



April 4th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 4th April 2022 at 6:00 pm** in **Hybrid - Downshire Chamber and Online via Microsoft Teams**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 07 03 2022.pdf](#)

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2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 March 2022

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 07 03 2022.pdf](#)

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4.0 Call-in from Council Meeting held on 7th February 2022

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

“This Council wishes to place on record it’s concern with the actions of Minister Poots relating to the withdrawal of checks required for the implementation of the Protocol and his failure to comply with an International Treaty and legal obligations negotiated by the British Government with the EU.

The Council further notes with concern that this is likely to impact its ability to meet the legal obligations for which it is responsible, relating to inspections at the Port. This Council joins with Belfast City council in initiating legal proceedings to compel the Minister and the British Government to comply with Protocol requirements, subject to any current derogations in the grace period.”

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

4.1 Call-in from Council Meeting held on 7th February 2022

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 [Report for Council meeting - 4th April 2022 - Call-in of Council decision.pdf](#)

Not included

 [Paul McLaughlin QC - Opinion.pdf](#)

Not included

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

5.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 March 2022

For Approval

 [Council_Minutes_07-03-2022.pdf](#)

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6.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 18 March 2022

For Approval

 [Minutes Special Council Meeting 18.03.2022.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 March 2022 with S.E. Trust

For Approval

 [Draft Special Council Meeting Minutes 24.03.2022.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 March 2022 re. SACIA, Warrenpoint

For Approval

 [Special Council Meeting Minutes SACIA 24.03.2022.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

9.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2022


For Approval

 [ERT Minutes 14 March 2022.pdf](#)

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10.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2022


For Approval

 [SPR Minutes - 16 March 2022.pdf](#)

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11.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2022

For Approval


 [AHC Minutes 21 March 2022.pdf](#)

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12.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held

on 23 March 2022

For Approval

 *NS Minutes - 23 March 2022.pdf*

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13.0 Planning Section - Local Development Plan

For Approval

Planning Policy Review - Coastal Development

 *Extract from Planning Minutes 09.03.2022.pdf*

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Correspondence and Conferences

14.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Minutes - 10 February 2022

For Information

 *Housing Council Minutes 10th February 2022.pdf*

Page 73

 *Appendix A to February Minutes - Discretionary Housing Payments Presentation.pdf*

Page 78

15.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - March 2022

For Information

 *N. Ireland Housing Council Members Bulletin - 10th March 2022.pdf*

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16.0 Letter from Fermanagh and Omagh DC re. Free School Meals

For Decision

Letter dated 11 March 2022 attached


 *Letter from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Free School Meal.pdf*

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17.0 Response received from Department of Justice re. NOM C/039/2022 - Online Accounts

For Information

Letter dated 18 March 2022 attached.

 *Letter from Minister Long C039 2022 NOM Online Accounts.pdf*

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18.0 Response received from Department of Health re. Emergency NOM C/042/2022 - Emergency Surgery Provision at Daisy Hill Hospital

For Information

Letter dated 16 March 2022 attached.

 **Response from DoH re C.042.2022 Emergency Surgery Provision DHH.pdf**

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19.0 Response received from N. Ireland Ambulance Service re. Emergency NOM C/042/2022 - Emergency Surgery Provision at Daisy Hill Hospital076/2022

For Information

Letter dated 3 March attached.

 **Response from NIAS re Emergency NOM C.042.2022.pdf**

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20.0 Letter from Department for Communities re. Consolidated Councillor Allowances

For Information

Letter dated 28 March attached.

 **Letter from DfC re. Consolidated Councillor Allowances.pdf**

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Notices of Motion

21.0 Notice of Motion - Child Poverty

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McMurray:

"This Council notes the recent report from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research which draws the conclusion - in its most recent UK Economic Outlook - that the economy is 'Powering Down, Not Levelling up' and commits this Council to raising awareness of the reality of child poverty within our District. Furthermore, in order to best utilise key learnings and networks established from council's COVID-19 response, this Council will seek to; identify improved means of tackling child poverty and inequalities throughout the District – including a Council led review of local emergency support provision, agrees to make this issue a standalone and component part of our next Corporate Plan, and agrees to write to the Minister for the Department of Communities to request a meeting on the Child Poverty Strategy in order to receive an update and to identify opportunities for further collaboration and inter-agency working."

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 7 MARCH 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/046/2022	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 07.02.22	<p>The Action Sheet was agreed subject to the following amendment:</p> <p>Item C/020/2022: To set a District Rate for the year 2022/23 to read that the rate increase of 1.95% means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.</p> <p>The action sheet was also approved with the omission of item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion: Ports due to call in and referral to legal Council.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>D Carville</p>	Noted	
C/047/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 07.02.22	<p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, subject to the following amendment:</p> <p>Item C/020/2022: To set a District Rate for the year 2022/23 to read that the rate increase of 1.95% means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.</p>	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		The Minutes were also adopted with the omission of item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion – Ports due to call in and referral to legal Council.			
C/048/2022	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31.01.2022	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/049/2022	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 14.02.22	<p>The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted subject to amendment that Councillor Savage declared an interest in item ERT/029/2022 Tourism NI Co-operative Partnership Marketing Fund and ERT/034/2022 Make it Local Engagement Campaign.</p> <p>It was agreed that Council work towards putting the Festival of Flight into the events programme for next year 2023-2024, subject to Committee approval.</p> <p>It was agreed that before any decisions or events were decided upon, the Mournes DEA Councillors be consulted.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon</p> <p>C Mallon</p>	Noted	
C/050/2022	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 17.02.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/051/2022	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 21.02.22	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted</p> <p>Mr Lipsett advised he would report back directly to Councillor Lewis with a confirmed date for the</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>M Lipsett</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Actioned</p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		reopening of the hot tub.			
C/052/2022	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 23.02.22	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>In response for an update from Councillor Hanlon on the consultation for the Public Toilet Strategy, Mr McBride advised a paper had been presented to Committee, the detail of which he would provide directly.</p> <p>Mr McBride advised he would report back to Councillor Hanlon directly in relation to Portaloos at Kilclief Beach.</p> <p>Mr McBride also agreed to speak with Councillor McMurray regarding the provision on portaloos in Dundrum.</p> <p>Councillors Taylor & Ó Muirí asked that street cleansing in Newtownhamilton also be examined and Mr McBride confirmed he would do so.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>J McBride</p> <p>J McBride</p> <p>J McBride</p> <p>J McBride</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>K Scullion emailed Councillor with update</p> <p>K Scullion emailed Councillor with update</p> <p>K Scullion emailed Councillor with update</p> <p>D Hanna emailed Councillors with update</p>	
C/053/2022	Planning Minutes	The Extract from the Planning Minutes dated 9 February 2022 was noted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/054/2022	NOM: Opposed to planned changes to red diesel	It was agreed that Newry Mourne and Down District Council oppose the planned changes to Red Diesel usage being brought in by HMRC in April. The proposed changes to red diesel usage in any vehicle other than what are described as vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only.	Democratic Services	Letters sent	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p>Council notes with concern that these changes will have severe implications for many sectors of our economy locally throughout our district and not solely within agriculture.</p> <p>Council writes to the British Treasury opposing the planned changes and seeking to immediately pause these damaging proposals and to look at new ways as to how government can practically support businesses take the necessary actions to move away from fossil fuels and to put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions as these proposals will only serve to increasing input costs without themselves reducing emission.</p> <p>Council writes to all Councils in the North asking them to write to the British Treasury asking them to raise concerns that this will have a detrimental economic impact across all Council Areas.</p>			
C/055/2022	NOM: Charlotte's Law	<p>It was agreed that following proper scrutiny, due process and appropriate Assembly consideration, this Council supports the implementation of Charlotte's Law. In principle we support the proposed mechanisms of; recategorizing all 'no body' murders from the 'normal' murder category into the very serious murder category meaning a higher starting point in sentencing. Furthermore, we support offering a specified time post-sentencing where significant disclosure can be made by the perpetrator and if it results in the victim's body being recovered then a review of tariff will be offered, and the non-disclosure is no longer a relevant factor. We call for the next Justice Minister to bring these proposals forward without delay during the next mandate.</p>	Democratic Services	Letters sent	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/056/2022	NOM: Pat Jennings Statue	The Motion was referred to the Equality and Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	C Moffet	<p>Next meeting of the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group will take place in June 2022 (date TBC).</p> <p>Application has been received and will be considered as per Council's agreed policy and Guidelines and associated procedure on new Artworks / Sculptures on Council property</p>	
C/057/2022	Emergency Notice of Motion – Cost of Living Crisis	It was agreed in light of the massive hikes of prices in relation to energy related costs such as oil, gas, electricity and fuel in recent days and times, all of which will have a major detrimental impact on all our residents in our district and beyond, Newry Mourne and Down District Council call upon and demand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer release the much necessary funding and support to enable that all households who have been affected by these massive price increases receive much needed support and help where it is needed most especially in the times that we are now in and beyond. If this motion is adopted, we encourage the other ten councils to do the same for their residents.	Democratic Services	Letters sent	
END					

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END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 March 2022 at 6.00pm via Hybrid
in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair: Councillor C Mason (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor D Curran	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Savage	

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor K Owen
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration &
Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and
Events
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/044/2022

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Devlin and Howell and Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive.

The Chairperson began with a moment of reflection for the people of Ukraine.

The Chairperson stated the brutal actions of Russia had been condemned right across the political spectrum and that Council sent their solidarity to the people of Ukraine. She mentioned in particular a friend, colleague and past Councillor, Oksana McMahon and other members of the chamber who had friends, family or colleagues who were experiencing hurt at the hands of Russia.

Whilst these horrific events unfold there was a clear act of solidarity emerging, with appeals and collections taking place all over the north and over the weekend Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held its own collection. As Chairperson she was blown away by the kindness and generosity of the people of the District and gave a special thanks to Justyna McCabe for co-ordinating the collections.

The Chairperson commented that the next day would see the celebration of International Women's Day, a day where we stop to celebrate women, embrace women and acknowledge the hardships that still existed as women, but mostly applauding just how far we had come. Members were informed the theme for this year was #BreakTheBias, creating a world free from stereotype and discrimination and moving to one which promoted diversity, inclusivity and celebrated difference.

The Chairperson thanked all those who attended the very successful event that took place on 4 March 2022 including all the men who attended. She commented that the biggest learning coming out of the event on Friday was the need to be having these conversations today, tomorrow and every day, not waiting for one day each year.

The Chairperson wished all women in the chamber and Council a happy International Women's Day and quoted the following: "Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

Councillor Savage paid tribute to the late Sean McEvoy, saying Sean had been a councillor in the legacy Newry and Mourne Council and had sadly passed away this week after a long illness. He said he had been a great councillor and was very highly regarded and he conveyed his condolences to his family.

C/045/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/046/2022 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 (copy circulated).

Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive advised an amendment was required to the Council Action Sheet and Minutes from the meeting held on 7 February 2022, as there had been an error on the figures reported.

The rate increase of 1.95% should read that this means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.

Mrs Carville informed Members item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion: Ports had been subject to call in and referred to legal Council and would be reported back to Council once it had been ruled upon.

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanlon subject to the following amendment:

Item C/020/2022: To set a District Rate for the year 2022/23 to read that the rate increase of 1.95% means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.

The action sheet was also approved with the exception of item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion: Ports due to call in and referral to legal counsel.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/047/2022 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess subject to the following amendment:

Item C/020/2022: To set a District Rate for the year 2022/23 to read that the rate increase of 1.95% means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.

The Minutes were also adopted with the exception of item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion – Ports due to call in and referral to legal counsel.

C/048/2022 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2022

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31 January 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 31 January 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/049/2022 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2022 (copy circulated).

Councillor Savage advised he had declared an interest in items ERT/029/2022 Tourism NI Co operative Partnership Marketing Fund and ERT/034/2022 Make it Local Engagement Campaign.

ERT/025/2022: Downpatrick Town Centre

In response for an update from Councillor Curran, Mr Mallon confirmed that once the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism minutes were ratified a date for a workshop and list of attendees would be issued.

ERT/037/2022: Tourism Events Programme 2022-23

Councillor Hanna commented it was disappointing the Festival of Flight was not going ahead in 2022 and that information was in the media about proposed events to use the money from the event.

Councillor Hanna proposed that before any decisions or events were decided upon that the Mournes DEA Councillors be consulted. Councillor McEvoy seconded the proposal.

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

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

ERT/036/2022: Service Level Agreements 2022-23

Councillor Enright referred to Service Level Agreements within the minute and wished to express concerns relating to the Tourism Centre in Downpatrick.

Mr Mallon clarified the Service Level Agreements 2022-23 had been presented to Committee with the recommendation to approve them.

ERT/037/2022: Tourism Events Programme 2022-23

Councillor Owen proposed that the Festival of Flight be put into the calendar for next year and earmarked as much as possible. Councillor Taylor seconded the proposal.

Mrs D Carville advised that determining an events programme for the 2023-24 year ahead of costing would be premature and suggested officers take the comments on board and put it back to the team for consideration.

Councillor Owen enquired if there was no way a firm commitment could be given to the public that the Festival of Flight would go ahead next year to which Mrs Carville reaffirmed it would be premature to do so as all events had to be taken in the round and presented to Committee for full consideration and approval.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters

which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Council work towards putting the Festival of Flight into the events programme for next year 2023-2024, subject to Committee approval.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor McEvoy that before any decisions or events were decided upon the Mournes DEA Councillors be consulted.

Agreed: The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hanna subject to amendment that Councillor Savage declared an interest in item ERT/029/2022 Tourism NI Co-operative Partnership Marketing Fund and ERT/034/2022 Make it Local Engagement Campaign.

Agreed: The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2022 were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/050/2022 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Hanlon .

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

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

SPR/031/2022: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 18 January 2022 & 3 February 2022

Councillor McAteer wished to speak about the action sheet of 3 February 2022.

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

C/051/2022 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2022 (copy circulated).

