



May 31st, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

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

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 May 2022

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 03 05 2022.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 May 2022

For Approval

[Council Minutes 03-05-2022.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23 May 2022

For Approval

[Special Council Minutes 23 May 2022.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Audit Committee 28 April 2022

For Approval

[Minutes Audit Committee 28 April 2022.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 May 2022

For Approval

[ERT Minutes 09 May 2022.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2022

For Approval

[SPR Minutes 12 May 2022.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2022

For Approval

10.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 18 May 2022

For Approval

📄 *NS Minutes 18 May 2022.pdf*

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11.0 Planning Section

For Approval

Local Development Plan

📄 *Local Development Plan - Council Agenda 06.06.2022.pdf*

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Correspondence and Conferences

12.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Minutes 10 March 2022

For Information

📄 *Housing Council Minutes 10th March 2022.pdf*

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13.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - 12 May 2022

For Information

📄 *Members Bulletin - 12th May 2022.pdf*

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14.0 Response from HM Treasury re. NOM C/054/2022 - Opposed to Planned Changes to Red Diesel

For Information

📄 *Response from HM Treasure re NOM C.054.2022.pdf*

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15.0 Response from Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council re NOM C/057/2022 - Cost of Living Crisis

For Information

📄 *Response from ABC re NOM C.057.2022 - Cost of Living Crisis.pdf*

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16.0 Response from Mid Ulster District Council re. NOM C/054/2022 - Opposed to Planned Changes to Red Diesel

For Information

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 3 MAY 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/081/2022	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 04.04.22	The Action Sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/082/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04.04.22	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/083/2022	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28.03.2022 re. Ballykinlar	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/084/2022	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28.03.22 – with NIAS & SHSCT	It was agreed to bring forth problem solving solutions to the NIAS in all facets of their work and for this action to be retained on the Action Sheet to keep track of progress	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.			
C/085/2022	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 11.04.22	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/086/2022	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 14.04.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/087/2022	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 20.04.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/088/2022	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 21.04.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/089/2022	Planning Minutes	There were no issues referred from the Planning Meeting	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/090/2022	Response from DoJ re NOM C.055.2022 – Charlotte’s Law	It was agreed to note the response.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/091/2022	Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh DC re Domestic Violence	It was agreed to note the correspondence.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/092/2022	Correspondence received from Fermanagh and Omagh DC re:	It was agreed to note the correspondence	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Continuing Healthcare Provision		Democratic Services		
C/093/2022	Correspondence received from Fermanagh & Omagh DC re Recruiting staff within hospitality	It was agreed to note the correspondence.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/094/2022	Correspondence received from Fermanagh & Omagh DC re. St. Brigid's Day	It was agreed to note the correspondence.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/095/2022	Correspondence received from Ards & N. Down re. Lighting up for Ukraine	It was agreed to note the correspondence.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/096/2022	Response from DoE re. NOM C.073.2022 – Free School Meals	It was agreed to note the correspondence.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/097/2022	NOM – Irish Language Rights and Legislation	<p>"This council supports the campaign for Irish language rights and the implementation of Irish language legislation.</p> <p>"It is long overdue that our Irish language citizens and communities are recognised in law, as promised in many of our peace agreements.</p> <p>"On Saturday, May 21, thousands will travel to</p>	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Belfast City Hall to support the Dream Dearg campaign, including many from our own council area.</p> <p>"We call on the council to support their campaign and also extend a huge ádh mór oraibh to the thousands who will travel to Belfast to represent local Irish language communities and schools at An Lá Dearg 2022.</p> <p>"As an act of solidarity and support from the council, we will, on Friday, May 20, illuminate Newry Town Hall in red</p>			
END					

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

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 6.00pm via Hybrid
in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Teams)**In attendance in Chamber:** Councillor T Andrews
Councillor D Curran
Councillor D McAteer**In attendance via Teams:**
Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Rice
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell
Councillor G Malone
Councillor McMurray
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor J Tinnelly**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:** Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
(Acting)**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:** Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration
& Tourism
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services
(Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/079/2022**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Magennis chaired the Meeting in her role as Deputy Chairperson.

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, McKeivitt, Owen, Savage, Stokes and Trainor and from Marie Ward and Michael Lipsett.

C/080/2022**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

C/081/2022**ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2022**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 April 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 April 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McEvoy

Councillor Hanlon advised that several Members were experiencing difficulty accessing Teams.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**C/082/2022****MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2022**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 April 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/083/2022**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2022 RE. BALLYKINLAR**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 March 2022 re Ballykinlar (copy circulated).

Councillor Curran asked if there was an update on Ballykinlar, Ms Carville advised him that Mr Lipsett had been trying to set up a meeting with the group and she said Mr

Lipsett would contact him separately outside of the meeting.

Agreed: Mr Lipsett to update Councillor Curran regarding the Down GAA Centre of Excellence at Ballykinlar.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting re Ballykinlar held on 28 March 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/084/2022 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2022 WITH NIAS & SHSCT

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 March 2022 with NIAS & SHSCT (copy circulated).

Councillor McAteer referred to the recent death of Jody Keenan in Newry while waiting for an ambulance and said this very sad incident had highlighted the seriousness of the situation and it was vital to bring forth problem solving solutions to the NIAS in all facets of their work. Councillor McAteer said the situation was unacceptable and was very difficult for NIAS staff and he asked that this item be retained on the action sheet to keep track of progress.

Agreed: It was agreed to bring forth problem solving solutions to the NIAS in all facets of their work and for this action to be retained on the Action Sheet to keep track of progress.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 28 March 2022 with NIAS & SHSCT were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/085/2022 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2022

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/086/2022 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2022**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/087/2022 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2022**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 April 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Casey.**

C/088/2022 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2022**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 21 April 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 21 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/089/2022 **PLANNING MINUTES**

There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee.

FOR NOTING**C/090/2022****RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RE.
NOTICE OF MOTION C/055/2022 – CHARLOTTE’S LAW**

Read: Letter dated 7 April 2022 re. Notice of Motion C/055/2022. (copy circulated).

Agreed: The correspondence dated 7 April 2022 from the Department of Justice was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/091/2022**CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH AND OMAGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL RE. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Read: Letter dated 12 April re. Domestic Violence. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re. Domestic Violence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/092/2022**CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH & OMAGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL RE. CONTINUING HEALTHCARE
PROVISION**

Read: Letter dated 12 April 2022 re. Continuing Healthcare Provision. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re Continuing Healthcare Provision was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/093/2022**CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH & OMAGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL RE. RECRUITING STAFF WITHIN**

HOSPITALITY

Read: Letter dated 12 April 2022 re. Recruiting staff within hospitality. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re Recruiting Staff within Hospitality was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/094/2022 CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE. ST. BRIGID'S DAY

Read: Letter dated 21 April 2022 re. St Brigid's Day. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re St. Brigid's Day was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/095/2022 CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS & NORTH DOWN RE. LIGHTING UP FOR UKRAINE

Read: Letter dated 25 April 2022 re. Lighting up for Ukraine. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Ards & North Down was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/096/2022 RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE. NOTICE OF MOTION C/073/2022 – FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Read: Letter dated 26 April 2022 re. NOM C/073/2022. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence dated 26 April 2022 from the Department of Education was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Councillor Byrne referred to Notices of Motion received from other Councils requesting support and said our support should not be given without prior discussion and we should write back noting the Notices of Motion rather than supporting them.

Ms Taggart said the usual procedure was to write back 'noting' the Notices of Motion, unless discussion had taken place and an agreed position taken.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/097/2022

NOTICE OF MOTION – IRISH LANGUAGE RIGHTS AND LEGISLATION

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Ó Muirí:

"This council supports the campaign for Irish language rights and the implementation of Irish language legislation.

"It is long overdue that our Irish language citizens and communities are recognised in law, as promised in many of our peace agreements.

"On Saturday, May 21, thousands will travel to Belfast City Hall to support the Dream Dearg campaign, including many from our own council area.

"We call on the council to support their campaign and also extend a huge ádh mór oraibh to the thousands who will travel to Belfast to represent local Irish language communities and schools at An Lá Dearg 2022.

"As an act of solidarity and support from the council, we will, on Friday, May 20, illuminate Newry Town Hall in red, symbolising the campaign for language rights."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Ó Muirí said 5,600 days had passed since an Irish Language Act had been promised at St. Andrew's in 2006.

Councillor Ó Muirí said it was unacceptable that in 2022 the Irish Language Community had to campaign for basic rights that were promised in legislation. He said he hoped school children and their families who were passionate about the Irish language would travel to Belfast to walk with the Dream Dearg to demand the Irish language rights that were promised.

Councillor Ó Muirí asked that Council light up Newry Town Hall and said someone may wish to caveat with that, in requesting the Downshire Centre was also illuminated on Friday 20 May 2022 to symbolise support of the campaign for Irish language rights across the District.

Councillor Reilly said whilst he had no issue with the Irish language, he had concerns that some aspects of the legislation could disenfranchise a large proportion of the population in terms of employment who did not have the use of Irish and therefore

because there was no detail of what would be included in the legislation he could not support the Motion.

