



September 1st, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 6th September 2021** at **6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 02 08 2021.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021

 [Council Minutes 02.08.21.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23 August 2021

 [Sp Council Minutes - Dffi Roads 23-08-2021.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2021

 [ERT Minutes 09 August 2021.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021

 [Strategy Policy and Resorces Committee Minutes 12.08.2021.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 August 2021

 [Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 16082021.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2021

 [Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 18-08-2021.pdf](#)

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10.0 Planning Section

Correspondence and Conferences

11.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes -10 June 2021

 *Housing Council Minutes 10th June 2021.pdf*

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12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - August 2021

 *Members Bulletin - August 2021.pdf*

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13.0 Local Government Annual Conference 2021

 *2021 LG Conference - Save the Date.pdf*

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14.0 Save the Date - Next Meeting of UK - France Local Government Forum

 *Next meeting of the UK-France LG Forum.pdf*

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15.0 National Association of Councillors Local Government Conference - The Future for the Regions / Levelling up

The Station Hotel, Carlisle

1st-3rd October 2021

Details attached.

 *National Association of Councillors Conference.pdf*

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16.0 Correspondence dated 10.08.2021 from Causeway & Glens Borough Council re. Regional Home Safety Educational Facility

 *Letter dated 10.08.2021 from Causeway Coast & Glens BC re Regional Home Safety Educational Facility.pdf*

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17.0 Correspondence dated 25.08.2021 from Minister of Health re. NOM C.090.2021

 *Letter from Minister of Health dated 25 August 2021 re NOM C.090.2021.pdf*

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18.0 Notice of Motion - 'Rights of Nature'

The following notice of motion was received from Councillor Gibbons:

Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the 'Rights of Nature' aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.

Council recognises that 'Rights of Nature' can help catalyse an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractivist, economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

Council commends the excellent work already being done by our Council officers on the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis but recognises the need for a rights based approach to nature.

Council will, over the next 6 months, collaborate with civic society (including The Gathering, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland and trade unions) to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the council will in the next 6 months hold two community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the Council area to be brought back before Council for adoption.

Council asks for a report to come to Council on embedding 'Rights of Nature' as a keystone concept into Council's operational practices, planning processes and long term decision making.

Council notes our position as a border region and our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention and so invites all Councils in the North to also explore 'Rights of Nature' for their Council areas.

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 2 AUGUST 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/155/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 05.07.21	The action sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/156/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting 05.07.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/157/2021	Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 05.07.21	The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2021 were agreed and adopted with the inclusion of a declaration of interest from Councillor Byrne for Item AC/064/2021: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/158/2021	Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21	The Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21 was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/159/2021	Planning Committee	Items raised at the Planning Committee Meeting on 28 July 2021 to be tabled at the Council Meeting on 6 September 2021.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/160/2021	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding Notice of Motion 'Rights of Nature'	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/161/2021	Ards & North Down Borough Council regarding Notice of Motion C/111/2021 Dental Services during Covid-19 Pandemic	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/162/2021	Derry City & Strabane District Council regarding 'Rights of Nature'	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/163/2021	Department for the Economy Notice of Motion C/081/2021 Covid Disruption Payment	The correspondence was noted. It was agreed to respond to the Department for the Economy and challenge the correspondence received regarding Covid Disruption Payment for students.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/164/2021	Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner regarding	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Provisional Recommendations				
C/165/2021	Notice of Motion – Wheelchair Beach Access	The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/166/2021	Notice of Motion – Staff Shortages within the hospitality sector	The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services	Noted	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 August 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor C Mason

In attendance:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
	Councillor L Devlin	Councillor S Doran
	Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor M Gibbons
	Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor M Larkin
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
	Councillor G Malone	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor H McKee	Councillor A McMurray
	Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor D Murphy
	Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
	Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
	Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/153/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Burgess, Finnegan, McAteer and Owen and Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.

The Chairperson congratulated the Down Under 20 panel for their victory over Monaghan in the Ulster Final and securing their place in the All-Ireland semi-final. To mark their success and show support Council buildings across the District would be lit in red in the coming week.

The Chairperson congratulated Emma McQuade who had finished 12th fittest woman in the world, representing Newry and Ireland at the Crossfit games in America.

The Chairperson spoke of the rise in COVID cases across the District over the past number of weeks and how people were still losing their lives due to COVID and took a moment to remember those who had lost their lives since the last Council Meeting. She urged anyone who had not yet received their vaccines to do so as soon as possible and thanked those across the district who had received their first and second vaccines.

The Chairperson reminded Members she was commencing Council meetings with a mental health topic and last month the focus had been addiction. She thanked those who reached out to local addiction services and who relayed their experience of speaking with addicts and recovering addicts.

Members were informed the topic for August was around isolation and loneliness and how this impacted mental health in both older and young people.

The Chairperson spoke at length of the growing concern around the number of residents in the North of Ireland, particularly in rural areas that were living in isolation. This had a huge impact on the mental health of these individuals and could cause many to struggle with day-to-day life.

The Chairperson asked Members to be mindful of friends, relatives and community members who lived in rural areas and to reach out to them and make sure they were ok. It could be difficult for many, especially elderly neighbours or perhaps members of the farming community who felt isolated or unsure of where to find support or help in an age of digital technology. A simple phone call for a quick chat could go a long way in helping to tackle overwhelming feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The Chairperson advised she would be actively reaching out to organisations in the area to see what more could be done to tackle this issue and create more inclusive and united communities and urged Members to do the same. She asked that Members feel free to share their experiences on social media to raise awareness or share them directly with herself.

C/154/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/155/2021 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2021

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/156/2021 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2021

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Lewis.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/157/2021 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2021

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2021 (copy circulated).

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Howell 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.**

On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2021 were agreed and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne with the inclusion of a declaration of interest from Councillor Byrne for Item AC/064/2021: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report.**

C/158/2021 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs B Slevin, Independent Chair of Audit Committee, regarding Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/2021.

Agreed: **The Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne.**

PLANNING

C/159/2021

PLANNING MINUTES

Items raised at the Planning Committee Meeting on 28 July 2021 to be tabled at the Council Meeting on 6 September 2021.

C/160/2021

FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: NOTICE OF MOTION 'RIGHTS OF NATURE'

Read: Correspondence dated 6 July 2021 received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding Notice of Motion 'Rights of Nature' (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

C/161/2020

ARDS & NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOM C/111/2021 DENTAL SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Read: Correspondence dated 8 July 2021 received from Ards & North Down Borough Council regarding Notice of Motion C/111/2021 Dental Services during Covid-19 Pandemic. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

C/162/2021

DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: NOM 'RIGHTS OF NATURE'

Read: Correspondence dated 8 July 2021 from Derry City & Strabane District Council regarding 'Rights of Nature'. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

C/163/2021

DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY RE: NOM C/081/2021 COVID DISRUPTION PAYMENT

Read: Correspondence dated 27 July 2021 from Department for the Economy regarding Notice of Motion C/081/2021 Covid Disruption Payment.

Councillors Stokes and Hanlon voiced their disappointment at the response received from the Department for the Economy.

Councillor Stokes stated the Department for the Economy needed to put measures in place for the future should the need arise for students studying in Scotland, England, Wales or the Republic of Ireland to not be discriminated against.

Councillor Hanlon added that Council should go back to the Department for the Economy and challenge the correspondence received.

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

It was agreed to respond to the Department for the Economy and challenge the correspondence received regarding Covid Disruption Payment for students.

C/164/2021 **OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES**
COMMISSIONER RE: PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Read: Correspondence dated 27 July 2021 from the Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner regarding Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland Provisional Recommendations.

Councillor Murphy referred to the recommendations and how the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner were inviting people to make further representation as part of the public consultation and for inclusivity he felt South Armagh should be part of the corporate identity of Council.

Councillor Stokes pointed out that the Department were asking for further contributions, however the name of the Council was not within the scope of this review and that Council could at any time write to the Department of Communities and request a change to the name at any time.

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

The Chairperson asked Members to take care when bringing forward Motions to not to double up on Motions previously brought to Council.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/165/2021 **NOTICE OF MOTION – WHEELCHAIR BEACH ACCESS**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Brown:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Lewis.

The Chairperson noted that she was aware this matter was brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in September 2019.

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Devlin:

"Recognising the significant and growing staff shortages within the Hospitality sector, this Council calls for the establishment of a forum with representatives from the South Eastern and Southern Colleges, Department for the Economy and other key stakeholders to undertake an assessment of the training needs to address the shortage within the hospitality sector with the aim of providing short, medium and long term solutions to tackle this crisis and to enable our hospitality industry to survive and to aid our covid recovery."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Savage.

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 18.31pm

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 September 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23 August 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor O Magennis

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Enright
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Owen	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

DFI Roads

Mr M McPeak, Southern Division Roads Manager
 Mr I Campbell, West Office Section Engineer
 Mr S Duffy, East Office Section Engineer

SC/20/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Curran, Devlin, Gallagher, Hanna, Mason, Savage, Stokes, Tinnelly and Trainor. The Chairperson advised Councillor Finnegan would be joining the meeting late and Councillor Byrne also advised Councillor McAteer would join late.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr M McPeak, Mr S Duffy and Mr I Campbell from Dfi Roads to the meeting, outlining the procedure for the evening advising that once Mr McPeak had presented the report, there would be an opportunity for Members to ask any questions only related to the presentation. She stated that all Members had the opportunity to attend the clinic's and submit questions to Dfi in recent weeks. If Members had any further queries not already addressed in the clinics, they should complete the proforma and send to Democratic Services who would forward to Dfi Roads for a response. The Chairperson asked if Dfi on behalf of all the Members, if they could respond to any queries as quickly as possible.

SC/21/2020**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none declared.