AHC/030/2022: Action Sheet from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2022

In response to a query from Councillor Lewis regarding the reopening of the hot tub within the Vitality Suite in Downpatrick Leisure Centre, Mr Lipsett advised that whilst all facilities were now open there were a number that would take slightly longer to open up due to repair work being carried out and difficulties in getting various cleaning products for some facilities. He assured Members that officers were doing all they could to reopen all facilities as quickly as they could.

Mr Lipsett advised he would report back directly to Councillor Lewis with a confirmed date for the reopening of the hot tub.

Agreed: The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

C/052/2022 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2022 (copy circulated).

NS/013/2022: Neighbourhood Services Working Group Meeting 3 February 2022

In response for an update from Councillor Hanlon on the consultation for the Public Toilet Strategy, Mr McBride advised a paper had been presented to Committee, the detail of which he would provide directly.

Councillor Hanlon advised she had put in a request for the provision of portaloos at Kilclief beach which was extremely busy and asked that it be expedited as residents were concerned. Mr McBride advised he would report back to Councillor Hanlon directly.

Councillor Enright added that Kilclief beach was an internationally recognised bathing beach and there was a need for toilet provision.

Mr McBride also agreed to speak with Councillor McMurray regarding the provision on portals in Dundrum.

NS/017/2022: Fleet Replacement Plan Update

Councillor McAteer spoke of issues arising from bins not being lifted due to vehicle tonnage limits and asked that as a matter of urgency smaller vehicles be placed first on the procurement list.

Mr McBride confirmed Mac Pac type vehicles were included within the tender issued to replace part of the fleet. He also confirmed the tender valuations had been completed for 5 out of 6 lots and that it was hoped orders would be placed by the end of March 2022.

In response to concerns about the timeframe referred to by Councillor McAteer, Mr McBride advised it was an industry wide issue with supply chain difficulties outside of officer's control and that the focus was on getting orders placed and then put pressure on suppliers to reduce delivery times.

Councillor O'Hare and Taylor highlighted concerns in relation to opening of recycling centres in Hilltown and Newtownhamilton. Mr McBride explained that unfortunately there was workforce deficit in household recycling centres due to Covid and other sickness issues and that a service continuity plan was in place and that some centres were having to close to prevent detrimental impact on other services such as cleansing.

Councillors Taylor and Ó Muirí asked that street cleansing in Newtownhamilton also be examined and Mr McBride confirmed he would do so.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran.**

C/053/2022 **PLANNING MINUTES**

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2022 (copy circulated)

Noted: **The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 9 February 2022 was noted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/054/2022 **NOTICE OF MOTION – OPPOSED TO PLANNED CHANGES TO RED DIESEL**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McEvoy:

“NMD Council oppose the planned changes to Red Diesel usage being brought in by HMRC in April.

The proposed changes to red diesel usage in any vehicle other than what are described as vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only. This Council notes with concern that these changes will have severe implications for many sectors of our economy locally throughout our district and not solely within agriculture.

Sinn Féin propose that Newry Mourne and Down Council writes to the British Treasury opposing the planned changes and seeking to immediately pause these damaging proposals and to look at new ways as to how government can practically support businesses take the necessary actions to move away from fossil fuels and to put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions as these proposals will only serve to increasing input costs without themselves reducing emission.

We will also write to all Councils in the North asking them to write to the British Treasury asking them to raise concerns that this will have a detrimental economic impact across all Council Areas”.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McEvoy said change to the entitlement to use red diesel would not reduce emissions in itself but would however increase revenues for the British Treasury.

Councillor McEvoy said the latest plan from the British Chancellor would see the removal of the lower duty rate from red diesel with a sudden increase in price of around 50 pence per litre, which would have damaging effects on all sectors who currently availed of red diesel. She stated the proposed changes would have a detrimental effect on businesses, in particular the agriculture, construction, quarrying and manufacturing sectors that were already struggling with increased costs of materials and soaring energy prices and she said jobs could be put at risk.

Councillor McEvoy said the British Chancellor should pause this move and instead look at how to practically support businesses take the necessary action to move away from fossil fuels and put in place measures and policies that would have a meaningful impact in reducing emissions.

Councillor Murphy seconded the Motion saying the timing was most unfortunate given the recent fuel price hike and farmers were already under pressure with the reduction and in some cases withdrawal of EU funding. He stated charities would also lose out as fundraising tractor runs would not be feasible because the tractors would have to be drained, tanks washed out and replaced with white diesel and he said this simply would not happen.

Councillor Murphy said the proposed changes were an attack on the rural communities and rural economy and the decision makers had not taken into the account the very serious impact it would have.

Councillor Hanna expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the DUP and said the Ukraine crisis, the increases in fuel and National Insurance Contributions were extremely concerning and Chancellor of the Exchequer needed to put a pause on this for at least a few years.

Councillor Lewis expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the UUP and said the Air Ambulance Service which provided a vital service to rural communities would be affected as it benefitted from annual family friendly tractor runs. Additionally, Councillor Lewis raised concerns about the potential damage that could be done to vehicles as a result of having to drain the fuel.

Councillor McKevitt expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the SDLP saying the construction industry would be hit particularly hard and said it would result in cross border construction workers having to empty their machines at the border which was not feasible.

Councillor McKee said it would be impossible to police and charity tractor runs should be excluded from having to use white diesel.

Councillor McMurray said he had concerns over the wording of the Motion, and he would not be supporting it.

Councillor Reilly said he supported the Motion in principle and asked if it could be amended to include 'The N. Ireland Assembly examines all avenues of being able to subsidise industry in N. Ireland that is affected by the loss of rebated diesel'

Councillor McEvoy said she would not accept the amendment as she understood it was going to the Exchequer.

Councillor McAteer expressed support for the Motion saying the proposed changes would cause a practical and administrative nightmare for the small farmer.

The Chairperson asked for a vote for support for the Motion the results of which are as follows:

FOR:	31
AGAINST:	3
ABSTENTIONS:	0

Support for Motion was carried.

In summing up, Councillor McEvoy said it was paramount as a Council that representations be made to the British Treasury to highlight the serious concerns the proposed changes would have. She said with Brexit already having a detrimental impact on local communities, the increased cost of living, raw materials and increased fuel prices farming and rural businesses did not need this additional pressure and said these damaging proposals must be paused with immediate effect.

Councillor Reilly strongly voiced his opposition to the mention of Brexit having a detrimental effect and asked that his vote be withdrawn.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Murphy that Newry Mourne and Down District Council oppose the planned changes to Red Diesel usage being brought in by HMRC in April.**
The proposed changes to red diesel usage in any vehicle other than what are described as vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only.
Council notes with concern that these changes will have severe implications for many sectors of our economy locally throughout our district and not solely within agriculture.
Council writes to the British Treasury opposing the planned changes and seeking to immediately pause these damaging proposals and to look at new ways as to how government can practically support businesses take the necessary actions to move away from fossil fuels and to put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions as these proposals will only serve to increasing input costs without themselves reducing emission.
Council writes to all Councils in the North asking them to write to the British Treasury asking them to raise concerns that this will have a detrimental economic impact across all Council Areas.

Councillors Tinnelly and Enright left the meeting – 7.42pm and 7.43pm respectively.

C/055/2022

NOTICE OF MOTION – CHARLOTTE'S LAW

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

“Following proper scrutiny, due process and appropriate Assembly consideration, this council supports the implementation of Charlotte’s Law. In principle we support the proposed mechanisms of; recategorizing all ‘no body’ murders from the ‘normal’ murder category into the very serious murder category meaning a higher starting point in sentencing. Furthermore, we support offering a specified time post-sentencing where significant disclosure can be made by the perpetrator and if it results in the victim’s body being recovered then a review of tariff will be offered, and the non-disclosure is no longer a relevant factor. We call for the next Justice Minister to bring these proposals forward without delay during the next mandate”.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Lewis paid tribute to the Murray and Dorrian Families and thanked Joanne Dorrian for coming to the meeting, logging in to witness this historic vote. He commended the two families for their work, outreach and campaigning, although suffering themselves they had supported other families not just in Northern Ireland but across the world and thanked them for articulating the benefits of this suggested legislation.

Councillor Lewis stated the Ulster Unionist Party believed action must be taken to both recognise the seriousness of this offence and satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence. He added concealment of a body compounded the anguish caused to the family of the victim and was not merely an ‘aggravating factor’ but was an offence worthy of being placed in the ‘very serious murder’ category. He pointed out this would be progressive legislation, a world first. Realistically, to encourage disclosure for the benefit of the family, we support offering a specified time post-sentencing where significant disclosure can be made by the perpetrator and if it results in the victim’s body being recovered then a review of tariff will be offered, and the non-disclosure is no longer a relevant factor.

In the absence of a functioning Executive Councillor Lewis said he believe every Council in Northern Ireland should use the mechanisms open to them to put on record their support for this change to the law. He hoped each party would take the opportunity to publicly, in principle support the steps that needed to be taken to resolve the heinous act of body concealment, providing families with a pathway to closure. He stated the Murray and Dorrian families had waited long enough to see substantive moves toward justice. The support of this motion along with the consultation provided the next Minister of Justice a clear mandate to move this law on their first day in office.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Taylor said the introduction of Charlotte’s Law was an important factor in ensuring proper sentencing was imposed in taking into account the seriousness of the offence.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed Joanne Dorrian to the meeting, acknowledging it was very difficult for her to listen to the discussions on the Motion and she offered her condolences to her on the tragic loss of her sister Lisa. She asked that it be put on record Sinn Féin’s thanks to both the Dorrian and Murray families who had campaigned so relentlessly for the introduction of Charlotte’s Law.

Councillor Hanlon said the Justice Minister had proposed to introduce a form of Charlotte’s Law which would place a statutory duty on the Parole Commissioners to take into account the non-disclosure of a victim’s remains where a person’s killer was applying for parole. and said with regard to the wording of the Motion, in relation to *recategorizing all ‘no body’ murders* and *post sentencing reviews*, the Minister had not proposed these but had sought views on these options in a consultation, Councillor Hanlon said she understood the Minister herself did not support these changes and she said Sinn Féin was opposed to these two options.

Councillor Hanlon said she did not believe a compelling case had been made for these changes to be implemented and given the legal complexities involved, much more work would need to be carried out by the Department before it could conclude such proposals would be appropriate or effective.

Councillor Hanlon proposed an amendment to the Motion to add the following after the words 'Charlotte's Law' in the first sentence of the Motion. 'alongside the package of practical and administrative recommendations from the Department's Review of the law regarding the low on the disclosure of victims remains. This Council calls for incoming Justice Minister to introduce Charlotte's Law in the next mandate' Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the proposal.

Councillor Lewis said although he took on board, Councillor Hanlon's comments, he could not accept the amendment as he considered it would not give the necessary weight the law would need and following the consultation, it should hopefully include the recategorization and tariff review and he said to not include these in the Motion at this time would be letting down the two families who had rigorously campaigned for it.

Councillor Hanlon asked it be put on record that Sinn Féin agreed with the principle of the Motion, just not the drafting of it and that it had supported the Assembly Motion regarding Charlotte's Law.

Councillor Lewis reiterated he could not accept the amendment proposed by Councillor Hanlon saying a strong legislative stance was needed to ensure that when the consultation process was completed, the two most important factors, the recategorization and the tariff review would be enshrined in legislation.

Councillor Byrne expressed full support for the Motion but said he had some concern with regard to the technicality of the wording of the Motion. He acknowledged the tireless campaigning carried out by the two families and said everything should be done to ensure all mechanisms were put in place to encourage people to be forthcoming regarding the whereabouts of victims' remains.

Councillors McMurray, Owen and McKee all expressed full support for the Motion.

Councillor Hanlon read out her amended Motion:

"Following proper scrutiny, due process and appropriate Assembly consideration, this council supports the implementation of Charlotte's Law alongside a package of practical and administrative recommendations from the Departments review of the law regarding the non-disclosure of victims remains. This Council calls for the incoming Justice Minister to introduce Charlotte's Law in the next mandate'.

The proposed amendment was put to a vote, the result of which were as follows:

FOR:	13
AGAINST:	19
ABSTENTIONS:	1

The proposal was lost.

In summing up, Councillor Lewis commended the Dorrian and Murray families for all the campaigning they had done and for the support they had offered to other families who had found themselves in the same situation.

AGREED:	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Taylor that following proper scrutiny, due process and appropriate Assembly consideration, this Council supports the implementation of Charlotte's Law. In principle we support the proposed mechanisms of; recategorizing all 'no body' murders from the 'normal' murder category into the very serious murder category meaning a higher starting point in sentencing. Furthermore, we support offering a specified time post-sentencing where significant disclosure can be made by the
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perpetrator and if it results in the victim's body being recovered then a review of tariff will be offered, and the non-disclosure is no longer a relevant factor. We call for the next Justice Minister to bring these proposals forward without delay during the next mandate.

Councillor Ruane left the meeting – 8.07pm.

C/056/2022

NOTICE OF MOTION – PAT JENNINGS STATUE

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Savage:

“Council acknowledges the outstanding contribution son of Newry, and former Northern Ireland International, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Watford and Newry Town goalkeeper Pat Jennings has made to sport, charity, reconciliation and the promotion of his home city and district.

The Friends of Big Pat Group has been established to honour Pat Jennings through the commissioning of a statue to be located in his native Newry in honour of his achievements on and off the pitch and in recognition of the high esteem in which he is held in his home city and district and across the world.

Council acknowledges Pat Jennings’ global recognition as an outstanding international and English club goalkeeper, his time as a young GAA player with Newry Shamrocks, his work with numerous charities over many years, his involvement in reconciliation work including his 35 years with Co-operation Ireland and his role as an Ambassador for Newry’s City Status Bid in 2002.