Councillor McAteer expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the SDLP and said parties needed to adopt a more mature approach and reasonable debate undertaken to address the concerns from all parties. He said a commitment had been made in June 2021 by Brandon Lewis, Secretary of State for N. Ireland to pass the legislation in Westminster if Stormont collapsed and this had not happened. Councillor McAteer said Irish language rights needed to be enshrined in legislation as soon as possible with full debate, ideally in Northern Ireland, but if necessary in Westminster.

Councillor Reilly requested a recorded vote.

Councillor Ó Muirí said the idea behind the legislation was to protect the language rights of a young generation who were growing up now. He spoke of the difficulty encountered in 1972 at the opening of the first Bunscoil on the Shaws Road in Belfast due to the absence of legislation. Councillor Ó Muirí referred to Councillor Reilly's concerns regarding the disenfranchisement of a large proportion of the community and said an Ombudsman would be in place to address any questions and in terms of employment he considered it would only be applicable if a particular position required Irish speaking skills and then it could possibly be included as a desirable criteria as opposed to an essential one.

Councillor Ó Muirí reminded Members that the Motion before them was to support An Lá Dearg in Belfast and to illuminate the Town Hall.

Councillor Burgess said although he did not have a problem with anyone learning the Irish language, he had concerns if it had affected jobs in the civil service and that an applicant with Irish speaking skills would be favoured above one who hadn't; he said this element caused fear in his community.

Councillor Ó Muirí said he wanted to make it clear that the intention of the Irish language legislation was not to take jobs away from people but to create opportunities for people with Irish to be able to apply for jobs for which Irish was essential. He said it was about parity of esteem and it needed to be discussed at the Assembly and for the Ombudsman to be in place to regulate and allay all fears.

Councillor Hanlon said the Irish language didn't belong to any one community, it was there for all. She said there were more than 7,000 children being educated by Irish medium and opportunities need to be created for them.

Councillor McAteer asked that it be put on record, in light of Councillor Burgess's comments, that if there was anything discriminatory in any legislation, he would walk away from it, but he said in this instance and in the context of Northern Ireland it would be a healthier place if this was sorted out to the satisfaction of everyone.

Councillor Magennis advised that Councillor Reilly had withdrawn his request for a recorded vote, however, she said as there was dissent among Members, she would call for a vote by way of a show of hands.

FOR: 23

AGAINST: 1
ABSTENTIONS: 1

13

The Motion was carried.

AGREED: "This council supports the campaign for Irish language rights and the implementation of Irish language legislation.

"It is long overdue that our Irish language citizens and communities are recognised in law, as promised in many of our peace agreements.

"On Saturday, May 21, thousands will travel to Belfast City Hall to support the Dream Dearg campaign, including many from our own council area.

"We call on the council to support their campaign and also extend a huge ádh mór oraibh to the thousands who will travel to Belfast to represent local Irish language communities and schools at An Lá Dearg 2022.

"As an act of solidarity and support from the council, we will, on Friday, May 20, illuminate Newry Town Hall in red, symbolising the campaign for language rights."

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 18.38hrs.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 June 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on
Monday 23 May 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor M Rice
Via Teams:

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor H McKee	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor J Trainor	

In attendance In Chamber: Councillor T Andrews Councillor D Curran

Officials in attendance via Teams: Mr C Mallon, Director, Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism

Officials in attendance In Chamber: Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: **Northern Ireland Water**
Via Teams: Ronan Larkin – Director of Finance & Regulation
Dr Stephen Blockwell - Head of Investment Management,
Asset Delivery Directorate
Valerie Crozier - Stakeholder Manager
Michael Rainey

SC/020/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Devlin, Howell, Harte, McEvoy, McKeivitt, Savage, Sharvin and Stokes.

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

SC/021/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/022/2022: PRESENTATION FROM NI WATER

Mr Larkin thanked Members for the opportunity to present the report and introduced

his colleagues, Dr Blockwell, Mrs Crozier and Mr Rainey, he then proceeded to make his presentation. (copy appended to these minutes).

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session and the following points were raised:

- Members took the opportunity to thank the staff in NI Water especially on the switchboard for the efficient work and communication updates they provided and for going above and beyond in some instances.
- What specifically was the 8.4 million in Downpatrick being used for?
- Wastewater structures were not in place and this was hampering development across the district.
- Were other sources of funding being investigated other than from the Executive?
- Local developers had indicated they had approached NI Water with a plan how they could help deliver a better wastewater structure in order to allow further development, was this being progressed?
- Members highlighted that the current cost of living crisis also impacted on NI Water and other service providers in terms of running costs.
- Heartening to see further investment planned for the Newry area, would this further investment be enough to future proof to allow more development to take place?
- What was NI Water doing to help eliminate costs and convert to hydrogen?
- Would the developer-led initiations have an impact and increase the of houses for the buyer?
- Servicing of sewers in Warrenpoint was an issue and causing problems with local business, was this being addressed?

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- On a strategic level, funding had been sought over the past 12 years, however since price control in 2015, a cap was put on the amount of investment that was allowed to be made.
- Capital funding could only be raised via the Northern Ireland Executive. The PC21 plan was now in year 2 and still had not had a full allocation of budget, therefore there was a real need to know the budget for the next 6 years in order that contracts could be put in place and work could begin in a structured manner to address some of the much needed upgrading across the district.
- Both the network and treatment capacity was under constraint and if NI Water pollute knowingly they would be prosecuted, this matter could only be addressed through further investment.
- NI Water were currently looking at some developer-led initiations on a weekly basis to help alleviate some of the pressure and allow development to commence.
- In Downpatrick 8.4 million being invested in upgrading the wastewater treatment works, also investment in the sewer network in the following areas:
 - Strangford Road pumping station - £140,000
 - Ardenlee pumping station - £240,000
 - Ardfern pumping station - £100,000
- Inflation had affected right across the board, as the largest energy user in NI,

NIW had locked in some prices for this year and currently had plans in place to be more carbon neutral to help offset some of those costs.

- Further investment planned would begin to address some of the backlog of under investment and begin to cure some of the shortages in the network. A sustained, continued investment of capital was required in NI to continue to close the gap.
- Would revert back to Members with further detail on Cranfield, Warrenpoint and Dundrum areas outside of the meeting.
- A small pilot programme unit was currently being progressed in Belfast with plans to expand to a bigger unit to run a scale pilot to produce oxygen and hydrogen which could then be off set against some of the costs. If the pilot was viable, would look at investing hydrogen plants across the Province, talks with Translink were already underway with the possibility of using the hydrogen to power vehicles as part of the future Climate Strategy.
- Developer-led initiation schemes would factor in the costs into their budgets which should not affect house prices, however the cost of materials and building supplies would be more likely to have an impact on an increase in house prices than anything else.

The meeting concluded at 19:14.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 June 2022.

Signed: **Councillor M Rice**

Signed: **Mr C Mallon**

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28 April 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

Chairperson:	Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson
In attendance:	(Committee Members) Councillor P Byrne Councillor C Casey Councillor O Hanlon Councillor A Lewis Councillor D Murphy Councillor D McAteer
Non members:	Councillor A Finnegan Councillor G Sharvin
Officials in attendance:	Ms D Carville Deputy Chief Executive Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
Also in attendance:	Ms C Hagan ASM Ms K Beattie NIAO

AC/024/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor L Devlin
Ms M Ward Chief Executive
Mr M Lipsett Director Active & Healthy Communities

AC/025/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Ms C Hagan ASM, declared an interest in Item 14 re: Internal Audit Contract Extension and withdrew from the Meeting for discussion on this item.
- Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson, declared an interest in Item 7 re: Annual Assessment of Audit Committee and Chairpersons Performance and as she was not required to leave the meeting, she remained in attendance during discussion on this item.
- Councillor P Byrne declared an interest in Item 7 re: Annual Assessment of Audit Committee and Chairpersons Performance.

**AC/026/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 11 JANUARY 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 January 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 January 2022.**

**AC/027/2022: DATES / START TIMES
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2022-2023**

Read: Proposed dates and start times for Audit Committee Meetings for the 2022-2023 term.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the following dates and start times, in respect of Audit Committee Meetings from July 2022 to April 2023, which will be tabled for formal approval via the Council's Annual Meeting to held on Monday 06 June 2022.**

- Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 2.00pm
- Thursday 22 September 2022 at 2.00pm
- Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 2.00pm
- Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 2.00pm

AC/028/2022: AUDIT COMMITTEE:
 - **TERMS OF REFERENCE**
 - **TIMETABLE**

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding:

- Audit Committee Terms of Reference (as approved by Council on 4 March 2019)
- Audit Committee Timetable for 2022-2023.

(Copy circulated)

Mr Byrne explained no updates were required to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference as they remained in compliance with best practice.

He said an annual review of Procurement Action Plans and a 6 monthly review of Members' Register of Interests, had both been added to the Audit Committee Timetable going forward for the 2022 – 2023 term.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Hanlon 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 2022-2023.**

AC/029/2020: AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF ASSESSMENT 2020/2021

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson of Audit Committee, regarding the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2021/2022.

(Copy circulated)

Ms Slevin explained a Self-Assessment Questionnaire was sent to the Audit Committee Members and based on feedback reflected the Audit Committee was operating effectively.