SC/22/2021**PRESENTATION FROM DFI ROADS**

Mr M McPeak thanked Members for the opportunity to present the report and stated this was his first meeting with Members, introducing his two colleagues, Mr S Duffy and Mr I Campbell, Mr McPeak then directed Members to the last page of the report where the contact details for the business areas was listed which Members may find useful, he then proceeded to make his presentation. (copy of annual report attached)

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

- Ballynahinch Bypass –Members welcomed the news that the scheme was now finally at a stage where it was ready to progress. There was still some money in budget this year to accommodate the potential purchase of any land and if instructed to move to the procurement stage. Mr McPeak highlighted that Dfi Roads had taken it as far as they could and were awaiting a decision from the Minister on the go ahead and on further funding so that it could move to the next stage of procurement and construction which would probably take 18 months to prepare contract documents, with the construction stage taking a further 2 years.
- Doran's Rock – A review of larger plan of schemes across the division had been undertaken and any large minor works would be given priority if the spend could be justified.
- Resurfacing – Dfi would revert back to Councillor Walker regarding Comber Road and Coylelyhill, Killyleagh, and to Councillor Andrews regarding Crossgar sunken areas. Capital resurfacing allocation had increased significantly this year from 75 million to 125 million which will be used to maximise improvements to the roads. There had been a delay in not having a resurfacing contractor, but the intention was to put forward a new procurement strategy and deliver resurfacing in the area. This was currently out for consultation and there was no specific timescale but hoping to get something done by end of this year or start of next year. The division in the meantime had commissioned consultants to take forward a second strand to put together a series of large resurfacing schemes into a one off contract and hoped to go to procurement as quickly as possible.
- Main Street Saintfield – S Duffy will take away and look at to see if it would be considered as a priority for a new scheme, however responsibility is with the utility company to repair and temporary repairs may be required. The delay in having a resurfacing contractor may have an impact.
- Strangford Ferry – Dfi Roads would make contact with Translink to find out difficulties they are having with buses getting into Strangford, however the arrangement of the road infrastructure in Strangford and tightness of the town restricts what can be done in general to help alleviate the build up of traffic especially at peak times.
- Park and Ride – Consultants had now been commissioned to work on a

detailed design to take through the statutory procedures to take to planning permission stage, there was no timescale at present.

- 20mph School Schemes – The Minister intends on rolling out a second tranche of the scheme and all remaining schools would be considered through a priority system depending on the level of funding available. There was a number of permanent 20mph zone trial sites in Belfast and a draft report was being prepared to consider the conclusions and benefits and if there was an anticipated change in policy. DFI will report back the outcome of this.
- Active Travel – Members welcomed the new scheme and more funding had been made available for a phase 2 of the scheme to allow strategic links with phase 1.
- Mr Duffy and Mr Campbell would look at areas flagged up in relation cleaning of gullies and drains and arrange cleaning of same.
- Report a Fault – A number of defects on the system had recently been identified and rectified, a plan was in place to improve the service and create a more proactive response.
- Road Safety Funding – Working on a 1 year budget, difficult to plan ahead. Try to prioritise according to resources and funding available.
- Replenishing of Grit piles – These are replenished on a schedule on a regular basis.
- Distinct lack of resource budget to maintain what we have and is suffering across all areas. A limited service policy had been put in place to inspect and fix roads causing further backlog of maintenance work being carried out. Staffing and resource issues had also impacted this had now been resolved and hopefully will see an improvement going forward. A fair policy is applied across all areas, the section engineer would see if there is anything else can be improved on in the South Armagh area.
- Ballylone Road, Saintfield – Section engineer would inspect site and revert back to Councillor Burgess.
- Chapel View, Crossmaglen – Mr McPeak would contact Councillor Finnegan directly.

Mr McPeak thanked the members for their kinds comments and feedback in dealing with staff in the local offices. He emphasised the importance of keeping good relationships with members to gain more knowledge to further improve the road network and help gather programmes to improve the safety of the roads, suggesting it would be beneficial to hold another clinic later in the year to gather more information to make further improvements.

The Chairperson thanked Mr McPeak and the representatives from Dfi for their very informed presentation and reminded Members any queries that were raised outside of the report could be sent to Democratic Services via the proforma and responded to accordingly by Dfi Roads.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 19.58pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 6th September 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

14

Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 09 August 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room Downshire Estate Downpatrick, and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell
Deputy Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

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

Non Members: Councillor H McKee
 Councillor O Hanlon
 Councillor G Sharvin

**Officials
in attendance:** Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture &
 Events
 Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment &
 Regeneration
 Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
 Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director Building Control &
 Regulations
 Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Programmes
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
 Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
 Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

ERT/132/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

ERT/133/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest were made.

**ERT/134/2021: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 14 JUNE 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 June 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/111/2021

In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr McGilly said officers were currently going through a procurement exercise to appoint a team to identify sites for electric charging points and he confirmed they would explore having discussions with ESB and report back to Committee.

Newcastle Harbour

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke re: Newcastle Harbour Regeneration Plan and the timescale for short term work to be carried and then a longer term strategy, Mr McGilly confirmed an update report would be brought back to the September Committee Meeting.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 June 2021.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**ERT/135/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: FISHING AND SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor

A McMurray and Councillor P Brown:

That this Council endorses and supports the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report, as produced by the Strategic Investment Board, and presented to DAERA. To demonstrate support and continuing assistance, this Council shall:

- *Send written confirmation of our support to the respective Ministers for the Departments: of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; of the Economy; of Finance.*
- *Request a ministerial meeting between the Minister of Finance and NMDC Senior Management Team to ensure the business case, and the securing of funds, for this project is progressed in a timely manner.*
- *Establish a Project Board made up of representatives from all parties with a dedicated Council Officer to liaise between both Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie Harbours, DAERA and Ards and North Down Council to assist in the development and implementation of the respective projects within our district.*
- *Actively include the FSDP recommendations to develop the Blue Green Economy - and the associated requirements for skills development - within council promotions and strategies."*

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report.
(Copy circulated)

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McMurray said the publication by The Strategic Investment Board of the 'NI Fishing and Seafood Development Programme' paper provided an opportunity for Council to re-commit to ensure the development and investment at both Ardglass and Kilkeel.

Councillor McMurray said it was important the communities in both Kilkeel and Ardglass as well as the various Ministers were aware that Council was actively working to ensure investment and development in these areas.

Councillor McMurray said investing in this industry would be instrumental in developing a circular economy and said it was important the roles played by Council Officers and Elected Representatives be looked at to ensure the development was completed in a timely manner.

Mr McGilly said the report circulated to Members provided a context and background to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Hanna expressed concern regarding a potential duplication of work between DAERA and Council and asked what Council was doing to move the project forward. Mr McGilly said Council had been engaged with key stakeholders in the development proposals for both Ardglass and Kilkeel Harbours but ultimately DAERA would be driving the project forward.

Councillor Curran expressed support for the Motion but said if DAERA were to establish a Project Board, there would then be two Project Boards and he could not see this working. He asked if Council could work with the Department and have only one Project Board or if the Committee had to make a decision regarding this issue at tonight's meeting. In response, Mr McGilly said this was the direction the Department was going in and governance structures were being put in place, however Mr McGilly said when the Department was in attendance at the September ERT Committee Meeting, there would be an opportunity to look at this issue in more detail.

Councillor Clarke expressed support for the Motion. He said he did not agree with having two Project Boards but a decision could be made on how to move forward following the meeting with the Department at the September ERT Committee Meeting. He said it was vital the harbours' were upgraded as the fishing industry was one of the main industries in our District.

Councillor Reilly expressed support for the Motion. He asked if Mr McGilly could supply him with results of the studies that were done that included Kilkeel Harbour in relation to the City Deal. Councillor Reilly also asked that Council support the Fishing Representatives in their call for a maritime college to be set up in place of the current Southern Regional College facility in Kilkeel which was to close.

Mr McGilly said the studies done in relation to Kilkeel Harbour had been completed by the Strategic Investment Board and not City Deal, and had been funded through DAERA, Council and the Fish Producers Organisation. Mr McGilly said he would provide Councillor Reilly with the information he requested.

Mr McGilly said a consultation process was open in relation to SRC and Elected Members could feed into the consultation.

Councillor Reilly proposed to support the fishing representatives in their call for the current SRC facility in Kilkeel to be converted to a maritime college. Councillor Clarke seconded the proposal.

Councillor McKee fully supported the Motion saying investment would enhance and benefit the entire fishing industry.

Councillor McMurray thanked the Councillors for their support.

AGREED: It was agreed to defer a final decision on proposed governance until after DAERA Officials present to the ERT Committee Meeting in September 2021 on the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme, and in particular:

- Governance proposals for the project
- NMDDC role in the project
- Current progress with the Strategic Outline Case
- Timelines for delivery of the Strategic Outline Case
- Key next steps

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed that Council support the Fishing Representatives in their call for the current SRC facility in Kilkeel to be converted to a maritime college.

AGREED: Mr McGilly to provide Councillor Reilly with the results of the studies that had been carried out in relation to Kilkeel Harbour.

ERT/136/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: MOTORHOME STRATEGY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor W Clarke:

"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and motorhome users. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a motorhome strategy for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns and villages."

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events, regarding the Notice of Motion on a Motorhome Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Clarke said there had been a significant increase in motorhome and campervans to the area particularly during Covid and this had led to

tensions in local communities where residents were unable to use car parks or access premises and he said whilst it was great to see people visiting our District, it was important it was managed properly.

Councillor Clarke said a strategy was needed that would look at all the towns and villages across the District and the availability of suitable car parks / green spaces that could accommodate motorhome / camper van bays. He said dispersing a number of designated motorhome / campervan bays throughout the entire District would ensure an economic benefit for all.

