



April 3rd, 2023

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 3rd April 2023 at 6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & 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 6 March 2023

*For Approval*

 *Action Sheet Council Meeting 06-03-2023.pdf*

*Page 1*

---

### *Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing*

---

## 4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 March 2023

*For Approval*

 *Council Minutes 06.03.2023.pdf*

*Page 10*

## 5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 February 2023

*For Approval*

 *Special Council Minutes - 27-02-2023.pdf*

*Page 31*


---

### *Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption*

---

## 6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2023

*For Approval*

 *ERT Minutes 13 March 2023.pdf*

*Page 34*

## 7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2023

*For Approval*

 *Strategy Policy Resources Meeting Minutes 16-03-2023.docx.pdf*

*Page 47*

## 8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2023

*For Approval*

 *Active and Healthy Communities Minutes 20 March 2023.pdf*

*Page 59*

## 9.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2023

*For Approval*

[Sustainability and Environment Committee Minutes - 21-03-2023.pdf](#)

Page 66

## 10.0 Planning Section

*For Information*

---

### Correspondence

---

## 11.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes and Bulletin

*For Information*

[Housing Council Minutes - 9th February 2023.pdf](#)

Page 76

[Members Bulletin - 9 March 2023.pdf](#)

Page 92

## 12.0 Letter from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council re: South West Acute Hospital

*For Information*

Letter dated 28 February 2023 attached.

[230228 Newry, Mourne & Down - South West Acute Hospital.pdf](#)

Page 94

## 13.0 Letter from Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council re: Energy Company Profits

*For Information*

Letter dated 13 March 2023 attached.

[Letter from Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council NOM Energy Company Profits.pdf](#)

Page 95

## 14.0 Response from NIE re: Notice of Motion C/051/2023 NI Electricity Suppliers

*For Information*

Letter dated 9 March 2023 attached.

[Response from NIE NOM C.051.2023 NI Electricity Supplies.pdf](#)

Page 96

## 15.0 Response from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust re: Notice of Motion C/079/2023 Domiciliary Care

*For Information*

Letter dated 21 March 2023 attached.

 **Response from SE Trust NOM C.079.2023 Domiciliary Care.pdf**

**Page 98**

## **16.0 National Association of Councillors Constitution (Revised)**

*For Information*

Copy attached.

 **NAC Draft Constitution Revised 15 March 2023.pdf**

**Page 100**

---

## **17.0 Letter from Department for Communities re: Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings**

*For Information*

Letter dated 24 March 2023 attached.

 **Letter to Chief Execs re Remote Meetings March 2023.pdf**

**Page 105**

---

### ***Notices of Motion***

---

## **18.0 Notice of Motion - Redeemable Surcharge on bottles, tins and plastic**

*For Decision*

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Reilly:

*“That this Council requests that DEARA investigates the possibility of applying a redeemable surcharge on bottles, tins and plastic containers in order to reduce the amount of littering and to assist with reaching recycling targets as set by central Government”.*

## **19.0 Notice of Motion - Rural Regeneration for Downpatrick Town Centre**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Enright:

This council recognises the disparity of Council investment between our County Town of Downpatrick when compared to large public-sector led investment proposals for Newry City or the Gateway Project in Newcastle.

The recent flawed private sector-led project in our County Town failed to attract any private sector interest in redeveloping Downpatrick’s Town Centre. This project aimed to

sell off the land-bank built up by Down Council over 30 years including the old Police Station, the main town car-park and derelict properties in Irish Street under the 2011 Downpatrick Masterplan.

Council notes NM&D's fresh opportunity to deliver a meaningful, large-scale public investment-led regeneration of Downpatrick's old retail centre in line with the 2011 Council-led Downpatrick Masterplan.

This Council directs Management to reinstate the original public-sector led project for the town centre aspect of the Downpatrick Masterplan. Including the in-town 2-lane one-way system, additional on-street parking, enhanced pedestrian areas from ASDA to Irish Street and improved access to the old retail centre of the town to make it competitive with out-of-town shopping, LIDL or ASDA.

Council notes that original estimates suggest that this could be achieved with 10% of the estimated cost of the proposed major Newry development or less than half the budget for the so-called Mournes Gateway project in Newcastle.

## **20.0 Notice of Motion - Memorial to Crossgar's Titanic Victim, James McGrady**

*For Decision*

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Bowsie:

*"This Council recognises the significance of the Titanic's legacy, the public interest in the tragedy and the importance of remembering the local lives that were lost on it; Tasks the Council to prepare a report with the view to installing a memorial to Crossgar's Titanic victim, James McGrady, in a public space in Crossgar and recommends liaising with a maritime historian and the council's heritage officer to ensure this memorial is accurate and befitting to this Titanic worker."*

## **21.0 Notice of Motion - Mournes Gateway Project**

*For Decision*

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McMurray:

*'This Council notes with concern the continued lack of clarity, as well as increasing public opposition, regarding the Visitor Centre located at Thomas' Mountain and 'Gondola' elements of the Mournes Gateway Project. Stakeholder events and information sessions fall short of a full public consultation for a project of this financial, environmental and economic magnitude. Council will; pause the progression of this project until explicit consent from the landowner is acquired, commission a full public consultation on the project open to all residents within the district including open and transparent stakeholder engagement, actively investigate and develop alternatives to the Gondola and Thomas' Mountain Visitor Centre elements – alternatives which will both meet the funding criteria while enhancing this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.'*

## **22.0 Notice of Motion - Reduction in VAT Rate for the Hospitality Sector**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Devlin:

“This Council unequivocally supports our hospitality and tourism sector and its vital contribution to the District’s economy. This Council puts on record our frustration that the recently announced Spring Budget failed to provide a lifeline to the Hospitality Sector by reducing the VAT rate. This Council writes to the Chancellor calling for the issue to be reconsidered given the ever increasing rate of inflation and the fact that the Republic of Ireland’s VAT rate for Hospitality and Tourism is 9% compared to our rate of 20% This Council writes to all 18 MP’s calling on each to lobby for this much needed reduction in VAT.”

# Invitees

- Cllr Terry Andrews
- Cllr Callum Bowsie
- Cllr Jim Brennan
- Cllr Robert Burgess
- Cllr Pete Byrne
- Mr Gerard Byrne
- Mr Andrew Cassells
- Cllr William Clarke
- Mrs Linda Cummins
- Cllr Dermot Curran
- Cllr Laura Devlin
- Mr Eoin Devlin
- Ms Louise Dillon
- Cllr Cadogan Enright
- Cllr Aoife Finnegan
- Ms Joanne Fleming
- Cllr Hugh Gallagher
- Cllr Mark Gibbons
- Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
- Cllr Glyn Hanna
- Cllr Valerie Harte
- Cllr Roisin Howell
- Cllr Jonathan Jackson
- Cllr Geraldine Kearns
- Miss Veronica Keegan
- Mrs Josephine Kelly
- Mrs Sheila Kieran
- Cllr Cathal King
- Cllr Mickey Larkin
- Cllr David Lee-Surginor
- Cllr Alan Lewis
- Mr Michael Lipsett
- Mrs Regina Mackin
- Cllr Oonagh Magennis
- Mr Conor Mallon
- Cllr Gavin Malone
- Colette McAteer
- Cllr Declan McAteer
- Cllr Leanne McEvoy
- Cllr Harold McKee
- Patricia McKeever
- Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray  
.....  
Catrina Miskelly  
.....  
Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston  
.....  
Cllr Declan Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Barra Ó Muirí  
.....  
Cllr Gerry O'Hare  
.....  
Mr Andy Patterson  
.....  
Cllr Henry Reilly  
.....  
Cllr Michael Rice  
.....  
Cllr Michael Ruane  
.....  
Cllr Michael Savage  
.....  
Mr Kevin Scullion  
.....  
Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
.....  
Donna Starkey  
.....  
Cllr Gary Stokes  
.....  
Sarah Taggart  
.....  
Cllr David Taylor  
.....  
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
.....  
Cllr John Trainor  
.....  
Mrs Marie Ward  
.....



**ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
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
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		N

**ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023**

<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
C/057/2023	Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 06.02.2023	The Action Sheet was agreed	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/058/2023	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 06.02.23	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/059/2023	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30.01.23	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	

<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
C/060/2023	Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13.02.23	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/061/2023	Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16.02.23	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/062/2023	Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20.02.23	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.  The Open House Programme was referred and enquiries made if there was a possibility of progression for the programme from heat and warmth over the winter months to a more social aspect to the hubs.  The Chief Executive advised she was aware further engagement work was being undertaken in the hubs with different agencies providing advice and that she would pick the matter up with the relevant officers.	Democratic Services  M Ward J Hillen	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Each DEA to consider extension of Open House prior to implementation of DEA Spring/Summer Programme.</b>	
C/063/2023	Minutes of Special Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 01.02.23	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	

<b>Minute Ref</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Actions taken/ Progress to date</b>	<b>Remove from Action Sheet Y/N</b>
C/064/2023	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22.02.23</i>	<p><i>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</i></p> <p>Mr Cassells advised he would pick the matter up in relation to communications and information dissemination and the breakdown of information on brown bin collections and report back to individual councillors.</p> <p>Mr Cassells agreed to provide costing for Saturday collections which were generally done in overtime.</p> <p>Mr Cassells advised he would come back to Councillor Clarke with an update on an app for residents.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>A Cassells</p> <p>A Cassells</p> <p>A Cassells</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Matters discussed with individual Councillors.</b></p> <p><b>Year end overtime report currently being prepared.</b></p> <p><b>Options currently being researched</b></p>	<p>Y</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>
C/065/2023	<i>Planning Section – Local Development Plan</i>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Mr Mallon confirmed he would pick up that particular application with Councillor Murphy outside of the meeting with the view to progressing to a decision as soon as possible.</p> <p>Councillor Reilly raised concerns about an application and queried if Northern Ireland Water had changed policy to which Mr Mallon advised he was not aware of a change in approach from Northern Ireland Water as a consultee and that he would raise the matter outside of the meeting.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon</p> <p>C Mallon</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	

C/066/2023	NI Housing Council Minutes and Bulletin – 12 January 2023 & 9 February 2023	The Minutes and bulletin were noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/067/2023	Response from Ards & North Down BC re: NOM Workers Legal Rights to Tips	The letter was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/068/2023	Response from Secretary of State NI re: NOM Electric Travel Authorisation	The letter was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/069/2022	Response from Minister of State for Energy and Climate RE NOM	The letter was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/070/2023	Response from Catherine Martin TD Re: NOM Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland's Ancient East Tourism Experience Brand	The letter was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/071/2023	Letter from DfC re: Rates Support Grant Allocation with appendix	The letter was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	

	<i>letter to Five Main Party Leaders</i>				
<i>C/072/2023</i>	<i>Response from Department for Economy re: NOM Northern Ireland Electricity Suppliers</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>		<i>Democratic Services</i>	<b>Noted</b>
<i>C/073/2023</i>	<i>Letter from DfI re: Watson's Road, Newry</i>	<i>The letter was noted.</i>		<i>Democratic Services</i>	<b>Noted</b>
<i>C/074/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Inclusive and Accessible Leisure Facilities</i>	The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.		<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>P Tamati</i>	<b>Referred to Sustainability and Environment Department to be considered as part of Public Toilet Strategy.</b>
<i>C/075/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Voting Age Reduction</i>	It was agreed that Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and write to and seek the support of the remaining 10 Councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16 year old and upwards to vote.		<i>Democratic Services</i>	<b>Noted.</b> <b>Letters sent</b>
<i>C/076/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Invest NI</i>	The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.		<i>Democratic Services</i>	<b>Noted</b>
<i>C/077/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Funding</i>	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Malone that Council welcomes the commitment from DfC, DAERA & DfI to help fund the 4 proposed Environmental Improvements schemes in Rostrevor, Bessbrook, Saintfield & Castlewalian that are currently being developed. This council also recognises that notwithstanding the recent welcome additional		<i>C Mallon</i> <i>Democratic Services</i> <i>C Mallon</i>	<b>Ongoing</b> <b>Noted</b> <b>Ongoing</b>

C/078/2023	<i>Notice of Motion – Prostate Cancer</i>	<p>funding offer to offset inflationary construction costs, council's contribution to the overall cost of these projects may also need to be increased to take account of other unforeseen factors and to accurately reflect the outworking's of the public engagement process. To that end, council officers will now bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity with a revised budget requirement, to be considered by council as a contingency measure to cover any potential funding shortfall, in order that the EI schemes to be delivered in each of these 4 locations fully reflect the views and expectations of the local communities as per the public engagement process.</p>	Democratic Services	Noted Letters sent	
		<p>It was agreed Council proactively engage with the Department of Health to provide advice and sign post people on the symptoms of prostate cancer. This will result in the utilising the council's facilities and social media to promote the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer.</p> <p>This Council write to the Public Health Agency to raise awareness of prostate cancer.</p> <p>This Council write to the Department of Health to increase their own promotional campaign on Prostate Cancer and with regard to the allocation of funding within their cancer funding plan for the coming year.</p>			

C/079/2023

*Notice of Motion –  
Domiciliary Care*

It was agreed that Council recognises the importance of Domiciliary Care in ensuring people can be cared for in the comfort of the home environment. Will write to the South Eastern and Southern Health and Social Care Trust's calling for them to review their current models for providing these services and to increase the percentage of Care Packages delivered by the Trust's. Further calls for an urgent review into Domiciliary Care and how it is delivered across the North given the lack of capacity both in the Public and Private sectors and put the following questions to the Trusts:

1. What was being done to equalise the pay and conditions across the social care workforce, bearing in mind most of the domiciliary care was being delivered by the independent sector and
2. What plans were in place to recruit and retain social care workers into these important roles which helped provide care and support to many older people, enabling them to live as independently as possible within their own homes.

*Democratic  
Services*

C/080/2023

*Notice of Motion –  
Mourne Mountain  
Rescue Team*

It was agreed that the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mournes, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.

*Democratic  
Services*

*P Tamati/  
J Hillen*

**Noted**

**To be considered at  
June AHC  
Committee.**

<i>C/081/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – MOU DFI Roads, Road and Footpaths Maintenance during cold snaps</i>	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services <i>A Cassells</i>	<b>Referred to Sustainability &amp; Environment Committee on 21 March 2023</b>
<i>C/082/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Rebellion Anniversaries</i>	The Motion was referred to the Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services <i>C Moffett</i>	<b>Motion discussed at Councillors' Equality &amp; Good Relations Reference Group on 7 March 2023 and tabled for consideration at Strategy, Policy &amp; Resources Committee meeting 16 March 2023</b>
<i>C/083/2023</i>	<i>Notice of Motion – Vaping and E Cigarette Retailers</i>	The Motion was referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services <i>E Devlin</i>	<b>Report to AHC – June 2023</b>
<i>C/084/2023</i>	<i>Emergency Notice of Motion – Fixed Bridge Design for Newry Southern Relief Road</i>	It was agreed that Council is deeply disappointed with the Department for Infrastructure's decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design for the Newry Southern Relief Road, stresses that the local community have made clear their support for an open bridge and for the Albert Basin to remain unhindered and open to navigation, recognises the potential of our waterways and their historical and cultural importance for the area, and urges the Department for Infrastructure to reconsider their decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design. It was agreed to ask for Council representation to meet with senior officials within Department for	Democratic Services <i>C Mallon</i>	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>



		<p>Infrastructure to articulate the views of the local community.                  And further agreed to request department to delay final decision until a local Minister is in place.</p>			
<i>END</i>					

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

---

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber**

---

<b>In the Chair:</b>	Councillor M Savage	
<b>In attendance in Chamber:</b>	Councillor T Andrews Councillor J Brennan Councillor D Curran Councillor C Enright Councillor H Gallagher Councillor G Hanna Councillor R Howell Councillor G Kearns Councillor A Lewis Councillor D McAteer Councillor K McKeivitt Councillor D Murphy Councillor H Reilly Councillor D Taylor	Councillor C Bowsie Councillor R Burgess Councillor L Devlin Councillor A Finnegan Councillor O Hanlon Councillor V Harte Councillor J Jackson Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor O Magennis Councillor L McEvoy Councillor A McMurray Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor G Sharvin
<b>In attendance via Teams:</b>	Councillor P Byrne Councillor M Gibbons Councillor M Larkin Councillor H McKee Councillor M Rice Councillor G Stokes Councillor J Trainor	Councillor W Clarke Councillor C King Councillor G Malone Councillor G O'Hare Councillor M Ruane Councillor J Tinnelly
<b>Officials in attendance in Chamber:</b>	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer	

**Officials in attendance  
via Teams:**

Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services  
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer  
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture  
and Events

**C/055/2023                      APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

There were no apologies.