She referred to late reports and confirmed Officers would endeavour to ensure reports are provided on time to allow Members to read content and she welcomed the marked improvement over the year in the timely receipt of reports.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to approve Report from Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson of Audit Committee, and note the Audit Committee Self-Assessment 2021/2022.

**AC/030/2020: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT
RE: CHAIRPERSONS PERFORMANCE
AUDIT COMMITTEE 2021/22**

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services, regarding the annual assessment of the Chairpersons Performance in respect of the Audit Committee 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville explained Councillor Byrne represented Members in assessing the Chairpersons' performance against the National Audit's Best Practice Guide, and that she represented the Chief Executive and confirmed they both agreed the Chairperson has demonstrated performance aligned to best practice and has carried out the role of Chairperson very effectively at all Committee meetings.

She extended thanks to the Chairperson for carrying out duties effectively.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to note the Annual Assessment of the Chairperson's Performance in respect of the Audit Committee for 2021/22.

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)

AC/031/2022: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville explained the Corporate Risk Register was reviewed and updated by Senior Management Team on 07 April 2022, and she highlighted the following:

She referred to the following other risk factors considered but which are not included on the Corporate Risk Register:

- *Insurance Premiums* – contained within the Corporate Services Risk Directorate
- *Recruitment of staff in senior positions / key skills positions* – included under CR 5.
- *Rising cost of utilities* – this has been incorporated in budgets but will remain under review as it may need to be elevated in due course. An uplift has been included in estimates for rising utility costs but it is now considered likely this will not be enough to cover the actuals which will be invoiced in the coming months.

She referred Members to the Active & Healthy Communities Directorate Risk Register which gave detail on the risk content for this particular directorate.

She also referred to movement in residual risk scores where risk ratings had been changed and had increased in terms of risk, for reasons as outlined in the report.

Members raised concerns on the following areas:

- Impact of utility cost increases should costs continue to rise
- Audit on Planning Committee turnovers
- Increase in Residual Risk Scores, in particular CR5 – Planning for the future and difficulties in staff recruitment.

With regard to utility cost increases Ms Carville said the Council have budgeted for increases, and while Council reserves will be able to meet any overspend on a short term basis, the Council will have to consider the long term impact on services should costs continue to rise.

With regard to an audit on Planning Committee turnovers she explained arising from NIAO and Public Accounts Committee reports issued on the planning system, Council is required to look at the level of overturns. A desktop review will be carried out with results and any recommendations for improvement being brought to the Planning Committee.

Ms Carville said the Council plan to proceed to recruit for 2 No. Assistant Director posts and a Director of Corporate Services post and the outcome of these three recruitment processes should be known in advance of the next Audit Committee Meeting in July 2022.

Noted: It was agreed to note concerns raised by Members regarding the risk associated with the Council's ability to implement the Planning for the Future restructuring whilst the Council is experiencing difficulties with the recruitment of senior positions, which highlights the need for this issue to be included in CR 5, and kept under review on the Corporate Risk Register going forward.

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

- (a) To approve the updates to the Corporate Risk Register highlighted within the summary at Appendix 1. (Full Corporate Risk Register can be evidenced at Appendix 2)**
- (b) To note the revised AHC Directorate Risk Register at Appendix 3.**

AC/032/2022: PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding Prompt Payment Statistics – Quarter 3. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Quarter 3 2021-22 Prompt Payment statistics.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Casey 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/033/2022: UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding an update on Audit Recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/034/2022: (BI ANNUAL) PROCUREMENT ACTION PLANS

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding a bi-annual update on Procurement Action Plans per Directorate. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/035/2022: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding the Quarter 4 update on Direct Award Contracts (DACs) / Single Tender Actions (STAs). **(Copy circulated)**

AC/036/2022: FRAUD & WHISTLEBLOWING

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding an update on Fraud and Raising Concerns.
(Copy circulated)

(3.22pm - Ms C Hagan ASM left the meeting)

AC/037/2022: INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION 2022/23

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding the contract for internal audit services.
(Copy circulated)

AC/038/2022: REPORT RE: MUSEUMS

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Ms D Carville Deputy Chief Executive regarding Museums restructuring.
(Copy circulated)

AC/039/2022: NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME (NCCR) – GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding a governance review into the Council's governance of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme (NCCR).
(Copy circulated)

AC/040/2022: OPERATORS LICENCE AUDIT

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services, regarding a (Fleet) Operator's Licence Compliance Audit by the Road Haulage Association.
(Copy circulated)

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)**AC/041/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
SUMMARY REPORT**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 28 April 2022.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/042/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORT 2021/22**

Read: ASM Internal Audit – Annual Assurance Report 2021/22,
dated 25 April 2022.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/043/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE / CREDIT CONTROL**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 31 March 2022
regarding Accounts Receivable and Credit Control.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/044/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: FOLLOW UP REVIEW OF 2020/21
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 25 April 2022,
regarding follow up review of previous year 2020/21
recommendations.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/045/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 25 April 2022
regarding Single Tender Actions.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/046/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

Read: ASM Internal Audit Strategy and Action Plan.
(Copy circulated)

NIAO (CLOSED)**AC/047/2022: NIAO
NMDDC EXTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY**

Read: Correspondence dated 13 April 2022 from NIAO regarding Newry Mourne & Down District Council Audit Strategy 2021-22.
(Copy circulated)

**AC/048/2022: NIAO
PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AUDIT &
ASSESSMENT 2021-22**

Read: Report dated 28 April 2022 from Ms D Carville Acting Chief Executive regarding the NIAO Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2021-222.
(Copy circulated)

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

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

AC/033/2022: Update re: Audit Recommendations

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the update in relation to legacy audit recommendations.

AC/034/2022: (Bi-annual) Procurement Action Plans

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the update in relation to the Procurement Action Plans for each Directorate.

AC/035/2022: Direct Award Contracts

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Quarter 4 Update in relation to Single Tender Actions.

AC/036/2022: Fraud & Raising Concerns

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed:

- a) To note the update in relation to Fraud and Raising Concerns cases which have been detailed at Appendix 1.
- b) To note the Action Plan detailed at Section 2.3, based on the NIAO Internal Fraud Self-Assessment.

AC/037/2022: Internal Audit Services – Contract Extension 2022/23

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed that the final one-year extension period should be utilised so work can commence on the final year of the four year Internal Audit Plan, and the extension approved to the ASM contract.

AC/038/2022: Report re: Museums

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to note the request from the Elected Member and that the Strategic Review will take place as soon as possible.

AC/039/2022: Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme (NCCR) - Governance Review

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to note the progress to date in relation to the recommendations raised by ASM.

AC/040/2022: Audit – Operator’s Licence

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 28 April 2022 from Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services (Acting), regarding a (Fleet) Operator’s Licence Compliance Audit.

- AC/041/2022:** ASM Internal Audit - Summary Report
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the ASM Internal Audit Summary Report.
- AC/042/2022:** ASM Internal Audit – Annual Assurance Report 2021/22
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the ASM Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report 2021/22.
- AC/043/2022:** ASM Internal Audit
Audit Fieldwork re: Accounts Receivable
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report regarding Accounts Receivable.
- AC/044/2022:** ASM Internal Audit
Audit Fieldwork re: Follow up review of
Recommendations 2020/21
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report regarding follow review of recommendations 2020-21.
- AC/045/2022:** ASM Internal Audit
Audit Fieldwork re: Single Tender Actions
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the ASM Internal Audit Fieldwork Report regarding Single Tender Actions.
- AC/046/2022:** ASM Internal Audit – Strategy and Action Plan
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to approve the Internal Audit Strategy and Action Plan 2022-23.

AC/047/2022: **NIAO – External Audit Strategy**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the External Audit Strategy.

AC/048/2022: **NIAO Performance Audit and Assessment**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to note the NIAO Performance Audit and Assessment.

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)

AC/049/2022: **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES
2022 – 23**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2022/23. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville explained the Performance Improvement Assessment for next year has been approved by the SPR Committee in March 2022 and has now been submitted for an 8 week consultation process. She added that the 5 Performance Improvement Objectives have been carried forward from the previous year taking into account the situation that arose during last 2 years due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to note:

- 1. The five draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2022-23, as outlined in Appendix 1.**
- 2. The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23, as outlined in Appendix 2, including approval to commence the consultation and engagement process on 21 March 2022.**

CIRCULARS

**AC/050/2022: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
RE: ACCOUNTS DIRECTION 2021/22
- NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT COUNCILS**

Read: Correspondence dated 07 January 2022 (LG 02/2022) from Department for Communities regarding Accounts Direction 2021/22 – Northern Ireland District Councils. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note correspondence dated 07 January 2022 (LG 02/2022) from Department for Communities regarding Accounts Direction 2021/22 – Northern Ireland District Councils.

**AC/051/2022: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT MODEL TERMS,
CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

Read: Correspondence dated 01 February 2022 from Department for Communities regarding (LG 07/2022) Revised Model Terms, Conditions & Restrictions which may be specified in Entertainment Licences by Councils. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note correspondence dated 01 February 2022 from Department for Communities regarding (LG 07/2022) Revised Model Terms, Conditions & Restrictions which may be specified in Entertainment Licences by Councils.

