



June 2nd, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 7th June 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 4 May 2021

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 04.05.2021.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 May 2021

 [Council Minutes-04.05.21.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 May 2021

 [Special Council Meeting Minutes - 24-05-2021.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2021

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

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7.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2021

 [ERT Minutes 10 May 2021.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2021

 [SPR Committee Minutes 13.05.21.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 May 2021

 [AHC Committee Minutes 17.05.21.pdf](#)

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10.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 May 2021

 [NS Committee Minutes - 19.05.21.pdf](#)

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11.0 Planning Section

Local Development Plan

 *Local Development Plan - Council Meeting 07.06.2021.pdf*

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Correspondence

12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 15 April 2021

 *Housing Council Minutes 15th April 2021.pdf*

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13.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - May 2021

 *Members Bulletin - May 2021.pdf*

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14.0 Response received from Ards & North Down Borough Council re NOM C/088/2021 - Violence against Women and Girls

Response from Ards & N.Down dated 10 May 2021 attached.

 *Response from Ards & N Down re NOM C.088.2021.pdf*

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15.0 Response received from Minister of Health re Provision of Additional COVID Testing Facilities

Response from Minister dated 11 May 2021 attached.

 *Response from Health Minister dated 11.05.21 re Additional Covid Testing Provision.pdf*

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16.0 Response received from Department of Communities re LGBT Community

Response from Department of Communities dated 17 May 2021 attached.

 *Response from Department of Communities re LGBT Community .pdf*

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17.0 Correspondence from Ards & North Down Borough Council dated 24 May 2021 re. N.Ireland Centenary

 *Correspondence from Ards & N Down BC dated 24.05.2021.pdf*

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18.0 Response received from Minister of Justice re. NOM

Notices of Motion

19.0 Notice of Motion - Recognition of NHS Staff

The following notice of motion was received from Councillor Hanna:

“This Council should recognise NHS staff for their service during the Covid-19 pandemic, with a gesture of discounted use of council facilities such as gyms, swimming pools, tennis courts and leisure centres for a period of one year. I would suggest a minimum of at least a 50% discount on charges, possibly free of charge completely.”

20.0 Notice of Motion - Humanitarian Strategy, Israel/Palestine Conflict

The following notice of motion was received from Councillor Malone:

I am calling on Newry Mourne and District Council to request the United Nations to immediately implement a humanitarian strategy to alleviate the Human Right abuses in the Israel/ Palestine conflict. The large numbers of children and youth seriously impacted by this sad situation is unacceptable. There is an urgent need for a unified International agreement to offer senior arbitration to resolve this situation before it gets out of control and leads to another full scale war and prevent further atrocities.

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 4 MAY 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/096/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 07.04.21	The action sheet was agreed. Correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/097/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 07.04.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/098/2021	Minutes of Special Council 28.04.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/099/2021	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 12.04.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/100/2021	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 15.04.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. <i>SPR/055/2021: Women's Working Group</i> Outstanding nominations to be forwarded as a matter of urgency.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/101/2021	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 19.04.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted with the exception of item AHC/077/2021. It was agreed not to ratify item AHC/077/2021, Fairtrade Signage to allow a further report with information and images of the Fairtrade signage, as presented to the Fairtrade Steering Group, to be presented to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. <i>AHC/074/2021: Financial Assistance – Call 1</i> Mr Lipsett to report back to Councillor Mason on the matter. <i>AHC/075/2021: Cycle Hub, Down Leisure Centre/Dunleath Park</i> Mr Lipsett to report back to Councillor Sharvin with the timescale for the delivery of the Cycle Hub.	Democratic Services M Lipsett E Devlin M Lipsett J Hillen M Lipsett P Tamati	Noted Tabled at AHC on 17.05.21 Cllr Mason contacted by AHC Director Cllr Sharvin contacted by Head of Outdoor Leisure	
C/102/2021	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 21.04.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. <i>NS/060/2021: Tree Planting Strategy</i> In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding trees on Abbey Way, Newry Mr McBride confirmed he	Democratic Services J McBride	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		would report back to him directly on the matter.			
C/103/2021	Planning Committee	The extracts from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meetings held on 10 March 2021 and 8 April 2021 were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/104/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin – April 2021	The Bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/105/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes 11 March 2021	The minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/106/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council, Attendance at Meetings 2020/21	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/107/2021	Response from Minister of Health Re: NOM C/091/2021 Commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital and the Downe Hospital	The correspondence was noted. It was unanimously agreed that Council write back to Minister of Health and ask him to reconsider and identify a date and time that does suit him to meet with a delegation of the Councils Health Working Group.	Democratic Services Democratic Services	Noted Letter sent	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/108/2021	Notice of Motion – Mental Health, Covid 19 Recovery Strategy	The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	C Mallon	Report going to ERT Committee Mtg 14th June 2021	
C/109/2021	Notice of Motion – Digital Poverty	The Motion was referred to the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	D Carville	To be heard at SP&R meeting of 17/6/2021	
C/110/2021	Notice of Motion – Council Committee	The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	C Mallon	Report going to ERT Committee Mtg 14th June 2021	
C/111/2021	Notice of Motion – Dental Services during Covid 19 Pandemic	It was agreed 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. This Council to also write to the other 10 Councils seeking their support for the Motion.	Democratic Services	Letters sent	
C/112/2021	Notice of Motion – Accessing	It was agreed 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	Democratic Services	Letters sent	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Healthcare Services	and the Justice Minister asking them to take steps to ensure this.			
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

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

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

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

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 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)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/094/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran and Hanna and Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson spoke at length about the devastation following the fire in the Mournes which had been heart-breaking to witness and caused fear among the community. The Mournes were so much more than a mountain range and symbolised heritage and hopes for the future so to see that damaged in such a dramatic way and furthermore, to learn that the NIFRS investigation concluded that the "cause of fire was believed to be deliberate" had been very hard to take in.

The Chairperson praised and thanked the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and all their partner agencies. She also paid tribute to the generosity from the local community towards the firefighters. She spoke of the urgent need for an overall strategy in tandem with long term funding from Central Government and thanked Mrs Marie Ward, Chief Executive who co-chairs the Southern Emergency Planning Group. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, a meeting of the co-ordinating groups was convened to look at recovery in both the short / medium and long term and this group would continue to meet and progress.

The Chairperson referred to an emergency Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor McMurray calling for a Special Council meeting to be arranged which would tie in the work the Chief Executive had been doing with all partner agencies and elected members.

The Chairperson advised that given the importance of this issue, arrangements had already been made for a Special Council Meeting so there was no need for the motion to be heard. Councillor McMurray then spoke and listed the names of physical locations scarred indelibly by fire, as well as the many flora and fauna burned, and their habitat destroyed.

Councillor McMurray commented that this had not been the first such fire with many areas scarred and thousands of call outs received each year by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. He welcomed that the Special Council Meeting had been called, commenting that this would only be the beginning of the process and that how to manage and interact with the outdoor environment were the fundamental questions that needed addressed.

The Chairperson reiterated how careful people needed to be when in the Mourne and also referred to the sickening incident where Fire Service personnel had been targeted while attending a fire in Downpatrick at the very same time as the Mourne were engulfed in flames. The local Downpatrick community were outraged and stood in absolute solidarity with the Fire Service and even more so with 4th May 2021 being Firefighters Memorial Day.

The Chairperson passed on her condolences to the family of Mr Denis Lynn of Finnebrogue Artisan, Downpatrick who had sadly passed away. Mr Lynn's vision and entrepreneurial spirit made a huge contribution to the local economy and the devastating loss would be felt by many across the District.

The Chairperson said it would be remiss, if Council did not take a few moments to remember and acknowledge the life of Prince Philip who passed away last month. The pain of his loss was felt not just by his family, but by many fellow Councillors here, and so many people across the District. The respect that was shown to those who grieve his loss from all corners of the Chamber last month was a powerful thing and something we should all be very proud of.

The Chairperson condemned an attack Mid-April on a Syrian family in Newry, stating that Newry was an incredibly diverse and vibrant city and for any individual or family to be targeted simply because of their nationality or ethnicity was appalling and had no place in our Council area nor our society.

The Chairperson highlighted the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccination programme and encouraged as many of our citizens to avail of it, not just for themselves but for the greater good within the community.

The Chairperson congratulated Downpatrick resident Daniel McMenamin who had been crowned the Champion Conditional Jockey 2020/2021.

The Chairperson advised a Mayobridge girl, Sophie Lennon had auditioned on RTE for the Junior Eurovision and everyone looked forward to September for the show to air and that Council was behind her.

C/095/2021

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson declared an interest in Item SPR/02/59/2021, Drumee Road, Castlewellan – The Lane within the Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2021.

C/096/2021

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2021

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 April 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 April 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Savage.

Agreed: Response from Department of Justice dated 30 April 2021 Re: NOM C/087/2021 and NOM C/088/2021 was noted.

Agreed: Response from Department of Health dated 29 April 2021 Re: NOM C/092/2021 was noted.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/097/2021

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2021

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 April 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 April 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

C/098/2021

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2021

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 April 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 28 April 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Magennis.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/099/2021

MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2021

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 April 2021 (copy circulated).

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

In response to a request for clarity from Councillor Mulgrew, Mr Mallon confirmed the recommendation as presented to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee was

that the Committee consider the findings of the independent economic assessment on the potential future economic benefit of lifting bridge would bring to Newry City as part of the Southern Relief Road proposals and submit an assessment to DfI officials.

The Chairman advised that as the discussion was in relation to a meeting held outside of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee she would move on with the Council meeting.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 April 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

C/100/2021 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2021**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2021 (copy circulated).

SPR/041/2021: Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting

In response to a query from Councillor Brown, the Chief Executive advised that the matter Councillor Brown referred to was after the Strategy Policy Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2021 and that it would be dealt with at the next Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting.

SPR/055/2021: Women's Working Group

In response for an update from Councillor Owen, Mrs Carville confirmed the first meeting for the group would be arranged this month and that nominations to the Women's Working Group were being sought. Councillor Owen nominated herself as the only female on the DUP grouping.

Miss Taggart asked that any outstanding nominations to the Women's Working Group be forwarded to the Democratic Services Department as a matter of urgency.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2021, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/101/2021 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2021**

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 April 2021 (copy circulated).

AHC/074/2021: Financial Assistance – Call 1

Councillor Mason commented that a lot of clubs and groups were left without funding for vital projects and enquired that, given the year it had been, whether something could be done to obtain extra funding for those applications who did pass initial stages but were not awarded funding.

Mrs Ward confirmed Mr Lipsett would report back to Councillor Mason on the matter.

AHC/075/2021: Cycle Hub, Down Leisure Centre/Dunleath Park

In welcoming the Cycle Hub Councillor Sharvin enquired about the timescale for the delivery of project and if it was attached to the recreational path currently going through planning for approval.

Mrs Ward advised Mr Lipsett would report back to Councillor Sharvin with the timescale for the delivery of the Cycle Hub and confirmed the recreational path was before the Planning Committee on 5 May 2021 and was scheduled for July 2021.

AHC/077/2021: Fairtrade Signage

Councillor Byrne advised Councillor Clarke and himself as Members of the Fairtrade Steering Group had been presented with information and images regarding the signage being addendum signs and that that full information needed to put before the Active and Healthy Committee before a decision was made.

Councillor Ó Muirí pointed out no one was against the Fairtrade signage rather it was the damage to signage in certain areas and that he was more than happy for further information to be presented to the Active and Healthy Committee at the next meeting.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, not to ratify item AHC/077/2021, Fairtrade Signage to allow a further report with information and images of the Fairtrade signage, as presented to the Fairtrade Steering Group, to be presented to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.**

AHC/076/2021: Council Pitches being used for training purposes at the request of Councillor Ó Muirí

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Councillor McAteer proposed suspending any maintenance work on the grounds except for urgent work to free up Council grounds for training. This was seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

The Chief Executive cautioned Members against voting on removing maintenance on pitches without being fully informed on what the maintenance done and what was required for each of the pitches, as it may have a long term financial impact on Council to do so. She added she could circulate information provided to herself from Mr Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport.

Councillor McAteer clarified that he was asking that it include maintenance works, except those works that were urgent.

Mrs Ward pointed out that following on the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting on 19 April 2021 and alongside the Neighbourhood Services department there were a limited number of grass pitches designated for training in both the Downpatrick and Newry areas from 23 April 2021 and that Members were to forward details of local clubs that required these arrangements and officer would contact them directly to provide them with booking protocol and criteria and that may be a way to resolve if it was a local issue.

Councillor McAteer outlined his proposal for fellow Members as being that Council consider certain grounds for training purposes and that any maintenance on football pitches be closed unless essential or urgent maintenance given the year that it was. Councillor Gallagher seconded the proposal.

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The Motion was declared lost.

FOR NOTING

C/104/2021 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – APRIL 2021

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

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

C/105/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 2021

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

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

C/106/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL, ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 2020/21

Read: Correspondence dated 1 April 2021 from the Northern Ireland Housing Council re: Attendance at meetings 2020/21 (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted.**

In response for an update from Councillor Savage regarding the progression of forthcoming 2nd Housing Needs Symposium, Mr Mallon confirmed a number of meetings of the working group established to assist with the rollout of the housing symposium in late October/ early November had taken place, with further workshops to be held to agree the agenda and line up.

Councillor Savage advised Lou Macari, a former Celtic player and Stoke on Trent Manager had intimated that he would be happy to share his housing experience as a high-profile person involved on helping homeless people with sleeping pods.

C/107/2021 RESPONSE FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C/091/2021, COMMITMENT TO THE RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF DAISY HILL HOSPITAL, NEWRY AND TO DOWNE HOSPITAL, DOWNPATRICK

Read: Correspondence dated 19 April 2021 from the Minister of Health re: C/091/2021, Commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry and to Downe Hospital, Downpatrick. (Copy circulated)

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Councillors Walker, Hanlon, Sharvin and Owen voiced their disappointment at the correspondence received from the Minister of Health and that he would not meet a delegation from the Council's Health Working Group.

