



February 3rd, 2020

Notice Of Meeting







You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 3rd February 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks




2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 To set a District Rate for the Financial Year 20/21 as required under section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011.

 <i>Item 3 - Council Report re District Rate 2020-21-final.pdf</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
 <i>Appendix 1 - Four Year Plan to Council 2020-24 2901.pdf</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
 <i>Appendix 2 - Capital-Strategy-Report-2020-21 - NMDDC.pdf</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
 <i>Appendix 3 - Copy of CAPTIAL PROGRAMME 2020-2024 31.1.20 FOR RATES Mtg Appx 3.pdf</i>	<i>Page 11</i>
 <i>Appendix 4 -Treasury-Management-Strategy-2020-21-NMDDC.pdf</i>	<i>Page 18</i>
 <i>Appendix 5 - MRP-Statement-2020-21- NMDDC.pdf</i>	<i>Page 32</i>

FOR NOTING Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

3.1 Action Sheets of Efficiency Working Group Meetings

 <i>Action Sheet EWG-12112019 (002).pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Action Sheet EWG-1712019.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 <i>Action Sheet EWG-17012020.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

4.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 January 2020

 <i>Action Sheet from Council Mtg 06.01.2020 (002).pdf</i>	<i>Page 33</i>
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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

5.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 January 2020

 <i>Council Minutes-06.01.2020.pdf</i>	<i>Page 37</i>
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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 January 2020

 *Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee Minutes 13 01 2020.pdf*

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2020

 *Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Minutes 16 01 2020.pdf*

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 January 2020

 *Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 20 01 2020.pdf*

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 January 2020

 *Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes 22 01 2020.pdf*

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10.0 Extract from Draft Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 January 2020

There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 January 2020.

11.0 Minutes of Audit Committee held on 9 January 2020

 *Minutes Audit Committee 9 January 2020.pdf*

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Conferences/Events

12.0 NILGA Conference, Exhibition & Gala Awards Dinner 20 February 2020

NILGA Conference, Exhibition & Gala Awards Dinner 20 February 2020

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast

- **Day Delegate, Conference Only - £99 (+Vat) (Per Person)**
- **Day Delegate Including Awards Dinner - £145 (+Vat) (Per Person)**
- **Local Government Awards Dinner Only £60 (+Vat)**

Table 1 – Best Local Authority Service Team – Waste & Recycling Team (8 Places)

1. Chairperson Charlie Casey – Free Place

2. Cllr Kathryn Owen – Chair NS Committee – Free Place
3. Cllr Gary Stokes – Deputy Chair NS Committee – Free Place – **Attendance TBC**
4. Roland Moore, Director NS – Discounted place £50.00
5. Name required – Discounted place £50.00
6. Name required – Full Price
7. Name required – Full Price
8. Name required – Full Price

Table 2 – Best Enterprise Initiative by a Council – Social Enterprise Programme SENMD Initiative (8 Places)

1. Cllr Roisin Mulgrew – Chair ERT Committee – Free Place
2. Cllr Dermot Curran – Deputy Chair – ERT Committee – Free Place
3. Conor Mallon, Director ERT – Free Place for attendance at Conference & Awards
4. Amanda Smyth HOS ERT – Free Place for attendance at Conference & Awards
5. Stephen McClelland - Enterprise Agency Rep – Discounted place £50.00
6. Carol Magee - Enterprise Agency Rep – Discounted place £50.00
7. Elaine McAlinden – Full Price £60.00
8. Martin Patterson – Full Price £60.00

13.0 N.I. Local Government Partnership Conference - 14 May 2020

Correspondence

14.0 Correspondence dated 2 January 2020 from Ards and North Down Borough Council re: Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer re: C/182/2019

15.0 Correspondence dated 9 January 2020 from Department of Health re: NIFRS Budget C/209/2019

Correspondence dated 9 January from R Pengelly re Motion C.209.2019 NIFRS.pdf

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16.0 Correspondence dated 10 January from Fermanagh & Omagh DC re Motion C/209/2019 NIFRS

Correspondence dated 10.01.2020 from Fermanagh & Omagh DC re Motion C.209.2019 NIFRS.pdf

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17.0 Correspondence dated 23 January 2020 received from NILGA regarding NILGA Strategic Consultations

Newry Mourne and Down (002).pdf

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18.0 Correspondence dated 26 January 2020 received from Mid Ulster District Council

AR-M700U_20200131_170935.pdf

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Notices of Motion

19.0 Notice of Motion - Ballynahinch By-Pass

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Walker:

"This Council writes to the newly installed Minister for Infrastructure requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the next step of the Ballynahinch By-Pass and further underlines the fact that this By-Pass is vital to the survival of Ballynahinch town and also to the commuting community in this part of the District. We believe that this project is shovel ready and needs urgent Ministerial direction and approval".

20.0 Notice of Motion - Domestic Abuse Incidents

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Howell:

"That this Council recognises 2019 saw the North of Ireland experience the highest number of domestic abuse incidents since records began and agrees to work collaboratively with the statutory agencies and health trusts to ensure support and protection of individuals and families experiencing domestic violence be a priority in all Council facilities".

21.0 Notice of Motion - A1 Junctions

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Tinnelly:

"This Council make a formal written submission to the upcoming A1 Junctions Phase 2 Public Inquiry, which is to begin in March 2020.

The submission will reflect the full support of this council for an urgent upgrade of this road as per the DFI proposals , a stretch of road that has brought so much devastation to the families of many local people who have lost their lives while travelling on it over the years. Council will also write to the other local authorities through which the A1 travels, namely Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council urging them to support our motion and requesting that they too make their own submissions to the inquiry."

22.0 Notice of Motion - Fireworks

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Brown:

"In the interests of animal welfare, this Council will cease to use, purchase or fund fireworks and fireworks displays for events in the district. It recognises the unnecessary distress that fireworks can cause for animals and will investigate alternative ways of celebrating events such as silent fireworks or lighting/laser displays".

23.0 Notice of Motion - Climate Change

Notice of Motion from Councillor Enright

"This Council recognises that in view of its recent "Climate Change Emergency" motion, a range of actions need to be adopted across all departments in Council. To ensure a speedy departure from the current status quo towards real climate change action, this Council adopts the concrete actions found in the British and Irish Nuclear Free Local Authorities 10-point guide and instructs management to build and implement a Climate Change Emergency Plan founded on this detailed framework."

24.0 Notice of Motion - Bridge at Narrow Water, Warrenpoint

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McAteer:

"That this Council affirms it's unequivocal support for a bridge at Narrow Water, Warrenpoint as described in the Article 31 application P/2012/0121/F, and subsequently approved by former Minister Alex Attwood in October 2012".

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr charlie casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Mr Kieran Gordon

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Terry Hearty

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Aoife McCreesh

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly
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Cllr Harold McKee
.....
Patricia McKeever
.....
Cllr Karen McKevitt
.....
Cllr Andrew McMurray
.....
Catrina Miskelly
.....
Mr Ken Montgomery
.....
Mr Roland Moore
.....
Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
.....
Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
.....
Linda O'Hare
.....
Cllr Gerry O'Hare
.....
Cllr Kathryn Owen
.....
Mr Andy Patterson
.....
Cllr Henry Reilly
.....
Ms Alison Robb
.....
Cllr Michael Ruane
.....
Cllr Michael Savage
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Mr Kevin Scullion
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
.....
Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
.....
Paul Tamati
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr John Trainor
.....
Central Support Unit
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	3rd February 2020
Subject:	District Rate 2020-21
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Marie Ward, Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ken Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	x	For noting only
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Members are asked to approve the recommendations at 3.1 below.

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires that a Council shall fix, for the next financial, the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates made by the Council.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Chief Executive's submission to Council on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and robustness of the revenue estimates.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Chief Executive, as Chief Financial Officer is required to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves position as part of the rate setting process.</p> <p>Detailed estimates have been formulated, presented and scrutinised by members via the Efficiency Working Group meetings. These have taken into account past outturn, current spending plans and likely future demand and pressures.</p> <p>Significant uncertainties highlighted by the Chief Executive</p> <p>However, it should be highlighted that there are a number of significant uncertainties within the current estimates which have arisen due to uncertainties surrounding Brexit, NI Executive financial uncertainties, including a potential significant reduction of Rates Support Grant.</p> <p>NI Executive level uncertainties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recently re-established NI Executive is currently determining a budget for NI. In the absence of an agreed and legislated budget, there are some significant uncertainties which remain at the time of striking the district rate.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included within our 2020-21 estimates are various areas of funding received from central government. We have included amounts on the basis of our previous arrangements with central government. However, it is important to note that until such times as a budget is agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive these funding streams are uncertain. <p>Uncertainties surrounding Brexit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various uncertainties remain as to the impact of Brexit on the NI Economy and NMDDC rate base and funding streams, and no provision has been made in the estimates for any financial implications arising. Furthermore, included within our 2020-21 estimates are various areas of funding received from the European Union under programmes which we have been advised will continue during the 2020-21 year. <p>Rates Support Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present there has been no agreed budget by the NI Executive. The absence of an agreed budget has the potential to impact on the ability of the Department for Communities (DfC) to issue rates support grant to Councils. Whilst the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 27 states that "the Department shall for each financial year make a grant under this section to Councils" Councils have yet to be advised of the total amount of Rates Support Grant being made available by the DfC for 2020-21. <p>As a result, I am satisfied that the estimates presented, subject to the significant uncertainties noted above, should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2020-21 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to the Council have been made in the preparation of the estimates.</p> <p>The minimum prudent level of reserves that the Council should maintain is a matter of judgement. CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) guidance does not set a statutory minimum level but advised Councils to have reserves appropriate to meet your medium term financial commitments. Therefore, it is up to the Council itself, taking into account all the relevant local circumstances, to make a professional judgement on what the appropriate level of reserves and balances should be. The Council's general fund balance is forecast to be in the region of £11m at 1 April 2020 representing 18% of its gross expenditure. I am therefore content that the current reserves held by the Council are adequate.</p>
2.2	<p>Key factors contributing to proposed rate increase in 2020-21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2% pay increase for Local Government employees has been negotiated and agreed with the trade unions at a Northern Ireland level. This has been included in budgets for the 2020-21 year. • The increased costs of waste and recycling contracts across the district has also been included in the budgets for 2020-21. • In Autumn 2018, a successful Judicial Review challenge to the Rates Support Grant allocation resulted in a significant reduction to the calculated proportion of RSG to be paid to NMDDC. DfC have advised that NMDDC will receive a

	<p>considerable reduction to its RSG allocation in the 2020-21 year. This has the potential to impact the rate by approximately 1.5% and this reduction has been factored into the proposed rate increase for 2020-21, albeit on the assumption that the total amount of RSG to Councils is similar to previous years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revaluation of non-domestic rateable values was undertaken by Land and Property Services during 2019 "Reval 2020", the impact of which has been included in NMDDC's medium term financial plan.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are asked to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Efficiencies Working Group in relation to the 2020/21 rate setting process (see Appendix 6) and, having regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (see 2.1 above):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2020/21 of 2.85% based on an estimated penny product of 2,510,599 meaning a non-domestic rate of 23.6209 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4004 pence; 2. Approve the Medium Term Financial plan and authorise the 2020-21 expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 1); 3. Approve the Capital Strategy Report for 2020/21 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 2); 4. Approve the capital programme (see Appendix 3); 5. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020-21 (see Appendix 4); 6. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2020-21 (see Appendix 5).
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Resource implications are as detailed in the appendices.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	No equality or good relations implications have been identified.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	Due regard to rural needs has been considered in making the recommendation.
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1: Medium Term Financial Plan Appendix 2: Capital Strategy Report 2020-21 Appendix 3: Four Year Capital Programme Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020-21 Appendix 5: Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2020-21</p>
8.0	Background documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 6: Action Sheets of meetings of Efficiency Working Group to consider rate setting process 2020-21 [Restricted item]. • Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council			Appendix 1							
Four Year Plan										
			Estimate	Draft No Reval	Draft with Reval					
			2019/2020	2020/2021	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024		
			£	£	£	£	£			
Net Spend per figs as listed										
	Expenses excl Payroll & Loans		15,661,577	16,714,365	16,714,365	17,048,652	17,560,112	17,911,314		
	Payroll		36,197,008	36,748,913	36,748,913	37,851,380	38,986,922	40,156,529		
	MRP		4,911,444	4,877,444	4,877,444	6,119,000	7,117,000	7,451,000		
	Loan Interest		2,410,000	2,485,000	2,485,000	2,485,000	2,920,000	3,195,000		
	Loans - Severance		522,252	100,000	100,000	100,000				
	Total Net Spend		59,702,281	60,925,722	60,925,722	63,604,033	66,584,034	68,713,844		
	Rate Support Grant		(2,267,748)	(1,523,091)	(1,523,091)	(1,523,091)	(1,523,091)	(1,523,091)		
	From Reserves		(522,252)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)				
	Net to be raised		56,912,281	59,302,631	59,302,631	61,980,942	65,060,943	67,190,753		
	Est'd product of 1 penny		2,347,835	2,378,562	2,510,599	2,535,705	2,561,062	2,586,673		
	Non Domestic District Rate (pence)		24.2403	24.9321	23.6209	24.4433	25.4039	25.9757		
	%		1.99%	2.85%	-2.56%	3.48%	3.93%	2.25%		
	Conversion factor for Domestic Rates		0.016059	0.016059	0.016949	0.016949	0.016949	0.016949		
	Domestic Rate (pence)		0.3893	0.4004	0.4004	0.4143	0.4306	0.4403		
	%		1.99%	2.85%	2.85%	3.48%	3.93%	2.25%		

Appendix 2

Capital Strategy Report 2020/21

Introduction

This capital strategy report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It has been written in an accessible style to enhance members' understanding of these sometimes technical areas.