**AC/052/2022: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
RE: DISTRICT COUNCIL (NI) RATE STATISTICS
2022/2023**

Read: Correspondence dated 28 February 2022 (LG 09/2022) from Department for Communities regarding District Council (NI) Rate Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note correspondence dated 28 February 2022 (LG 09/2022) from Department for Communities regarding District Council (NI) Rate Statistics.

**AC/053/2022: DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES
RE: CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCE**

Read: Correspondence dated 28 March 2022 (LG 10/2022) from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Councillors Allowance. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note correspondence dated 28 March 2022 (LG 10/2022) from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Councillors Allowance.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 June 2022.

Signed: **Ms D Carville**
Deputy Chief Executive

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
Independent Chairperson

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 09 May 2022 at 6.00pm in the Chamber Council Offices
Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor R Burgess (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
Councillor H Reilly (via Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor P Brown (Teams)
Councillor O Hanlon (Teams)

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

Also in attendance: Mr Eoin Magennis University of Ulster

ERT/077/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies.

ERT/078/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Burgess declared an interest in Item 6, regarding International Relations Agreement with Municipalite de Lamorlaye North France.

Councillor Savage declared an interest in Item 8, regarding Newry River Channel Markers Maintenance Agreement.

PRESENTATIONS**ERT/079/2022: PRESENTATION
EOIN MAGENNIS UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER
RE: UUEPC SPRING 2022 ECONOMIC FORECASTS**

Mr Eoin Magennis University of Ulster was in attendance to deliver a presentation to Members on the University of Ulster EPC Spring 2022 Economic Forecast.

He provided an update on forecasts which were published in March 2022, and since then has shown an uncertain picture with rising inflation which will impact on consumer demand which will have an effect locally in terms of tourism and retail.

Labour market recovery has been sharp following the pandemic with employment in the North expected to recover strongly in 2022/23 and surpass pre-pandemic levels.

GDA is expected to increase this year but reduce in 2023 and with possibly no growth at all, bringing potential for a mild recession.

Inflation could go higher than the predicted 9%, however it could come back sharply next year depending on energy prices as they contribute to more than 50% of the drive on inflation.

Household income will fall for the first time since the 1970s and will have a negative effect on demand over the next 2 years.

Forecasts show a sharp recovery locally in growth in 2021 from the pandemic which will be an important driver for employment growth and a 3-4% growth is expected in Newry Mourne and Down this year.

Expect to see strong employment growth of up to 78,000 jobs in the Council area by 2030 which will be a 7% increase from present figures, mainly in manufacturing and construction however construction will be very dependent on inflation as projects will be

postponed if costs rise. Retail distribution has declined and shifted across to wholesale with impact on the high street.

In terms of the labour market we are already in a period of full employment and there are issues around filling vacancies, where labour will be obtained and a reduction in the working population age group between 18 – 64.

Challenges are faced in terms of how to attract labour into the area and how can we facilitate people to return to the workplace?

In summing up Mr Magennis referred to the following areas of uncertainties the Council may focus on:

- Work quality
- Labour Market
- Cost of living pressures
- Protocol

He also referred to:

Innovation - in terms of how jobs will change, ie remote working, etc.

Investment - in terms of skilling and re-skilling the workforce

Inactivity - in terms of bringing people closer to the labour market

Councillors commented on the following issues:

Construction - Schools and colleges to promote careers in the construction sector

Brexit – need to identify ways to attract labour from elsewhere

Inflation – impact on young families

The Chairperson referred to the cost of living crisis and hoped that this would be addressed, and she thanked Mr Magennis for delivering the presentation.

**ERT/080/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism

Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2022.**ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION****ERT/081/2022: 4C UR FUTURE****SKILLS BASE EVENT: 09 JUNE 2022**

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding contribution to 4C UR Future Skills Base event on 09 June 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed Council enter into a collaboration agreement with 4C UR Future for delivery of a 4C UR Future Live event in Council area in June 2022 at a cost of £6,000.**

ERT/082/2022: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AGREEMENT MUNICIPALITE DE LAMORLAYE

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, regarding a proposal from the Municipalite de Lamorlaye North of France, and the Rowallane and Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group for the establishment of an International Relations agreement between the two regions. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to support Rowallane and Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group in an international partnership arrangement with the Municipalite de Lamorlaye, North of France, and that an annual contribution of £10,000 to be made to Rowallane and Slieve Croob Community Twinning Group against the 5-year proposal, subject to annual reports of previous year performance and a detailed schedule of activity for the forthcoming year.**

**ERT/083/2022: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
- LUNASA FESTIVAL 2022**

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, regarding Service Level Agreements for the Lunasa Festival 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- a) **To note that Newry Mourne & Down District Council through the AONB Partnerships Lunasa Festival Working Group have delivered an annual festival since 2015 (with the exception of 2020 due to Covid).**
- b) **To approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with the Lunasa Festival Working Group, c/o Oriel Events who the working group have nominated as lead and Chairperson on behalf of the working group. Service Level Agreement is for a maximum of £25,000. The Oriel Events have been involved with the working group in the development and delivery of the annual festival since its inception.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

(6.30pm – Councillor Savage left the meeting)

**ERT/084/2022: NEWRY RIVER CHANNEL MARKERS
- MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the renewal of the Maintenance

Agreement with Carlingford Lough Commission for Navigational Markers. **(Copy circulated)**

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

(6.39pm -Councillor Savage re-joined the meeting)

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

ERT/085/2022: Newry River Channel Markers – Maintenance Agreement

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Gibbons it was agreed Council enter into a new Service Level Agreement with Carlingford Lough Commission (CLC) to maintain 10 Navigational Markers within the Newry River from Narrow Water to Victoria Lough Gates, and to approve payment for maintenance costs for the past five-year as set out in Section 4.1 of Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events.

FOR NOTING

ERT/086/2022: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKETS

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Artisan Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry and Warrenpoint. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the annual attendance figures at the monthly Artisan Markets.

ERT/087/2022: UPDATE RE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an update on Business Development Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- Go for It
- NMD Growth
- Digital Growth
- Tender for Growth
- Sales Accelerator
- Digital Transformation Programmes

ERT/088/2022: REPORTS OF CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK TASK AND FINISH MEETINGS

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding actions arising out of Castlewellan Forest Park Task & Finish Board Meetings. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the action reports of the Task and Finish Board Meetings regarding Castlewellan Forest Park.

ERT/089/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/090/2022: REPORT OF LOUTH / NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MEETING - 23 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Report of Louth / NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the Report of Louth / NMD

Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2022.**ERT/091/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES**

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

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

ERT/092/2022: 'SLOANE LAB PROJECT' – COUNTY DOWN MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the 'Sloane Lab Project' at County Down Museum. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding the 'Sloane Lab Project' at County Down Museum.

ERT/093/2022: INVEST NI ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 09 May 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding and update on the Economic Research projects funded by the Invest NI Economic Recovery Action Plan (ERAP). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the update provided on the 4 research pieces:

- 1. NMDDC, A Framework for Future Economic Development and Business Support Interventions for SMEs.**
- 2. A Business Support Needs Analysis for a Sustainable Low Carbon Economy across the South East Region.**
- 3. Revised Business Start Up Approach – Business Case Development and Resourcing Strategy, involving all 11**

NI Councils, led by Belfast City Council.
4. Place Based Approaches to supporting Economic Development, involving all 11 NI Councils, led by Derry City and Strabane District Council.

The Chairperson, Councillor Howell, said this was her last time chairing the ERT Committee Meeting and she extended thanks to the Council officers, Deputy Chairperson Councillor Andrews and her party members, for the advice and guidance during her term.

The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Andrews, said it was a pleasure to work with Councillor Howell, and he extended thanks to Council officers for ensuring meetings ran smoothly and he extended best wishes to the new incoming Chair and Deputy Chair of the ERT Committee.

Councillors Mulgrew, McMurray and Curran extended thanks to Councillor Howell and Councillor Andrews for their term as Chair and Deputy Chair of the ERT Committee.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 18.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 June 2022.

Signed: Councillor R Howell
Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 12 May 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre****In the Chair:** Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)**In Attendance in Chamber** Councillor R Howell
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Rice**In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor P Byrne
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly**Also in attendance:** Councillor C Enright**Officials in Attendance
In chamber:** Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:** Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(HR & Safeguarding)
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure & Sport
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Project Management
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(Administration)
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting)
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration**Also in Attendance:
Via Teams:** Mr C Campbell, Legal Advisor, Belfast City Council
Ms A Reavey, Tetrattech
Mr A McNaughton, Tetrattech
Mr D Price, Tetrattech**SPR/074/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor Magennis.

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor Mason and Councillor Brown who were successfully elected in the local Assembly Elections.

The Chairperson also congratulated Councillor Rice who had assumed the role as Council Chairperson until the Annual Meeting and welcomed Councillor McMurray to the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee as a member.

