21 JC MINUTES – 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 25 February 2021 (*Circulated*).

**AGREED:** It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

**NS/071/2021:** HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

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

### EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 were deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

**NS/072/2021:** ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 25 February 2021. (*Circulated*).

**NS/073/2021:** NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN – QUARTERLY UPDATE

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr J McBride re: Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan Update. (*Circulated*).

**NS/074/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE SUPPLY OF VEHICLE HIRE SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr T Daly re: economic appraisal – supply of vehicle-hire services. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/075/2021: BUSINESS CASE ON HOOK-LINE VEHICLE AND DRIVER HIRE**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case on occasional hire of hook loader vehicle and driver. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/076/2021: PUBLIC SPACE CCTV – MONITORING AND ANALOGUE FIBRE CABLE SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 21 April 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for maintenance of Council public space CCTV. *(Circulated)*.

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

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

**NS/072/2021 – Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes – Thursday 25 February 2021**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 25 February 2021.

**NS/073/2021 – Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan – Quarterly Update**

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

- **Approve the progress update report for the period 1 December 2020 – 31 March 2021;**
- **Note that services will continue “out of contract” until new contracts are awarded and regularised; and**
- **Approve the revised target completion dates as set-out in Appendices I – IV**

**NS/074/2021 – Business Case for the supply of vehicle hire services**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the economic appraisal to procure a contract for the supply of vehicle-hire services.**

NS/075/2021 - Business Case for hook-line vehicle and driver hire

**AGREED:**           **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract for the Occasional Hire of Hook Loader Vehicle and Driver**

NS/076/2021 - Report on Public Space CCTV – monitoring and analogue fibre cable services

**AGREED:**           **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business cases presented, that is:**

- **Business Case for Town Centre CCTV Monitoring – Approve Option 1 - Continue with annual monitoring contract with the named provider for 21 town centre Public Space CCTV cameras for 12-month period under an STA.**
- **Business Case for Town Centre CCTV Analogue Fibreoptic lines to link Camera system to Monitoring Centre – Approve Option 1 - Continue with analogue line rental from the named provider pending outcome of review of Public Space CCTV for 12-month period under an STA.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.00 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 4 May 2021.

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

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

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 10.00am via Microsoft Teams**

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**P/029/2021: LDP - PLANNING POLICY REVIEW - OVERVIEW**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed that Planning Committee note the content of this report and the Local Development Plan: Planning Policy Review exercise which is being undertaken as part of the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy.

**P/030/2021: LDP - PLANNING POLICY REVIEW - TRANSPORTATION**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed that the Planning Committee note 'LDP: Planning Policy Review - Transportation' and:

- Agree the proposed draft planning policies for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy, and
- Authorise the Development Plan Team to amend the proposed draft planning policies as necessary (i.e. subject of further consultation engagement, sustainability appraisal, and any change to overarching regional policy) and report back to Members any substantive changes to proposed policy wording or direction.

**P/031/2021: LDP - PLANNING POLICY REVIEW - FLOOR RISK AND DRAINAGE**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed that the Planning Committee note 'LDP: Planning Policy Review - Flood Risk and Drainage' and

- Agree the proposed draft planning policies for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy, and
- Authorise the Development Plan Team to amend the proposed draft planning policies as necessary (i.e. subject of further consultation engagement, sustainability appraisal, and any change to overarching regional policy) and report back to Members any substantive changes to proposed policy wording or direction

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 8 April 2021 at 10.00am via Microsoft Teams**

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**P/038/2021: LDP: PLANNING POLICY REVIEW - TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed the Planning Committee note 'LDP - Planning Policy Review - Telecommunications' and:
- Agree the proposed draft planning policies for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy, and
  - Authorise the Development Plan Team to amend the proposed draft planning policies as necessary (i.e. subject of further consultation engagement, sustainability appraisal, and any change to overarching regional policy) and report back to Members any substantive changes to proposed policy wording or direction.

**P/039/2021: LDP: PLANNING POLICY REVIEW - OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION**

- Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Planning Committee note 'LDP: Planning Policy Review - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation' and:
- Agree the proposed draft planning policies for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy, and
  - Authorise the Development Plan Team to amend the proposed draft planning policies as necessary (i.e. subject of further consultation engagement, sustainability appraisal, and any change to overarching regional policy) and report back to Members any substantive changes to proposed policy wording or direction.