Councillor Clarke said it was important to work with the private sector. He recommended a consultation be carried out with stakeholders, an online consultation with residents and a 'fit for purpose' strategy devised that ensured visitors to the District had a joyful experience and residents daily lives were not compromised.

Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal saying a simple policy was needed that suited all parties. He said it would be beneficial to look at places such as Carlingford where they worked in tandem with other providers in the area and catered for motorhomes to deliver a first class tourism offering which had so many positive spin offs for the local economy.

Councillor Andrews recommended the relevant motorhome association representatives or overarching body for motorhome owners be invited to a future council meeting.

Councillor McMurray welcomed the Motion and proposed an amendment to it that would cover the practice of freedom camping. He said this was a serious issue whereby people were camping in tents overnight in public spaces with total disregard for the countryside and environment. Councillor McMurray proposed to amend the Motion to read:

"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners and campers opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and those wishing to use public spaces for overnight stays. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a public space overnight stay strategy which includes both motorhomes and tents for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns, villages and rural areas."

Councillor Clarke accepted the amendment.

Councillor Hanna expressed support for the Motion. He said overnight camper van parking was also an issue in Mourne Esplanade and Kilkeel carparks and asked if overnight parking in public carparks was considered illegal.

In response, Mr Patterson said there was different legislation in place for particular areas and he could revert back to Councillor Hanna on specific sites.

Councillor Hanna said there were safety precautions in place in caravan parks, one of which was a separation distance of 5 metres between each motorhome and he asked if the Council would be liable if there was an accident in a council owned car park where camper vans were parked closely together creating a potential fire risk.

Mr Patterson said Council had sought legal advice on this issue and there were byelaws in place at certain sites. He said enforcement officers were employed at certain sites encouraging responsible use, however there was a large onus placed on the motorhome users to act responsibly.

Councillor Hanna asked if an Economic Impact Assessment had ever been carried out on camper vans coming into the area to ascertain the contribution they made to the local economy.

Mr Patterson said work had been done with Tourism NI previously and as part of the consultation process it was proposed to meet with Tourism Board officials to look at the economic assessment impact. He said discussions had taken place with representatives from the Motorhome Users Group and they had indicated they contributed significantly to the local economy, however Mr Patterson said it was a balancing act and whilst we welcomed motorhome users to our District, it could not be at the detriment to tourism and residents.

Councillor Reilly expressed support for the Motion and said there had been a significant increase in the numbers of motor homes / campers coming into the Mourne. He said emptying tanks seemed to be an issue and residents had been complaining about problems accessing the beach. He said a basic infrastructure was needed to be put in place to facilitate this.

Mr Patterson noted Councillor Reilly's concerns and said Officers were aware of the impact the increased influx of Motorhomes was having right across the District and he said all issues raised would be reviewed and proposals brought back to a future ERT Committee Meeting.

Councillor Mulgrew said motorhomes were an expensive investment for owners and she anticipated the increase the District had seen over the past two summers would continue and she asked if Officers could ascertain if there had been any planning applications from the private sector for provision of facilities for motorhome users and bring this information back to Members.

Mr Patterson agreed to look at this and report back to Committee.

Councillor McKee said a balanced approach was needed and more discussion and research carried out.

Councillor Clarke thanked Members for their support and said a number of areas were blighted by campers leaving disposable tents and litter and he said this could be incorporated into the Strategy.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events, and to approve for officers to consult with several key stakeholders to inform the development of the Terms of Reference for a future Motorhome Strategy for the District.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to amend the wording of the Notice of Motion to read:

"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners and campers opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and those wishing to use public spaces for overnight stays. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas. In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a public space overnight stay strategy which includes both motorhomes and tents for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns, villages and rural areas."

AGREED: Mr Patterson to contact Councillor Hanna in relation to specific car parks and legislation regarding overnight stays.

AGREED: Mr Patterson to advise Members if any planning applications had been received from the private sector for the provision of facilities for motorhome users.

ERT/137/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: REVIVAL OF DOWNPATRICK TOWN CENTRE

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor G Sharvin, Councillor J Trainor and Councillor D Curran:

"That this council recognises the importance of supporting the revival of

Downpatrick town centre post pandemic and beyond. This motion calls on council to appoint a town centre manager for Downpatrick. A Town Centre Manager who can liaise with the business community creating initiatives, opportunities and developing programmes that would support the future development of the county town."

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on the Revival of Downpatrick Town Centre.
(Copy circulated)

In proposing the Motion Councillor Curran said the appointment of a Town Centre Manager would have the potential to help revive the town and provide a vital link between the business community, government departments and statutory agencies.

Councillor Curran said in moving this forward it would be beneficial to establish a working group consisting of Downpatrick Councillors and key stakeholders to determine a way forward, with the appointment of a Town Centre Manager being included for discussion. Councillor Curran said it was important to have a timeline in place to ensure this was progressed in a timely manner.

Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal saying he fully endorsed all the sentiments and views expressed.

Councillor Sharvin said the development of Irish Street referred to in the Officers report had been a Department led project with no money from Council and the Church Street development was Stormont led with £20k from Council to be committed at a later date.

Councillor Sharvin acknowledged that Council did not recruit Town Centre Managers but said the Legacy Down Council had done so with great success. He said Downpatrick town centre had more than 25 vacant units of varying sizes and this did not include office space. He referred to various pages on the Council's websites and said he considered Downpatrick was not promoted or represented to its best potential.

He said a Town Centre Manager would be fully focused on regenerating the county town and he referred to the Tourism Strategy and said he considered the points highlighted with regard to Downpatrick had not been addressed by Council.

In response Mr McGilly said if a Town Centre Manager was to be appointed then a plan would need to be put in place and a meeting be arranged with business owners to look at the various options to move this forward. Mr McGilly anticipated work could begin on this soon after the September Council Meeting.

Councillor Hanna said he would not support the Motion and expressed some concern that if a Town Centre Manager was appointed in Downpatrick, it would set a precedent for other towns.

Councillor Savage fully supported the Motion saying he had a business in Downpatrick for over 10 years and considered the issues raised by Councillor Sharvin as genuine and factually correct. He said as a Newry Councillor, he saw first hand the benefit of having a Town Centre Manager. Councillor Savage said there had been a huge lack of investment in Downpatrick over the past few decades and as it did not have a core industry, inward investment was needed and agreed a Working Group should be set up and carry out a full review of how Council could engage and develop Downpatrick to its full potential.

Councillor Clarke said he was happy to support the Motion at this stage, but he would be keen to see the model of how it would be rolled out and the Options Paper when it was brought back to Committee.

Councillor Clarke said he would want to see all the towns and Newry City doing well and if Downpatrick was lagging behind then that should be investigated. He did not agree, however there had been a lack of investment in Downpatrick over the past few decades and said there had been huge investment from Council and the town had significant attractions such as the Arts Centre, Museum, Ballymote Centre and the Leisure Centre.

Councillor Burgess expressed full support for the Motion and said he considered Downpatrick had been largely forgotten since the council amalgamation. He said the appointment of a Town Centre Manager would be very beneficial and the appointee could also possibly be responsible for promoting the Rowallen area as well as Downpatrick.

Councillor Hanlon expressed support for the Motion but said it was important that Downpatrick was portrayed in a positive way. Whilst she agreed Downpatrick did need investment, she said it was already getting significant investment in both Irish Street and Church Street and she said the town had a lot to offer and it was important to work with the business owners to realise its full potential.

Councillor Hanlon said there was a lot of work being done within the DEA forum and it was important to focus on the entire area and not just the town centre.

Councillor Gibbons said he agreed with Councillor Hanlon that a lot of work was being done within the DEAs and he agreed with Councillor Hanna's comment that it would set a precedent for other towns in the District.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, and proceed as follows:

- Officers carry out a detailed options appraisal in partnership with local elected Members and business representatives, looking at the most suitable option going forward, that best represents the need of the Town Centre.
- Report back to the ERT Committee with findings of the options appraisal exercise.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/138/2021: AONB / NIEA CHALLENGE FUND

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding a funding application to the NIEA Challenge Fund to undertake additional works at the AONB. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) To note that Council have submitted a funding application for £279,500 from NIEA Challenge Fund to undertake additional works at the AONB. An outcome is anticipated in August 2021 with a funding deadline of 31 March 2022.
- 2) In the event an application is approved, and given the limited period for implementation, it is requested that in preparation, to proceed as follows:
 - Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve the Business Case for implementation of the project as outlined in the funding application "The Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Management Action Plans Challenge Fund" for additional capital works onsite.

- **Subject to a Letter of Offer being secured, Council approve to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy, for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant supplier, if within available budgets.**

ERT/139/2021: DERRYMORE DEMENSE PEACE IV FUNDING

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding Peace IV Funding to undertake works at Derrymore Demense. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) To note Council have secured £50,000 from Peace to undertake additional works at Derrymore Demense.**
- 2) To approve Derrymore Peace Funding Business Case for additional capital works onsite at 100% funding rate and no cost to Council.**
- 3) To proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy, for the implementation of the project, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.**

Councillor Mulgrew said she wanted to place on record her thanks to the Council Officers who had worked so hard to identify funding streams for this project, which had been a phenomenal success. She also thanked the local Community Group for their work and support for the project.