SPR/075/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/076/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14 April 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/072/2022 - Planning for the Future

In response to a query raised by Councillor Ó Muirí, Mrs Carville confirmed that Item 13 – Appointment of Director: Sustainability and Environment would address some of the concerns raised by the committee previously and that a further report was still on track to be brought to the August committee meeting as planned.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2022, be approved.**

NOTICE OF MOTION**SPR/077/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION – CASHLESS DONATIONS**

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding, Notice of Motion – Cashless Donations. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray spoke on the motion on behalf of Councillor Brown and proposed the following amendment to the motion:

‘Two contactless payment stations to be purchased and include Chairperson’s charities to be involved.’

There was no seconder for the proposal.

Councillor Byrne proposed the officer’s recommendation, stating his party would not support the amendment as to make any decision before meeting with the NIHE would be in danger of duplicating roles. He stated that mobile devices being used for donations should be investigated further and perhaps linked with the Chairperson’s fund which would make the process more equitable and would likely extend the beneficiaries.

Councillor Sharvin seconded Councillor Byrne’s proposal, highlighting Council equality and rural assessment needs would be put at risk if Council were to proceed with the amendment.

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

- **That this proposal is tabled at the Community Planning Partnership for consideration. The Housing Executive are represented at this forum**

and the issue of contactless payments can be discussed in detail.

- Council could assist the Housing Executive who have the statutory responsibility for homelessness in setting up contactless stations if the Housing Executive believed this would assist their current efforts in tackling homelessness.
- Based on the decision of Members, the Assistant Director of Finance can communicate with the local banks about the option of being able to donate through ATM's to charities on a rotational basis, if required.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí 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/078/2022: ALBERT BASIN PARK PROJECT – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin Park Project – Outline Business Case (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

1. Consider the Outline Business Case (OBC) executive summary for the Albert Basin Park Project, Newry as per appendix 1.
2. Agree to submit the OBC (as per appendix 1) to the Department for Communities (DFC) for consideration and approval.
3. Agree to commence procurement process for an Integrated Consultant Team to develop the design, submit planning application and manage the construction delivery. Procurement will be in accordance with Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (NIPPP) via the central government consultant's framework agreement.

SPR/079/2022: PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS ADJACENT TO DERRYLECKAGH PLAYING FIELDS, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding proposed lease of lands adjacent to Derryleckagh Playing fields, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to lease the lands at Derryleckagh to the successful Expression of Interest Applicant for the term of 25 years, at a peppercorn rent and subject to consent from the Department of Communities and all terms and conditions of lease.

SPR/080/2022: VEHICULAR ACCESS TO NEW QUAY, STRANGFORD

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Vehicular Access to New Quay, Strangford **(Copy Circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed not to accept the position of the Department – to accept the legal advice and agree that at this time no further action is required by Council in respect of the work at new quay in Strangford. To instruct officers to write to DFI in respect of the DFI plans, setting out any concerns held by Elected Members in respect of the issue and the Legal Department would consult with the SPR Committee on the content of the correspondence that's to be forwarded over.

SPR/081/2022: REQUESTS TO PURCHASE LANDS AT ISLANDS PARK, NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding requests to purchase lands at Islands Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the disposal of the lands, subject in each case to:
a) The imposition of any necessary conditions on the use and maintenance of the lands, including proposed works.

- b) Obtaining a market valuation for the disposal from Council's valuers.
- c) Payment by the purchasers of the Council's legal and valuation costs.

SPR/082/2022: 2022/23 INSURANCE PREMIUMS – UPDATE OFFICIALS INDEMNITY INSURANCE

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Projects, regarding 2022/23 Insurance Premiums – Update Officials Indemnity Insurance. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed that Elected Members to review and approve the payment of the Officials Indemnity insurance premiums for 2022/23.

SPR/083/2022: CORPORATE HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Projects, regarding Corporate Health & Safety Training. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- SPR Committee to note the contents of the report and the arrangements for the delivery of H&S training going forward.
- SPR Committee to approve the procurement as outlined for 'Corporate Health & Safety Training'.

SPR/084/2022: THEATRE/CONFERENCE – CONTRACT STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Theatre/Conference – Contract Strategy **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that following approval from the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board, Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- a) Approve a change in contract strategy to transfer the RIBA stage 4 technical design for the Town Hall and connecting atrium structure into the Consultants scope;
- and
- b) Approve agreement of a compensation event for the Theatre/Conference consultant team in the sum included in section 4.1 of the report.

SPR/085/2022: REGIONAL NEGOTIATING AND CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK FOR COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding Regional Negotiating and Consultation Framework for Councils in Northern Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and agree to a formal commitment from NMDDC to the co-design of a Regional Negotiating and Consultation Framework.

All relevant officers left the meeting at this point – 19.11pm

SPR/086/2022: APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding Appointment of Director: Sustainability and Environment. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- That the Committee agrees to the proposal at 2.9 for the reasons outlined within section 2 of the report.
- Members are reminded of the need for absolute confidentiality in relation to the contents within the paper and the impact that unauthorised sharing of these proposals could have on the individual and the potential to realise the implementation of what is being proposed.

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

FOR NOTING –

SPR/087/2022: LEGAL COSTS ON RECENT LITIGATION SETTLEMENT

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Legal costs on recent Litigation Settlement. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed that Elected Members note the payment of costs as outlined in the officer's report.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/088/2022: STATUTORY REPORTING – (I) SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JANUARY – MARCH 2022 (II) POLICY REVIEWS FOR PERIOD 2021/2022

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – (I) Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022 (II) Policy reviews for period 2021/2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2022 (Appendix I) and Policy reviews for period 2021/2022 (Appendix II).**

SPR/089/2022: STATUTORY REPORTING – RURAL NEEDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for Period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the completed annual return prepared for submission to DAERA by requested deadline of 30 June 2022:**

- **Appendix 1 - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022**

SPR/090/2022: STAUTORY REPORTING – COMMISSIONING LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR REPORT ON CHILDRENS SERVICES CO-OPERATION ACT 2015

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – Commissioning letter from Department of Education for report on Children’s Services Co-Operation Act 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the completed submission to the Department of Education forwarded on 7 April 2022 by requested deadline of 8 April 2022:

- **Appendix 1 - Children’s Services Co-operation Act Reporting – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council response**

SPR/091/2022: **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2022, ON REQUESTS RELATED TO NAMING COUNCIL FACILITIES, PLANTING TREES AND TO LOCATE ARTWORKS/SCULPTURES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY**

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Annual Report for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 on requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the Annual report for the 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 period on requests related to naming Council facilities, plant trees and locate artworks/sculptures on Council property.

SPR/092/2022: **RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES CALL FOR VIEWS ON THE IRISH EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL’S RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding response to Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel’s recommendations report. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí congratulated the Council for their consultation response stating that Newry Mourne and Down District Council was one of only a few Councils that had established a bilingualism policy and a lot of good work had been completed.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the response (appendix I) to the Department for Communities call for views on the Irish Expert Advisory Panel’s Recommendations Report which was submitted to meet the deadline for responses of 29 April 2022.

SPR/093/2022: **2021/2022 FOI/EIR/DP/RM MONITORING STATISTICS**

Read: Report dated 12 May 2022 from, Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate

Services (Administration), regarding 2021/22 FOI/EIR/DP/RM monitoring statistics.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the monitoring statistics report.

SPR/094/2022: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD 9 MAY 2022

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 9 May 2022.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.34pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 June 2022.

Signed: Councillor Oonagh Hanlon
Chairperson

Signed: Dorinnia Carville
Deputy Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 16 May 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate and
via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor A Lewis Councillor J Trainor

In attendance via Teams: Councillor A Finnegan Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor G Malone Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor A McMurray Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly

Also in attendance via Teams: Councillor T Andrews Councillor D Curran
Councillor O Hanlon

Officials in attendance In Chamber: Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance Via Teams: Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport

AHC/087/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey and Harte.

The Chairperson advised Members the Cooperation Ireland Pride of Place Awards were being held that evening with representatives from the nine Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Groups attending a virtual awards night in the Canal Court to watch the awards live from Killarney.

The Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership had been nominated by Council in the City category for their hard work and commitment to their communities and she wished them every success and would be closely following the outcome.

The Chairperson asked that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Colum Campbell from Warrenpoint Golf Club on winning his second Irish Amateur Open Championship.

The Chairperson congratulated Conor McMenamin who plays for Glentoran on being called up to the Northern Ireland Squad.

Reference was made to Downpatrick Racecourse Patrons with the Chairperson commending the various groups who stepped up and raised over £50,000 for the Ukrainian Crisis Appeal.

The Chairperson stated it was great to see the showcase events of Balmoral Show and North West 200 events back with great success particularly in terms of Covid recovery.

AHC/088/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/089/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2022. **(Copy circulated)**.

AHC/143/2021: Notice of Motion – Defibrillators

In response for an update from Councillor Lewis regarding defibrillators and the possibility of funding from the Heart Foundation, Mr Devlin advised the Heart Foundation was a charity and would be seeking funding rather than providing it.

Mr Devlin advised a report would be presented later under item 7: Financial Assistance Call 3 and funding opportunities update, and that defibrillator access would be included in that.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/090/2022: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheet attached to the

officer's report for Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 28 April 2022.