Councillor Hanlon proposed Council write back to Minister of Health and ask him to reconsider. Councillor Sharvin seconded the proposal adding that Council should ask the Minister to identify a date and time that does suit him to meet.

Councillor Trainor stated that depending on the response back from the Minister of Health in relation to attending a meeting, Council should contact the Chair of the Health Committee, as the Daisy Hill Hospital and Downe Hospital were too important to the people of the South East.

Councillor Reilly spoke of a personal experience with the Daisy Hill Hospital and praised all it had to offer as a fully functioning hospital. Councillor Reilly then proposed Council set up a Health Committee.

The Chief Executive advised the setting up of Committees required governance and would have to be presented to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee. She further advised Council had Health Forums with the Southern and South Eastern Trust which met on a regular basis with senior officers involved.

In response for an update from Councillor Savage regarding a previous action from April Council 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, he was advised Mr Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing was leading on the establishment of that meeting and was in correspondence with Councillor Savage as the proposer of that Motion.

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted.**

It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that Council write back to Minister of Health and ask him to reconsider and identify a date and time that does suit him to meet with a delegation of the Councils Health Working Group.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/108/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – MENTAL HEALTH, COVID 19 RECOVERY STRATEGY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of 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.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

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

C/109/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – DIGITAL POVERTY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of 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.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

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

C/110/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of 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.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Gibbons.

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

C/111/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – DENTAL SERVICES DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of 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”.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McKeivitt paid tribute to all the health care workers and people in the area who had shown their true colours in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and she commended Minister Swann on the successful implementation of the vaccine programme roll out. Councillor McKeivitt expressed concern that due to the disruption of dental services, expectant mothers would lose the opportunity of free dental care which would otherwise be available to them during pregnancy and for 12 months following the birth of their child. Councillor McKeivitt referred to the arrangement that had been put in place for MOT / vehicle testing, whereby Temporary Exemption Certificates had been granted and said the Maternity Exemption Certificate should be extended to ensure expectant mothers did not lose out and she stressed the importance of dental care.

In seconding the proposal, Councillor Sharvin thanked Councillor McKeivitt for bringing forward the Motion and said he acknowledged the challenges faced by expectant mothers and the limited access to dental care throughout the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Finnegan expressed support for the Motion and said some of her female constituents had been forced to seek private dental care during the Covid pandemic and said that Nicola Brogan MLA and Órfhlaith Begley MP had jointly written to the Health Minister requesting an extension to the NHS dental care funding for pregnant women.

Councillor Taylor expressed support for the Motion saying his wife had recently benefitted from it.

Councillor Walker expressed support for the Motion and asked if Councillor McKeivitt would accept an amendment to the proposal to include writing to the other 10 Councils seeking their support for the Motion.

Councillor McKeivitt said she would be happy to include this in the Motion.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the Motion, saying it was a very worthwhile Motion and said he was aware of the difficulties that had been faced by dentists throughout the pandemic.

In summing up, Councillor McKeivitt thanked colleagues for their support for the Motion and said it was important to start to address the issues that pregnant women had faced during the pandemic.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, 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.

This Council to also write to the other 10 Councils seeking their support for the Motion.

C/112/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – ACCESSING HEALTHCARE SERVICES

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of 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.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Magennis.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Howell said it was very important to stress this Motion was not about abortion and everyone had the right to protest and freedom of choice, however she said recent protests at the entrance to health care sites had had major repercussions for a range of people across the community.

Councillor Howell acknowledged the issue was a highly sensitive one and said some of the slogans and images displayed by protesters were very upsetting to many people, including the vulnerable, children and young people. She said numerous staff members from across various health care sites had contacted Sinn Féin elected representatives and constituency offices in recent weeks raising concern about the impact the protests were having both on them and on patients attending the health care sites for various inpatient and outpatient appointments.

Councillor Howell stated she had been contacted by women who had been through the traumatic experience of miscarriage and still birth and were having to face the images as they attended follow up appointments, a process they found extremely distressing and painful. She stated this was just a snapshot of the feelings of the wider community in the district and that staff, patients, families and members of the public had all expressed serious concerns around these protests being allowed to take place at the entrance to health care sites.

Councillor Howell asked that Council write to both the Health and Justice Ministers urging them to work together to put in place exclusion zones, or safe zones to protect everyone attending and accessing healthcare without fear, abuse or intimidation.

In seconding the proposal, Councillor Magennis said she wished to stress the Motion was not about abortion and that peoples' right to vote and freedom of choice was paramount, and she reiterated the issues highlighted by Councillor Howell.

Councillor Magennis said Liz Kimmins MLA had written to both the Health Minister and the Justice Minister urging them to work together to put in place exclusion / safe zones, and the Ministers' had responded positively to Ms Kimmins letter, however Councillor Magennis said this issue needed to be progressed urgently as the protests were on-going and causing significant distress to many people.

Councillor Magennis said she recognised it was an extremely sensitive issue for all involved, however, it was very important the concerns from constituents were addressed when it was adversely affecting their mental health and well-being.

The DUP, SDLP, UUP and Alliance parties all expressed their support for the Motion, saying whilst they recognised peoples' right to protest, it should be done in a respectful manner and that people should be free to attend health care appointments without being harassed.

Councillor Owen said the imagery on the banners was very graphic and upsetting and referred to the campaigns carried out by Department for Infrastructure saying the images and graphics used in their campaigns had to be formerly approved by Ofcom to ensure their suitability and she said there was no form of moderating conducted on the banners used by the protesters at the health care sites and consequently this resulted in upset and distress for a lot of people.

In summing up, Councillor Howell thanked Members for their support and said everyone should be free to attend medical appointments without feeling intimidated and she said she hoped safe zones would be put in place in the near future.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis 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.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.30pm

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 June 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 24 May 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor A Mc Murray
Councillor K Owen	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in attendance: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: **National Trust**
Mr J Clarke, Assistant Director – Operations
Mr P Lynch, Countryside Manager

Mourne Heritage Trust
Mr M Carey, Chief Executive

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
Mr D Rooney, Southern Area Commander
Mr N McGuffin, Wildfire Officer
Mr M Healy, District Commander

SC/015/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran, Doran, Gallagher, Harte, Mulgrew, O'Hare, Ó Muirí, Stokes and Trainor.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting thanking representatives from National Trust, Mourne Heritage Trust and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service for attending and thanked everyone on behalf of Council for their reaction and service to the community not just for the recent fire in the Mournes but also the many across the District that they had dealt with in recent times.

SC/016/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Enright declared an interest as a member of the Fire Service Board and was also involved with Creative Peace Downpatrick preventing wildfires.

Councillor Clarke declared an interest as he was a member on the board of the Mourne Heritage Trust.

SC/017/2021: PRESENTATION FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST

Councillors Hanna and Reilly joined the meeting during the above presentation.

Councillor Tinnelly left the meeting during the above presentation due to connectivity issues.

Mr Clarke and Mr Lynch made a presentation highlighting the following points:

- Setting the scene of the size of the area impacted by the fire on 23 April 2021.
- Highlighted the devastation caused to wildlife and landscape.
- Satellite images to show the extent of the burn and put into perspective.
- Drone survey carried out of affected areas, data currently being analysed.
- Grazing regime is currently under review, stock density has been reduced to allow land to recover.
- Recruitment of 2 additional rangers has recently been advertised to help with the recovery process.
- Analysing and working out next steps to the extent of the damage, working closely with DAERA, Mourne Heritage Trust and Council.
- Positive to come out of this is it has brought a lot of community and organisations together to work in a multi-agency approach for the future.

SC/018/2021: PRESENTATION FROM THE MOURNE HERITAGE TRUST

Councillors Clarke and McKevitt joined the meeting during the above presentation.

Councillors Magennis, Lewis and Owen left the meeting during the above presentation.

Mr Carey made a presentation highlighting the following points:

- Additional piece of work to be done to address the issue of wildfires across 'The Mourne's'.
- Fire of 23 April 2021 was the biggest fire in 'The Mourne's' since the Slievelamagan in the Annalong valley in 2011.
- Images showing the ecological devastation.
- Mourne Wildfire Group was established as a result of the 2011 fire and with funding from NIFRS, NI Water and NIEA the Eastern Mourne Wildfire report was prepared in 2012, which has guided a lot of work since.
- Provided an insight into what the Wildfire report highlighted.
- Undertaken a programme of training of key staff and procurement of specialist equipment.
- Demonstrated the process of controlled burns and the benefits of carrying this out.
- Significant collaborative effort over a decade to prevent the incidents and spread of landscape fires.
- Lack of continuity of resources more recently has affected the recovery measures required.
- Wildfire plan needs updated in terms of climate change impacts, strategic context and 'The Mourne's' land management plan as well as co-ordinated public awareness.
- Mourne Wildfire Group has been intermittently successful but needs continuous resources and support to get the maximum benefit.

**SC/019/2021: PRESENTATION FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Councillor Finnegan and Casey left the meeting during the above presentation.

Mr Rooney, Mr McGuffin and Mr Healy made a presentation highlighting the following points:

- Updated members on the operational response to the incident and challenges presented.
- General peaks of wildfire incidents are in April and May.

- Work with a number of inter-agencies as a collective, sharing information and resources
- Statutory responsibility for the investigation of a fire is carried out by the PSNI.
- Most likely cause for majority of fires is caused by a person.
- Fire spread was limited due to good planning and good partnership working.

A discussion took place with the following points raised by Members:

- Members thanked representatives for the informative presentations and wished to put on record their thanks and heartfelt appreciation on behalf of all of the people in South Down, to all the agencies involved in the recent fire in the Mourne and their heroic efforts to contain the fire and all the fires attended throughout the district.
- Was there a general consensus as to how these fires were started?
- What could Council do to help manage this in the future?
- Was there a time of year when controlled burning could be done that would have the least impact on insects and wildlife?
- What stage do controlled burns serve their purpose and would it be worth rethinking how to replant as a management strategy?
- How well was the environmental management of these spaces working as a society as well as how interact with these spaces?
- The number of visitors in the Mourne had significantly increased during Covid, how could 'The Mourne' be protected going forward to ensure this did not happen again.
- How could Council be used as a platform to promote and educate visitors over the summer months.
- Councillor Clarke wished to put on record thanks to Matthew Busby who led the way in managing and preventing wildfires.
- Out of tragedy comes opportunities and Covid had highlighted how important our outside space was. There was a need for a structured, interagency and collaborative approach to manage wildfires throughout the District, who could lead on this Council, DAERA or National Trust?
- The Minister for Finance, Mr Conor Murphy had pledged to make finances available to help repair some of the damage however resources were limited when compared to other National Parks.
- Councillor McEvoy called on the Minister for Finance, Mr Conor Murphy to establish an urgent taskforce and round table discussion that would involve central government, local councils, other various agencies as well as landowners to put the necessary actions in place urgently.
- Was it possible to investigate the possibility of a job scheme for the long term unemployed to get involved in a volunteering role.
- Certain hotspot areas for wildfires could be better maintained in order to prevent these happening and a more structured inter-agency approach was required.

- Could appropriate training be provided by NIFRS and Mourne Heritage Trust with the help of Council to volunteers as a quick reaction force to help when wildfires occur.
- Was it possible to have information boards located at key areas to advise visitors of appropriate clothing, footwear, behaviours etc for walking in the Mournes?
- Why were helicopters not deployed in the recent wildfire and how could these be improved on in the future?
- was there anyone responsible for checking and stopping walkers to see if they had supplies with them to potentially start a fire on purpose?
- It may be useful if a list was made of regular areas that fires were being started deliberately, especially in the Downpatrick area so landowners could maintain them better so as not to attract this type of behaviour?
- Was it correct that this was the first time such a major incident had been declared.
- Wildfires were mostly man made, was there ringfenced funding specifically for this or could more funding and resources be diverted to tackle this?
- April seen a big increase in wildfires, why was this?

Representatives from the delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Causation of the majority of wildfires were human fires, motivation and reasons why they do it differ from accidental to on purpose.
- Commend Council for their speedy approach and commitment in organising a multi-agency meeting in light of the recent wildfire, the biggest help Council could do was to help lever those significant resources from central government to help refresh the plan and get wildfire plan up to date and look at for future prevention and recovery.
- Controlled burns were done best in February to early March and the site would be thoroughly inspected beforehand to limit the amount of natural habitat affected and confined to a target area. There was some impact on insect's, but the view is it is for a greater good.
- Controlled burns were not just for wildfire protection measures but also a habitat enhancement measure and were only one part of the approach to preventing wildfires, other ways of controlling the fuel load are cutting and grazing. In terms of recovery there was rewetting and reseedling of lands which needed to be set out in the recovery plan.
- Landscape management was a bit of grey area when it comes to public policy, as there was a non-statutory basis for our AONB'S and with that comes insecurity of resource. Mourne Heritage Trust was a charity and other jurisdictions would have guaranteed statutory funding for these types of landscapes. In the bigger picture these do need to be addressed.
- The use of wardens was a positive initiative from Council to have people at key access routes to reinforce the four E's... engage, educate, encourage and if necessary enforce, however Council had been struggling to recruit to those posts which confirms more long-term management is required.

