



July 30th, 2019

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 5th August 2019** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 July 2019

 *Action Sheet Council Mtg 01.07.2019.pdf*

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 July 2019

 *Council Minutes -01.07.2019.pdf*

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 June 2019

 *Special Council 24062019.pdf*

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 June 2019

 *EXTRACT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES 26 JUNE 2019.pdf*

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7.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 3 July 2019

 *Audit Committee Annual Report 2018-19.pdf*

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 *Minutes Audit Committee July 2019.pdf*

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Conferences/Events

8.0 Annual Seminar 2019 - New Municipalism

 *Final 2019 Annual Seminar Programme RGB(3).pdf*

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Notices of Motion

9.0 Notice of Motion - Tree Strategy

Notice of Motion received from Councillor W Clarke:

"This Council produces a tree strategy to protect and enhance tree cover for future generations, Council

recognises the importance of trees, the benefits they afford us and the increasingly important role they can play in mitigating the effects of climate change, flooding and pollution control.

Furthermore council acknowledges that trees can greatly enhance the visual amenity of our environment, they are vital for people's sense of well-being and contribute to everyone's quality of life".

10.0 Notice of Motion - TV Licensing for the Over 75s

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Kimmins:

"This Council notes with serious concern the plans that the British Broadcasting Corporation has announced relating to the means testing of the provision of TV licensing for the over-75s.

The Council agrees to request that the BBC immediately cease these plans and agrees also that the Chairperson of Council convenes a meeting with BBC senior officials and the Newry and Mourne Senior Citizens Consortium to hear at first hand the impact that this decision will have on our most valued and respected Citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down."

11.0 Notice of Motion - NIHE Grass Cutting Service

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Tinnelly:

"This Council is concerned at the obvious deterioration in the quality of the grass cutting service delivered by sub contractors on behalf of the NI Housing Executive at their many housing developments throughout the district. Furthermore, we will write to the NIHE seeking an explanation as to how this deterioration has been allowed to manifest itself and also seek assurances that measures are being undertaken by the NIHE to address these shortcomings"

12.0 Notice of Motion - Policy re Planting Trees of Remembrance

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:

"This council undertakes a review of the policy that refuses to allow the planting of trees in our parks to remember deceased relatives and friends. There should be a flexible policy to allow families and friends to plant a tree in council owned parks, to honour loved ones who have passed away"

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 1 JULY 2019

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/091/2019	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 June 2019	The action sheet was agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/092/2019	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 June 2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/093/2019	Extract from Planning Committee Minutes held on 29 May 2019	The extract from the minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/094/2019	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/095/2019	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2019	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/096/2019	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2019	<p><i>AHC/084/2019 – (Discussed 'in committee')</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council Officers' to meet with Newry Rainbow Group within the next few days to try to resolve issues regarding financial assistance and the draw-down of funding. 2. AHC/084/2019 - Financial Assistance: Service Level Agreements (SLAs) – Minute Extract "to allow all groups, including new groups to reapply to Financial 	D Carville	Meeting took place on 3/7/19 and officers are continuing to work through details pertaining to the proposed funding.	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Assistance interim SLA open call (April 2021 – March 2023)" to be referred to the August Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.			
C/097/2019	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2019	<u>NS/003/2019</u> - Mr Moore to forward relevant DFI Roads contact details to Councillor McAteer. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	R Moore	Letter sent to DFI	N
C/098/2019	Dept of Health Consultation on Guidance info sharing for Child Protection Purposes	NMDDC approve the proposed Consultation Response to the Department of Health 'Information Sharing for Child Protection Purposes', on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; as appended to report circulated to Members.	C Miskelly	Actioned	
C/101/2019	Notice of Motion – Initiatives re. recording Committee and Council Meetings	'This Council strives for the highest standards of openness and transparency in local Government and therefore will undertake the following initiatives to achieve that goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video recording and uploading OR live stream all council meetings, whichever is most cost effective • Audio of Planning committee uploaded online along with other standing committee audio • Audio recordings made of all Council led working groups, party representatives forums, sub committees, forums and task and finish groups, all of which to be uploaded online in the same way as standing committees and full Council. 			

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motions to full Council should only to be delegated to committee where the motion proposer has been given 5 working days notice by the Chair that this will happen' <p>The Motion was referred in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 to the SPR Committee Meeting</p>	D Carville	SPR - September 2019	
C/102/2019	Notice of Motion – Animal Cruelty	<p>"The Council condemns animal cruelty in all forms; notes the effective framework for punishing offenders and imposing appropriate sentences which serve as a deterrent to others; recognises the work of the USPCA in challenging cruel behaviour toward animals as well as supporting rehoming initiatives for those animals that have suffered abuse or neglect; further notes with concern that there is no central register of those convicted of animal cruelty offences and; resolves to write to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Justice, and the British and Irish Governments to raise these concerns and propose a central all-island register for animal abusers".</p>	D Services	<p>Letters sent to:</p> <p>Peter May Teresa May Leo Varadkar</p>	
C/103/2019	Notice of Motion – Welfare Mitigations	<p>"That NMDDC welcomes the range of reports recently published which highlight the serious risk of greater hardship for many within our community, if Welfare Mitigations do not continue beyond March 2020. These reports include; Welfare Reform: Mitigations on a Cliff Edge. Cliff Edge Coalition NINIAO: Welfare Reforms in NI.</p> <p>NMDDC call on all parties to support the need to continue Welfare Mitigations beyond March 2020 and further; Calls on the DfC to take all steps necessary to ensure the Mitigations scheme will continue to help the most vulnerable in our community".</p>	D Services	<p>Letter sent to:</p> <p>Tracey Meharg</p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/104/2019	Notice of Motion – WW2 Veterans	<p>"With the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaching, Newry Mourne and Down Council should recognise the contribution of those who fought in that War from Northern Ireland. It notes that every year the number of our surviving veterans is reducing and the time to provide public and appropriate recognition is running out. This Council will therefore provide all surviving veterans of WW2 (including those in the Merchant Navy) who reside in our council area with a Silver Poppy of Remembrance to mark their service in the fight against Fascism and Nazism. These Poppies will be presented to all surviving Veterans at a special Service of Remembrance the week commencing the 4th November 2019. It further encourages other Councils throughout Northern Ireland to mark our surviving Second World War veterans service in a similar way.</p> <p>The Motion was referred for discussion to the Good Relations Forum</p>	C Moffett	<p>Paper on Good Relations Forum to August SPR.</p> <p>Good Relations Forum Meeting to be arranged first week in September.</p>	
C/105/2019	Notice of Motion – Water Refill Stations	<p>"That this Council will introduce a pilot scheme, similar to the NI Water led initiative #Refillution, and will actively promote the personal use of reusable water bottles and facilitate water refill stations - initially in Warrenpoint & Rostrevor - and then throughout the district as part of its ongoing commitment to the environment."</p> <p>The Motion was referred in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 to the NS Committee Meeting.</p>	R Moore	To be considered at August NS Committee	N
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 July 2019 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor C Casey

In attendance:

Councillor G Bain	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor D Curran	Councillor S Doran
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
 Ms C Miskelly, Asst. Director of Human Resources
 Mr A Patterson, Asst. Director Tourism, Culture & Events
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Ms D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/089/2019

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Clarke, Devlin, Gallagher, Lewis, Mason, McKee, Mulgrew, Reilly, and Walker.

Councillor Casey paid tribute to former Councillor Geraldine Donnelly, who had tragically passed away whilst on holiday in Spain.

Councillor Casey advised Geraldine had been a long-standing Councillor who had retired in 2016 and during her time as a Councillor, she had served her constituents diligently and professionally. Councillor Casey said Geraldine had stood as Deputy Mayor to him in 2012 and he had found her to be very pleasant and, whilst not overtly political in the chamber, she was always quietly confident

of her position as an SDLP Councillor.

Councillor Casey then asked that everyone stand for a one-minute silence as a mark of respect to the former Councillor Geraldine Donnelly.

Leading the tributes for the SDLP party, Councillor Byrne thanked Councillor Casey for his kind words and to all in the chamber for observing the minute silence and said he was stunned and devastated to hear of Geraldine's sudden passing.

Councillor Byrne said Geraldine, in her role as Councillor had strived to improve the lives of those she served. She was a steadfastly principled person, always championing the peaceful route, she was a pillar of strength and a beacon of integrity and had been both a moral compass and his mentor. Councillor Byrne continued saying he had been honoured to have had Geraldine's full support when he had been asked to replace her as SDLP Councillor. He went on to say that family was pivotal to Geraldine's life and she was extremely close to, and proud of her children and grandchildren.

Councillor Stokes thanked the Chairman for his kind words saying Geraldine had been a very professional, non-judgemental and hard-working Councillor.

Councillor Taylor extended both personal and UUP party condolences to Geraldine's husband, children and grandchildren. He said he would remember Geraldine as a warm, courteous person who offered encouragement to him when he first became a Councillor.

Councillor Hanna, on behalf of the DUP said Geraldine was an inspirational lady of great integrity, who worked hard for the whole community, irrespective of political persuasion.

Councillor Savage thanked the Chairman for his kind words saying the SDLP party had been devastated to hear of Geraldine's very sad and sudden passing. Councillor Savage continued, saying Geraldine was a dear friend and colleague, but mostly she was a wife, mother and grandmother and he asked that people show her family the esteem in which she was held when her remains were brought back to South Armagh.

Councillor McKevitt thanked the Chairman for his lovely kind words. She made an emotional tribute to Geraldine whom, she said had been a lifelong friend as well as SDLP colleague. She extended her sympathies to Geraldine's family saying how very proud Geraldine was of them. She continued, saying Geraldine's ten grand-children would live on with the good qualities, values and foundations instilled in them by both Geraldine and her husband Sean.

Councillor Ó Muirí, on behalf of Sinn Féin extended sincere sympathies to her family and colleagues.

Councillor McAteer thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to pay respects to Geraldine whom he described as a true lady. He said she was an inspirational person and an advocate for women in politics and if he could sum up her character it would be that she was gentle in nature and very strong in commitment

especially to her constituents in South Armagh whom she loved dearly.

Councillor Brown extended his sympathies to Geraldine's family and colleagues saying he found her to be a lovely lady who was always very warm and welcoming and the SDLP could be incredibly proud of her achievements whilst she was a Councillor in the South Armagh area.

Councillor Tinnelly said in the few short years he had known Geraldine, he found her to be a quiet, diligent and very effective Councillor and when she stood down in 2016, her priorities had been her grandchildren. Councillor Tinnelly extended his sympathies to her family and SDLP colleagues.

Mr Hannaway, on behalf of Council staff extended his condolences to her family and SDLP colleagues and said staff remembered her very fondly and she would be greatly missed by all.

C/090/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

C/091/2019 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2019

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 June 2019 (copy circulated)

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 June 2019 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/092/2019 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2019

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 June 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Savage.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/093/2019 EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 MAY 2019

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 May 2019 (copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised that some items tabled at the Planning Committee Meeting sat outside the decision functions of the Planning Committee and would therefore be included for adoption at Council Meetings going forward.

Agreed: The extract from the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

C/094/2019 **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2019**

Read: Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

C/095/2019 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2019**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2019 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

C/096/2019 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2019**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2019 (copy circulated).

AHC/084/2019 - Financial Assistance: Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

Councillor Byrne asked for clarity regarding the process surrounding the draw-down of funding for groups.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item 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.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Brown it was agreed to 'come out of committee'.

The Chairman advised whilst 'in committee' the following had been agreed:

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Taylor it was agreed that:

1. Council Officers' to meet with Newry Rainbow Group within the next few days to try to resolve issues regarding financial assistance and the draw-down of funding.
2. AHC/084/2019 - Financial Assistance: Service Level Agreements (SLAs) – Minute Extract "to allow all groups, including new groups to reapply to Financial Assistance interim SLA open call (April 2021 – March 2023)" to be referred to the August Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting

AHC/082/2019 – Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan for 2019/20

Councillor Ó Muirí stated his constituents had requested that a second Public Consultation be held regarding the playpark in Newtownhamilton. Mr Hannaway stated the decision had already been made regarding the consultation and to proceed with this request would rescind a previous decision, Mr Hannaway continued, saying the Public Consultation regarding planning was a separate issue.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Stokes, subject to the amendments regarding AHC/084/2019 above.