Council agrees to engage (without prejudice) with the Friends of Big Pat Group as per the Council’s agreed procedure and policy relating to the erection of artworks and statues if an application is made by the Friends of Big Pat Group relating to the erection of artwork/statue honouring Pat Jennings’ in the city”.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

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

The Chairperson advised Members that Councillor Stokes and Councillor Andrews wished to bring forward an Emergency Notice of Motion, and in order to do so, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders, for which a qualified majority vote was required (80% of Members present and voting).

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

FOR:	30
AGAINST:	0
ABSENCES:	0

It was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders 16.1. (copy attached, appendix 1)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the emergency Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mulgrew.

C/057/2022

EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION – UKRAINE

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Stokes and Councillor Andrews:

‘Newry, Mourne and Down District Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the invasion of the sovereign independent nation of Ukraine and expresses its solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Also, in light of the massive hikes of prices in relation to energy related costs such as oil, gas, electricity and fuel in recent days and times all of which will have a major detrimental impact on all our residents in our district and beyond. Newry Mourne and Down District Council call upon and demand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer release the much necessary funding and support to enable that all households who have been affected by these massive price increases receive much needed support and help where it is needed most especially in the times that we are now in and beyond. If this motion is adopted, we encourage the other ten councils to do the same for their residents.’

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

As there were two different aspects to the Motion, Councillor Stokes spoke on the first part of the Motion relating to the invasion of Ukraine and Councillor Andrews spoke on the second part in relation to the massive increases in energy related costs.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Stokes thanked the Chair for her comments in her opening remarks regarding the invasion of Ukraine. He stated he was personally affected by the invasion as his wife was Ukrainian and many of their friends still lived in Kyiv. He said the lives of Ukrainians had been turned upside down with many now forced to live in basements and subway stations for safety.

Councillor Stokes thanked the Members for their support and said the generosity of local people was greatly appreciated and said it was appropriate that Sinn Féin seconded the Motion, given that former Council Vice Chair Oksana McMahon was a native of Ukraine. He said the situation was impossible to imagine and especially difficult for those with young children.

There was widespread condemnation among Members of the appalling brutality that had been inflicted upon the Ukrainian people with some Members saying the Ukrainian element of the Motion was of such magnitude it could have been a Motion on its own. Members expressed their utmost support for the people of Ukraine and said the world needed to stand up to President Putin. Members said the conflict had shown both the worst and best of humanity. Councillor Savage said the Irish Government had taken a much more humanitarian approach than the UK in waiving visas and said in view of the offers of accommodation from people in the District, Council could open a register of interest and people could register if they were in a position to offer accommodation to Ukrainian refugees. Members spoke of the harrowing images on TV of children being lifted and put on to trains and families being separated.

The Chairperson said she was happy to meet with Councillor Stokes to explore ways in which the Council could offer assistance.

In proposing the second part of the Motion, Councillor Andrews said in recent months before the invasion of Ukraine there had been a huge hike in fuel costs and since the invasion, prices had sky rocketed and were not showing any signs of slowing down.

Councillor Andrews said the timing could not have been worse as following the pandemic, the economy had been struggling with many businesses facing an uphill battle to survive and the stark choice for many was heat or eat.

Councillor Andrews said the increased prices and increase in VAT only increased intake into the Treasury. He said massive profits were being made by the major companies at the expense of the consumer and he called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to divert these taxation increases and to levy taxes on major companies these taxes could then be given back to all those severely impacted by rising prices. He said on a local basis the

extra monies should be diverted to the Department for Communities with each household receiving financial support.

There was unanimous support for both aspects of the Motion and Councillor Stokes in summing up, thanked the Members for their unanimous support.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 April 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Friday 18 March 2022 at 4.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor C Mason

**In attendance
via Teams:**

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	

**Officials in attendance
via Teams:** Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active & Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

SC/004/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Brown, Owen and Savage.

The Chairperson extended her condolences to Councillor W Clarke on the recent sad passing of his mother Margaret, saying she had been a lifelong resident of Widow's Row, Newcastle and would be greatly missed by her family and community. Councillor McAteer offered his condolences on behalf of SDLP to Councillor Clarke.

The Chairperson congratulated all involved in the very successful St Patrick's Day events held in Newry and Downpatrick and passed her thanks on to Conor Mallon, Andy Patterson and Eoin McCartan and their teams for their hard work in organising both events.

SC/005/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/006/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Ó Muirí

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

This Council calls for the immediate restoration of the Executive in order to allocate and agree spending to support workers and families.

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

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ó Muirí spoke of the extreme difficulties being experienced by households across the district as a result of soaring energy prices and the cost of living skyrocketing, all of this having been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine.

Councillor Ó Muirí acknowledged the withdrawal of Paul Givan as First Minister which resulted in the collapse of the Executive may, at the time, in view of the protocol issue, been considered the best option by the DUP, however, he said, although he accepted the protocol question was critically important to Unionism, the harsh reality was that the rise in diesel, petrol, heating oil, soaring energy costs, planned increase in National Insurance Contributions and the red diesel issue were having a detrimental effect to everyone, regardless of political persuasion and it was a grossly unfair situation and smothering people right now.

Councillor Ó Muirí said the quickest way to tackle the cost of living crisis was to restore the Executive and he asked that all parties unite in calling on the DUP to reinstate the First Minister as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal saying it was important all parties stand together on this issue. She reiterated the points made by Councillor Ó Muirí and said whilst she recognised the calls made by the SDLP for emergency legislation to be put in place, she said the public needed the restoration of the Executive with its full spending and decision powers.

Councillor McAteer expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the SDLP and asked if an amendment could be added to the last paragraph to read:
'and calls on the Department of Communities to make an immediate payment of £200

energy support payment to all households who have not yet received support and furthermore calls on all parties to support Mark H Durkan's Private Members Bill which, in the absence of a restored Executive, will allow the underspend of £300m to be dispersed immediately to those in further need of direct financial support.'

Additionally, Councillor McAteer said the wording of the Motion did not include gas increases and asked what percentage the energy duty cuts would be.

Councillor Ó Muirí said he would only accept Councillor McAteer's amendment relating to the support of Mark H Durkan's Private Members Bill and said it was the gift of the Executive, not Department for Communities to give an energy support payment and it was not up to Sinn Féin to decide the percentage of the energy duty cuts.

Councillor McAteer said he would prefer to have the full wording of the amendment included and asked for a vote to be taken.

Councillor Taylor said whilst he fully recognised there were genuine concerns regarding the protocol, the cost of living crisis was impacting everyone particularly those on low incomes and he said the people of N. Ireland needed a fully functional Executive to make the decisions required to alleviate the crisis.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the Alliance Party and said urgent action was needed from both the UK Government and the N. Ireland Assembly to protect the most vulnerable in our society and to prevent lasting social and economic damage.

Councillor McMurray asked if two additions could be added to the Motion to include: to ask that the Assembly roll out a child payment scheme and levy a windfall tax on energy firms that had made substantial profits during the post Covid 19 recovery period.

Councillor Ó Muirí said he would be content to include the roll out of a child payment scheme and to add the word 'profitable' before energy generators in the Motion.

Councillor O'Hanlon, in referring to Councillor McAteer's earlier comments regarding the immediate payment of £200 by Department of Communities to deserving households, said whilst she would fully support such a pay out, it would not be possible without the Executive in place and said it would be pointless to take to a vote on this issue.

Councillor Mason asked Councillor McAteer to clarify his amendment to the Motion. Councillor McAteer said it was around the movement of cash instead of the Executive and he said he understood this could be done. Councillor Byrne seconded the proposal.

Councillor Hanlon read out the wording of a motion that had been passed in Belfast City Council and asked if Councillor McAteer was content with the same wording, both she and Councillor Ó Muirí would be happy to amend the Motion accordingly.

Councillor McAteer said he was content with the same wording as that which had gone through Belfast.

Councillor Enright asked that the wording of 'generators' be amended to 'companies' with regard to energy suppliers.

AGREED:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Murphy that this Council recognises with deep concern the cost of living crisis that is impacting hundreds of thousands of families across our society, and the rise in home energy, electricity and gas costs which has placed a severe burden on already struggling households and businesses across our Council area.

The collapse of the Executive caused by the resignation of DUP First Minister Paul Givan is preventing a budget, or the allocation of £300m available from Treasury from being agreed and is hampering Ministers from using their full spending power to give people relief who rely and depend upon it.

This Council calls for the immediate restoration of the Executive in order to allocate and agree spending to support workers and families, including the roll out of a Child Payment Scheme.

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

Council also to ask as part of allocating funding this could include considering an extension of the £200 home energy scheme to those most at need and also that without an executive the potential of emergency legislation could be looked at to allocate funding.

The meeting concluded at 17:42.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 April 2022.

Signed:

Councillor C Mason

Signed:

Mrs M Ward

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on
Thursday 24 March 2022 at 2.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Zoom**

Chairperson:	Councillor C Mason (via Zoom)
In attendance via Zoom:	Councillor O Hanlon Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor G Malone
Officials in attendance via Zoom:	Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active & Healthy Communities
Officials in attendance In Chamber:	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Also in attendance: Via Zoom:	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Roisin Coulter, Chief Executive David Robinson, Director of Hospital Services Jane Loughrey, Head of Communications

SC/007/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Brown, Curran, Magennis, Rice, Trainor and Savage.

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation to the meeting and Councillors and officers introduced themselves.

SC/008/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/009/2022: RESPONSE FROM SOUTH EASTERN AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Mrs Coulter provided an update to members on services across the South Eastern Trust, highlighting that Thursday 24 March 2022 was a National Day of Reflection. It was now 2 years since the pandemic and the impact lockdown had on everyone living in Northern Ireland and the staff of the South Eastern Trust. She took the opportunity to thank Councillors for all their support and positive feedback received.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Coulter for a really useful overview and for pulling together the recent Health and Social Care Partnership Forum meeting which was very informative, stating that working together in a collaborative community approach was the way forward.

Councillor Hanlon thanked the delegation for the comprehensive overview and highlighted a lot of issues were interlinked, particularly in terms of Mental Health and Children's Services, and the impact lockdown had on children that were in the system. She welcomed the update and clarity provided around current situation regarding residential homes and the impact on the domiciliary care staff with the cost of fuel increasing and asked if there were plans for services in Strangford clinic to be reinstated that had previously been suspended due to Covid?

Mrs Coulter confirmed that the Trust previously operated a satellite service at Strangford clinic from the Downe hospital, there had been a change in the GP model provided and provided an assurance that she would follow up and revert with an update to Members regarding a timescale when services were likely to resume.

In a response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mrs Coulter confirmed that a further roll out of the Model of Works across Northern Ireland had just been announced by the Minister of Health, Mr Swann and she would come back with an update.

Councillor Sharvin welcomed the work that had been done regarding the Mental Health Hub, stating that more focus was needed on Mental Health in the area, particularly as a result of covid and the increase in the cost of living.

Councillor Hanlon asked whether more advertising could be carried out in relation to the Wellness Recovery Network as great work was being done in Downpatrick and the wider area especially as there has been a noticeable increase in eating disorders since Covid. Councillor Sharvin suggested that the Trust, Council and Members could all share the Wellness Recovery Network page on their social media, this would raise the awareness and widen the range of people it reached.

Councillor Sharvin asked if there were any plans to make changes or amendments to services in Down hospital that have not yet reopened?

Mr Robinson confirmed there were no plans at this stage, all services were up and running and he advised that staff had done an amazing job in all departments to provide one hospital service across 3 sites throughout Covid.

Mrs Coulter advised the Downe Hospital in her opinion was an exemplar model for smaller hospitals across Northern Ireland and was the way forward, it was safe, sustainable and staff want to stay. An initiative was launched on 16 March 2022 by the department called a Regional Review of Emergency Care which looked at what models need to look like in all hospitals. A public consultation would be circulated in the near future in relation to the model in the Downe Hospital.

Mrs Coulter thanked members for their feedback and said it was a good idea to establish a Down Area Health and Social Care Partnership Forum and would be happy for an independent Chair to be appointed to work together with a wide variety of partners including the Community and Voluntary Sector, The Health Board, The Public Health Agency. It was extremely important to invite service users and carers, people living in the Down area to come together as equal partners.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for a really useful overview and for pulling together the recent Health and Social Care Partnership Forum meeting. She stated it was evident in order to move forward a collective working together responsibility was to be had by all

partnerships involved, having honest discussions and learning from each other.

The meeting concluded at 14:58.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 April 2022.

Signed:

Councillor C Mason

Signed:

Mr M Lipsett

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on
Thursday 24 March 2022 at 5.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft
Teams**

Chairperson:	Councillor D Mc Ateer (via Teams)	
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor M Gibbons Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Savage	Councillor H McKee Councillor M Ruane Councillor J Tinnelly
Officials in attendance via Teams:	Mr C Mallon, Director, Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism	
Officials in attendance In Chamber:	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer	
Also in attendance: Via Teams:	SACIA WARRENPOINT Mr Malcolm Reid Mr Greg Hillen Ms A McCabe	

SC/010/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Councillor McAteer assumed the Chair

SC/011/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Agreed:	On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.
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SC/012/2022: PRESENTAION FROM SACIA WARRENPOINT

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

It was agreed to note the contents of the presentation.

The meeting concluded at 18:15.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 April 2022.

Signed: Councillor D McAteer

Signed: Mr C Mallon

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 March 2022 at 6.00pm in the Chamber Council Offices Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell (Chamber)

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor R Burgess (via Teams)
 Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
 Councillor M Gibbons (Teams)
 Councillor G Hanna (via Teams)
 Councillor V Harte (Chamber)
 Councillor M Larkin (via Teams)
 Councillor R Mulgrew (Chamber)
 Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
 Councillor H Reilly (via Teams)
 Councillor M Ruane (via Teams)
 Councillor M Savage (via Teams)

Non Members: Councillor P Brown (via Teams)
 Councillor P Byrne (via Teams)
 Councillor A Finnegan (via Teams)
 Councillor O Hanlon (via Teams)
 Councillor J Tinnelly (via Teams)

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

ERT/047/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were recorded for:

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor G Stokes

The Chairperson, Councillor Howell, extended her deepest sympathy to Councillor Clarke on the sad passing of his mother.