- Council would be the lynch pin for bringing various agencies together, it had the legitimacy and statutory authority along with elected representatives to bring the relevant agencies together and take the lead role in central government investment.
- NIFRS put on record thanks to the community support received in lieu of donations of food, drinking water and money raised with a special mention to Charlie Thompson from Newcastle who raised a significant amount of money during the recent fire in the Mournes.
- Happy to look at the role of volunteers going forward however pointing out a word of caution as these incidents were very dangerous and one of the challenges faced by the NIFRS was controlling people at a incident.
- Helicopter was requested, however it was a complicated process to obtain permission to use by the Secretary of State and by the time permission was granted unfortunately a similar fire had started in Killarney National Park and it had been deployed there.
- As part of the debrief, organisations were looking into commercial provision of a helicopter through a contract arrangement for water bombing.
- Enforcement of people lighting fires was more a role for rangers and wardens.
- Plan to hold more information days to educate the public. There was ongoing work with the PCSP and Youth Justice Agency and involved in a lot of community safety work in the Downpatrick area regarding the deliberate fires, however powers were limited when it comes to asking landowners to maintain and keep land tidy.
- Referring to the 'Jesip Principles' which were quite new and only starting to become imbedded - A major incident was declared for the first time and would probably do this more often at future wildfires as it brings other agencies together, focuses minds of public and opens up opportunities in relation to provision and use of helicopters.
- NIFRS were still able to carry out their statutory function during the major incident and attend other emergencies.
- NIFRS had a small number of trained specialist wildfire officers, however don't have a dedicated team but all officers are trained to tackle these type of wildfire incidents.
- Increase in April was down to the weather, dry spells bring wildfires, May had been less busy due to weather and ground frosts. Wildfire prediction system was used according to the weather during wildfire season.
- Council could help by sharing messages posted on social media by NIFRS raising awareness during wildfire season.

Councillor McMurray proposed that Council take the lead in organising a conference in the near future looking at environmental, land and visitor management in the District.

Councillor Brown seconded the proposal.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Brown, that Council take the lead in organising a conference in the near future looking at

environmental land and visitor management in the District.

The Chairperson thanked all representatives for their very informative presentation and all that they do throughout the District. Highlighting continued lobbying was required for a long-term strategy and long-term funding to tackle this huge issue on our doorstep and save the Mourne and our stunning landscape so that visitors can continue to come and enjoy the beauty of outdoors.

The Chairperson mentioned a special word of acknowledgement for Charlie Thompson who is to receive a civic award later in the week for his fundraising efforts.

Mrs Ward Chief Executive, made the following statement:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

The meeting concluded at 19.25pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 June 2021.

Signed: **Councillor L Devlin**

 Chairperson of Council

Signed: **Ms M Ward**

 Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22 April 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

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

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
 Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services
 Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services
 Mr K Montgomery Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Finance)
 Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager
 Mr G Ringland IT Manager
 Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM
 Ms K Beattie NIAO
 Ms D McKim NIAO

AC/021/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor L Devlin
 Councillor K Owen

AC/022/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms C Hagan ASM Internal Audit, declared an interest in Item 10.9 – Review of Internal Audit Contract.

Councillor P Byrne declared an interest in Item 7 – Annual Assessment of the Audit Committee Chairperson’s Performance, as he had been involved with this process.

Ms B Slevin declared an interest in Item 6 Audit Committee Self Assessment, and Item 7 – Annual Assessment of the Audit Committee Chairperson’s Performance, as she had prepared the Self-Assessment, and as Chairperson of the Audit Committee appraised in the Performance Review, and indicated she had been advised she could remain present in the meeting for both items as they were for noting.

**AC/023/2021: ACTION SHEETS ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 12 JANUARY 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2021.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to note the Action Sheets arising from the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2021.

**AC/024/2020: DATE AND START TIME
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2021/22**

Read: List of proposed dates start times for Audit Committee Meetings for 2021/2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Audit Committee dates and start time, as follows, in respect of Audit Committee Meetings from July 2021 to April 2022, which would be formally approved via the Council’s Annual Meeting to held on Tuesday 01 June 2021.

- Monday 05 July 2021 at 2.00pm
- Thursday 23 September 2021 at 2.00pm
- Tuesday 11 January 2022 at 2.00pm
- Friday 22 April 2022 at 2.00pm

**AC/025/2020: AUDIT COMMITTEE:
- TERMS OF REFERENCE
- TIMETABLE**

Read: Terms of Reference for Audit Committee.
(Approved by Council on 4 March 2019), and Audit Committee Timetable. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: **Audit Committee Timetable 2021-22.
(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne confirmed the Audit Committee Terms of Reference remained compliant with CIPFA's best practice.

With regard to the Audit Committee Timetable, Mr Byrne said that arising out of the Audit Committee Meeting held in January 2021, it had been agreed a six-monthly Report on Elected Members' Register of Interests be brought to the Audit Committee to ensure compliance, and he confirmed an item would be included on the agenda for Audit Committee Meeting in July 2021 and January 2022 regarding the Elected Members' Register of Interests.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed:**

- 1. To approve the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee, as approved by Council on 4 March 2019.**
- 2. To note the Audit Committee Timetable 2021-22, which will be revised to include reporting on Elected Members' Register of Interest.**

AC/026/2020: **AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF ASSESSMENT 2020/2021**

Read: **Report dated 22 April 2021 from Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson of Audit Committee, regarding the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2020/2021.
(Copy circulated)**

Ms Slevin explained a Self-Assessment Questionnaire was sent to the Audit Committee Members and confirmed based on this review, the Audit Committee was operating effectively and she extended her appreciation to Council Officers, Members, internal and external audit.

She referred to training on Risk Management and an update on the Orange Book and confirmed the Director of Corporate Services and the Audit Services Manager would be moving this forward in terms of the provision of this training.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2020/2021.**

**AC/027/2020: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
RE: CHAIRPERSONS PERFORMANCE
AUDIT COMMITTEE 2020/21**

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services, regarding the annual assessment of the Chairpersons Performance in respect of the Audit Committee 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville explained an Annual Performance Review was undertaken by the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer for the Council with Councillor P Byrne being the nominated representative for Members sitting on the Audit Committee and the review was undertaken using the Best Practice Checklist from the National Audit Office.

She confirmed following the review it was agreed that the Chairperson has demonstrated performance in line with best practice and she extended thanks to the Chairperson for carrying out this role.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Annual Assessment of the Chairperson's Performance in respect of the Audit Committee for 2020/21.

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)

AC/028/2021: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville said the Corporate Risk Register had been presented to the Senior Management Team Meeting on 01 April 2021 together with Quarterly Director assurance statements.

Ms D Carville, presented the Corporate Risk Register making reference to the following proposed changes:

CR10 - can be incorporated into CR3.

CR11 - retaining the risk but removing the reference to Covid 19.

CR14 - a newly expanded risk due to its significance for the organisation.

She said a report on Risk Management will be presented to the Committee later in the meeting by ASM Internal Audit.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to note the Corporate Risk Register summary as per Appendix 2 and the Corporate Risk Register as per Appendix 3 with the agreed changes, as contained in Report dated 22

April 2021 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services.

AC/029/2021: PROMPT PAYMENTS

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Prompt Payment Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne presented the above Report.

AGREED: It was agreed to note Q3 and Q4 Prompt Payments statistics, as per Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

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

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

**AC/030/2021: UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS
(INCLUDING RISK PROFILE)**

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager, regarding an update on Internal Audit Recommendations made since formation of Newry Mourne & Down District Council in 2015, and a review of progress regarding implementation of NIAO recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

(3.10pm – Councillor Lewis left the meeting)

**AC/031/2021: UPDATE
ASM INVESTIGATION – SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS**

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr K Montgomery Assistant Director of Finance providing an update on the ASM Internal Audit Investigation regarding Council's use of Single Tender Actions. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/032/2021: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Direct Award Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/033/2021: UPDATE
RE: FRAUD AND WHISTLEBLOWING**

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Fraud and Whistleblowing. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/034/2021: UPDATE RE: PLANNING SERVICE

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an update on the Planning Service. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/035/2021: UPDATE RE: CYBER SECURITY

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Ringland IT Manager regarding an update on Cyber Security. **(Copy circulated)**

(3.10pm – Councillor Gibbons left the meeting)

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/036/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT - SUMMARY REPORT

Read: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 22 April 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/037/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
– ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORT 2020/21**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2020/21.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/038/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
RE: RISK MANAGEMENT**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 29 March
2021 regarding Risk Management.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/039/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
RE: HR POLICY REVIEW**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 15 April 2021
regarding HR Policy Review.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/040/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
RE: FUEL MANAGEMENT**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 16 April 2021
regarding Fuel Management.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/041/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
RE: FLEET MANAGEMENT**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 16 April 2021
regarding Fleet Management.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/042/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT FIELDWORK
RE: FOLLOW UP – PRIOR YEAR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report dated 15 April 2021
regarding follow up review of prior year recommendations.
(Copy circulated)

(3.45pm – Ms C Hagan ASM left the meeting)

**AC/043/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
RE: DRAFT AUDIT STRATEGY AND ANNUAL PLAN**

Read: ASM Internal Audit, Draft Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/044/2021: REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding a review of the Internal Audit Contract Extension 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)

**AC/045/2021: NIAO
RE: EXTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY (FINANCIAL)**

Read: Correspondence dated 15 April 2021 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office regarding Newry Mourne and Down District Council Audit Strategy 2020/21.
(Copy circulated)

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

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

AC/030/2020: Update re: Audit Recommendations

AGREED: It was agreed to note the update contained in Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager in relation to legacy audit recommendations and the risk profile of internal audit reports.

It was also agreed a Report regarding Planning be brought the next Audit Committee Meeting with regards to a follow up of the implementation of the 2017/18 Internal Audit recommendations specifically.

AC/031/2021: Update re: ASM Investigation re Single Tender Actions

AGREED: It was agreed to note the update contained in Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr K Montgomery Assistant Director of Finance, in relation to the ASM Investigation into the Council's use of Single Tender Actions.

AC/032/2021: Direct Award Contracts

AGREED: It was agreed to note the 2020-21 update contained in Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager, in relation to Single Tender Actions (Direct Award Contracts).

**AC/033/2021: Fraud and Whistleblowing
(Inc verbal update re NRC and National Fraud Initiative)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Gibbons seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed:

1. To note the update contained in Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager, in relation to Fraud and Raising Concerns cases which have been detailed at Appendix 1.
2. To approve Part A of Appendix 2, as per above Report, which is designed to assist Audit Committee Members when reviewing, seeking assurance on, or challenging the effectiveness of Councils participation in the National Fraud Initiative.

AC/034/2021: Update re: Planning Service

AGREED: It was agreed to note the position as outlined in Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism with regard to Planning Service.

AC/035/2021: Update re: Cyber Security

AGREED: It was agreed to note presentation from Mr G Ringland IT Manager regarding Cyber Security.

AC/036/2021: ASM Internal Audit – Summary Report

AGREED: It was agreed to note ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 22 April 2021.

AC/037/2021: ASM Internal Audit – Annual Assurance Report 2020/21

AGREED: It was agreed to note ASM Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2020/21.

- AC/038/2021:** **ASM Internal Audit Report – Risk Management**
- AGREED:** It was agreed to note Report dated 29 March 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on Risk Management.
- AC/039/201:** **ASM Internal Audit Report – HR Policy Review**
- AGREED:** It was agreed to note Report dated 15 April 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on HR Policy Review.
- AC/040/2021:** **ASM Internal Audit Report – Fuel Management**
- AGREED:** It was agreed to note Report dated 16 April 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on Fuel Management.
- AC/041/2021:** **ASM Internal Audit Report – Fleet Management**
- AGREED:** It was agreed to note Report dated 16 April 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on Fleet Management.
- AC/042/2021:** **ASM Internal Audit Report
- Follow up – Prior year recommendations**
- AGREED:** It was agreed to note Report dated 15 April 2021 from ASM Internal Audit regarding Audit Fieldwork on follow up review of prior year recommendations.
- AC/043/2021:** **ASM Internal Audit Report
- Draft Audit Strategy and Annual Plan**
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to approve the ASM Internal Audit Draft Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2021-22.
- AC/044/2021:** **Review of Internal Audit Contract**
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed the first one year extension period of the internal audit contract with ASM should be

utilised so work can commence on the third year of the four year Internal Audit Plan, for reasons outlined in Report dated 22 April 2021 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager.

AC/045/2021: **NIAO: External Audit Strategy (Financial)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Report from NIAO regarding External Audit Strategy (Financial).

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)

AC/046/2021: **DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES**

Read: Report dated 22 April 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the following as per Report dated 22 April 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2021/22:

- The 5 Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2021-22, as per Appendix 1.
- The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22, by 30 June 2021, as per Appendix 2.

CIRCULARS

AC/047/2021: **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES**

Read: Correspondence dated 08 March 2021 from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Councillor Allowances – Circular updated March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Councillor Allowances – Circular updated March 2021.

**AC/048/2021: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
RE: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AUDITOR**

Read: Correspondence dated 02 March 2021 from Department for Communities regarding Designation of Local Government Auditor.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Designation of Local Government Auditor.

**AC/049/2021: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
RE: ACCOUNTS DIRECTION 2020-21
- NI DISTRICT COUNCILS**

Read: Correspondence dated 11 March 2021 from Department for Communities regarding Accounts Direction 2020/21 – Northern Ireland District Councils.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed to note correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Accounts Direction 2020/21 – Northern Ireland District Councils.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.00 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 June 2021.

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

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
Independent Chairperson

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 10 May 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor A McMurray

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
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 P Brown
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor C Enright

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
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 L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms Angela Reavey Independent Economic Assessor

ERT/086/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

The Chairperson said he was saddened to learn of the passing of former Councillor Michael Carr. He said he always found Michael to be a true gentleman who contributed and engaged in a thoughtful way both within the Council Chamber and outside. He referred to Michael's love of golf and spoke of the many interactions they had discussing the economic benefits of golf and mountain biking.

On behalf of the South Down Alliance and himself, Councillor McMurray extended his deepest sympathy to the Carr family and to the wider SDLP fraternity.