**C/056/2023                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Clarke, Devlin and Hanna declared an interest in item 6: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2023 – ERT/030/2023: Service Level Agreements/Letters of Offer 2023/3024 - Board of Mourne Heritage Trust.

The Chairperson advised an emergency notice of motion had been received from Councillor King and for the motion to be heard it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders (which required a qualified majority vote, not less than 80% of Members present and voting) and this matter would be brought forward for consideration later in the meeting.

**C/057/2023                      ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON 6 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read:                              Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 February 2023  
(copy circulated).

**Agreed:                              The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6  
February 2023 was agreed on the proposal of  
Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/058/2023                      MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRAURY  
2023**

Read:                              Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 February 2023 (copy  
circulated).

**Agreed:                              The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6  
February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record  
and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Brennan,  
seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

**C/059/2023      MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2023**

**Read:** Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30 January 2023 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                    **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 30 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/060/2023      MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2023**

**Read:** Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2023 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                    **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

**C/061/2023      MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2023**

**Read:** Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2023 (copy circulated).

*SPR/033/2023: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023*

Councillor Sharvin took the opportunity to highlight concerns in relation to rumours circulating about the impact on Downshire Civic Centre and jobs and asked the Chief Executive to reaffirm the position on that.

The Chief Executive confirmed the development of the Civic Centre in Newry would have no impact on jobs in the Downshire Civic Centre and that it was always the decision of Council to have two centres. She advised that she had held staff briefings for Monaghan Row staff.

**Agreed:**                    **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the**

**proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by  
Councillor Magennis.**

**C/062/2023      MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read:                      Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023 (copy circulated).

Councillor Gallagher referred to the Open House Programme and enquired whether there was a possibility of progression for the programme from heat and warmth over the winter months to a more social aspect to the hubs.

The Chief Executive advised she was aware further engagement work was being undertaken in the hubs with different agencies providing advice and that she would pick the matter up with the relevant officers.

**Agreed:                      The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt.**

**C/063/2023      MINUTES OF SPECIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1  
FEBRUARY 2023**

Read:                      Minutes of Special Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2023 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                      The Minutes of Special Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

**C/064/2023      MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read:                      Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2023 (copy circulated).

*SE/021/2023: Waste Management – Fleet Replacement Programme*

Councillor McAteer raised concerns regarding unprecedented number of missed bin collections in the Crotlieve area.

Councillor McKeivitt asked if information provided to Members could include names of areas and streets rather than rounds as previously agreed at Committee.

The Chairperson spoke of issues relating to the breakdown of information relating to brown bin collections.

Mr Cassells advised he would pick the matter up in relation to communications and information dissemination and the breakdown of information on brown bin collections and report back to individual councillors.

Councillor McKee spoke of the daily information provided and the need for information to include missed bins. The Chairperson agreed it would be easier to put the message out to the public and immediately provide clarification on missed collections and acknowledged that this was a work in progress with officers.

Councillor Ó Muirí commented that once reported, the message was normally out for bins to be left out until lifted. At times staff were under pressure with staff shortages and fleet issues and paid tribute to the bin men who were trying their best.

Councillor Lee Surginor wished to highlight that the comment section of reports being sent out were hard to establish what the message was and asked that a standardised messaging be used.

Councillor Hanna stated there were a substantial number of bins being missed in the Mourne area that were being caught up on Saturdays and requested a report on costings to do that and asked were the missed collections simply down to the breakdown of lorries.

Mr Cassells advised it was generally breakdowns and occasional shortage of drivers but not exclusively and whilst the fleet replacement programme had been put into place it was going to take time.

Mr Cassells agreed to provide costing for Saturday collections which were generally done in overtime.

Councillor Clarke enquired about an update with regards to an app for residents for bin collections, street cleansing etc and the renewing of fleet in green technology.

Mr Cassells advised he would come back to Councillor Clarke with an update on an app for residents.

Mr Cassells referred to the greening of the fleet and referred to a report that had been brought to the Committee on 22 February 2023 about Council bringing forward in the near future business plans to include the provision of 10 electric vans. He added larger vehicles would see developments in the coming years with a push in the direction of hydrogen cell vehicles.

**Agreed: The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor**

**Bowsie.****C/065/2023      PLANNING SECTION**

Read:                      Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 8 February 2023 in relation to the Local Development Plan (Copy circulated)

Councillor Murphy spoke about delays on planning decisions for applications, in particular one timebound application with regard to investment and how if decisions were not made investment could be lost. He added it had been raised on numerous occasions with planners to no avail and that the matter now needed to be dealt with by Council.

Mr Mallon stated he understood Councillor Murphy's concern and acknowledged the concerns around the speed to deal with applications to support economic development across the District. He added it was something he placed focus on, however there were challenges with the introduction of change for e.g. with the new planning portal.

Mr Mallon confirmed he would pick up that particular application with Councillor Murphy outside of the meeting with the view to progressing to a decision as soon as possible.

Councillor Reilly raised concerns about an application and queried if Northern Ireland Water had changed policy to which Mr Mallon advised he was not aware of a change in approach from Northern Ireland Water as a consultee and that he would raise the matter outside of the meeting.

**Agreed:                      It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the extract from Minutes of Planning Committee held on 8 February 2023 in relation to the Local Development Plan.**

**CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES****C/066/2023      NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES - 12 JANUARY 2023 AND NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – 9 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read:                      Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes, 12 January 2023 and Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin, 9 February 2023 (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:                      The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 12 January 2023 and the bulletin dated 9 February 2023 were noted on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran.**

**C/067/2023**      **RESPONSE FROM ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOM C/207/2022 – WORKERS LEGAL RIGHTS TO TIPS**

Read:                      Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council re: NOM C/207/2022 dated 8 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council.**

**C/068/2023**      **RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE NI RE: NOM C/184/2022 & C/014/2023 ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION**

Read:                      Correspondence from Secretary of State NI re: NOM C/184/2022 & C/014/2023 dated 9 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Secretary of State NI.**

**C/069/2023**      **RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE RE: NOM C/209/2022 £600 ENERGY SUPPORT PAYMENT**

Read:                      Correspondence from Secretary of State for Energy and Climate dated 3 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate.**



**C/070/2023**      **RESPONSE FROM CATHERINE MARTIN TD RE: NOM C/185/2022 & C/020/2023 – INCLUSION OF COUNTIES ARMAGH AND DOWN IN THE IRELANDS ANCIENT EAST TOURISM EXPERIENCE BRAND**

Read:                      Correspondence from Catherine Martin TD dated 21 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne thanked officers for rewriting to the Minister and voiced his disappointment to the response received once again.

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from Catherine Martin TD.**

**C/071/2023**      **LETTER FROM DfC RE: RATES SUPPORT GRANT ALLOCATION WITH APPENDIX LETTER TO FIVE MAIN PARTY LEADERS**

Read:                      Correspondence from DfC dated 8 February 2023 and an appendix letter dated 23 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from DfC.**

**C/072/2023**      **RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMY RE: NOM C/051/2023 – NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS**

Read:                      Correspondence from the Department for Economy dated 1 March 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Department for Economy.**

**C/073/2023**      **LETTER FROM DFI RE: WATSON'S ROAD, NEWRY**

Read:                      Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure dated 26 January 2023 with appendix. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor King stated hopefully this was a sign that the housing development would commence soon as it had been held up despite being approved by Planning a number of years ago.

The Chairperson asked if any Members had objections to the correspondence to which

there were none.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure.**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **C/074/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION - INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE LEISURE FACILITIES**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Sharvin:

*"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council reaffirms its commitment to ensuring all leisure facilities are inclusive and accessible for everyone in our community.*

*The Council recognises that we can do so much more for people with a disability, such as autism, and will undertake a review engaging with service users, Autism network providers and Disability Sports NI.*

*The review should include the provision of training needs to all council staff both front of house, support staff and the aquatics team to provide inclusive 1:1 swim sessions for users with disabilities".*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Curran.

**Agreed:** **The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

### **C/075/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – VOTING AGE REDUCTION**

The following motion was received from Councillor Andrews:

*"Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and if this motion is adopted seeks the support of the remaining councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16-year-old and upwards to vote".*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Andrews said the existing voting legislation was amended back in 1969/70 to allow the then 18+ year olds to have the franchise, and he considered 53 years later, the voting age should be reduced to 16.

Councillor Andrews said many young people at age 16 were already making crucial decisions that would impact their lives in terms of education, paying taxes, national

insurance, rent and rates and he said by reducing the voting age, it would ensure they could have their say via the ballot box and give steer on how their taxes were spent, passing verdict and voting on how the country should be governed, similar to their counterparts in Scotland and Wales who could vote at 16 years old.

Councillor Andrews said reducing the voting age to 16 could ignite a spark and help usher in a new generation of politicians and public representatives. He said the Good Friday Agreement was now approaching its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and he said the young people who had enjoyed the peace it delivered, if it was today, couldn't cast their vote.

Councillor Andrews asked that the motion be formally amended to include writing to the other 10 Councils asking that they support the motion..

Councillor Byrne seconded the motion, saying more young people should be engaged in the democratic process, he said there were many young political groups and that young people had great vision and should be front and centre in this regard.

Councillor Bowsie said he would not be in support of the motion as he considered lowering the age to 16 was inappropriate. He said 18 was the age when one became a legal adult and gained legal independence and the right to vote should reflect this.

Councillors McMurray, Ó Muirí and Taylor all expressed support for the motion saying there was a clear benefit in engaging with young people and that young people could legally work from age 16.

Councillor McKee said he would not be in support of the motion as he considered the age of 18 was more appropriate as, he said young people would have sufficient maturity by that age.

The motion was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR:	34
AGAINST:	6
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The proposal was carried.

In summing up, Councillor Andrews thanked Members for their support and said he respected those Members with opposing viewpoints.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed that Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and write to and seek the support of the remaining 10 Councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16 year old and upwards to vote.**

Councillor Burgess left during the above discussion – 6.48pm.

**C/076/2023****NOTICE OF MOTION – INVEST NI**

20

The following motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

*"That this Council notes the recent publication of the Department of Economy's review into Invest NI;*

*Welcomes that the need for profound change within the organisation has been recognised;*

*Notes with concern that Invest NI has not proactively promoted the benefits and opportunities of the Protocol for businesses, which given our councils geographic position represents missed opportunities;*

*And calls on Council to work collaboratively with Invest NI to put a focus on:*

- Promoting a balanced regional economy;*
- Boosting productivity;*
- Targeting support to local small and medium businesses;*
- Bringing new and good quality jobs to our district;*
- Future proofing our local economy and investing in green jobs;*
- Unlocking the potential of our towns*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

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

Councillors Byrne and Reilly left the meeting – 6.56pm and 6.58pm respectively.

**C/077/2023****NOTICE OF MOTION – FUNDING**

The following motion was received from Councillor Tinnelly:

*"This Council welcomes the commitment from DfC, DAERA & DfI to help fund the 4 proposed Environmental Improvements schemes in Rostrevor, Bessbrook, Saintfield & Castlewellan that are currently being developed.*

*This council also recognises that notwithstanding the recent welcome additional funding offer to offset inflationary construction costs, council's contribution to the overall cost of these projects may also need to be increased to take account of other unforeseen factors and to accurately reflect the outworking's of the public engagement process.*

*To that end, council officers will now bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity with a revised budget requirement, to be considered by council as a contingency measure to cover a potential funding shortfall, in order that the EI schemes to be delivered in each of these 4 locations reflect the views and expectations of the local communities".*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Malone.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Tinnelly thanked Councillor Savage for allowing the motion to be heard at the Council Meeting. He said there were 4 EI schemes being proposed as part of this small settlement improvement programme and the designs were currently being finalised before submission to Planning with the works to complete within the current financial year. Councillor Tinnelly said the design proposals were based on public engagement feedback and he said considering they would most likely be in place for the next couple of decades, the importance of getting it right could not be overstated.

Councillor Tinnelly said it was his understanding that due to the conservation status of at least one of the four areas, Planners had indicated the building materials they would deem acceptable to reflect the conservation status would use up the vast majority of the current budget; the knock on effect of this would mean the footprint area of the works would be greatly reduced and considering these works were generational, it was important to raise the issue at this stage as it was vital that any potential shortfall in funding was found in order that the works reflected the expectations of the residents in those 4 small towns.

Councillor Taylor expressed support the motion saying the EI Schemes were a good way of rejuvenating villages and it was important to look at the overall funding for these projects as he would not like to see any of them lost, and he said, he had a particular interest in the Bessbrook one as it was within his DEA area.

Councillor Sharvin said he wanted to see the delivery of these improvement schemes, however, he said there were 7 small settlement schemes currently under-way and he asked if there was an opportunity for the small settlement schemes to benefit from additional funding. Councillor Sharvin also asked for assurances that the additional funding from Council would be at the 10% ceiling as agreed. Councillor Savage said the motion was dealing with time sensitive projects that were up against inflationary and supply chain costs, whereas he understood there was some flexibility in relation to the small settlements and he said the issues raised by Councillor Sharvin would need to be discussed at officer level. Councillor Sharvin asked if a report would be tabled at the March ERT committee meeting detailing the additional monies being requested. Councillor Savage said officers would have to work on this and sufficient time would be needed to do this, and, he said it would be tabled at ERT as soon as possible.

There was general support for the motion on the basis of a paper being brought forward as soon as possible detailing revised budget requirements.

Councillor Tinnelly thanked members for their support.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Malone that Council welcomes the commitment from DfC, DAERA & DfI to help fund the 4 proposed Environmental Improvements schemes in Rostrevor, Bessbrook, Saintfield & Castlewellan that are currently being developed. This council also recognises that notwithstanding the recent welcome additional funding offer to offset inflationary construction costs, council's contribution to the overall cost of these projects may also need to be increased to take account of other**

**unforeseen factors and to accurately reflect the outworking's of the public engagement process. To that end, council officers will now bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity with a revised budget requirement, to be considered by council as a contingency measure to cover any potential funding shortfall, in order that the EI schemes to be delivered in each of these 4 locations fully reflect the views and expectations of the local communities as per the public engagement process.**

**C/078/2023      NOTICE OF MOTION – PROSTATE CANCER**

The following motion was received from Councillor Gallagher:

*"Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men in Northern Ireland. Prostate cancer usually develops slowly, so there may be no signs you have it for many years. Most cases develop in men aged 50 or older. I call on Newry Mourne and Down Council to proactively engage with the department of health to provide advice and sign post people on the symptoms of prostate cancer. This will result in the utilising the council's facilities and social media to promote the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer.*

*This Council write to the Department of Health to increase their own promotional campaign on Prostate Cancer".*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stokes.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Gallagher said Cancer Focus NI indicated that over 1200 men in N. Ireland were diagnosed with prostate cancer each year, making it the second most common cause of death in men, with approximately 290 men dying from the disease each year in N. Ireland. He said it developed when one cell in the prostate started to multiply out of control thereby forming a tumour, and whereas usually, it was slow growing, this was not always the case, and therefore patients would require prompt treatment. Councillor Gallagher said the risk of men contracting the disease increased with age, with 70% of cases occurring in men aged over 65.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the motion and asked if it could be amended to include writing to the Public Health Agency to raise public awareness and also writing to the Department of Health regarding allocation of funding within their cancer funding plan for the coming year.