ERT/140/2021: DUBLIN – BELFAST CORRIDOR DELIVERY PLAN

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism, regarding a Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Development Plan, Strategy and Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed as follows:**

- 1) **Council support the proposal and brief to deliver a Development Plan, Strategy and Action Plan in respect of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor.**
- 2) **Council contribute, pro rate, to the research at a cost of £15,700.**

ERT/141/2021: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Labour Market Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed as follows regarding the Labour Market Partnership;**

- a) **Council submits to DFC a Strategic Assessment and Action Plan for funding in 2021/2022**
- b) **Council commences the process for establishing a strategic Assessment and Action Plan for 2022/2023 and submission of same to DFC by February 2022**
- c) **Council signs and accepts a Letter of Offer from DFC for funding of a NMD Labour Market Partnership Action Plan**
- d) **Council to recruit, following HR protocol, for LMP staff posts to be created and funded (100%) through NMD LMP Action Plan**
- e) **Council to approve LMP Business Cases for LMP Action Plan activity**
- f) **Council to proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the LMP Action Plan, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.**
- g) **Given restricted timescales for implementation during the current financial year, procurement may be the establishment of Service Level Agreements,**

where appropriate, and following an application / assessment process to confirm capability.

ERT/142/2021: REVITALISATION SCHEMES – NEWRY AND DOWNPATRICK

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding Letters of Offer for 2 revitalisation schemes – Lower Hill Street Newry and Church Street Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding Revitalisation Schemes for Lower Hill Street Newry and Church Street Downpatrick:**

- (a) Council will accept and sign Letters of Offer for 2 Revitalisation Schemes for Lower Hill Street, Newry and Church Street Downpatrick.**
- (b) To approve the implementation of the 2 revitalisation scheme projects via steering groups and the allocation of the required match funding as follows:
Lower Hill Street, Newry – match funding £25,000
Church Street, Downpatrick – match funding £20,000**
- (c) To approve Business Cases for each Revitalisation Scheme for completion of projects as proposed within the Revitalisation Action Plans and agreed by the respective Steering Groups, up the value of the budgets available.**
- (d) Council proceeds to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with policy for the implementation of the Action Plans, and following assessment and award, appoint the relevant suppliers, if within available budgets.**
- (e) To note for 2021/2022 delivery NMDDC are able to apply for a budget from Department for Communities**

of up to £669,209.96, inclusive of programme delivery costs and 20% allocation to administration / resourcing.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/143/2021: TOURISM NI MARKET LED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew, it was agreed as follows:**

- (a) To submit an application to the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22 for £150,000 of grant funding, with no match funding required from Council.**
- (b) A Service Level Agreement to be entered into between Council and Tourism NI as part of the governance arrangements of the programme.**
- (c) The Programme will be delivered with tourism product providers which are currently engaged in experience development activity with Council in the District.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/144/2021: ANNALONG HARBOUR NORTH PIER RESTORATION

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

ERT/144/2021: Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Reilly, It was agreed:**

- 1) To approve the Annalong Harbour North Pier Restoration works and the amended Business Case outlining the change to the delivery programme and Consultant/Contract cost implications, as a direct result of the additional works now required and further storm damage in early 2021.**
- 2) Subject to approval of Recommendation 1, Council issue new Purchase Orders to its Framework Contractor and Consultants to oversee the works. Given the urgency of site works, Council to proceed with recommendations in advance of the Ratification of the Report.**

FOR NOTING

ERT/145/2021: UPDATE RE: AONB AND GEOPARK

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding and update on AONB and Gepark. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to the update provided, in Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, on the following AONB initiatives;**

- **Ring of Gullion AONB and Strangford and Lecale AONB Environment Fund project implementation.**
- **Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Legacy Phase**
- **Atlantic CultureScape**
- **Geopark**
- **Dragons in the Hills Project**
- **AONB Management Review implementation**
- **Other**

ERT/146/2021: UPDATE RE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Business Development Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed:**

- 1) To note the opening of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme (RBDS) 2021 administered by NI Councils through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation fund to provide up to £4,999 grant funding to rural micro businesses.**
- 2) To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives:**
 - **Go for It**
 - **NMD Growth**
 - **Digital Growth**
 - **Tender for Growth**
 - **Sales and Trade Programme**
 - **Digital Transformation Programme**

ERT/147/2021: ECONOMIC FORUM

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the Economic Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the Economic Forum.**

ERT/148/2021: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/149/2021: EUROPEAN LADIES AMATEUR GOLF EVENT

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding Council support for European Ladies Amateur Team Championship event held 3-10 July 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note Report dated 09 August 2021 from from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding Council support for European Ladies Amateur Team Championship event held 3-10 July 2021.

ERT/150/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for: June 2021 and July 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for June and July 2021.

ERT/151/2021: UPDATE RE: SEAFLAG 2

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding SEAFLAG 2. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Letter of Offer which will extend the existing programme.

ERT/152/2021: SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD

Read: Correspondence dated 14 July 2021 from Department for Infrastructure regarding the Southern Relief Road proposed bridge of Newry Ship Canal. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note correspondence dated 14 July 2021 from Department for Infrastructure regarding the Southern Relief Road proposed bridge of Newry Ship Canal.**

ERT/153/2021: TNI CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FUNDING

Read: Report dated 09 August 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the award of grant from Tourism NI Co-operative Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the offer of funding to deliver a digital tourism marketing campaign during August 2021 and use of TNI's creative and marketing agencies to assist with delivery.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 September 2021.

Signed: Councillor R Howell

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr A Patterson

Assistant Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 12 August 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor R Howell
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Brown
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor H McKee
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor W Clarke

Officials in Attendance

In Chamber: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR & Safeguarding
Mr P Preen, HR Policy and Projects Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in Attendance

Via Teams: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active Healthy Communities
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport
Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director, Estates & Capital Projects
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning & Policy
Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

SPR/111/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran and Magennis.

In response to a point of clarity raised by Councillor Tinnelly, the Chief Executive confirmed that all committee members were encouraged to attend in the Chamber, however due to the legislation still awaiting royal assent, Members were still able to dial into the meetings remotely

if they so wished. She stated the hybrid method of working would need to be reviewed if the legislation was not forthcoming.

SPR/112/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Savage declared an Interest in Item 10 – Options for the Distribution of the 2022 Annual Report/NMD Connect Citizens Magazine.

SPR/113/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17 JUNE 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 June 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown queried why the minutes from the NCCR Project Board meeting held on 24 June 2021 had not been tabled and when officers expected to share the results of the public consultation which closed at the end of May. He asked whether the delay was due to the ongoing investigation.

Mrs Carville confirmed there had been extenuating factors such as officer's annual leave etc which had delayed the minutes of the NCCR Project Board meeting held on 24 June 2021 being issued to the Project Board. She advised the Project Board members had been furnished with the minutes and as there was an amendment contained within same to the previous set of minutes, both sets would be tabled at the next Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

With regard to the public consultation, Mrs Carville advised there had been a significant response and the independent consultants were still reviewing these, therefore there had been no results forthcoming to the Council. She stated once received they would be tabled before the Programme Board initially before coming to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee. She advised she did not foresee any significant delay to this due to the ongoing investigation.

Councillor Brown stated, for the record, that the minutes for this particular Programme Board always seemed to have some sort of reason for delay each time.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2021, be approved.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

SPR/114/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING DIGITAL POVERTY

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director Corporate Services regarding Notice of Motion regarding Digital Poverty. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Carville confirmed that letters had been sent to the Education Minister and the Ni Executive Office as requested, however, no response had been received to date. Mrs Carville highlighted section 2 of the report regarding the existing, ongoing activity throughout the district, recognising the need for collaborative working to address the issue of digital poverty and outlining some of the ways this could be achieved by working collaboratively with other stakeholders throughout the district.

Councillors Savage, Ó Muiri and Tinnelly welcomed the paper thanking the officers for the significant work completed thus far and the establishment of a working group to bring stakeholders together to identify those who were disadvantaged through the lack of connectivity. Councillor Tinnelly asked for a time limited approach and the ability to signpost people to get the support and help required.

Mrs Carville recognised the need for other statutory partners to be involved and stated a review period of one year could be included within the terms of reference to formally review the operation of the working group, in order to see if sufficient progress was being made.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to establish a working group, coordinated by the Community Planning Team. It was also agreed to include a review period of one year within the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.**

SPR/115/2021: FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding future funding opportunities & resource requirements. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to queries raised by members, Mr McGilly confirmed that members would be regularly updated, and it would be the role of the appointed officer to explore all funding opportunities.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Council approve an additional resource to be recruited on a fixed term basis for 18 months, to support development work required around the emerging programmes as detailed in the report**

SPR/116/2021 PHA COVID-19 TESTING FACILITY AT ALBERT BASIN NEWRY

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director, Estates and Project Management, regarding PHA Covid-19 Testing Facility at Albert Basin Newry **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson and members took the opportunity to thank Mr Quinn for the valuable work and detailed reports he had carried out in his time in Council and wished him well in returning to his post in CPD.

Mr Quinn highlighted there had been some complaints in relation to mobility issues and members of the public being unable to gain access to the site. The PHA had responded stating it was a walk-in site and advised that test kits had been offered to take home while encouraging people to access a drive-in site and get tested in these circumstances. Mr Quinn advised this had been further challenged by himself to the PHA stating that drive-in sites were quite a distance away and it would not be convenient for those people to travel that distance. He advised an update would be provided to members once received.

Councillor Tinnelly asked whether the shopping centres had been consulted to advise that carparks would not be available in the run up to Christmas as used in previous years due to the PHA still being on site.

Mr Quinn advised they had not yet been advised as it was pending the outcome of the meeting but would now be advised that there would be the potential and most likely that the PHA would still be on site.

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, that members consider approve the following:
- not to trigger the termination clause within the lease agreement with PHA/DHSC for the Covid 'walk-in' test facility at Albert Basin on 30th September 2021.
 - A further report to SP&R Committee prior to the end of the lease period, to gauge if the testing facility is likely to remain in place thereafter and how this would impact on future Council events at Albert Basin.