Decisions made this year on capital and treasury management will have financial consequences for the Authority for many years into the future. They are therefore subject to both a national regulatory framework and to local policy framework, summarised in this report.

Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is where the Authority spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets. The Authority has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £5k are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

In 2020/21, the Authority is planning capital expenditure of £26m summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ millions

	2018/19 actual	2019/20 forecast	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget	2022/23 budget
General Fund services	19.0	16.0	26.0	23.0	9.0

The main General Fund capital projects include Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme £13.5m and Public Conveniences £0.4m.

Governance: Service managers prepare business cases on projects annually in September/October which are included to in the Authority's capital programme. Bids are collated by the Corporate Finance Department who calculate the financing cost (which can be nil if the project is fully externally financed). The Council's Efficiency Working Group appraises all projects based on a comparison of service priorities against financing costs and makes recommendations to Council. The final capital programme is then agreed by full Council at a special meeting to ratify the Council's Four Year Plan in early February each year.

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Authority's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing in £ millions

	2018/19 actual	2019/20 forecast	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget	2022/23 budget
External sources	2.7	1.0	1.0	8.0	4.0
Own resources	5.3	-	13.0	-	-10.0
Debt	11.0	15.0	12.0	15.0	15.0
TOTAL	19.0	16.0	26.0	23.0	9.0

Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as Minimum Revenue Provision. Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned MRP and use of capital receipts are as follows:

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance in £ millions

	2018/19 actual	2019/20 forecast	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget	2022/23 budget
Own resources	6.0	4.9	4.9	6.1	7.1

The Authority's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and Capital Receipts used to replace debt. The CFR is expected to increase by £19.8m during 2020/21. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Authority's estimated CFR is as follows:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2019 actual	31.3.2020 forecast	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget	31.3.2023 budget
TOTAL CFR	89.7	99.7	119.5	124.4	122.3

Asset management: To ensure that capital assets continue to be of long-term use, the Authority has an asset management strategy in place.

Asset disposals: When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts. The Authority plans to receive £0.3m of capital receipts in the coming financial year as follows:

Table 5: Capital receipts receivable in £ millions

	2018/19 actual	2019/20 forecast	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget	2022/23 budget
Asset sales	0.1	0.1	0.3	-	-

Treasury Management

Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Authority's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Authority is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

Due to decisions taken in the past, the Authority currently has £77.3m borrowing at an average interest rate of 3.7% and £3.5m treasury investments at an average rate of 0.7%.

Borrowing strategy: The Authority's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Authority therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheap short-term loans (currently available at around 0.75%) and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher (currently 2.0 to 3.0%).

Projected levels of the Authority's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities, leases are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

Table 6: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2019 actual	31.3.2020 forecast	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget	31.3.2023 budget
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	69.8	79.9	86.6	96.1	105.2
Capital Financing Requirement	89.7	99.7	119.5	124.4	122.3

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from table 6, the Authority expects to comply with this in the medium term.

Liability benchmark: To compare the Authority's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £1m at each year-end. This benchmark is currently £56.4m and is forecast to rise to £89m over the next four years.

Table 7: Borrowing and the Liability Benchmark in £ millions

	31.3.2019 actual	31.3.2020 forecast	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget	31.3.2023 budget
Outstanding borrowing	69.8	79.9	86.6	96.1	105.2
Liability benchmark	56.4	66.4	86.2	91.1	89.0

Affordable borrowing limit: The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 8: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2019/20 limit	2020/21 limit	2021/22 limit	2022/23 limit
Authorised limit - borrowing	107.7	128.0	133.4	131.8
Operational boundary - borrowing	99.7	119.5	124.4	122.3

- Further details on borrowing are contained in the treasury management strategy.

Treasury investment strategy: Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

The Authority's policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield, that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Authority may request its money back at short notice.

Table 9: Treasury management investments in £millions

	31.3.2019 actual	31.3.2020 forecast	31.3.2021 budget	31.3.2022 budget	31.3.2023 budget
Near-term investments	0.01	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0

- Further details on treasury investments are contained in the treasury management strategy.

Risk management: The effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities. The treasury management strategy therefore sets out various indicators and limits to constrain the risk of unexpected losses and details the extent to which financial derivatives may be used to manage treasury risks.

Governance: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Director of Corporate Services and finance staff, who must act in line with the treasury management strategy approved by council. Bi-annual reports on treasury management activity are presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Investments for Service Purposes

Revenue Budget Implications

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from rates and general government grants.

Table 10: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2018/19 actual	2019/20 forecast	2020/21 budget	2021/22 budget	2022/23 budget
Financing costs (£m)	8.2	7.1	7.4	9.0	10.3
Proportion of net revenue stream	14.1%	11.7%	11.6%	13.6%	14.9%

Sustainability: Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for up to 40 years into the future. The Director of Corporate Services is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable.

Knowledge and Skills

The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions.

Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Authority currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly, and ensures that the Authority has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.

APPENDIX 3

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Capital Programme 2020-24

Code Project	Description Description	Directorate Directorate	Officer AD	Project Group TYPE	Projected 2019/20	Budget 2020/2021	Budget 2021/2022	Budget 2022/2023	Budget 2023/2024	Budget Total	Income Grant	Net Budget
9010	Saintfield Community Hall - Construction (inc Fees)	AHC	JH	Community	1,820,000					1,820,000		1,070,000
9039	Ballykinler Community Centre	AHC	JH	Community	70,000					70,000		
9168	Kittys Road Community Centre-Kilkeel	AHC	JH	Community	350,000	70,000				420,000		
9169	Renewable Energy Projects	AHC	JH	Community	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	300,000		
9170	Community Centre Enhancements	AHC	JH	Community	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	250,000		
9172	Sports Financial Assistance	AHC	JH	Community	260,000					260,000		
9210	Community Engagement Capital Build - Financial Assistance	AHC	JH	Community	56,000	325,000	550,000			931,000		
9293	16 The Square Rostrevor Refurbishment	AHC	JH	Community		100,000				100,000		
9925	3G Pitch at Kilcooly Bangor - REFCUS (SIF)	AHC	JH	Community	410,250	260,250		27,000		697,500	-547,500	150,000
9928	RDP - Match Funding	AHC	JH	Community	40,000	150,000	150,000	150,000		490,000		
	Various Capital Schemes	AHC	JH	Community		70,000	80,000	80,000		230,000		
	Wi-Fi Community Centres	AHC	JH	Community								
	Warrenpoint Community Centre	AHC	JH	Community		50,000				50,000		
	Derrybegs Path Way BMX Trail Funding (J.H. re ahc mtg 9.8.19)	AHC	JH	Community		50,000				50,000	-50,000	0
	Camlough Community Centre	AHC	JH	Community		50,000				50,000		
9290	Meadowlands Play Park	AHC	JH		220,000					220,000	-220,000	0
			JH Total		3,376,250	1,225,250	880,000	357,000	100,000	5,938,500		
9155?	Newry - Albert Basin Park (Consultancy 2nd Access)	AHC	ML		70,000	60,000				130,000		
			ML Total		70,000	60,000				130,000		
9931	KiltyBann Toilet Block	AHC	PT	Amenity	20,000					20,000		
	Meigh Amenity Site	AHC	PT	Amenity	20,000					20,000		
	Clanyre Park Amenity Site											
	New Paths	AHC	PT	Amenity		25,000				25,000		
	Derrybegs Path Way Trail Funding	AHC	PT	Amenity		50,000				50,000	0	50,000
9175	Newcastle Bowling Pavillion	AHC	PT	Bowling Greens	333,686					333,686		
	Donard Pk -Ca park Ext. TBC	AHC	PT	Car parks			250,000			250,000		

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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Capital Programme 2020-24

Code Project	Description	Directorate	Officer	Project Group	Projected 2019/20	Budget 2020/2021	Budget 2021/2022	Budget 2022/2023	Budget 2023/2024	Budget Total	Income Grant	Net Budget
9009	Down Leisure Centre	AHC	PT	Leisure Centre		1,000,000				1,000,000		
9214	Kilkeel Leisure Centre - upgrade & extension	AHC	PT	Leisure Centre	205,000	250,000				455,000		
9234	Newcastle Centre - Feasibility Study	AHC	PT	Leisure Centre		50,000	50,000			100,000		
9249	Down Leisure Centre - FFE	AHC	PT	Leisure Centre	2,713					2,713		
	Newry Leis Facility - Ph 3 - External Works	AHC	PT	Leisure Centre	0	0				0		0
9306	Instal new play park signage	AHC	PT	Playgrounds			40,000	40,000	40,000	120,000		
9043	Downpatrick Football Club (S.I.F.) REFCUS	AHC	PT	Playing Fields						0		
9110	Play Strategy	AHC	PT	Playing Fields	416,200	650,000	500,000			1,566,200	-150,000	1,416,200
9178	Dunleath Park Football Pitch	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		100,000				100,000		
9257	Derryleckagh Complex Football Pitch	AHC	PT	Playing Fields	52,350					52,350		
9282	Derryleckagh Soccer Pavillion	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		250,000				250,000		
9286	Kilmore Playing Fields - Extend Car Park	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		80,000				80,000		
9288	Kilkeel Bowling Pavillion	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		180,000				180,000		
9786	Play Areas - Various - replace Equipment	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		30,000	35,000	25,000	25,000	115,000		
9156??	Annalong Bowling Pavillion	AHC	PT	Playing Fields			30,000			30,000		
9181(not 9160)	Bann Road Car Parking - Additional spaces and Pavillion	AHC	PT	Playing Fields	250,000					250,000		
	Dundrum Playing Field - Car Parking and Pavillion	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		115,000				115,000		
	Jennings Park	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		150,000				150,000		0
	Milburn Football Club	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		50,000				50,000		150,000
	Kilbroney Park Gaelic and Soccer Pitches	AHC	PT	Playing Fields	50,000					50,000		
	Milltown Sports Pavillion	AHC	PT	Playing Fields		250,000				250,000		
9287	Community Walking Trails	AHC	PT	Sports		895,755				895,755	-606,000	289,755
	Kilbroney Pitches	AHC	PT	Sports		10,000				10,000		
	Islands Park N'Castle	AHC	PT	Sports		10,000				10,000		
9186	Tennis Bubble Newry	AHC	PT	Tennis Courts		248,896				248,896	-123,896	125,000
9291	Newry Tennis Courts	AHC	PT	Tennis Courts	45,000					45,000		
9251	Newcastle Centre - Wi Fi Indoor Leisure	AHC	PT	Tourism		115,000				115,000		
	PT Total				1,394,949	4,509,651	905,000	65,000	65,000	6,939,600		