**CHAIR**  
**Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald**

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## APRIL HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council (Annual General Meeting) met on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

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

### **Present by Video Conferencing**

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

The Housing Council's held its Annual General Meeting. Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald (Fermanagh & Omagh District Council) was elected Chair and Councillor Mark Cooper BEM (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council) as elected Vice Chair for a term of two years.

The Housing Council welcomed the new Housing Executive's Chief Executive Grainia Long, who briefed Members on the Housing Executive's Key Business areas, as follows:-

- Homelessness
- Social Housing Newbuild Programme
- Housing Executive's Business Plan
- Housing Executive's Revitalisation Programme

Members then received a presentation from three representatives from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum on their work, particularly homelessness.

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the May Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: [www.nihousingcouncil.org](http://www.nihousingcouncil.org)

Housing Council  
479<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

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The Housing Council is meeting with the Communities Minister, Deirdre Hargey on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May and the next full Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 am via conference call.

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

**Contacts**

**Secretary**, Kelly Cameron

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Belfast

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Minutes of the 478<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex

**Present by Video Conferencing:**

Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair )
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

**In Attendance:**

Paul Price	Department for Communities
David Polley	Department for Communities
David Adamson	Fire Safety Manager
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

**Apologies:**

Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

1.0	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>	
2.0	<p><b><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 477<sup>th</sup> Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald and resolved, that the Minutes of the 477<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	



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	<p>The Minister's Assembly statement on 03 November 2020 outlined plans for the future of the Housing Executive and her intention to ring fence part of the social housing budget, for areas of acute housing need. Proposals have been received from Housing Executive and are currently being considered by the Department. It was noted that the Housing Executive are confident that this year's Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) target will be met.</p>	
5.2	<p>Co-ownership</p> <p>As of the end of January 2021 Co-ownership has delivered 1017 homes in the 2020/21 financial year. This bring the current total number of homes delivered to date up to 4992 homes, exceeding the target by over 1200 homes.</p> <p>It was noted that £145m FTC to fund Co-ownership for the next 4 years (36.25m per year) has been approved by Minister and DoF.</p>	
5.3	<p>Programme for Social Reform</p> <p>Mr Price highlighted that the Minister intends to bring proposals to the Executive before the end of this mandate which will include details as to how to address the investment challenge facing the Housing Executive. Work has commenced on assessing options address these issues. A Programme Board has been established, the first meeting. A co-design approach will be adopted and officials will continue to engage with Housing Council.</p>	
5.4	<p>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</p>	
5.5	<p>Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers</p> <p>In the Ministers statement commitments were made during the passage of the Housing (Amendment) Bill (Northern Ireland) 2020 which means the House Sales Scheme for Registered Housing Associations will end on 27 August 2022. A consultation document on the future of the Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme is expected to launch shortly.</p>	
5.6	<p>Supporting People Delivery Strategy</p>	
5.7	<p>Homelessness Strategy</p>	
5.8	<p>Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</p>	
5.9	<p>Increasing Housing Supply</p>	

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<p><b>5.10</b></p>	<p><b>Affordable Warmth Scheme</b></p> <p>It was noted that referrals into the Affordable Warmth Scheme in 2020/21 and completion of work in homes has been lower than forecast due to the impact of Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions which reduced the number of homes that could be visited. There was an associated lower level of engagement from households contacted due to health and safety concerns. This also impacted the completion of work by contractors in householders' premises.</p> <p>Councils have been asked to make 32 referrals per month from January to March 2021 to maximise the budget spend in this financial year and to prepare for spend in the next financial year. Referrals have increased but are not yet back to pre-pandemic levels due to ongoing Covid -19 concerns. Delivery in 2020/2021 to end of Jan 21: 1695 measures installed and 1077 homes assisted.</p> <p>A change to Scheme eligibility has been approved which will raise the income threshold from £20k to £23k. Regulation amendments are being drafted and subject to the legislative process the change is anticipated to be effective during April 2021.</p>	
<p><b>5.11</b></p>	<p><b>NIHE Rent Increase</b></p> <p>Members noted that the Minister approved a Housing Executive rent increase for 2021-22 of CPI + 1%. The Minister has postponed its introduction until 1 July 2021 to mitigate the impact of the ongoing pandemic. The Housing Council to be kept updated.</p>	
<p><b>5.12</b></p>	<p><b>ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020</b></p>	
<p><b>5.13</b></p>	<p><b>Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework</b></p>	
<p><b>5.14</b></p>	<p><b>Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax</b></p> <p>It was reported that the Chancellor had announced in his 2021 Budget that the Housing Executive would be exempted from Corporation Tax. This will be effective from the 2020-21 tax year.</p>	
<p><b>5.15</b></p>	<p><b>Long term rent trajectory</b></p>	
<p><b>5.16</b></p>	<p><b>Affordability of social rents</b></p>	