SPR/117/2021: RESPONSE TO NIPSO CONSULTATION ON COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURES

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services (Administration), regarding Response to NIPSO Consultation on Complaints Handling Procedures (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Sharvin asked whether an electronic form on the website could be provided in order that members of the public could submit complaints online. He also queried whether the complaints received through the advertised email address went directly to the relevant complaints team.

Mrs Robb confirmed she would investigate the possibility of the provision of online forms and whether there was an interim solution. She stated a review of the Council's complaints procedure highlighted there were too many access points for complaints and the recommendation was to look at narrowing the access points to better control the flow of complaints into the organisation.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Walker, to consider and adopt, the draft response appended to this document. In doing so Council should welcome the standardisation of complaints handling across the public sector. The on-line questionnaire to be completed on behalf of Council.

It was also agreed that the possibility of providing an online form for members of the public to submit complaints be investigated.

SPR/118/2021: PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT LEAVE AND PAY BILL - SURVEY

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr P Preen, HR Policy Projects Manager, regarding Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Bill – Survey (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve their agreement to the proposed survey responses as set out at 2.2 to 2.12 of the officer's report, and to allow these

responses to be submitted on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

CONFERENCE/EVENTS

SPR/119/2021: **APSE ANNUAL SEMINAR (7-9 SEPTEMBER 2021 THE ICC, BIRMINGHAM)**

Read: Correspondence received in relation to APSE Annual Seminar (7 - 9 September 2021 The ICC, Birmingham) **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the travel costs for Councillor Andrews to attend at the APSE Annual Seminar (7 - 9 September 2021 The ICC, Birmingham) as deputy Chair of APSE NI, as presented.

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

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

SPR/120/2021: **OPTIONS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT/NMD CONNECT CITIZEN MAGAZINE**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Options for the distribution of the 2022 Annual Report/NMD Connect Citizen Magazine. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to approve Option 2 – 2021 Distribution Model Promoted on the Council website, supported by a limited print run and marketing campaign in local press making available hard copies in the two main Council Office buildings and providing each Councillor with 100 copies and to make available to their constituents. (Councillors have the option to request to opt out of receiving 100 copies if they wish to do so) It was also agreed that officials would promote the NMD Connect via social media platforms in Council.

SPR/121/2021: SUB-LEASE OF STORE AT DOWNSHIRE CIVIC CENTRE

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding, Sub-Lease of store at Downshire Civic Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell to accept the request made by NIHE for lease of the store room within Downshire Civic Centre shown on the attached map circulated with the officer's report, on similar terms as the current lease dated 12th January 2018 and subject to a valuation being carried out to determine the additional rent payable.

SPR/122/2021: BRIDGE STREET CAR-PARK, KILKEEL

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding, Bridge Street Car-Park, Kilkeel **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed that Elected Members accept the proposal made by DFI that the areas marked red and green on the map attached to the officer's report be included in the legal transfer to Council of Bridge Street car-park, Kilkeel.

SPR/123/2021: SURRENDER OF LEASE – UNITS 1 AND 8 MCGRATH HOUSE, MARGARET STREET, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding, Surrender of Lease – Units 1 and 8 McGrath House, Margaret Street, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí it was agreed that the Lease was intended to be terminated in June 2020 and that Council enter into a Deed of Surrender on that basis with no further payment due by the tenant.

SPR/124/2021: SURPLUS ASSET – THE CLOCK RECREATION AREA SHRIGLEY D1 PROCESS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management regarding, Surplus Asset – The clock recreation area Shrigley D1 process update **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to note the content of the report and Appendix 1 – Expression of Interest Questionnaire and that members agree with the recommendation of the SFWG – accept the EOI submitted by SHSC and are content to move to the next stage of the D1 process i.e. submission of developed business case within a 6-month timeframe.

SPR/125/2021: APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT FOR THE BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UPGRADE OF COUNCIL'S PUBLIC SPACE & FACILITIES CCTV SYSTEMS

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting), regarding Appointment of a Consultant for the purposes of business case development for the upgrade of the Council's Public Space & Facilities CCTV System. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to the appoint a Consultant for the preparation of a Business Case for upgrading the Public Space & Facilities CCTV systems. The budget for services to be provided by the appointed Consultant was also agreed as outlined in the officer's report.

SPR/126/2021: REGULARISATION AND UPGRADE OF ESRI SOFTWARE AND PROCUREMENT OF ENTERPRISE LICENCE AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Regularisation and Upgrade of ESRI Software and Procurement of Enterprise Licence Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to approve the business case as attached to the officer's report to purchase an ESRI Enterprise Licence Agreement through the DFC Finance's NI Public Sector GI Support & Maintenance Contract.

SPR/127/2021: NEWCASTLE CENTRE CAPITAL BUILD PROJECT

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding, Newcastle Centre Capital Build Project (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed:

- To appoint an economist to complete a full business case for the Newcastle Centre to identify a preferred option and appoint a consultant team to provide design and cost information to support the completion of the business case.
- To consider the consultant's report in relation to the Newcastle Centre auditorium extension as per appendix 1, 2, & 3 and agree the demolition of the auditorium extension area of the Newcastle Centre.
- To allocate an additional £450,000 to Councils Capital programme to progress points 1 and 2 above and facilitate displacement of key bookings.
- Agree revised operational hours of the Newcastle Centre pending the major Capital build project for the centre, as per appendix 4.

SPR/128/2021: TERMS AND CONDITIONS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Terms and Conditions update (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell It was agreed that Elected Members note the progress on the workplan as set out in appendix 1.

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

SPR/129/2021: STAFF SEVERANCE SCHEME

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mrs M Ward Chief Executive, regarding Staff Severance Scheme (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to approve a multiplier of 3.0. It was agreed that the decision reached in relation to this severance scheme will be current at the time and council reserves the right to revisit these in light of this financial circumstances.

FOR NOTING –

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

SPR/130/2021: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – Q1 2021/22

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting), regarding Management Accounts Q1 2021/22 **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Savage it was agreed to note the Management Accounts for Quarter 1 2021/22.

SPR/140/2021: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 2 JULY 2021

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 2 July 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet of 2 July 2021.

FOR NOTING

SPR/141/2021: NMDDC RESPONSE TO THE NILGA CONSULTATION PAPER: VISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PHASE ONE) 2021 - 23

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mr D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding NMDCC response to the NILGA Consultation paper: Vision and Development of Local Government (Phase One) 2021 - 23 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SPR/142/2021: **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021 ON REQUESTS RELATED TO NAMING COUNCIL FACILITIES, PLANTING TREES AND TO LOCATE ARTWORKS/SCULPTURES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Annual report for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 on requests relayed to naming council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on council property. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SPR/143/2021: **SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2021 AND NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC AUTHORITY STATUTORY EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS DUTIES ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020-2021**

Read: Report dated 12 August 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Section 75 Policy Screening report – Quarterly report for period April – June 2021 and Newry Mourne and Down District Council Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations duties annual progress report 2020 – 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

Mrs Carville, on behalf of the Chief Executive read the following statement:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 20.29pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 September 2021.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 16 August 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor L McEvoy (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor A Finnegan Councillor A Lewis
Councillor J Trainor Councillor W Walker

In attendance via Teams: Councillor C Casey Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor V Harte Councillor G Malone
Councillor G Sharvin Councillor J Tinnelly

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

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

AHC/140/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Finnegan that Councillor McEvoy assume the Chair.

Apologies were received from Councillors McKevitt, O'Hare, McMurray and Ó Muirí. Councillor Harte advised that Councillor Casey would be joining the meeting late.

AHC/141/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sharvin declared an interest in item 26 – Financial Assistance as a member on the executive committee of his club who had applied for the scheme.

Councillor Gallagher declared an interest in item 17 – Notice of Motion – Discounted Use of Council Facilities for NHS Workers as he was an NHS worker.

**AHC/142/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 JUNE 2021**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 June 2021. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 June 2021.

AHC/143/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – DEFIBRILLATORS

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Notice of Motion referred from Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 regarding Defibrillators.

Councillor Taylor presented his motion as follows:

"To ask Newry, Mourne & Down District Council to undertake a programme of engagement with local sports clubs and community organisations across the District to establish the level of defibrillator provision within their various facilities. The Council should endeavour to offer practical support to respective sporting and community organisations to increase the level of defibrillator provision and endeavour to achieve maximum capacity of this life saving equipment in all sporting and community facilities at the earliest opportunity. The Council should also develop a programme which is designed to increase the numbers of officers and volunteers within all sporting and community organisations who can perform the vital life saving skill of CPR."

In presenting his motion, Councillor Taylor asked that a timeframe, perhaps within the next six months, in order for an update on how the engagement programme was progressing be included within the motion. He thanked the officers for the detailed report presented to the Committee.

Councillor Lewis proposed to accept the officer's recommendations with the addition of a timeframe of six months in order to update Members on the progress of the engagement programme. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

Councillor Sharvin advised an organisation called Heart Foundation would have previously made contributions to defibrillators for groups. He asked that officers liaise with Heart Foundation as he was aware the funding contributions were to be reopened and suggested a grant fund be established between Council and the Heart Foundation for groups to access funding for defibrillators.

Mr Devlin advised the maps contained within the report may contain gaps in registration of defibrillators with Northern Ireland Ambulance Service as most GAA clubs should have a defibrillator. He stated the work to be carried out by officers would address the issue of registration.

Councillor Tinnelly confirmed that all GAA clubs should have defibrillators in the grounds.