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Code Project	Description Description	Directorate Directorat	Officer AD	Project Group TYPE	Projected 2019/20	Budget 2020/2021	Budget 2021/2022	Budget 2022/2023	Budget 2023/2024	Budget Total	Income Grant	Net Budget
9045	Down Museum - High Cross Ext'n	COM	CP	Complete	0					0		
9113	Newry Threeways - Ballstop Fence	COM	CP	Complete	0					0		
9190	Warrenpoint Clonallon Park	COM	CP	Complete	0					0		
9214	Kilkeel Leisure Centre - upgrade & extension	COM	CP	Complete	0					0		
9285	Bessbrook Bowling Green	COM	CP	Complete	140,000					140,000		
9511	Ringmcelroy Play Area - Warrenpoint	COM	CP	Complete	0					0		
9196&9197	Sports Facility Stgy - Financial Assistance	COM	CP	Complete	30,850	225,000				255,850		
See 9237 ?	Down County Museum - Upgrade	COM	CP	Complete	0					0		
	Slieve Gullion - Toilet Carpark Sewerage upgrade	COM	CP	Complete	831,490					831,490		
			CP Total		1,002,340	225,000				1,227,340		
9210	Community Engagement Capital Build - Financial Assistance(REFCUS)	COM	JH		550,000					550,000		
			JH Total		550,000					550,000		
	Chamber Upgrade	CX	CX			60,000				60,000		
			CX Total			60,000				60,000		
	Planning - I.T. System	ERT	AMK	I.T.		150,000				150,000		
			AMK Total			150,000				150,000		
9129	Ballykinler Hut Project	ERT	AP	Heritage	15,000	50,000				65,000		
	Albert Basin Quayside Electrical Enhancement	ERT	AP	Regeneration	20,000					20,000		
9111	Delamont - Various Schemes	ERT	AP	Tourism		62,696				62,696		
9161	Camlough Lake	ERT	AP	Tourism	80,000					80,000		
9164	Forest Parks Development (REFCUS)	ERT	AP	Tourism	80,000	110,000				190,000		
9213	Slieve Gullion Forest Park Tourism	ERT	AP	Tourism	190,000	500,000	250,000			940,000		
9237	Down County Museum - Exhibition Upgrade	ERT	AP	Tourism	10,000	20,000				30,000		
9254	Tyrella Car Park/Beach etc - Upgrade	ERT	AP	Tourism	45,000	275,000				320,000		
9309	Camlough Lake - Vesting	ERT	AP	Tourism		50,000	50,000			100,000		
9895	Cranfield Beach - sea defences	ERT	AP	Tourism		60,000				60,000		

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Code Project	Description	Directorate	Officer AD	Project Group TYPE	Projected 2019/20	Budget 2020/2021	Budget 2021/2022	Budget 2022/2023	Budget 2023/2024	Budget Total	Income Grant	Net Budget
9922	Downpatrick Railway extension and Land Acq - REFCUS	ERT	AP	Tourism	80,000					80,000		
9123/9137	Slieve Gullion - Toilet	ERT	AP	Tourism	200,000	35,000				235,000		
9892/9292	Carpark Sewerage upgrade	ERT	AP	Tourism								
/9927(RE FCUS)	Kilbroney Park, Various scher	ERT	AP	Tourism		460,000				460,000		
	Mourne Gateway Project	ERT	AP	Tourism	50,000	250,000				300,000		
	Camlough Lake - Recreational Hub	ERT	AP	Tourism		60,000	60,000			120,000		
	Financial Assistance for Tourist Accomadation	ERT	AP	Tourism		500,000	500,000			1,000,000		
	Annalong E.I.	ERT	AP	Tourism		62,500				62,500	-31,250	31,250
	Annalong Harbour	ERT	AP	Tourism		100,000				100,000		
	AP Total				770,000	2,595,196	860,000			4,225,196		
	Bann Rd Car park	ert	CJ	Park & Ride		65,000				65,000		
	CJ Total					65,000				65,000		
9929	F.F.N.I. Operations Team	ERT	JMG	?	70,000	1,430,000				1,500,000	-1,500,000	0
9192	City Centre Re-gen. Project	ERT	JMG	Admin Centre	1,276,547	5,968,544	13,525,000	7,479,909		28,250,000	-8,000,000	20,250,000
9845	Newry - City Centre EIS	ERT	JMG	Enterprise	40,000	90,000	90,000			220,000		
9923	Derrymore Domain Improvement Scheme - 25 year lease - REFCUS	ERT	JMG	Heritage	50,000	136,500	136,500			323,000		
9844	Warrenpoint Public Realm	ERT	JMG	Public Realm		130,000	50,000			180,000		
9126	Forkhill Regeneration	ERT	JMG	Regeneration	100,000	140,000				240,000	-50,000	190,000
9921	Downpatrick Regeneration (to revisit)REFCUS-Irish St. P. Realm	ERT	JMG	Regeneration	100,000					100,000		
9926	Village Actions Plans	ERT	JMG	Regeneration	1,271,171	800,000	13,000			2,084,171	-1,725,000	359,171
	Rural Village Regeneration	ERT	JMG	Regeneration	0	0	0					
9215	Newry Canal Lough NO. 5 & 6 Restoration	ERT	JMG	Tourism	97,000	50,000				147,000	-92,000	55,000
9297	Slieve Gullion Trail - Phase 2: South to North (Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme - Funding secured)	ERT	JMG	Tourism	13,000	111,530				124,530	-92,530	32,000
9924	Castlewellan Forest Pk.(HLF Funded) - REFCUS	ERT	JMG	Tourism	60,000	512,000	1,822,000			2,394,000	-1,197,000	1,197,000
26/9/17	Purchase of Downpatrick Police Station Site	ERT	JMG	Tourism	100,000					100,000		

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Code Project	Description	Directorate	Officer AD	Project Group TYPE	Projected 2019/20	Budget 2020/2021	Budget 2021/2022	Budget 2022/2023	Budget 2023/2024	Budget Total	Income Grant	Net Budget
26/9/17	Rural Development Co-Op Project (Access to Strangford Lough)	ERT	JMG	Tourism						0		
26/9/17	Public Wifi	ERT	JMG	Tourism	170,000	0				170,000		
	Warrenpoint Promenade Upgrade	ERT	JMG	Tourism		0	0	0		0		
	Refurbishment works to Newcastle, Downpatrick, Kilkeel and Ballinahinch PR Schemes	ERT	JMG	Tourism		0	0	0		0		
9930	P.R. Enhancement Works Scheme (REFCUS)	ERT	JMG			60,000	100,000			160,000		
	JMG Total				3,347,718	9,428,574	15,736,500	7,479,909		35,992,701		
9527	Aughnagun Landfill Final Capping	NS	JP	Capping	377,325					377,325	-385,925	-8,600
9002?	Drumanakelly Final Capping	NS	JP	Capping								
9000	Downpatrick Recycling Centre	NS	JP	Waste	1,000,000					1,000,000		
	Automate Weighbridge at Drumanakelly	NS	JP	Waste	25,000					25,000		
	Compactors at HRC's	NS	JP	Waste	100,000					100,000		
	New Barriers and walkways at HI	NS	JP	Waste	75,000					75,000		
	Residual Waste Treatment Project	NS	JP	Waste			1,947,306			1,947,306		
	JP Total				1,577,325		1,947,306			3,524,631		
9033	Bus Shelters	NS	KS	Bus Shelters	15,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	135,000		
	Car Park Works at Strangford Road Depot	NS	KS	Car parks		155,000				155,000		
9267	Replacement of Em'gency Lights at G'bank Depot	NS	KS	Facilities								
9268	Provision of Secondary Glazing - Downshire Civic Centre	NS	KS	Facilities	18,000					18,000		
9269	Heater Boiler Replacement	NS	KS	Facilities	40,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		100,000		
9270	Provision of Heating in Downshire Civic Centre	NS	KS	Facilities		100,000				100,000		
9272	Upgrading CCTV/Fire Alarms/Burglar Alarms - Various	NS	KS	Facilities	12,212	15,000	15,000	15,000		57,212		
9313	Extension to Monkshill Cemetery	NS	KS	Facilities			200,000			200,000		
9262	Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery	NS	KS	Graveyard	10,000	115,000				125,000		

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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Capital Programme 2020-24

Code Project	Description Description	Directorate Directorate	Officer AD	Project Group TYPE	Projected 2019/20	Budget 2020/2021	Budget 2021/2022	Budget 2022/2023	Budget 2023/2024	Budget Total	Income Grant	Net Budget
9263	Warrenpont Graveyard Extension	NS	KS	Graveyard	10,000	145,000				155,000		
9266	Upgrade of Safety Tiles in Play Parks	NS	KS	Playgrounds								
9271	Public Convenience Upgrades	NS	KS	Toilets	25,000	400,000	400,000	345,000		1,170,000		
				KS Total	130,212	980,000	665,000	410,000	30,000	2,215,212		
				Grand Total	12,218,794	19,298,671	20,993,806	8,311,909	195,000	61,018,180		
				Grand Total								

PLANT & Equipment

463,602	297,166	80,000	20,000	0	860,768
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VEHICLES

3,208,734	2,058,337	981,580	891,500	0	7,140,151
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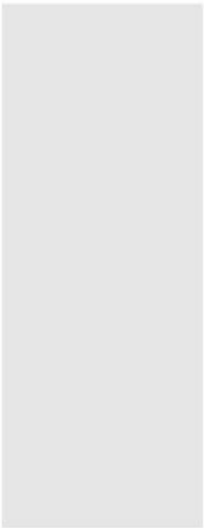
9185 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

0	4,300,662	960,810	0		5,261,472
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GRAND TOTAL

15,891,130	25,954,836	23,016,196	9,223,409	195,000	74,280,571	(15,521,101)
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Net Capital Spend 58,759,470
Amendment Log Total 58,759,470



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Code Project	Description Description	Directorate Directorate	Officer AD	Project Group TYPE	Projected 2019/20	Budget 2020/2021	Budget 2021/2022	Budget 2022/2023	Budget 2023/2024	Budget Total	Income Grant	Net Budget

Appendix 4

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21

Introduction

Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) has and will be borrowing and investing substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.

Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. In addition, the former Department of the Environment (DoE) issued Guidance on Local Authority Investments in October 2011 that requires the Council to approve an investment strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the *Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011* to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the DoE Guidance.

Revised strategy: In accordance with the DoE Guidance, the Authority will be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement should the assumptions on which this report is based change significantly. Such circumstances would include, for example, a large unexpected change in interest rates, in the Authority's capital programme or in the level of its investment balance.

External Context

Economic background: The UK's progress negotiating its exit from the European Union, together with its future trading arrangements, will continue to be a major influence on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2020/21.

UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) for September registered 1.7% year on year, unchanged from the previous month. Core inflation, which excludes the more volatile components, rose to 1.7% from 1.5% in August. The most recent labour market data for the three months to August 2019 showed the unemployment rate ticked back up to 3.9% while the employment rate was 75.9%, just below recent record-breaking highs. The headline 3-month average annual growth rate for pay was 3.8% in August as wages continue to rise steadily. In real terms, after adjusting for inflation, pay growth increased 1.9%.

GDP growth rose by 0.3% in the third quarter of 2019 from -0.2% in the previous three months with the annual rate falling further below its trend rate to 1.0% from 1.2%. Services and construction added positively to growth, by 0.6% and 0.4% respectively, while production was flat and agriculture recorded a fall of 0.2%. Looking ahead, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Report (formerly the Quarterly Inflation Report) forecasts economic growth to pick up during 2020 as Brexit-related uncertainties dissipate and provide a boost to business investment helping GDP reach 1.6% in Q4 2020, 1.8% in Q4 2021 and 2.1% in Q4 2022.

The Bank of England maintained Bank Rate to 0.75% in November following a 7-2 vote by the Monetary Policy Committee. Despite keeping rates on hold, MPC members did confirm that if Brexit uncertainty drags on or global growth fails to recover, they are prepared to cut interest rates as required. Moreover, the downward revisions to some of the growth projections in the Monetary Policy Report suggest the Committee may now be less convinced of the need to increase rates even if there is a Brexit deal.