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<p>5.17</p> <p>5.17.1</p> <p>5.17.2</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><b>Exemption of Corporation Tax</b></p> <p>Members welcomed that the Housing Executive would be exempt from Corporation Tax and would support clawing back any monies from 2013 for forward planning etc.</p> <p>In response to Councillor Elattar's question, Mr Price confirmed that there is no timescale for retrieving the monies a reserve of £58m and the Department are hoping there is a strong case as it had been agreed that the Housing Executive should never be charged Corporation Tax.</p> <p>In relation to historical debt, Mr Price undertook to provide Members with an update of the current status of the debt etc.</p> <p><b>Homelessness Strategy</b></p> <p>Councillor Cooper enquired as to whether changes or modifications to the four homeless tests will be up for consideration. He added that whilst he appreciated that the framework is in place to determine full duty applicant (FDA) eligibility, what provisions were in place for those who don't meet the criteria and are these working.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper asked are there any barriers that prove detrimental to passing the homelessness tests and if so, what responses were being implemented to address these barriers.</p> <p>Are there support and services available for Non FDA candidates and those revered as the hidden homeless.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Mr Polley undertook to send a written response to Councillor Cooper in relation to the above questions.</p>	<p>P Price</p> <p>D Polley</p>
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<p>6.0</p>	<p><b><u>NIHE Cladding of Tower Blocks</u></b></p> <p>David Adamson gave Members a in-depth presentation of the NIHE Cladding of Tower Blocks (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>It was noted that the Housing Executive have robust fire safety regimes and carry out regular inspections in all 32 tower blocks.</p>	
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	<p>In light of the fire in London, the Housing Executive have undertaken health and safety inspections of each block. The Housing Executive reassured their tenants that any cladding systems which have been installed or are being installed are required to comply with the relevant fire safety regulations.</p> <p>Mr Adamson reported that subject to the outcome of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety undertaken by Dame Judith Hackett and the development of a new European fire safety test, the Independent Reference Group recommends that the cladding systems on the four NIHE tower blocks are subject to any new regulatory standards or fire safety test. The Independent Reference Group also recommends that the Housing Executive consider installing sprinkler systems within its high-rise accommodation.</p> <p>The Secretary undertook to circulate the Presentation, for Members information.</p> <p>Mr Adamson explained that the Housing Executive will currently only be installing sprinklers systems in high rise tower blocks, in the future medium rise maybe included in the programme, he added that it is currently recommended 18m or above properties with combustible cladding.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Adamson for a very comprehensive Presentation and look forward to being kept updated on the short, medium and long-term Strategy for Tower Blocks.</p>	
7.0	<p><b><u>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions</u></b></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p> <p>Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald referred to the low and disappointing numbers of Social Housing, in the area she represents (Fermanagh and Omagh District Council) completed to date 9, under construction 0, started to date 2020/21 and gross programme to start 0. She added the low numbers generally in rural areas.</p> <p>Mr Price explained the programme is scheduled due to housing need in an area, he also added there are issues or land supply and costs in certain areas.</p>	



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Appendix A

**Housing Executive**

# Fire Safety & Cladding

Higher Risk Residential Buildings (HRRB's)  
Low & Medium Rise Flats & Maisonettes

**Housing Council Meeting- 11/03/21**

David Adamson – Fire Safety Manager

**Housing Executive**

# Grenfell Tragedy

Headlines

- The worst fire in Britain since start of 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- 72 lives lost and 151 homes
- Soon after became clear that factors that contributed to the spread of fire may be widespread
- Establishment of the MHCLG Building Safety Programme
- Safety of residents paramount now and in future
- Deal with ACM Cladding
- Reform the Regulatory System

# Post Grenfell Reports

**Housing Executive**

- Dame Judith Hackitt Report – Building a Safer Future (Dec 18)
- Grenfell Enquiry Phase 1 Report (Oct 19)
- BS 9414 : 2019 Guidance & BS 8629 : 2019 Guidance (Nov 19)
- MHCLG Building Safety Advice For Building Owners (Jan 20)
- Government Response to Building a Safer Future (Apr 20)
- Government Response to Sprinklers in New High Rise Blocks of Flats (May 20)
- Fire Safety Bill (England & Wales) – 19/03/20
- Amendments – Approved Document B (Fire Safety) – E & W May 20
- Draft Building Safety Bill (England) – 20/07/20
- Cross Departmental Group for Building Safety (NI) – Sep 20**
- Amendments to NI Building Regulations / Technical Booklet E - 2021**