C/097/2019 MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2019

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2019 (copy circulated).

NS/016/2019 – Sustainability and Climate Change Forum

Mr Moore provided an update stating the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum

would be open to any additional Members who wished to attend.

NS/003/2019 – Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2019

Councillor McAteer stated he was aware of a bio-diversity scheme that had been undertaken along a dual carriageway in the UK and proposed that Council, in an effort to promote bee-friendly and natural habitat zones consider undertaking a similar pilot scheme along the Newry to Warrenpoint dual carriageway. Councillor Enright seconded the proposal.

Mr Moore said that whilst Council was very interested in all aspects of bio diversity, this was a DFI Roads issue and he would forward relevant contact details to Councillor McAteer.

Agreed: Mr Moore to forward relevant DFI Roads contact details to Councillor McAteer.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Stokes.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

C/098/2019 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONSULTATION ON GUIDANCE ON INFORMATION SHARING FOR CHILD PROTECTION PURPOSES

Read: Report dated 1 July 2019, from Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Human Resources, regarding the Department of Health Consultation on Guidance on Information Sharing for Child Protection Purposes.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor McAteer, to approve the proposed Consultation Response to the Department of Health 'Information Sharing for Child Protection Purposes', on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; as appended to report circulated to Members.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES

C/099/2019 CORRESPONDENCE DATED 13 JUNE 2019 REGARDING COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS – WARRENPOINT HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Read: Correspondence received from DFI regarding an extension to the term of appointment for Councillor Sean Doran to the Board of

Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence received was noted.

C/100/2019 **CORRESPONDENCE DATED 17 JUNE 2019 REGARDING RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SOUTHERN LOCAL COMMISSIONING GROUP.**

Read: Correspondence received from Health and Social Care Board regarding recruitment of Members to the Southern Local Commissioning Group. (copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence received was noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/101/2019 **NOTICE OF MOTION – INITIATIVES RE: RECORDING COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

“This Council strives for the highest standards of openness and transparency in local Government and therefore will undertake the following initiatives to achieve that goal:

- **Video recording and uploading OR live stream all council meetings, whichever is most cost effective.**
- **Audio of Planning committee uploaded online along with other standing committee audio**
- **Audio recordings made of all Council led working groups, party representatives’ forums, sub committees, forums and task and finish groups, all of which to be uploaded online in the same way as standing committees and full Council.**
- **Motions to full Council should only to be delegated to committee where the motion proposer has been given 5 working days’ notice by the Chair that this will happen”.**

The motion was seconded by Councillor Enright.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee.

AGREED: The motion was referred to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

C/102/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION – ANIMAL CRUELTY

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

"This Council condemns animal cruelty in all forms; notes the effective framework for punishing offenders and imposing appropriate sentences which serve as a deterrent to others; recognises the work of the USPCA in challenging cruel behaviour toward animals as well as supporting rehoming initiatives for those animals that have suffered abuse or neglect; further notes with concern that there is no central register of those convicted of animal cruelty offences and; resolves to write to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Justice, and the British and Irish Governments to raise these concerns and propose a central all-island register for animal abusers."

In proposing the motion Councillor Byrne spoke of the many cases of animal abuse occurring across the country and within the Newry, Mourne and Down District area. He referred to the repeated phrase that was heard more often of 'suspended sentences' for offenders of animal cruelty. He pointed out there was no system in place to check on those being convicted and banned from keeping animals being prevented from doing so.

Councillor Byrne highlighted there was a real need to have a UK/Ireland cross border animal abuse register to ensure those convicted of animal abuse and cruelty never got the opportunity to own another animal.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stokes.

In welcoming the motion Councillor Brown proposed an amendment 'that Council ban all circuses that had live animal acts from Council land'.

Councillor Bain seconded the amendment.

Whilst Councillor Byrne supported the sentiment of the amendment he did not accept it as it deferred from the motion, which was the need for a cross border register to enable a proactive approach in stopping those convicted of animal cruelty being able to own animals.

The Chairperson did then put the amendment to a recorded vote (attached), the results of which were as follows;

FOR:	4
AGAINST:	4
ABSTENTIONS:	19

The Chairperson used his casting vote to vote against the amendment, stating that it was something that could be brought before Council as a Motion at another time.

The amendment was **LOST**.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Stokes that this Council condemns animal cruelty in all

forms; notes the effective framework for punishing offenders and imposing appropriate sentences which serve as a deterrent to others; recognises the work of the USPCA in challenging cruel behaviour toward animals as well as supporting rehoming initiatives for those animals that have suffered abuse or neglect; further notes with concern that there is no central register of those convicted of animal cruelty offences and; resolves to write to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Justice, and the British and Irish Governments to raise these concerns and propose a central all-island register for animal abusers".

Councillors Enright, Kimmins, Malone and Taylor were absent from the meeting during the above discussion.

C/103/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION – WELFARE MITIGATIONS

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

"That Newry Mourne & Down District Council welcomes the range of reports recently published which highlight the serious risk of greater hardship for many within our community, if Welfare Mitigations do not continue beyond March 2020. These reports include; Welfare Reform: Mitigations on a Cliff Edge. Cliff Edge Coalition NINIAO: Welfare Reforms in NI.

NM&DDC Calls on all parties to support the need to continue Welfare Mitigations beyond March 2020 and further; Calls on the DfC to take all steps necessary to ensure the Mitigations scheme will continue to help the most vulnerable in our community".

In proposing the motion, Councillor Hanlon spoke of her party's opposition to the Tory welfare cuts agenda which had been the primary driver of ongoing changes and hardship within the benefits system. She stated that in November 2015, an agreement with other political parties in the Stormont Assembly was secured for a mitigation package of £585 million to offset some of the worst aspects of the British Government imposition of welfare cuts.

Councillor Hanlon reinforced that Council must not allow an increase in child poverty, holiday hunger, food bank use, rent arrears and evictions to happen and preventing it was a challenge that now faced all political representatives and that it was vital that funding to offset the Tory cuts continued, post 2020. A unified front to challenge the Tory government's austerity agenda was needed. As part of this, Council should call on Department for Communities to take all the steps necessary to ensure the mitigations scheme will continue to help the most vulnerable in our society.

In seconding the motion Councillor Savage stated his party were fully supportive of the motion and were at the forefront of the campaign against welfare reform. He reiterated the need for mitigation and welfare solutions to be in place by 2020 as the true horror of welfare cuts were already happening in Great Britain.

Councillor Burgess spoke of the Ulster Unionist Party's support for the motion.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Savage that Newry Mourne & Down District Council welcomes the range of reports recently published which highlight the serious risk of greater hardship for many within our community, if Welfare Mitigations do not continue beyond March 2020. These reports include; Welfare Reform: Mitigations on a Cliff Edge. Cliff Edge Coalition NINIAO: Welfare Reforms in NI.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council call on all parties to support the need to continue Welfare Mitigations beyond March 2020 and further; Calls on the DfC to take all steps necessary to ensure the Mitigations scheme will continue to help the most vulnerable in our community".

C/104/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION – WW2 Veterans

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

“With the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaching, Newry Mourne and Down Council should recognise the contribution of those who fought in that War from Northern Ireland. It notes that every year the number of our surviving veterans is reducing and the time to provide public and appropriate recognition is running out. This Council will therefore provide all surviving veterans of WW2 (including those in the Merchant Navy) who reside in our council area with a Silver Poppy of Remembrance to mark their service in the fight against Fascism and Nazism. These Poppies will be presented to all surviving Veterans at a special Service of Remembrance the week commencing the 4th November 2019. It further encourages other Councils throughout Northern Ireland to mark our surviving Second World War veterans service in a similar way”.

In proposing the motion Councillor Hanna stated that everyone should be thankful to the veterans from the Second World War and that he hoped Council would support this motion as a mark of respect to those surviving veterans within the Newry, Mourne and Down District.

Councillor Harvey seconded the motion.

Councillor McAteer stated that while he respected the sentiment of the motion, the poppy was associated with all conflict Britain was involved in and suggested the shamrock poppy as used by the Royal British Legion in the Republic of Ireland be considered.

Councillor McAteer then proposed the motion be referred to the Councils Equality and Good Relations Forum. This was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

Councillors Burgess, Ruane and Brown spoke in support of the sentiments of the motion.

It was however unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Byrne to refer the matter to the Equality and Good Relations Forum for further consideration.

Councillor Hanna was happy to support the referral to the Equality & Good Relations Forum, requesting that the matter be dealt with as quickly as possible.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Byrne that the motion be referred to the Good Relations Forum.

C/105/2019: NOTICE OF MOTION – Water Refill Stations

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

“That this Council will introduce a pilot scheme, similar to the NI Water led initiative #Refillution, and will actively promote the personal use of reusable water bottles and facilitate water refill stations - initially in Warrenpoint & Rostrevor - and then throughout the district as part of its ongoing commitment to the environment.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

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

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.47pm

Signed:

Chairman

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 01/07/19 **VENUE:** Mourne Room Downpatrick **MEETING:** Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 14 – Amendment to the original motion as proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Bain ‘that Council ban all circuses that have live animal acts from Council land’.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews				√
G Bain	√			
P Brown	√			
R Burgess	√			
P Byrne			√	
C Casey			√	
W Clarke				√
D Curran			√	
L Devlin				√
S Doran			√	
C Enright				√
H Gallagher				√
M Gibbons			√	
O Hanlon			√	
G Hanna		√		
V Harte			√	
H Harvey		√		
T Hearty			√	
R Howell			√	
L Kimmins				√
M Larkin			√	
A Lewis				√
O Magennis			√	
G Malone				√
C Mason				√
D McAteer			√	
L McEvoy			√	
H McKee				√
K McKevitt			√	
R Mulgrew				√
G O'Hare			√	
B ÓMuirí			√	
H Reilly				√
M Ruane			√	
M Savage			√	
G Sharvin		√		
G Stokes			√	
D Taylor				√
J Tinnelly	√			
J Trainor		√		
B Walker				√
TOTALS	4	4	19	14

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 June 2019 at 6pm in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor T Andrews

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor C Mason	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor B Walker

(Officials)

Mr. L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
 Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: **Northern Ireland Local Government Association**
 Mr D McCallan, Chief Executive

Northern Ireland Water

Dr S Blockwell, Head of Investment Management
 Mr G Millar, Head of Wastewater Infrastructure Delivery
 Mr I Jackson, Head of Operational Contract Management
 Centre

SC/10/2019

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey, Clarke, Devlin, Doran, Gibbons, Harte, Kimmins, Magennis, Malone, McEvoy, Mulgrew, O'Hare, O Muiri, Sharvin, Stokes and Trainor.

The Chairman stated he was delighted to announce Mrs Marie Ward had been appointed as the new Chief Executive for Newry, Mourne and Down District. He congratulated Mrs Ward on her appointment and wished her well in her new role as Chief Executive.

The Chairman also took the opportunity to thank Mr Liam Hannaway for all his years' service to this Council and wished him well on his endeavours.

SC/11/2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**SC/12/2019 PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION 'BRINGING
CERTAINTY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT'**

The Chairperson invited Mr McCallan, NILGA Chief Executive to deliver his presentation.

Mr McCallan referred to the NILGA Annual General Meeting which took place on 21 June 2019 when outgoing President, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Councillor Dermot Curran, was replaced by Councillor Burton from Mid Ulster Council. He went on to provide an overview of the role NILGA played for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and all Councils in Northern Ireland.

A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

Councillor Curran reinforced NILGA was needed in the future and encouraged Councillors to put forward any questions they needed to ask.