Councillor Gallagher accepted Councillor McMurray's amendments.

There was unanimous support for the motion from Members.

In summing up, Councillor Gallagher thanked Members for their support and said he worked within Elderly Services and witnessed first hand the affect prostate cancer had on families.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Stokes that Newry Mourne and Down Council proactively engage with the Department of Health to provide advice and sign post people on the symptoms of prostate cancer. This will result in the utilising the council's facilities and social media to promote the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer.

**This Council write to the Public Health Agency to raise awareness of prostate cancer.**

**This Council write to the Department of Health to increase their own promotional campaign on Prostate Cancer and with regard to the allocation of funding within their cancer funding plan for the coming year.**

Councillor Malone left the meeting at this point – 7.15pm

**C/079/2023**

**NOTICE OF MOTION- DOMICILLIARY CARE**

The following motion was received from Councillor Trainor:

*"This council recognises the importance of Domiciliary Care in ensuring people can be cared for in the comfort of the home environment. Will write to the South Eastern and Southern Health and Social Care Trust's calling for them to review their current models for providing these services and to increase the percentage of Care Packages delivered by the Trust's. Further calls for an urgent review into Domiciliary Care and how it is delivered across the North given the lack of capacity both in the Public and Private sectors."*

The motion was seconded by Councillor McKeivitt.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Trainor said care within the home environment had become essential for those being discharged from hospital, aiding with recovery and those suffering from poor health or in end-of-life care, ensuring comfort, quality and for some, companionship. He said the Trusts had highlighted the benefits on being cared for in the home environment and additionally had alluded to the pressures caused by bed blocking when appropriate care packages could not be made available to those ready to be discharged from hospital.

Councillor Trainor said whilst he acknowledged it would not be a quick process, he said it must be undertaken with the utmost urgency and that whilst a review by the Department would not address the immediate pressures faced in delivering care, our HSC Trusts could affect certain changes that could help alleviate pressures.

He said the SE Trust had openly stated at a Special Council Meeting before Christmas that they delivered care packages on an 80/20 model, 80% being delivered by the private sector and 20% delivered by the Trust and he said both the Southern and SE Trusts were asked to review this arrangement, recruit staff needed to increase the amount of care that could be provided by the Trust and consequently allow people to receive good quality care provision.

Councillor McKeivitt seconded the motion saying domiciliary workers were very valuable within the care system and more enhanced packages were needed, she said the recruitment process was vitally important.

There was unanimous support for the motion within the Chamber with some Members relaying personal stories of family members having been dependent on domiciliary care.

Councillor McEvoy said she was as a Domiciliary Care Manager, and she had two questions to put to the Trusts:

1. What was being done to equalise the pay and conditions across the social care workforce, bearing in mind most of the domiciliary care was being delivered by the independent sector and
2. What plans were in place to recruit and retain social care workers into these important roles which helped provide care and support to many older people enabling them to live as independently as possible within their own homes.

Councillor McEvoy said in her role as a Domiciliary Care Manager she witnessed first-hand the challenges faced. She said included in the reform discussions was the need for a skilled and valued workforce. She said Age NI outlined in a briefing in 2017, that domiciliary care should be provided by skilled, competent and valued workers with decent salaries and appropriate pay scales, stable working conditions and manageable workloads. Councillor McEvoy asked the motion be amended to include the two questions she had outlined.

Councillor Trainor accepted the amendment.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt that** this Council recognises the importance of Domiciliary Care in ensuring people can be cared for in the comfort of the home environment; will write to the South Eastern and Southern Health and Social Care Trust's calling for them to review their current models for providing these services and to increase the percentage of Care Packages delivered by the Trust's; calls for an urgent review into Domiciliary Care and how it is delivered across the North given the lack of capacity both in the Public and Private sectors;

Councillor O'Hare left the meeting at this point – 7.35pm.

## **C/080/2023      NOTICE OF MOTION – MOURNE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM**

The following Motion was received from Councillor Mc Murray:

*'The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mournes, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.'*



The Motion was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Councillor McMurray spoke of the truly dedicated group of individuals within the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team (MMRT) with an unparalleled amount of knowledge and skill in the upland environment. He also spoke of the unitary skills which allowed the team into very inaccessible areas and the multidisciplinary skills which allowed them to work with other agencies.

Councillor McMurray stated a name change was not insignificant and there were major concerns that it would impact the team operationally. The change of name from 'North West Mountain Rescue Service' to 'Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team', suggested they covered all of Northern Ireland when that was not the case. He spoke of how the Mourne team were by far the busiest team in Northern Ireland and among the busiest in Ireland and there was a real risk that the wrong team could be tasked in an emergency situation leading to delays in response. He added the MMRT was also a purely voluntary organisation which relied solely on charitable donations and there were concerns that this name change would lead to confusion and impinge on the financial stability of the MMRT.

Councillor McMurray said this motion was about showing support for MMRT, who were always there for those enjoying the Mourne Mountains, Slieve Croob, Slieve Gullion and the Cooley Peninsula. It also called on the Council to liaise with the team in order to establish what practical help and support could be given.

Councillors Devlin, Taylor, Hanna and Clarke all spoke in support of the motion and paid tribute to the work of the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team and its volunteers.

Given the unanimous support the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Enright that the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mournes, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.**

*Councillors Tinnelly, Ruane and Gibbons left the meeting during the above item – 7.39pm, 7.40pm and 7.41pm respectively.*

**C/081/2023    NOTICE OF MOTION – MOU AND DFI ROADS**

The following Motion was received from Councillor Clarke:

*"That this Council notes recent cold snaps which left many roads and footpaths in the district impassable, accepts the logistical challenges facing the workers with responsibility for gritting and maintaining roads and commends them for their efforts; Recognises the resource implication and the operational impact that such periods of colder weather can have on road services; And Calls on Council to engage with DFI Roads as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will ensure our roads and footpaths are maintained during cold snaps and the public are kept safe".*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Howell.

**Agreed:** **The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

### **C/082/2023      NOTICE OF MOTION – REBELLION ANNIVERSARIES**

The following Motion was received from Councillor Brennan:

*"Council notes that this year will see a number of historically significant local anniversaries, including the 225th anniversary of the 1798 United Irish rebellion; and the 220th anniversary of the execution of Thomas Russell in Downpatrick in 1803 Council recognises the significance of the 1798 rebellion to this district, in particular the battles at Ballynahinch and Saintfield as well as the execution of a founding leader of the United Irishmen, Thomas Russell, at Downpatrick Gaol; Council further recognises the unique and invaluable opportunities which exist to mark these events as key moments in our local shared history; Calls on Council to engage with all interested schools/community groups/historical societies with the objective of launching a series of events and initiatives that suitably mark these significant anniversaries".*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

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

### **C/083/2023      NOTICE OF MOTION – VAPING AND E CIGARETTE AND RETAILERS**

The following Motion was received from Councillor Rice:

*'The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mourne, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as*

*well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.'*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Finnegan.

**Agreed: Agreed:                      The Motion was referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

*Councillors Enright and Jackson left the meeting at this point – 7.50 and 7.51pm respectively.*

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

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

**FOR:                                      31**  
**AGAINST:                                0**

It was agreed by a qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 (copy attached)

**C/084/2023                      NOTICE OF MOTION – FIXED BRIDGE DESIGN FOR NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD**

The following Emergency Motion was received from Councillor King:

*"That this Council is deeply disappointed with the Department for Infrastructures decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design for the Newry Southern Relief Road, stresses that the local community have made clear their support for an open bridge and for the Albert Basin to remain unhindered and open to navigation, recognises the potential of our waterways and their historical and cultural importance for the area, and urges the Department for Infrastructure to reconsider their decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design".*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Harte.

Councillor King began by stating that over the last number of years there had been clear opposition across the Newry, Mourne and Down area for the options for the Southern Relief road to be a fixed bridge. He added the local community and elected representatives had made it clear that they wished to have a lifting bridge option to ensure the Albert Basin in Newry would remain unhindered and open to navigation particularly for tall ships and vessels.

Councillor King said the decision announced by the DfI to proceed with a fixed bridge had been met with huge disappointment across the District and that as Council look the regenerate Newry City with ongoing development of a first class city park at the Albert

Basin and the greenway linking Newry to Carlingford making sure the waterways fulfil their potential and play a key role in tourism and economic prosperity of this area.

Councillor King asked Members to support the motion requesting DfI to listen to the people of the District and urgently reconsider this short-sighted decision for a fixed bridge.

Councillor Taylor spoke of the disappointment for everyone involved on hearing the news regarding the fixed bridge and that there was a clear desire that for Newry to realise its full long term potential of its waterways a listing bridge was needed. In supporting the motion Councillor Taylor put forward the following amendment to be added:

*"It was also agreed to ask for Council representation to meet with senior officials within Department for Infrastructure to articulate the views of the local community".*

Councillor King accepted the amendment put forward by Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Stokes voiced real concern that the decision having been taken during a time of democratic deficit when a local Minister is not in place and asked that the following amendment be added to the motion:

*"And further request department to delay final decision until a local Minister is in place".*

Councillor King accepted the amendment put forward by Councillor Stokes.

Councillors McMurray, Savage and McAteer all spoke in support of the amended motion.

Councillor Hanna advised he would be abstaining from the motion.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to talk of the need for the relief road on two fronts, Warrenpoint Port in need of it for expansion but also for the health and wellbeing of constituents. He spoke at length of the need to do it right and demand a first rate bridge to meet the potential for District and the development of the tourism product.

The amended motion was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR:	26
AGAINST:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	4

The proposal was carried.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Harte that Council is deeply disappointed with the Department for Infrastructure's decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design for the Newry Southern Relief Road,**

**stresses that the local community have made clear their support for an open bridge and for the Albert Basin to remain unhindered and open to navigation, recognises the potential of our waterways and their historical and cultural importance for the area, and urges the Department for Infrastructure to reconsider their decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design.**

**It was agreed to ask for Council representation to meet with senior officials within Department for Infrastructure to articulate the views of the local community.**

**And further agreed to request department to delay final decision until a local Minister is in place.**

*Councillor Gallagher left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.56pm.*

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

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Executive**

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
C Bowsie	2			
J Brennan	3			
R Burgess				1
P Byrne				2
W Clarke	4			
D Curran	5			
L Devlin	6			
C Enright				3
A Finnegan	7			
H Gallagher	8			
M Gibbons				4
O Hanlon	9			
G Hanna	10			
V Harte	11			
R Howell	12			
J Jackson				5
G Kearns	13			
C King	14			
M Larkin	15			
D Lee-Surginor	16			
A Lewis	17			
O Magennis	18			
G Malone				6
D McAteer	19			
L McEvoy	20			
H McKee	21			
K McKeivitt	22			
A McMurray	23			
D Murphy	24			
G O'Hare				7
B Ó Muirí	25			
H Reilly				8
M Rice	26			
M Ruane				9
M Savage	27			
G Sharvin	28			
G Stokes	29			
D Taylor	30			
J Tinnelly				10
J Trainor	31			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

NMC/SC

---

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 February 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams**

---

<b>In the Chair:</b>	Councillor M Savage	
<b>In attendance in Chamber:</b>	<b>(Councillors)</b>	
	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
	Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor A Lewis
	Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor
<b>In Attendance via Teams:</b>	Councillor C Bowsie	Councillor R Burgess
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
	Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Gallagher
	Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
	Councillor G Kearns	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
	Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor H Reilly
<b>In attendance in Chamber:</b>	<b>(Officials)</b>	
	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive	
	Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager	
	Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer	
<b>In Attendance via Teams:</b>	<b>EDUCATION AUTHORITY NORTHERN IRELAND</b>	
	Esther Millar, Deputy Head of Local Youth Services	
	Donna Weir, Senior Youth Officer	

**SC/005/2023      APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jackson, Magennis, McMurray, Reilly and Stokes.

**SC/006/2023      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SC/007/2023      PRESENTATION FROM EDUCATION AUTHORITY NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

Ms Millar thanked Council for the opportunity to meet representatives and proceeded to deliver the presentation on the Education Authority Youth Funding Scheme (copy of which is

attached to these minutes).

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

Councillor Byrne stated that he had been working very closely with one of the clubs in Crossmaglen area that was funded by the Education Authority, highlighting the funding process was beyond diabolical and the stress and anger that had been caused by gaslighting to those working in the youth club was a disgrace. He stated that engagement with the Education Authority had been poor and queries raised had taken weeks to get a response. There was zero support given during the process while applications were open and as a result a much needed service in the Crossmaglen area was having to close its doors at the end of March due to no funding.

Councillor Byrne went on to say that there was confusing and conflicting information being given from the Department who were stating that budgets had been ringfenced and the Education Authority countered that by stating there was no budget confirmed. He asked for clarity on figures from funding and money allocated in the statutory sector compared to voluntary sector as core work was key which had been reduced. He further stated the whole process was confusing and needed drastically changed, certain clubs were not eligible for any of the extra strands of funding and requested clarity on the plans put in place for those clubs who were unsuccessful.

Councillor Byrne urged representatives to attend in person a public meeting being held on 8 March 2023 in the Crossmaglen area to try and come to some sort of solution to the problem and outline a way forward and to have a crisis meeting with members as soon as possible to address these issues.

Councillor Byrne raised the following queries;

- Plans in place to support those groups were not definite and were anticipated plans, would the application process reopen to unsuccessful bids and if so would it be March or May for the full amount of £96,823 and what do unsuccessful clubs do in the meantime?
- None of funding 2 was available in South Armagh, why?
- Would the services that had been removed that were being delivered by a voluntary capacity be replaced by statutory agencies or were they removed all together from the Crossmaglen area?

Councillor Finnegan agreed with Councillor Byrnes comment's stating Crossmaglen was a rural and isolated area and the Youth Club was a lifeline to many children.

Councillor Harte stated that some of the clubs in the Newry area were full to capacity and the cuts to summer activities would have a huge impact in socially deprived areas.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Would share allocation between Voluntary and Statutory sector which would show that the voluntary sector does get a significant proportion more.
- It was agreed that schoolwork would be delivered by statutory staff only, and although voluntary staff could deliver it, it would not fall within the terms of the Service Level Agreement.



- Next Steps - This was a very dynamic process and officers were currently looking at unsuccessful applications along with groups who did not submit an application and putting forward proposals, if there was capacity there, and if groups could make changes to submit a successful bid. There was no time frame as to how quickly this could be turned around.
- Apologised at the length of response time, and sorry to hear the frustration and difficulty groups had been having.
- Officials had reached out to groups to get feedback on key issues and opened a consultation process.
- The funding overall going into the area was more than in previous years, but focus was around core services, keeping centres open and safe spaces for young people. There had been cuts in some areas but an increase in others which was already having an impact on some groups.
- Happy to sit down and meet with Crossmaglen group and see what support could be provided and take feedback to funding officers.
- Support had been offered, over and above, to the particular group in Crossmaglen and continue to encourage all groups to seek support of the Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations they are aligned to and if there was a breakdown in that support, Education Authority need to be informed.
- Plenty of money available for planned intervention and summer funding and encourage groups to access that fund.
- Round 2 – Letter issued by Director indicating more targeted and additional programmes would be released on a NI wide basis, in some areas there wasn't anything released. More core funding offers released were local area based there was no thematic based work. There was only one target area identified due to a particular need. It was not anticipated that any one unit would not be successful at this stage.
- No voluntary partners were expected to do school based work, funding offers were for evening work. No centres were being funded to do outreach work at present.

The Chairperson stated that diversionary programmes had been transformational and without them there would have been more antisocial behaviour. He stated the Education Authority had to invest in the future of young people. It was agreed that a crisis meeting was urgently needed to discuss the matters in detail that pertain to the Crossmaglen club, as there was a difference in opinion in what was needed and what was delivered.

The Chairperson requested representatives from EANI go back to Councillors Byrne and Finnegan along with the management committee of youth club with a date and time for a solution-based crisis meeting and engage further with what additional advice was available with regards interim funding.