The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Andrews, on behalf of the SDLP grouping on Council, extended sincere sympathy to Councillor Clarke and his family on the passing of his mother.

ERT/048/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hanna declared an interest in Item 10 regarding a Service Level Agreement with Mourne Heritage Trust for Ranger Services.

**ERT/049/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 February 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 February 2022.

BUILDING CONTROL & LICENSING**ERT/050/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: ANIMAL WELFARE FORUM**

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Licensing, regarding a Notice of Motion tabled at Council Meeting on 07 February 2022 regarding the establishment of

an Animal Welfare Forum.
(Copy circulated)

The following Notice of Motion had been previously tabled at Council Meeting on 07 February 2022:

"This Council notes the increasing and worrying prevalence of puppy farming and pet abandonment in recent years, and the high levels of public interest in addressing this and all instances of animal cruelty. Recognising Council's responsibility for animal welfare and the importance of inter-agency and partnership working to address this issue, Council will establish an Animal Welfare Forum. This Forum will meet regularly (at least quarterly), and provide strategic direction and oversight to officers involved in animal welfare, reporting back to the AHC Committee. It will also seek representation from Elected Members, dog wardens, kennelling providers, DAERA, animal shelters, charities and the PSNI. "

Councillor Brown explained whilst he appreciated the Report prepared by Council Officers, he could not support the concluding recommendation contained therein. He said although he was aware bodies were set up to discuss animal welfare issues locally and across Northern Ireland, he however believed there were key aspects related to animal welfare that were not covered within the current set up of these bodies, ie, Paws for Thought and the NI Dog Advisory Group, in particular the absence of elected member representation and community/voluntary sector representation, and they lacked strategic direction on how the Council can do more to address issues around animal welfare, as these groups were largely based only on responding and reporting on animal welfare.

He explained he brought forward the Notice of Motion because he believed animal welfare should not only be an operational issue for Council, but one which has strategic input and oversight from elected members. He referred to the massive public interest in tackling animal abuse given the huge increase in puppy farming, illegal breeding, and the cross border and GB trade involved, which highlighted the fact this is more than an operational issue for Council.

He mentioned the Animal Welfare Act 2011 which passed responsibility for most animal welfare, in particular pets, to local Councils with much responsibility for wild and farm animals left to PSNI and DAERA, and said in his view as Councils have endeavoured to fulfil this statutory obligation, the structures and funding in place to do this were inadequate as finite budgets from DAERA that Councils must work within disincentivized having animals removed from unsuitable conditions/abusive owners due to potentially associated costly legal and veterinary fees

Councillor Brown said he had been contacted by constituents and welfare charities expressing concerns at animal welfare cases that had not been properly and fully

investigated and was concerned that officers were not sufficiently resourced and supported to fulfil the Council's statutory responsibility around animal welfare. He said accountability to local Councils was difficult due to the huge cross district areas animal welfare officers have to cover and there was little to no capacity within the District to pursue potential welfare breaches and he said spot checks should be carried out in respect of online sellers of pets.

He believed a forum with political, community and voluntary sector input would improve animal welfare outcomes in the District and carry out the following:

- collectively lobby for increased funding from DAERA
- develop a plan to proactively identify and pursue illegal and unethical breeders
- better respond to information on animal abuse
- continue partnership work to reduce dog euthanising figures
- lobby for wider legislative changes to bring tougher sentencing and introduce an abusers register.

He asked for Members support not to accept the officers recommendation and establish a forum to collectively improve animal welfare outcomes.

Mr Jackson presented the content of the above report referring to two forums already in place to deal with puppy farming and all animal welfare cases, ie, NIDAG and Paws for Thought. He gave details on the make up and reporting processes of both groups and said Officers considered there already was adequate provision in this area.

Whilst Members gave their support for the sentiments contained in the Motion, it was the consensus of the committee that rather than form another group/forum to address animal welfare, improvements should be made to the structures already in place, ie, include Elected Member representation and animal charities on Paws for Thought, and improve on the reporting process back to Council on information arising from these forums.

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

- (a) 2 No. Councillors to be included on the Paws for Thoughts forum, and as part of elected member engagement on this forum, consider options for further consultation with charity groups through the forum.**

- (b) **Elected Member nominations to the Paws for Thought forum to be agreed at the next meeting of the Party Representatives Meeting.**
- (c) **The ERT Committee to review Licensing Department 6 monthly reports and consider if further action is required.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/051/2022: UPDATE RE: ARTISAN MARKET

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Artisan Markets in Newry and Slieve Gullion DEA. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1. To approve the operation of a monthly Artisan Market in Newry, held on the second Sunday per month, and the appointment, through a Memorandum of Understanding, of Downpatrick Community Collective to deliver the market on behalf of Council.**
- 2. To approve the operation of 2 pilot artisan markets in Crossmaglen in Spring/Summer 2022 in order to test the feasibility of an Artisan Market in this area.**

Noted: Officers will arrange for the Artisan Markets to be more widely advertised.

Noted: Officers will liaise with the local market group on the provision of Artisan Markets in Crossmaglen.

ERT/052/2022: BUSINESS DATABASE DOWN BUSINESS CENTRE

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding Business Database – Down Business Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Down Business Centre (working in partnership with NMEA) and make a financial contribution of £8,800 towards the development, promotion and maintenance of business database that is representative of over 8,000 businesses located within the District.

ERT/053/2022: UPDATE
RE: DAERA - TACKLING RURAL POVERTY & SOCIAL ISOLATION PROGRAMME (TRPSI)

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding DAERA Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI).
(Copy circulated)

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

1. To note the update provided on the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021, regarding application numbers and total grant value awarded.
2. To participate in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 to include the next steps:
 - Accept Letter of Offer when available to enable implementation of Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022.
 - To manage the implementation of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 across the NMDDC area.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/054/2022: ARTS CULTURE & HERITAGE STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Arts Culture regarding an Arts Culture & Heritage Strategy.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to update the timelines for

the delivery of the Council Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy from 2022-2027, and to host a launch event at the end of May 2022.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/055/2022: RANGER SERVICES SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding entering into a Service Level Agreement with Mourne Heritage Trust (MHT) to support an Engagement Ranger Service. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/056/2022: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR BERTHING PROVISION

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Newcastle Harbour Berthing Provision – installation of fixed floating pontoon system with gated access ramp to improve accessibility. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/057/2022: SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

ERT/055/2022: Service Level Agreement – Ranger Services

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Mourne Heritage Trust for the provision of Ranger services for the 2022-23 financial year.

ERT/056/2022: Newcastle Harbour Berthing Provision

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the Business Case and undertake the necessary procurement exercises to install fixed floating pontoon with gated access ramp to improve accessibility at Newcastle Harbour and enhance the aesthetics of the facility.

ERT/057/2022: Update re: Small Settlement Programme

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed as follows:

1. Accept Letter of Offer and its terms and conditions and proceed with relevant procurement processes/framework appointments and supporting Business Cases.
2. Approve 10% Council match funding required by DfI, DAERA and DfC.
3. Submit finalised detail early in 2022, following engagement with DEAs.

FOR NOTING

ERT/058/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

Committee.

ERT/059/2022: LOUTH/NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MEETING - THURSDAY 02 DECEMBER 2021

Read: Report of Louth/Newry Mourne & Down Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Thursday 02 December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note Report of Louth/Newry Mourne & Down Strategic Alliance Meeting held on Thursday 02 December 2021.**

ERT/060/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

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

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for February 2022.**

ERT/061/2022: PURPLE FLAG ACCREDITATION

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding Purple Flag night-time economy initiative. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note following a Purple Flag re-assessment, Newry City has retained the Purple Flag accreditation for Newry City.**

ERT/062/2022: DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RE: PLANNING APPLICATION CONDITIONS

Read: Report dated 14 March 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding Department for Infrastructure paper on the role of Councils in discharging conditions attached to planning permissions issues by Department for Infrastructure (DfI). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed the Committee note the content of the above report and correspondence dated 07 February 2022 from Department for Infrastructure regarding Planning Application Conditions.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.00pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 April 2022.

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

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber Councillor R Howell
Councillor B Ó Muirí

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Brown
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor M Rice
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly

Also in attendance: Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor A McMurray

**Officials in Attendance
In chamber:** Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(HR & Safeguarding)
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(Administration)
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Coordinator
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:** Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture Events
Mrs H McElroy, HR Policy and Projects Manager

**Also in Attendance:
Via Teams:** Mrs N Largey, Legal Advisor, Belfast City Council

SPR/036/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Savage; Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive and Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism.

SPR/037/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tinnelly declared an interest in item 6 - Surrender of Ballykinlar Playing Fields to facilitate new sports facility at Ballykinlar GAC

SPR/038/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2022, be approved.**

NOTICE OF MOTION**SPR/039/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING IRISH UNITY WORKING GROUP**

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

“That this Council recognises that discussions about a constitutional change are now well underway and that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have a duty to consult with its ratepayers on this important issue and the implications for the Council area and the wider border corridor. Therefore, this motion calls on the Council to establish a working group on Irish unity and to begin a consultation with ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Howell.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Ó Muirí stated that he appreciated all the efforts by all involved to date and was glad to get the motion this far as it had been 12 months since he had first intended for it to be brought to Council.

Councillor Ó Muirí advised the thinking behind the motion was that Partition was imposed 100 years ago against the democratically expressed will of the vast majority of the people of Ireland and he felt the need for a one Ireland one island approach across our public services, the economy and society generally had been starkly demonstrated by the Covid pandemic. Brexit had been hugely damaging for Ireland especially for the border counties and the 6 counties with part of the island being inside the EU, with the rest outside it.

Councillor Ó Muirí advised that a similar working group had already been established in Derry & Strabane Council and proposed in Belfast City Council. He appreciated the difficulties that some Parties may have with the motion and welcomed their views but hoped to start a conversation and break ground to show there was nothing to be feared by talking.

Councillor Taylor stated many conversations had already been had and an opportunity for meeting on minds, however in this instance that had not been the case due to the lack of agreement on the motion and that if Council were to proceed with an Irish Unity working group this would send a very hostile message to the Unionist community within the district. He stated that as a committed Unionist neither himself nor his party colleagues would be participating in the proposed forum should it be approved as there were greater issues that needed focused on such as cost of living crisis, rebuilding the NHS, creation of jobs and improving education, rather

than an issue that was not a priority for many people. Council would be setting a policy that they support a united Ireland which was a very dangerous precedent when Council was in place to represent all citizens.

Councillor Byrne stated that the SDLP supported the motion and asked that an amendment be made to delete the wording 'a working group on Irish Unity' and replace with 'a New Ireland working group'. He stated this would offer a hand to Unionists and others of different persuasions to come into the forum and outline what this new Ireland would look like to them. This island was changing due to previous decisions taken and everyone should be working on this together to provide better services. Councillor Gallagher seconded the amendment.

Councillor Ó Muirí stated he was happy to accept the amendment, any wording that might be more welcoming to Unionism in particular should be promoted.

Councillor Tinnelly said he had the greatest respect for his Unionist colleagues and their views. Brexit had turbo charged the situation and was going to lead to the reunification of the country quicker than expected. The outcome was inevitable however it needed to take on the views of all people on the island, ignoring it would not make it go away and all parties needed to engage in discussions and be involved going forward to shape the new island. Councillor Tinnelly proposed a further amendment be made to include "a consultation with other Councils, ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change." This was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Councillor Ó Muirí accepted the amendment.

Councillor Hanna stated he endorsed what Councillor Taylor had previously said and that he nor the DUP would be forced into taking part in any forum as it was something that they see no future in.

Councillor McMurray stated that the Alliance party did not support the motion, however he looked forward to the invite to the working group.

Councillor Byrne wanted to make clear that no member was being forced onto the group, they were wanted on the group to have those discussions.

In summing up, Councillor Ó Muirí stated he respected all Party's beliefs and understood where everybody was coming from, however on this particular issue there was never going to be agreement.

Councillor Taylor asked for a recorded vote and clarity on what the amended motion was.

The following notice of motion was put to a recorded vote copy of which are appended to the minutes.

"That this Council recognises that discussions about a constitutional change are now well underway and that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have a duty to consult with its ratepayers on this important issue and the implications for the Council area and the wider border corridor. Therefore, this motion calls on the Council to establish a New Ireland Working Group and to begin a consultation with other Councils, ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change."

FOR: 9
AGAINST: 1

ABSTENTIONS: 1

The motion was agreed.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell that this Council recognises that discussions about a constitutional change are now well underway and that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have a duty to consult with its ratepayers on this important issue and the implications for the Council area and the wider border corridor. Therefore, this motion calls on the Council to establish a New Ireland Working Group and to begin a consultation with other Councils, ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change

FOR CONSIDERATION AND OR DECISION

SPR/040/2022: **THE SAFEGUARDING BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (SBNI) CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 – 2026 AND EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS SCREENING**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Coordinator, regarding, The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) consultation on the proposed Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026 and Equality and Human Rights Screening. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Howell stated that it was vitally important as a Council that the plan was supported along with the proposed amendments and priorities set out within it.

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

- That Council supports all proposals contained in the SBNI Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026 and Equality and Human Rights Screening.
- To approve the proposed Consultation Response (Appendix 1), incorporating the amendments outlined at 2.6 and 2.7 of the report.
- To approve the proposed response to the Equality and Human Rights Screening.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/041/2022: **SURRENDER OF BALLYKINLAR PLAYING FIELDS TO FACILITATE NEW SPORTS FACILITY AT BALLYKINLAR GAC**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services, regarding Surrender of Ballykinlar Playing Fields to facilitate new sports facility at Ballykinlar GAC **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin requested that the Youth League still have access to the pitch up until the point the pitch needs closed off or an alternative suitable venue be found in order that the youth league matches could continue.

Mrs Robb confirmed she would liaise with Mr C Haughey for alternative provision when the youth league were required to relinquish the playing fields..