In response to a query about the prospect of devolution on a local level in the future Mr McCallan suggested the likelihood of it formally happening was very slim but by stealth possibly.

Mr McCallan reinforced the need for local government to be provided with greater neighbourhood powers and more funding to have the capacity to provide services targeted locally to those who needed them most. There was real concern about the next four years and the ability to make decisions for local people and ensure that all services would be sustainable.

Members were informed NILGA & SOLACE were holding a Border Economy Event in Newry on 3 December 2019.

Mr McCallan referred to the Members who had been nominated to represent Newry, Mourne and Down District Council at NILGA and reinforced the NILGA product was for all Members.

It was agreed a copy of the presentation would be circulated to Members for their information.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation.

Councillor Savage joined the meeting during the above presentation – 6.15pm.

Councillors Enright and Reilly left the meeting after this presentation – 6.35pm.

SC/13/2019

**PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND
WATER 'OUTLINE CAPITAL SUBMISSION PRICE
CONTROL 2021-27'**

The Chairman welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland (NI) Water to the meeting and invited them to deliver a presentation, a copy of the which is appended to these minutes.

Dr Steve Blockwell, Head of Investment Management from NI Water thanked the Chairman and Council for inviting them to the meeting. He provided an overview of NI Water, highlighting the water and waste water services that existed within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

Members were informed that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had received £54.9m in capital project spend since 2015 (10.5% of Northern Ireland Water's capital spend) which compared favourably with the District's 9.5% share of Northern Ireland's population.

Dr Steve Blockwell then provided the following update on the questions raised by Members prior to the meeting as follows:

- A number of years ago NI water approved development plans in Drumaness. Contractors want to move ahead but were being told there was no longer the capacity in the system for their new homes despite NI Water previously saying it was ok.
Can confirm there was limited treatment capacity at the wastewater treatment works which would restrict new connections to the sewerage system. This location was being considered as part of the Price Control 21 submission to the Regulator.
- There was re-occurring smells relating to sewage systems in the Vianstown Road area, Downpatrick.
NI Water was aware of this issue and was working with local Traders and residents in order to resolve.
- There was chemical put into the system to mitigate smell at the Ardglass Road, Downpatrick. How regularly was this done as there had been episodes of the smell?
NI Water had a chemical dosing plant to suppress odours from sewage at the wastewater water pumping station. The dosage was automated and dependent on flow volume and temperature of sewage.
- Were the current pipes and system in place on Irish Street, Downpatrick fit for purpose, given recent issues that needed emergency attention? Were there any

plans to upgrade system in this area? If so was this communicated to Transport NI prior to the Environmental Scheme and resurfacing project for Irish Street? *NI Water was aware of the issue and had identified broken lateral sewers that may have been broken as part of the public realm surfacing works. Downpatrick Drainage area plan was ongoing which would inform NI Water's future drainage investment in this area.*

- What could be done to avoid sewage over flowing from manhole covers and spilling onto the walkway of the Annalong River Bridge?
NI Water was aware of incapacity of sewers at this location. Annalong Drainage Area Plan was ongoing and would inform NI Water future investment plans in this area.
- Over the last 12 months the quality and colour of the household water in the Ballymegough Road, Kilkeel had been poor. NI Water were taking samples. Were there plans to replace the system?
NI Water were aware of discoloured water supply in this area. Two recent burst watermains had disturbed sediment in cast iron watermains. NI Water would continue to flush the watermains and sampling until the issue was resolved.

Members also asked the following questions:

- The odorous smell had returned to the Downpatrick Road, Kayleigh through the vents. Had the filters been replaced and if not, would they be replaced?
- The work and survey commenced to address the sewage problems in Saintfield was welcomed. How long would it take for the survey to be completed and a model to be drawn up?
- Was the Meadow Area of Newry included within the top projects planned? There was ongoing lack of infrastructure in that area. Periods of heavy rain were causing sewage to seep into homes on the Kiley Road, Newry.
- There were issues with sewage causing rat infestation in the Spring Farm Heights area, Newry which needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- There were problems associated with burst mains and overflow in the Glen Hill area, Newry. This needs to be investigated to establish if it was a capacity issue following new builds in the area.
- Problems associated with a pumping station were causing issues for homes at Conclave Manor, Spa. Can an update be provided on the adoption of the sewers and wastewater pumping station?

The following response was provided:

- The filters had not been replaced recently at Downpatrick Road, Killyleagh. NI Water would inspect and replace if deemed required.
- There was an ongoing Saintfield Drainage Area Plan which would reach options and needs stage by the end of 2019. The findings would be used to inform Price Control 2021 investment submission.
NI Water had repaired a collapsed sewer and road culvert on Listooder Road and detected and repaired three defects on sewer along Old Grand Jury Road. These repairs would reduce the risk of out of sewer flooding.

NI Water was aware of agricultural land flooding to the South of Grange Avenue. Also, surface run-off from agricultural land could cause overland surface water flows in Old Grand Jury Manor.

NI Water had shared findings with DFI Roads and DfI Rivers.

Funding was essential and the support of Councillors was required to put pressure on DFI to ensure adequate funding.

NI Water representatives undertook to provide an update on any outstanding issues raised during the meeting at a later stage.

The Chairman thanked NI Water for their presentation and responses to the questions forwarded to them prior to the meeting. Members were advised that NI Water representatives were happy to meet following the meeting to address any further questions or queries they may have.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.10pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 5 August 2019.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

Derek McCallan
Chief Executive
NILGA
24th June 2019





the voice of local government






&












NILGA – WHO WE (YOU) ARE

- Representative body for Local Government
- Led by Councils, supported by Parties
- National network UK (+ EU, Commonwealth & Ireland)
- Effective Regional Representation
- Effective Regional Co-ordination
- Effective Regional Learning & Development
- Effective Communication
- Benefitting Every Member of Every Council



HOW, WHAT?

- NILGA members are drawn from each of the 11 councils
- x11 Policy, Investment, Procurement, Learning, Promotion
- Bringing Gov, Economic & Social Partners to LCCC
- Constituted by - and accountable to - the member councils as the sector's representative body.
- NILGA and the 11-member councils have a Programme for Local Government
- From June 21st (AGM), all Council **Policy & Learning Networks** will be launched.
- Legislation & Ideology need to shift gears. Councils like LCCC are service and representative hubs, but:



What we do

- Promote, develop, champion and improve Local Government
- Deliver elected member learning & development and negotiating National Pay Agreements.
- Proactive policy development - Reform and Improvement, Devolution, Shared Services, Waste Management, Community Planning, Local Planning, Economic Development; Strategic Migration and the PFLG
- Work with councillors and officers, representing NI LG at UK National, Irish, European, Commonwealth and other international groupings.



FROM THIS



TO THIS







NILGA is the representative body for councils in NI and champions local government



THEMES AND DRIVERS OF OUR WORK

- Council Corporate Plans = NILGA's (new) Corporate Plan
- Effective Regional Representation
- Effective Regional Communication and Co-ordination
- Developing & Challenging the NI Local Government Sector
- Backing NMDDC and others on, e.g. Community Planning Policy Changes, Resources from Central Government



NI Councils invest almost **£200m a year** in recreation & sport facilities





NI Councils invest over **£600m a year** on procuring services and products







NILGA is the representative body for councils in NI and champions local government



NILGA - WORKING FOR, WITH, IN NMD

- Elected Member Development
- Workforce Policy, Pay, Performance
- Pay Spine, HMRC and related pensions advice
- Sustainable Prosperity Fund £3.5 billion
- Officer & Member Policy & Learning Networks
- Policy Transformation – Reform, Devolution
- Elected Member Representation
- Venues and promoting NMDDC






nilga
northern ireland
local government association



NILGA is the representative
body for councils in NI and
champions local government

BIG ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

- Councillor – MLA Policy Forum – Assembly Pending
- Further Transferring Functions – NOT without £££
- Performance improvement, e.g. Community Planning & measuring the right things the right way
- Legislation – NI Loc. Gov Act, Power of Gen Comp






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northern ireland
local government association



NILGA is the representative
body for councils in NI and
champions local government

TWO WAYS TO WORK








NILGA is the representative body for councils in NI and champions local government



CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Global issues will impact locally. As a sector, councils in NI through NILGA must plan ahead.
- 2019 – 2023 Regional Programme of Learning & Development
- Member Development & Training
- Waste & Planning Guides
- 2019 Councillors Guide



- Local Government's sole political corporate network, events, training, policy provider and strategic partner forum
- Efficiency, Improvement, Shared Services Our Way
- Unity is strength: part of the 450+ Local Government Group (UK / IRL)



Brexit:

Responding to the Challenges – are there opportunities?



the voice of local government



Long term opportunities?

- Devolution below Whitehall & Stormont
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- EU Peace Plus programme
- Trade – international links in China, CLGF
- Circular economy approach to waste management
- State aid / procurement – social value, local economy
- Cross-Border groups, Irish Regional Assemblies
- North South, East-West infrastructure – council led




Practical Next Steps


- Up the ante, Shared Prosperity Fund – council co-design
- UK & Irish governments strongly aware of NI councils' position
- Who owns the £60m + Brexit Support Fund?
- £3.5m for export health certifications – recompense
- NILGA & SOLACE with councils – One voice, heard by many

8 October – Killyhevlin Hotel
Place Shaping


Early December – Newry
Border Economy








NILGA is the representative body for councils in NI and champions local government



NMDDC, COUNCILS, NILGA = PLACE SHAPING, CREATING SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY WEALTH

- **NILGA sees 2019 – 2023 as the second phase of local government's contemporary, collective development**
- **PfLG provides the rationale for the proper planning and sustainability of our democratically mandated councils**



- Councils are now part of a wider government partnership, formally contributing, as in all neighbouring jurisdictions, to the priorities of government and the region. But it's still immature.
- The democratic, civic, economic, social, cultural, service delivery and partnership credentials of our emerging 11 councils *must put the local into government*, more so than in the past.
- Provided that councils gain the investment and resources to deal with increasing demands and functions, and gain the support of wider government within the NI Assembly and its Departments, they will plan, co-ordinate and do more and better things for more people, locally.





NILGA is the representative body for councils in NI and champions local government



SUPPORTING BETTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT





Editor's Viewpoint: Councils can bridge democratic deficit



The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), which represents the 11 councils, has published an important new report on the democratic deficit in the region. It calls for greater powers for local authorities in the upcoming election of a Northern Assembly and Executive.

Councils demand more powers to fill political void left by Assembly



Local government is ready and willing







NILGA is the representative body for councils in NI and champions local government



THE FUTURE'S NOW – HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE SERVICES MATTER TO NMDDC

- Councils are a £2 billion p.a. investment across NI
- Strategic, informed development & community planners
- Conveners of local people
- Shapers of local places
- Investors and representative
- Scrutineers, entrepreneurs, custodians
- Productive but constrained first term 2015 – 2019
- Transition is over. Transformation must now follow, urgently.
- Local Government has the legitimacy – other institutions have the resources?