Councillor McAteer asked to be associated with the Chairperson's comments regarding the passing of their late colleague Michael Carr. He said Michael was a very keen contributor to this particular committee over many years in terms of Warrenpoint and the wider area and was instrumental in bringing many golf tournaments and tours to the area. He described Michael as being a great contributor to Council who was extremely well respected among Councillors and Council staff. He said his passing will be a deep loss for his family and community and he requested a letter of condolence be sent from the ERT Committee to the Carr family.

Councillor Reilly asked to be associated with the Chairperson's comments regarding the passing of former Councillor Michael Carr. He said Michael was an outstanding Councillor who cared deeply for the area he lived in, describing him as extremely helpful who was a great contributor to local politics and a true gentleman, and he extended condolences to Michael's family.

Councillor Ruane asked to be associated with the Chairperson's remarks regarding the passing of former Councillor Michael Carr. He said he served on the Council alongside Michael for 18 years and he had the upmost respect for him, describing him as a gentleman.

Councillor Ruane, on behalf of himself and the Sinn Fein grouping, extended deepest condolences to Michael's family, friends and colleagues.

Councillor Hanna asked to be associated with all previous comments from Members regarding the passing of former Councillor Michael Carr. He said he always found Michael to be very thorough and supportive when carrying out Council business AND added that both he and the DUP grouping would like to be associated with all comments.

Councillor Burgess asked to be associated with all comments regarding Michael

Carr. He said Michael was a true gentleman who was always helpful and supportive and who believed in the Council and what it stood for and on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party grouping he extended sympathy to Michael's family at this time.

Councillor Tinnelly said as a Crotlieve Councillor and former colleague of the late Michael Carr asked to be associated with all comments. He said he found Michael to a man of the highest integrity and decency, who was a friend and confidant, and who would be sadly missed by the people of Warrenpoint and wider Crotlieve area. He said it was a sad day to receive such news and he extended deepest condolences to Michael's wife Kay, and his family.

Councillor Enright concurred with all that had been said regarding the late Michael Carr describing him as a gentleman and who was never party political about Council finances, and grateful for his help when he was appointed to the Board of the NI Fire Service.

Councillor McMurray said this was the last meeting of the ERT Committee for the current term. He referred to the challenges of the past year and extended thanks to everyone including the Council officers and Director for their help.

Councillor Tinnelly thanked the Chair for his efforts throughout the year.

He referred to an urgent matter regarding the ongoing and escalating incidents of anti-social behaviour within the confines of the wider Kilbroney Forest Park which culminated in an incident whereby a family were intimidated out of the Caravan Site at this location.

The Chairperson acknowledged the matter raised by Councillor Tinnelly, and said this subject would be raised under Item 19 on the agenda.

ERT/087/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest.

ERT/088/2021: ACTION SHEET MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 April 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 April 2021.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

ERT/089/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT

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

"Council welcomes the change of tone in the Downpatrick Town Centre Development Project. The Department has accepted that there has been a market failure on these lands and that some public investment may be required to make the project happen. Council lauds the cross party consensus that made this change possible. It is no longer a fire sale of the public land bank to the private sector and notes that there will be public money invested in this realm project as is proposed in Newry.

Council now directs Management to ensure the original footprint of this vital town centre development is included in the project to protect Downpatrick's options for the long-term. In particular:

- 1. That the land that will be required for access out onto Saint Patrick's Avenue as envisaged in the Downpatrick Master Plan is acquired and protected as part of this project, and;*
- 2. That the public investment also deals with the upgrade and integration of the private car parks abutting the development to ensure that the Town Centre Development is not left half done. This would not require acquisition of this land but assistance to ensure the public realm is brought up to standard while allowing those retail outlets to reserve their own parking areas.*

This should either be done as part of the existing project, or as part of a 'Stage 2' for which the planning should start now so the Town Centre Upgrade will be a coherent overall credit to the people of Downpatrick".

Councillor Enright presented the Notice of Motion. He said the Downpatrick Town Centre Development project was a shadow of what was originally contained within the Council's Downpatrick Masterplan, and nor was it what was originally envisaged by the District Electoral Area.

He said the purpose of the Motion was to highlight what should be included in a Stage 2 of the project which would address the omissions in Stage 1 as it was felt

Stage 1 of the project did not address the site in its entirety. He pointed out the Motion did not suggest a delay or postponement of Stage 1, however there were important issues which needed to be addressed in a Stage 2.

He referred to a diagram which he circulated to Members that day, showing the Downpatrick town car park illustrating how the car parks and the private car parks could be separated by bollards thus enabling people to walk to shops, and access Market Street / Irish Street / St Patrick's Avenue and he made reference to the wall around the Police Station and the deteriorating state of other walls in the area.

He referred to the exit onto St Patrick's Avenue, which he felt should be addressed in Stage 2 of the project, and to the three portacabins on St Patrick's Avenue which would site the proposed New Road. He said previous lobbying had been made to acquire the Police Station site in order to create the possibility of a new street and the improved access this would bring. He said the 3 portacabins had not been developed in line with the Area Plan unlike all other sites on St Patrick's Avenue which have been developed, as this had been envisaged as the exit route onto St Patrick's Avenue.

He said the Downpatrick Masterplan had envisaged the pedestrianisation and connectivity of the centre of the town without the huge dividing walls, providing improved access for parking and connecting Irish Street and St Patrick's Avenue.

Councillor Enright again reiterated support for Stage 1 going forward but felt planning needed to commence for Stage 2 as Stage 1 did not address the need for connectivity, pedestrianisation or access to town centre parking.

He said if proposals from bidders included addressing pedestrianisation, connectivity with the other car parks and the original access out onto St Patrick's Avenue this could be supported, however should bids not include these aspects it was important for the future of Downpatrick that these matters be addressed as part of Stage 2 of the project to maximise the benefit of the town centre development.

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Downpatrick Town Centre Development. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr McGilly presented the above report which provided a background on how the project has reached this stage, highlighting the following points:

- Following a Feasibility Study regarding the purchase of the former PSNI Station site the preferred option was a mixed use development of the site. The site was procured by Department for Communities

- Council have acquired an adjoining strip of land between Council car park former PSNI Station site
- The Development Brief includes the land which is within the ownership of Council and Department for Communities.
- A project Board comprising of Council, stakeholders and Department for Communities has been established to bring the project forward.
- A Soft Market test has been completed demonstrating local community and developer interest and the Development Brief has been developed around this.
- The draft Development Brief will be presented to the Project Board late May 2021 for approval, however it will not exclude the opportunity for developers to come forward with proposals involving other lands which may potentially be available to realise additional benefits to the project. A prior information notice will be issued to the public this week.
- To pursue the development of additional lands at this time would delay the process as Council as a development brief cannot be carried out on lands that are not within Council or Department ownership, however this could be possible through a private sector proposal.
- Public realm works are being explored but can only be carried on land within Council and Department ownership.

A lengthy discussion then ensued during which the following issues were raised:

- Concerns that to purchase additional land at this stage would result in delays in the development brief. The Motion should support proceeding with Stage 1.
- Stage 2 to go ahead in the future if land becomes available and which would provide access to St Patrick's Avenue.
- Concerns from owners of the private car parks that these car parks would no longer remain private. Negotiation should take place with the owners of the private car parks as part of a Stage 2.
- Sufficient stakeholder's consultation.
- Issues regarding St Patrick's Avenue had been discussed at Board meetings.
- A Stage 1 and Stage 2 had not been discussed at Board Meetings.

Councillor Enright confirmed the Motion reflected any concerns regarding losing the opportunity of Phase 1 development.

Mr Mallon asked for clarity on whether or not an amendment had been proposed to the Motion as some of the proposals and suggestions that arose during discussion did not fully align with the wording of the Motion.

Councillor Enright confirmed the last paragraph in the Motion clearly refers to a Stage 2, and that he would agree to amending the wording to reflect “exclusively” as part of Stage 2.

Councillor Mulgrew asked for clarity regarding the Motion and asked did it reflect allowing the Development Brief to proceed and hold Stage 2 to a later stage as that was not her understanding of the Motion as it read as it made reference to the acquisition of land and private car parking. She suggested deferring any proposal to look at a Stage 2 until after receipt of the Development Brief.

Councillor Enright said the Motion suggested agreeing a Stage 2 now, which would not in any way interfere with Stage 1, and to look at the issue of the existing walls which separate the car parks, and consider the original plan for access to St Patrick’s Avenue, at a later stage, and not as part of the Stage 1 development.

Councillor Curran indicated he could only support the Motion if he had a commitment from the proposer of the Motion that nowhere along the line would Stage 1 be hampered, and should additional development be possible, at a later date, he would be supportive of exploring this.

Councillor Enright suggested an amendment to the 3rd paragraph of the Motion, to remove the wording “part of the existing project, or as part of a” and replace with: “This should be done as a Stage 2”.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to defer the Notice of Motion until such times as the Development Brief has been submitted to the Downpatrick DEA Councillors for consideration and allow a more informed decision thereafter.**

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/090/2021: ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF WATER BASED ACTIVITIES

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding reconsidering the 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, as per decision arising from ERT Committee Meeting April 2021.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

(7.37pm – the Meeting adjourned)

(7.50pm – the Meeting resumed)

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson invited Mr Mallon Director, to report the following decision taken:

ERT/090/2021: Economic Assessment of Water Based Activities

AGREED: Following a vote of For 12, Against 2, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer, to reconsider the findings of the independent economic assessment on the potential future economic benefit a lifting bridge would bring to Newry City as part of the Southern Relief Road proposals, and to submit this assessment to Department for Infrastructure officials, together with the following:

1. Advise the Department for Infrastructure in writing that Newry Mourne and Down District Council's preferred option is for a

Lifting Bridge over the Newry Canal as part of the Southern Relief Road project.

- 2. Include the correspondence from Warrenpoint Port on the potential for the future berthing of tall ships.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/091/2021: UPDATE RE: BUSINESS PROGRAMMES

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on Business Development Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed:**

- 1. To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives:**
 - **Go For It**
 - **NMD Growth**
 - **Digital Growth**
 - **Tender for Growth**
- 2. To approve the signing of a Deed of Variation for the extension of NIBSUP Central Services team between April 2023 and September 2023 at a cost of £8,490.**

ERT/092/2021: COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding recommendations arising from the Covid 19 Working Group. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed the Corporate Planning and Policy Department/Communications and Marketing Section, to continue with a prioritisation approach to media which is agreed on and signed off by the Director/Chief Executive (similar to the last 12 months approximately) – this approach provided clear and simple direction and**

prioritisation for the most important communications work to be developed and delivered during the crisis.

Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism to recommend the funding of an Economic study led by UJ Economic Policy Unit to understand the impact of Covid 19 on the future travel to work behaviour of our working population across the District.

ERT/093/2021: LEVELLING UP FUND

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Levelling Up Fund which will invest in local infrastructure.
(Copy circulated)

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

- 1. The Council do not submit an application in the current call for 18 June 2021 Levelling Up Fund, but explore and develop initiatives that best fit the criteria utilising the Development fund that will become available early summer.**
- 2. In respect of CRF, the Council explore potential joint funding bids with FE sector aligned to economic development and regeneration strategy.**

Noted: With regard the Department of Infrastructure Blue and Green Fund, Mr Mallon confirmed a meeting had been held with Walk & Cycle Champion and that officials were in the process of putting together proposals and concepts around blue greenways to be progressed through this fund with work ongoing to establish the required criteria and move forward in presenting a bid.

Mr Mallon drew Members attention to the FAQs section appended to the Report which provided an understanding of the complexities of the fund.

ERT/094/2021: NEWRY CHAMBER CORPORATE PATRONS

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding renewal of

Council membership of the Corporate Patron Programme for the period 2021-2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed Newry Mourne and Down District Council renew membership of the Corporate Patrons Programme for 2021-2024.

BUILDING CONTROL AND LICENSING

ERT/095/2021: **NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD & DRINK ASSOCIATION (NIFDA) MEMBERSHIP**

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding membership of the Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association (NIFDA). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed Newry Mourne and Down District Council subscribe to the 2021 membership of the Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association.

ERT/096/2021: **SMALL RURAL BUSINESS MICRO GRANT PROGRAMME 2021**

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the DAERA Rural Small Business Grants Scheme 2021/2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed the Council will participate in a 2021/2022 Small Rural Business Grant Scheme, including the implementation of the next steps as follows:

- Officers will continue to work a regional basis to agree the new programme formation, including completion of a business case, eligibility criteria and programme application and assessment processes.

- When received, Council will sign and accept a Letter of Offer from DAERA to enable implementation of the programme, with detail of final grant aid awarded to be presented to a later Council Meeting.
- Council to open and administrate the grant process which will be agreed within the programme business case.

FOR NOTING

ERT/097/2021: BREXIT FORUM ACTION SHEET

Read: Action Sheet arising from Brexit Forum Meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the Action Sheet arising from the Brexit Forum Meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2021.

ERT/098/2021: 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/099/2021: UPDATE RE:

- **AONB**
- **GEPARK**

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding updates on the AONB and the Geopark. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the update provided in Section 2.1 on the following AONB initiatives:

- Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund Project implementation.
- Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy

Phase

- Atlantic CultureScape
- Geopark
- Shared History Fund – My Townlands Story 1921-2021
- AONB Management Review implementation
- Other

ERT/100/2021: RE-OPENING OF TOURISM FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the phased re-opening of a range of outdoor facilities including Campsites, Harbours and Slipways. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: To note the update regarding the phased re-opening of a range of outdoor facilities including Campsites, Harbours and Slipways as per Section 2.0 contained in Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events.

Anti-Social Behaviour: Kilbroney Forest Park

Councillor Ruane referred to an incident at Kilbroney Forest Park which resulted in a customer leaving the park due to anti-social behaviour.

He spoke of the issue of antisocial problems in the wider Kilbroney Park area and although wardens have been in the area together with a visible police presence this does not appear to address the problem and that action was needed from the police. He expressed concern as details of the incident had been posted on a motor home site at a time when the Council want to encourage visitors to the District.