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve to progress surrender of lease for Ballykinlar Playing Fields to the MOD subject to Down County Board providing a commitment for shared community and sporting use of the facilities going forward. The surrender to exclude the lands leased to Ballykinlar Cross Community Pre School Playgroup Limited by Council for the term of 30 years from 27 October 2006.

SPR/042/2022: **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT 2021-22**

READ: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2021-22.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2021-22, including the two 'proposals for improvement', as outlined in Appendix 2

SPR/043/2022: **DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2022-23**

READ: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2022-23.
(Copy circulated)

In response to a query from Councillor Gallagher, Mrs Carville confirmed a range of promotional activities would be carried out in order to promote Speak NMD with the usage of public advertisements in local newspapers and social media platforms to encourage as much engagement as possible.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:

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

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

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

SPR/044/2022: OFFICER'S REPORT ON REQUEST AND NOTICE OF MOTION – QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE FUNDING PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding officer report on request and Notice of Motion – Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee funding programme (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that Elected Members approve £40,000 for a Queen's Platinum Jubilee financial assistance programme for 2022/23, and that Officers proceed to implementation in advance of ratification of the decision at the Council's Monthly meeting in April 2022.

SPR/045/2022: REQUEST FOR EASEMENT FOR A SEWAGE PIPE AT CLONALLON PARK, WARRENPOINT

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding request for easement for sewage pipe at Clonallon Park, Warrenpoint (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the grant of an Easement for a sewage pipe under the lands known as Clonallon Park along the route outlined on the map attached. This is subject to the applicant providing evidence of NI Water Consent, and to the applicant providing an appropriate map and paying the market value for the grant of easement and discharging Council's legal and valuation costs.

SPR/046/2022: BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION REQUEST – LANDS AT HARBOUR

CLOSE, KILKEEL

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Boundary Rectification Request – Lands at Harbour Close, Kilkeel **(Copy Circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to rectify the registered title boundary between the private property at Harbour Close, Kilkeel and the adjoining Council-owned property at Mourne Esplanade, with the requester being responsible for any ancillary costs of Council including legal costs.

SPR/047/2022: **PURCHASE OF LAND FROM NIHE FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF PLAYPARK AND TROJAN HORSE COMMUNITY FACILITY, DOWNPATRICK**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding purchase of land from NIHE for redevelopment of playpark and Trojan Horse Community facility, Downpatrick **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members agree to the outright purchase of the freehold land at the Flying Horse Estate, Oriel Drive, Downpatrick, from the NIHE, at a cost of £6,500.00, for the redevelopment of the existing playpark and Trojan Horse community facility in Downpatrick. This remains subject to contract and does not at this stage represent a formal contractual offer.

SPR/048/2022: **DOWNPATRICK AND COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding Downpatrick and County Down Railway. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that Elected Members approve that Council enters into a Heads of Terms agreement with DCDR on the terms as set out in the appendix attached to the officer's report, re-defining the relationship between Council and DCDR on the future operation of the tourism railway, and including a commitment to a contribution of 80% funding towards the repair projects described in para 2.2 of the officer's report.

SPR/049/2022: NON - CURRENT ASSET POLICY

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding the Non - Current Asset Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the Non-Current Asset Policy.

SPR/050/2022: SUPPORT TO NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding support to Neighbourhood Services. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the proposal at 2.4 for the reasons outlined within section 2 of the officer's report. Also caveated with a report back to Committee should an extension be required.

SPR/051/2022: BRCD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding BRCD Memorandum of Understanding. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the signing of the BRCD Memorandum of Understanding and to approve an annual financial contribution made to Belfast City Council, which represents Council's share of the financial cost associated with the

BRCD Programme Management Office in carrying out the functions required of the accountable body. The annual cost to be reviewed and agreed annually by the BRCD Executive Board.

SPR/052/2022: TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Terms and Conditions Update. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, 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 that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- i) That Members note the progress on the workplan as set out in appendix 1.
- ii) That Members note that the JTUS intend to ballot their members on the remaining items of dispute.
- iii) That Members support the continued release of employees supporting the programme of work, the cost of which are shown at 4.1.

FOR NOTING –

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

SPR/053/2022: RATES SUPPORT GRANT 2021/2022

Read: Letter dated 8 March 2022 from Department for Communities, regarding Rates Support Grant 2021/2022. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members note the letter dated 8 March 2022 from Department for Communities.**

SPR/054/2022: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2021/2022 – PERIOD 9

Read: Report dated 16 March 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive, regarding Management Accounts 2021/2022 – Period 9. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members note the Management Accounts – 2021/22 – Period 9.

FOR NOTING

SPR/055/022: **MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2022**

Read: Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting – 10 March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 10 March 2022.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.46pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 April 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
Deputy Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 16/03/2022 **VENUE:** Downshire Civic Centre & Microsoft Teams **MEETING:** SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Notice of Motion – Irish Unity – Cllr Ó Muirí

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown			1	
P Byrne	1			
H Gallagher	2			
O Hanlon	3			
R Howell	4			
O Magennis	5			
D Murphy				1
B Ó Muíri	6			
H Reilly				2
M Rice	7			
M Savage				3
G Sharvin	8			
D Taylor		1		
J Tinnelly	9			
W Walker				4
TOTALS	9	1	1	4

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 21 March 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate
and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor K McKevitt (Chamber)

**In attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor Casey
Councillor A Lewis

Councillor Harte
Councillor McMurray

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor G Malone
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor Gallagher
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor B Ó Muirí

**Also in attendance via
Teams:**

Councillor Brown

**Officials in attendance
In Chamber:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance
Via Teams:**

Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Mrs L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/050/2022:

APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Sharvin and Trainor.

The Chairperson congratulated Celtic Bhoys, Downpatrick on winning the Bobby Dalzell Cup against Ardglass on St Patrick's Day.

The Chairperson congratulated everyone who took part in the St Patrick's Day parades in Downpatrick and Newry which were excellent and enjoyed by all and congratulated the organisers and runners of the Jimmy's 10k.

Following a query from the Chairperson, Mr Lipsett advised the strike by UNITE was in relation to the national pay award and was something the Council could not directly affect. He confirmed it would have some affect particularly in the Down Leisure Centre and Ballymote Centre with temporary closures of some facilities over the coming week e.g.

swimming pool and gym due to minimum staffing and safety requirements. He added there was likely to be minimal disruption in the Newry Leisure Centre particularly in relation to the swimming pool.

Mr Lipsett advised it was a changing scenario and that officers were trying to bring staff in to cover extra shifts and overtime to cover gaps in an attempt to keep disruption at a minimum.

Mr Lipsett advised Members would be kept up to date via the NMD Leisure app and social media channels and any block bookings or groups affected would be contacted directly.

AHC/051/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/052/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 February 2022. **(Copy circulated)**.

In response to a request from Councillor Lewis to add the upgrade to Dundrum Playing Fields at the Old Belfast Road to the action sheet, Mr Lipsett agreed to contact him directly with an update on the flood risk assessment and bring a report back to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting in April 2022.

AHC/231/2021: Notice of Motion – Accessibility onto beaches in Northern Ireland

In response for clarity from Councillor Brown, Mr Lipsett advised it had been agreed to add the feasibility study to Outdoor Recreation NI's (ORNI) Service Level Agreement for next year and that ORNI had already visited most the beaches within the District and had started work on that. The Service Level Agreement would be presented for approval by Committee in May 2022 or sooner if possible.

Mr Lipsett advised a timeline for the delivery of the feasibility study would be provided as part of the report to be presented to Committee and added that the advantage of using ORNI was they are aware of the beaches, the issues and in contact with key stakeholders in terms of taking the work forward.

AHC/143/2021: Notice of Motion – Defibrillators

Councillor Lewis on behalf of Councillor Taylor enquired about the original motion requesting officers to start up an access fund for defibrillators.

Mr Devlin confirmed that as part of the motion officers were to liaise with the Heart Foundation regarding funding for defibrillators and as yet that had not been progressed. He confirmed an update would be presented at the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting in April 2022.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the Action Sheet

**of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Meeting held on Monday 21 February 2022.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/053/2022: PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the recommendations agreed by the Partnership on 3 March 2022 as follows:

Building Positive Relations:

- Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver Capacity Building Programmes preparing groups for the co-design and implementation of Peace Plus projects across the 7 DEAs. Estimated cost: £35,000 – £50,000;
- Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver Irish Traveller Storytelling Project. Estimated cost: £25,000;
- Delegated authority to procure and deliver other projects under Building Positive Relations in line with community need to utilise the predicted underspend.

Children and Young People:

- Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver a cross-community project for children in the Bessbrook area with the aim of creating messages of 'peace and reconciliation' which will be inscribed on a seating bench within Derrymore Estate - Estimated cost: £4,500.

AHC/054/2022 PEACE PLUS PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace Plus Partnership. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Ó Muirí thanked Mrs Hillen for the report and spoke the importance of making sure it was representative of Councillors. He welcomed that it was to be presented for approval at the Party Representatives Forum and added that it could possibly go to the Equality and Good Relations Forum.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to approve the proposed composition of the new Peace Plus Partnership including the approach for Pillars 2 to 4 and the selection of elected members to complete Pillar 1 in line with Council practice and Peace IV agreement. It was noted this was subject to Party Leaders approval.

AHC/055/2022

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance. (Copy circulated)

In response to a query from the Chairperson regarding how much would be required for funding to all who had applied in Sports Capital, Mrs Hillen advised with the original allocation plus the £60,085 there would still be a substantial shortfall in the region of £531,000 approximately. Members were reminded this had been the case last year and funds had come from the DfC Covid Recovery Funding, however sports capital seemed to be consistently oversubscribed each year.

Councillor Finnegan enquired about the potential for external funding streams and Mrs Hillen confirmed officers would explore that but that the Covid Recovery Funding had been a unique scenario.

Councillor Tinnelly raised concerns regarding the high level of failure for some groups with regards their applications including community capital, events and festivals and summer schemes and how for some groups the funding meant the difference in proceeding with events or not.

Mrs Hillen advised officers had put a lot of effort in this year and had run online, virtual events with high attendance rates with further online tutorials and guidance and assistance being offered in **a future call**. Mrs Hillen reiterated the importance of groups coming back and seeking feedback on their applications.

Councillor Tinnelly questioned if the application process set the bar too high. Mrs Hillen advised as a Unit, such matters were re-evaluated and assessed to see what the issues were in relation to any financial assistance calls and that it was a competitive process involving public funding. She added she would go back to Unit staff and look at those themes in which applications were consistently high with failure rates.

Councillor Ó Muirí commented that the standard of application was high and competitive and that as a Council when examining the rates process at the end of each year Council needed to put more money to it.

The Chairperson asked if there was any Covid Recovery Funding available given that Covid was still about and with many new groups having been established coming out of Covid. Mrs Hillen informed Members it was not anticipated that there would be revenue from DfC however they meet on a monthly basis through the Coordination Hub, and she would ask DfC if they could fund this shortfall.

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

- **The attached appendices for revenue and capital projects.**
- **Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer issued.**
- **Re-allocate the £60,085 from the legacy sport capital project to the sports programmes and items themes.**

AHC/056/2022: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Casey asked for an update regarding a request from the Greater Armagh Road Men's Shed to lease a piece of land at the Drumgullion Play Area. Mrs Hillen confirmed the Outdoor Leisure Officer was to contact the Men's Shed group to progress the expression of interest. Mrs Hillen undertook to report back to Councillor Casey with an update.

Councillor Ó Muirí expressed concern that Minutes of the Slieve Gullion DEA Private Meeting were not on the agenda. Mrs Hillen apologised and advised meeting schedules had been reset to enable the minutes to be presented at Committee and confirmed she would follow up on the matter.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached to the officer's report for:

- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022.
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2022.

AHC/057/2022 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Coordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Harte, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2022.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/058/2022 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the actions as contained within the action sheet for Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Meeting on 17 February 2022.

LEISURE AND SPORT

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

AHC/059/2022 BANN ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN – ERECTION OF BALLSTOP FENCING

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

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the erection of ball stop fencing, Bann Road, Castlewellan. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to approve an overspend in Councils existing revenue budget within 2021/2022 financial year for the value as listed within the report in order to erect a new ball stop fence at the rear of Pitch 2 on the Bann Road playing field, Castlewellan.

AHC/060/2022

MULLAGHBAWN COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOF REPAIR

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

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding a roof repair for Mullaghbawn Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, that Mullaghbawn Community Centre remained closed for the foreseeable future or until the roof repair works were completed, as the building was a health and safety risk and currently not fit for purpose. It was further agreed Council gave the Landlord a reasonable timeframe (12 weeks) to complete the structural repairs and in the event that this was not complied with that Council take actions to terminate the lease.

AHC/061/2022

ANNALONG TENNIS CLUB LEASE

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

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the proposed lease of lands at Annalong Rectory . **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan:

- To renew the lease on the lands marked in red on the map attached hereto to 'The Representative Church Body' for a term of 15 years subject to 'The Representative Church Body' consent.
- The rent payable under the existing Lease is £1400 per annum.

AHC/062/2022 **LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST LISDRUMLISKA RECREATION AREA GLEN HILL NEWRY & A SECTION OF LAND AT ST ANNE'S PARK RECREATION AREA MAYOBRIDGE**

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

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the Expressions of Interest (EOI) received for the leasing of Council land at Lisdrumliska Recreation Area Glen Hill Newry by Lisdrum Football Club and section of land at St Anne's Park MayoBridge by MayoBridge Men's Shed. (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Casey, to approve the Expressions of Interest for leasing of the Glen Hill Newry and a section of ground at St Anne's Park MayoBridge was progressed in line with Councils Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy (2016) and in the interim allow both parties to enter into a Licence Agreement to place storage containers on both sites.

AHC/063/2022

CASTLE PARK SEASONAL OPERATIONS

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

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding seasonal operations at Castle Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to continue the appointment of the preferred bidder for Seasonal Operations at Castle Park for 2022/23 financial year.