NI Councils invest over
£600m a year
on procuring services and products







NILGA is the representative body for councils in NI and champions local government



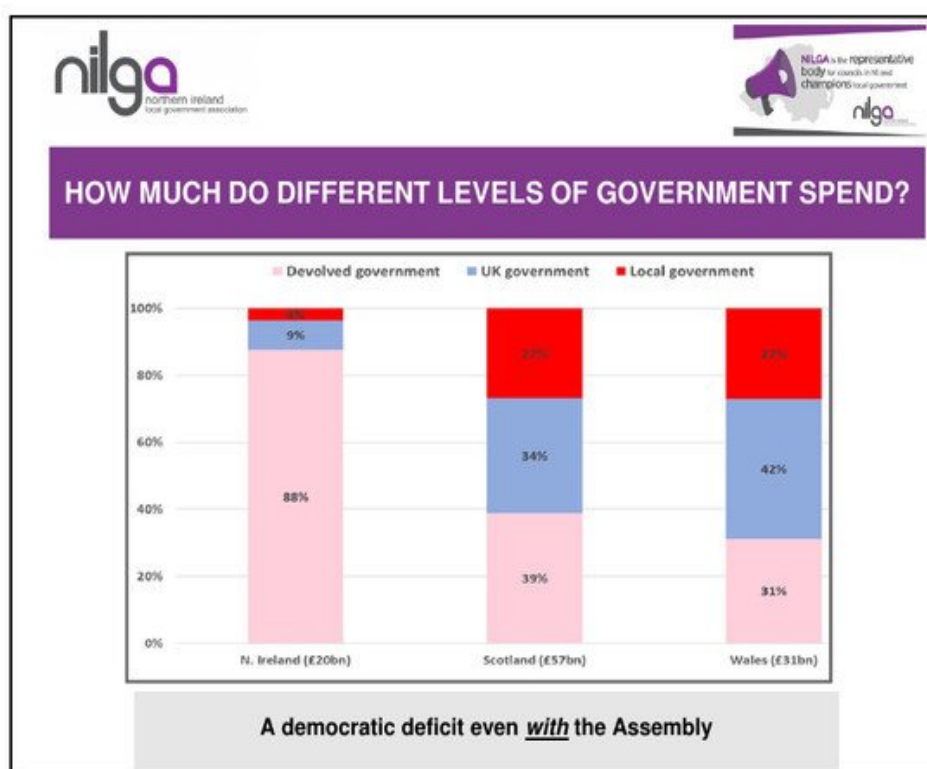
Member Policy and Learning Networks

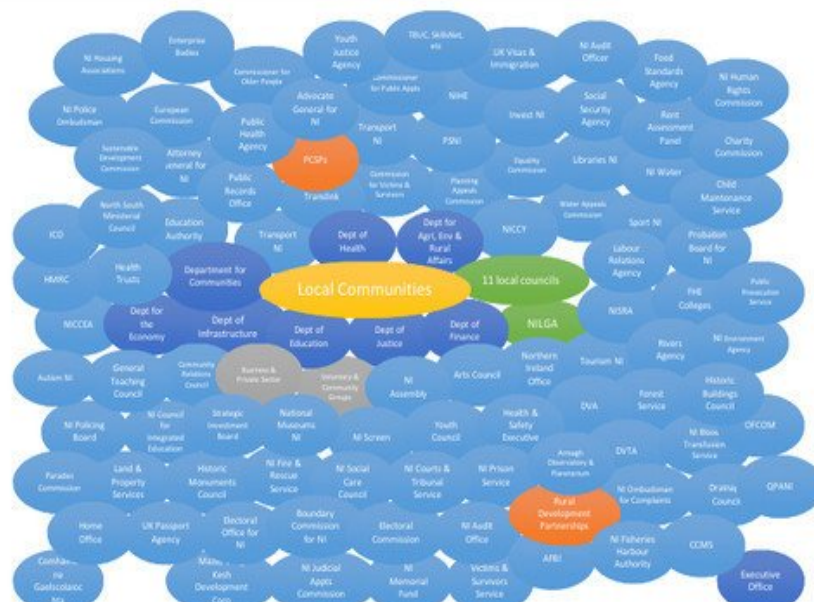
- Reform, Devolution and Improvement
- Economy & International Opportunities
- Place Shaping and Infrastructure
- Elected Member Development
- Health, Social and Environmental Wellbeing






NILGA Regional Programme for Elected Member Development 2019/20 How we Learn is Key to success.											
Module/Report Topic	May 2019	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020
Accredited Provision Options			Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 1) 20 th September 2019 2 - 4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 2) 20 th October 2019 2-4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 3) 20 th November 2019 2-4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	Leadership Programme (Module 1) 14 th November 2019 6 th December 2019	Leadership Programme (Module 2) 13 th February 2020 Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 4) 21 st January 2020 2-4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	Leadership Programme (Module 3) 13 th February 2020 Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 5) 24 th February 2020 3-4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	Leadership Programme (Module 4) 12 th March 2020 Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 6) 20 th March 2020 2-4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre Local Planning Leadership Programme (Study 7/16) 0 th March 2020	Leadership Programme (Module 5) 22 nd April 2020 Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 7) 24 th April 2020 2-4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	
Master- classes (Strategic Planning for 21 st Century Councils)	Planning Programme (Continued) 20 th May 2019 10.30 - 3.30pm Ballymena Council Officers		Scrutiny and Challenge 0 th September 2019 2.00 - 4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre				Performance Improvement 27 th January 2020 10.30 - 1pm The Bold Ballymena			Performance Improvement 20 th April 2020 2.00 - 4.30pm Downshire Civic Centre	
Network Events			Peace Shaping Event 0 th October 2019 Killybegs Hotel Exhibition			Border Economy TBC		NILGA Flagship Local Government Conference 20 th February 2020 Cromer Plaza Belfast			
Sub Regional Development Compliance Sessions			Environmental Impact Assessment 17 th September 2019 10.30 - 4.00pm Lough Beg			GDPR 16 th December 2019 6.20 - 10.00pm Dunfermline		GDPR 17 th Feb 2020 6.20 - 10.00pm Dunfermline			Rural Needs 16 th May 2020 10.30 - 1pm
Workshops (Practical Planning Sessions)	Code of Conduct 20 August 2019 10.30 - 12.30pm Ballybeg Hill		Code of Conduct 22nd October 2019 6.30 - 8.30pm Cookstown		Data and Evidence 21 st November 2019 10.30 - 1.00pm Orangevale Civic Centre		Code of Conduct 14 th January 2020 2.30 - 4.30pm Chesham				Data and Evidence 21 st May 2020 2.00 - 4.30pm Ballybeg Hill





NILGA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Alan McVicker, Strategic
Investment Board