Growth in Europe remains soft, driven by a weakening German economy which saw GDP fall -0.1% in Q2 and is expected to slip into a technical recession in Q3. Euro zone inflation was 0.8% year on year in September, well below the European Central Bank's target of 'below, but close to 2%' and leading to the central bank holding its main interest rate at 0% while cutting the deposit facility rate to -0.5%. In addition to maintaining interest rates at ultra-low levels, the ECB announced it would recommence its quantitative easing programme from November.

In the US, the Federal Reserve began easing monetary policy again in 2019 as a pre-emptive strike against slowing global and US economic growth on the back on of the ongoing trade war with China. At its last meeting the Fed cut rates to the range of 1.50-1.75% and financial markets expect further loosening of monetary policy in 2020. US GDP growth slowed to 1.9% annualised in Q3 from 2.0% in Q2.

Credit outlook: Credit conditions for larger UK banks have remained relatively benign over the past year. The UK's departure from the European Union was delayed three times in 2019 and while there remains some concern over a global economic slowdown, this has yet to manifest in any credit issues for banks. Meanwhile, the post financial crisis banking reform is now largely complete, with the new ringfenced banks embedded in the market.

Challenger banks hit the news headlines in 2019 with Metro Bank and TSB Bank both suffering adverse publicity and falling customer numbers.

Looking forward, the potential for a "no-deal" Brexit and/or a global recession remain the major risks facing banks and building societies in 2020/21 and a cautious approach to bank deposits remains advisable.

Interest rate forecast: The Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose is forecasting that Bank Rate will remain at 0.75% until the end of 2022. The risks to this forecast are deemed to be significantly weighted to the downside, particularly given the upcoming general election, the need for greater clarity on Brexit and the continuing global economic slowdown. The Bank of England, having previously indicated interest rates may need to rise if a Brexit agreement was reached, stated in its November Monetary Policy Report and its Bank Rate decision (7-2 vote to hold rates) that the MPC now believe this is less likely even in the event of a deal.

Gilt yields have risen but remain at low levels and only some very modest upward movement from current levels are expected based on Arlingclose's interest rate projections. The central case is for 10-year and 20-year gilt yields to rise to around 1.00% and 1.40% respectively over the time horizon, with broadly balanced risks to both the upside and downside. However, short-term volatility arising from both economic and political events over the period is a near certainty.

A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is attached at Appendix A.

For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that new treasury management investments will be made at an average rate of 0.7%, and that new long-term loans will be borrowed at an average rate of 3.1%.

Local Context

On 31st December 2019, the Authority held £77.3m of borrowing and £3.5m of treasury investments. This is set out in further detail at **Appendix B**. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.3.19 Actual £m	31.3.20 Estimate £m	31.3.21 Forecast £m	31.3.22 Forecast £m	31.3.23 Forecast £m
Capital Financing Requirement	89.7	99.7	119.5	124.4	122.3
Less: External borrowing **	-69.8	-79.9	-86.6	-96.1	-105.2
Internal borrowing	19.9	19.8	32.9	28.3	17.1
Less: Usable reserves	-13.5	-13.5	-13.5	-13.5	-13.5
Less: Working capital	-20.8	-20.8	-20.8	-20.8	-20.8
Treasury investments (or New borrowing)	14.4	14.5	1.4	6.0	17.2

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

The Authority has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme, but minimal investments and will therefore be required to borrow up to £105m over the forecast period.

CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation during 2019/20.

Liability benchmark: To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £1m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31.3.19 Actual £m	31.3.20 Estimate £m	31.3.21 Forecast £m	31.3.22 Forecast £m	31.3.23 Forecast £m
CFR	89.7	99.7	119.5	124.4	122.3
Less: Usable reserves	-13.5	-13.5	-13.5	-13.5	-13.5
Less: Working capital	-20.8	-20.8	-20.8	-20.8	-20.8
Plus: Minimum investments	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Liability Benchmark	56.4	66.4	86.2	91.1	89.0

Borrowing Strategy

The Authority currently holds £77.3 million of loans, an increase of £7.5 million on the previous year, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that the Authority expects to borrow up to £86.6m in 2020/21. The Authority may also borrow additional sums to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £128 million.

Objectives: The Authority's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.

Strategy: Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead.

By doing so, the Authority is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal / short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Authority with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Authority borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2020/21 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

The Authority has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Government Loans Fund but the government increased its interest rates by 1% in October 2019 making it now a relatively expensive options. The Authority will now look to borrow any long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code.

In addition to the above, the Council maintains an overdraft facility of £5m with Danske Bank, its main operating bank.

In addition, the Authority may borrow further short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

Sources of borrowing: The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- Government Loans Fund via the Department of Finance
- any institution approved for investments (see below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- any other UK public sector body
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except NILGOSC Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues
- Other Local Authorities

Other sources of debt finance: In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing
- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

Municipal Bonds Agency: UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association. It plans to issue bonds on the capital markets and lend the proceeds to local authorities. This will be a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to full Council.

Short-term and variable rate loans: These loans leave the Authority exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below. Financial derivatives may be used to manage this interest rate risk (see section below).

Debt rescheduling: The Department of Finance allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Authority may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk.

Investment Strategy

The Authority holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Authority's investment balance has ranged between £7m and £0.01 million, and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year.

Objectives: Both the CIPFA Code and the DoE Guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Authority will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested.

Negative interest rates: If the UK enters into a recession in 2020/21, there is a small chance that the Bank of England could set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term investment options. This situation already exists in many other European countries. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.

Strategy: Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority aims to further diversify, where practical, into more secure and/or higher yielding asset classes during 2020/21. All of the Authority's surplus cash currently remains invested in short-term unsecured bank deposits and money market funds. This diversification will represent a continuation of the new strategy adopted in 2018/19.

Approved counterparties: The Authority may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table 3 below, subject to the cash limits (per counterparty) and the time limits shown.

Table 3: Approved investment counterparties and limits

Credit rating	Banks unsecured	Banks secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
AA and above	£3m 2 years	£3m 2 years	£3m 25 years	£1m 2 years	£1m 5 years
BBB to AA-	£2m 1 years	£2m 1 year	£3m 5 years	£1m 1 year	£1m 5 years

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

Credit rating: Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from a selection of external rating agencies. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

Banks unsecured: Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

Banks secured: Covered bonds, reverse repurchase agreements and other collateralised arrangements with banks and building societies. These investments are secured on the bank's assets, which limits the potential losses in the unlikely event of insolvency, and means that they are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used to determine cash and time limits. The combined secured and unsecured investments in any one bank will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

Government: Loans, bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Central Government may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

Corporates: Loans, bonds and commercial paper issued by companies other than banks and registered providers. These investments are not subject to bail-in, but are exposed to the risk of the company going insolvent. Loans to unrated companies will only be made as part of a diversified pool in order to spread the risk widely.

Registered providers: Loans and bonds issued by, guaranteed by or secured on the assets of registered providers of social housing and registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are tightly regulated by the Department for Communities. As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Operational bank accounts: The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £3m per bank, where practical. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.

Risk assessment and credit ratings: Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "rating watch negative" or "credit watch negative") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

Other information on the security of investments: The Authority understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Authority's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2011, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government via the Debt Management Office or invested in government treasury bills for example, or with other local authorities. This will cause a reduction in the level of investment income earned but will protect the principal sum invested.

Investment limits: The Authority's revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £13.5 million on 31st March 2020. In order that no more than 22% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £3 million. A group of banks under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes. Limits will also be placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts, foreign countries and industry sectors as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Table 4: Investment limits

	Cash limit
Any single organisation, except the UK Central Government	£3m each
UK Central Government	unlimited
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£3m per group
Money market funds	£2m per MMF

Liquidity management: The Authority uses cash flow forecasting to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Authority being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Authority's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

Treasury Management Indicators

The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

Security: The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	A

Liquidity: The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity risk indicator	Target
Total cash available within 3 months	£5m

Interest rate exposures: This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

Interest rate risk indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£120,000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£120,000

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at current rates.

Maturity structure of borrowing: This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	20%	10%
12 months and within 24 months	10%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	20%	10%
5 years and within 10 years	30%	15%
10 years and above	60%	30%

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year: The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end will be:

Price risk indicator	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£1m	£1m	£1m

Related Matters

The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to include the following in its treasury management strategy.

Financial Derivatives: Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in Section 79 of the *Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014* removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).

The Authority will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Authority is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria. The current value of any amount due from a derivative counterparty will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

In line with the CIPFA Code, the Authority will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.

Markets in Financial Instruments Directive: The Authority has retained retail client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a smaller range of services but with the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Chief Financial Officer believes this to be the most appropriate status.

Government Guidance: Further matters required by the WG Guidance are included in Appendix C.

Financial Implications

The budget for investment income in 2020/21 is minimal, based on an average investment portfolio of £3 million at an interest rate of 0.7%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2020/21 is £2.5 million, based on an average debt portfolio of £83.2 million at an average interest rate of 3.7%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Other Options Considered

The DoE Guidance and the CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Chief Financial Officer, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

Appendix A - Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast November 2019**Underlying assumptions:**

- The global economy is entering a period of slower growth in response to political issues, primarily the trade policy stance of the US. The UK economy has displayed a marked slowdown in growth due to both Brexit uncertainty and the downturn in global activity. In response, global and UK interest rate expectations have eased.
- Some positivity on the trade negotiations between China and the US has prompted worst case economic scenarios to be pared back. However, information is limited, and upbeat expectations have been wrong before.
- Brexit has been delayed until 31 January 2020. While the General Election has maintained economic and political uncertainty, the opinion polls suggest the Conservative position in parliament may be strengthened, which reduces the chance of Brexit being further frustrated. A key concern is the limited transitional period following a January 2020 exit date, which will maintain and create additional uncertainty over the next few years.
- UK economic growth has stalled despite Q3 2019 GDP of 0.3%. Monthly figures indicate growth waned as the quarter progressed and survey data suggest falling household and business confidence. Both main political parties have promised substantial fiscal easing, which should help support growth.
- While the potential for divergent paths for UK monetary policy remain in the event of the General Election result, the weaker external environment severely limits potential upside movement in Bank Rate, while the slowing UK economy will place pressure on the MPC to loosen monetary policy. Indeed, two MPC members voted for an immediate cut in November 2019.
- Inflation is running below target at 1.7%. While the tight labour market risks medium-term domestically-driven inflationary pressure, slower global growth should reduce the prospect of externally driven pressure, although political turmoil could push up oil prices.
- Central bank actions and geopolitical risks will continue to produce significant volatility in financial markets, including bond markets.

Forecast:

- Although we have maintained our Bank Rate forecast at 0.75% for the foreseeable future, there are substantial risks to this forecast, dependant on General Election outcomes and the evolution of the global economy.
- Arlingclose judges that the risks are weighted to the downside.
- Gilt yields have risen but remain low due to the soft UK and global economic outlooks. US monetary policy and UK government spending will be key influences alongside UK monetary policy.
- We expect gilt yields to remain at relatively low levels for the foreseeable future and judge the risks to be broadly balanced.

	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Average
Official Bank Rate														
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.21
Arlingclose Central Case	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Downside risk	-0.50	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.73
3-month money market rate														
Upside risk	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.25
Arlingclose Central Case	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Downside risk	-0.50	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.75	-0.73
1yr money market rate														
Upside risk	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.23
Arlingclose Central Case	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
Downside risk	-0.30	-0.50	-0.55	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.65	-0.60
5yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.57
Downside risk	-0.35	-0.50	-0.50	-0.55	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60	-0.60	-0.56
10yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	0.75	0.75	0.80	0.80	0.85	0.85	0.90	0.90	0.95	0.95	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.88
Downside risk	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.45
20yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.40	1.40	1.30
Downside risk	-0.40	-0.40	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.45
50yr gilt yield														
Upside risk	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.37
Arlingclose Central Case	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.40	1.40	1.30
Downside risk	-0.40	-0.40	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.50	-0.50	-0.45

Government Loan Rate (Maturity Loans) = Gilt yield + 2.00%

Appendix B - Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	31/12/19 Actual Portfolio £m	31/12/19 Average Rate %
External borrowing:		
Government Loans Fund	66.3	3.7
Local authorities	11.0	1.0
Total gross external debt	77.3	
Treasury investments:		
Banks & building societies (unsecured)	2.0	
Money Market Funds	1.5	
Total treasury investments	3.5	0.7%
Net debt	73.8	

Appendix C - Additional requirements of the Government Investment Guidance

Specified investments: The DoE Guidance defines specified investments as those:

- denominated in pound sterling,
- due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement,
- not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and
- invested with one of:
 - the UK Government,
 - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
 - a body or investment scheme of “high credit rating”, and
- where the principal sum to be repaid at maturity is the same as the initial sum invested, other than investments in the UK Government.