AHC/064/2022

SCHEME OF DELEGATION – SEPTEMBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022

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

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding the Scheme of Delegation for the period September 2021 to March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to note the report and attachments.

FOR NOTING

AHC/065/2022

NEWCASTLE ROCKPOOL - UPDATE

Read: Report dated 21 February 2022 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Estates regarding an update on the Newcastle Rockpool.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the contents of the report in relation to the current position of Newcastle Rockpool and next steps.**

AHC/066/2022

DFC ADDITIONAL FAIR FUNDING SALARY UPLIFT AWARD REPORT

Read: Report dated 21 February 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding additional DFC fair funding salary uplift.

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

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.51pm.

Signed: Councillor K McKevitt
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor K Owen (Teams)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Teams)
Councillor P Brown (Teams)
Councillor C Casey (Teams)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Teams)
Councillor G Malone (Teams)
Councillor D Murphy (Teams)
Councillor O Magennis (Teams)
Councillor K McKeivitt (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor H McKee (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)

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

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

NS/028/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Curran and Councillor Finnegan.

The Chairperson extended the best wishes to Councillor Casey's wife who recently had a bad fall and on behalf of the Committee, wished her a speedy recovery to good health.

Councillor Casey thanked the Members for their good wishes and also for the bouquet of flowers sent to his wife on behalf of the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

NS/029/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/030/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/031/2022: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – SIX MONTH REVIEW AND SIX MONTH PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director of Facilities Management and Maintenance re: grounds maintenance review of 2021 and proposed works during 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the proposed actions within the report (Sections 2.1 to 2.3 and Appendix 1).

AGREED: At the request of Councillor Ruane it was also agreed officials investigate the history of the removal and continued spraying of hogweed by the legacy Council at Carnmeen Park/Rossmara Park/Mourne Drive Warrenpoint and report back to the Committee on how this recurring problem would be dealt with going forward.

NOTED: Councillor Ruane said the Council should have a strategy in place, in conjunction with all other relevant agencies, to deal with areas across the District where hogweed was an issue.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

NS/032/2022: ELECTED MEMBER DISTRICT CLEANSING WORKSHOP

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director: Waste Management (Acting) re: report on Elected Member District Cleansing Workshop held on 28 February 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the contents of this report.

NS/033/2022: 2022 SUMMER SEASON PREPARATIONS

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding 2022 Summer Season preparations. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the proposed 2022 summer season preparation plans outlined in 2.4 and 2.5 of the report.

NOTED: Councillor Casey said he wished to put on record his appreciation to the Council's Cleansing staff, particularly those who had carried out such sterling work in cleaning up Newry before, during and after the St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

NS/034/2022: 2022/2023 PUBLIC HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR REFUSE COLLECTION AND HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding 2022/2023 public holiday arrangements for refuse collection and household recycling centres. *(Circulated)*.

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

- **Alternative Refuse Collection Services for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 as per Appendix 1**
- **Opening arrangements for Household Recycling Centres for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 as per Appendix 1**
- **Notification to Householders to be provided in local press and through Council online communications, in advance of each Public Holiday.**

NS/035/2022: EARLY CLOSURE OF WARRENPOINT HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE – 26 MARCH 2022

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding a request for the early closure of Warrenpoint HRC on Saturday 26 March 2022 to

facilitate a road closure arising from a live broadcast of Warrenpoint Town FC's game against Linfield FC by Sky Sports Television. *(Circulated)*.

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

- **Early closing of the Warrenpoint HRC from 11.00am on Saturday 26 March 2022 to facilitate a live broadcast by Sky Sports Television**
- **Due to the late receipt of this request, Members are also asked to note that the implementation of this recommendation will be before full Council consideration on 4 April 2022.**

NOTED: Councillor Ruane said it was essential that signage advising of the closure should be displayed at the HRC from Thursday 24 March 2022 and also a message put out through the Council's social media platform.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 09, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

NS/036/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 24 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 24 February 2022. *(Circulated)*.

NS/037/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 27 JANUARY 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2022. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/038/2022: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE
PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN - QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Mr J McBride, Director: Neighbourhood Services (Acting) regarding Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan quarterly update. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/039/2022: BUSINESS CASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF MINI EXCAVATOR
AND DUMPER**

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Mr K Scullion, regarding business case for replacement of mini excavator and dumper. *(Circulated)*.

(Councillor Magennis left the meeting)

**NS/040/2022: DRAFT BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF
CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CHRISTMAS TREES**

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Mr K Scullion, regarding draft business case for the procurement of Christmas Illuminations and Christmas trees. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/041/2022: REQUEST FOR SALE OF BURIAL PLOTS IN COUNCIL
CEMETERIES**

Read: Report dated 23 March 2022 from Mr K Scullion, regarding requests for the sale of burial plots in Council cemeteries. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Ruane proposed and Councillor Casey seconded, to come out of closed session.

(Councillor Andrews left the meeting)

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

NS/036/2022 - Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 24 February 2022

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

NS/037/2022 - Arc21 Special Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes held on 27 January 2022

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it agreed to note these Minutes**

NS/038/2022 - Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan – Quarterly Update

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it agreed to approve the progress update report and note that services would continue “out of contract” until new contracts were awarded and finalised.**

NS/039/2022 – Business case for replacement of a mini excavator and dumper

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it agreed to note the content of this report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case to proceed to tender to procure a replacement mini excavator and dumper**

NS/040/2022 – Draft Business Case for the procurement of Christmas Illuminations and Christmas trees

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it agreed to note the content of this report and associated draft Business Case.**

NS/041/2022 – Request for sale of burial rights to plots in Council cemeteries

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it agreed to recommend that these requests be referred through to the Council’s legal services section for review and advice on the options available to the Council. A report to be brought back to the Neighbourhood Services Committee for consideration.**

It was also agreed to recommend that in the interim period the identified plots which the requests related to should be retained pending a final decision.

FOR NOTING

NS/042/2022: ARC21 JC MINUTES 24 FEBRUARY 2022

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 24 February 2022 *(Circulated)*.

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

NS/043/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

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

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 April 2022.

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

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 9 March at 10am in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry and via Microsoft Teams

P/027/2022: LDP: Planning Policy Review – Coastal Development

Read: Report dated 9 March 2022 by Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan: Planning Policy Review – Coastal Development

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed a special workshop be arranged to inform Members better on the complex issues surrounding the proposals in the Coastal Development Report. Report to come back to Committee for perusal after workshop has taken place.**

488th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council



**Minutes of the 488th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 10th February 2022 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present:

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

David Polley	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, Housing Executive
Catherine McFarland	Director of Finance, Audit & Assurance
Andrew Barbour	NIHE (For Item on the Agenda)
Gillian Greer	NIHE (For Item on the Agenda)
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Paul Price	Department for Communities

1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed David Polley from the Department for Communities, Grainia Long and the Presenters Catherine McFarland, Andrew Barbour and Gillian Greer from the Housing Executive.</p>	
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488th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>The Presenter, Gillian Greer declared that she was a Councillor in Ards & North Down Council area.</p>	
3.0	<p>To adopt the Minutes of the 487th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 13th January 2022</p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Speers and seconded by Councillor Mathison and resolved, that the Minutes of the 487th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 13th January 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.0 4.1	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p><u>Members Queries</u></p> <p>It was noted that Members had received responses to their queries, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alderman Jim Speers – Consultants Assessing Houses • All Members - Housing Associations newbuild guide 	
5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The workplan was noted.</p>	Secretary
6.0	<p><u>Update by the Department on the Department for Communities Housing Top Issues</u></p> <p>Mr David Polley gave an update of changes under the specific headings on the Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Newbuild starts • Co-ownership • Programme for Social Reform • Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy • Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers • Supporting People Delivery Strategy 	

488th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Strategy • Regulation of the Private Rented Sector <p>Councillor Mathison's in relation to the Private Tenancy Bill asked on the provision of the 'notice to quit' period are there amendments to provide some protection for private landlords, in particular with tenants who have significant rent arrears.</p> <p>In response David Polley confirmed that the Consultation Report will be issued in the coming weeks, there is a power in the Bill for different lengths 'notices to quit' and exemptions for individual cases, as it is at the minute 4 weeks for under 12 months; 8 weeks for 1 to 10 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Housing Supply • Affordable Warmth Scheme • NIHE Rent Increase • ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 - 2020 • Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax • Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework • Long term rent trajectory • Affordability of social rents <p>In response to Councillor Mathison's query, in relation to Intermediate Rent, Mr Polly explained that there was a public consultation on the delivery of Intermediate Rent which was published in October 2021 which the Housing Council received a presentation on the proposals. Following closure of the consultation on 14th of January 2022, officials have begun to analyse the responses received.</p>	
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488th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<p>The outcome of the consultation will be published in due course, subject to Ministerial approval, and work is ongoing to develop the detail of the final scheme, and will begin to make preparation for its implementation.</p>	
8.0	<p><u>Presentation on Discretionary Housing Payments</u></p> <p>Andrew Barbour and Gillian Greer gave Members a presentation on Discretionary Housing Payments (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>Members noted that in June 2021, the Department for Communities had commenced a review of the policy intention of the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme and in response, changes were made to the scheme. It was noted that this was a Stage 1 review that didn't require any legislative changes, however the 2nd stage recommendations would require a change in legislation and were therefore not currently being progressed.</p> <p>Members were given an overview of outcome of the Stage 1 review, the DHP scheme itself; the recent changes and the ongoing work that the Housing Benefit (HB) units are carrying out.</p> <p>Members welcomed the policy change to remove the two year time limit, for claimants receiving DHP.</p> <p>It was confirmed that from April 2021 to December 2021, there has been 17,877 of awards paid out this year.</p> <p>The Chair requested the number of claimants who have been taken off Discretionary Housing Benefit over the past year.</p> <p>Several Members reiterated the importance of communicating with claimants, keeping them updated of their eligibility and the changes, assurance was given that there are several forums and platforms to deliver the scheme and target those in need.</p> <p>Referring to the LHA Award of the 75th percentile, Mr Barbour explained that as it is discretionary and each case is accessed on an individual basis subject to their circumstances and there are several factors attributing to what rates they are awarded; ie. household details, location, what the LHA rates for the area and then are accessed individually to award the percentile of the LHA.</p> <p>David Polley commended and thanked the Housing Executive Team on their hard work.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Presenters for a very informative Presentation.</p>	<p>A Barbour/ G Greer</p>

488th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

9.0	<p><u>Housing Starts January 2022</u></p> <p>Members noted the Report.</p>	
10.0	<p><u>Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Conference 28th-30th June in Manchester</u></p> <p>It was agreed that Mark Cooper (Vice Chair) would represent the Housing Council.</p>	Secretary
11.0	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Housing Executive's response to the Department of Finance draft three year budget.</p> <p>Ms Long drew Members attention to the Housing Executive's response to the Department of Finance's draft three year budget, which had been circulated to Members for their information. She added that there are a number of significant implications for the housing sector potentially for the Homelessness budget and in particular temporary accommodation and Ms Long offered to discuss further at future Meetings.</p>	GL
12.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of next Meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that at the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 10th March at 10 am via Zoom.</p>	

The Meeting concluded at 11.20 am.

Review of Discretionary Housing Payments

Housing Council Meeting
10 February 2022

What is a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)?

A Discretionary Housing Payment is financial support towards housing costs

This award can be considered when we are satisfied that a claimant needs more help with housing costs

To be eligible for a Discretionary Housing Payment claimants must:

- Reside in Northern Ireland;
- Privately rent – although some social tenants can apply;
- Receive Universal Credit, which includes the Housing Cost Element or Housing Benefit; and
- Require additional support with the shortfall in their housing costs

How is the DHP Budget funded?

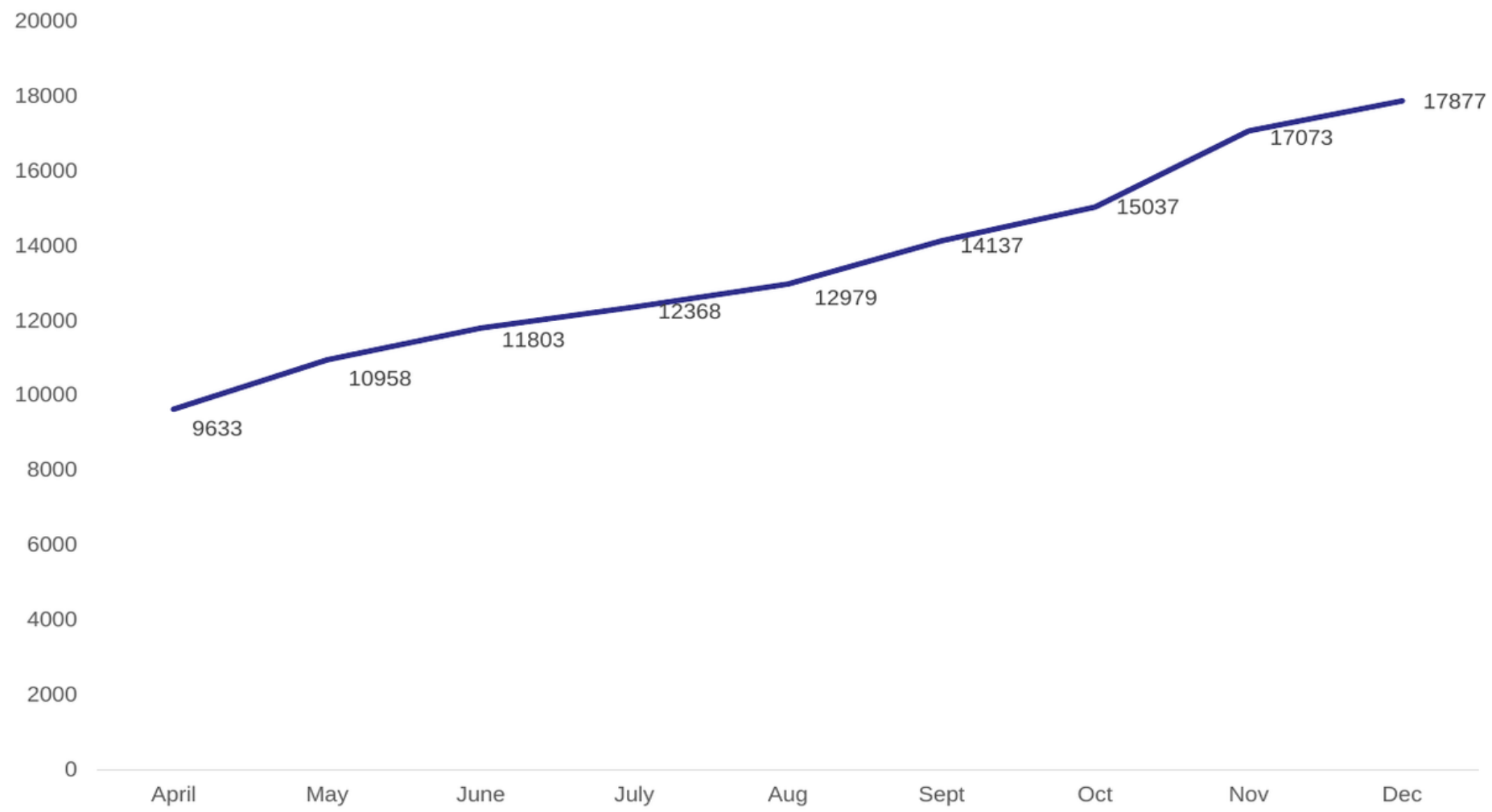
- Discretionary Housing Payments are funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) on an annual basis through the Barnett Consequentials using AME and are therefore cash limited
 - 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 - £6.1 million
- Discretionary Housing Payments are **not** payments of Housing Benefit. They are made in addition to Housing Benefit and Universal Credit housing costs
- The Housing Executive are responsible for making awards of Discretionary Housing Payments to both Housing Benefit and Universal Credit claimants receiving housing costs

How to Apply for a DHP?