Gráinne Walsh, Stratagem



Neil McInroy, Centre for Local
Economic Strategies



Majella McCloskey, Centre
for Effective Services



Nichola Hughes, Sustainable
NI




Roger Pollen, Federation of Small Businesses



Paul O'Brien, Association
for Public Services
Excellence



Colin Jess,
Social Enterprise NI



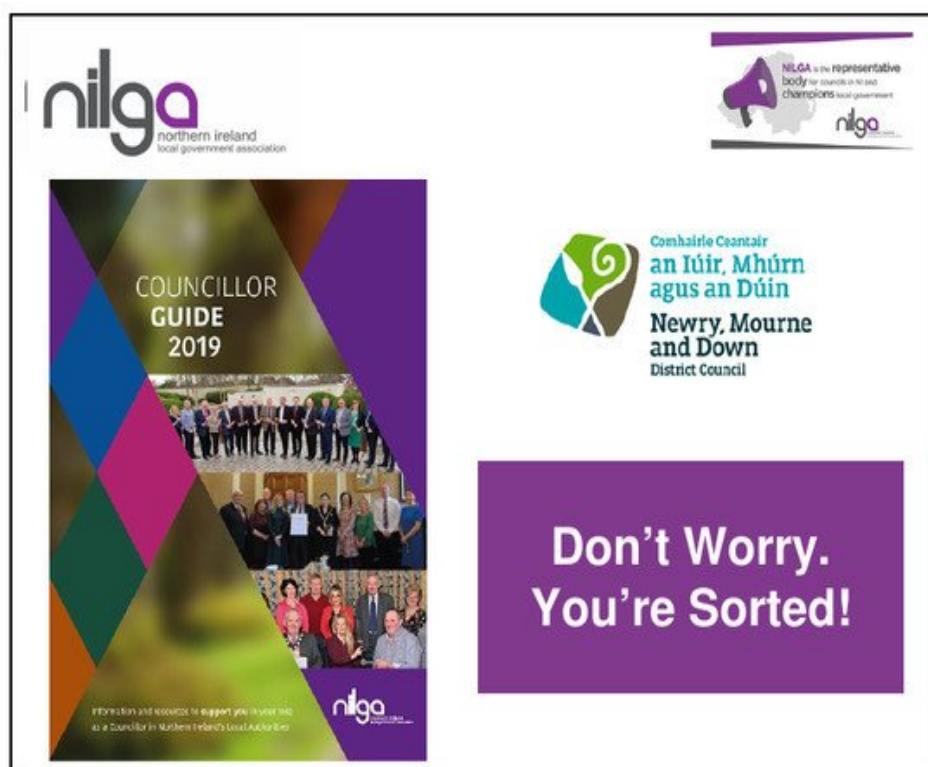
Helen Quigley,
Inner City Trust



Michael McQuillan, Enterprise NI



Charlie Fisher, Development Trusts NI



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

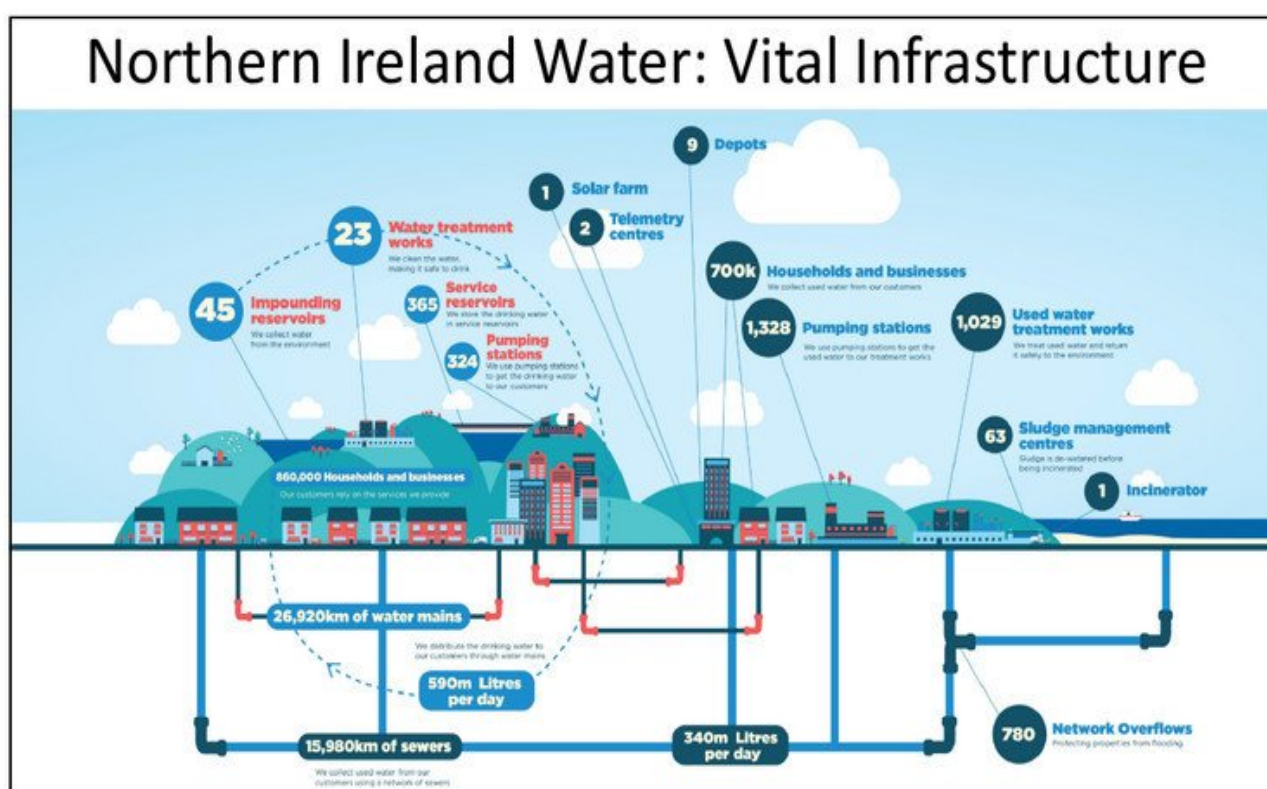
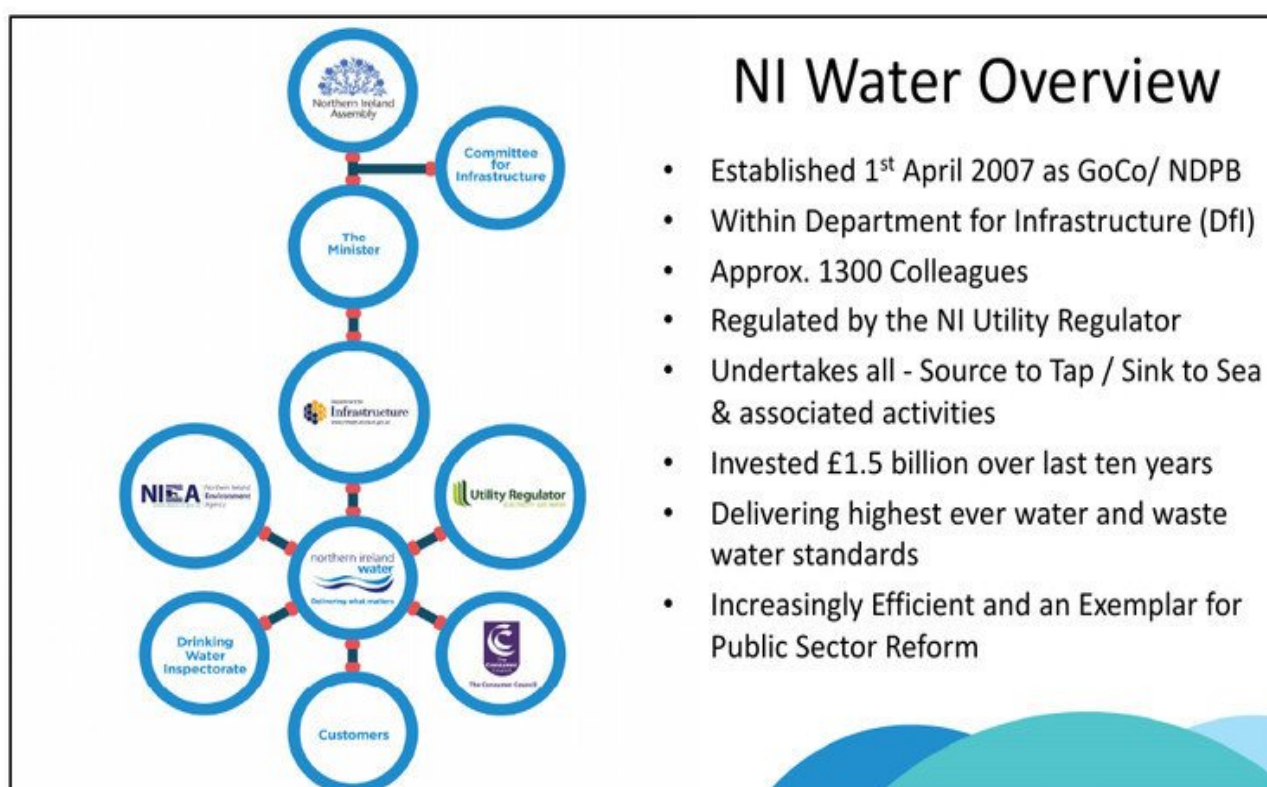
Dr Stephen Blockwell - Head of Investment Management
Mr Grahame Millar - Head of Wastewater Infrastructure Delivery
Mr Ivan Jackson – Head of Operational Contract Management Centre

24 June 2019



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area





Capital Investments

Investment Year	Capital Project Spend	
	NI Water	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
2015/16	£95m	£12.2m
2016/17	£101.6m	£9.4m
2017/18	£106.6m	£10.5m
2018/19	£121.7m	£8.9m
2019/20	£96.8m	£13.9m
Total	£521.7m	£54.9m

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council benefits from 10.5% of NI Water's capital spend and a considerable percentage of NI Water's Water & Sewerage £61m annual Capital Maintenance Expenditure for the PC15 period. This compares favourably with the District's 9.5% share of Northern Ireland's population.

Top Investments (over £100k)

Projects In Construction / Recently Complete

Newpoint WWPS Screen upgrade
 Culmore, Strabane and Warrenpoint Sewer Investigations
 Northern Ireland Drought Mitigation
 Killeavy Castle Water Distribution Improvements
 Silent Valley recreational facilities appraisal
 Newry Depot premises upgrade
 PC15 Year 3 WwTW Capital Maintenance - East Region
 Dundrum WwTW
 PC15 Watermains Rehabilitation WP1 - Foffany/North Lisburn South
 Sewers Structural Rehabilitation Package 2
 Copeland Road, Comber, Tank Sewer

Projects In Construction / Recently Complete

WIIM 1 Phase 2 Carran Hill Crossmaglen WP
 Manse Road, Seaforde Storm Sewer Extension
 PC15 Year 3 WwTW Capital Maintenance - South Region
 Mourneview, Newcastle, Flood Alleviation
 Newry West WPS, fire damage
 CSO Monitoring Within Shellfish and Bathing Water Areas
 Banbridge South Armagh WIIM 2.1 Work Package
 Dundrum DAP, UIDs Upgrades.
 Annalong DAP UIDs, Upgrades.
 Kilkeel DAP Phase 1
 Drumaroad WTW Clear Water Tank

Top Investments (over £100k)

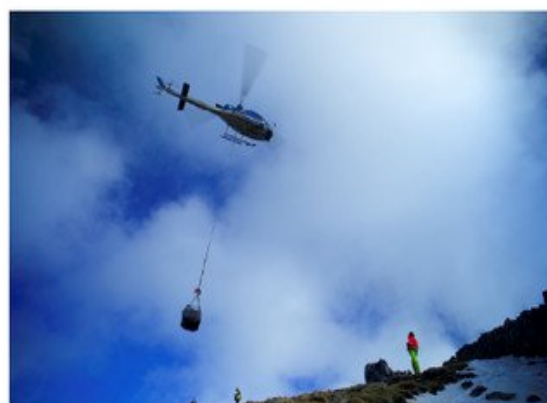
Programmed/Prospective Projects (subject to funding & land purchases)

Sheemore Crescent/Hanwood Way, Kilkeel, Foul&Storm Sewer Extension
 Station Road Saintfield Mains Replacement.
 Adj 110 Saul Road Downpatrick F&S Sewer [Potential PC21]
 Green Road, Ardglass, Foul and Storm Sewer. [Potential PC21]
 Appraisal of DG5 At-Risk Register Locations (Mitigation Phase 4) [Potential PC21]
 The Slopes Rathfriland Wwps appraisal [Potential PC21]
 Meigh WWTW Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]
 Warrenpoint WWTW - Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]
 Dublin Road Newry Out of Sewer Flooding [Potential PC21]
 Downpatrick (SPSs) [Potential PC21]
 Cranfield WwTW Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]
 Kilkeel WWTW Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]
 Cranfield Catchment , Kilkeel Storm Separation [Potential PC21]
 Annalong WwTW [Potential PC21]

Projects / Activities Update

Mourne Wall Restoration Project

Building Conservation & Project of the Year - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors



Dundrum Sewerage Network



Council Local Development Plan



Funding for water and wastewater 2021 to 2027



What is a Price Control?

- As a monopoly, NI Water is regulated by the Utility Regulator through Price Controls.
- A Price Control determines the allowed revenue and expenditure for the company during the price control period.
- A Price Control determines the efficiency and outputs targets to be met by the company during the price control period.
- PC21 will be 4th Regulatory Price Control for NI Water

13

What does a Price Control involve ?

Objectives specified – Social & Environmental Guidance

- With input from stakeholders

Revenue and expenditure to deliver objectives quantified

- NI Water develops Business Plan to comply with Ministerial objectives and guidance

Value for money assessed

- Utility Regulator assesses Business Plan and challenges value for money

Regulatory contract agreed

- Utility Regulator determines revenue and outputs - contract is agreed with customer price limits determined for the PC period, outputs agreed and delivery monitored

14

NI Water's Funding



NI water is a Government Owned Company (GoCo) and Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) within DfI

NDPB status means NI Water can only spend within its Public Expenditure (PE) budgetary envelope – this is an important difference verses GB Water Companies.

NI Water is not permitted to hold surplus cash reserves – all costs must be met from existing public expenditure budgets within NI Water or the Dept for Infrastructure (DfI).

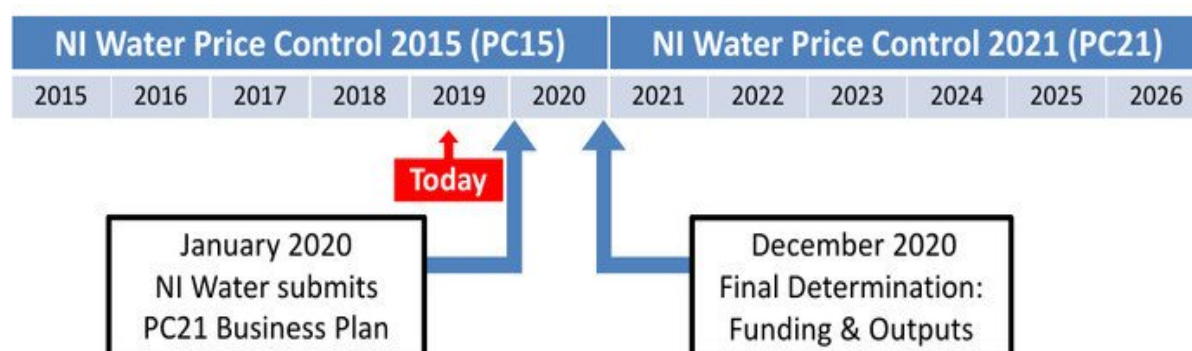
NI Water is successful – in top 5 of Belfast Telegraph top 100 companies – but accounting profits provide no additional spending power to NI Water.

The PC15 Funding Challenge

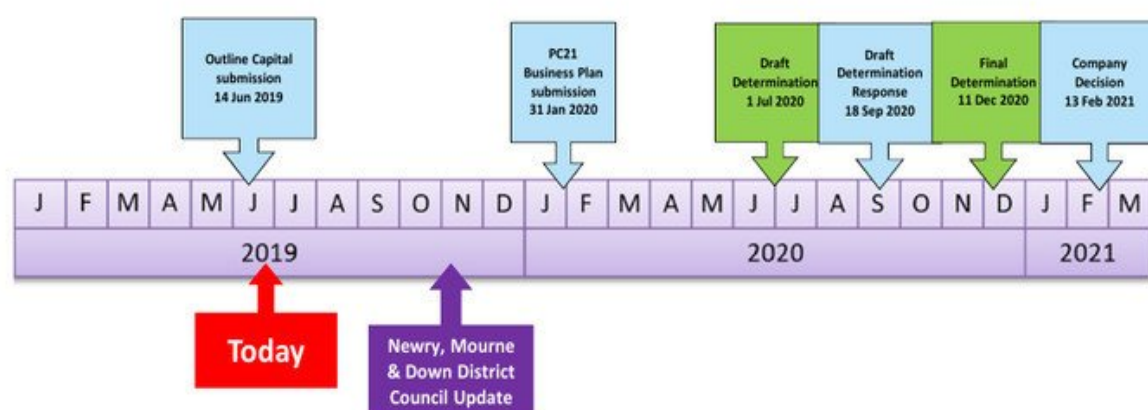
Capital Business Plan (2015 to 2021)




PC21 Business Plan and Timeline



Detailed PC21 Business Planning Timetable



Supporting Future Economic Development

- Current governance model has not delivered the investment funding needed to date
 - Across NI significant investment is now needed for wastewater and water infrastructure
 - Developers should engage as early as possible with NI Water through the Pre Development Enquiry process
- 