# Cladding & Fire Spread

Issues being considered

**Housing Executive**

## Review of Cladding

Issues being considered

**Housing Executive**

- Insulation types - high performance PIR / Phenolic rigid boards
- Rain-screen Cladding Panels – ACM (Aluminum Composites) & HPL (High Pressure Laminates) are current focus of Central Government
- EWI Render Systems – some have combustible insulation backing
- Balconies – balustrades, balcony cladding & waterproofing / decking
- Compartmentation – cavity barriers & fire stops
- Workmanship
- Impact of Alterations & Maintenance



## Tower Block Cladding

Rain-screen – NIHE HRRB's

**Housing Executive**

3 - have RAIN-SCREEN Cladding involving a "ventilated cavity" & a non-combustible (ROCKWOOL) backing

System was the subject of **BS 8414 Full Scale Fire Test** in 2013 prior to installation and achieved the require test results in terms of compliance

**Rain-screen cladding system as installed reflects B-s3,d2 (Class 0)**

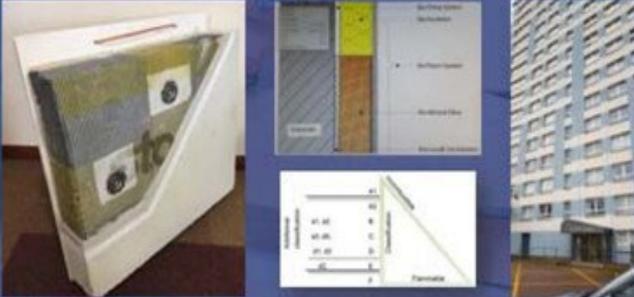



## Tower Block Cladding

Rain-screen & EWI – HRRB's

**Housing Executive**

1 – has EWI (EXTERNAL WALL INSTALLATION) application consisting "flame retardant" polystyrene blocks overlaid with 3-coat render system. System similarly the subject of a **BS 8414 Full Scale Fire Test** in 2013 prior to installation and achieved the require test results in terms of compliance **B-s2,00 Classification (Class 0 / Very Limited Contribution to Fire)**



## Fire Testing

BS 8414 Tests / BS 9414 : 2019 Assessments

**Housing Executive**



# Regulatory Changes

Building Regulations & Ban on Combustible Cladding

**Housing Executive**

**7(2) and requirement B4**

**Materials**

**12.10** Regulation 7(1)(a) requires that materials used in building work are appropriate for the circumstances in which they are used. Regulation 7(2) sets requirements in respect of external walls and specified attachments in relevant buildings.

**NOTE:** Guidance on regulation 7(1) can be found in Approved Document 7.

**12.11** Regulation 7(2) applies to any building with a storey at least 18m above ground level (as measured in accordance with Diagram D6 in Appendix D) and which contains one or more dwellings; an institution; or a room for residential purposes (excluding any room in a hostel, hotel or a boarding house). It requires that all materials which become part of an external wall or specified attachment achieve class A2-s1, d0 or class A1, other than those exempted by regulation 7(3).

**NOTE:** The above includes student accommodation, care homes, sheltered housing, hospitals and dormitories in boarding schools. See regulation 7(4) for the definition of relevant buildings.

**NOTE:** The requirement in regulation 7(2) is limited to materials achieving class A2-s1, d0 or class A1.

**12.12** External walls and specified attachments are defined in regulation 2 and these definitions include any parts of the external wall as well as balconies, solar panels and sun shading.

**12.13** Regulation 7(3) provides an exemption for certain components found in external walls and specified attachments.

# Cladding Guidance

MHCLG & External Wall Assessments

**Housing Executive**

**Advice for Building Owners of Multi-storey, Multi-occupied Residential Buildings**

**Contents**

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# Cladding Guidance

MHCLG & External Wall Assessments over 18m

**Housing Executive**

“We are aware that some building owners have been waiting to act on building safety issues, in case further advice or information is to be published by the Expert Panel or the government. For the avoidance of doubt, building owners should follow the steps in this advice as soon as possible to ensure the safety of residents and not await further advice or information to act.”