The Authority defines “high credit rating” organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds “high credit rating” is defined as those having a credit rating of A- or higher.

Non-specified Investments: NMDDC does not intend to place any funds in non-specified investments.

Investment training: Staff regularly attend training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose and CIPFA. Relevant staff are also encouraged to study professional qualifications as appropriate.

Investment advisers: The Authority has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers.

Investment of money borrowed in advance of need: The Authority may, from time to time, borrow in advance of need, where this is expected to provide the best long-term value for money. Since amounts borrowed will be invested until spent, the Authority is aware that it will be exposed to the risk of loss of the borrowed sums, and the risk that investment and borrowing interest rates may change in the intervening period. These risks will be managed as part of the Authority’s overall management of its treasury risks.

The total amount borrowed will not exceed the authorised borrowing limit of £128 million. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be two years, although the Authority is not required to link particular loans with particular items of expenditure.

Appendix 5

Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2020/21

Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2020/21

Where the Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there is no statutory minimum since 2008. The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Authority to have regard to the former Department of Environment's *Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision* (the DOE Guidance) most recently issued in 2011.

The broad aim of the DOE Guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is either reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits.

The DOE Guidance requires the Council to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year and recommends a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP. The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance as well as locally determined prudent methods.

- For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2012, MRP will be equal to the principal repayments of the associated borrowing.
- For capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2012, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset either in equal instalments or as the principal repayment on an annuity with an annual interest rate equal to the average relevant PWLB rate for the year of expenditure, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over an appropriate period.
- For assets acquired by leases or the Private Finance Initiative, MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.

Capital expenditure incurred during 2020/21 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2021/22.

Based on the Authority's latest estimate of its capital financing requirement (CFR) on 31st March 2020, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31.03.2020 Estimated CFR £m	2020/21 Estimated MRP £
Capital expenditure before 01.04.2012	32.7	2.2
Supported capital expenditure after 31.03.2012	67.0	2.7
Total	99.7	4.9

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2020

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/003/2020	Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 02.12.2019	The action sheet was agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/004/2020	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 02.12.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/005/2020	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 02.12.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/006/2020	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 19.12.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/007/2020	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 16.12.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/008/2020	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 17.12.2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/009/2020	Extract from Planning Committee Meeting 11.12.2019	Extract of minutes were agreed.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/010/2020	Correspondence from St Louis Grammar School re Application for New Build	Council Officials' meet with the Board of Governors of St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel to assist them with their funding application. The correspondence was noted.	M Lipsett	Contact made with the School	Y
C/011/2020	Correspondence from Mid Ulster DC re Location of Welfare Appeals	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/012/2020	Correspondence from R Pengelly re Motion C/182/2019 – Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/013/2020	Correspondence from NI Water re. Wastewater Infrastructure Crisis	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/014/2020	Correspondence from R Pengelly re Motion C/187/2019 – Soft Opt Out Organ Donation Legislation	Mr Lipsett to bring a report to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting highlighting the importance of promoting Soft Opt Out Organ Donation through the DEAs. The correspondence dated 23 December 2019 regarding the Motion on Soft Opt Out Organ Donation Legislation was noted	M Lipsett	Report to future AHC	Y
C/015/2020	Notice of Motion – Brown Bin Biodegradable Bags	“This Council will maximise food waste collection contributing to our recycling targets and reduction of our carbon footprint by simplifying its biodegradable bag delivery system to residents.”	R Moore	The Motion was referred to NS Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/016/2020	Notice of Motion – Rural Development Funding	"This Council recognises the transformational impact that rural development funding has had on many of our local rural communities throughout the district; notes the negative impact that the loss of this funding opportunity will have for many isolated rural communities who would have availed of such funding opportunities; and therefore agrees to source ways in which this Council can continue to help invest in our rural communities".	C Mallon	The Motion was referred to ERT Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

37

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 January 2020 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor C Casey

In attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor R Howell
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor K Owen	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/001/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brown, Burgess and Reilly.

The Chairperson offered condolences to the families of JP Smyth and Shane Cunningham who had tragically lost their lives over the Christmas period and also Vicky-Leigh Carson who had sadly died by suicide.

The Chairperson offered his congratulations to Kilcoo who won the semi-final of the All-Ireland Club Finals and Ballynahinch Olympic who won the Border Cup over the Christmas period.

C/002/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/003/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 December 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 December 2019 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor McKee.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/004/2020 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 December 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Clarke.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/005/2020 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Curran.**

C/006/2020 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Savage**

C/007/2020

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2019**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2019 (copy circulated).

AHC/ 202/2019 – Sport NI Your School, Your Club Funding +1 Enclosure

Councillor Ó Muirí stated he had asked a question regarding the sports bubble seeking assurance from officials that everything was in order and complete transparent, however this had not been minuted.

Mr Lipsett advised the Minutes would be amended accordingly.

AHC/206/2019 – Adoption of Suicide Down to Zero

Councillor Sharvin enquired regarding the financial assistance and said a Working Group had already been set up but had met only once.

Mr Lipsett advised the financial assistance would be for the next financial year and a meeting with the full working group would be arranged as soon as possible.

Councillor Gibbons asked that, next year, consideration be given to increasing the £10,000 currently being allocated to Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Small Grants Scheme.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor O’Muirí, seconded by Councillor Kimmins.**

C/008/2020

**MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2019**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2019 (copy circulated).

Councillor Tinnelly thanked Officers for the information forwarded to him regarding the Review of Council Municipal Cemetery Rules and Regulations but expressed concern that within the term of this Council, both Warrenpoint and Monkshill cemeteries would be at full capacity.

Mr Moore advised there were plans for extending both Warrenpoint and Monkshill cemeteries which would address capacity concerns.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/009/2020

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2019**

Read: Extract of Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The extract from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 11 December 2019 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Ruane.

CORRESPONDENCE

C/010/2020 APPLICATION FOR NEW BUILD

Read: Correspondence dated 15 November 2019 from St. Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel re Application for New Build. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Doran stated there were serious health and safety issues with overcrowding in the school and he proposed that Council Officials' meet with the Board of Governors to offer assistance with their funding application. Councillor Clarke seconded the proposal.

Councillors Devlin, Savage and Tinnelly all agreed with Councillor Doran's comments.

Councillors Hanna and McKee also agreed with Councillor Doran's comments; Councillor Hanna said that Kilkeel High School also needed an upgrade and Council should be looking to support all schools and Councillor McKee said smaller schools needed assistance as well and that meetings should be arranged with school principals and officers.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Clarke that Council Officials' meet with the Board of Governors of St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel to assist them with their funding application.

Noted: The correspondence dated 29 November 2019 from St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel re Application for New Build was noted.

C/011/2020 RE MOTION: C/186/2019 LOCATION OF WELFARE APPEALS

Read: Correspondence dated 4 December 2019 from Mid Ulster District Council re Motion C/186/2019 – Location of Welfare Appeals. (copy circulated).

Councillor Savage welcomed the response received from Mid Ulster District Council and anticipated there would be further responses received from other Councils.

Mrs Ward advised a reply had been received earlier from Ards & North Down Borough Council in support of the Council's motion.

Agreed: The correspondence dated 4 December 2019 regarding Motion on Location of Welfare Appeals Charges was noted.

C/012/2020 RE MOTION: C/182/2019 EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF BOWEL AND BREAST CANCER

Read: Correspondence dated 10 December 2019 from R Pengelly re Motion C/182/2019 – Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence dated 10 December 2019 regarding the Motion on Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer was noted.

C/013/2020 WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CRISIS

Read: Correspondence dated 19 November 2019 from NI Water re. Wastewater Infrastructure Crisis. (copy circulated)

Concern was expressed from several Councillors regarding the content of the letter.

Mrs Ward said NI Water would be in attendance at the Special Council Meeting at the end of January and all Members' concerns could be addressed then.

Agreed: The correspondence dated 19 November 2019 regarding Wastewater Infrastructure Crisis was noted.

C/014/2020 CORRESPONDENCE RE MOTION: C/187/2019 SOFT OPT OUT ORGAN DONATION LEGISLATION

Read: Correspondence dated 23 December 2019 from R Pengelly re Motion C/187/2019 – Soft Opt Out Organ Donation Legislation. (copy circulated)

Councillor Owen asked, in the absence of legislation, if there was anything that could be done at Council level in terms of educating people and raising awareness.

Councillor Mulgrew advised during her tenure as Chairperson she had hosted an event with young people to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation. She suggested the issue could be progressed through the DEAs.

Mr Lipsett said a report on this issue would be tabled at the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.

Agreed: Mr Lipsett to bring a report to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting highlighting the importance of promoting Soft Opt Out Organ Donation through the DEAs.

The correspondence dated 23 December 2019 regarding the Motion on Soft Opt Out Organ Donation Legislation was noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/015/2019 NOTICE OF MOTION – BROWN BIN BIODEGRADABLE BAGS

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

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

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

Councillor Mulgrew seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.45pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 13 January 2020 at 5.00pm in the Boardroom, District
Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chairperson: Councillor R Mulgrew

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes

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

ERT/001/2020: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor Mulgrew, Chairperson, said it was the first meeting of the Committee in 2020 and she extended her thanks to Vice Chairperson of the Committee, Councillor D Curran for his support during her absence in 2019.

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor W Clarke

Councillor H Reilly
Councillor R Burgess

ERT/002/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in Item No: 12 regarding NIBSUP (Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme).

With reference to Item 4 regarding All Ireland Smart Cities Forum Membership, it was noted that Councillor Andrews was a member of the East Border Region and he did not need to declare an interest in this item of business.

**ERT/003/2020: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2019**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 December 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 December 2019.

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND REGENERATION ITEMS

ERT/004/2020: ALL IRELAND SMART CITIES FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding All Ireland Smart Cities Forum Membership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed:-

- (a) Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continues to avail of the expertise from the All-Ireland Smart Cities Forum and renew membership for 2020 at a cost of €3,333 per annum.**

- (b) An officer from ERT and a representative from East Border Region attend the meetings and feed back into digital projects including BRCD, FFNI and ERT digital projects.

ERT/005/2020: SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR DRAGONS IN THE HILLS PROJECT

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding successful application for Dragons in the Hills Project. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- (a) To sign and accept the Joint Letter of Offer from National Heritage Lottery to Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK), Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Herpetological Society of Ireland (HIS) (subject to satisfaction of all Letter of Offer terms and conditions).
- (b) To establish a MOU with the lead partner, establishing roles and responsibilities for project management and delivery.
- (c) To host the part time staff member, fully funded by the programme, employed by Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK, but located in the AONB office to facilitate programme delivery.

BUILDING CONTROL & REGULATIONS

ERT/006/2020: INCREASE IN NON-STATUTORY FEES SCHEDULE

Read: Report dated 13 January 202 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding the increase in Non-Statutory Fees Schedule. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to grant approval to increase the non-statutory Building Control fee schedule in

line with inflation from the previous schedule agreed in 2015. The implementation date would be 1 April 2020 and to carry out a further review in 2023.

It was noted all Building Control sections with the 11 Councils implement the same fee schedule.

ERT/007/2020: TENDER FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF STREET NAMEPLATES

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding tender for manufacture and supply of street nameplates. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed the Council authorise the commencement of the tendering process with a view to putting in place a new contract for the provisions of new street nameplates effective from 1st March 2020 until 28th February 2023.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/008/2020: REPAIR TO LOCKS – LOCK 9 NEWRY CANAL

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding repair to Locks – Lock 9 Newry Canal. **(Copy circulated)**

Discussion took place regarding the long term future of Newry Canal and concerns that the development of the Southern Relief Road and proposed bridge could restrict future development of the Canal.