Mr Lipsett advised it was the officers' intention to reach out to all clubs and Council facilities to ensure they were all covered, and a report would be forthcoming, within six months.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to:

- Undertake a programme of engagement with local sports clubs and community organisations across the District to establish the level of defibrillator provision within their various facilities;

- And develop a programme which is designed to increase the numbers of officers and volunteers within all sporting and community organisations who can perform the vital life saving skill of CPR;
- Target all organisations across business, statutory, Community and Voluntary sectors who have an AED to register it on the National Defibrillator Network.
- A timeframe of six months be set in order to update Members on the progress of the engagement programme.
- Council officers to liaise with the Heart Foundation regarding funding towards defibrillators with the potential of a grant stream being established for groups to access.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/144/2021 APPROVAL FOR DORSEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TO ERECT A POLYTUNNEL ON THE GROUNDS OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Approval for Dorsey Community Association to erect a polytunnel on the grounds of the Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Trainor, that Dorsey Community Association can proceed with the installation of their new polytunnel (subject to all statutory approvals being in place) and that the existing FMA be amended to include the polytunnel and associated works.

AHC/145/2021 ADOPTION OF TABLE TENNIS HIRE CHARGE FOR NMDDC COMMUNITY CENTRES

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Adoption of Table Tennis Hire Charge for NMDDC Community Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McEvoy, on behalf of Councillor Mason had asked to pass on her thanks to officers on the work carried out on this issue. She also stated that the table tennis group, within Drumaness, provided activity for local elderly residents and a safe space for social interaction.

Councillor Gallagher queried whether it was possible to consider zero cost for the local elderly residents who use the centres.

Mrs Hillen advised there were already a number of concession rates that had been introduced through community and leisure, with community charging a lesser rate, however she stated she was happy to keep under review.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to approve the adoption of Leisure Services Hire Charge for Table Tennis provision in Community Centres.

AHC/146/2021 **COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Coordination Hub Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet of the Community Coordination Hub Meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2021.

AHC/147/2021 **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

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

- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 15 June 2021;
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 16 June 2021;
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 17 June 2021;
- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 22 June 2021;
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 3 August 2021;
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 3 August 2021;
- Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Monday 2 August 2021.

**AHC/148/2021 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR USE OF CHANGING ROOMS
WITHIN DAN RICE HALL, DRUMANESS BY DRUMANESS
CRICKET CLUB**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Service Level Agreement for use of Changing Rooms within Dan Rice Hall, Drumaness by Drumaness Cricket Club **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to proceed with approval to issue a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to Drumaness Cricket Club for the use of the changing rooms within Dan Rice Hall, Drumaness (as per charges outlined within outdoor leisure hire charges)

**AHC/149/2021 UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF LOGISTICAL
SUPPORT FOR EVENTS**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Update Report on the Provision of Logistical Support for Events **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Harte, Mrs Hillen advised the main problems reintroducing the service was that some of the staff remain on furlough and to reintroduce the service in full would incur overtime costs. She stated at present community services were not generating any income through the centres, which is why the recommendation was to reintroduce a restricted service. She advised if Members wished to reintroduce smaller pieces of equipment i.e. marquees and gazebos, that was for Members to decide prior to full Council approval in September.

Councillor Trainor queried why the 13x13 gazebos alongside 10x10 were not being introduced at this stage. Mrs Hillen advised the larger gazebos had a requirement to be erected and dismantled following the event by 2-3 members of Council staff, which would impact upon overtime costs for Council.

Councillor McEvoy advised community organisations had arranged events for the August bank holiday weekend and asked whether there was any way of bringing the date forward to allow some of the events to go ahead on the bank holiday weekend in August.

Mr Lipsett advised if the Committee was minded to introduce the resumption of logistical support before Council meeting in September, officers could investigate the possibility of doing so, while maximising furlough at the same time, to try to accommodate as many groups as possible for the bank holiday weekend.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, that officers investigate the possibility of accommodating as many groups as possible across the bank holiday weekend by working with the groups to try not to incur additional overtime costs and maximising furlough.

AHC/150/2021 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE AND SOUTH EASTERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding SLA with Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to extend both SLA's to allow for the provision of recreational/accredited training programmes within Leisure Facilities and for the provision of outreach work via the DEA's, PCSP and Minority Support programmes. It was also agreed to adopt the Service Level Agreements and data sharing agreements as attached to the officer's report.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND WELLBEING

AHC/151/2021 YOUTH VOICE; NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Youth Voice: Newry, Mourne and Down **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Gallagher that:

- Council endorse the new Youth Voice initiative and seek to provide support and assist them with their goal of engaging with local decision makers around issues of importance to them;
- Council accept the terms of reference as detailed in appendix 1 of the officer's report;
- Council agreed that Council officers attend and Chair the Youth Voice project board;
- Council agree to recommend the Youth Voice to our Community Planning partners and encourage them to nominate representatives to the project board.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/152/2021 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATORY CHECKS ON POULTRY MEAT, BEEF AND VEAL AND EGGS BY THE NI DISTRICT COUNCILS ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the enforcement of regulatory checks on poultry meat, beef and veal and eggs by the NI District Councils on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, that the Chief Executive signs the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement with DAERA as attached to the officer's report.

AHC/153/2021 **CONSULTATION FROM DAERA – CALLS FOR EVIDENCE & VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE BILL**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Consultation from DAERA – Calls for Evidence & Views on Climate Change Bill **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, that the Committee return the consultation response as attached to the officer's report with the understanding that the response had already been submitted subject to Council approval..

AHC/154/2021 **CONSULTATION FROM DAERA – CARRIER BAG LEVY CONSULTATION**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Consultation from DAERA – Carrier Bag Levy Consultation **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Gallagher queried whether advertising through Council regarding usage of reusable bags could be increased. Councillor Trainor agreed with the comments asking that advertising could be carried out digitally.

Mr Devlin advised messaging would be put out through Environmental Awareness Officers, however he agreed to arrange to increase promotion on social media channels regarding usage of reusable bags.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, that the Committee return the consultation response as attached to the officer's report with the understanding that the response had already been submitted subject to Council approval.

It was also agreed that promotion of the message of reusable bags be increased through Council's social media channels.

AHC/155/2021 **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO THE AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Service Level Agreement in Relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finnegan commented on the exemplary performance of the Communities Minister particularly with regard to the Affordable Warmth Scheme and was pleased to see the threshold had risen to £33k with no longer taking means-tested benefits into consideration as income.

Councillor Trainor proposed that Council write to the Minister regarding the flaws existing within the scheme particularly with regard to the equal allocation of funding to all Councils which may not target the actual need that exists in Councils. He raised another issue regarding those people who would have previously missed out due to the lower threshold and asked whether Council would be returning to those people to invite them into the scheme, can this be completed, and how long would it take to complete. Councillor Sharvin seconded the proposal.

Mr Devlin advised when the scheme was introduced nine years ago, it was applied equally across Northern Ireland, regardless of need. He advised that the threshold was rising to £23k from £20k rather than £33k. Mr Devlin stated Council had kept records over the past year who may have missed out due to the lower threshold and would now be contacting these people.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Harte, to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement with the Department for Communities in relation to the provision of the Affordable Warmth Scheme. It was also agreed to write to the Minister to review the allocation of the funds across the Councils.

LEISURE AND SPORTS

Councillor Gallagher had previously declared an interest in the next item

AHC/156/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – DISCOUNTED USE OF COUNCIL FACILITIES FOR NHS WORKERS

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport, regarding Notice of Motion – Discounted Use of Council Facilities for NHS Workers (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that Council's revised corporate membership scheme as per appendix 1 of the officer's report, which now includes a 50% discount for NHS workers up until 30th September 2022.

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/157/2021 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP (NRP) REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) Report (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the report and the Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 12 May, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2021.

AHC/158/2021 **POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP) REPORT**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement, regarding Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the report and the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 25 May 2021, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 20 July 2021.

AHC/159/2021 **PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Ms J McCabe, Programme Coordinator, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the report and the minutes of Peace IV Partnership meeting held on 1 July 2021.

AHC/160/2021 **SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND - CAPITAL**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes Unit & Ms S McClory, Programmes Coordinator, regarding Social Investment Fund – Capital (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the report and the minutes of SIF Board Meeting in May 2021.

AHC/161/2021 **UPDATE REPORT ON THE RE-OPENING OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, regarding Update Report on the Re-Opening of Community Facilities (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the contents of the officer's report.

FOR NOTING – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/162/2021 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2020 (NORTHERN IRELAND WATER)

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr J Campbell, Head of Environmental Health – Residential, regarding Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2020 (Northern Ireland Water) **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the contents of the officer's report.

AHC/163/2021 INTERREG FASTER PROJECT – POTENTIAL EV CHARGE POINT LOCATIONS

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Ms S McEldowney, Head of Sustainability, regarding INTERREG FASTER Project – Potential EV Charge Point Locations **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note the contents of the officer's report.

FOR NOTING

AHC/164/2021 HOUSING SUPPLY STRATEGY CALL FOR EVIDENCE 2021

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr A Beggs, Head of Evidence and Research, regarding Housing Supply Strategy Call for Evidence 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, to note Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's response to the Housing Supply Strategy Call for Evidence 2021 (DfC)

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

AHC/165/2021 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillor Sharvin had previously declared an interest in the next item.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person

(including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Ms S Burns, Head of Programmes, Ms C Burns, Project Coordinator and Ms S McClory, Project Coordinator, regarding Financial Assistance **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- **The Call 3 report on panel outcomes for the themes outlined in Section 1 including the recommendation around the Covid Transition budget;**
- **Letter of offer to be issued in line with the panel decision for the pre-Letter of offer condition as outlined in section 1 of the officer's report;**
- **Note the appeals panel outcome;**
- **To have a new theme in the 2022-2023 period for Community Minor Capital items;**
- **To reallocate the Community Capital budget to the Community Centre Upgrades budget.**

AHC/166/2021 **APPROVAL FOR SURESTART SOUTH ARMAGH TO RENT OFFICE SPACE FOR 1 YEAR AT BESSBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021, from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, regarding Approval for Surestart South Armagh to Rent Office Space for 1 Year at Bessbrook Community Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- Surestart South Armagh to rent office space for 1 year at Bessbrook Community Centre;
- To proceed with the lease agreement via Council's legal team.