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.04pm.**

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

**Signed:**

---

**Chairperson**

---

**Chief Executive**

## NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

### Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, and remotely via Microsoft Teams

---

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Councillor R Burgess (Chamber)
<b>Deputy Chairperson:</b>	Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
<b>In attendance:</b>	<p><b>(Committee Members)</b></p> <p>Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)</p> <p>Councillor W Clarke (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor C Enright (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor G Hanna (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor V Harte (Chamber)</p> <p>Councillor R Howell (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)</p> <p>Councillor M Larkin (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor H Reilly (Chamber)</p> <p>Councillor M Ruane (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor G Stokes (Teams)</p>
<b>Non Members:</b>	<p>Councillor O Hanlon (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)</p> <p>Councillor H McKee (Teams)</p>
<b>Officials in Attendance:</b>	<p>Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration &amp; Tourism</p> <p>Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture &amp; Events</p> <p>Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment Regeneration</p> <p>Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer</p> <p>Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control &amp; Licensing</p> <p>Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Ms T McLoughlin PA Director ERT</p>

**ERT/040/2023: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies.

Councillor Burgess acknowledged this was his last meeting as Chairperson of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee for the 2022/23 term.

He extended best wishes to Councillor Curran who would be retiring from Council after 50 years service, thanking him for his contribution to the Council, in particular the ERT Committee, and describing him as a good friend.

He extended best wishes to Councillor Stokes and Councillor Trainor who would be stepping down from Council at the end of the current term.

Finally Councillor Burgess welcomed Councillor Kearns to the Council, extending best wishes to her going forward.

Councillor Curran thanked the Chairperson, Councillor Burgess for his kind remarks acknowledging the many friendships he has made across the board during his time serving as a Councillor.

Councillor Curran referred to the successes of the film An Irish Goodbye which won an Oscar. He said the film had been shot in and around the County Down coast and he paid tribute to the entire cast and crew behind the film, in particular James Martin whom he said was a great ambassador for Northern Ireland over the course of the awards season. He said the film and television industry across Northern Ireland was going from strength to strength and an Oscar win for An Irish Goodbye should encourage young people in pursuing a career in film or television.

Councillor Burgess concurred with Councillor Curran regarding an Oscar win for An Irish Goodbye, and the contribution made by James Martin.

**ERT/041/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/042/2023: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 February 2023.**

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**ERT/043/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION  
RE: HOUSING – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)**

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

**" Newry Mourne and Down District Council is responsible for the preparation of a development plan for the District and has commenced work on the Newry Mourne and Down Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP will provide a 15 year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the District, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development . We commend the work of our Council planning staff and the diligent work to date by members of the Planning Committee in the preparation of the plan however, we are concerned the plan will not meet the huge housing need within the District reside in social housing in the District has remained at a very high level since 2010 with a 31% increase from 2012. This Council is committed to ensure housing need is met within this District and therefore will commit to developing a housing led regeneration plan through the strategic assessment and use of public sector land assets and adjoining private sector lands. Members will be consulted and included within the development of the strategy and good practice evidence will be gathered from similar Councils to inform its development."**

Councillor Hanlon presented the Notice of Motion. She referred to the urgent need for social and affordable housing across the District and the importance of Council playing a

role in addressing this issue as housing is the most critical issue being raised in constituency offices.

She said the Sinn Féin party grouping on Council urge the Housing Executive to work with local Council's as a Community Planning Partner, to identify and assess potential sites of public sector land for usage for public housing and increase housing supply, including provide assistance on land availability; planning; infrastructure issues such as water and sewage, transport, energy and digital networks; finance and investment and more.

Councillor Hanlon made reference to Housing-Led Regeneration Plans which require local partnerships to deliver over 100,000 homes over the next 15-year period as set out in the draft Housing Supply Strategy, and added this should include Council officials carrying out audits with regard to council land and property.

In consultation with our local community, she said the Council had a unique ability through the LDP-process, to not only lead efforts to identify potential locations for housing development, but also to be forward-thinking in terms of building design, accessibility, sustainability and energy efficiency and that this should be done based on a shared aim of realising long-term social, environmental and economic benefits for the people of Newry, Mourne and Down.

Councillor Enright said statistics show the Newry Mourne and Down District as significantly worse than other areas in Northern Ireland in terms of social and affordable housing need, in particular within rural areas, and he suggested including within the Notice of Motion, that Planning Department consider methods of speeding up the introduction of a replacement for PPS21 before 2027/28, or devise an interim process whereby land can be identified for Social and Affordable Housing.

Several Councillors indicated their support for the Notice of Motion highlighting issues including developing sewerage and roads infrastructure not fit for purpose and the affect of land banking on housing allocation indicators.

Councillor Hanlon agreed to include Councillor Enright's suggested comment in to the Notice of Motion.

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer regarding a Notice of Motion on the Local Development Plan.  
**(Circulated)**

Mr McKay presented the above Report.

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

- 1. To adopt the Notice of Motion, including the Planning Department consider methods of speeding up the introduction of a replacement for PPS21 before 2027/28, or devise an interim process whereby land can be identified for Social and Affordable Housing.**
- 2. To note the proposed Housing Strategy of the LDP and associated planning policies requiring development proposals of a certain size/area to deliver a proportion of affordable housing will be a key change in addressing affordable housing need in the District.**
- 3. To note the proposed planning policies will significantly increase opportunities to address affordable housing needs across the whole District and across all settlement tiers supporting both urban and rural communities.**
- 4. To note delivery of affordable housing schemes will be monitored and the need for any changes to policy provision considered as part of the subsequent LDP review.**

**ERT/044/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION  
RE: HOLIDAY HOMES**

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

**" This Council recognises that within our District, holiday home ownership is increasingly having a detrimental effect on the ability of first-time buyers to own a house in the area where they were born and raised. The long-term consequences of this may have a negative impact on local school populations, sports clubs, small family businesses and the general growth, wellbeing and sustainability of some of our towns and villages, particularly along the coast, as new and young families with generational ties to their own area are priced out of living in the place they call home. Further to a recent public statement from the Department for Infrastructure that whilst there are currently no plans to change any laws in relation to this problem, it is their view that local Councils have the power to make bespoke arrangements within their own District. To that end, this Council will now instruct our officials to bring**

**forward a paper at the earliest opportunity outlining exactly what powers will be contained within our proposed local development plan to directly address this problem, powers that if robustly applied would discourage the purchase of holiday homes within our District."**

Councillor Tinnelly presented the Notice of Motion and welcomed the report from officers and the fact it is recognised that the timescale of the Local Development Plan will present a problem as the South Down area has already reached crisis point due to high mortgages and rent which could become the norm by the time the Local Development Plan is published.

Several Councillors indicated support for the Notice of Motion.

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer regarding a Notice of Motion regarding Holiday Homes.  
**(Circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to support the proposed Housing Strategy and associated planning policies of the LDP in addressing affordable housing needs of the District, and to note a change in the planning legislation is required to address the issue of second homes and short-term holiday lets.**

## **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

### **ERT/045/2023: AONB & GEOPARK – ENVIRONMENT FUND APPLICATION**

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding AONB & Geopark application to DAERA Environment Fund.  
**(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. To note the proposed application priorities for AONB & Geopark activity against which an application for funding has been submitted to DAERA's Environmental Fund.**

- 2. To approve that if successful, a Letter of Offer is accepted, signed and returned to DAERAs Environment Fund to effectively deliver against outcomes for year 2023/24.**

**ERT/046/2023: SMALL SETTLEMENTS SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding an update on Small Settlement Schemes. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed:**

- 1. Following consideration of the outline design drawings by the Task & Finish Steering Groupings adopt the attached reports and proceed to submit planning applications for the proposed Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield Environmental Improvement Schemes.**
- 2. Council note the update on the Revitalisation and Make It Local Campaign elements of the Small Settlements Scheme.**

**BUILDING CONTROL/LICENSING**

**ERT/047/2023: NON STATUTORY FEE INCREASE FOR LICENSING**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Licensing, regarding non statutory fee increase for Licensing. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**To approve the proposed fee increase of 9% for 2023/24 effective from 01 April 2023 as per attached appendix, for the following Licences:**

- Civil Marriage/Civil Partnerships**
- Street Trading**
- Road Closures**



- **Pavement Cafes (3 year Licence)**
- **Postal Numbering Certificates**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

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

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

### **ERT/048/2023: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE – DOWN ARTS CENTRE**

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Artist in Residence – Down Arts Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to extend a Service Level Agreement for the delivery of an Artist in Residence Programme in Down Arts Centre from April 2023 – March 2024.

### **ERT/049/2023: BUSINESS CASE: CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY**

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an updated Business Case in respect of Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed Members approve the updated Business Case for the Carlingford Lough Greenway.

**ERT/050/2023: KILBRONEY FALLOWS TRAIL PHASE 2**  
**- SHARED PROSPERITY FUND LETTER OF OFFER**

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding a letter of offer from the Shared Prosperity Fund for Kilbroney Fallows Trail Phase 2. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. Council accept the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Letter of Offer for the Fallows Trail Phase 2 Project.**
- 2. Council accept the revised Business Case for the Fallows Trail Phase 2.**

**ERT/051/2023: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP)**  
**2023/2024 ACTION PLAN**

**Read:** Report dated 13 February 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023/2024. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. To note that Council have prepared and submitted to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for implementation of a programme of Employability and Skills initiative across the District for 2023/24. It is anticipated that this action plan will be approved by the Regional LMP in April 2023.**
- 2. To approve the attached business case for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan for 2023/24.**
- 3. To approve the next steps to progress the delivery of the LMP as set out in section 2.2 of the above Report, subject to funding approval.**

**ERT/052/2023: DIGITAL CONTENT SUPPORT SERVICES  
- TOURISM, EVENTS, MUSEUMS, ARTS**

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Digital Content Support Services – Tourism, Events, Museums, Arts.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to procure and appoint a specialist provider for a 3 year period, to support Council in the development and delivery of high-quality digital content, online communications, website support and development for Tourism, Events, Museums and Arts Services.**

**ERT/053/2023: TOURISM EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023/24**

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism Events Programme.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed:**

- 1. To deliver the Annual Tourism Events Programme as detailed in the above Report.**
- 2. To undertake the necessary procurement exercises to appoint suppliers for the delivery of major festivals in the Annual Tourism Events Programme.**
- 3. To issue Letters of Offer to named groups as detailed in the above Report, to deliver tourism events in the 2023/24 financial year.**

**ERT/054/2023: THEATRE IN RESIDENCE**

**Read:** Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Theatre in Residence.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to establish a Service Level Agreement between Council and Dramability for the delivery of a Theatre-in-Residence programme at Down Arts Centre, initially for one year, with the option to renew the**

**agreement for a second year, subject to meeting annual KPIs.**

**ERT/055/2023: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK CAMPSITE**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding ancillary service enhancements to Castlewellan Forest Park Campsite. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to commit additional budget from the Capital Programme to deliver a programme of improvement works across the caravan/campsite amenity buildings at Castlewellan Forest Park.**

**ERT/056/2023: TOURISM STRATEGY AND BRANDING**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism Strategy and Branding. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: Following a vote of For 11, Against 3 and Abstentions 0, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the draft Tourism Strategy and Destination Brand for the District, to be issued for public consultation in May 2023.**

**ERT/057/2023: FOR NOTING:  
DUBLIN BELFAST CORRIDOR (DBEC)  
FUNDING AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Dublin Belfast Corridor Funding Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to note Funding Agreement for 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years between Belfast City Council and Newry Mourne & Down District Council as detailed in Point 2.1 in above Report.**

**FOR NOTING****ERT/058/2023: 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 Andrews it was agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

**ERT/059/2023: UPDATE RE: INVEST NI BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update regarding Invest NI Business Intelligence. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Invest NI, Newry Mourne & Down Economic Briefing January 2023, which will form part of the evidence base when developing future strategies and programmes of work in its efforts to grow the local Newry Mourne and Down economy.**

**ERT/060/2023: LOUTH/NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE**

Read: Report of Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Report of the Report of Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 2022.**

**ERT/061/2023: TOURISM NI LEARNING JOURNEY – FOOD & DRINK**

Read: Report dated 13 March 2023 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Tourism NI Learning Journey. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 April 2023.

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

---

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

---

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on  
Thursday 16 March 2023 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams &  
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**

<b>In the Chair:</b>	Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)
<b>In Attendance in Chamber</b>	Councillor R Howell Councillor A McMurray Councillor G Sharvin
<b>In Attendance via Teams:</b>	Councillor P Byrne Councillor H Gallagher Councillor G Hanna Councillor A Lewis Councillor O Magennis Councillor D Murphy Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor M Rice Councillor D Taylor Councillor J Trainor
<b>Non-Members:</b>	Councillor J Brennan (via Teams) Councillor W Clarke (via Teams)
<b>Officials in Attendance:</b>	Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding) Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Administration Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Mr P Rooney, Legal Advisor Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Also in Attendance:</b>	Mr G Humphrey, Valuation Services Directorate Land and Property Services

**SPR/034/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, and Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism.

The Chairperson offered condolences to the family and friends of former Mourne's Councillor Brian Quinn who recently passed away.

The Chairperson also offered condolences on behalf of the Committee to Mrs Kelly, Director of Corporate Services and her family on the sad passing of her mother.

**SPR/035/2023:            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SPR/036/2023:            ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2023**

**Read:**                    Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**                **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2023.**

**PRESENTATION****SPR/037/2023            PRESENTATION FROM LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr G Humphrey to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Humphrey thanked Council for the opportunity to meet representatives and proceeded to deliver the presentation regarding the background to the Rating System, an overview of Revaluation task and some of the outcomes for the district (copy presentation appended to these minutes).

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

- Councillor Byrne asked if there was an issue around knowledge of the 'Back in Business Scheme' amongst Land and Property staff as he had found it difficult to access personnel who had knowledge of the scheme?
- Councillor Sharvin asked for an explanation on the vacant building process in order to secure rates relief. He asked whether Land and Property officers were on the ground to identify vacant buildings as part of the process of Reval or was the onus on the property owner?
- Good news story for owners within Newry Mourne and Down area that the rate amount would reduce mostly across the board in general, however rate support grant had been significantly slashed and we as a Council might be worse off down the line.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Not aware of any specific issues but happy to follow up through email.
- Advise to any rate payer was to take proactive action and inform LPS once a property became vacant or any situation had changed.
- LPS were on the ground regularly, generally at the request of the ratepayer if something had changed and would take action as necessary.



**NOTICE OF MOTION****SPR/038/2023:****NOTICE OF MOTION – NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL APPROPRIATELY MARK THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY/BELFAST AGREEMENT****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, Regarding Notice of Motion – Newry Mourne and Down District Council appropriately mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the good Friday/Belfast agreement (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Taylor stated that he was concerned at the lack of Unionist representation in what had been planned so far, a wider range of diversity and balance was required on reflecting what happened at the time of the Belfast agreement.

Councillor Sharvin concurred with Councillor Taylor's comments, highlighting that it had been raised at the Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting that there was an opportunity to expand the panel and have a more diverse view as to what happened at the time.

Mr Moffett advised Members that he was happy to refer the comments raised to the Museum and Assistant Curator.

Councillor Taylor proposed that officers write to Mr Dermot Nesbitt and Lady Trimble to invite them to give their views in order to have a wider balanced view as to what had passed in 25 years.

Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal.

Councillor Clarke stated that former Councillor Anne Carr influenced very heavily also at the time and campaigned for a 'yes' vote and further proposed that she be included in the invite.