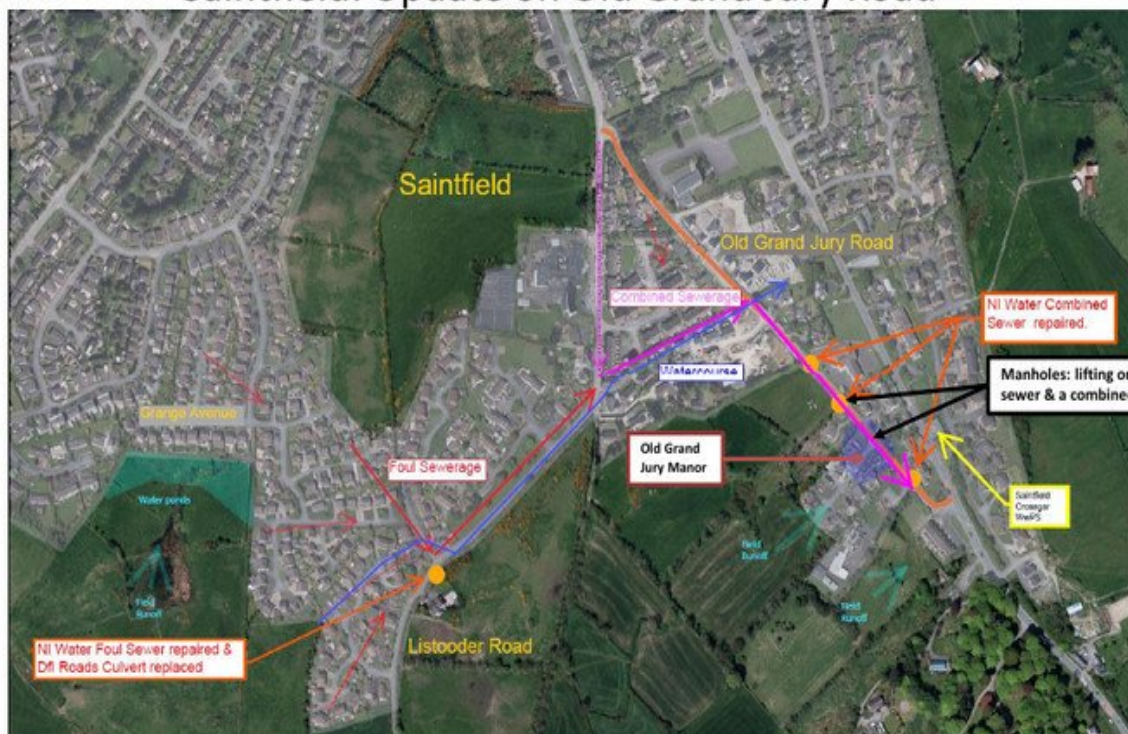
Questions Received from Councillors



Issue Raised & Councillor	QUESTION
Drumaness Cathy Mason	A number of years ago NI water approved development plans in the village, now that contractors want to move ahead they are being told there is no longer the capacity in the system for their new homes despite NI Water previously saying it is ok. Can you advise on this?
Vianstown Road John Trainor	Re-occurring smells relating to sewage system.
Ardglass Road John Trainor	Understand that there is chemical put into the system to mitigate smell, how regularly is this done as there have been episodes of the smell?
Irish St John Trainor	Are the current pipes and system in place on Irish St fit for purpose, given the recent issues that needed emergency attention? Are there any plans to upgrade system in this area? If so was this communicated to TNI prior to the Environmental Scheme and resurfacing project for Irish St?

Issue Raised & Councillor	QUESTION
Annalong Marine Park/Commill Area Harold McKee	What can be done to avoid sewage over flowing from manhole covers and spilling onto the walkway of the Annalong River Bridge?
Sean Doran	I Have an issue for the special council meeting with NI water Over the last 12 months the quality and colour of the house hold water in the ballymegough road kilkeel has been really poor , The water in the tanks in houses XX XX XX is a brown colour and its leaving a young family unable to bathe their children and its very unhealthy looking . NI Water have been taking samples and been coming out on a regular basis to flush the pipes out indeed they were out today the 19 June and it took 45 of flushing the pipes before they could get clean water . I think it's old lead pipes that are causing this problem and want to know if they have plans to replace the system
Killyleagh Downpatrick Rd William Walker	The odorous smell has returned to the Downpatrick Rd through the vents, has the filters been replaced if not will they be?
Saintfield sewage problems William Walker	Looking for an update on the sewage problems in Saintfield, has the survey been completed and has the money been sourced to rectify the problem?

Saintfield: Update on Old Grand Jury Road



How To Reach Us

- **Dedicated 24/7 Elected Representative Hotline:**
0345 3006461
- **Email :** waterline@niwater.com
- **Website:** www.niwater.com
- **Twitter:** @niwnews
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/niwater
- **24/7 Waterline for public:** 03457 440088.
- #deliveringwhatmatters



EXTRACT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES – 26 JUNE 2019**P/063/2019 REGIONAL PROPERTY CERTIFICATES – PROPOSED INCREASE IN FEES**

Mr McKay advised the Committee the issuing of Regional Property Certificates which had previously been a DOE function, had now been passed to Council and would be subject to VAT. The proposed increase would be necessary to cover the VAT that would be imposed.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Larkin it was unanimously agreed to approve the increase in Property Certificate fees as detailed at paragraph 4.1 of the report dated 26 June 2019 (total proposed fee £60).**

It was noted that approval of the revised fees would require the Service Level Agreement between the RPCU and the Council to be updated.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Audit Committee
Annual Report for 2018/2019

1. Overview

This Annual Report provides an overview of the Audit Committee activities for the Financial Year 2018/19 and demonstrates how the Committee has met its key responsibilities.

The Audit Committee met on five occasions during the year; four standard meetings on 5th July 2018, 20th September 2018, 15th January 2019 and 15th April 2019 and a special meeting on 15th February 2019. A programme of work has been agreed by the Audit Committee and is allocated over a schedule of four meetings during the year.

The role of the Audit Committee is to support the Chief Executive (Accounting Officer) and Council by reviewing the comprehensiveness and reliability of assurances on governance, risk management, the control environment and the integrity of the financial statements.

2. Attendance

2.1 Members' attendance at committee meetings were as follows:

	Audit Committee	Audit Committee	Audit Committee	Spec Audit Committee	Audit Committee	Totals
	05-Jul-18	20-Sep-18	15-Jan-19	15-Feb-19	15-Apr-19	
Mr J Campbell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5 / 5
Cllr P Byrne	✓	✓		✓		3 / 5
Cllr C Casey	✓		✓	✓	✓	4 / 5
Cllr W Clarke		✓		✓	✓	3 / 5
Cllr L Devlin				✓		1 / 5
Cllr R Mulgrew	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5 / 5
Cllr M Murnin	✓		✓	✓	✓	4 / 5
Cllr P Brown				✓		1 / 5
Cllr M Ruane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5 / 5
Cllr G Sharvin	✓					1 / 5
Cllr J Tinnelly	✓	✓				2 / 5
* Cllr J Trainor						

(*Cllr Trainor was replaced by Cllr Byrne on the Committee)

2.1 Mr Joe Campbell was appointed as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee on 14th September 2015 and in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference took up the role of Chairperson. He stepped down on 15th April 2019 following the end of his term.

2.2 The Audit Committee meetings requires the attendance of the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and the Internal Auditors. The Audit Services Manager, Assistant Director of Finance and NIAO representatives also usually attend and the Senior Management Team and other Senior Officers attend by invitation.

3. Performance Evaluation

3.1 In accordance with best practice, the Audit Committee self-assessed its performance against the National Audit Office Checklist for Audit Committees during the year and the results were presented to the meeting on 15th January 2019 and the Committee agreed the following actions/recommendations to build effectiveness:

Principle 2: Skills

(a) Parties to be asked to give consideration to appointing Elected Members for a term greater than one year where possible to build up knowledge and skills

Principle 3 and 4: The role and scope of the Committee

(b) Review the Committee's terms of reference in accordance with HMT Guidance

(c) Bring a paper on Cyber Risk Management to a future meeting

(d) Bring a paper on Assurance Mapping to a future meeting

(e) Bring a paper on the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption to a future meeting

Principle 5: Communication and reporting

(f) To ensure Internal Audit reports are completed and timely reported to Audit Committee

(g) Officers to strive to ensure that all papers are provided on a timely basis to Democratic Services so that papers are issued in compliance with standing orders so that Members have adequate time to review.

Members can take reassurance from the number of good practice questions that have been answered 'yes' demonstrating that the Audit Committee is following best practice and operating effectively.

3.2 An appraisal of the Chairperson performance was also completed by the Chief Executive and Councillor Casey and was deemed satisfactory.

3.3 All actions arising from the 2017/18 Self-Assessment were completed.

4. Terms of Reference

A review of the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference was undertaken and approved by Council on 5th March 2019 as part of the review of the terms of references of all Committees

of Council. The Audit Committee noted the approved Terms of Reference at its meeting on 15th April 2019.

5. 2017/18 Financial Statements and External Audit

The Council's Audited Financial Statements for 2017/18 including the Annual Governance Statement were reviewed by the Audit Committee on 20th September 2018. The Committee also reviewed the draft report to those charged with governance.

The Audit Committee was pleased to note that the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) had certified the financial Statements with an unqualified audit Opinion and the Audit Committee approved the Accounts for signing within the statutory deadline of 30th September 2018.

The Audit Committee noted the contents of final report to those charged with governance with management responses and the Annual Audit Letter at its meeting on 15th January 2019.

6. Risk Management

The Committee welcomed the continued good progress made by Officers on Risk Management and the structure put in place to ensure ownership and management of risk at all levels of the organisation.

The Council has a Corporate Risk Register which identifies the key corporate level risks faced, and to be managed. Each corporate risk is linked to specific priorities set out by the Council in its Corporate Plan. The Corporate Risk Register and mitigating actions are scrutinised at each Audit Committee meeting. Risk management is also a standing agenda item at monthly meetings of the SMT.

There were 11 corporate risks on the Corporate Risk Register at April 2019 and the corporate risks with the highest residual scores were as follows:

- CR. 05 – Failure to provide timely planning decisions (4 * 4 = 16)
- CR. 06 - IT Services do not support the Statutory, Strategic or Operational requirements of Council (4 * 4 = 16)
- CR. 09 – Failure to implement an economic development programme to regenerate the district and attract inward investment due to financial uncertainties caused by the current economic and political climate (4 * 5 = 20)
- CR. 10 – Risk of industrial relations deteriorating as we go through a period of change which could potentially lead to industrial action and a disruption to services (4 * 4 = 16)
- CR. 11 – Accidents/injuries may occur if health and safety of service users and staff is not considered, with a particular focus on Fire Risk Assessments (5 * 3 = 15)

7. Internal Audit

7.1 ASM Limited were appointed on 1st April 2015 as Internal Auditors for a period of 3 years. The Audit Committee on 8th December 2016 agreed to extend the contract with ASM Limited for the provision of the Council's internal audit services, for a further 1 year to 4 years via Direct Award Contract, subject to a satisfactory completion review at the end of each year. ASM were extended for 2018/19 which allowed for the completion of the 4 Year Internal Audit Cycle.

7.2 The Internal Audit Plan for 2018/19 was delivered in full. 9 Internal Audit Reports were reported to the Audit Committee during the year, 8 of which received a satisfactory assurance rating. One service, Facilities Management – Canteens received a limited assurance rating. Members commended this excellent result.

7.3 The Internal Auditors also reported to a special meeting on 15th February 2019 their findings in respect of the Council's procurement and erection of the Big Screen in Newry and highlighted the need to progress with those issues identified as key lessons to be learned.

7.4 Internal Audit Annual Assurance Opinion

The Committee reviewed the Annual Internal Audit Assurance Report for 2018/19 at its meeting on 15th April 2019 and noted the Auditor's overall opinion that the Council's systems in relation to internal control, risk management and governance were in general adequate and operated effectively and they were able to provide satisfactory assurance in relation to the effective and efficient achievement of the Council's objectives.