AHC/167/2021

LICENCE AGREEMENT WITH COSY CORNER PLAYGROUP AT CROSSMAGLEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021, from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, regarding Licence Agreement with Cosy Corner Playgroup at Crossmaglen Community Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Trainor, that Council submit an application to Department for Communities via the community asset transfer process to seek approval for the reduction in annual fees as detailed in the officer's report and to hold off charging an annual rate to Cosy Corner Playgroup, Crossmaglen until the next financial year.

AHC/168/2021

LEASE ARRANGEMENTS – LAND AT HILLTOWN YOUTH CLUB

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

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr C Haughey, Head of Service: Outdoor Leisure, regarding Lease Arrangements – Land at Hilltown Youth Club **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Trainor, not to pursue the renewal of lease arrangements for land from the trustees of Hilltown Youth Club.

AHC/169/2021 **UPGRADE WORKS – MCPARLAND PARK, NEWRY**

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

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr C Haughey, Head of Service: Outdoor Leisure, regarding Upgrade Works, McParland Park, Newry (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Trainor to:

- Upgrade works to a sum as set out in the officer's report, at McParland Park, Newry to address the health and safety issues outlined in the independent play audit for the park as per appendix 1 of the officer's report;
- Agree the business case for the above works as per appendix 2 of the officer's report in line with Council's procurement policy.

AHC/170/2021 **KILKEEL LEISURE CENTRE – CAPITAL BUILD PROJECT**

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

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director: Leisure and Sport, regarding Kilkeel Leisure Centre – Capital Build Project **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- Carry out essential and enhancement works for Kilkeel Leisure Centre at a cost as outlined within the officer's report;
- Approve the business case for the project as per appendix 1 of the officer's report.

AHC/171/2021 BUSINESS CASE – MINOR WORKS SCHEME AT CLOUGHREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Ms J McCann, Head of Community Services, Facilities and Events, regarding Business Case – Minor Works Scheme at Cloughreagh Community Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor to:

- Approve the business case as attached to the officer's report for the upgrade work at Cloughreagh Community Centre;
- Approve to procure and appoint a consultant to complete a survey, including a bill of quantities;
- Approve to appoint and procure a contractor to carry out the necessary works.

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

AHC/172/2021 LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

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

Read: Report dated 16 August 2021 from Mr C Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure, regarding Leasing of Council Land and Facilities – Expressions of Interest **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Finnegan to note the below Expressions of Interest received for the leasing of Council land and facilities have now successfully completed stage 2 of Council's Sport and Community Leasing Policy 2016 and a report will be tabled at Council's Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee recommending approval to lease the below lands and facilities, as per stage 3 of the policy:

- Moorehill Quarry – adjacent to Newry Recycling Centre, Newry;
- Derryleckagh Field/Land – adjacent to Derryleckagh Playing Fields, Newry;
- Generator House – adjacent to the Yacht Club, Newcastle;
- Burren Village Green Field/Land – adjacent to play park and community centre, Burren;
- Drumaness Cricket Pitch – adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness;
- Drumaness Soccer Pitch – adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness.

Mr Lipsett made the following statement on behalf of the Chief Executive:

"Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council, subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful."

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.18pm.

Signed: Councillor L McEvoy
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 August 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room. Downshire Civic Estate, Downpatrick and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor A Finnegan

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

Non-Committee Members: Councillor P Byrne (Teams)
Councillor G O'Hare (Teams)

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

NS/116/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Walker, Stokes and McKevitt and Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement.

NS/117/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/118/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2021. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

NS/119/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Mr J McBride re:
Neighbourhood Services Operational Update. ***(Circulated)***.

Mr McBride outlined a summary of the actions taken in response to several operational challenges encountered during July and August 2021, and which impacted upon the level of service provided to the public.

Issues raised

- Commend NS Team and especially the front-line staff for all their hard work during such challenging times but Members expressed their deep concerns regarding the level of service provided for refuse collection and street cleansing and said it was not acceptable.
- The challenges from COVID were acknowledged but Members said there had been ongoing problems with the refuse collection service for years and it was time action was taken to deal with them and have a root and branch review in terms of staffing capacity and vehicular capacity. If additional resources were needed, then this should be identified.
- The need for good cleansing schedules to be put in place especially during the tourism season, with a deep cleanse of coastal areas, including street furniture, at the beginning of the tourist season.
- Cleansing schedules for many of the Estates and housing developments throughout the District needed to be put in place. Officers needed to be more pro-active about this and look at developing an app which would provide clear information to the public.
- Street bins needed to be emptied more regularly and if bins were sited at the end of roads etc. these needed to be emptied on a regular basis.

Mr McBride acknowledged that whilst COVID had presented challenges, the level of service that had been provided was not what was expected. He said he would continue to engage with Members on these issues and confirmed that a contractor would shortly be appointed to carry out a deep cleanse on specific areas in the major towns and villages of the District. He advised the schedule of deep cleansing would be presented to Members at the next Committee Meeting.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the content of this update report.

AGREED: It was also agreed a schedule of deep cleansing in the major towns and villages throughout the District be presented to Members at the next Committee Meeting for their information.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/120/2021: PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY WORK PACKAGES

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: Public Toilet Strategy Work Packages. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to

- Note contents of this report
- To agree the recommendations as set out in section 2.2

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy would be via a Project Board and that a report be brought back to the September Committee Meeting on the establishment of such a Board; Membership and draft terms of reference.

NS/121/2021: BUS SHELTER REQUESTS

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: bus shelter requests. *(Circulated)*.

Issued raised

In response to a query from Councillor O'Hare, Mr Scullion advised that a tender for the provision and installation of a bus shelter on Main Street Hilltown, would close next week and it was hoped to have the shelter erected end of September/early October 2021.

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

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Approve erection of new Bus Shelter at Bridge Rd, Burren**
- **Approve the removal of old bus shelter at Corlat Rd, Whitecross**
- **Approve the replacement of existing bus shelter at Ardfreelin, Newry**

NS/122/2021: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING – 5 AUGUST 2021

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting held on 5 August 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 5 August 2021 and to approve the following recommendations set out in Section 2.3 and 2.5:-**

- **Subject to consultation with affected local community groups involved with this project, to replace the existing trees at Belleeks, Drumaroad, Newcastle & Ballykinelar with either Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata' or Pinus nigra trees.**
- **Agree to the replacement of the cut tree previously provided in Gargory for a sustainable Christmas tree in Leitrim.**

AGREED: **It was also agreed, following a request from Councillor Curran and Councillor Brown, that officials look again at the possibility of providing some type of Christmas illuminations on English Street, Downpatrick for this year and that discussions be held with local businesses to see if any compromise agreement can be reached. Officers bring back an options paper for consideration at the September Committee Meeting.**

NS/123/2021: UPDATE ON TREE STRATEGY WORKS

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: arboriculture works progress update. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- A request from Councillor Casey that several trees vandalised and uprooted on the Newry Canal towpath be replaced (Mr Ellis confirmed this would be done)

- Officers to arrange to cut back an overgrown section of the towpath from O'Reilly's Lock and if necessary liaise with Rivers Agency in relation to this matter.
- Need for additional bins where the two path splits past Carnbane.
- Officers to look at a request to consider Donard Forest/Domain as part of a future work programme and advise Councillor Clarke of the up to date position.
- In response to Councillor McKee, Mr Ellis gave an explanation on tree felling at Kilbroney Park and the Narnia trail and future action to be taken.
- In response to Councillor Ruane, Mr Ellis to ensure broken and overhanging tree branches in Ring McIlroy Park, Warrenpoint, be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

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

AGREED: **It was agreed Officers action the issues raised by Members and advise individual Members of the outcome.**

NS/124/2021: **ALL IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN**

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. ***(Circulated)***.

Issues raised

- Concerns that some areas that had been re-wilded had not worked and instead of masses of colour from native wildflowers there were overgrown areas of long grass and weeds.
- Would those areas be cut back and new seeds sown if necessary.

Mr Ellis gave an update on why some areas had been more successful than others and advised on issues such as weather; ground and soil conditions and the procurement of specialist machinery which would help maintain the re-wilded areas. He encouraged Members to continue with the project and said this was only year one and lessons had been learned. He advised Members would be kept updated as the project was moved forward.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the content of this report and that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council register as a supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.**

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/125/2021: DISTRIBUTION OF COMPOSTABLE FOOD BAGS AND FOOD WASTE CADDY BINS

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: distribution of compostable food bags and food waste caddy bins. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to recommend approval of Option 1 for the distribution of compostable food waste bags and option 3 for the distribution of caddy bins as follows:-

Distribution of Compostable Food Waste Bags: Recommended Option: Option 1

- The continuation of current arrangements for the distribution of Compostable Food Waste Bags.
- Bags to continue to be available at HRC sites (10 sites)
- Bags to be available for collection at other 29 locations e.g. Council Offices and Community Centres, following relaxation of Covid restrictions.
- Bags to be made available at appropriate Community outlets where requested
- Bags to be made available to Councillors where requested for onwards delivery to known requestors, from September 2021.

Distribution of Caddy-bins: Recommended Option: Option 3

It is proposed that a number of caddy-bins are made available for householders who request a replacement caddy-bin.