All members agreed to Councillor Clarke's amendment.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Mc Murray, that Elected Members approve the events taking place in Newry and Mourne Museum and Down County Museum to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement.**

**Agreed:**

**It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that officers write to Mr D Nesbitt, Lady Trimble and Mrs A Carr to invite them to give their views in order to have a wider balanced view as to what had passed in 25 years**

**SPR/039/2023:****NOTICE OF MOTION – MEMORIAL GARDEN TO ACKNOWLEDGE 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF NEWCASTLE FISHING DISASTER AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES THROUGH FISHING****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, Regarding Notice of Motion – Memorial garden to acknowledge 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newcastle fishing disaster and all those who have lost their lives through fishing **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Clarke thanked members for supporting the motion as it had been a major disaster for the fishing community at the time and identifying an appropriate site for a memorial garden was a fitting tribute.

Councillor Gallagher spoke in support of the motion stating it would be nice to have a place for remembrance to acknowledge all those who had lost their lives in fishing disasters in the area.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that Elected Members approve to support the motion that Council give consideration to establishing a memorial garden to acknowledge the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster.**

**SPR/040/2023:****NOTICE OF MOTION – REBELLION ANNIVERSARIES****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, Regarding Notice of Motion – Rebellion Anniversaries **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brennan stated he was glad to see the notice of motion was almost unanimously supported highlighting this was an opportunity for youth to get to know their history and everyone to embrace their shared history rather than the dark times of the past.

Councillor McMurray spoke in support of the motion highlighting that 1798 was a significant time in our history, which could be built upon and promoted with tours.

In response to query raised by Councillor Sharvin, Mr Moffett advised that once the notice of motion was agreed, officers would liaise with both the Good Relations Programme and the Museum to look at ways in which the schemes could be incorporated into their programme of activity.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that Elected Members agree to give consideration to an appropriate series of events and initiatives to suitably mark the Rebellion Anniversaries.**

*Councillor Lewis left the meeting at this point – 18.41*

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

**SPR/041/2023:                    GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding Governance Arrangements **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray stated that he had thought a copy of minutes of the Mourne Gateway Project meeting would have been tabled at tonight's meeting and sought assurances that it would not be automatically passed under delegated authority.

Mr Andrews clarified that the limit of delegated authority extended to issues that arose during the period of Purdah, not to issues that were ongoing.

**Agreed:**                            **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- 1. Council approve that the Annual Meeting of Council will take place at 6pm on Monday 1st June 2023, in Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick, in accordance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 which states that in an election year, the Annual Meeting of Council must take place within 21 days of the election.**
- 2. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to make essential, urgent decisions, as required during period from 3 April 2023 to the first Full Council Meeting (6 June 2023) after the Annual Meeting.**
- 3. Under Standing Order 29.2: "any motion to add to, vary or revoke these Standing Order will, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary Meeting of the Council. The mandatory standing orders may not be added to, varied or revoked by the Council." It is recommended that Council adopt the amendment to the Standing Orders as detailed at 2.3 of this report at the next Council Meeting on 3rd April 2023.**

**SPR/042/2023:                    DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2023-24**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director: Finance and Performance regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives **(Copy circulated)**

In response to query raised by the Chairperson, Mr Byrne confirmed that there were six measures of success in place with targets reported bi-annually, however there was not currently a measure of outputs or target for businesses in terms of what percentage would be fed back into the economy based on the support the Council had given. He advised

he would investigate the possibility of this occurring in the future.

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

- **The five draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 1**
- **The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 2, including approval to commence the consultation and engagement process on 20 March 2023**

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

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

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

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

**SPR/043/2023:** **LEASE OF LANDS AT STATION ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN UNDER COUNCIL'S SPORTS AND COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023, from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding Lease of lands at Station Road, Castlewellan under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated).**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to enter into a Lease with the group noted in the report in respect of lands at Station Road, Castlewellan as outlined in red on the map attached hereto for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

*Councillor Rice left the meeting during discussions of the above item – 18.57*

**SPR/044/2023:****LEASE OF LANDS AT LISDRUMGULLION, ARMAGH ROAD, NEWRY UNDER COUNCIL'S SPORTS COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding Lease of lands at Lisdrumgullion, Armagh Road, under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated).**

**Agreed:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to enter into a Lease with the group noted in the officer's report in respect of that portion of the lands known as Lisdrumgullion Open Space, Armagh Road, Newry as outlined in blue on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

**SPR/045/2023:****LEASE OF LANDS AT ANNSBOROUGH, CASTLEWELLAN UNDER COUNCIL'S SPORTS AND COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding, lease of lands at Annsborough, Castlewellan under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy **(Copy circulated).**

**Agreed:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to enter into a Lease with the club noted in the report in respect of the lands known as Annsborough Playing Fields, Annsborough, Castlewellan as outlined in orange on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

**SPR/046/2023:****PROPOSED LICENSING OF FISHING RIGHTS AT DONAGHAGUY LAKE, WARRENPOINT****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding proposed Licensing of fishing rights at Donaghaguy Lake, Warrenpoint **(Copy circulated).**

**Agreed:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to grant a Licence to Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and District Angling Club for the fishing rights for Donaghaguy Lake, Warrenpoint for a period of up to three years at a Peppercorn Licence Fee subject to Departmental Consent.**

**SPR/047/2023:****PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT DUNDRUM TO NI WATER FOR NEW WASTEWATER PUMPING STATION****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding proposed lease of lands at Dundrum to NI Water for new Wastewater Pumping Station (**Copy circulated**).

**Agreed:**

**On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Howell, the following was agreed to facilitate the Installation and Maintenance of the New Waste Water Pumping Station:**

- 1. That Elected Members agree to the granting of the Lease with easement to NI Water Limited for a term of 99 years, subject to a one-off premium of £1500 and nominal rent.**
- 2. That Elected Members agree to the granting of a Licence Agreement for works to NI Water Limited.**
- 3. Subject to completion of legal formalities and NI Water Limited being responsible for Council's legal and valuation costs.**

**SPR/048/2023:****AMENDMENT TO EASEMENT AT GLEN HILL/WATSONS ROAD, NEWRY****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Amendment to Easement at Glen Hill/Watsons Road, Newry (**Copy circulated**).

**Agreed:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to amend the easement in favour of the Company noted in the report to include a right to lay a surface water pipe along the route marked by a blue dashed line in addition to a foul sewer and that the position of the foul sewer is changed from the area shown by a green line to the blue hatched line on the attached map subject to the company paying the additional market value fee if any.**

**SPR/049/2023:****LANDS AT CHARLOTTE STREET, WARRENPOINT****Read:**

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Lands at Charlotte Street, Warrenpoint (**Copy circulated**).

**Agreed:**

**On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to approve to enter into a Deed of Rectification in respect of lands at 42 Charlotte Street, Warrenpoint subject to agreement of terms and subject also to Departmental Consent.**

- SPR/050/2023: LANDS AT LATT VILLAS, MULLAGHGLASS, NEWRY**
- Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Lands at Latt Villas, Mullaghglass, Newry (**Copy circulated**).
- Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:**
- **The purchase of the freehold of the lands at Latt Villas as outlined in red on the map from the freeholder noted in the report for the sum noted in the report.**
  - **The sale of the lands at Latt Villas as outlined in red on the map to the two neighbouring landowners for the sum noted in the report.**
- SPR/051/2023: REQUEST TO RELEASE A STRIP OF LAND OVER WHICH COUNCIL HOLDS A CHARGE – THOMAS DAVIS NEWRY GAC**
- Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Request to Release a Strip of Land Over Which Council Holds a Charge – Thomas Davis Newry GAC (**Copy circulated**).
- Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to release the Charge over the portion of the lands outlined in red on Map 1 and Map 2 as per officer’s report.**
- SPR/052/2023: NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE (NLC) – SWIMMING POOL**
- Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Newry Leisure Centre (NLC) – Swimming Pool (**Copy circulated**).
- Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:**
- **To order pool tiles for Newry Leisure Centre as per section 2.1.5 of the report.**
  - **A future report will be tabled at SPR Committee in June 2023 outlining a programme of works and timescales for pool tile repairs.**
- SPR/053/2023: LEASE OF MONAGHAN ROW FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST**
- Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Services, regarding Lease of

Monaghan Row from Southern Health and Social Care Trust  
(Copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Council enter into a Lease with the Southern Health & Social Care Trust for a term of two years (with an option to extend for a further 6 months if required) subject to the rent noted in the officer's report which has been determined by Land and Property Services and subject also to the payment of Service Charges.

**SPR/054/2023:** **RENEWAL OF ADVERTISING SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Corporate Services, Renewal of Advertising Solutions Framework Contract Agreement (Copy circulated).

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to grant approval as at paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the officer's report.

**SPR/055/2023:** **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROVISION OF MEDIA MONITORING SERVICES FOR COUNCIL'S REQUIREMENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Corporate Services, Business Case for the Provision Media Monitoring Services for Council's Requirements (Copy circulated).

Mr Cassells agreed to revert back to Councillor Byrne and Trainor before the next full Council meeting regarding queries raised.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the Business Case at Appendix I and give approval as at paragraph 1.6 of the officer's report.

**FOR NOTING – The following items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the October 2022 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014**

**SPR/056/2023:** **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2022/23, QUARTER 3**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Management Accounts – 2022/23, Quarter 3. (Copy circulated)



**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the 2022-23 Quarter 3 (period ending 31 December 2022) Management Accounts update.**

**SPR/057/2023:** **UPDATE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY 2023**

**Read:** Circular dated 8 March 2023 from National Employers for Local Government Services, regarding Update – Local Government Pay 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the Local Government Pay 2023 update.**

**SPR/058/2023:** **CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPRAISAL**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services: (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Chief Executive Appraisal. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the 2022 - 2023 Performance Appraisal of the Chief Executive had been completed and that members of the Chief Executive Appraisal Group were unanimous in their assessment of performance.**

### **FOR NOTING**

**SPR/059/2023:** **UPDATE ON COVID INQUIRY**

**Read:** Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding Update Covid 19 Inquiry **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McMurray to note the update provided by the Chief Executive.**

Councillor McMurray took the opportunity to thank Councillor Hanlon for the past 2 years as Chair, and for always being very fair and strict keeping the meeting in order with good humour.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

**Signed:** **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:**            **Andrew Cassells**  
                         **Director of Sustainability and Environment**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2023

---

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 March 2023 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre and via Microsoft Teams**

---

**Chairperson:** Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)

**In attendance in Chamber:**

Councillor J Jackson  
Councillor A Lewis  
Councillor D McAteer

**In attendance via Teams:**

Councillor A Finnegan  
Councillor D Lee- Surginor  
Councillor G Malone  
Councillor L McEvoy  
Councillor K McKeivitt  
Councillor G O'Hare  
Councillor B Ó Muiri  
Councillor J Tinnelly

**Non-Members  
in attendance on Teams:**

Councillor T Andrews  
Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor H McKee  
Councillor H Reilly

**Officials in attendance  
in Chamber:**

Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing  
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport  
Mrs M Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager  
Ms C Burns, Project Co-Ordinator, Financial Assistance  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance  
via Teams:**

Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes, Community Engagement

**AHC/031/2023: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan and Sharvin and Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement.

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor Sharvin from Saul GAC on being awarded the Sports NI Volunteer of the Year.

**AHC/032/2023:        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/033/2023:        ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read:                    Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**.

*AHC/156/2022: Warrenpoint Community Centre*

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer, Mr Tamati advised he would confirm the name for the new Warrenpoint Centre.

*AHC/081/2022: Down High School Lights and 3G Pitch*

Councillor Jackson requested an update in relation to the Down High School floodlights upgrade and the lux level testing for lighting at the Saintfield Sports pitches.

Mr Tamati advised the planning application for lights at the new Down High School was being progressed with challenges around that, and confirmed there had been a recent meeting with the school and consultants. Mr Tamati advised it was hoped this would be progressed and an update would be provided to Council once known.

In relation to Saintfield Hockey pitch Mr Tamati advised the capital team had been asked to commission lux level testing, a date for which was to be confirmed and once known he would inform Councillor Jackson via email.

**Agreed:**                                **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023.**

**AHC/034/2023:        NOTICE OF MOTION – RECREATIONAL SEA ANGLING**

Read:                    Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding a Notice of Motion, Recreational Sea Angling. **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming the report Councillor Clarke agreed with the officer's recommendation pointing out that it was not intended for the motion to cause duplication in regard to having a Sea Angling Strategy alongside the Council's Sports Strategy.

Councillor Clarke highlighted areas of Newcastle, Ardglass, the coastline of Mourne and Lecale and Strangford and Carlingford Lough that all provided huge opportunities for sea angling tourism and for local people to benefit from improved infrastructure and improved strategy for sea angling. He spoke of the opportunity to discuss with the sea anglers about species and improvements that could be made, along with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) regarding species going forward.

Councillor Clarke said he felt there was a weakness within Council regarding the promotion of sea angling and the need for a Charter for sea angling opportunities within the District and responsible fishing as well.

The Chairperson along with Councillors McAteer and McEvoy voiced support for the motion.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan to note that Sea Angling will be included in the consultation process for Council's Sports Development, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Officers will continue to work to promote Sea Angling in collaboration with the Sport's Governing Body, established providers of sea angling and via Council's financial assistance processors.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**AHC/035/2023:** **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY CAPITAL – CALLS 1 & 3**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding Financial Assistance Community Capital, Calls 1 & 3. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Lewis thanked officers for their work and for hosting workshops and enquired if there had been much uptake with regard to the Coronation Fund. Mr Tamati advised he would revert to Councillor Lewis directly on the matter.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the approval of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the following:

- Approve the attached appendices for revenue and capital projects and issue letter of offers post Council ratification and Call in.
- Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer issued and where this is not satisfied budget to be re-allocated.
- Open Call 3 May/June 2023.

**AHC/0/36/2023:** **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 28 February 2023.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Ad Hoc Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2023.

- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023.**
- **Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023.**

**AHC/037/2023: COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement presented by Mr P Tamati regarding an update on the Community Co-Ordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muiri, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for:**

- **Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2023.**

**AHC/038/2023: RURAL DIAL-A-LIFT TRANSPORT ISSUE TABLED AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR SHARVIN**

In the absence of Councillor Sharvin, Councillor McKeivitt presented the following request:

We call on the Council to write to Department of Infrastructure to provide the financial security needed for local community transport organisations i.e., the Down Community Transport and Newry and Mourne Community Transport to enable them to provide the vital service to our community particularly the rural communities across the District. Currently both organisations had been left unaware of their financial future as it could not be guaranteed of funding past the 30th April 2023, and staff were unsure about their employment and more importantly the users were frightened of how they would access essential day to day needs.

In speaking in support of the request, Councillor McAteer pointed out Members were well aware of the increasing problems being faced by all sorts of rural transport from Translink to taxi firms. He stated there was a real crisis for rural communities emerging with communities and businesses suffering and that there was a need for a policy on rural transport as it was in the decline.

Councillor Ó Muiri supported the request and referred to cuts to the many vital services within rural communities particularly when faced with the cost of living crisis and that the failure to setting up an Executive was having an impact on everything. Councillor Ó Muiri pointed out that it was not the responsibility of Council to provide transport but there was a need for a strategy to liaise and work in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure to ensure rural areas were best served in terms of rural transport.

In speaking in support of the request, Councillor Lewis pointed out these were vital lifeline services for many particularly those in rural areas, and any loss in funding would be detrimental to the service and to the elderly and vulnerable.

Councillor Andrews voiced support and that it was hoped the Permanent Secretary could in some way ensure funding was released.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor McAteer to call on the Council to write to Department of Infrastructure to provide the financial security needed for local community transport organisations i.e. the Down Community Transport and Newry and Mourne Community Transport to enable them to provide the vital service to our community particularly the rural communities across the District.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**AHC/039/2023:** **AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME UPDATE AND APPROVAL FOR SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing regarding an update on Affordable Warmth Scheme and approval for Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finnegan welcomed the continuation of the scheme and the signing of the Service Level Agreement. She enquired about the geographical limitations of the scheme given that it was targeted and proposed that it be revised so the geographical limitations be removed to allow the whole District to be taken into consideration.

Councillor McKeivitt also welcomed the scheme and supported Councillor Finnegan's comments in relation to the geographical limitations.