AHC/091/2022

COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Coordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 27 April 2022.**

AHC/092/2022

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DFC) FOR FRONTLINE ADVICE SERVICES

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding additional funding from the Department for Communities for Frontline Advice Services. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to note the report and agree to award the additional funding of £135,147.68 from the Department for Communities (DfC) to 'Community Advice Newry, Mourne and Down', alongside funding of £292,539.00 for Generalist Advice Services for 2022/2023.**

AHC/093/2022

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – CALL 3 AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance, Call 3 and Funding Opportunities Update. (Copy circulated)

In delivering the report Mrs Hillen made reference to officers having been asked to seek funding to meet the shortfall in capital sports call (financial assistance call 1) which had an oversubscription of over £500,000 for successful applicants and included were some opportunities that applicants could apply for funding.

Mrs Hillen further advised there was a draft list of capital and revenue themes that may be of interest and help Councillors signpost groups especially those disappointed in the financial assistance round. A copy of this list would be circulated to Members.

In welcoming the report, the Chairperson spoke of the importance of defibrillators and asked that the funding threshold allow for defibrillators to be registered with the NIAS and made available to communities 24/7.

Councillor Ó Muirí suggested an audit on defibrillators be carried out within each DEA Forum to enable a heat map of where defibrillators were available.

Councillor Sharvin enquired about restrictions of the themes. Mrs Hillen advised she would report back to Councillor Sharvin to confirm that it was open to all events and festivals, that there was no match funding element to this theme and to confirm a timeline also.

In relation to capital funding for sports clubs, Councillor Sharvin enquired if letters of support from Council could be provided to assist projects to be funded and delivered within the District. Mrs Hillen advised that it had not been done before however there was rationale for it and that she would speak with the Programmes Unit and report back.

Councillor McMurray referred to sports capital and spoke of those groups who were successful in their applications only for there not to be enough funding and asked if other Directorates had shortfalls to enable unsuccessful groups to receive funding.

Councillor McMurray proposed Council review the entire Capital budget midyear to see if there were any underspends to meet the shortfall required for successful applicants for sports capital. Councillor Gallagher seconded the proposal.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to issue Call 3 for Financial Assistance for the themes outlined above and that Council review the entire Capital budget midyear to see if there were any underspend to meet the shortfall required for successful applicants for sports capital.**

AHC/094/2022 **APPROVAL FOR SURESTART SOUTH ARMAGH – BESSBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding approval for Surestart South Armagh to rent office space for a further 1 year at Bessbrook Community Centre. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy:**

- **Approval for Surestart South Armagh to rent office space for a further 1 year at Bessbrook Community Centre at cost of £3,000 exclusive of VAT.**
- **Approval to proceed to renew Lease Agreement via Council Legal Team.**

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

AHC/095/2022

DONARD PARK ARTIFICIAL PITCH UPGRADE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 16 May 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Donard Park Artificial Pitch Upgrade. (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, to approve to upgrade the artificial pitch at Donard Park as part of a contribution funding opportunity with the Department of Education as per the budget outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/096/2022

DUNLEATH PARK ENHANCEMENT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 16 May 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Dunleath Park Enhancement. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 establish a skate park and pump track at Dunleath Park as part of a phase 1 development as per the budget outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/097/2022 **OUTDOOR RECREATION NI – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 16 May 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Community Trails Plans Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation NI. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- To enter into new Service Level Agreement with ORNI for the 2022-2023 financial year as per appendix 1 and the budget outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.
- To approve capital costs contribution for the delivery of projects outlined in the ORNI 2022/23 SLA as per appendix 2 and the budget outlined in 4.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/098/2022 **LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 April 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding expressions of interest for the leasing of Council land. (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to progress an Expressions of Interest (EOI) Process in line with NMDDC Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy (2016) for:**

- 1. Lisdrumgullion Recreation Area Armagh Road, Newry**
- 2. Annsborough Playing Fields, Castlewellan**
- 3. Station Avenue, Castlewellan**

Councillors McMurray and Lewis left the meeting – 7pm and 7.02pm respectively.

FOR NOTING

AHC/099/2022 **INDOOR LEISURE BOOKING PROCESS**

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding indoor leisure booking prioritisation. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor O’Hare to note the contents of the report and that Indoor Leisure will prioritise facility hire requests as follows:**

- 1. Historical Statutory and Essential Non-Commercial Bookings**
- 2. Internal Leisure Activity Programmes and Bookings**
- 3. Historical Sports Clubs and Non-Commercial Block Bookings**
- 4. New Statutory, Sports Club and Non-Commercial Block Bookings**
- 5. Commercial Block Bookings and third-party commercial bookings (only to be accepted where the centre does not currently deliver this service)**

AHC/100/2022 **SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the Summer Activity Programme for July and August 2022. (copy circulated)

In welcoming the wide range of activities across the District, Councillor Sharvin enquired if it was possible to extend the range of autism and sensory activities on offer. Mr Tamati agreed that officers would consider this and that he would report back directly to Councillor Sharvin.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor O’Hare to note the planned**

Summer Activity Programme for July and August 2022 as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.

Mr Tamati to consider the range of autism and sensory activities and report back to Councillor Sharvin.

AHC/101/2022 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to note the report and the Minutes of Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 23 March 2022, approved at Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 27 April 2022.**

AHC/102/2022 UKRAINE ASSISTANCE CENTRE – UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 May 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update on Ukraine Assistance Centre. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by O'Hare to note contents of report.**

The Chairperson advised as it was her last Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting as Chair she wished to put on record her thanks to Councillor Casey as Vice Chair, as well as the Democratic Services team Sarah Taggart, Donna Starkey and Linda O'Hare and Mr Lipsett and all his team including Janine Hillen, Eoin Devlin and Paul Tamati.

Mr Lipsett thanked the Chairperson for all her help during her term.

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

Signed: Councillor K McKevitt
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor K Owen (Teams)

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

Officials in Attendance: Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr A Cassells SIB Advisor to Neighbourhood Services

NS/069/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Finnegan; Councillor Magennis and Councillor Stokes.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor McMurray to the Neighbourhood Services Committee and congratulated former Councillor Patrick Brown on his election as a MLA.

Councillor Owen thanked Councillor Finnegan, Deputy Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee for her help in chairing meetings during the year and also thanked Committee Members and officers for supporting her in her role as Chairperson of the Committee.

Councillor Andrews and Councillor Murphy thanked the Chair for the excellent manner in which she had chaired Committee Meetings during the year and also expressed their appreciation to the Deputy Chair, Councillor Finnegan.

NS/070/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/071/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.

NOTED: In response to a query raised by Councillor McKeivitt, Mr Scullion said it was anticipated that the proposed solar lights for 2 bus shelters near Attical would be installed by September, before the beginning of the new school term.

In response to a query regarding progress on the siting of bee hives on the former Council landfill site at Aughnagun and a request that officers consider allowing additional bee hives to be placed there, Ms Murphy said she would get an update and advise Councillor McKeivitt.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/072/2022: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING – 7 APRIL 2022

Read: Report dated 18 May 2022 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director of Facilities Management and Maintenance re: Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting held on 7 April 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 7 April 2022.

It was also agreed to approve the recommendation that Dundrum be included as part of the Council's programme for the provision of pole mounted Christmas illuminations and cross street features.

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

Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

NS/073/2022: BUSINESS CASE – SHIMNA RIVER WALL REPAIRS – DESIGN TEAM FEES

Read: Report dated 18 May 2022 from Mr K Scullion, regarding Business Case – Shimna River Wall Repairs – Design Team Fees. *(Circulated)*.

NS/074/2022: BUSINESS CASE – MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF COUNCIL PUBLIC SPACE CCTV

Read: Report dated 18 May 2022 from Mr K Scullion, regarding Business Case – Maintenance and Monitoring of Council Public Space CCTV. *(Circulated)*.

NS/075/2022: PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY

Noted: This item was withdrawn from the agenda

NS/076/2022: CONTRACT FOR THE TRANSPORT OF MIXED DRY RECYCLABLE WASTE

Read: Report dated 18 May 2022 from Ms S Murphy, regarding contract for the transport of Mixed Dry Recyclable Waste. *(Circulated)*.

NS/077/2022: FLEET MANAGEMENT OPERATOR'S LICENCE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 18 May 2022 from Ms S Murphy, regarding Fleet Management Operator's Licence Update. *(Circulated)*.

NS/078/2022: ESTATES MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY UPDATE

Read: Report dated 18 May 2022 from Mr K Scullion, regarding Estates Management and Security Update. *(Circulated)*.

NS/079/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 28 APRIL 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 28 April 2022. *(Circulated)*.

NS/080/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 31 MARCH 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 31 March 2022. *(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/073/2022 – Business Case – Shimna River Wall Repairs – Design Team fees

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case; approve the recommendation within the Business Case for Shimna River Wall repairs- Design Team Fees, that option 2 is chosen (Option 2 will see the appointment of the Council's nominated contractor under Framework Agreement 29/2019 to provide consultancy support and associated investigatory work up to RIBA Stage 3 (Developed Design) for the project.**

NS/074/2022 – Business Case for the maintenance and monitoring of Council Public Space CCTV

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

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Approve the findings of the Business Cases presented.**

Business Case for Town Centre CCTV Analogue Fibreoptic lines to link Camera system to Monitoring Centre – Approve Option 1 - Continue with analogue line rental with the current provider pending outcome of review of Public Space CCTV for 12-month period.