Councillor Tinnelly concurred with remarks from Councillor Ruane. He said the incident referred to was part of a wider issue occurring in Kilbroney every weekend whereby large numbers of young people were arriving in Rostrevor village and entering the forest end of Kilbroney Park where alcohol is being taken. He said he has spoken with Mr Mallon Director, and engaged with the PCSP and PSNI and although the agencies were working within the resources available he said robust and direct action was required to tackle antisocial elements in order that residents and visitors to our District are not intimidated and asked for emergency measures to be taken this week.

Mr Mallon confirmed officers had discussed measures to be put in place on a multi-agency approach to include PCSP, PSNI, Council Wardens and security provision.

Mr Patterson confirmed as a direct result of the incident, officers were reviewing the security detail at Kilbroney Park with the view to increasing security. He confirmed

staff were on site till 9.30pm Sunday night and clear contact details are provided to customers on arrival.

The following issues were also raised:

- Reports of antisocial behaviour on Council owned property at Cranfield, Ameracam Lane.
- Scottish caravaners camping in the Cranfield area - do Council have any facilities for Camper vans to empty tanks.
- Council to issue an urgent PR message to reassure Council Parks and sites are safe and that Council will protect site users.
- Campers staying at Mourne Esplanade Kilkeel including the Leisure Centre Car Park – no facilities for waste water.

- AGREED:**
1. **To note Council Officials would be available to further discuss with Members proposals to ensure the issues on the Kilbroney Forest site are addressed and prevent such incidents reoccurring and a meeting would be arranged in the coming week to discuss these matters.**
 2. **To note PCSP have been engaged with regard to antisocial issues at Cranfield and Ameracam Lane and Members can further discuss this matter with Council officials.**
 3. **Council Officials will discuss with Members proposals regarding provision of facilities.**
 4. **Council Officials to issue PR message to reassure visitors regarding the safety of its parks and sites for users.**

ERT/101/2021: UPDATE RE: TRADING PITCHES

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding completion of the tendering process for the provision of mobile vendor at 4 No. Tourism Amenity locations across the District, and successful appointment of mobile traders. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **To note a successful appointment was made for each respective Tourism Amenity location to service mobile trading requirements requested by Council, with successful awards based on a 3 year term, and annual income to**

Council across the 4 No. sites, as a result of this procurement process, is in the sum of £43,700.

ERT/102/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE

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

AGREED: To note the Planning Performance Figures for April 2021.

Ms Ward Chief Executive, explained she would be attending all Committee meetings this month from a legislative perspective and made the following statement:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

Councillor Savage extended his thanks to Councillor McMurray for his term as Chair of the ERT Committee. He thanked him for his interaction with the party groupings on the Council in advance of the meetings and said Councillor McMurray chaired the meetings remarkably well throughout what was a difficult year.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 June 2021.

Signed: Councillor A McMurray

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 13 May 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor H McKee
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor M Savage	Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance:

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor J Trainor

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding
Mrs 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 J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy
Mrs L Fitzsimons, Human Resources Manager
Mr G McBride, Head of Administration & Customer Services
Mrs K McNiff, Safety Health & Emergency Planning Manager
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/66/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Gallagher & Ó Muirí.

The Chairperson advised members that this was his last meeting as Chairperson and wished the incoming Chairperson good luck for their term.

The Chairperson paid tribute to former SDLP Councillor Michael Carr former colleague and friend who sadly passed away and was buried on Tuesday, offering condolences to his wife Kay and the Carr family.

SPR/67/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/68/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

On a point of information Councillor Brown queried the lack of minutes from the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project meeting.

Mr Mallon advised that the May meeting had been changed to a design workshop and apologised that the April minutes had not been tabled. He stated the outcome of the workshop and the April minutes would be brought to the next Strategy Policy and Resources meeting in June.

In response to a number of points in relation to the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project raised by Councillor Brown and Councillor Savage, Mrs Ward confirmed that she would be happy to discuss the matter outside of the meeting as it was not an agenda item and Councillor Brown could attend the next Project Board meeting as a guest if he wished to do so.

Councillor Byrne confirmed for clarity that every party was represented at the Programme Board and, as co-Chair of the board, he was happy to discuss any concerns or questions other Councillors may have.

Agreed: It was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 15 April 2021, be approved.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND OR/DECISION

SPR/69/2021: IRISH STREET REGENERATION PROJECT – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN ADJACENT LAND

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding Irish Street Regeneration Project – Expression of Interest in adjacent land. **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson and Councillor Hanlon spoke in support of the officer's recommendation highlighting the fantastic work carried out by ALPS across the District. They asked to caveat this recommendation to ensure it was made clear to potentially interested groups that any expression would be on a temporary basis so as not to cause any issues with the wider development and regeneration of Irish Street.

Councillor Trainor highlighted there had been ongoing anti-social behaviour issues in Irish Street and any utilisation of the site could help deter that behaviour and in turn make the area more attractive to developers.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to approve Officers to explore the temporary letting of the site via an expression of interest. A market valuation of the site for letting purposes will be undertaken.

FOR NOTING

SPR/70/2021: LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION – DISSOLUTION FUNDING & CONTINUING OPERATIONS 2021/2022

Read: Correspondence dated 15 April 2021 from The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland, regarding Local Government Staff Commission – Dissolution Funding & Continuing Operations 2021/22 **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/71/2021 STATUTORY REPORTING – RURAL NEEDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – Rural Needs Annual Monitoring report for period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/72/2021: FOI/EIR/DP AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT MONITORING STATISTICS

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration), regarding FOI/EIR/DP & Records Management Monitoring Statistics **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/73/2021: ANNUAL FAIR EMPLOYMENT MONITORING RETURN; 2 JANUARY 2020 – 1 JANUARY 2021

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Annual Fair Employment Monitoring Return; 2 January 2020 – 1 January 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/74/2021: SICKNESS ABSENCE

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, Human Resources Manager, regarding Sickness Absence **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne highlighted that positive changes in the sickness absence showed that the hybrid model going forward could benefit the Council in terms of sickness absence.

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 Savage, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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/75/2021: 2021/22 INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mrs K McNiff Safety, Health & Emergency Planning (SHEP) Manager, regarding 2021/22 Insurance Premiums. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Savage, that Elected Members review and approve the payment of the insurance premiums for 2021/22.

SPR/76/2021: TENDER FOR POSTAL SERVICES

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration) regarding, Tender for Postal Services **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, that Elected Members approve the Full Business Case for the Tender of Postal Services as attached at Appendix 1 and tender for Council's main collection and sorting mail service using a Postal Services Framework Agreement available to public sector bodies. It is further recommended that the contract award be for a period of 3 years.

SPR/77/2021: DOWN RAILWAY

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Acting Head of Legal Administration, regarding Down Railway **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Elected Members agree to approve the recommendations set below:

1. To progress a review of the sub lease and Partnership agreement and seek to set out a new legal agreement which confirms DCDR are responsible for all operational matters, including ongoing maintenance associated with the railway and buildings.
2. A one-off payment is made to DCDR to assist with maintenance costs associated with the Engine Shed Roof and Bridge 163.
3. The Council remains committed to the land acquisition which will be subject to Planning approval and confirmation of funding from DCDR. The Council will continue engagement with Belfast legal service to establish a timetable for land acquisition via vesting.

SPR/78/2021: SURPLUS ASSET UPDATE

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estate & Project Management regarding Surplus Asset update (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that Elected Members note the content of the report and attached Appendix A and approve the following recommendations:

- Former Play Area at Crown Villas, Crieve, Newry. Accept the final bid as detailed in the officers report and move to 'sale agreed.'
- Newry Canal - Lock Keepers Cottage. Council's legal department to open communication with the previous owner's legal representative to explore if they wish to exercise their rights to reserve their right to purchase this property, before proceeding with the current 'sale agreed.'
- Play Area at Rear of Bleary Bungalows. Council officers to continue to liaise with the property owners who have declared an interest in purchasing this asset.
- Lands at 15 The Square Ballynahinch. As no firm commitment has been received from NIHE/Habinteg Housing Association, to accept the final bid as detailed in the officer's report and move to 'sale agreed.'

- The former Kearns & Murtagh Yard, Cecil St, Newry. As no firm commitment has been received from NIHE/Clanmill Housing Association to accept the final bid as detailed in the officer's report and move to 'sale agreed.'
- 5 Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick (former site of Killough Road Community Centre). As no firm commitment has been received from NIHE in acquiring this asset for social housing any sale is deferred until the interest from a local community group in acquiring the asset is explored further.
- Lands at Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel. As no interested has been generated via the D1 disposal process, officers to appoint selling agent to place this surplus asset on the open market for sale.

Councillor Savage left the meeting at 19.07pm

SPR/79/2021: PROPOSED LATERAL FLOW TESTING FACILITY AT BALLYMOTE

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estate & Project Management, regarding Proposed Lateral Flow testing facility at Ballymote **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, the following recommendations were approved:

- Members approve to proceed with the setting up of a lateral flow test facility at Ballymote Sports Centre and to complete negotiations with the Dept of Health regarding the registration process, the formal agreement including the associated recovery of costs.
- That the lateral flow test facility would be offered in the first instance to council staff and subject to associated satisfactory amendments to the formal agreement, that the testing facility would be offered to the small business sector and the wider community at later stages.
- Approval for Council to absorb the costs of the infrastructure noted in the officer's report on the understanding that Council will benefit from this infrastructure after the test facility is stood down.
- Subject to satisfactory completion of the formal agreement with the Dept of Health, that officers proceed with setting up and operating the test facility prior to the full Council approval.
- That officers continue discussions with the Dept of Health on the possibility of offering our facilities for collection points for test kits.

SPR/80/2021: PHA COVID-19 TESTING FACILITY AT ALBERT BASIN NEWRY

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estate & Project Management, , regarding PHA Covid-19 Testing Facility at Albert Basin Newry **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Magennis, the following was approved:

- Elected Members approve to enter into a new 6-month lease agreement with the PHA/DHSC for the Covid 'walk-in' test facility at Albert Basin from 1st July 2021
- The terms of the lease would be similar to the current lease i.e. include a break clause which would allow NMDDC to terminate the lease after 3 months, with 20 days' notice to be given to the tenant. Therefore, the earliest termination date would be 30th September 2021.
- A further report to SP&R Committee prior to the end of the initial 3-months of lease period, to gauge if the testing facility is likely to remain in place thereafter and how this would impact on future Council events at Albert Basin.

FOR NOTING**SPR/81/2021: PAVEMENT CAFÉ LICENSES**

Read: Report dated 13 May 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Pavement Café Licenses **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

SPR/82/2021: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 10 MAY 2021

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

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Action Sheet of The Strategic Finance Working Group – 10 May 2021

SPR/83/2021: NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT PAYROLL POLICY

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the Newry Mourne and Down District Payroll policy.

Ms Ward Chief Executive, explained she would be attending all Committee meetings this month from a legislative perspective and made the following statement:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.59pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 June 2021.

Signed: **Councillor Gareth Sharvin**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 17 May 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor L McEvoy

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Casey
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
Councillor McKeivitt	Councillor McMurray
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

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

AHC/088/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

AHC/089/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gibbons declared an interest in item relating Rostrevor Men Shed.

AHC/090/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 April 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AHC/036/2020: Threeway Refurbishment

Councillor Casey enquired whether recent damage to the football pitch at Threeways, Newry would need factored into any refurbishment plans. Mrs Hillen confirmed she would report back directly on the matter.

In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding the reopening of community centres, Mrs Hillen advised officers were awaiting restriction guidelines being issued from the NI Executive Office and would work on a case to case basis once these were issued.

AHC/074/2021: Financial Assistance – Call 1

Councillor Mason enquired about her request at the Council Meeting held on 4 May 2021 that applications from groups who had not been awarded funding be looked at again.

Mr Lipsett confirmed a report would be brought back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee once budgets had been reviewed.

Agreed: **It was agreed by all to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 April 2021.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/091/2021 PEACE PLUS CONSULTATION

Read: Report dated 17 May 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 Trainor, to approve the draft consultation response and develop the theme one action plan utilising the allocated budget as required (e.g. consultants, staff, venue hire etc).**

AHC/092/2021 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – UPDATE ON CALL 2 AND CALL 3

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Financial Assistance, Update on Call 2 and Call 3. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Hillen pointed out that whilst the report indicated that Call 3 may be issued in June 2021, there could be a delay to that timescale as work was ongoing to secure funding through Covid recovery money and as a result may be delayed until July 2021.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Mason to approve the following:**
- **The appendices attached to the officer's report for Call 2 revenue projects**
 - **Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer**
 - **Approve the Decade of Centenaries application which failed at stage 2**
 - **Approval for Call 3 themes.**

AHC/093/2021 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding DEA Forums Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finnegan referred to the poor uptake of the Census in the South Armagh area and the financial implications this had for the area in terms of potential funding etc. She proposed that Council continue to share information regarding Census returns on Council social media.

Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the proposal adding if the DEA Co-ordinator for the Slieve Gullion area, Taucher McDonald, could work with ethnic minorities in the area to ensure they were able to access and fill out Census forms.

Mrs Hillen confirmed that officers had gone through the Councils Marketing Department to reissue a notification in relation to getting census forms completed and the South Armagh area was a priority. She added that she would contact the DEA coordinator and the Minority Support Services in Council to promote the need for all people to complete census returns.

- Agreed:**
- It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to continue to share information regarding the Census returns social media and for the DEA Co-ordinator for the Slieve Gullion area to work with ethnic minorities in the area to ensure they were able to access and fill out census forms.**

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the report and approve the actions in the in the action sheets attached for:

- **Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 13 April 2021.**
- **Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 13 April 2021.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 15 April 2021.**

- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 April 2021.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 April 2021.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 28 April 2021.