Mr Devlin advised the new method of targeting was appreciating that, as referrals that were received from a health professional, Council officers or elected members and those people met the income criteria would get into the scheme but that the demand was above what was possible.

In response to a query from Councillor O'Hare in relation to savings being included within the £23,000 limitation, Mr Devlin confirmed savings were considered as part of it and he would forward the detail of that to him directly.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement with the Department for Communities in relation to the provision of the Affordable Warmth Scheme and that the Committee note the change in the targeting approach.

**AHC/040/2023:** **CONSULTATION RESPONSE REGARDING OFFSHORE WIND**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing regarding a consultation response regarding Offshore Wind. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Devlin advised the deadline for consultation responses was 16 March 2023 and a submission had been provided, with the caveat that it was subject to Council approval.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to agree to the submission of the attached Consultation response.

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

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

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

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

**AHC/041/2023 DRAFT POLICY ON BONFIRES ON COUNCIL LAND (v5) REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, presented by Mrs Flynn, Safer Communities and Good Relations Manager regarding a draft policy on Bonfires on Council Land. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McAteer to approve the report and draft Policy on Bonfires on Council Land (v5).

**FOR NOTING**

**AHC/042/2023 SCALE OF CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding Scale of Charges for Community Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the report.

**AHC/043/2023 SCALE OF CHARGES FOR LEISURE CENTRES**

**Read:** Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Scale of Charges for Leisure Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to note the report.



**AHC/044/2023      FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT ON PROCEDURES**

Read:                      Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding procedures for Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson took the opportunity to point out Council could not make an exception for any individual club and the importance of elected members adhering to the agreed and adopted processes for Financial Assistance Payments.

Mr Tamati reiterated the need to provide a consistent approach and protect Council and elected members from potential legal challenges or grievances.

**Agreed:                      It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report.**

**AHC/045/2023      DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DfC) COST OF LIVING SALARY SUPPORT FUNDING REPORT**

Read:                      Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Department for Communities Cost of Living Salary Support Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:                      It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report.**

**AHC/046/2023      DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DfC) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ASSIST WITH INCREASED RUNNING COSTS**

Read:                      Report dated 20 March 2023 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding the Department for Communities additional funding to assist with increased running costs. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:                      It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.53 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

Signed:                      Councillor H Gallagher  
Chairperson

Signed:                      Paul Tamati  
Assistant Director Leisure and Sport

**NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.****Chair:** Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)**Members:** Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)  
Councillor C Bowsie (Teams)  
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)  
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)  
Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)  
Councillor C King (Teams)  
Councillor G Malone (Teams)  
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)  
Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)  
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)  
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)  
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)  
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)**Non Committee Members:** Councillor C Enright (Teams)  
Councillor R Howell (Teams)  
Councillor D McAteer (Teams)**Officials in Attendance:** Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management  
Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance  
Ms G Kane, Head of Facilities Management  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer**SE/027/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Stokes.

Councillor Magennis Chairperson, said this was the last Meeting of the Committee in the current Council term. She extended her thanks and best wishes to Councillor Dermot Curran, Councillor Gavin Malone and Councillor Gary Stokes who were not seeking re-election in the upcoming Council elections. The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Curran who had given over 50 years service to Council and said he well deserved his retirement.

Councillors Curran and Malone thanked the Members for their kind remarks and best wishes.

The Chairperson then paid tribute to Kevin Scullion at his last meeting of Council. She wished Kevin all the best and said it had been a pleasure working with him over the past few years.

Councillors Andrews, McMurray, Ruane, Taylor, McKeivitt, Clarke, Tinnelly, and Enright also paid tribute to Kevin describing him as an officer who was always on hand to work with Councillors if they had a problem; he understood what Councillors jobs were all about and that when they brought an issue to his attention, it was on behalf of constituents and he was one of the most effective and efficient officials the Council had in dealing with issues raised by Councillors. They extended best wishes to Kevin and his family as he approached this new chapter in his life.

Mr Scullion thanked the Chair and Members for their best wishes. He said he started Council in 1991 and had no regrets during his time working with the Council. He said he had always enjoyed working with this Committee and had found the Councillors to be very supportive of the officers. He wished all those taking part in the elections every success and for those who were leaving good health and long life in terms of what they did next.

The Chair and Members also thanked Colette McAteer and Colette O'Rourke who were retiring from the Council and wished them all the best.

**SE/028/2023: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

Councillor Taylor declared an interest in Item 10 – report on Town Clocks. He said he served as a member of the Select Vestry of St. Patrick's Church.

**SE/029/2023: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2023. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2023 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**SE/030/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION – MOU DFI ROADS – ROADS AND FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE DURING COLD SNAPS**

Councillor Clarke presented the following Notice of Motion which was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee from the Council Meeting held on Monday 6

March 2023:-

***"That this Council notes recent cold snaps which left many roads and footpaths in the district impassable, accepts the logistical challenges facing the workers with responsibility for gritting and maintaining roads and commends them for their efforts; Recognises the resource implication and the operational impact that such periods of colder weather can have on road services; And Calls on Council to engage with DfI Roads as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will ensure our roads and footpaths are maintained during cold snaps and the public are kept safe".***

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

Councillor Clarke said the Motion came about during the recent cold snap and said his own area of Newcastle Town Centre was a complete ice rink with a number of constituents contacting him to say they could not get about their daily business. He said the idea of the MoU was that grit would be provided during cold snaps in an agreed selection of towns and cities and the workers involved would be able to spread the grit. He said the MoU was not activated when needed and when he contacted DfI they said it was the Council's responsibility.

Councillor Clarke said Council Officers must now have a discussion with DfI Roads about issues such as the replenishment of salt/grit bins especially in areas with steep hills going down onto main roads e.g. King Street and King Hill, Newcastle and School Hill, Dundrum – schools were located in these areas and carers etc. were unable to get in and out of houses. He said this situation was just not acceptable and even when requests were made to Roads Service there was no response as to why bins were not being replenished.

Councillor Clarke said there also needed to be a review of gritting of Council car parks as Donard Park and Downs Road in Newcastle, which had heavy volumes of cars, were just like an ice rink.

Councillor Clarke said when the current MoU ran out and the Council were entering into a new agreement there had to be an activation point agreed on what constituted a cold snap; who activates the policy and how it would be rolled out.

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, re: Notice of Motion – MOU – DfI Roads; Roads and Footpath Maintenance During Cold Snaps. ***(Circulated)***.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and agree that officers engage with DfI Roads to review the Memorandum of Understanding and that issues such as the replenishment of grit bins and responding to requests from Councillors were tabled for discussion.**

**SE/031/2023: REVIEW OF TRANSLINK BUS SHELTER REQUESTS**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Gail Kane, Head of Facilities, re: review of Translink bus shelter requests. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and that officers again contact Translink in relation to the 7 applications which have been submitted to Translink and ask them to make a firm commitment to install a bus shelter at the locations listed. Translink to be advised that the Council find the lack of response from them on this issue to be unacceptable. If no commitment was received from Translink and the request for a bus shelter remained in place, the Council should facilitate the request.**

Councillor McAteer, as a non-Committee Member, referred to the bus shelter request Bridge Road, Burren. He said he had started the request to process this in 2018 and had been ongoing since. He said Translink had a very large project throughout the North for over 300 proposed shelters. He said this business case was supposed to have been completed in 2021, got held up and was supposed to be going to DfI in June 2022 but so far nothing had been progressed. However, another mechanism had been brought to his attention, an example of which was being used in Lisburn and Castlereagh Council where shelters were purchased by the Council through the Translink supplier and were then subsequently adopted by Translink into their shelter portfolio after a number of years. The advantage to this was that they then become part of the cycle where they would be maintained and cleaned by Translink and their Supplier. He asked if a similar process could be investigated and explored for this Council. If this was not going to be successful, then Council officers should proceed with the requests they have received including the one for a bus shelter at Bridge Road, Burren.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed Officers explore the request made by Councillor McAteer in relation to the provision of bus shelters and report back to Committee.**

**SE/032/2023: REVIEW OF BUS SHELTER REQUESTS BEING ACTIONED BY COUNCIL**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Gail Kane, Head of Facilities, re: review of bus shelter requests being actioned by Council. *(Circulated)*.

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

- **The Council bus shelters at Slievenman Road, Bryansford and Annsborough Park, Annsborough to be removed, and the area left safe.**
- **A new bus shelter to be provided at Corlat Drive, Whitecross, to service the local Translink bus stop. A Cantilever style shelter with no side panels to be provided.**

Noted:

It was noted that Councillor Finnegan, on behalf of Councillor Howell who was not a member of the Committee, raised the issue of the bus shelter at Annsborough Park, Annsborough and said the current bus shelter should be removed; the area cleaned up and the bus shelter be re-located beside the bus stop where it would be more widely used. Councillor Howell asked that officials explore this when looking at the location for the new bus shelter.

Councillor Murphy referred to the proposal for the Council to provide a bus shelter at Corlat Drive Whitecross and whilst he welcomed the provision, he said Translink were shirking their responsibility, and this should be conveyed to them.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **SE/033/2023: 2023/24 PUBLIC HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS AND BIN COLLECTION CALENDARS**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Sinead Murphy, (Acting) Assistant Director, Waste Management, re: 2023/24 Public Holiday arrangements and bin collection calendars. *(Circulated)*.

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

- **The alternative Refuse Collection Services and opening arrangements for Household Recycling Centres on Public Holidays applying to the 2023/24 financial year with appropriate notification to be issued to residents through the various established communications channels, in advance of each Public Holiday.**
- **The publication of individual household Bin Collection Calendars for residents online, with a PR campaign to inform Householders how to access their calendar and to raise awareness of the importance of recycling right.**

(Cllr. Finnegan left the meeting)

**SE/034/2023: CIRCULAR ECONOMY CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Sinead Murphy, (Acting) Assistant Director, Waste Management, re: Circular Economy Consultation Response. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the response provided in Appendix 1 subject to a small amendment to Q12 on page 8 as outlined by Councillor McMurray.**

**SE/035/2023: REMOVAL OF BRING BANK SITES**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Sinead Murphy, (Acting) Assistant Director, Waste Management, re: removal of Bring Bank Sites *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to approve the removal of bottle bank "Bring Back" provision at caravan sites as listed in Appendix 1.**

**SE/036/2023: USE OF HERBICIDES ACROSS THE COUNCIL ESTATE**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Mr A Mallon re: use of herbicides across the Council Estate. *(Circulated)*.

Following detailed discussion and debate on the aim of having a zero application of herbicides containing glyphosate in Year 4 (2023) and how to balance this without significant uncontrolled weed growth on Council property the following was agreed:-

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and agree to the use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property during the calendar year 2023 with a target of applying no more than the amount of glyphosate applied in 2022 and to continue to work towards a 100% reduction.**

**Agreed officers also undertake a fact-finding exercise in relation to this issue and that a Workshop be held in the new Council term.**

(Councillors Ruane, Taylor and Malone left the meeting)

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

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

**SE/037/2023: TOWN CLOCKS – PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Mr K Scullion re: Town Clocks – proposals for consideration. (*Circulated*).

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

- Note the content of the report.
- In relation to the proposal to refurbish Dan Rice Hall Clock, a Business Case would be prepared for presentation to Committee. The Business Case would consider the three options recommended by the Council contractor for refurbishment of the clock and would also consider the additional building maintenance works which had been identified as requiring attention to the Clock Tower structure.
- In relation to operation of the Market House Clock, Ballynahinch, the following works would be undertaken - electrification of the hand rotation and installation of an electromechanical bell hammer striking against the existing bell.
- In relation to the maintenance of St Mary's Parish Church Clock, it was recommended that it be included in the Council's maintenance schedule for Town Clocks. It was recommended that for single repair works exceeding



**£500.00 that Council approval is obtained prior to agreeing to the works.**

**SE/038/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE DEMOLITION OF ALBERT BASIN STORE AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Case for the demolition of Albert Basin store and associated environmental clean. (*Circulated*).

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

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Approve the findings of the Business Cases presented. The Business Case concluded that Option 3 was the preferred option. Option 3 would see the appointment of a contractor under the Council's Civil Engineering and Minor Works Framework to demolish the Store and undertake an environmental clean of plant and materials to be retained. Officers to liaise with other user groups who used the Waterway, prior to the demolition taking place to make them aware of the demolition.**
- **Once environmentally cleaned, items owned by third parties would be returned to them, through signed agreements.**

**SE/039/2023: BUSINESS CASES FOR REPLACEMENT VEHICLES 2023-2025:**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2023 from Ms S Murphy re: economic appraisals and business cases for replacement vehicles for 2023-2025. (*Circulated*).

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the Business Cases/Full Economic Appraisals at:-**

- **Appendix 2 for the replacement of Refuse Collection Vehicles**
- **Appendix 3 for the replacement of and additional Mechanical Sweeping Vehicles**
- **Appendix 4 for the replacement of medium size chassis tipping vehicles**
- **Appendix 5 for the replacement of small and large vans with Electric Voltage (EV) small and large vans**
- **Appendix 6 for the replacement of small and large vans with Diesel small and large vans**

- **Appendix 7 for the replacement of small vans and Four by Four vehicles**
- **Appendix 8 for the replacement of ATV vehicles**
- **Appendix 9 for the replacement of Ride-on Mowers**

**SE/040/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF SKIPS AND COMPACTORS AT HRCs**

**Noted:** It was noted this report was deferred and was not included on the agenda.

**SE/041/2023: RETAINING WALL AT DOWNPATRICK HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2023 from Ms S Murphy re: Retaining Wall at Downpatrick Household Recycling Centre. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the capital budget in the sum stated in the report, for the procurement of a contractor to undertake specified works to construct a retaining structure along the base of the slope between private land and Council land at Downpatrick Household Recycling Centre (HRC).

**SE/42/2023: FEASIBILTY REPORT – PROPOSED PUBLIC TOILET IN THE VILLAGE OF KILLOUGH**

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2023 from Mr K Scullion re: Feasibility Report – proposed public toilet in the village of Killough. *(Circulated)*.