It was acknowledged that the long term future development of Newry Canal needed to be examined but that for the present, efforts were being focused on the restoration and protection of the locks with the view these structures being able to be utilised in the future.

It was noted that very few of the locks were operational and would require significant works.

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

- (a) To contribute £41,189 to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to undertake repairs to Lock No. 9 on Newry Canal which was jointly owned by both Councils.
- (b) To appoint relevant expertise to undertake assessment and seek necessary approvals of work essential to maintain the structure of Lock No. 6 which is in Council ownership, at an estimated cost of £8,500.

Noted: The total budget for these works is proposed in 2020/21 capital budgets.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/009/2020: **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE EVENT AND NEWCASTLE PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding International Mountain Bike Event and Newcastle Pipe Band Championship. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to come out of closed session.

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

ERT/009/2020: International Mountain Bike Event and Newcastle Pipe Band Championships

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed that Officers write to the promoters of the proposed Mournes International MTB Event and Newcastle Pipe Band Championship to confirm Council would support each event in principle; and funding would be allocated subject to budget being available following the assessment of applications in the 2020/2021 financial assistance call for Tourism Events; and that each event promoter submit updated business cases for the respective events.

FOR NOTING

ERT/010/2020: INCREASE IN PROPERTY CERTIFICATE FEES

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding proposed increase in property certificate fees from £60 to £70 with effect from 1 April 2020, with a further review to be carried out in April 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: It was agreed to note the update regarding the proposed increase in property certificate fees.

ERT/011/2020: LOUTH NMD JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

Read: Report of Louth and Newry, Mourne and Down Joint Committee Meeting held on 25 September 2019. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above report.

ERT/012/2020: UPDATE (NIBSUP) BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, providing an update on progress under the 4 main business support programmes. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the update provided on performance under the following business development programmes:-

- NI Business Start-Up Programme
- NMD Business Growth Programme
- NMD Procurement and Supply Chain Programme
- Digital Development Programme

ERT/013/2020: **UPDATE ON BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL**

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, providing an update on the progress of the Belfast City Deal (BRCD). **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the update provided on the Belfast Region City Deal, including update on completion of Outline Business Cases, government and financial arrangements for the next phase of delivery.

ERT/014/2020: **WARRENPOINT BATHS**

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, providing an update on Warrenpoint Baths. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the content of the report dated 13 January 2020 regarding Warrenpoint Baths and that the EOI would be re-issued through public advertisement.

ERT/015/2020: **CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK**

Read: Report dated 13 January 2020 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, providing an update on Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the ongoing actions of the Castlewellan Forest Park Task and Finish Project Board held on 29 November 2019.

ERT/016/2020: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Planning Committee Performance figures for month of December 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: **To note Planning Committee Performance figures for December 2019.**

**ERT/017/2020: HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER
ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM**

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

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

ERT/018/2020: SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Scheme of Delegation. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: **To note the Scheme of Delegation.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.30pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 February 2020.

Signed: **Councillor R Mulgrew**

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: **Mr C Mallon**

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**51**

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In Attendance:

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance: Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding)
 Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of EER (ERT)
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/1/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Howell.

SPR/2/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SPR/3/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 19 December 2019, be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/4/2020 SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019

Read: Report dated 16 January 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: **It was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2019.**

SPR/5/2020 SICKNESS ABSENCE

Read: Report dated 16 January 2020 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager, regarding Sickness Absence **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne requested that the names of the Directorates be included in future reports for clarity.

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

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

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

SPR/6/2020 FFNI OPERATIONAL COSTS

Read: Report dated 16 January 2020 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of EER (ERT), regarding FFNI Operational Costs **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to proceed with option 3 which includes technical consultants and the appointment of 3 officers to deliver FFNI programme to the Council and businesses and residents in Newry Mourne and Down area at a cost of £50,000 for Newry Mourne and Down District Council with officers to bring back details of sites proposed to members for information ahead of the next Council meeting.

SPR/7/2020 NEWRY RAINBOW COMMUNITY

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

Agreed: It was agreed to note the verbal update provided with regards the Newry Rainbow Committee.

FOR NOTING

SPR/8/2020 ACTION SHEET FROM EWG MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Action Sheet from Efficiency Working Group meeting held on 17 December 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Noted: **It was agreed to note the action sheet arising from the Efficiency Working Group meeting held on 17 December 2019.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.33pm

Signed: **Councillor Michael Savage**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2020

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 20 January 2020 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic
Centre, Downpatrick**

Chairperson: Councillor B Ó Muirí

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor S Doran	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor McKeivitt
Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

Also In Attendance: Councillor W Clarke
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor H McKee

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

AHC/1/2020: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gibbons and Mulgrew.

The Chairperson advised Members the initial Peace Plus Consultation would run until 25 February 2020. Members were invited to participate in the consultation which had two elements, Stakeholder engagements and an online survey. Hard copies of the consultation were distributed at the meeting.

The Chairperson acknowledged the tremendous achievement of Kilcoo GAC in making the All Ireland Club Final and wished them every success in the future.

AHC/2/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/3/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 December 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 December 2019.

It was agreed by all to take Item 8 at this point of the meeting.

LEISURE AND SPORT

AHC/4/2020 OVERFLOW CAR PARK AT DONARD PARK

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding Donard Park, unofficial overflow car park. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Clarke welcomed the capital build and grass screed car park solution and stated it was essential to have the overflow car park open for as many months as possible, particularly when Newcastle is busy, with Council working with local businesses to assist.

In response to Councillor Devlin, Mr Tamati advised it was envisaged subject to planning approval and processes that contractors could be on site by November 2020, and temporary arrangements would be in place for the summer period. Mr Tamati stated he would come back with specifics about the length of time it would take from start to finish for the project.

Further to a query from Councillor McMurray, Mr Lipsett confirmed it was not a tarmac car park but one which was sympathetic to the area with a grass screed like product. He pointed out permission was being sought to include the project in the Capital Programme, submit planning permission and go to tender for works.

In response to Councillor Devlin, Mr Lipsett advised that the recommendation was as presented within the report with an addition that should a budget be found in the interim, the opening of the overflow car park could be brought forward on busy days. He pointed out that there was currently no budget available to do this.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran to proceed:

- with 'winter arrangements' for the unofficial overflow car park at Donard Park to remain in place until Easter 2020 as per historical arrangement.
Winter arrangements – closed from the 1st November to Easter 2020 (10th April)
- If a budget became available in the interim, the opening of the overflow car park could be brought forward on busy days prior to Easter 2020.
- The proposed establishment of official and permanent overflow car parking arrangements at Donard Park as

per appendix 1, and commit £250k to Council Capital Programme. Following such approval, a detailed capital proposal will be brought back to Committee for further consideration.

Councillors Clarke, Devlin and McKee left the meeting at this point – 6.25pm.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/5/2020 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORA UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding updates on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to note the report and to approve the actions from the following DEA Forum Private Meetings:

- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2019
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2019
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2019
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2019
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2019
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 18 December 2019
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 18 December 2019

AHC/6/2020 ANNUAL LICENCE AGREEMENT AT COMMUNITIES FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, regarding Annual Licence Agreement at Communities Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ruane, to replace existing tenancy arrangements within Council Community Facilities to updated Licence agreements.

AHC/7/2020 SOCIAL INCLUSION: RED CROSS CRISIS FUND/INCLUSIVE CITIES

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, regarding Social Inclusion: Red Cross Crisis Fund/Inclusive Cities. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Doran to note the acceptance of the grant offer of £5,000 to administer TEO Crisis Fund and that Council participate in the Inclusive Cities Initiative.

AHC/8/2020 PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: Further to a request from Councillor McKeivitt, Mrs J Hillen advised an update in relation to works at Forkhill Barracks would be provided for all Active and Healthy Community Committee Members.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Doran the recommendations of the Peace IV Partnership to change the frequency of Partnership meetings from monthly to bi-monthly were agreed.

LEISURE AND SPORT

AHC/9/2020 KILCLIEF PLAY PARK

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport regarding Kilclief Play Park. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Savage, Mr Tamati confirmed additional works to the extension of fencing along the road side area at Carrievemaclone Play Park had been commissioned. Costs for additional work to fence the complete area would need to be examined.

Agreed: It was agreed Mr Tamati would confirm the completion of works regarding the fencing along the road side area at the new Play Park at Carrievemaclone.

Assurance was given that once the Carrievemaclone Play Park was completed and operational, if concerns were raised these would be examined.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Ruane to proceed with:

- The leasing of land from the Trustees of Kilclief Gaelic Athletic Club for the creation of a play area at Kilclief Gaelic grounds as identified as part of play strategy consultation process.
- The revised estimated capital spend for Kilclief Play Park of £159,000.00 was as a result of feedback from the final stage consultation process.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/10/2020: GATING ORDERS

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Gating Order, Downpatrick Traffic Regulation Order 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the Downpatrick Traffic Regulations Order 2020

AHC/11/2020: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Devlin highlighted the date for the Climate Symposium as being 12 March 2020 at Killeavy Castle, with further details to be provided nearer the time.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Trainor to note the report and approve the actions from the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum on 19 December 2019.

DIRECTORS PAPERS

AHC/12/2020: SCHEME OF DELEGATION – DIRECTOR OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Scheme of Delegation.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to note the report on Scheme of Delegation for the Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

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

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

AHC/13/2020 No 16 THE SQUARE, ROSTREVOR

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding No 16 The Square, Rostrevor.
(Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to approve officers proceeding as outlined in the report:

- Withdraw the original application.
- Complete the procurement process.
- Submit an application to the RDP for up to 75% through the Village Renewal Scheme of the total project costs.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.40pm.

Signed: Councillor B Ó Muirí
Chairperson

Signed: Mr M Lipsett
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chair: Councillor K Owen

Members:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor D Curran
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor D Taylor

Officials in Attendance: Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
 Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager
 Mr M Cherry, NIEA
 Mr I Walker, NIEA
 Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/001/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Tinnelly, Harte and Stokes.

Councillor Owen extended her condolences to Councillor Tinnelly on the sudden death of his cousin.

NS/002/2020: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/003/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2019. **(Circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2019 be noted and actions removed as marked.

Household Recycling Centre in Crossmaglen

AGREED: At the request of Councillor Hearty it was agreed Mr R Moore investigate if a direction had been given that the household recycling centre in Crossmaglen was no longer able to accept old mattresses. He expressed his concern that skips within the centre were not being emptied regularly enough and that when people were looking to dispose of items such as mattresses and suites of furniture they were not being accepted, and as a result were being dumped along roads.

Mr Moore advised he would report directly back to Councillor Hearty on this matter.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

NS/004/2020: PRESENTATION FROM NIEA ON ILLICIT DUMPING

Mark Cherry, NIEA, Enforcement Branch and Mr Ian Walker were in attendance for this item.

Mr Cherry gave a presentation on the work of the NIEA including Environmental Crime, detailing incidents dealt with; the approach taken and partnership working. He said there were 35 staff in the agency and therefore resources were limited.

Mr Cherry said staff had increased visits to tyre retailing units with 157 visits taking place last year and this seemed to have paid dividends. He also referred to Partnership Working and in particular the Revised Fly-Tipping Protocol with Councils.

Mr Cherry said the Agency worked primarily under the Waste Contaminated Land Order 1997 Articles 4 and 5 which dealt with illegal waste disposal. Those powers were currently available to the Agency but an amendment was proposed to the Order whereby these powers would transfer to Councils who would then have the same powers as the Agency to deal with environmental waste disposal.

Mr Cherry said the revised Protocol in draft form was before all 11 Councils and the Agency was looking a commitment from Councils to sign up to this Protocol as it intended to bring forward legislation by the end of March this year.

A question and answer session followed during which Members raised the following issues:-

- Q. Does the figure for tyres include those lifted by the Council?
- A. No
- Q. Issues with the response time of the Agency for lifting cubes of diesel wash. It can take up to 4 days for these to be removed after reporting and in the meantime the cubes were leaking and contaminating land etc.
- A. The contractor employed by the Agency to remove illegal waste had a

time limit of 48 hours to lift this waste. If waste was leaking the Agency would contact their Waste Management Unit and get bunds put around it to absorb any leakage until it could be lifted. Mr Cherry said he would investigate the particular issue raised by Councillor Hearty regarding fuel dumped on the Loughaveely Road, Crossmaglen.