AHC/094/2021

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCIL 7 APRIL 2021)

Read:

Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding a Notice of Motion referred from Council in relation to Violence against Women and Girls. **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming the report Councillor Mason referred to a regional strategy due to be developed as a long-term approach and suggested that the Council's newly-established Women's Working Group include an agenda item and work in conjunction with the Active and Healthy Communities Committee to drive forward a long-term strategy for Violence Against Women and Girls.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Trainor to include Violence Against Women as a theme in Call 1 which would be released in Quarter 4 of the 2021-2022 financial year (subject to funding and relevant strategy) and work with external funding bodies to secure a budget and/or include a £10k budget within the rates estimates process.

AHC/095/2021

EXPANSION OF DRUMANESS SNOOKER CLUB LOCATED AT FIRST FLOOR OF DAN RICE HALL

Read:

Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the expansion of Drumaness Snooker Club located at the first floor of the Dan Rice Hall. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Andrews to provide approval to Drumaness Snooker Club to expand into the Committee Room to enable the club to install another snooker table. (Subject to approval by both parties on an updated valuation cost).

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND WELL BEING

AHC/096/2021 THE CARNEGIE TRUST: EMBEDDING WELLBEING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding the Carnegie Trust, Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Trainor welcomed the report and spoke of the lack of funding for Community planning and the burden of this having to be picked up by Councils and ratepayers.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Andrews to endorse the recommendations made by the Carnegie UK Trust and write to the Communities Minister accordingly. This correspondence should also request the DfC continue to liaise with all Councils on the implementations of these recommendations, particularly in relation to how Councils are resourced to provide statistical support to the Partnership.

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/097/2021 LEISURE REOPENING

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sports, regarding the reopening of Leisure post lockdown.

In response to a query from Councillor Casey, Mr Tamati clarified that discounts applied for leisure had been based on restrictions and the level of access permitted. There were a number of Councils that were applying 100% costs and Newry, Mourne and Down District were applying discounts as a fair approach.

Councillor Trainor enquired about youth services at the Ballymote Centre, Downpatrick and Mr Tamati advised he anticipated youth services to continue to use the centre through statutory bookings.

Mr Tamati responded to a query from Councillor Trainor in relation to planned seasonal use at the Tropicana Centre, Newcastle by saying he did anticipate it being open for use for July/August 2021, subject to restrictions. He added a lot of work was being carried out to ensure the centre was fit to open with upgrade measures being carried out.

Councillor McMurray enquired about the phased return of swimming lessons. Mr Tamati advised that Council-lead swimming lessons were within level 3 and Council also looked to and worked with the governing bodies for such sports as they dictated return.

In response to a point raised by Councillor Malone, Mr Tamati advised he would follow up on ensuring the TVs on running machines in the Newry Leisure Centre were operational.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the following:
 • The phased reopening plan for Indoor Leisure as outlined

- in appendix 1 of the officer's report.
- **The prioritisation of Sports Halls and activity space occupancy within indoor leisure as follows:**
 - 1. COVID-19 Related Bookings**
 - 2. Historical Statutory and Essential Non-Commercial Bookings**
 - 3. Internal Leisure Activity Programmes and Bookings**
 - 4. Historical Sports Clubs and Non-Commercial Block Bookings**
 - 5. New Sports Club and Non-Commercial Block Bookings**
 - 6. All other bookings**

AHC/098/2021

OUTDOOR RECREATION NI – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2020-21

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sports, regarding Outdoor Recreation NI, Service Level Agreement for Community Trails, 2020-21.

In welcoming and thanking officers working on Community Trails, Councillor Mason enquired about timescales for delivery particularly in relation to Bright GAC, Teconnaught GAC, Tipperary Wood and Inch Abbey.

Mr Tamati provided a detailed overview of the process for delivery reiterating that it was dependant on the scope and level of development required. He added that timescales were also dependant on when letters of offer were received and that it was important to manage the expectations of funders. Mr Tamati advised that he planned to write to funders if successful to request receipt of letters of offer earlier to enable delivery of projects.

Councillor O'Hare also welcomed the news regarding projects particularly the pump track for Hilltown.

Councillor Trainor raised a point in relation to eligibility for funding under the Blue/Green Fund from the Department of Infrastructure and asked that this be explored.

Mr Lipsett confirmed the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Department were leading on that and were aware of all the Community Trails and would form part of their consideration when applying to the Department. Mr Lipsett added that he was meeting with the Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism department later in the week in relation to the matter.

In response to a query from Councillor McMurray, Mr Lipsett reminded Members that Outdoor Recreation NI came to Council once a year and part of that would be to show indicative designs of what a pump track may look like and officers would ask that designs of such be included in their presentation.

Agreed

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by O'Hare, to approve a new Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) for the 2021-2022 financial year at the total cost of £75,410 as per appendix 1.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/099/2021 FAIRTRADE SIGNAGE

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Fairtrade Signage referred back from Council on 4 May 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to approve Option 1 to implement Fairtrade District Statute signage, as per Fairtrade Organisation template, on all 21 Boundary signs across the District at a cost of £1,102.50 (excl. VAT).

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/100/2021 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE - CAPITAL

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding Social Investment Fund update.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report and minutes of the Social Investment Fund Capital Board Meeting held on 22 March 2021.

AHC/101/2021 PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the report and Minutes of the Peace IV Partnership Meetings held on 14 January 2021 and 4 March 2021.

AHC/102/2021 NO 16 THE SQUARE ROSTREVOR

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding No 16 The Square, Rostrevor.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the update report in relation to No 16 The Square, Rostrevor.

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

AHC/103/2021 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding the Active and Healthy Communities Procurement Action Plan.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the Active and Healthy Communities Procurement Action Plan.

AHC/104/2021 SINGLE TENDER ACTION – INDOOR LEISURE FIRE ALARMS

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding the Single Tender Action for indoor leisure fire alarms.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, 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 Ó Muirí, to approve the increase of the current Single Tender Action for Indoor Leisure Fire Alarms as outlined within the officer's report.

AHC/105/2021

KILKEEL BOWLING PAVILLION – PUBLIC TENDER

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding a public tender for Kilkeel Bowling Pavillion.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to bring a further report back to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.

AHC/106/2021

SPORTS CLUBS LEASES AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – COVID 19 IMPACT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding Sports Club Leases and Service Level Agreements, Covid 19 impact. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor, for sports clubs that have a lease or seasonal hire arrangements in place with Council to receive a reduction in fee charges for 2020/21 as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/107/2021 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND LEGAL FEES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Social Investment Fund Legal Fees. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to approve the payment of the legal fees associated with the legal charges for Ballyhornan 3G pitch and changing facilities.

AHC/108/2021 BUSINESS CASE – REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS WITHIN THE ORIGINAL SECTION OF THE DAN RICE HALL

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development a business case for replacing windows within the original section of the Dan Rice Hall. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- Accept the business case for the Replacement of Windows within the original section of Dan Rice Hall.
- Submittal of a planning application for the replacement of the windows.
- Subject to planning approval being given to begin a procurement exercise for the replacement of the windows

AHC/109/2021

TROPICANA ESSENTIAL WORKS – PUBLIC TENDER

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a public tender for Tropicana Essential Works. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note:

- The appointment of the preferred bidder as outlined within the officer's report for Repairs and Upgrades to Mechanical Pool Plant Systems of Tropicana Seasonal Swimming Pool.
- That officers will agree the terms and enter into a contract with the preferred bidder, subject to AHC

approval and prior to full Council ratification of this report.

AHC/110/2021

BUSINESS CASE FOR WARRENPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, 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 17 May 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding an update on the development of Warrenpoint Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Andrews, to note the officer's report.

Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, explained she would be attending all Committee meetings this month from a legislative perspective and made the following statement:

"Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council, subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful."

As this was the last meeting as Chairperson of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Councillor McEvoy thanked Officers and Councillors for their support during her term and that she had really enjoyed her time as Chairperson.

Councillors McKeivitt, Andrews, McMurray and Trainor extended their thanks to Councillor McEvoy for her term as Chair of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee throughout what was a difficult year. Councillor O'Hare was also thanked for his term as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.25pm.

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 19 May 2021 at 6.00pm via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

Deputy Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members:	Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor G Malone	Councillor H McKee
	Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor D Murphy
	Councillor K Owen	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor

Non-Committee Members: Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in Attendance:

- Ms M Ward, Chief Executive
- 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
- Ms G Kane, Head of Facilities Management and Maintenance
- Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager
- Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
- Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

NS/077/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Mason.

Councillor Magennis said this was her last meeting as Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and she thanked Councillor Andrews, Deputy Chair; the Committee Members and Council Officials for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

The Director and Members thanked Councillor Magennis for the professional manner in which she had chaired the Meetings in what had been a very difficult year.

NS/078/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/079/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

In response to a query from Councillor McKee regarding rubbish being accepted at HRCs from litter picking initiatives, Mr Dinsmore confirmed that if litter picks were co-ordinated through the Sustainability Office, the organisers would be issued with a letter to be presented when taking the rubbish to HRCs. He also confirmed that the majority of litter picked from roadsides would go into general waste if it was not separated.

Councillor Stokes raised an issue regarding a litter pick carried out by an individual at the 5 Ways Roundabout in Newry and said he was very disappointed that the lady had been told she had to take the rubbish collected to the HRC herself. Councillor Owen said she had heard of similar issues and felt that if people were making the effort to tidy the District, then Council should lift the rubbish collected.

Mr McBride advised if Members were aware of such issues they should raise them with Mr Dinsmore who would ensure the Sustainability Officer contacted the groups/individuals.

In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding the on-going problem of wind-blown litter from the fast food outlet at Damolly Retail Park, and the progress made on the erection of a fence to prevent this, Mr Dinsmore said he had engaged with the owners and the restaurant franchise and would now formalise the request that a green fence be erected at this location.

AGREED: It was agreed Mr Dinsmore continue to update Councillor Casey in relation to progress on this matter.

In response to a query from Councillor Murphy, Mr Dinsmore confirmed there would be a delivery of bio-degradable caddy bags next week and Councillors would be contacted regarding their distribution. In relation to the distribution of litter pickers to schools, he advised an order had been placed for these and they would be distributed as part of the outreach programme that the Sustainability Group had with schools.

AGREED: It was agreed the Sustainability Officer advise Councillors on how the litter pickers would be distributed to schools.

In response to a query from Councillor Murphy, Mr Scullion updated the Committee on those areas within the District that had already been re-wilded and said Members would be updated as grounds maintenance continued to develop other sites.

AGREED: **It was agreed Officers update Committee Members on the re-wilding of other areas throughout the District as they were developed.**

FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

**NS/080/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE
SCHEME OF DELEGATION MARCH 2020 TO MAY 2021**

Read: Report dated 19 May 2021 from Mr J McBride, advising the Committee of decisions taken by the Director of Neighbourhood Services under delegated authority for the time 1st March 2020 to 30th April 2021. ***(Circulated)***.

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

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/081/2021: PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 19 May 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: Council's Public Toilet Strategy. ***(Circulated)***.

Issues raised by Members

- Essential that all necessary resources were made available to ensure there were no delays in implementing this Strategy.
- The possibility of a small charge being applied to use pc's in major towns provided they were of a very high quality.
- Consideration be given to the re-opening of the toilets at Loughross, Crossmaglen as this would attract more visitors to this amenity

Mr Scullion advised that all these issues would have to be decided as the Committee worked on implementing the Strategy, weighing up costs and benefits.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the content of the report and:-**

- **To approve the Council's Public Toilet Strategy as presented at Appendix 1 of this report.**

- **Council Officers to revert to this Committee with a report setting out each work package as part of the implementation process for delivery of the service going forward.**

NS/082/2021: PROPOSED REOPENING OF ALL PUBLIC TOILETS

Read: Report dated 19 May 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: timetable for the reopening of all Council public toilets, subject to resources being made available. ***(Circulated)***.

Issues raised by Members

- Disappointment that no public conveniences were yet open in the Rowallane DEA.
- A need to ensure that hand sanitisers provided at public conveniences were always full (this was not the case recently at the public toilets in Warrenpoint)
- Public toilets in Newcastle being closed earlier than they should be, in some cases at 4.00 pm. If this was a fault with the door mechanism then it needed to be sorted out urgently and all action taken to ensure these toilets remained open until their scheduled closing time

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to approve the proposed recovery plan as detailed within section 1.4 of the above report.**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was also agreed that officers make every effort to bring forward the extension to opening times of identified public conveniences to the beginning of June, rather than mid-June as stated in the report.**

Officers to update Committee Members as soon as possible on the re-opening timetable, with endeavours to get them open at the start of June.

NS/083/2021: REQUEST TO LEASE UNITS ATTACHED TO PUBLIC TOILETS

Read: Report dated 19 May 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: request to lease units attached to two public toilet blocks owned by the Council within Warrenpoint Square and Downs Road public toilet, Newcastle. ***(Circulated)***.

Councillor Clarke proposed and Councillor Murphy seconded to approve the Officer’s recommendation that no action be taken currently in seeking to lease either facility referred to in the report until it was established if these facilities would be required as part of the Changing Places provision.

As an amendment Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Curran seconded that this matter be deferred and an options paper be prepared for the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting that both weighed up the Public Convenience Strategy and the hospitality sector.

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

FOR: 6
AGAINST: 6
ABSTENTIONS: 1

The Chair used her casting vote against and the amendment and was declared lost.

The proposal from Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, to approve the Officer’s recommendation that no action be taken currently in seeking to lease either facility referred to in the report until it was established if these facilities would be required as part of the Changing Places provision was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

FOR: 11
AGAINST: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 2

The proposal was declared carried.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note contents of this report and to approve the Officers recommendation that no action be taken currently in seeking to lease either facility referred to in the report until it was established if these facilities would be required as part of the Changing Places provision.**

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/084/2021: ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Read: Report dated 19 May from Mr L Dinsmore re: Enforcement Improvement Plan. ***(Circulated)***.