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

**SE/043/2023: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 23 FEBRUARY 2023**

**Read:** Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 23 February 2023. *(Circulated)*.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**SE/044/2023: REQUEST TO PRESENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON RECYCLING AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Read: Letter dated 31 January 2023 from Mervyn Storey, Consultant, Keep Recycling Local re: seeking an opportunity to present to Committee to help raise awareness about recycling in Northern Ireland. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to hold a Workshop in the new Council term and invite Mr Storey to present on the issue of recycling.**

### **FOR NOTING**

**SE/045/2023: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

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

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



**Minutes of the 498<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 10 am via Zoom**

**Present**

Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Cllr Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Cllr Victoria Moore	Ards & North Down Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Cllr Micky Murray	Belfast City Council
Ald Adrian McQuillan	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry & Strabane Borough
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

**In Attendance:**

David Polley	Director, Housing Supply Policy, Department for Communities
Heloise Browne	Department for Communities
Jenny Williamson	Business Manager, NIHE
Fiona Neilan	Project Manager, NIHE
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (NIHE Secretariat)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, NIHE
Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight, Department for Communities

<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed David Polley and Heloise Browne from the Department for Communities and from the Housing Executive, Catherine McFarland</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenter, Fiona Neilan from the Housing Executive.</p> <p>The Chair also welcomed the new representatives for Belfast City Council Councillor Micky Murray to his first meeting of the Housing Council.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>No declarations were received.</p>	

3.	<p><b><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 497th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Jim Speers seconded by Alderman Allan Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 497<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.  4.1  4.2 ss	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></b></p> <p><b>Page 3 Item 6.15 - Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation</b></p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Cooper had been contacted directly by Housing Executive staff in relation to specific statistical information and he was content with the information provided.</p> <p><b><u>Page 5 Item 11.3 - Central Housing Forum Annual Community Conference titled 'the Cost of Living'</u></b></p> <p>It was reported that at the last Housing Council meeting, it was proposed and seconded for the Housing Council to sponsor the Annual Community Conference, Unfortunately the Housing Executive are funding this event and are jointly running the event, unfortunately due to a conflict of interest it was not possible to sponsor such an event.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> that an invitation to be issued to the Central Housing Forum inviting representatives to attend a future meeting.</p> <p>All other matters will be dealt with through the Meeting.</p>	Secretary
5.	<p><b><u>Forward Workplan</u></b></p> <p>The forward workplan was noted.</p>	
6.  6.1  6.2  6.3  6.4  6.5  6.6  6.7  6.8	<p><b><u>Update by Heloise Brown and David Polley from the Department for Communities on Housing Top Issues:-</u></b></p> <p><b>Social Newbuild starts</b></p> <p><b>Co-ownership</b></p> <p><b>Programme for Social Reform</b></p> <p><b>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</b></p> <p><b>Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme</b></p> <p><b>Supporting People Delivery Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Homelessness Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</b></p>	

6.9	<p><b>Increasing Housing Supply</b></p> <p>D Polley undertook to provide a link to the Department for Communities summary document on Intermediate rent, for information.</p>	D Polley
6.10	<p><b>Affordable Warmth Scheme</b></p>	
6.11	<p><b>Review the Caravans Act (NI) 2011</b></p>	
6.12	<p><b>ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020</b></p>	
	<p>Referring to a contractor engaged in the programme and went into administration in December 2022, putting at risk a number of planned schemes. Councillor Mark Cooper requested further details on which schemes will be affect by this Contractor.</p>	Secretary
6.13	<p><b>Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax</b></p>	
6.14	<p><b>Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework</b></p>	
	<p><b>Long term rent trajectory</b></p>	
6.15	<p><b>Affordability of social rents</b></p>	
6.16	<p><b>Housing Executive Rent</b></p>	
6.17	<p><b>Non ACM Cladding Remediation Scheme</b></p>	
6.18	<p><b>Climate Act DfC will lead on the 'Residential and Buildings Sector Plan'</b></p>	
8.+	<p><b><u>Presentation on the Housing Executive's Fundamental Review of Allocations</u></b></p> <p>Fiona Neilan gave a presentation on the Fundamental Review of Allocations (Copies of the slide are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>Members noted that the current Housing Selection Scheme has been in place for more than 20 years, but changes were needed to reflect people's situations and the demand for housing in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>These changes which are being introduced on a phased basis over the next 3 years will help to build on the strengths of the current allocations scheme to enable it to work better for people in need. The changes are in response to the views shared during the Fundamental Review of Allocations consultation, carried out by the Department for Communities in 2017.</p> <p>The changes will help those waiting for a Housing Executive or Housing Association property to secure the right home in the right area.</p> <p>Ms Neilan highlighted the first changes to be introduced, as follows:-</p>	

1. Give applicants the ability to choose as many or as few areas of choice as they wish.

2. Reduce the reasonable number of offers for applicants from three to two.

Applicants can currently pick up to two areas of choice with the opportunity to widen these by adding a General Housing Area (GHA) to their application. Following these changes, they will be able to choose as many or as few areas of choice as they wish. It also means that if the Applicant is owed the full statutory homelessness duty (i.e. is a Full Duty Applicant) the wider GHA will no longer be imposed on their choice.

Under the revised Scheme all new applicants, and those already on the waiting list, will be entitled to two reasonable offers of accommodation. If they have already refused two reasonable offers at the time the changes come in, they will be entitled to one final reasonable offer. All Applicants will continue to have the right to appeal a decision by the Housing Executive or Housing Association that their offer has been unreasonably refused.

The new changes will help reduce re-let times and significantly increase choice for applicants. They will also mean that the General Housing Area (GHA) will no longer be imposed on those applicants who find themselves homeless.

Ms Neilan undertook to update Members on the delivery of each stage of the proposals throughout the next three years of the process.

Councillor Nicholl felt that Rural areas were still at a disadvantage of social housing not being built and those villagers still wishing to remain in the rural areas have no option but to move to towns or built up areas.

Ms Neilan referred to the Housing Executive Latent Demand Testing and rural villages should be identified to address housing need in those rural areas.

Ms Neilan assured Members that there will be evaluations/monitoring and measurements of the outcomes of these proposals throughout the process.

Ms Neilan undertook to attend future meetings to give regular updates on the implementation of the each of the proposals.

The Chair thanked Ms Neilan for a very informative and useful presentation.

F Neilan

9. **Quarterly Update Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP)**

The Report was noted.

10. **Housing Starts – January 2023**

The Report was noted.

11.	<p><b><u>Chartered Institute of Housing Conference in Manchester 27th-29th June 2023</u></b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> One place to be reserved at this Conference and the name of the representative will be decided in due course.</p>	Secretary
12.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p>	
12.1	<p><b><u>Local Council Elections 2023 – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023</u></b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> as Purdah the pre-election period is 6 weeks prior to the election, Members agreed that the April and May Meetings would be postponed.</p>	Secretary
12.2	<p><b><u>Latharna House, Larne</u></b></p> <p>Alderman Nicholl requested an update on Latharna House, Larne.</p>	Secretary
12.	<p><b><u>Date of next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 10 am in the Housing Centre or via Zoom,</p>	

The Meeting concluded at 12.10 pm





## FRA Project Implementation

### Update to Housing Council

9th February 2023 Fiona

Neilan, Project Manager

**Housing**  
Executive




## FRA Project Implementation

### Social Housing Allocations in NI

- Housing Selection Scheme (Housing (NI) Order, 1981)
- Single gateway used by all social landlords in NI
- Overriding principle – priority based on greatest housing need
- Highly valued and fair in its operation
- Largely unchanged since Nov 2000

**Housing**  
Executive



 **FRA Project**  
Implementation

### Aim of the FRA Project

The Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA) Project will implement 20 Proposals for Change, which together will make better use of existing resources by building on the strengths of the current Housing Selection Scheme and Allocations process to enable it to work better for people in need.

**Housing Executive**





## Stage 1 – Group 1 Delivery (30 January 2023)

Proposal 1	An independent, tenure-neutral housing advice service for NI
Proposal 5	A greater choice of areas for all applicants for a social home
Proposal 15	An applicant may receive two reasonable offers of accommodation
Proposal 16	Social landlords may withdraw an offer of accommodation in specified circumstances

**Housing**  
Executive



## Proposal 1

An independent, tenure-neutral housing advice service for NI

**94% support for this proposal**

### Themes Raised

- Alternative providers have an important role to play – advocacy role in particular
- The importance of independence
- Tenure-neutral advice
- The service should increase options & solutions for applicants

**Housing**  
Executive



## FRA Project Implementation

### Proposal 1 - Implementation

- NIHE have been providing a Housing Solutions and Support service since 2017
- A new page will be added to the NIHE website which will be accessed via the "Advice" tab within "Housing Help"
- Continuous improvement of our Service for our customers

**Housing**  
Executive



## FRA Project Implementation

### Proposal 5

A greater choice of areas for all applicants for a social home

**85% support for this proposal**

#### Themes Raised

- Importance of person-centred, open & accurate advice
- Increased options allows greater flexibility
- Potential to reduce refusals
- Applicants should not be 'pushed' to choose areas

**Housing**  
Executive



## Proposal 5: Key Points

- Will allow customers to choose a greater number of Areas of Choice.
- Removal of the General Housing Area (GHA)
- New applicants have to choose at least 1 CLA but may choose as many (or few) as they wish (1st preference choice for Place Shapers)
- Applicants awarded FDA will no longer have the GHA imposed 6 months after a positive homeless decision.
- Area Based Points can apply to each Common Landlord Area (CLA) where evidence is provided and meets the criteria for award.

**Housing**  
Executive



## Proposal 5: Transitional Arrangements

- Significant number of customers with the GHA applied
- To mitigate any detrimental impact customers now remain on the waiting list for all associated CLAs within those GHAs
- Transitional period in which designated officers will review applications with customers allowing them to
  - ✓ Reassess their Areas of Choice and remove any CLAs they are not interested in.
  - ✓ Ensure that any changes in CLAs are reflected in the award of Area Based OSN points

**Housing**  
Executive



## FRA Project Implementation

### Proposal 15

An applicant may receive two reasonable offers of accommodation

**49% support for this proposal**

#### Themes Raised

- Perception that offers are not always reasonable and suitability criteria should be adopted
- The need for clear understanding/definition of what is a 'reasonable' offer
- Concern that applicants may feel 'forced' to take a property they do not think is suitable
- Perception that refusals are made because applicants are holding out for a better property

**Housing  
Executive**



## FRA Project Implementation

### Impact for all new, existing and deferred applications/transfers

- New applicants are entitled to two reasonable offers and will be advised as such when apply for social housing
- Existing applicants who have not yet received an offer will be entitled to two offers
- Existing applicants who have received one offer will receive one further offer
- Existing applicants who have received two offers will receive one further offer

**Housing  
Executive**



## FRA Project Implementation

### Impact ctd ....

- Deferred applicants who successfully appeal one of their three reasonable offers will receive one additional offer
- Manually deferred applicants and cancelled applications will be treated in the same way as existing applicants once the deferral is lifted.
- Cancelled applications which are subsequently reinstated will be treated in the same way as existing applicants.

**Housing**  
Executive



## FRA Project Implementation

### The Offer Process

- Changes to our Suite of 8 Offer letters have been updated to reflect reduction from 3 to 2 offers and that the new rule 58A (withdrawal of offers)
- Includes more robust guidance on the right of redress if the customer feels the offer is not suitable:
  - Owed the full housing duty – 40 days to lodge a request for a review with the NIHE Regional Review Officer
  - Not owed the full housing duty – 40 days to lodge a complaint with the Area Manager (HA equivalent)
- Deferral letters have been updated to include right of redress
- Information for customers on what constitutes a Reasonable Offer and the impact of refusing an offer
- Revised policies and procedures for staff on offer management process

**Housing**  
Executive





## FRA Project Implementation

### Proposal 16

Social landlords may withdraw an offer of accommodation in specified circumstances.

**71% support for this proposal**

#### Themes Raised

- The need for more clarity around what circumstances would allow for the withdrawal of an offer
- Need for transparent, clear guidance & a consistent approach
- Fairness is key & applicants should have a right of appeal

**Housing  
Executive**



## FRA Project Implementation

### Proposal 16 – New Rule 58: Withdrawal of Offers

- Rule 58A (1) Discretionary Grounds:
  - A condition set out in the Offer letter is not met or has been breached
  - Where the offer was made on the basis of a material error of fact or law by the Landlord
  - Offer no longer considered reasonable under the rules of the Scheme on the basis of information subsequently becoming available
  - Applicant no longer able to take up occupancy within a reasonable period of time
  - Where, unless the offer is withdrawn, there is likely to be a significant risk to the personal safety of the Applicant, a member of their household or a member of another household within the locality of the property

#### Rule 58A (2) Mandatory Grounds :

- No longer Eligible on the grounds of Unacceptable Behaviour
- No longer Eligible as a Person From Abroad or a Person Subject to Immigration Control

**Housing  
Executive**



## FRA Project Implementation

### Proposal 16 - Key Points

- Rule 58 should only be used in exceptional circumstances and following thorough investigation
- Once a customer has signed the tenancy agreement Rule 58 becomes null and void and can no longer be used
- NIHE Standing Orders Amended – decision by an Assistant Area Manager (Level 7)
- Existing Offer Letter amended and new Withdrawal Letter
- An applicant has 7 days to make a complaint about the withdrawal
- Following the withdrawal of an offer the property **must** be held for 7 days
- The Complaint will be expedited to second stage

**Housing**  
Executive



## FRA Project Implementation

### Communication

- ✓ Mail drop was issued to all households on the Waiting List
- ✓ Press release issued to public reps and key stakeholders
- ✓ Information update on Website and Social Media
- ✓ Awareness / Training sessions for frontline NIHE & Housing Association staff throughout January 2023
- ✓ Revised Customer leaflets and Forms
- ✓ Presentations to key Stakeholders: Central Housing Forum and Housing Community Networks, the Housing Council and Advocacy Groups
- ✓ Stakeholder Advisory Group established

**Housing**  
Executive



**FRA Project**  
Implementation

## Useful Links

- [Consultation Outcome Report](#) (DfC, Dec 2020)
- [Summary of Consultation Findings](#) (DfC, Dec 2020)
- [Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations – Consultation on Proposals](#) (DfC, Sep 2017)
- [Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations – Information Leaflet](#) (DfC, Sep 2017)
- Link to DfC [webpage](#) with all FRA documentation (incl. EQIA/RNIA)
- [Housing Selection Scheme Booklet](#) (NIHE, Jan 2023)
- [Housing Selection Scheme Rules](#) (NIHE, Jan 2023)
- [FRAProject@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:FRAProject@nihe.gov.uk)

**Housing**  
Executive



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

The Housing Centre  
 2 Adelaide Street  
 Belfast BT2 8PB

T: (028) 9598 2752  
 E: kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk  
 W: nihousingcouncil.org

92

## **MARCH HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN**

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom, the Housing Centre of via Conference Call.

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

### **Present**

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough

### **Apologies**

Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Victoria Moore	Ards & North Down Borough
Micky Murray	Belfast City
Michael Ruane	Newry & Mourne District

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

### **Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive**

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

- **Industrial Relations**
- **Review following Awaab Ishak inquest**
- **Supporting People Emerging Issue - Rossorry Grove**
- **Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA)**
- **Low Income Rates Relief Project – Civil Service Awards**
- **Contribution to the Development of the NI Climate Action Plan**
- **Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation**
- **Review of Disabled Facilities Grants**
- **Performance Update**
- **Budget 2023/24**

Members also received a Presentation by Co-Ownership on the over 55's scheme and received the Housing Executive's draft Final Report on Damp, Mould & Condensation.

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

Due to forthcoming local elections, there will be no meetings in April and May, therefore following Councils AGM's, and the nominations to the Housing Council, a suitable date will be arranged in June.

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

**Contacts**

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

Alison McCullagh  
Chief Executive



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

94

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 28 February 2023

Email: [democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com)

Ms Marie Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council  
Monaghan Row  
NEWRY  
BT35 8DL

Dear Chief Executive,

### Re: South West Acute Hospital

At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 15 February 2023, Members asked that I write to you with regard to the WHSCT Public Consultation on the South West Acute Hospital (SWAH) and ask that your Council respond to the consultation in a positive manner and argue for the retention of the full suite of services at the Hospital.

The Council trusts you will give this issue due consideration and looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive

Roger Wilson  
Chief Executive



Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon  
Borough Council

95

13 March 2023

Ms Marie Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Newry Office  
Monaghan Row  
NEWRY  
BT35 8DJ



Dear Marie

**NOTICE OF MOTION – ENERGY COMPANY PROFITS**

The Council at its meeting held on 27 February 2023 agreed the following Notice of Motion –

***“That this Council notes the obscene profits recently announced by energy companies such as BP who have announced profits for 2022 of £22bn. At a time when families are facing the worst cost of living crisis in living memory these profits and the resultant increasing dividends for wealthy investors are an affront.***

***That this Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt MP, requesting that he look as a matter of urgency at a meaningful windfall tax on the profits of energy companies so that the money can be diverted to help workers and families during the challenging times we all face.***

***Also, that this Council writes to the Chief Executives of the other Councils asking them to also write to the Chancellor in similar terms.”***

The Council would ask that your Council would send a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in similar terms.

Yours sincerely

Roger Wilson  
Chief Executive

Armagh Office  
The Palace Demesne  
Friary Road  
Armagh  
BT60 4EL

Banbridge Office  
Civic Building  
Downshire Road  
Banbridge  
BT32 3JY

Craigavon Office  
Craigavon Civic &  
Conference Centre  
Lakeview Road  
Craigavon  
BT64 1AL

☎ 0300 0300 900

✉ info@armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk  
🌐 armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

120 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5HT  
Phone 03457 643 643 [nienetworks.co.uk](http://nienetworks.co.uk)

Your ref: C/051/2023

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



9 March 2023

Dear Ms Ward

Thank you for your recent letter in relation to a Notice of Motion at a meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 6 February 2023. In response to the issues raised, I trust you find the following information helpful.