Business Case for Town Centre CCTV Monitoring – Approve Option 1 - Continue with annual monitoring contract with the current provider for 21 town centre Public Space CCTV cameras for 12-month period.

Committee to note that both contracts will be awarded via the use of a STA.

NS/075/2022 – Public Convenience Strategy

Noted: Noted this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

NS/076/2022 – Contract for the transport of Mixed Dry Recyclable Waste

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it agreed to approve that the contract for the receipt, storage, transfer and haulage of the Council’s Mixed Dry Recyclables (MDR) waste be extended with the Council’s current contractor from the 10 September 2022 for one year.

NS/077/2022 – Fleet Management Operator’s Licence Update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it agreed to approve the Fleet Management Action Plan Update.

NS/078/2022- Estates Management and Security Update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it agreed to note the content of the progress report on Estates Management and Security Audit Findings.

NS/079/2022 - Arc21 Joint Committee Members’ Monthly Bulletin dated 28 April 2022

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it agreed to note this bulletin.

NS/080/2022 - Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of 31 March 2022

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it agreed to note these Minutes

FOR NOTING

NS/081/2022: FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Read: Report dated 18 May 2022 from Ms S Murphy regarding fleet replacement update. *(Circulated)*.

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

NOTED: In response to a query from Councillor Curran regarding potential delays between ordering vehicles and them being delivered, Ms Murphy said officers were aware of this and if delivery times were affected, an update report would be brought back to Committee.

**NS/082/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES
31 MARCH 2022**

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 31 March 2022 *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to mark these Minutes noted.**

**NS/083/2022: NI LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT STATISTICS**

Read: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, Quarterly Provisional Estimates October to December 2021. *(Circulated)*.

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

NS/084/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.45 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 June 2022.

Signed: **Councillor K Owen**
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 10.00am in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry and via Microsoft Teams

P/049/2022: LDP: Progress Report - Quarterly Update

Read: Report dated 11 May 2022 by Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan: Progress Quarterly Update

P/050/2022: LDP: Planning Policy Review – Retail

Read: Report dated 11 May 2022 by Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan: Planning Policy Review – Retail

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman advised the following had been agreed:

P/049/2022: LDP: Progress Report - Quarterly Update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to note the quarterly update provided in Report dated 11 May 2022 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan.

P/050/2022: LDP: Planning Policy Review – Retail

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to note the LDP: Planning Policy Review – Retail:

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

489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

**Minutes of the 489th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 10th March 2022 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present

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

In Attendance:

David Polley	Department for Communities
Heloise Browne	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, Housing Executive (Joined @ 11.00 am)
Colm McQuillan	Director of Housing Services (Joined @ 11.15 am)
Andy Kennedy	Assistant Director Asset Strategy, NIHE
Elma Newberry	Assistant Director, Land & Regeneration Services
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Paul Price	Department for Communities
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1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed David Polley and Heloise Brown from the Department for Communities, and the Presenters Andy Kennedy and Elma Newberry from the Housing Executive.</p> <p>It was noted that Grainia Long would be joining Members later in the Meeting.</p>	
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489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Alderman Speers declared an interest as he was a Board Members in the Richill Scheme referred to in the Presentation.</p>	
3.0	<p>To adopt the Minutes of the 488th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 10th February 2022</p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Bresland and seconded by Alderman Speers and resolved, that the Minutes of the 488th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 10th February 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.0 4.1	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Page 4 Item 8.0 – Discretionary Housing Payments</p> <p>Members had received the following information on the number of identified Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) cases that have ended between April and November 2021.</p> <p>Claims that have ended due to the two year rule have been brought back on if they are still eligible, in line with the recent policy changes.</p> <p>In the past financial year, 1,624 DHP awards ended due to the two year rule; however, all awards have now been reviewed and if the claimant is still eligible their DHP award has been reinstated to at least the 50th percentile of their Local Housing Allowance (LHA).</p>	
5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The workplan was noted.</p>	Secretary

489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

6.0

Presentation from the Housing Executive on how the Housing Executive is addressing Derelict/Void Properties

Andy Kennedy and Elma Newberry gave a presentation on how the Housing Executive is addressing Derelict/Void properties (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes)

Andy Kennedy assured Members that out of approximately 500 vacant/derelict stock that the Housing Executive are pro-active and all identified stock is in the process of being actioned ie. demolition, improvements, sale or redevelopments. Vacant/Derelict stock is not being left to blight an area.

Several Members reiterated the need for further investment in these run down properties that could be restored or improved.

Elma Newberry gave an insight into the Housing Executive's current legal framework, current process and innovative solutions.

A number of Members had welcomed 'Living over the Shops' initiative and would welcome a similar scheme to be implemented in the future.

Councillor Mathison had raised the issue in relation to the Housing Executive using their powers to address vacant properties across all sectors, in particular in the private sector, which are blighting an area and causing issues for neighbouring properties.

Also, Councillor Mathison referred to a number of isolated vacant terrace properties, particularly in town centres, which are in a poor state of repair which causes a significant impact on the neighbour's on a row of terraces and all the related issues that are associated with these properties. ie. water, pests and anti-social behavior. He stated that the Councils Environmental Health team incurs significant costs seeking court orders to carry out repairs and public health issues.

Mrs Newberry confirmed that the Housing Executive has the powers, and she asked Councillor Mathison to provide her with specific addresses and for her examine to determine the best way forward for those properties.

Members noted that there is a change in Community Planning, particularly in town centres and looking at innovative ways to revitalise the centres, how to get people living in the town centres.

Councillor Mathison asked if more could be done in relation to enhancing the legislative powers and if there is a bigger role for local Councils ie fitness standards, transfer of vesting powers etc.

David Polley assured Members that Housing Associations do refurbish and bring back into use empty homes. In response to the unfitness standard, Members noted that the Department will be reviewing the unfitness standards in the next mandate across all tenures.

Declaration of Interest - Alderman Speers declared an interest as he was a Board Members in the Richill Scheme referred to in the Presentation.

489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<p>He expressed his disappointed to learn that the Town Heritage Initiative grant will be ending in 2025, he added that it was a very successful and economical scheme, for a relative small contribution from the housing budget. Alderman Speers felt that with Town Centres changing alternative Initiatives should be examined for the future, in order to rejuvenate and revitalise the Town Centres.</p> <p>Mr Polley agreed that this is an opportunity to change the town city centres living with more focus on housing led regeneration.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Andy Kennedy and Elma Newberry for their very informative presentation.</p>	
7.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Emerging Issues</u></p> <p>Ms Long spoke in detail to her circulated report, which provided the Housing Council with an update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues were outlined under the headings as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHE Budget Bid and Budget Uncertainty 2022/23 • Rents • NIHE Revitalisation Programme - Progress Update • Supporting People Strategy • Sustainable Development Strategy • Derry & Strabane LDP Draft Plan Strategy • Low income Rates Relief for Owner Occupiers • Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan • Tenant and Customer Services Committee • Homelessness Strategy 2022-25 • Regulation of the Private Rented Sector • Increasing Housing Supply • Affordable Warmth Scheme • NIHE Rent Increase • ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020 • Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax • Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework • Long term rent trajectory • Affordability of social rents • Update on Ukraine Arrivals in Northern Ireland <p>Councillor Cooper welcomed the additional budgetary funding of £16m and requested a breakdown by Council area as to how this additional resources is going to be allocated by the Housing Executive.</p>	G Long

489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

Ms Long explained that the Housing Executive submitted a bid to the Department for additional funds for existing programmes, therefore the majority of the funding will be planned for the maintenance programme.

In response to Councillor Mathison question in relation to the impact the rent freeze will have on programme etc, Ms Long explained that it is £13m less will have an impact, an update will be given next month when the budget has been finalised.

Ms Long offered Members a Presentation on the Housing Executive's Budget 2022/23 and the year ahead.

Secretary

On behalf of Councillor Kelly, Councillor Mathison raised an issue in relation to the scheme for non-ACM cladding which been passed by Finance to DfC to scope out, and DfC has delegated to NIHE. He added that residents are being served with huge bills for remedial works being issued to address cladding issues as required by fire safety regulators. On behalf of Councillor Kelly he referred particular to Arc Apartments in East Belfast, but the general concern is that this scheme is moving at a much slower pace than when a scheme was rolled out for ACM cladding last year.

Ms Long explained the Housing Executive was directed by the DfC to scope the administration of the scheme and gave assurance that there has been several correspondence on this issue and she is aware of many residents directly affected by this situation.

Alderman Grehan asked if the additional £16m to off-set the £13m loss from the rent freeze. Ms Long explained that the £16m was part of a bid submitted by the Housing Executive and doesn't off-set the rental loss they are two separate parts of the budget. She added that the rental income covers response and planned maintenance.

Secretary

Also, Alderman Grehan asked what percentage of Housing Executive tenants will benefit from the rent freeze, given the majority of tenants are in receipt of housing benefits. Ms Long undertook to provide Members with a recent Assembly Question response.