- Q. There was a huge cost in removing large scale illegal dumping but there did not seem to be many prosecutions for this type of criminal activity – was there some identified weakness as to why this was the case?
- A. It was difficult to trace the origins of small scale incidents in remote areas and because of the cost of bringing cases to court, the Agency would generally issue fixed penalties for small scale issues. A lot more resources were put into larger scale criminality waste disposal but prosecutions had to be supported by evidence.
- Q. Illegal dumping of tyres was a big issue for the NM&D District – could there not be some type of traceability in terms of serial numbers or a paper trails of how tyres were disposed of, particularly when customers were paying a disposal fee. NIEA should be carrying out inspections.
- A. NIEA carried out 157 inspections last year – the tyre disposal charge is not mandatory and therefore it was difficult to obtain accurate records. Producer responsibility was an issue which DAERA would be looking at but it would be 2/3 years down the line.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Cherry and Mr Walker for attending the meeting.

(Councillor Hearty and Councillor Magennis left the meeting – 6.45 pm)

**NS/005/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION –
FOOD WASTE COLLECTION**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor Owen and Councillor Walker:-

“That this Council will maximise food waste collection contributing to our recycling targets and reduction of our carbon footprint by simplifying it’s biodegradable bag delivery system to residents”.

Councillor Owen said she had lived in Wales for many years and many of the Councils had a system whereby when someone came to the end of a roll of food recycling bags, they would tie the last bag to the bin and operatives would know to leave another roll. This encouraged people to recycle more and reduced carbon footprint as they did not have to go to a supermarket or Council buildings to get new supplies.

Councillor Owen said the Council was a recycling Council and she would like them to embrace something along these lines.

Councillor Andrews formally seconded the Motion and spoke in support of it

Councillor Taylor and Councillor Clarke also spoke in support of the Motion.

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr J Parkes regarding Notice of Motion for maximising food waste collection. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion that “this Council will maximise food waste collection contributing to our recycling targets and reduction of our carbon footprint by simplifying it’s biodegradable bag delivery system to residents” and that officers undertake necessary research and report back to the NS Committee presenting options for consideration and approval.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/110/2020: DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNCIL TREE STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Draft Action Plan for the development of a Council Tree Strategy. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to recommend approval for the endorsement of the key concepts within the Draft Action Plan and to agree to further progression of the developing Tree Action Plan and Tree Strategy.

NS/111/2020: PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: update on progress in developing the Council’s Public Convenience Strategy. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to recommend approval for the endorsement of the key principles outlined in section 2.1 of this report and to approve the commencement of the business case process for the capital works:-

- Provision of a new public toilet within the village of Killough
- Refurbishment of Castle Park Public Toilet in Newcastle

NS/112/2020: Evaluation of alternatives to use of Herbicides containing Glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: evaluation of alternatives to use of herbicides containing glyphosate for

controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property. **(Copy circulated).**

A detailed discussion took place following the presentation of the report during which it was highlighted that the Council had fully supported this Motion when it was discussed at the Council meeting. It had been referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee for further research and whilst a 25% reduction in the use of the weed killer was not the outcome the Council would have wanted, it was a starting point. However, Members proposed that amendments be added to the report including a review in 12 months time and there would be a time limit target of 3 years after which the Council would no longer use herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property. A further amendment was also proposed that herbicides containing glyphosate should not be used in Council play parks and that the Council write to the relevant Stormont Minister outlining the Council's position on this issue and seek their position for all Government Bodies (NI).

Councillor Malone asked that it be put on record that he had serious concerns about the use of this weed killer.

It was noted that due to a disturbance in the public gallery the Chairperson asked that the Council Chamber be wholly cleared of members of the public.

(Councillor Taylor left the meeting 7.40 pm).

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report dated 22 January 2020 and to approve Option 4 – The Sustainable Herbicide Control Methodology as outlined in section 4 and Appendix 7 with amendments. The proposed methodology would operate within the remit of a:-**

- Phased Pesticide Reduction Plan
- Liaising with APSE & Other Councils
- Current Achievable Council efficiencies of circa 25% reduction in glyphosate annual usage.
- Grounds Maintenance Section continue to research and trial all effective alternatives and provide feedback on results.

It was agreed the following proposed amendments to the Officer's report:-

- **To undertake a 12 month review with a target to phase out completely the use of use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling weeds and invasive species on Council property within 3 years.**
- **Officers prevent the use of herbicides containing glyphosate at Council play areas and use alternative methods only for these areas.**

- **Council write to the relevant Stormont Minister stating the Council's position on this issue and seeking the position of all Government Bodies in Northern Ireland.**

(Councillor Andrews left the meeting 7.45 pm).

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/113/2020: FLEET UPDATE: FLEET POLICY AND OPERATIONAL LICENCE COMPLIANCE

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Council Fleet Update – Operator License Compliance – Fleet Policy and Related Procedures. *(Copy circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Fleet Policy Version 2.0 for immediate implementation.**

(Councillor Curran left the meeting – 7.45 pm).

NS/114/2020: STUDY VISIT TO REGEN WASTE, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 22 January 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: study visit to Regen Waste, Waste Processing Facility, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry. *(Copy circulated)*.

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

- **Visit to the Regen Waste Reprocessing Facility at Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry be set at 19 February 2020 - 3: 00 p.m.**
- **Attendance at Regen Waste Reprocessing Waste to be Neighbourhood Services Committee and key Waste Team Officers.**

FOR NOTING

NS/115/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet *(Copy circulated)*

.AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking**

Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee be noted and actions removed as marked.

AGREED: At the request of Councillor McKee it was agreed the officer responsible for car parks contact him to discuss an issue regarding the car park in Downpatrick.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 February 2020.

Signed: Councillor Owen
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

Signed: Mr R Moore
Director of Neighbourhood Services

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 09 January 2020
at 2.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate, Downpatrick**

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor C Enright
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor K Owen
Councillor M Ruane

Officials in Attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services
Mr K Montgomery Assistant Director,
Corporate Services (Finance)
Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

AC/001/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor M Gibbons

AC/002/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms C Hagan ASM declared an interest in Item 14 PCSP Internal Audit.

**AC/003/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE
MEETING – TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of Minutes of Audit Committee
Meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2019.
(Copy circulated)

The following issues were raised arising out of the above Action Sheet:

AC/047/2019 – Members Training

Noted: Officers to ensure relevant training is provided going forward for new Members.

AC/067/2019 – Statement of Accounts 2018-19

AGREED: Action Sheet to be amended to reflect that the Statement of Accounts 2018-19 was 'approved' at the Audit Committee Meeting held in September 2019, as opposed to being 'Noted'.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to approve the Action Sheet arising out of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2019.

CORPORATE SERVICES

AC/004/2020: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville Director Corporate Services, presented the above report.

She advised no new risks had been added to the Register since September 2019 and the Register had been reviewed by the Senior Management Team in December 2019. She highlighted those risks where changes had been made.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Corporate Risk Register.

AC/005/2020: DIRECT AWARDS CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding the Direct Awards Contracts / Single Tender Actions. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager, presented the above report.

In response to comments raised regarding the increase in Direct Award Contracts and the rise in Service Level Agreements, it was noted Officials

were looking at how to best implement the internal audit recommendations around the tourism contracts in particular.

It was also noted that it would take approximately a further 6 months to progress the work ongoing on the award of significant contracts.

With regard to protocol around Single Tender exercises, it was noted a protocol was built into the Council's Procurement Policy with relevant staff training provided with regard to awarding contracts in this manner.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Direct Awards Contracts/Single Tender Actions.

AC/006/2020: PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS

Read: Report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Prompt Payment Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager presented the above report.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Report on Prompt Payment Statistics.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

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

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

AC/007/2020: UPDATE RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Read: Report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding an update on Internal Audit Recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/008/2020: FRAUD & WHISTLEBLOWING

Read: Report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Fraud and Whistleblowing. **(Copy circulated)**

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/009/2020: ASM SUMMARY REPORT

Read: ASM Summary Progress Report for period 25 September 2019 – 09 January 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/010/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2019-2020 (REVISED)

Read: ASM revised draft Internal Audit Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/011/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - LEISURE (TIME RECORDING)

Read: ASM Internal Audit re: Audit Fieldwork 2019/20 – Leisure Services – time recording. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/012/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Read: ASM Internal Audit re: Audit Fieldwork 2019/20 – Contract Management. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/013/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - TOURISM (SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS)

Read: ASM Internal Audit re: Audit Fieldwork 2019/20 – Tourism Service Level Agreements. **(Copy circulated)**

(3.00pm: Ms C Hagan ASM left the meeting)

AC/014/2020: INTERNAL AUDIT RE: PCSP EXPENDITURE

Read: Internal Audit re: PCSP Expenditure 2019/2020. **(Copy circulated)**

(3.10pm: Ms C Hagan ASM re-joined the meeting)

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/015/2020: **NIAO
2018-19 FINAL REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH
GOVERNANCE**

Read: Northern Ireland Audit Office 2018-19 Final Report to Those Charged with Governance. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

AC/007/2020 - Update re: Audit Recommendations

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed:-**

- (a) To note the Report from the Audit Services Manager providing an update on Internal Audit recommendations and NIAO recommendations.**
- (b) To continue to include NIAO recommendations in the Risk profile report going forward.**
- (c) To ensure the relevant Officer to be in attendance at the Audit Committee Meeting in April 2020 to provide an update to Members regarding IT Disaster Recovery.**
- (d) A copy of the Report from the External Planning Consultant to be provided to the Audit Committee Members when completed.**

AC/008/2020: - Fraud and Whistleblowing

AGREED: **It was agreed to note Report dated 09 January 2020 regarding Fraud & Whistleblowing.**

AC/009/2020: - ASM Summary/ Progress Report

AGREED: It was agreed to note the ASM Summary/Progress Report for period 25 September 2019 – 09 January 2020.

AC/010/2020: - ASM Internal Audit Plan 2019-2020 (Revised)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the revised ASM 20192020 Internal Audit Plan.

**AC/011/2020: - ASM Internal Audit Report
Re: Leisure (Time Recording)**

AGREED: It was agreed to defer the ASM 2019-20 Report on Leisure Services – time recording, to the next Audit Committee Meeting to be held on Thursday 23 April 2020.

**AC/012/2020:- ASM Internal Audit Report
- Contract Management**

AGREED: It was agreed to defer the ASM 2019-20 Report on Contract Management, to the next Audit Committee Meeting to be held on Thursday 23 April 2020.

**AC/013/2020:- ASM Internal Audit Report re: Tourism
- Service Level Agreements**

AGREED: It was agreed to note ASM Internal Audit 2019/20 – Tourism Service Level Agreements.

AC/014/2020:- Internal Audit re: PCSP EXPENDITURE

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Internal Audit regarding PCSP expenditure.

AC/015/2020: – NIAO 2018-19 Report to Those Charged with Governance

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to accept the NIAO 2018-19 Final Report to Those Charged with Governance.

NIAO (OPEN SESSION)

AC/016/2020: NIAO ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2018-2019

Read: Correspondence dated 20 December 2019 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office re Annual Audit Letter 2018-2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr T Wilkinson NIAO presented the Annual Audit letter.

He said the Annual Audit Letter was a publicly available document which highlighted work carried out by NIAO. He said it contained an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's financial statements.

He noted that contained within the document were recommendations to address Procurement issues, and he said NIAO were satisfied proper arrangements were in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness. He commented on Governance and Absenteeism adding that the figures for average absence days within Council had dropped and that NIAO would be producing a report on sickness absence across local and central Government.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the NIAO Annual Audit Letter 2018-2019.

PERFORMANCE

AC/017/2020: MID YEAR ASSESSMENT - PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-20

Read: Report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr J McBride Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance regarding an overview of the Council's progress in implementing the performance improvement objectives between April – September 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Mid Year Assessment – Performance Improvement Plan 2019-2020 as approved at the Strategy Performance & Resources Committee Meeting held in September 2019.