The Audit Committee welcomed the overall opinion of Satisfactory Assurance and commended Officers for their good work. The Committee also requested regular progress updates on the actions taken to address the significant issues referred to in Annual Internal Audit Annual Assurance Report.

7.5 Follow up Review of Internal Audit Recommendations

The Committee also reviewed on 15th April 2019 a follow up report from Internal Audit on the Implementation of Prior Year Internal Audit Recommendations for 2017/18. Disappointingly, only 8 (17%) out of the 48 recommendations examined were fully implemented, a further 21 (44%) were partially implemented, 17 (35%) were not yet implemented, 1 (2%) no longer accepted and 1 (2%) unable to test implementation. The Audit Services Manager will report on progress to the Audit Committee during 2019/20.

The Audit Services Manager also reported progress on the implementation of the 2015/16 and 2016/17 outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations during the year and at 31st

March 2018, 34 (81%) out of the 42 recommendations examined were fully implemented for 2017/18 32 (51%) out of the 63 recommendations examined were fully implemented.

The Committee emphasised the importance of Officers continuing to give their full co-operation to Internal Audit work and to ensure recommendations to strengthen internal controls were implemented in a timely fashion.

7.5 Tender for Internal Audit Services

The current contract with ASM ended on 31st March 2019. The Council completed a public tendering competition for the next Council term and ASM have been successful and reappointed on a 4 year contract commencing 1st April 2019..

7.6 Approval of Internal Audit Plan 2019/20 and Internal Audit Strategy

The Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20 and the Internal Audit Strategy for 2019/20 to 2022/23 will be brought to the Audit Committee meeting in July 2019 for approval.

8. External Audit Strategy

The NIAO presented their Annual Audit Strategy for the Year Ending 31 March 2019 to the Audit Committee on 15th April 2019. The Audit Certification deadline for certifying local government bodies' Accounts is 30 September 2019 and to ensure compliance a meeting of the Audit Committee will be scheduled for 23rd September 2019 to review and approve the Audited accounts so they can be signed by the statutory deadline.

NIAO have identified two significant risks, Weaknesses in Procurement and Contract Management and Weaknesses in Controls over the Completeness and Valuation of Fixed Assets which they will review as part of their audit plan.

9. Performance Improvement Arrangements

The Audit Committee were presented with the Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2018/19 by NIAO at its meeting on 15th January 2019 which audited the Council's assessment of its performance for 2017/18 and its 2018/19 improvement plan.

The Committee welcomed that the Councils Performance Improvement and Assessment Arrangements had been certified with a standard unqualified opinion by the NIAO Audit having discharged its performance and reporting duties under Part 12 of the Act and acted in accordance with the Guidance issued by the Department for Communities.

Whilst the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has responsibility for Performance Improvement, NIAO have also recommended that the Audit Committee track progress on their implementation.

10. Acknowledgments

As this is my last Annual Report, I wish to extend my thanks to the Members for their support during my time in office and to the political parties for ensuring continuity of membership on the Committee from year to year. On behalf of the Audit Committee I wish also to thank officers, the Internal and External Auditors for their openness and engagement with the Committee, thereby allowing it to meet its responsibilities.

Finally, I welcome and extend my best wishes to Brona Slevin, the newly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Audit Committee.

Joe Campbell
Independent Chairperson
17 May 2019

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 at 2.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate, Downpatrick

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In Attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor P Byrne
 Councillor M Gibbons
 Councillor O Hanlon
 Councillor H Harvey
 Councillor A Lewis
 Councillor G Sharvin
 Councillor M Ruane

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive
 Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett Director Active & Healthy

Communities

Mr K Montgomery Assistant Director,
 Corporate Services (Finance)
 Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Community
 Planning & Performance (Acting)
 Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager
 Miss S Taggart Democratic Services
 Manager
 Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM (Internal Auditors)
 Mr T Wilkinson Northern Ireland Audit
 Office

Ms Slevin Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the first Audit Committee of the new Council term and welcomed the new Councillors.

She extended her thanks to Mr Joe Campbell, the previous Chairperson of the Audit Committee, for his work and commitment and wished him well for the future.

Ms Slevin gave an overview of her career in Local Government and knowledge of internal and external audit and said she looked forward to working with Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

AC/042/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor W Clarke
Councillor C Enright
Councillor L Devlin

AC/044/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

AC/045/2019: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY 15 APRIL 2019

Read: Action Sheet arising out of Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 April 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issue was raised arising out of the above Action Sheet:

*AC/018/2019 – Internal Audit Asset Summary Report
(Grants Database)*

Mr Byrne explained a Financial Assistance Policy has been drafted by consultants and the new Data Base System would be submitted for procurement on the basis of the Financial Assistance Policy in due course.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to note the Action Sheet and remove those actions marked for removal.

AC/046/2019: TO AGREE DATES & START TIMES AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2019-20

Read: Proposed dates and start times for Audit Committee Meetings for 2019/2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to approve the dates as circulated, and agree to continue with a 2.00pm start time in respect of Audit Committee Meetings for 2019/2020.

AC/047/2019 MEMBERS TRAINING

Ms Carville explained the following options regarding Audit Committee training:

- One to one training for new Councillors with the Director of Corporate Services and the Audit Services Manager.
- External training – ‘On Board’ (held twice per year)
- Internal ‘in-house’ training (will be held later this year)

Agreed: **It was agreed as follows with regard to Audit Committee training:**

- (a) One to one training on Audit Committee will be provided by the Director of Corporate Services and the Audit Services Manager, for newly elected Councillors who are members of the Audit Committee.**
- (b) Any Member of the Audit Committee who wishes to attend external On Board training should contact Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer who will arrange booking.**
- (c) Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services arrange for ‘in-house’ Audit Committee training to take place after the Audit Committee Meeting in September 2019.**

**AC/048/2019 ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19
INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF AUDIT
COMMITTEE**

Read: **Annual Report 2018/19 from the Independent Chairperson of the Audit Committee. (Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville presented the Annual Report 2018/2019 from Mr J Campbell former Independent Chairperson of the Audit Committee, and provided the following update on issues raised within the report:

Principle 2 – Skills

It was noted:

- Officers meet with representatives from the political parties to consider, where possible, making appointments to the Audit Committee for a term greater than one year to build up knowledge and skills.
- The Audit Committee Terms of Reference are reviewed annually in accordance with HMT Guidance and CIPFA Best Practice Guidance.

- A paper on Cyber Risk Management will be brought to the Audit Committee Meeting in September 2019
- Assurance Mapping to be discussed at meeting today.

Fraud and Corruption had been included at a previous Audit Committee Meeting. Furthermore Governance Training will take place in autumn 2019, which will include fraud and bribery training.

- The timely submission of responses to Internal Audit and production of papers for the Audit Committee is regularly raised with Senior Management and Assistant Directors.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to note the Annual Report 2018/19 from Mr J Campbell, former Independent Chairperson of Audit Committee, subject to amending anomalies on Page 2 regarding Audit Committee attendance, and to present the report to Council.

EXEMPT ITEM

INTERNAL AUDIT

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

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

AC/049/2019 ASM 4 YEAR INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Read: Report from ASM regarding the 4 Year Internal Audit Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

When the Committee came out of Closed Session Ms Carville reported the following decision was taken:

AC/049/2019 - ASM 4 Year Internal Audit Plan

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to approve the Internal Audit Strategy and Internal Audit Charter and Annual Internal Audit schedule of reviews for the 2019-20 year.

CORPORATE SERVICES

**AC/050/2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Read: NMDDC Statement of Accounts Year ended 31 March 2019 and Annual Governance Statement.
(Copy circulated)

Ms Slevin thanked Ms Carville, Mr Montgomery and staff for completing the Financial Accounts and added that the Accounts would be tabled at the Audit Committee Meeting in September 2019 for approval.

Ms Carville gave a presentation of the Accounts and asked Members to point out any issues which they feel have not been reflected within the Accounts.

She added the Accounts have been sent to the Department and NIAO and will be available for public scrutiny from 31 July – 28 August 2019. NIAO findings will be reported to the Audit Committee Meeting in September 2019, after which it will be recommended the Accounts are formally signed off.

The following responses were provided to questions raised by members:

Council is guided by the Prudential Code regarding the appropriate level of Reserves to hold, with the guidance being that the amount of Council reserves should be able to meet the Councils medium term financial commitments.

A difference in ERT income figures presented within the accounts is due to grant income.

When borrowing the Council are advised by Council's Treasury Advisors whom officers meet with twice per year, and liaise with regularly. The Council are taking advantage of low interest rates via short term borrowing currently. Council officers keep interest rates under review and will be driven by achieving best value for money regarding future borrowing decisions.

Ms Slevin questioned whether Absenteeism should be included within the Annual Governance Statement as a significant governance issue given it's inclusion on the Corporate Risk Register and the recent report of the Local

Government Auditor.

Ms Carville advised that this would be added.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the NMDDC Statement of Accounts for Year End 31 March 2019 and Annual Governance Statement, subject to the inclusion of Absenteeism under Significant Governance Issues.

AC/051/2019 **ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK AND CODE OF GOVERNANCE**

Read: Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager, regarding Assurance Framework and Code of Governance. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the NMDDC Assurance Framework, and Code of Governance, as per Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager.

AC/052/2019 **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Read: Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr D Carville Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville presented the above report. She explained the Corporate Risk Register was a live document and highlighted two risks – a new risk Regarding Sickness Absence and refocusing of Risk 10 to focus on Terms and Conditions.

The following response was provided to questions raised by Members:

The working group established to look at Terms and Conditions has met twice, with the most recent meeting being held on Monday 1 July 2019. The next meeting of the LCNF is scheduled for Monday 8 July 2019.

Comments regarding the continuing backlog of Planning Applications will be brought to the Senior Management Team for further consideration as to the risk rating attributed to the Risk Register.

Cross border meetings have been held with Council's regarding the impact of Brexit and a report will be brought to Members in due course. The Council are working on a series of initiatives to address the impact Brexit may have on local businesses.

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Corporate Risk Register and approve the changes proposed.

AC/053/2019 **FRAUD & WHISTLEBLOWING**

Read: Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding Fraud and Whistleblowing. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed to note the Fraud and Whistleblowing cases as per Report from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager above.

AC/054/2019 **DIRECT AWARDS CONTRACTS**

Read: Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager regarding the Direct Awards Contacts / Single Tender Actions. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding the Direct Awards Contracts/Single Tender Actions.

AC/055/2019 **UPDATE RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding an update on the monitoring of internal audit recommendations made since the formation of NMDDC.

Mr Byrne presented an update on the Audit Recommendations made since the formation of NMDDC.

Ms Slevin asked if Officers could provide a report for consideration at the next Audit Committee Meeting in September 2019, outlining the issues contained within audit recommendations which the Audit Committee should focus on in order to have an overview of the impact of risk involved.

Agreed: It was agreed to the Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr G Byrne Audit Services Manager regarding Audit Recommendations.

Agreed: Officers to provide a Report for consideration at the next Audit Committee Meeting in September 2019, outlining the issues contained within audit recommendations which the Audit Committee

should focus on in terms of the impact of risk involved.

PERFORMANCE

AC/056/2019 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019/20

Read: Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance (Acting) regarding Performance Improvement Plan 2019/20.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Performance Improvement Plan 2019/20 Consultation and Engagement Report and Objective Delivery Plans.

AC/057/2019 PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND ASSESSMENTS PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Read: Report dated 3 July 2019 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Community Planning and Performance (Acting) regarding Performance Audit and Assessments – Proposals for Improvement Progress Report 2018-19.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to note Performance Audit and Assessments Proposals for Improvement Progress Report 2018-19

NIAO

AC/058/2019 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR'S REPORT 2019

Read: Local Government Auditor's Report 2019.
(Copy circulated)

Mr Wilkinson presented the above Report which he said contained a significant amount of information and comparisons and highlighted a number of salient areas contained within the report, including:

- Big Screen investigation highlighted in the report
- Increase in Council workforce following RPA and comparison with other Councils.
- Outstanding loan balances

The following responses were provided:

The NIAO could not confirm if the benefits or RPA have been realised across Councils.