In response to Alderman Grehan, Ms Long explained that the Afghan and Syrian Resettlement scheme have worked well and were well planned and accommodation was identified and settle people locally and it was a housing led approach on their arrival and their support. At present, the numbers arriving from Ukraine are unknown but will be a different scheme, it will not be housing led because there isn't the temporary accommodation available and no supply of additional accommodation. The Housing Executive is currently looking at suitable accommodation and identifying all available capacity.

The Chair thanked Ms Long for her comprehensive Report.

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9.0	<u>Housing Starts February 2022</u> Members noted the Report.	
10.0	<u>Date and Venue of next Meeting</u> It was agreed that at the Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 14th April at 10 am via Zoom.	

The Meeting concluded at 11.50 am.

489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

Appendix A



Action on Vacant/ Derelict NIHE properties

Housing Council 10th March 2022

Andy Kennedy
Assistant Director, Asset Strategy

www.nihe.gov.uk



Introduction

- **Vacant/derelict NIHE properties are not a significant issue**
- **Now mostly limited to interface locations, redevelopment areas and isolated rural cottages**
- **Addressed via our Strategic Option Appraisals programme**
 - Consideration of reinstatement, sale, demolition, redevelopment
- **Demolition subject to Board & DfC approval**

www.nihe.gov.uk

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www.nihe.gov.uk

Reinstatement



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Disposal



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Demolition and new build



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Housing
Executive

Addressing Vacant/Derelict Homes

Elma Newberry
Assistant Director Land & Regeneration Services

489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council
Thursday 10 March 2022

www.nihe.gov.uk

Housing
Executive

Question from Housing Council

- Do NIHE / DfC have a vacant /derelict property strategy?
- What is the current legal framework for NIHE to address vacant properties which are blighting an area?
- What NIHE's strategy for the issue and are there gaps in resource/legislation?

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Content

- **Strategic Housing Authority**
 - Background
 - Legislative Framework
 - Current Process
 - Innovative Solutions

- **Landlord Services**

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NI House Condition Survey

	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Total stock	574,300	602,500	647,500	705,000	760,000	780,000
Vacant dwellings	30,300	29,000	31,900	40,300	54,700	28,500
% vacant	5.3%	4.8%	4.9%	5.7%	7.2%	3.7%

Vacant Stock – 2016 HCS
 Source: Northern Ireland House Condition Survey

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NI House Condition Survey

	2006		2011		2016	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Location^{1,2}						
All Urban	12,900	53.1	x	40.0	x	32.0
All Rural	11,400	46.9	21,100	60.0	11,100	68.0
Tenure						
Owner Occupied	7,500	31.0	x	13.0	x	34.6
Private Rented & others	2,200	8.9	x	7.1	x	13.3
Social Housing	600	2.5	x	0.4	x	<1
Vacant	13,900	57.6	28,000	79.5	x	52.1
Dwelling Age						
Pre 1919	15,000	62.3	18,500	52.5	9,300	57.1
1919 - 1944	3,800	15.5	x	16.7	x	15.5
1945 - 1964	2,500	10.1	x	5.0	x	4.8
1965 - 1980	900	3.9	x	11.2	x	6.7
Post 1980	2,000	8.2	x	14.6	x	16.0
All Unfit Dwellings	24,200	3.4	35,200	4.6	16,400	2.1

x denotes a small number (generally 25 or less unweighted); where this is the case, caution should be applied when reporting proportion.
<1% in a cell indicates that the number of dwellings in a particular category was 0. As the survey was a sample survey, it is possible that there were dwellings in the category (showing as <1%) but none were selected as part of the sample. Caution should be used when quoting these proportions.

Table 5.1: Unfitness - key figures, 2006 - 2016

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Legislative Framework

- **Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981**
- **Large Scale Unfitness**
 - Declaration of clearance areas
 - Redevelopment and vesting
 - Group repair scheme / Housing Action Areas
- **Small Scale Unfitness**
 - Demolition / Closing Orders
 - Repair Notices
 - Article 63

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Housing
Executive

Redevelopment Area



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Housing
Executive

Small scale vesting

- 167-175 Broadway



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489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

Housing
Executive

Article 63



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Housing
Executive

Notice Served



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489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council



Housing
Executive

Heritage in Housing 2015 - 2022



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Housing
Executive

HIH - 4 High Street, Donaghadee

Before HIH

After HIH



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Housing
Executive

HIH - 10 Waterloo St, L'Derry

Before HIH



After HIH



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Village Catalyst
Community Focused Regeneration

Housing
Executive



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489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

Housing
Executive

Village Catalyst Programme



www.nihe.gov.uk



CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

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MAY HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 12th May 2022 at 10.00 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
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City (Arrived Meeting @ 10.30 am)

Apologies

John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

There were no apologies

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

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

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

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- 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
- Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework

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- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents

Members also received an update on the Housing Executive's Budget 2022/23 and the year ahead.

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, 9th June 2022 at 10.00 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

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The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

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

POA2022/07786

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HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Dorinnia Carville
Newry Mourne & Down District Council
Deputy Chief Executive
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

23 May 2022

Dear Dorinnia,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March to HM Treasury about red diesel. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government announced at Budget 2020 that it would be removing the entitlement to use red diesel from most sectors from April 2022 and this change has now been implemented as planned. We gave affected businesses a year to prepare for the changes since they were confirmed at Spring Budget 2021, and we expect that fuel suppliers and businesses will have already taken the steps needed to implement them.

These are important long-term reforms which ensure most businesses which used red diesel prior to April 2022 now pay the same amount of tax as ordinary motorists, which more fairly reflects the harmful emissions produced. These reforms are also designed to incentivise the development and adoption of greener alternative technologies, and improvements in the energy efficiency of vehicles and machinery. The development of these alternatives is being supported by the Government at least doubling its investment in energy innovation by committing over £1 billion to the Net Zero Innovation Portfolio.

I note that your constituent has concerns about the impact of the tax changes on the construction sector, and the Government recognised that these reforms would be a significant change for some businesses. The Government ran a consultation to gather information from affected users on the expected impact of these tax changes and make sure it had not overlooked any exceptional reasons why affected sectors should be allowed to continue to use red diesel beyond April 2022. As part of this, I understand my officials carefully analysed the consultation responses after the consultation closed.

Following the consultation, the Chancellor announced at Spring Budget 2021 that the Government would grant further entitlements to use red diesel after April 2022 for a limited number of users. However, having assessed the cases made by other sectors to retain their red diesel entitlement, including the construction sector, the Government did not believe that they were compelling enough to outweigh the objectives of these reforms.

In recognition of the unique circumstances that are currently pushing up fuel prices to unprecedented levels, the Government announced at the Spring Statement that it is cutting fuel duty on petrol and diesel by 5 pence per litre for a period of 12 months. This is a significant tax cut that will deliver considerable savings to businesses over the next year, including those that use diesel, and is the first time in over a decade that the main rates of petrol and diesel have been cut.

I appreciate you may be disappointed with this response, but I do hope it at least explains why the Government has made these tax changes.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Whately
EXCHEQUER SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

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11 May 2022

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

Dear Dorinnia

EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION – INCREASED ENERGY COSTS

At a meeting of Council held on 25 April 2022 Members considered your letter dated 15 March 2022 asking the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in support of your Council's Notice of Motion calling on the Chancellor to release much needed necessary funding to support those households affected by massive price increases.

This Council unanimously supported this Notice of Motion and has written to the Chancellor in support of this request.

Yours sincerely

Roger Wilson
Chief Executive



4 May 2022

Our ref: C086/22

By email: dorinnia.carville@nmandd.org

Dorinnia Carville
Deputy Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Newry Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Dear Ms Carville

At the Council meeting on 28 April 2022 Members considered your correspondence in relation to planned changes for red diesel.

I would advise that Council at its January meeting resolved

'That Council write to the British Exchequer and NI Executive to:

- (i) seek a pause to proposed legislative changes by HMRC regarding on Red diesel; and*
- (ii) investigate ways to move away from fossil fuels and put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions.'*

I would further advise that Council at its meeting on 24 March carried a motion in relation to the cost of living crisis which also made reference to red diesel as undernoted:

This Council recognises with deep concern the cost of living crisis that is impacting hundreds of thousands of families across our society, and the rise in home energy and electricity costs which has placed a severe burden on already struggling households and businesses across our Council area. The collapse of the Executive caused by the resignation of DUP First Minister Paul Givan is preventing a budget, or the allocation of £300m available from Treasury from being agreed and is hampering Ministers from using their full spending power to give people relief who rely and depend upon it. This Council calls for the immediate restoration of the Executive in order to allocate and agree spending to support workers and families.

/Furthermore this Council.....

Furthermore this Council calls upon the Westminster Government to take action, where local Ministers cannot, by scrapping VAT on domestic energy bills and cutting duty on home heating oil, petrol and diesel, for the duration of the energy crisis; introducing a windfall tax on energy generators and redirect money towards supporting families; reverse the planned increase in National Insurance Contributions; and halt the planned change in red diesel entitlement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature reads "Paul McLean" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Councillor Paul McLean
Chair