I can confirm that NIE Networks currently has a smart meter pilot in progress and we have installed approximately 1,000 smart meters across Northern Ireland. The objective of this project is to trial the technology and help quantify the benefits of smart meters in Northern Ireland for families and to test out better ways of operating the electricity network.

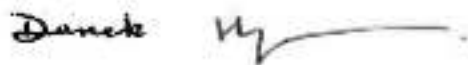
In relation to the 'Demand Flexibility Service' in GB, this is run by National Grid ESO and the Northern Ireland equivalent is SONI. We have piloted distribution network flexibility services, see: <https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/flexibility> and are now developing smarter, more flexible network solutions, to help reduce the need for traditional reinforcement and also reduce costs for everyone in Northern Ireland. This is reflected in our RP7 (Regulatory Period) plans.

Ultimately, the roll out of smart meters for all households in Northern Ireland, is a decision for the Department for the Economy (DfE) and will be subject to the necessary legislation. NIE Networks agrees that smart metering is an important tool that all people should have to allow more visibility and control of energy consumption and the associated costs. We are advocates for the need for smart metering in Northern Ireland, to advance energy system transformation including a just transition for all customers. We will continue to work with DfE, Utility Regulator, electricity suppliers and other relevant stakeholders in order to progress this.



In conclusion, thank you for your letter and I trust I have responded to the issues raised. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact Andrew Cupples, our Network Development Manager, at [andrew.cupples@nienetworks.co.uk](mailto:andrew.cupples@nienetworks.co.uk) or on mobile number 07824 534851, alternatively I am happy to take any queries if you feel that there are issues that need to be escalated.

Yours sincerely



**Derek Hynes**  
Managing Director, NIE Networks

- ① STaggat -- FYA
- ② mWed. -- FYI

**Chairman (Acting)**  
Jonathan Patton

**Chief Executive**  
Roisin Coulter

Via Email:

21 March 2023

Maria Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry Mourne & Downe District Council

Dear Ms Ward

**Re: Notice of Motion – Domiciliary Care**

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March 2023. Please see the response from the South Eastern Trust below the questions posed.

*At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 6 March 2023, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:*

***“This council recognises the importance of Domiciliary Care in ensuring people can be cared for in the comfort of the home environment. Will write to the South Eastern and Southern Health and Social Care Trust’s calling for them to review their current models for providing these services and to increase the percentage of Care Packages delivered by the Trust’s. Further calls for an urgent review into Domiciliary Care and how it is delivered across the North given the lack of capacity both in the Public and Private sectors.”***

*There was overwhelming support for the Motion with some Members relaying personal stories of family members having been dependent on domiciliary care and it was agreed to include to the following two questions in our letter to you:*

***1. What was being done to equalise the pay and conditions across the social care workforce, bearing in mind most of the domiciliary care was being delivered by the independent sector and***

The South Eastern H&SC Trust has applied regionally agreed uplifts to the hourly rate for contracted independent sector domiciliary care providers. The hourly rate paid has increased from £15.68 per hour in 2021/22 to £18.08 in 2022/23. The uplift in funding was agreed to support providers in improving the terms and conditions for their employees and with the expectation that this would lead to increased capacity in terms of the number of care packages delivered.

The Trust has forged positive and productive working relationships with the independent sector providers. There are monthly forums with independent sector providers to look at new ways of working and improving the domiciliary care service, but also to share learning and training opportunities for all care staff. Additionally, the Trust meets on an individual basis with independent sector providers to review existing contracts and to explore new opportunities for partnership working.

The Trust is also working closely with regional Health and Social Care colleagues to support wider policy development in relation to the provision of care, workforce development, capacity and funding.

**2. What plans were in place to recruit and retain social care workers into these important roles which helped provide care and support to many older people enabling them to live as independently as possible within their own homes.**

In South Eastern H&SC Trust the recruitment and retention of domiciliary care workers has had particular focus over the past two years. The Domiciliary Care Service Managers have worked alongside HR colleagues to develop a recruitment plan specifically for attracting staff for domiciliary care. This had involved:

- Regular recruitment campaigns for domiciliary care staff. The schedule below details the recruitment schedule for March. This is replicated each month so that the service has enough new staff available to fill vacancies.

DCW Band 3 Planned Recruitment	Location	Number Scheduled
4th March	NDA	35
11th March	Lisburn	18
11th March	Downpatrick	23
	Subtotal	76

- Specific support is available for prospective candidates during the recruitment process, from the application stage through to the interview. Domiciliary Care Managers and HR have worked with candidates to eliminate any obstacles/challenges that may prevent someone attending for interview.
- Retention of staff – HR Clinics have been set up which provide staff with the opportunity to discuss and work through any issues they may have so that the managers can support staff members to remain working in the service.
- The introduction of digitalisation for domiciliary care workers. The digital solution has replaced manual processes, improved communication and improved working conditions for care staff as they are now more connected to the Trust. For the first time, domiciliary care workers have a Trust email account, can access the Trust intranet, e-learning and electronic systems. Feedback care staff has been that they feel valued and now feel part of the Trust.
- The Trust has undertaken an eco-mapping exercise whereby all relevant stakeholders were invited to attend workshops to share their view about domiciliary care as it is now, and to provide their views and suggestions about how domiciliary care should look moving into the future. This extensive work will inform the development of a domiciliary care model for the South Eastern H&SC Trust which is fit for purpose to meet the increasing demands for care in the community.
- As of February 2023 the Trust is providing 5255 service users with care packages.

Yours sincerely



**ROISIN COULTER**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Cc:** Nicki Patterson  
Helen Moore

### **1. Name**

The name of the Association shall be The National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region herein referred to as the Association.

*Mission Statement: -*

*The Association strives for the better governance of local communities within Northern Ireland by seeking to ensure that those who are elected to serve to the office of councillor are equipped, to the greatest possible extent, to discharge the many and varied responsibilities falling upon them.*

### **2. Aims and Objectives**

- To promote & represent civic leadership.
- To extend and strengthen the links between all Local Authorities, and to enhance friendship and co-operation.
- To address and understand matters of common and mutual interest.
- To facilitate the coming together of members on a regular basis.
- To promote equality of opportunity, combat discrimination and embrace diversity in both the work of the Association and its membership.
- To provide a forum for members to research, discuss and progress issues and a means whereby joint views may be formulated and expressed.
- To identify training needs of members, and solutions.
- To provide information on the Association to members, to ensure that they are afforded the opportunity to contribute to the Association's activities and to the development of policies.
- To promote the policies of the Association by providing information to local authorities, bodies representing local government, the public, the media, and outside organisations.
- To promote the status of members and to ensure adequate remuneration, pension rights and working conditions.
- To advocate measures which will remove barriers to serve as a councillor and encourage a diversity of candidates standing for election.
- To actively take part in consultations with the NI Assembly, when required.
- To maintain and develop the Association on a structured basis.
- To appoint elected representatives and officers, as appropriate.
- To develop relations with other organisations and bodies, as appropriate.

### **3. Membership**

Membership shall be open to all councils in Northern Ireland as corporate members. Each council shall appoint 8 delegates to attend NAC Member's Meetings. All delegates shall have voting rights.

#### **4. Executive Committee**

An Executive Committee shall be elected, in accordance with item 16, at the AGM and drawn from members who have been appointed by their council.

The Executive Committee shall conduct the ordinary business of the Association and meet on the first Monday of each month, unless agreed to postpone to a later date for a specific reason.

All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be summoned by not less than 4 days' notice in writing, or by email, specifying the business to be conducted there-at, save that, in the case of business which the chair of the meeting deems to be of urgent nature, any such business may be included on the agenda at any time prior to the commencement of the meeting.

A quorum of 2 Executive Committee members may summon an emergency meeting with 24 hours prior notice, this would be coordinated by the secretary who will contact each member of the Executive Committee with the meeting details, either orally or electronically. The quorum for an emergency meeting will be 5 Executive Committee members, preferably cross-party.

##### **Chair**

A Chair shall be elected at the AGM of the Association, in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5 and serve for 2 years. Should the position fall vacant, a replacement shall be made by the party which held the position. Should the chair no longer be a member of the party holding the position, allocated in accordance with the rotation formula at item 5, the position shall automatically be declared vacant, and a replacement shall be made by the party.

##### **Senior Vice Chair and Junior Vice Chair**

A Senior and a Junior Vice Chair shall be elected at the AGM of the Association, in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5 and serve for 2 years. Should either position fall vacant, a replacement shall be made by the party which held the position. Should either no longer be a member of the party holding the position the position shall automatically be declared vacant and a replacement shall be made by the party.

##### **Secretary**

A Secretary shall be elected every 2 years at the AGM of the Association. If the position falls vacant during the year, a replacement shall be made by the Executive Committee. The secretary of the Association will be the designated accounting officer, and the line manager for staff.

##### **Treasurer**

A Treasurer shall be elected every 2 years at the AGM of the Association. If the position falls vacant during the year, a replacement shall be made by the Executive Committee.

**Women's Representative**

A Women's Representative shall be elected every year at the AGM of the Association, in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5 and serve for 1 year. Should the position fall vacant, a replacement shall be made by the party which held the position. Should the Women's Representative no longer be a member of the party holding the position the position shall automatically be declared vacant and a replacement shall be made by the party. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.

**Other Executive Committee Members**

- All parties represented in a NI council may appoint one other member to the Executive Committee at each AGM, provided the party has a member nominated by a council as a delegate. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- If a position falls vacant during the year, a replacement shall be from the party holding that position. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- If an Executive Committee member leaves the party they represent, the position shall be declared vacant, and a replacement shall be made from the party's members. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- Any individual elected as an Independent, and nominated by a council, may be appointed to the Executive Committee. If no nominations are made the position will remain vacant.
- If more than one Independent is nominated by council(s) they shall agree the one appointment to the Executive Committee.
- A member no longer in a party, after an election, shall not be regarded as an Independent for the Independent Executive Committee position.

**5. Party Rotation for election of Officers and Women's Representative**

The positions of Chair, Senior Vice Chair, Junior Vice Chair, Women's Representative, UK Executive Member nominee and appointments to other bodies shall follow the rotation.

DUP – SDLP – APNI – SF – UUP

The rotation cycle shall continue from one council term to the next and altered with any additional political party representation to the Executive Committee.

**6. Co-option Policy**

The Executive Committee may co-opt an elected member(s) with specific skills/knowledge to assist the NAC - there will be no voting, proposing or seconding rights.

**7. Honoraria**

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be paid an honorarium monthly in arrears, amounts to be determined by the Executive Committee at the first meeting following an AGM.

## **8. NAC UK Executive Committee**

Executive Committee members are eligible for election to the NAC UK Executive following nomination by the Executive Committee. Nominations shall be made in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5.

## **9. Appointment to Other Bodies**

Nominations shall be made in accordance with the party rotation formula at item 5.

## **10. Finances**

The financial affairs of the Association shall be conducted under the financial regulations agreed by the Executive Committee and approved by full membership.

## **11. Subscriptions**

The Association shall decide the rate of subscriptions at the AGM each year. Subscriptions shall be due before the 1 September each year.

## **12. Financial Year**

The financial year of the Association shall end on 31 July each year.

## **13. Audit**

The accounts of the Association shall be subject to an independent examination at the end of the financial year.

## **14. Notice of Meetings**

A notice of an Annual General, an Extra-ordinary General Meeting or a Special Meeting shall be issued giving 7 days' notice. Meetings may be held by way of a virtual meeting due to a time of national emergency, such as a pandemic, or other event, which involves the application of social distancing.

## **15. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be open to all members of the Association and shall be held each year in the month of October, at such place and at such time as may be determined by the Executive Committee. If, due to a time of national emergency, such as a pandemic or other event, the Executive Committee may vary the month to hold the AGM.

## **16. Procedure at the AGM**

- To receive the Minutes of the previous AGM.
- To receive a Report from the Secretary on activities of the Association during the preceding year.

- To receive a Balance Sheet and Audited Statement of Accounts for the preceding financial year.
- Bi-Annually elect a Chairman, a Senior Vice Chair, and a Junior Vice Chair.
- Bi-annually elect a Secretary.
- Bi-annually elect a Treasurer.
- Every year to elect other members of the Executive Committee in accordance with item 5.
- To deal with resolutions, showing the name of the Mover and Seconder and having been notified in writing to the Secretary 28 days prior to the AGM.
- No other resolution, other than Motions of Procedure shall be permitted.
- Voting at an Annual General, an Extra-ordinary General Meeting or a Special Meeting shall be restricted to the delegates nominated by their council.

#### **17. Extra-ordinary General Meeting**

An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee upon a written request from 5 Members and shall be held with 21 days from receipt of the request.

#### **18. Special General Meetings**

The Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting if required to do so.

#### **19. Quorum**

The Quorum of an Annual General Meetings, an Extra-ordinary Meeting and a Special Meeting shall be 15 Members. Where a quorum has not been reached before 15 minutes of the scheduled start time the meeting shall not be held, and a further meeting shall be called within 21 days.

#### **20. Termination of Membership**

Membership of the Association shall cease where a council's subscription is 6 months overdue.

#### **21. Dissolution**

If at a meeting of the full membership, called for this purpose, a motion for the dissolution of the Association shall be passed by at least two thirds of Members, where at least 7 councils are represented at the meeting, the NAC Executive, and up to 2 appointed Senior Officers from 2 councils shall realise the assets and pay the liabilities of the Association as a Dissolution Group. The Group shall make arrangements whereby they shall distribute or discharge the Association's net assets or liabilities. Any remaining property or money shall be distributed in equal share to the 11 councils. Any outstanding balance shall be met by the 11 councils and administered by the Group.

#### **22. Amendments to the Constitution**

This Constitution may be amended at any time by the Association on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, if the recommendation is passed by at least two-thirds of the representatives present and voting at the quorate meeting of the Association.





Department for  
**Communities**  
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn  
**Pobal**

Department for  
**Commonities**

105

To: **Council Chief Executives**

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

Telephone: (028) 90582 3346  
e-mail: [anthonycarleton@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:anthonycarleton@communities-ni.gov.uk)  
Our ref:  
Date: 24 March 2023

Dear Chief Executive

### **Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings**

Further to my letters of 25 March and 26 September 2022.

Section 78 (local authority meetings) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 contained provision to provide councils with the flexibility to hold meetings by remote or hybrid means during the Coronavirus emergency. This included an enabling power for the Department to make subordinate legislation regarding remote/hybrid meetings and the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 were subsequently made and came into operation on 1 May 2020.

The expiry date of section 78 (Local Authority Meetings) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 was previously extended to 24 March 2023, thus allowing councils to continue to hold remote/hybrid meetings under the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020.

This was intended as an interim measure until such time as proposals for more permanent legislation, to be made under section 2 of the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021, could be considered by a Communities Minister. In the absence of the Assembly, it is not possible to make regulations under the 2021 Act.

A further extension order has therefore been made to extend section 78 of the Coronavirus Act for a further 6 months, until **24 September 2023**. [The Coronavirus](#)



Department for  
**Communities**  
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn  
**Pobal**

Department for  
**Commonities**

106

[Act 2020 \(Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings\) \(No2\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2023](#) was made on 23 March. As previously highlighted in my earlier letter of September 2022, an Order to extend section 78 of the Coronavirus Act is subject to the confirmatory procedure in the Assembly and, whilst it comes into operation once made, it will cease to have effect 40 days from the date of making unless it has been approved by resolution of the Assembly (the 40 day period does not include any time in which the Assembly is dissolved, in recess for more than 4 days or adjourned for more than 6 days). The Department will monitor the situation and keep councils informed.

Yours sincerely

**Anthony Carleton**  
**Director**  
**Local Government & Housing Regulation**