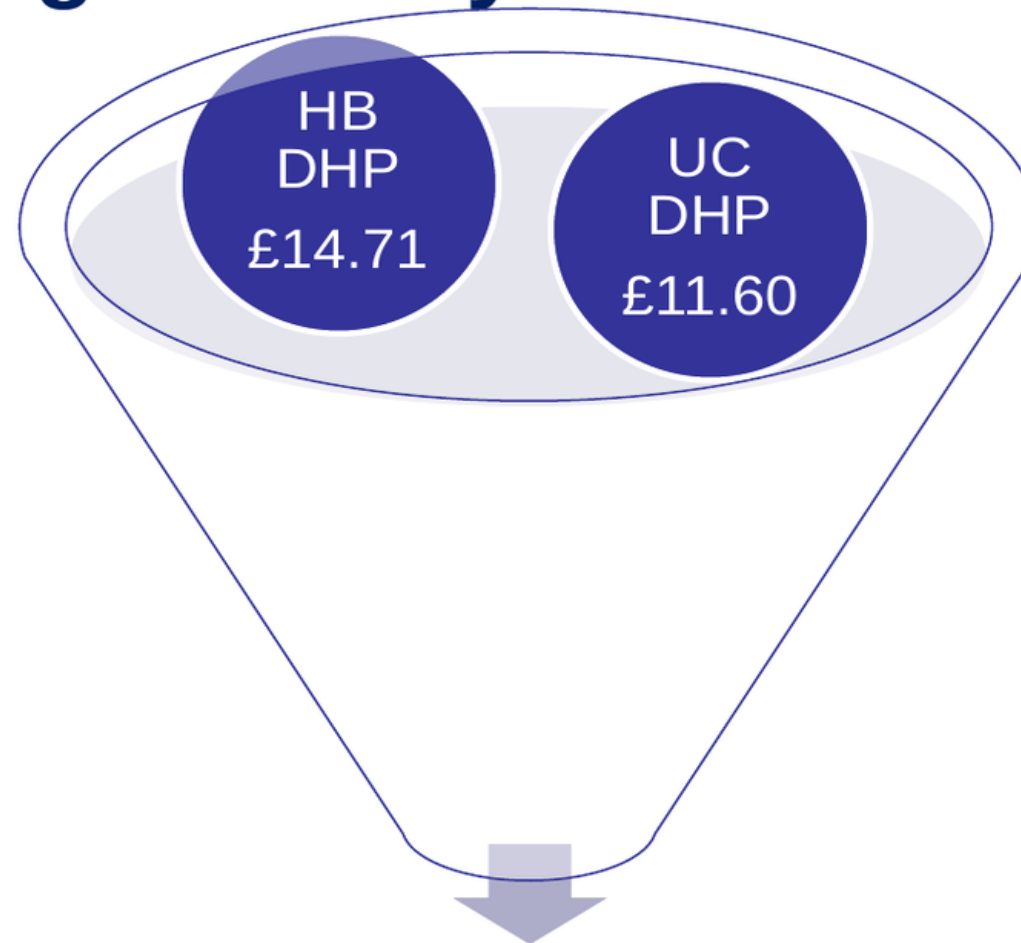
Claimants can apply:

- Online using our quick and simple form. Go to www.nihe.gov.uk, select '**Apply**' and then select the appropriate form
 - Receive Universal Credit – [UC Discretionary Housing Payment](#)
 - Receive Housing Benefit – [HB Discretionary Housing Payment](#)
- By phoning **03448 920 902** and a DHP form can be posted for completion

Number of DHP Awards per month



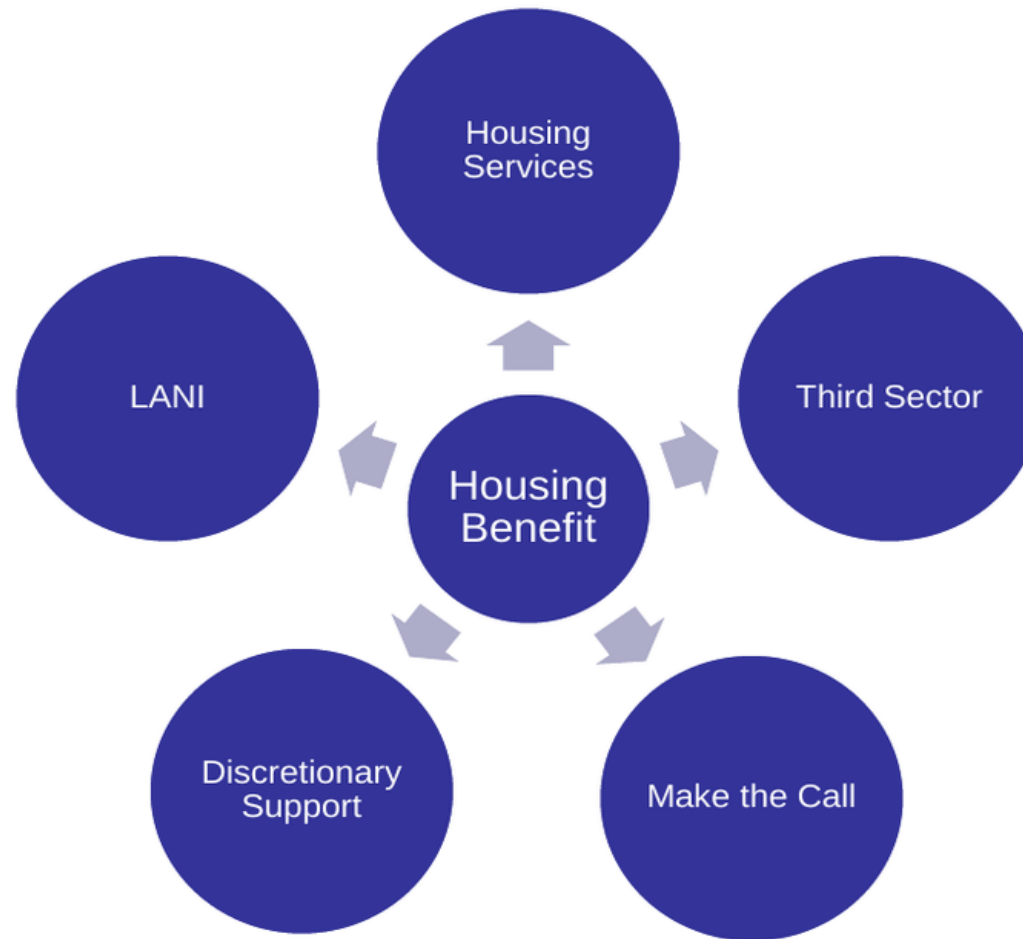
Average Weekly DHP Award



Spend to date =
£3,825,466.94*

* As at 31 December 21

Promotion of DHPs



DfC Review of the Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme

- In June 2021 DfC commenced a review of the Discretionary Payment Scheme
- At the outset, the policy intent of DHPs was updated
- Main policy objective of DHPs is now to sustain tenancies and prevent and alleviate homelessness

Recent Policy Changes

- Two year time limit removed
- 13 week protection which was introduced during Covid-19 is now policy going forward
- Claimants moving from temporary accommodation and young people leaving care will have the full shortfall between contractual rent and LHA met for a period of 13 weeks
- This will then be reviewed and further awards made in line with available budget without the need for a further DHP application

Recent Policy Changes

- Claimants receiving UC housing costs who have had a bereavement within their household which resulted in their LHA rate being reduced will have the reduction covered in full by DHP for a period of 9 months (the first 3 months are currently covered by UC)
- All new awards will be paid to a minimum of the 50th percentile of LHA and if appropriate and applicable to the 75th percentile*
- Claimants receiving UC housing costs who have been impacted by the loss of the £20 uplift which was introduced as a temporary measure during Covid-19 can have their DHP award reviewed and increased in line with the new rules
- Any UC claimants in receipt of housing costs who have had a significant change in their income or circumstances can request a review of their DHP award

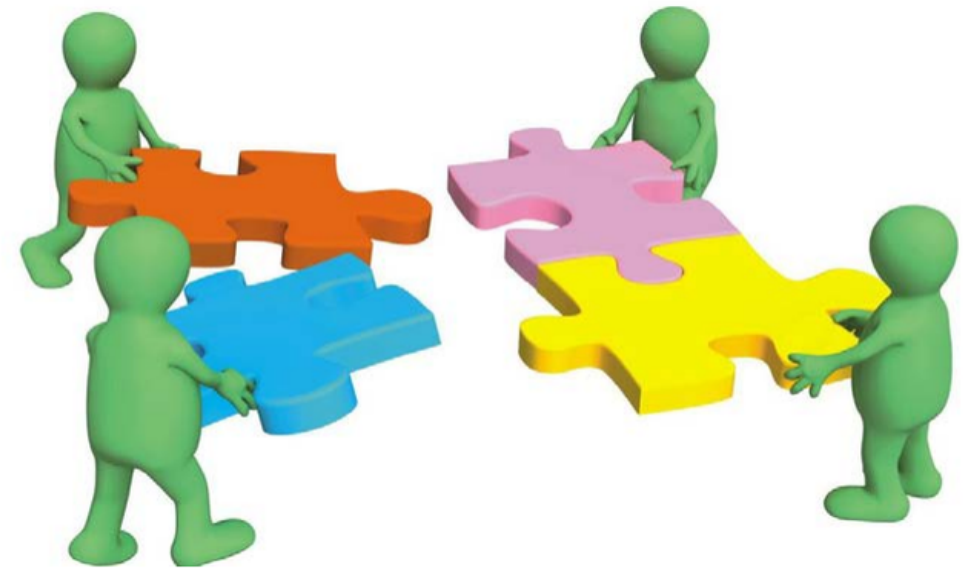
* See Appendix 1 (slide 15)

Ongoing Work

- HB Units have reviewed all awards which ended in the past two months and re-instated (where applicable)
- A review of all DHP awards under £10 per week was recently completed and awards were increased to at least the 50th percentile and if appropriate and applicable to the 75th percentile
- Staff in the HB Units are now reviewing all awards which ended between 1 April and 31 October and they will re-instate where appropriate

Collaborative Working

- Continuing to promote DHPs across the sector
- Maximising support for customers
- Future policy changes



Long Term Recommendations of DfC Review

- A number of recommendations have been suggested as part of the DfC review; however, the suggestions would require a change in legislation as well as an increase in the DHP budget which isn't currently possible
- These recommendations include:
 - Tenancy deposits
 - Rent in advance
 - Assistance with arrears
- Further research will be required to consider extending DHPs to provide assistance with tenancy deposits, rent in advance and assisting with arrears.

ANY
QUESTIONS?

A hand holding a piece of white chalk is shown on the right side of the image, finishing the question mark. The chalkboard is dark and textured.