Issues raised by Members

- The provision of additional bins was welcome, but it was important that existing bins were regularly emptied and not left overflowing.
- Continue to support the need for sufficient enforcement staff, empowered to issue fines, for dog fouling and littering offences.
- Can Councils use mobile CCTV footage and if this was considered an asset, a bit to be made for such a unit in next year's rate estimates process.
- As part of the Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign, focus should be placed on the dangers to health posed by dog fouling.
- An update on the provision of bird proof litter bins particularly for seaside towns in the District, including Ardglass and Newcastle.

Mr McBride advised he had made a bid to the Council's covid recovery fund for the provision of bird proof litter bins for coastal areas and he would advise the Committee at the June meeting in relation to where these were going to be deployed.

Councillor Clarke said he wished to put on record his thanks to officers for putting together this very comprehensive Strategy for moving forward. He said education was key, along with PR and a high-profile campaign that would capture the imagination of the public and keep them involved.

(Councillor Finnegan left the meeting)

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

AGREED: **It was also agreed Mr McBride provide an update on the provision of bird proof litter bins at the June Committee Meeting.**

FOR NOTING

NS/085/2021: **Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – 29 APRIL 2021**

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – 29 April 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.**

NS/086/2021: **Arc21 JC MINUTES – 25 MARCH 2021**

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/087/2021: **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

In relation to NS/070/2019 – Notice of Motion – Memory Gardens – it was agreed that Mr McBride follow up on progress in relation to this issue and update Councillor Tinnelly.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 12, 13, 14 and 15 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/088/2021: **ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021**

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

NS/089/2021: **PURCHASE OF A NEW INDUSTRIAL HEAVY GRADE TRACTOR AND SIDE ARM FLAIL/CUTTING UNIT FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS DISTRICT WIDE**

Read: Report dated 19 May 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: purchase of a new industrial heavy grade tractor and side arm flail/cutting unit

for Grounds Maintenance at various locations district wide.
(*Circulated*).

NS/090/2021: BUSINESS CASE LOOKING AT OPTIONS FOR STRATEGIC MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL ARTIFICIAL SPORTS PITCHES AND SURFACES 2021 TO 2023

Read: Report dated 19 May 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case looking at options for strategic maintenance of Council artificial sports pitches and surfaces 2021 to 2023. (*Circulated*).

NS/091/2021: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL – SUPPLY OF VEHICLE PARTS AND EXTERNAL FLEET MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Read: Report dated 19 May 2021 from Mr J McBride, re: economic appraisal – supply of vehicle parts and external fleet maintenance services. (*Circulated*).

Councillor Andrews proposed, 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/088/2021 – Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes – Thursday 25 March 2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 25 March 2021.

NS/089/2021 – Purchase of a new industrial heavy grade tractor and side arm flail/cutting unit for Grounds Maintenance at various locations District wide

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Cases and accept the conclusion of the Business Cases that Option 3 from each be chosen as the preferred option. This would see the procurement of an industrial tractor and a side arm flail.

NS/090/2021 – Business case on options for strategic maintenance of Council artificial sports pitches and surfaces 2021 to 2023

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and approve the recommendation from the Business Case that Option 2 be

accepted. Option 2 would see a hybrid model for maintenance of these surfaces whereby Council staff undertake maintenance works with support from an external contractor for more specialised tasks. The external contractor would be appointed for up to a three-year period.

NS/091/2021– Economic Appraisal – supply of vehicle parts and external fleet maintenance services

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the economic appraisal to procure contractors for the supply of vehicle parts and external fleet maintenance services.

Ms Ward Chief Executive, explained she would be attending all Committee meetings this month from a legislative perspective and made the following statement:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.35 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 June 2021.

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

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 10.00am via Microsoft Teams

P/055/2021: LDP: PLANNING POLICY REVIEW (QUARTERLY UPDATE)

Read: Report dated 05 May 2021 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding a quarterly update on Planning Policy Review.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the quarterly update as provided in Report dated 05 May 2021 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer regarding Planning Policy Review.**

P/056/2021: LDP: PLANNING POLICY REVIEW – NATURAL HERITAGE

Read: Report dated 05 May 2021 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding LDP: Planning Policy Review – Natural Heritage.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed as follows:**

- **To note the LDP: Planning Policy Review – Natural Heritage**
- **Approve the proposed draft planning policies for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy**
- **Authorise the Development Plan Team to amend the proposed draft planning policies as necessary (ie, 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.**



Minutes of the (Annual General Meeting) 479th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 15th April 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex

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
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Grainia Long	Chief Executive (Housing Executive)
Amanda Stewart	Northern Ireland Youth Forum
Blair Anderson	Northern Ireland Youth Forum
Saira Khan	Northern Ireland Youth Forum
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)
Kim Smyth	Secretariat Manager

Apologies:

There were no apologies.

1.0	<p><u>Election of Chair & Vice Chair</u></p> <p>The first item of business transacted at the Annual General Meeting of the Council was the election of Chair and Vice Chair under Standing Order 10(2), Page 19.</p> <p>NOTED: that (1) no Member shall preside during an election in which he/she is a candidate (Standing Order 3(4), Page 7); and (2) in the case of an equality of votes the person presiding (if he/she is a Member) shall have a second or casting vote – STANDING ORDER 17(2).</p>	
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Housing Council
479th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

<p>1.1</p>	<p>As the position of Chair is currently vacant the Secretary presided over the election of Chair.</p> <p>Alderman Tommy Nicholl was proposed by Alderman J Finlay and seconded by Alderman A Bresland.</p> <p>Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald was proposed by Councillor Catherine Elattar and Councillor Michael Ruane.</p> <p>Following a show of hands:-</p> <p>Alderman Nicholl received 5 votes and Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald received 6 votes.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald was duly elected as Chair for the ensuing two years.</p> <p>Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald accepted the post of Chair.</p> <p>The Chair paid tribute to the ongoing Chair, Alderman Tommy Nicholl during his term of office for his leadership and thanked him for his work and dedication.</p>	
<p>1.2</p>	<p><u>Election of Vice Chair</u></p> <p>The Secretary also presided over the election of Vice Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Mark Cooper was proposed by Alderman Jim Speers and seconded by Councillor Nick Mathison.</p> <p>There were no other nominations for Vice Chair.</p> <p>RESOLVED: unanimously, that Councillor Mark Cooper was duly elected as Vice Chair for the ensuing two years.</p> <p>Councillor Mark Cooper accepted the post of Vice Chair.</p>	
<p>2.0</p>	<p><u>Housing Council Committees</u></p> <p>Members constituted the following Committees to carry out the work of the Housing Council and appointed Members.</p> <p>NOTED: the Chair and Vice Chair retain Membership of all Committees.</p>	

Housing Council
479th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

2.1	<p>Standing Orders Committee</p> <p>Members noted that the Housing Council is to undertake a Review of Standing Orders in the near future.</p> <p>The Committee Members were agreed as follows:</p> <p>Councillor Nick Mathison Alderman Jim Speers Alderman John Finlay</p>	
2.2	<p>Policy Committee</p> <p>The Committee considers all policy/governance matters referred to it by the Housing Council. The Policy Committee meets as and when required.</p> <p>Agreed: When a Policy Committee Meeting is required to be set up, Committee Members would be appointed, at this stage.</p>	
2.3	<p>Awards Committee</p> <p>This Committee will determines the winners of awards presented annually by the Housing Council.</p> <p>The Awards are:- The Norman Capper Memorial Trophy, the J R Gorman Trophy, the J Bailie Trophy and the Jim Speers Special Award.</p> <p>The Committee Members were agreed as follows:</p> <p>Councillor Michelle Kelly Councillor Michael Ruane Alderman Allan Bresland</p> <p>RESOLVED: Members present unanimously endorsed the above nominations.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
4.0	<p>Members Attendance 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021</p> <p>Members noted that each Council has been notified of their Members attendance.</p>	

Housing Council
479th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The plan was noted.</p>	
6.0	<p>Meeting with the Minister for Communities, Minister Hargey MLA</p> <p>Members noted that a Meeting had been arranged for the Minister for Communities for Wednesday, 5th May 2021 at 4 pm.</p> <p>It was reported that the Meeting will focus on the Ministerial announcement in November 2020 on the future of social housing in Northern Ireland, and to provide the Minister with an opportunity to provide an update on progress, as one of the co-design stakeholders.</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed that the following items should be included on the Agenda, time permitting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness • Review of Allocations Scheme • Monitoring and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector <p>AGREED:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretary will compile an agenda to be sent to the Private Office • Members to submit a list of questions to the Secretary to be passed to the Private Office, prior to the Meeting 	<p>Secretary All Members</p>
7.0	<p><u>Housing Council 50th Anniversary</u></p> <p>(i) Noted - NI Housing Council Logo.</p> <p>(ii) Noted - 50th Anniversary Press Release.</p> <p>(iii) Reimaging of the Website – it was noted that the Secretary will progress updates to the content over the next few weeks.</p> <p>Members commended the work carried out on the website, making it more user friendly, appealing and complimented the new branded colours.</p>	

Housing Council
479th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

8.0	<p>Officers and Presenters then joined the Meeting. Kim Smyth left the Meeting.</p> <p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 478th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th March 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor Fitzgerald, seconded by Alderman Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 478th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 11th March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
9.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Grainia Long to her first meeting to the Housing Council in her new role as Chief Executive.</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenters, Amanda Stewart, Blair Anderson and Saira Khan from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum.</p>	
10.0 10.1 10.2	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>Page 6/7 – Item 7 – Rural Housing Needs</p> <p>It was noted that arrangements were being made for a representative from the Rural Community Network to attend a future meeting to address Members of their specific work carried out on rural housing needs.</p> <p>Members Queries</p> <p>Queries by Members responded to since the last meeting, in relation to policy issues have been included in your papers for information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Mark Cooper – Homelessness. • Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald – Fermanagh & Omagh - Rural Housing. • All Members – DfC response on the Housing Executive's Historical Debt. 	Secretary
11.0	<p>Presentation on the work of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum</p> <p>Representatives from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Amanda Stewart, Blair Anderson and Saira Khan gave a presentation on the work they carry out through the Northern Ireland Youth Forum.</p>	

Housing Council
479th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<p>(Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>Ms Stewart explained the Northern Ireland Youth Forum is youth led, is run by young people and is all about young people. Any young person aged 11-25 can get involved, it was set up in 1979 by the Department of Education to represent the views of young people to government and other decision makers. Since 1979 the Youth Forum has received it's funding from the Department of Education via the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Forum believes that all young people have ideas and opinions worth listening to and we want to help you get involved in changing things in your school, community, and in society. They support young people to raise and discuss issues of importance to them and work at different levels on a wide range of exciting projects across communities.</p> <p>The representatives focused particularly on the homelessness Projects, that they have worked on and gave Members an in-sight into their personal experiences.</p> <p>Ms Stewart highlighted the Forums was launching Pinball II-Living Through Homelessness on Thursday the 22nd of April at 3pm to 3.30pm The live event to be streamed via the NIYF Facebook page. The animated video illustrates the journeys of three young people as they navigate their way through homelessness. The short film puts the spotlight on key issues affecting homeless young people and provides some recommendations on how they may be addressed. An invitation to join the event was extended to Members.</p> <p>Members commended the work of the Youth Forum, it was suggested that the Housing Council develop a working relationship with the Youth Forum for attendance at future meetings, in particular to focus on their continued work carried out with homelessness and welfare reform and it was also recommended that Members encourage their Councils to engage with the Forum to learn of the detrimental effects and experiences by young people and to hear their voices.</p> <p>Members expressed concern at the lack of one-bed accommodation for single young people faced with being homeless and the welfare reform 'priced out' of the private sector, resulting in more being forced into 'poor' quality private rented accommodation or shared housing and the related issues that this poses. Members felt that the issue of 'suitable' accommodation for all needs should be addressed and it was agreed to highlighted to the Department for Communities at the next meeting.</p>	<p>All Members</p> <p>Members</p>
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Housing Council
479th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<p>The Chair thanked the three representatives for a very informative presentation and looked forward to working with them in the future.</p>	
12.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Board Business</u></p> <p>On behalf of the Members, the Chair congratulated Grainia Long in her new role as Chief Executive and looked forward to working collaboratively with her in the future.</p> <p>It was noted that Ms Long will compile a written report presented at the Meetings, which will include performance related and strategic issues across the organisation.</p> <p>Ms Long highlighted the Housing Executive's key business areas, under the following headings:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness <p>Ms Long reported that due to Covid, there has been 110% increase in temporary accommodation within the last year, as a result of the pandemic the Housing Executive's ability to relet the accommodation has reduced. The Housing Executive are seeing repeat placements, evidence that too many young people are in a vicious circle.</p> <p>Members noted that a 'reset plan' on homelessness is being examined, which will include:-</p> <p>Temporary accommodation – increasing the number of units available through the voluntary sector, this is DfC funded through additional Covid funding announcement by the Minister and is very welcomed for homelessness and supporting people. The main concern is the temporary accommodation is only a temporary solution and other options will need to be sought.</p> <p>It was reported that the Housing Executive have put a bid in for its core homelessness budget and will keep Members briefed on the figures.</p> <p>Ms Long undertook to keep Members updated on the Reset Plan on Homelessness.</p>	<p>G Long</p> <p>G Long</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing Newbuild Programme. <p>The Housing Executive are satisfied with the end of year figures on the newbuild programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Executive's Business Plan. <p>The Housing Executive has approved a one-year Business Plan which was submitted to the Minister for approval. The 2022 Corporate Plan for the organisation will be soon underway and Ms Long welcomed input from the Housing Council to shape the outcomes.</p> <p>Following Ministerial approval of the Business Plan it will be presented to the Housing Council, in due course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Executive's Revitalisation Programme <p>Arising from the Minister's announcement on the future of the Housing Executive, it was noted that the 1st Meeting of the Programme Board has taken place. This is a partnership between the Department for Communities and the Housing Executive to implement a number of work-streams, in order to present options to the Minister by the end of March 2022.</p> <p>Ms Long offered to give a more details presentation on this issue later in the year.</p> <p>In response to the question on when is it anticipated that the Housing Executive will resume building houses, Ms Long explained that options have to be presented to the Minister by March 2022, and realistically it will be several years before the Housing Executive will be building to scale. She added that the Housing Executive are currently compiling Economic Appraisals for some smaller pilot schemes, which would also require Departmental approval.</p> <p>In relation to homelessness, Mr Cooper requested a breakdown of temporary accommodation available in each of the 11 Council areas.</p> <p>Ms Long confirmed that the level of reserves in the Housing Executive approximately £190 m. She explained that landlords can only use their reserves for specifics and legally the landlord reserves cannot be used to fund the regional side.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>G Long</p> <p>G Long</p> <p>Secretary</p>
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	<p>Members noted that this coming year there is an investment of £217m in stock improvements. It was agreed that a presentation will be provided on the investment in Housing Executive stock.</p> <p>Several Members supported the need for more housing in rural areas, as these village are continually become derelict and dilapidated, as the locals want to stay in their local areas and urged the Housing Executive to address these issues in rural areas when programming social housing.</p> <p>It was agreed that a presentation will be brought to a future meeting on the rural housing developments.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Long for her comprehensive report.</p>	Secretary
13.0	<p><u>Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS) 2019</u></p> <p>Members noted the Report.</p>	
14.0	<p><u>Older Peoples Housing Strategy Report</u></p> <p>Members requested a Presentation on the Strategy at a future Meeting.</p> <p>Mr Cooper referred to a project in Monkstown called 'Happi Principles' and asked that this be incorporated in the Presentation, for Members information.</p>	Secretary
15.0	<p><u>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions March 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	
16.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts March 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	