All building owners of residential buildings of 18m or more to the height of the top occupied storey and also buildings at any height with residents who need significant assistance to evacuate (particularly where horizontal, phased evacuation is in place) should check their external wall systems

# Cladding Guidance

MHCLG Recommendations <18m

**Housing Executive**

- Need to looking at the vulnerability of residents, location of escape routes and the complexity of the buildings
- Designed, installed and maintained appropriately
- Combustible materials within or attached to external walls of residential buildings below 18.0m is not currently expressly prohibited
- It is a legal requirement though (from 1980's) to consider the risk from fire spread

# Building Safety

FIRE SAFETY BILL (ENGLAND)

**Housing Executive**

Building owners and residents should be aware that government has committed to reform the regulatory system and agreed with the principles outlined within Dame Judith Hackitt’s review (Building a Safer Future, Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety).

Under the proposed reforms, a new category of duty holder will be required to review the safety of their existing buildings - and remediate them where necessary.

“We strongly advise building owners to consider the risks of any external wall system and fire doors in their fire risk assessments, irrespective of the height of the building, ahead of the planned clarification”



# Review of Cladding

Independent Reference Group Recommendations

**Housing Executive**

## WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO

Subject to the outcome of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety undertaken by Dame Judith Hackett and the development of a new European fire safety test, the Independent Reference Group recommends that the cladding systems on the four NIHE tower blocks are subject to any new regulatory standards or fire safety test

The Independent Reference Group recommends that the Housing Executive consider installing sprinkler systems within its high-rise accommodation



## Building a Safer Future Housing Executive

What Is NIHE Doing In Response – Higher Risk Residential Buildings?

### HRRB ANNUAL FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS (31No.)

Most recent Assessments undertaken in January / February 2021 by FS Team

- Whole Building Assessments including Internal Inspections (where possible)
- Review of external wall systems
- Intrusive Inspections of existing installed Fire Door-sets
- Compartmentation upgrades to Landlord Common Parts
- Key data-set information relative to persons requiring assistance
- The "collective effect" of all the fire safety measures - holistically

### FULL FAÇADE ASSESSMENT RESEARCH PROPOSAL – UU / Fire-SERT

- Critical review of NIHE HRRB facades and potential for external fire spread
- 19 Blocks with Spandrel Panels to be assessed "intrusively" for cavity barriers
- Review of window array infill panels and determination of level of combustibility
- Testing of a cladding install (25+ years ago) for potential HPL (High Pressure Laminate)
- Undertaking of BS 9414 Assessments of 4 x Cladding Blocks
- Start Date – March 2021



## Building a Safer Future Housing Executive

What Is NIHE Doing In Response – Higher Risk Residential Buildings?

### RETROFITTING OF BS 9251 SPRINKLER INSTALLATIONS (31No.)

As "compensatory measure"

- 95%+ chance of a fire within a flat being extinguished at source & prevention of fire-break out and impacting on cladding system / facade
- Universal application across all 31 HRRB's in terms of Tenants & Leaseholders
- Sprinkler provision in all flat "risk rooms" including bedrooms
- Domestic detection upgrade to Category LD1

Sprinkler Specification complete / Specialist Sprinkler Consultant appointed and working with NIHE Fire Safety Manager

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Accredited Installer Companies
- Multiple Work Packages to run "concurrently"
- Projected start date – potentially Q3 2021



**CHAIR****Alderman Tommy Nicholl, MBE**

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Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate  
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BT30 6GQ

1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to inform you of your Councillors attendance at the Housing Council and Committee Meetings between the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The Housing Council held 9 meetings.  
Your representative Councillor Michael Ruane was recorded at present at eight of these meetings.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Kelly Cameron  
Secretary  
NI Housing Council

**FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**

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Ms Marie Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
District Council Offices  
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: INV-0183-2021

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear *Marie,*

Thank you for your correspondence which I received on 26 March 2021 inviting me to meet with a delegation from the Council's Health Working Group to discuss the future of the Downe Hospital. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

Unfortunately I am unable to meet with you and the Health Working Group due to current diary commitments, however, I am pleased to note that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continues to have productive engagement with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust on a range of important matters, including your recent meeting with the Trust's senior management team. I trust this has provided the necessary clarity and assurance for Council Members about the continued importance of the services provided at Downe Hospital within the Trust. I am grateful to you and Council Members for the role and responsibility that you bear in relaying this information in turn to the local community who depend on these services.

Yours sincerely



**Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister of Health**