NIAO do not have a recommendation with regard to outstanding loan balances and this would be a matter for each individual Council.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the Local Government Auditor's Report 2019.**

CIRCULARS

AC/059/2019 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT GUIDANCE

Read: Circular LG 20/2019 from Department for Communities regarding Addendum to Local Government Performance Improvement Guidance.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed to note Circular LG 20/2019 from Department for Communities regarding Addendum to Local Government Performance Improvement Guidance.**

Ms Slevin thanked everyone for attending.

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

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 August 2019.

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

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
Independent Chairperson

annual seminar 2019

New Municipalism

Delivering for local people and local economies



11-12 September 2019

Newcastle Civic Centre



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Programme

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Tuesday 10 September

Welcome Evening and Exhibitors Reception

The Mansion House, Newcastle

19.30-21.30 Join APSE at the official residence of the Lord Mayor of Newcastle for light refreshments and a chance to meet delegates and exhibitors, as well as a tour of this historic landmark

Wednesday 11 September

09:00 Registration and exhibition viewing

Chair: Cllr John Kerr Brown, APSE National Chair

10:00 **Opening remarks: Cllr Joyce McCarty, Deputy Leader, Newcastle City Council**

10:15 **Session 1 Opening symposium: New Municipalism: Defining the issues for local councils across the UK**

In this opening symposium session Paul O'Brien, APSE Chief Executive will introduce speakers from the four UK administrations to discuss the key issues affecting England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with Martin Swales, President of Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, Cllr Alison Evison, President of Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities, Derek McCallan, Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Local Government Association alongside the Welsh Local Government Association. As policies diverge this symposium will explore the financial and policy dynamics and the impact of the different administrative approaches at a municipal government level. This symposium will seek to share the opportunities and challenges in a changing world for local government.

11:30 Coffee break and exhibition viewing

12:00 **Session 2 New Municipalism: The critical factors for developing the councils of tomorrow**

Chair: Cllr Tracey Dixon, Deputy Leader South Tyneside Council, APSE Northern Vice Chair

Ensuring the leadership of the New Municipalism

- The changing role of chief officers
- Developing the skills of local government future leaders
- Shaping relationships: shifting sands

Professor Steven Griggs, De Montfort University

Financing the future

- The impact of cuts on Neighbourhood level services
- How do we recalibrate budgets to

address the decline?

- An end to austerity or more of the same?

Dr Peter Kenway, New Policy Institute

West Dunbartonshire: Pride and Ambition in our services

- Tackling the messy public policy issues
- Delivering enough homes for our residents
- Tackling inequalities and life expectancy
- Delivering for our residents: Being a listening council

Joyce White, Chief Executive, West Dunbartonshire Council

Ask the panel: Audience Q&A session

13:00 Lunch and exhibition viewing

14:00 **Session 3 New Municipalism: Creating sustainable neighbourhoods**

Chair: Anita Brown, APSE National Secretary 2018-2019

Transforming the private rented sector in Telford and Wrekin

- Telford and Wrekin's housing investment programme
- Tackling brownfield sites
- The benefits to the residents and the authority
- The future masterplan

Katherine Kynaston, Assistant Director, Business, Development & Employment, Telford and Wrekin Council

Excellence through in-house services: delivering in our neighbourhoods

- Why we believe our in-house teams support sustainable neighbourhood service delivery
- The services which matter to the public: refuse collection, recycling, clean streets, pot-holes, decent parks!
- The outcomes: A matrix of common-sense!

Terry Collins, Chief Executive, Durham County Council

Ask the panel: Audience Q&A session

15:15 Coffee break and exhibition viewing

15:45 **Session 4 The Operational Hubs: Discussion forums**

These special operationally focussed Hubs will allow a networking and sharing opportunity with other councils on a UK wide basis. Looking at innovation, the latest industry developments and technologies with a strong focus on how others are improving their operational frontline services.

Forum 1: Technical and Highway Services

Facilitator: Debbie Johns, APSE

This forum will be an opportunity for those working in Highways, Street Lighting and Technical services to discuss the emerging issues from the Highways Code of Practice to the move to green infrastructure with expert speakers including Richard Hayes, of IHE and ILP, two of the UK's leading professional institutes.

Forum 2: Property, Housing and Investments

Facilitator: Mo Baines, APSE

This forum will explore the routes to commercial property investments and ask whether the current framework provides sufficient safeguards for the public purse. The forum will explore West Lindsey Council's approach to investments which include an out of area hotel. Consideration will also be given to the positive outcomes of income from investment to support frontline service delivery. With guest speaker Cllr Giles McNeill, Leader of West Lindsey District Council.

Forum 3: The local environment and public realm

Facilitator: Andy Mudd, APSE Solutions

APSE Solutions has developed expertise in the issue of underground bins as an alternative form of collecting refuse and recycling. This forum will ask in the context of the proposals within the Resources and Waste strategy whether underground bins provide a viable and efficient option for councils in the future.

Forum 4: Soft Facilities Management

Facilitator: Jan Kennedy, APSE

In association with LACA this workshop will look at the contribution of FM services to the health and wellbeing of children and communities. The value of a nutritious school meal to health outcomes and the importance of capacity in delivering services at a local level will be debated with an expert panel including representation from LACA North East

Forum 5: The APSE Energy Zone

Facilitator: Phil Brennan, APSE Energy

As Climate Change declarations by councils gather pace this forum will explore the latest developments in municipal energy schemes and energy efficiency. This forum will consider not only the opportunity for councils to 'go green' on their own energy needs but help they can provide to residents and businesses and generate much needed sources of new income in return.

16:30 Close

Programme

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Annual General Meeting 2019

Wednesday 11 September
Newcastle Civic Centre

18:45 Registration
19:15 Annual General Meeting

Supper will be served at the rise of the AGM.

Thursday 12 September

09:00 Registration and exhibition viewing

10:00 Session 4 **Climate Emergency: The Contribution of Councils to Positive Action**

Chair: Cllr Julie Simpson, Gateshead Council and APSE Northern Region Vice Chair

Renewable Energy: The BEIS Perspective

- Why is energy and energy efficiency critical to climate emergency action planning by local councils?
- LEP Energy Strategies, national challenges and opportunities
- Evidence based targets
- Key Note Address: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Patrick Allcorn, Head of Local Energy, BEIS

The circular economy and climate change

- The circular economy: An opportunity to reduce climate change emissions
- Critical environmental impacts: deforestation, habitat and species loss
- How do we gain the arrow in the climate policy quiver

Speaker: Michael Lenaghan, Environmental Policy Advisor, Zero Waste Scotland

11:15 Coffee break and exhibition viewing

11:45 Session 5 **Income generation and local economies**

Chair: Anita Brown, APSE National Secretary 2018-2019

Introducing Scarbados!

- Our commercial strategy: development and research
- Corporate Modernisation

- Investment Strategy: legal and governance issues
- The Case study: A £15 million purchase of a prime commercial property

Richard Bradley, Commercial Director, Scarborough Borough Council

Taking a Community Wealth Building Approach in Preston

- The approach to returning value to our local economy
- Being let down by developers: Our DIY approach to delivering for local people and local businesses
- Using the power of the Preston pound to improve jobs, pay and life chances
- The interface with our frontline service

Adrian Phillips, Chief Executive, Preston City Council

Wokingham Town Centre: A Masterplan for Regeneration

- Improving the pedestrian experience
- Reimagining the Wokingham offer to attract local shoppers
- Expanding the retail core and addressing the lack of good quality commercial units
- Making sure the town centre meets the aspirations of our residents

Speaker: Bernie Pich, Assistant Director of Commercial and Property, Wokingham Borough Council

Ask the panel: Audience Q&A session

13:00 Lunch and exhibition viewing

14:00 Session 6

The APSE Local Government Commission 2030

Chaired by Cllr Mark Pengelly, APSE National Chair Elect 2019-2020

With APSE's 20th Anniversary in 2019 we are pleased to launch our Commission on Local Government. This Commission will explore the core issues that will impact on local government in the future. The Commission will probe the future of local government finance, frontline services and their contribution to local communities, local economies, their contribution to tackling climate change and the national health and wellbeing of the UK

The launch of the Commission will provide delegates with the opportunity to meet the Commissioners and have your say in what elements you wish the Commission to probe in developing its work over the coming year, advancing Local Government to 2030.

15:30 - 16:00

Special guest speaker

APSE Annual Service Awards and Charity Dinner 2019

Thursday 12 September
Newcastle Civic Centre

19:00 Pre-dinner reception
19:30 Dinner

The APSE Annual Service Awards 2019 will commence at 21:30

APSE is proud to once again be hosting our event as a charity dinner, adding to the many thousands raised for Parkinsons UK at our Annual Awards in recent years.



Sponsorship Opportunities

The APSE Annual Seminar is an excellent opportunity for your company or organisation to reach out to local authorities across the UK.

Packages are offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

To learn more about the packages on offer and what is included, please download our Annual Seminar Sponsorship Pack from the Annual Seminar 2019 hub on the APSE website. Alternatively, contact Matt Paton at Spacehouse on 01625 614 000 or m.paton@spacehouse.co.uk.

APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards 2019

11 - 12 September 2019 | Newcastle

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Contact details

Contact name	Authority
Address	
Postcode	
Email	Telephone

Please detail any special dietary or access requirements for the delegates listed below (including vegetarian/vegan)

Delegate Packages

Exclusive of accommodation costs and VAT

1: Full seminar attendance including evening functions

APSE members **£415 + VAT**

Non member LAs: **£585 + VAT**

Commercial organisations: **£735 + VAT**

2: Day Delegate Wednesday only inc. evening functions

APSE members: **£249 + VAT**

Non member LAs: **£359 + VAT**

Commercial organisations: **£459 + VAT**

3: Day Delegate seminar Thursday only

APSE members: **£225 + VAT**

Non member LAs: **£319 + VAT**

Commercial organisations: **£419 + VAT**

4: Day Delegate Thursday only inc. evening awards

APSE members: **£319+ VAT**

Non member LAs: **£429+ VAT**

Commercial organisations: **£535+ VAT**

Accommodation

Bookings allocated on 'first come' basis

Option A: 3 nights special rate accommodation.

Dates 10,11,12 Sept 2019 **Cost (B&B) £285***

Option B: 2 nights special rate accommodation.

Dates 11 and 12 Sept 2019 **Cost (B&B) £190***

(*) APSE will invoice delegates for the accommodation cost at the appropriate rate. All the above rates are exclusive of VAT. All extras must be paid direct to the hotel on departure. Please note that all hotel bookings at this event must be reserved via APSE as the venues will not accept direct bookings at the above special rate.

Payment details

- ☐ Please find enclosed cheque made payable to APSE
- ☐ Please invoice me
(if required please include purchase order number)

VAT registration number 519 286 915

Delegate details

Please circle one of each

Delegate name	Position	Email	Delegate Package	Accommodation	Forum
			1 2 3 4	A B	1 2 3 4 5
			1 2 3 4	A B	1 2 3 4 5
			1 2 3 4	A B	1 2 3 4 5
			1 2 3 4	A B	1 2 3 4 5

- ☐ Please confirm that you are happy for APSE to retain your details so that we can send you information relevant to your area of interest. Your data will be used for sign in sheets, delegate lists and hotel lists (where relevant). If you are making a booking on behalf of other delegates please confirm that you have their permission to be included on our database. Our GDPR policy is available on our website: www.apse.org.uk.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by post, email to vstarmar@apse.org.uk or fax to 0161 772 1811. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for non-attendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or venue should this become necessary.

Register for the seminar:

1

Online form:
www.apse.org.uk

2

Email this form to:
vstarmar@apse.org.uk