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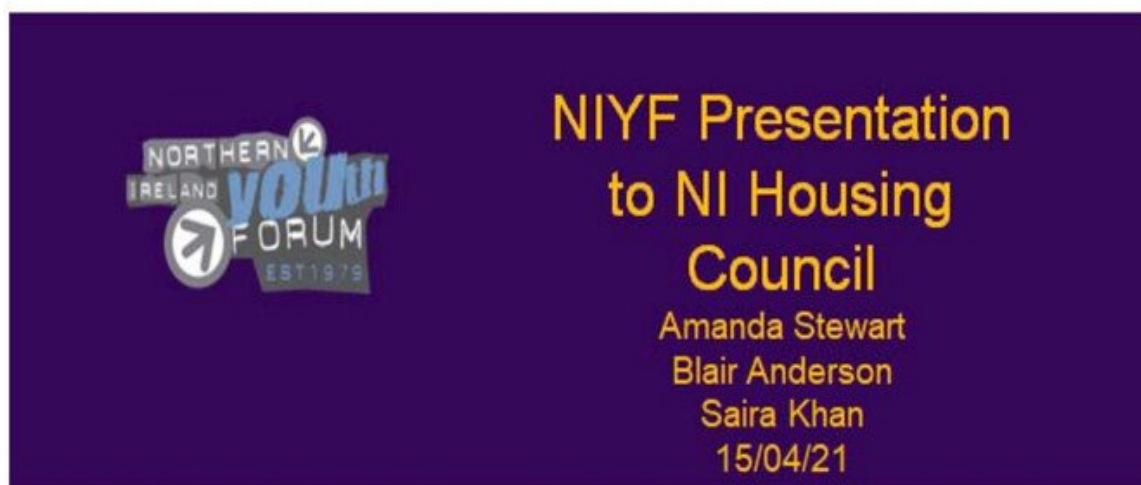
17.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 11th March 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Special Meeting with the Minister for Communities will be held on Wednesday, 5th May 2021 at 4pm via Webex.</p> <p>The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 13th May 2021 via Webex.</p> <p>It was also noted that the above monthly meeting would encompass attendance from the Department for Communities, with the Housing Executive returning to the June Monthly Meeting.</p>	
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The Meeting concluded at 12.40 pm.

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Appendix A



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WHO ARE WE?

- ✓ NIYF was established in 1979 by the Department of Education
- ✓ NIYF is Youth Led – run by Young People for Young People
- ✓ The current **Executive Committee** is made up of 12 young people 14 – 25 yrs
- ✓ Our other core values include; Equality and Inclusion, Collaboration, Transparency and Social Justice



NIHE SLA (Main Aims)

- ✓ To address the lack of young people engaged in housing issues/ services developing a succession plan moving forward.
- ✓ To attend monthly Central Housing Forum meetings and sub-meetings
- ✓ Youth attendance at NIHE Conferences



Housing Executive

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What we are currently working on!

- ✓OCN Level 2 in Peer Mentoring
 - ✓Launch of Pinball 2 (Young People's Journeys through homelessness)
 - ✓Creation of Pinball 3 (Young People's Journeys out of homelessness)
 - ✓Meeting DFC Permanent Secretary and follow up meetings from the Department (Dec 20) Meeting DFC Minister (Jan 21)
 - ✓On-going input into Bill of Rights for NI (presentation to Adhoc Committee)
 - ✓Other on-going consultations e.g. Community Safety; ASB
- ymena, Belfast and Newry Youth Forum's



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Main Aims

- ✓ To develop a Peer Mentoring Scheme to assist young people to navigate housing processes
- ✓ To develop appropriate on line presence to cater for the needs of young people homeless or threatened with homelessness
- ✓ To raise awareness of homelessness amongst young people



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What we are currently working on!

- ✓ Peer Mentors are under-going an intensive training programme tailored to them
- ✓ Supported 20 young people from October 2020 with a range of Housing and Homelessness issues
- ✓ Presented to a wide range of decision makers including; Education Minister, DfC Minister, The Executive Office and NIYF Youth Political Champions
- ✓ Working with Housing Rights to improve their website for young people
- ✓ On-going research into what information is currently available to young people in relation to Youth Homelessness – to be completed April 21 (Desk based research and 5 Focus groups completed)



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Young People's Key Asks

- ✓ Voice – Involve young people in the design, commissioning and evaluation of services
- ✓ Housing Options – NIHE to build good quality, affordable social housing to meet the needs of young people and families
- ✓ Our government departments to work together to tackle issues such as poverty, health, homelessness, education and youth unemployment.
- ✓ Meaningful Apprenticeship Programmes that pay young people a living wage



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CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8P8

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MAY HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Housing Council met with the Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey MLA on Wednesday, 5th May. It was a very positive and productive meeting which focused on the future of social housing in Northern Ireland and the revitalisation of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The Northern Ireland Housing Council then met on Thursday, 13th May 2021 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

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

Apologies

Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Paul Price and David Polley from the Department for Communities gave a verbal update on **Department's Top Housing issues**, which included the following items:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme

- NIHE Rent Increase
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework
- Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents

Members then received a presentation on the Housing Executive's Older Peoples Housing Strategy Report.

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10th June at 10.30 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

Secretary, Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

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



10 May 2021

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Mourne and Down District Council

By email: Marie.Ward@nmandd.org

Dear Marie

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

I would refer to your letter dated 15 April 2021 detailing the resolution passed by Newry Mourne and Down District Council in respect of violence against women and girls.

Ards and North Down Borough Council has considered this correspondence at its meeting on 28 April 2021 and resolved as follows:

This Council recognises the impact of violence against women and girls. We condemn all forms of abuse.

This Council writes to the Justice Minister, Naomi Long and the Executive Office, calling for the implementation of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy for Northern Ireland.

We endorse and promote the Women's Aid petition calling for a VAWG strategy to be implemented.

This Council agrees to bring back a report exploring the possibility of developing a financial support fund for women's groups who offer support advice and advocacy across our Borough and forming a task force with the PCSP to identify how we might raise awareness of personal safety protection measures such as safety apps, support organisations and safe places.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN REID
Chief Executive

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



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Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

council@nmandd.org

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

Your Ref:

Our Ref: CORR-0240-2021

Date: // ^u May 2021

Dear *Marie,*

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 January 2021 enquiring about the provision of an additional walk-in and drive-through COVID-19 test site in Newry.

By providing a mix of walk-through, drive-through and home testing options across Northern Ireland, my Department can maximise equality of access and help ensure that people who need to get tested can do so in a way that suits their needs.

Walk-through testing aims to improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing, enabling people who do not drive to have rapid access to testing on foot. It is recognised that for those with reduced mobility a walk through site may not accommodate needs adequately and the home channel test route is available in these instances. Further information, including how to book a home test kit, can be accessed at:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/testing-and-tracing-covid-19/testing-covid-19>

The current demand for testing across the province is fully assessed prior to development of additional sites. Consideration is also given to proximity to test sites, demographics of neighbouring population, the current need for testing in light of policy direction, overall testing capability and new technologies.

The development of the services in Newry have resulted from working closely with colleagues in local government who supported identification and agreement to use the site at Albert Basin.

The Department's approach to testing is subject to regular review and future plans will continue to be revised and updated in line with the advice of the Department's Expert Advisory Group on Testing.

I trust that you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health



From: The Minister

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 9051 2662
e-mail: private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref: CORR-0834-2021
Date: 17 May 2021

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

By email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Marie, a chara,

NOTICE OF MOTION – LGBT+ COMMUNITY

Thank you for your letter of 15 April 2021 regarding the motion passed by the Council. I am strongly opposed to the practice of so called 'conversion therapy'. It is a cruel and inhumane practice and it should be ended.

My Department is responsible for taking forward the Executive's LGBTQI+ Strategy. In October 2020 a Sexual Orientation Expert Advisory Panel was appointed to identify the themes and key actions the Strategy should include and the gaps in provision that it should seek to address. The Panel's [Report](#) was published on 5 March 2021. The Strategy is being developed further using a co-design approach, with meaningful involvement from those within the LGBTQI+ communities and officials across other departments.

The draft Strategy will be subject to public consultation later this year, which will provide the opportunity for comment and input from all stakeholders, including district councils. Subject to Executive agreement, the final Strategy will be published in December 2021. More details can be found on the Department's website www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/sexual-orientation-strategy.

Actions under the Executive's LGBTQI+ Strategy will aim to make a significant contribution to rights and equal treatment of LGBTQI+ communities and reducing discrimination throughout the duration of the Strategy and beyond.



I wish to explore all legislative options and officials have commenced work to inform the drafting of the legislation in the context of the work the Department is doing on the wider LGBTQI + Strategy.

The Expert Panel's Report referred to above includes recommendations aimed at ending so called conversion therapy. Officials are working with stakeholders and colleagues in other departments and jurisdictions to learn from experience and to consider where there are gaps in the law and, importantly, what powers we already have to end this practice. This process takes time and all necessary steps will be taken to ensure that any legislation would be fit for purpose and sufficiently robust.

I will continue to work with all relevant Executive colleagues in progressing this matter.

I welcome the Council's support for my Department's work and acknowledge the Council's continuing promotion of the support provided by local groups to members of the LGBTQI+ Community.

I look forward to the Council's contribution to the development and implementation of the LGBTQI+ Strategy.

Is mise le meas,

Deirdre Hargey
Deirdre Hargey MLA

Deirdre Hargey MLA
Minister for Communities

Copied to Robin Swann MLA, Minister of Health
Naomi Long MLA, Minister of Justice



Ards and North Down Borough Council

SR/cd/NOM143/CS20.4.2021/21.10

24 May 2021

Ms Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Monaghan Road
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Via email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Marie

I would advise you that at a recent meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council the under noted Resolution was agreed and ratified:

'That this Council deplores the refusal of the Stormont authorities to permit a stone sculpture to mark the Northern Ireland centenary to be placed at the seat of government; instructs the Chief Executive to convey our dismay to the Speaker of the Assembly and call for reversal of the decision so that due respect can be shown to those who value our constitutional position as a part of the United Kingdom; and that this council will commemorate NI's centenary with installations of stones depicting the map of Northern Ireland and 100 years celebrated and inscribed at Comber Square, Ards Conway Square, Bangor Castle, Donaghadee War Memorial and Hollywood town centre, and asks officers to bring back a report outlining costs and possible inclusion in the centenary budget for same, and will write to all other councils to follow our example.'

The Council would welcome your response to this matter.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN REID
Chief Executive

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

Our ref: CORR-0538-2021

Marie Ward
By email: council@nmandd.org

27 May 2021

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter concerning the Motion agreed by your Members calling for steps to be taken to ensure that people can access healthcare services, where abortion services are provided, without fear of abuse or intimidation.

I too believe that, while everyone has the right to express their views, people equally have the right to go about their personal business freely. It is important that no-one should be deterred from accessing healthcare, or be subjected to protests and images that they find distressing or offensive. My officials are in liaison with their Department of Health counterparts on this issue, and I am acutely conscious of the effect of such protests.

There is no doubt that they impact, not only on the well-being of pregnant people at a very vulnerable time of their lives, but on those who are attending these health facilities for many other reasons, including children and young people, older people and Health Trust staff. Being aware of the distress such gatherings cause, it is important that I take the issue seriously.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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You may already be aware that one of the measures which can be used in these circumstances is the establishment of exclusion zones. These designate a safe zone around facilities providing abortion services so that all those accessing them can do so without fear or trepidation. Those who wish to protest or express their views on abortion can still do so but at a suitable distance.

As yet, exclusion zones are not provided for in Northern Ireland. To do so will require legislation which could not be taken forward without Executive agreement. This is something which I will be exploring in the near future to seek a way forward which protects the right to protest and express views but also importantly the right to access healthcare without interference.

Yours sincerely,

NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

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