AC/018/2020: NIAO AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT REPORT 2019-2020

Read: Report dated 09 January 2020 from Mr J McBride Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance providing an overview of findings from the Improvement Audit and Assessment 2019-20 carried out by the Northern Ireland Audit Office. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr T Wilkinson NIAO presented the above Report.

He said this was the first year NIAO had given an opinion on any of the Councils in relation to performance improvement. He referred to Page 6 of the document which outlined proposals for improvement in relation to good practice in terms of the "improvement objectives", as some objectives appeared to be set at a high level. He also added some measures of success underpinning projects were not clearly defined adding that more specific targets could be assigned.

He referred to Page 9 and 10 of the document, which set out a positive unqualified NIAO audit opinion for Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the NIAO Audit and Assessment Report 2019-20.**

CIRCULARS

AC/019/2020: **COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES GUIDANCE FOR DISTRICT COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Read: Circular LG23/2019 - Correspondence dated 27 September 2019 from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Guidance on Councillor Allowances – updated September 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed to note correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Consolidated Guidance on Councillor Allowances – updated September 2019.**

AC/020/2020: **REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES**

Read: Circular LG/25/2019 - Correspondence dated 21 October 2019 from Department for Communities regarding Article 19 – Application re: Reimbursement of Travel & Subsistence Expenses. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **To note the correspondence from Department for Communities regarding Article 19 – Application re: Reimbursement of Travel & Subsistence Expenses.**

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

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 February 2020.

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

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
 Independent Chairperson



NILGA CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION & GALA AWARDS DINNER
20th FEBRUARY 2020, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, BELFAST
BOOKING FORM – NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Working in partnership with SOLACE, sponsors and councils we welcome the attendance of councillors and officers from the 11 councils at this, the main learning, networking and recognition event of the council calendar year.

Please return booking forms by Friday 31st January 2020 to: Events, NILGA, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB or via email to events@nilga.org

***** TWO FREE PLACES FOR EACH COUNCIL *****

ALL ADDITIONAL PLACES CHARGED AT THE FOLLOWING RATES

	<i>Ticket Code</i>
<i>Day Delegate, Conference Only - £99 (+Vat) (Per Person)</i>	(CO)
<i>Day Delegate Including Awards Dinner - £145 (+Vat) (Per Person)</i>	(CAD)
<i>Local Government Awards Dinner Only £60 (+Vat)</i>	(AD)

Contact name of person responsible for bookings: _____

Council: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

I would like to register for _____ places as detailed.

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	DIETARY/ACCESS REQUIREMENTS	
				FREE
				FREE

ADDITIONAL PLACES					
NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	DIETARY/ACCESS REQUIREMENTS	TICKET TYPE	AMOUNT

Please invoice me at the address provided for (the total amount)
 £_____quoting order no. _____ OR I enclose a cheque for
 £_____made payable to NILGA.

*Please note that all council invoices will be issued one week after the event.
 By signing the form, I accept the terms and conditions as detailed below.*

Authorised Signature _____ Please Print Name _____

Accommodation: Please contact reservations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast on 028 9092 3500 (ext. 1) to arrange accommodation at preferential rates quoting NILGA Conference. (£99.00 single B&B, £109.00 Double / Twin B&B). Accommodation is offered on a first come, first served basis.

Terms and Conditions: Cancellations made after the 31st January 2020 will be liable for the full delegate fee. **Substitutions:** Substitutes will only be accepted if NILGA is informed in writing two weeks prior to the conference; otherwise the full price will be charged to delegates not on the official list.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association
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Northern Ireland
Local Government Partnership
On Traveller Issues

Ref: 11Conf

Councillor Robert Irvine
The Cornmill
24 Farnamullan Road
Mullybritt, Lisbellaw
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Tel: 028 6638 7780

Mob: 078346 56788

Email: robert.irvine@fermanaghmagh.com

28th January 2020

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

Dear Ms. Ward,

The Partnership is holding a half day conference, on Thursday 14th May in Corick House Hotel & Spa, 20 Corick Road, Clogher BT76 OBZ. The theme is 'Pioneering a brighter future together with the Travelling Community'.

We will be issuing invitations to all councils and other relevant bodies in late February/early March. Prior to the conference we intend holding a brief session the evening before, commencing around 5/5.30 pm. followed by a networking dinner and an overnight stay for those nominated representatives and officers from your council.

As with the conference there is no cost for this, the only cost to individual councils will be associated travelling expenses.

The nominees from your council are:

1. Councillor Charlie Casey
2. Councillor Gary Stokes
3. Councillor Jarlaith Tinnelly
4. Ms. Suzanne Rice (officer)

We would ask that you confirm, as soon as possible, the names of those attending so that the necessary arrangements can be put in place with the hotel. We do not wish to have substitutes should one or more of the nominees be unavailable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Irvine'.

Councillor Robert Irvine
Secretary & Treasurer



2 January 2020

Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
NEWRY
BT25 8DJ



Dear Mr Hannaway

Re: Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer

At a recent meeting of this Council, Members considered correspondence from yourselves in relation to the above matter.

It was agreed to support your motion calling on the Permanent Secretary to commit to a review of Bowel and Breast Screening.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Wilson".

Jeanette Wilson
Democratic Services Manager

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



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

council@nmandd.org

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559
Fax: 02890520573

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP 5098
SCORR-1177-2019

Date: 9 January 2020

Dear Ms Ward

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December 2019 regarding the budget of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS).

In August 2019 NIFRS introduced interim measures which altered how the service was delivered in Northern Ireland. While NIFRS stated that these measures were budget driven, they also assured me that they were not unsafe and could help inform the future Service Delivery Model going forward.

These measures have been in place now for five months and I have received further assurance from Michael Graham (interim) Chief Fire and Rescue Officer that they continue to deliver a safe service for the people of Northern Ireland.

NIFRS is currently reviewing its Service Delivery Model and this may alter the crewing model in various stations across Northern Ireland. I understand that NIFRS intends to meet with stakeholders over the coming months to ensure any changes will be appropriately considered and consulted upon before they are introduced.

NIFRS appreciate how important it is that they continue to work with local community leaders to improve how they deliver a safe and effective service for all the people it serves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Pengelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RICHARD PENGELLY

Your Ref
Our Ref
Date
Email

Democratic Services
10 January 2020
Democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com



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

Brendan Hegarty
Chief Executive

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



Dear Ms Ward

Re: Motion – Fire and Rescue Service Budget

At the Council meeting held on 7 January 2020, Members considered and agreed to support the Motion – Fire and Rescue Service Budget as requested in your correspondence dated 9 December 2019.

The Council has been in correspondence previously with both the Department of Health and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to express its concerns on this same matter and Members have asked that I share with you the most recent correspondence received by the Council from Mr Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department for Health, in response to this Council's concerns. (see attached letter)

At the Council meeting, whilst agreeing to further correspond with Mr Pengelly as requested in your Motion, Members also asked that I would seek clarification on a number of other related matters, such as the correctness of the recent media statements regarding the proposed changes to the Service Delivery Model for the NIFRS and to request further information on how the proposed changes have been assessed in line with rural impact implications.

I hope this assures Newry Mourne and Down District Council of this Council's support for the retention and sustainability of Fire and Rescue Services both locally and regionally.

Yours sincerely

Celine McCartan
Acting Chief Executive

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Department of
Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Máinnystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

Ms Alison McCullagh
Acting Chief Executive
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Townhall
2 Townhall Street
ENNISKILLEN
Co Fermanagh
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Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559
Fax: 02890520573

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP 5013
SCORR-1111-2019

Date: 10 December 2019

Dear Ms McCullagh

Thank you for your letter dated 12 November 2019.

In previous correspondence I suggested that Michael Graham, Interim Chief Fire and Rescue Officer would be best placed to provide clarification on the matter you raised, as these are clearly operational in nature. Given your further letter I have sought clarification from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) on the queries you have raised.

NIFRS has advised that interim changes made to the Service Delivery Model remain temporary and they expect that they will remain in place until the end of this financial year. They have informed me that a full time presence remains within Enniskillen and Omagh Stations (from 8am until 6pm). They do not believe it necessary to complete a full public consultation at this stage. They have advised that they have completed a Section 75 Screening exercise and are currently completing a rural impact assessment which will help ensure that all changes have due regard to rural needs.

NIFRS have assured me that any permanent changes will be appropriately considered and consulted upon before they are introduced. I would reiterate that Michael Graham remains best placed, and indeed ready, to discuss these matters with you.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY

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Your Ref
 Our Ref Democratic Services
 Date 12 November 2019
 Email Democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com



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

Brendan Hegarty
 Chief Executive

Mr Richard Pengelly
 Permanent Secretary
 Department of Health
 Castle Buildings
 Upper Newtownards Road
 BELFAST
 BT4 3SQ

Dear Mr Pengelly

Re: NIFRS Proposed Reduction in Personnel

At the Council meeting held on 5 November 2019, Members considered your letter of response dated 25 October 2019 relating to the proposed reduction in personnel in which you indicated that the Interim Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Michael Graham was best placed to clarify issues of an operational nature. However, Members are of the opinion the clarifications sought in their correspondence of 13 September and 9 October 2019 respectively are strategic rather than operational particularly as the queries relate to whether a consultation process has been undertaken, and whether they have been both equality screened and rural proofed. In addition, Members had sought clarification as to when the proposed interim measures were expected to become permanent.

I am writing to you to again ask that the clarifications sought as outlined above, are provided by yourself given that the Department of Health is fully accountable for the status of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

We look forward to receiving your response in due course.

Yours sincerely

Alison McCullagh
 Acting Chief Executive

Ms Marie Ward, Chief Executive
Cllr Charlie Casey, Chair
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
District Council Offices
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

23rd January 2020

Dear Cllr Casey and Marie,

Pre – Consultation Notice

NILGA Strategic Consultations with Member Councils – Council Led Reform, £3.5 billion Shared Prosperity Fund for Northern Ireland, Shared Services.

As you are well aware, the fiscal challenges facing councils in Northern Ireland require collective, sector wide work as well as vigilance and forward planning in each council. So, too, does the ambition of local government to be a growing public sector and civic leader for the communities we serve.

NILGA, your 11-council owned policy, investment and development body, is keen during the financial year 2020/2021 to develop in partnership 3 specific strands of council led actions which will help to maintain and improve our public services, keep rates at prudent levels, apply new investment channels for capital developments and adopt a transformative approach to shared services across councils driven by what each and every council in local government here wants and needs to be sustainable.

Working within the Association's Policy & Learning Networks – supported by senior officers and elected members from right across the councils – an evidence and action-based approach has already been designed, with practical work plans - and a timetable for roll out - approved.

From Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's perspective, we ask that council offers corporate comment on each of the planned consultations across the 11 councils on the above matters, upon receipt of which NILGA will co-ordinate and apply the findings with each council and Solace, putting policy & practice during 2020/2021 into place.

Please look out for the sequence of 3 consultations, starting with Council Led Reform in late January 2020.

Without doubt each of the Policy actions ensuing will fulfil our collective wish to deliver high quality services at affordable costs to ratepayers, this year and throughout the electoral term.

Please convey this pre-notice (which I have copied to your NILGA Executive members) to the most appropriate Standing Committee of your council.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

With renewed thanks for your co-operation and partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Frances Burton
President



Mr Derek McCallan
Chief Executive

Cancil Agenda - For

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Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

28 January 2020

Our ref: C013/20
Your ref: C/209/2019

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



Dear Ms Ward

At a meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on 23 January 2020 Members resolved to support the undernoted Motion resolved by Newry Mourne & Down District Council:

"That this Council Contact Mr Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, and ask all other councils in the North to do likewise, to address the significant shortfall on the proposed budget for the fire and rescue service. The continuing cutting of budgets has left lifesaving services at a critical level. We also call on Mr Pengelly to look again at expanding and sharing emergency services and cover, especially in rural areas."

Mid Ulster District Council in support of the motion has forwarded a letter to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Health.

Yours sincerely

Martin Kearney

Councillor Martin Kearney

Chair

Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Magherafelt Office
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