Appendix 1

BRMA	Bedrooms	LHA Rate	50th Percentile	75th Percentile
South	Shared Room Rate	£55.80	£69.65	£76.57
South	1 Bed Rate	£74.22	£90.15	£101.70
South	2 Bed Rate	£94.33	£98.94	£109.96
South	3 Bed Rate	£102.81	£114.62	£125.54
South	4 Bed Rate	£108.94	£128.83	£146.83
North	Shared Room Rate	£38.57	£44.08	£45.92
North	1 Bed Rate	£77.40	£85.80	£92.21
North	2 Bed Rate	£92.07	£98.59	£107.75
North	3 Bed Rate	£100.56	£110.37	£119.99
North	4 Bed Rate	£114.43	£121.92	£132.11
Lough Neagh Lower	Shared Room Rate	£60.80	£67.73	£76.57
Lough Neagh Lower	1 Bed Rate	£77.72	£85.42	£94.36
Lough Neagh Lower	2 Bed Rate	£90.96	£101.23	£113.73
Lough Neagh Lower	3 Bed Rate	£102.00	£115.81	£124.32
Lough Neagh Lower	4 Bed Rate	£120.28	£123.76	£135.26
North West	Shared Room Rate	£70.07	£74.22	£78.24
North West	1 Bed Rate	£83.64	£91.15	£98.30
North West	2 Bed Rate	£100.20	£104.36	£110.00
North West	3 Bed Rate	£107.39	£110.72	£121.19
North West	4 Bed Rate	£116.37	£124.93	£138.52
South West	Shared Room Rate	£53.39	£71.95	£76.57
South West	1 Bed Rate	£67.82	£82.08	£96.77
South West	2 Bed Rate	£85.00	£99.44	£106.18
South West	3 Bed Rate	£95.33	£105.34	£115.98
South West	4 Bed Rate	£107.58	£113.45	£122.99
South East	Shared Room Rate	£59.46	£65.23	£71.41
South East	1 Bed Rate	£83.53	£90.06	£104.81
South East	2 Bed Rate	£101.08	£112.57	£126.90
South East	3 Bed Rate	£114.93	£128.13	£141.13
South East	4 Bed Rate	£136.28	£166.41	£190.39
Lough Neagh Upper	Shared Room Rate	£60.47	£68.35	£76.52
Lough Neagh Upper	1 Bed Rate	£82.10	£85.75	£94.91
Lough Neagh Upper	2 Bed Rate	£93.41	£102.86	£114.91
Lough Neagh Upper	3 Bed Rate	£102.17	£109.60	£121.58
Lough Neagh Upper	4 Bed Rate	£110.52	£127.99	£148.50
Belfast	Shared Room Rate	£53.58	£63.46	£75.00
Belfast	1 Bed Rate	£98.42	£109.71	£134.57
Belfast	2 Bed Rate	£106.48	£119.77	£141.57
Belfast	3 Bed Rate	£120.91	£134.05	£153.01
Belfast	4 Bed Rate	£151.57	£160.16	£197.46





Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8P8

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

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MARCH HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 10th March 2022 at 10.00 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City (Left Meeting @ 11 am)
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

Apologies

There were no apologies

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive

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

- NIHE Budget Bid and Budget Uncertainty 2022/23
- Rents
- NIHE Revitalisation Programme - Progress Update
- Supporting People Strategy
- Sustainable Development Strategy
- Derry & Strabane LDP Draft Plan Strategy
- Corporate Strategy
- Low income Rates Relief for Owner Occupiers
- Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan

Continued.....

- Tenant and Customer Services Committee
- Homelessness Strategy 2022-25

Members also received a Presentation from the Housing Executive on how the Housing Executive is addressing Derelict/Void Properties.

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 14th April 2022 at 10.00 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

Secretary, Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

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

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



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

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 11 March 2022

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

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

Dear Ms Ward
Re: Free School Meals

At the Regeneration and Community meeting held on 8 March, Members asked that I write to all Councils in Northern Ireland to seek their support for its request that the Northern Ireland Executive introduce a scheme for all school children in Northern Ireland to receive a free school meal.

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

Yours sincerely

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



97

Minister's Office Block B,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 02890 765723
DOJ.MinistersOffice@justice-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: CORR-0178-2022

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Via email – council@nmandd.org

18 March 2022

Dear Marie

Thank you for your letter of 16 February 2022. I share the Council's concerns about the misuse of anonymous online accounts, which as you have highlighted have been used to target and cause harm to many individuals, including elected representatives.

I have been pressing the UK Government to address the issue of online anonymity in the Online Safety Bill. By way of background, the Bill establishes a new regulatory regime to address both illegal and legal but harmful content online, with the aim of preventing harm to individuals in the United Kingdom. The Bill imposes duties on providers of those internet services which allow users to upload and share user-generated content ("user-to-user services") and on providers of search engines which enable users to search multiple websites and databases ("search services"). The new regime will be overseen by Ofcom, the communications regulator. More information about the Bill is available at [Draft Online Safety Bill - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/draft-online-safety-bill)

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Internet law and regulation is a reserved policy area, and the matters to which the provisions of the Bill relate are not within the legislative competence of the devolved administrations. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) is the UK lead department. However, as the issue of online safety is of wider interest and has the potential to impact on devolved matters, I am taking every opportunity to influence the content of the Bill in areas where I feel it should be strengthened.

I have written to DCMS and to the Home Office several times to outline concerns about online anonymity and to press for changes to the Bill aimed at requiring platforms to ensure that accounts have verified and traceable users associated with them. This is particularly important in helping to not only identify online users who are breaking the law, but to detect those responsible for lower level abuse to prevent it escalating further.

The Joint Committee tasked with scrutinising the Bill reported in December 2021. The report can be found at: [Draft Online Safety Bill - Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill \(parliament.uk\)](#). Following publication of the report, I wrote to the Secretary of State for DCMS, Rt. Hon. Nadine Dorries MP, setting out my views on the draft legislation and the need to take every opportunity to enhance the framework. I stressed my broad support for the recommendations made by the Committee to strengthen the Bill, and the importance of ensuring that the legislation places a clear 'duty of care' on service providers to protect users from harm on their platforms. I also formally raised the issue of online anonymity again, and stressed that this matter must be addressed.

While the Bill is a reserved matter, my Department will continue to engage with DCMS as the legislation progresses and I will urge the UK Government to strengthen the provisions in interests of public safety. A revised version of the draft Bill is due to be introduced to Parliament in the coming weeks.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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I am sure you will agree that while strengthening legislation is important, it is not the only way to resolve these issues and it is crucial that we take a collective, preventative approach. The cross Executive Online Safety Strategy and Action Plan, which all

departments have a role in and which is co-ordinated by the Department of Health, highlights the importance of educating young people about how to engage safely, positively and legally online. It sets out a series of actions to help children and young people participate in the online world in a positive, safe and responsible way and is available at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/online-safety-strategy.pdf>

My Department will continue to work with all relevant agencies to highlight the harms of online abuse and the need to address this on a collaborative basis.

Yours sincerely,

NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

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

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of

Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnistrie O Poustle

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne and District Council
council@nmandd.org

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

Your Ref: C/042/2022

Our Ref: CORR-0505-2021

Date: 16th March 2022

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 February 2022 regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's motion on emergency surgery provision at Daisy Hill Hospital (DHH).

It is unfortunate that the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) had to take action in respect of emergency general surgery at DHH; however, I recognise that this action had to be taken to maintain safe services. We cannot compromise on patient safety and it must always be our number one priority. The operational decision taken by SHSCT should be viewed in that context.

It is disappointing that with no Executive in place it will not be possible to agree the 2022-25 Budget, as this would have provided some much needed certainty and enabled greater forward planning. I did welcome the fact that Health was given priority by the Executive and the additional funding made available would have enabled us to continue to deliver on some of our existing commitments that are not included within our baseline. While the Budget is outstanding, there are mechanisms in place which will allow departments to continue spending to maintain public services. Meanwhile, investment in the urgent and emergency care services will continue to be important.

The ongoing challenge in recruiting and retaining specialist clinicians is once facing all Trusts. Fresh efforts have been made to secure consultant general surgeons at the Daisy Hill site, while SHSCT develops proposals for a sustainable, long-term model of care for general surgery. I do recognise that this will be challenging and will likely take some time.

While day to day operational workforce planning is the responsibility of employer Trusts, it is worth noting that effective workforce planning is a key theme of the Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy 2026: Delivering for Our People, published in May 2018. The aim of this Strategy is to develop and, by 2026, sustainably fund, an optimum workforce model for the reconfigured health and social care services.

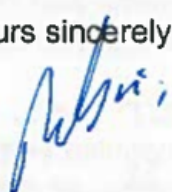
In addition, I have commissioned a clinically led review of general surgery in Northern Ireland which is led by Professor Mark Taylor and overseen by my Department. The overriding aim of the review is to develop a regionally agreed service model for general surgery across Northern Ireland in order to ensure the specialty is equipped to deliver an equitable, sustainable, and high-quality service for every adult and child in Northern Ireland, irrespective of postcode.

I am always willing to explore cross border collaboration where there is a clear population health need and a sustainable long-term solution, and regularly engage with Minister Donnelly on these issues through the North South Ministerial Council. However, in this case I note that the appropriate vehicle for developing a sustainable and safe service model for Daisy Hill Hospital is through the Daisy Hill Pathfinder Group, which the Southern Trust has established for that purpose.

On 16 March 2022, I launched a public consultation on the Urgent and Emergency Care Review, which sets out my vision for our future urgent and emergency care services. I believe that the proposed reforms will help to ensure that all citizens in Northern Ireland have equal access to safe urgent and emergency care services, tailored to their specific needs, at the right time and in the right place. I would strongly encourage you and all of the residents in Newry, Mourne and Down to respond to this consultation.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Robin Swann
Minister of Health



Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust



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

Chief Executives Office
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Email: Michael.Bloomfield@nias.hscni.net
Telephone: 028 90 400712

Your Ref: AD-CE-50

Date: 3 March 2022

Dear Ms Ward,

Re: Emergency Surgery Provision at Daisy Hill Hospital

Thank you for your letter dated 16 February 2022.

I note the motion agreed by the Council at its meeting on 7 February 2022, including a call for a meeting with the Chief Executives of the Southern Trust and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) to discuss the proposed temporary removal of emergency surgery at Daisy Hill Hospital.

You will understand this is a decision taken by the Southern Trust and I can confirm the Trust contacted NIAS on 13 January 2022 to arrange a meeting to discuss their plans to transfer Emergency General Surgery Admission from Daisy Hill Hospital to Craigavon Area Hospital due to local staffing consultant surgeon pressures expected from 28 February 2022. A number of meetings have been held between the Southern Trust, the Health and Social Care Board, the Department of Health and NIAS.

While recognising the challenges faced by the Southern Trust that have necessitated this temporary change, NIAS has outlined the potential impact that additional transfers and longer journey times would have on ambulance availability to respond to calls in the local community, and are mindful of the challenges compounded by protracted turnaround times at Emergency Departments.

We have been working in partnership with the Southern Trust to develop a destination protocol that aims to minimise the impact of this temporary change. This will enable the assessment of most potential surgical issues at Daisy Hill Hospital, and the Southern Trust has made arrangements for the transfer of patients by means other than NIAS emergency vehicles which will limit the impact on our resources.



We do however recognise that there are a small number of time-critical conditions that would be better served by direct emergency transport to Craigavon and we will continue to work with the Southern Trust to reach a joint understanding of the necessary protocols.

In regards to your request, I have already accepted an invitation to a meeting of the Council on 24 March 2022 which will provide an opportunity to discuss the impact of the change and our response in the community.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Bloomfield
Chief Executive

① S Taggart - FYA.



Chief Executive of each District Council
Finance Officer of each District Council
Other Interested Parties

Local Government and Housing
Regulation Division
Finance Branch
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG
Phone: 028 9082 3346
email: Anthony.carleton@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: CO1-21-1742

28 March 2022

Circular LG 10/2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES CIRCULAR – UPDATED
MARCH 2022**

This Local Government Circular provides a consolidated record of all councillor allowances and supersedes Local Government Circular 07/2021.

This consolidated circular is required to determine and reflect an increase in maximum rates for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance from 1 April 2021 and an increase in Dependants' Carers' Allowance from 1 April 2022.

All determinations are made by the Department under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.

If you have any queries on the content of this circular please contact Jeff Glass on 028 9082 3375 or Ian Lewis on 028 9082 3506 or by email jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk or ian.lewis@communities-ni.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

ANTHONY CARLETON
Director
Local Government and Housing Regulation

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1. Basic Allowance

- valid from 1 April 2021

Basic Allowance	Maximum £15,757 per annum ≠
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≠ (The basic allowance includes an element for incidental and consumable costs incurred by councillors in their official capacity. In 2015/16 this element was £1,000 and each year this amount is uplifted in line with the increase applied to the basic allowance, therefore this element within the basic allowance is £1,109 from 1 April 2021.)

2. Dependants' Carers' Allowance

- valid from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

The following table states the maximum rates for dependants' carers' allowance.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum monthly amount
Standard	£8.91 [^]	£463
Specialist	£17.82	£927

[^](Based on national living wage)

- valid from 1 April 2022

The following table states the maximum rates for dependants' carers' allowance.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum monthly amount
Standard	£9.50 [^]	£494
Specialist	£19.00	£988

[^](Based on national living wage)

3. Travel Allowances

– valid from 1 April 2017

The following table states the maximum rates for travel allowances.

Type of Vehicle	Rate per Mile
A pedal cycle	20.0p
A motor cycle (all engine capacities)	24.0p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 450cc but not exceeding 999cc	46.9p *13.7p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 999cc but not exceeding 1,199cc	52.2p *14.4p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 1,199cc	65.0p *16.4p
An electric car	45.0p **25.0p
Passenger rate (per passenger)	5.0p

* For mileage above 8,500 miles

**For mileage above 10,000 miles

4. Special Responsibility Allowance

– valid from 1 April 2021

The following table states the maximum rate of Special Responsibility Allowance that a council may pay. The maximum rate is based on the size of the council population. Each council's population figures are updated each year by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and it is the duty of each council to operate within the total maximum rate appropriate to its population band. For ease the maximum any councillor can receive, within each band, is also provided.

Population of council	Maximum Special Responsibility Allowance £	Maximum (1/5 th) for individual councillor £
Less than 120,000	55,479	11,096
120,000 to 199,000	77,671	15,534
200,000 +	119,835	23,967

5. Subsistence Allowances

– valid from 1 April 2015

The following table states the maximum rates for subsistence; however, where councils believe it is necessary there is flexibility for councils to increase these rates by applying a suitable measure of price inflation.

PERIOD/MEAL	RATES £	
	British Isles	London
Accommodation allowance - An absence involving an overnight stay, away from the normal place of residence. This rate does not include any meal allowance.	100.70	122.45
Breakfast allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period before 11 am)	11.50	
Lunch allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 12 noon and 2pm)	13.50	
Tea allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period including the period between 3pm and 6pm)	4.70	
Evening meal allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the normal place of residence or, where approved by the council, a lesser period ending after 7pm)	20.95	