- It is considered that a publicity initiative be re-run to encourage householders not to place food waste in their black bin
- To support the initiative a number of food waste caddies to be made available and distributed as follows to reduce delivery costs:-
 1. Food waste caddies to be made available to Councillors on an equal basis and maximum limit of 100 caddies, as required, with Councillors to issue to householders at recorded addresses. Householder to receive additional instruction 'Lets Recycle Right' and a roll of compostable liners
 2. 1000 food waste caddies to be made available for issue by Customer Services, on request, to replace broken caddies with collection to be arranged from local HRC site by householder and/or at Greenbank /Downshire following reopening of such facilities. Any surplus not taken up by Councillors to be redistributed in this manner.
 3. 10 Food Waste Caddies to be issued to primary schools, on request (max 1000 caddies) to further promote food waste recycling in the home, as per previous Council decision.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was also agreed to that Officers

explore the feasibility of deploying brown bins to residents of high-rise buildings, who were not previously provided with these, and a report be brought back to the next Committee Meeting.

(Councillor Taylor left the meeting)

NS/126/2021: FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: Fleet Replacement (Capital) – status update. *(Circulated)*.

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

AGREED: At the request of Councillor Andrews it was agreed officers investigate the revenue potential of having advertisements on Council vehicles, similar to a scheme introduced by APSE and report back to Committee.

NS/127/2021: ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: implementation of the Enforcement Improvement Plan for dog fouling and illicit dumping. *(Circulated)*.

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was also agreed that officers prepare a report for the next Committee Meeting on options for future staffing levels to improve the enforcement service, including the possibility of supplementing the service with a contractor on a short-term basis.

AGREED: At the request of Councillor Casey it was also agreed officers replace the existing signage with updated Newry, Mourne and Down signage, in relation to keeping dogs on a lead on Newry Towpath.

NS/128/2021: CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK – CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: Circular Economy Framework – Call for Evidence. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it was agreed to note the contents of the response provided in Appendix 1.**

NS/129/2021: DISTRIBUTION OF COMPOST FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: distribution of compost for community groups. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to note the content of this report and that an update report would be provided at the September Committee Meeting.**

FOR NOTING

NS/130/2021: Arc21 JC MINUTES – 27 MAY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 27 May 2021 *(Circulated)*.

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

NS/131/2021: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

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

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 18 and 19 were deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

NS/132/2021: ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 27 May 2021. *(Circulated)*.

NS/133/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR REPLACEMENT OF SAFETY TILES WITH WET-POUR SURFACING IN VARIOUS COUNCIL PLAY AREAS

Read: Report dated 18 August 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for replacement of safety tiles with wet-pour surfacing in various Council play areas. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Andrews proposed, and Councillor Magennis seconded to come out of closed session.

(Councillor Brown left the meeting)

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

NS/132/2021 - Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes 27 May 2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 27 May 2021.

NS/133/2021 – Business Case for the replacement of safety tiles with wet-pour surfacing in various Council Play Areas

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it was agreed to:-

- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Approve the findings of the Business Case presented. Accept Option 3 – Replacement of defective safety tiles with a Wet Pour surface to safety standards required for each of the 24 Play Parks under consideration over the financial years 2021/22 to 2022/23. Project to proceed subject to budget availability.**

AGREED: It was also agreed officers look at the surfacing on Whitecross play park and Leitrim play park to see if they would be eligible for resurfacing with wet-pour surfacing.

Mr J McBride read out the following statement on behalf of the Chief Executive:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 September 2021.

**Signed: Councillor A Finnegan
Deputy Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee**

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



Minutes of the 481st Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 14th June 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex

Present by Video Conferencing:

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair – In the Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Grainia Long	Chief Executive (NIHE)
Colm McQuillan	Director of Housing Services (NIHE)
Sinead Collins	Rural Community Manager (NIHE)
Patricia McQuillan	Rural Community Network
Aidan Campbell	Rural Community Network
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Grainia Long, Chief Executive from the Housing Executive.</p> <p>He also welcomed the Presenters, Sinead Collins from the Housing Executive and from the Rural Community Network, Patricia McQuillan and Aidan Campbell.</p> <p>Colm McQuillan, Director of Housing Services, NIHE was in attendance for Item 10 on the Agenda.</p>	
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Housing Council
481st Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>To adopt the Housing Council (Special Meeting with the Minister for Communities) Minutes held on Wednesday, 5th May 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman J Speers, seconded by Alderman John Finlay and resolved, that the Minutes of the (Special Meeting with the Minister) held on Thursday 5th May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 480th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 13th May 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor N Mathison, seconded by Alderman John Finlay and resolved, that the Minutes of the 480th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 13th May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>Page 2 Item 4.3 – Meeting with the Minister</p> <p>It was reported that letters were sent to both the Chair of the Housing Executive and Officials from the Department for Communities asking if they would consider both the Housing Executive and the Department for Communities to jointly address each of the eleven local Councils at their monthly Council/Committee Meeting, to update local elected representatives on the way forward of this major reform within the housing sector.</p> <p>A reply was received agreeing that representatives will be attending the 11 Council Meetings to address Councillors in the coming months.</p> <p>Page 2 Item 4.2 – Investment in Housing Executive Stock</p> <p>It was noted that a presentation had been arranged for the August Meeting on the Investment in Housing Executive Stock.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

Housing Council
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<p>4.3</p>	<p>Page 3 Item 5.0 - Northern Ireland Federation for Housing Associations (NIFHA)</p> <p>It was reported that the Chief Executive, Ben Watt from NIFHA had agreed to attend the September Meeting to explore how NIFHA and the Housing Council can develop a closer partnership on housing matters.</p> <p>Members welcomed this development, as they felt that there is a continuing a gap in the monitoring and accountability of Housing Associations.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p>Page 6 Item 6.17.1 - ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020</p> <p>Members noted the information provided.</p>	
<p>4.5</p>	<p>Page 6 Item 6.17.3 - Affordable Warmth Scheme</p> <p>Members noted the information provided.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>It was agreed that an invite should be sent to the Chief Executive from Co-ownership to attend a future Meeting on the work of their organisation.</p> <p>The Report was noted.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

Housing Council
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6.0	<p><u>Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, NIHE</u></p> <p>Ms Long provided the Housing Council with a high level monthly update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues, under the following headings:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Local Councils – Revitalisation • Stakeholder Engagement / Mapping, Press and Public Affairs <p>At the request of Members, Ms Long undertook to arrange for an Officer to attend in early Autumn to give a presentation on how the Housing Executive plan to contribute to efforts to reduce the impacts of Climate Change and to give Members the opportunity to feed into the Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHE Draft Corporate and Business Plan 2021-22 <p>Ms Long offered a Presentation on the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and the organisations measured performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHE Board Workshops: (1) Human Rights, Equalities and Diversity -Wednesday 28 April 2021; and (2) Labour Market Recovery (DfC) and Modern Methods of Construction - 1 June 2021 <p>Members welcomed the launch a new Apprenticeship learning scheme particularly aimed at 16-24 year olds and urged the Housing Executive to engage with local Colleges across Northern Ireland, for students with trades and skills to give opportunities for apprenticeships.</p> <p>Members also asked that the Housing Executive to consider the option of students with special education needs being given opportunities within the scheme.</p> <p>Alderman Grehan had suggested that the Housing Executive Board had received a presentation from the Department for Communities on 'Labour Market Recovery Intervention' and felt that this would be useful for the Housing Council. Ms Long agreed that she would arrange a Presentation on a wider scale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual NIHE Performance Meeting with the Minister for Communities and Permanent Secretary • DfC NIHE Inspection Programme • Welfare Reform • Housing Stock Investment 	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p>
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Housing Council
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline for NIHE Annual Report & Accounts • Special Council Meeting - Derry and Strabane City Council - Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 4pm • Civil Unrest / Disturbances <p>In response to the question of the Housing Executive being allowed to borrow, Ms Long explained that the freedom of borrowing would enable to invest in the existing stock and also the power to build, although the timeframe for the power to borrow could possibly be 2025.</p> <p>Alderman Finlay asked if the allocation of 70 homeless points could be increased, Mr McQuillan explained that there is a fundamental review of allocations currently being undertaken and the homeless points will be considered in this Review. He added that individual circumstances are different and Housing Advisors will ensure the applicant is given the points they are entitled to, under certain categories.</p> <p>Alderman Grehan expressed concern on the timeframe for mitigation of Welfare Reform and it was noted that a Presentation will be given at the September Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Long for a very informative Report and welcomed the new format being presented.</p>	Secretary
7.0	<p><u>Presentation on Rural Housing</u></p> <p>Sinead Collins, Housing Executive and from the Rural Community Network, Patricia McQuillan and Aidan Campbell gave Members a presentation on Rural Housing. (Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A & B).</p> <p>In relation to the rural communities, Members felt there was lack of engagement between all parties and the local development plans is an opportune time for joint up thinking.</p> <p>Members reiterated to need to give tenants choice of living in rural areas and explained that many people want to settle in their native villages and beside their families, but due to the lack of social housing in rural areas, those people are forced to move to neighbouring towns etc.</p> <p>Several Members reiterated that when people move out of their 'native' area and then want to return they find it difficult with the points system and feel that 'local preference' points should be re-introduced.</p>	

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	<p>It was noted that 'political' backing is essential as significant resources are required, in particular for the infrastructure in rural settlements.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Presenters for their comprehensive presentations.</p>	
8.0	<p><u>Breakdown of Temporary Accommodation by Council area</u> (Colm McQuillan was in attendance)</p> <p>Members were noted the information provided on the 'breakdown of temporary accommodation in each Council area'.</p> <p>It was hoped that temporary accommodation was proactively being sourced in all areas of the Province.</p> <p>Mr McQuillan confirmed that since the start of the pandemic, the Housing Executive have acquired temporary accommodation, in particular single-let accommodation.</p>	
9.0	<p><u>Social Housing Development Programme Progress Report End May 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	
10.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts May 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	
11.0 11.1	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Change of Tenancy</u></p> <p>In response to timescales for change of tenancies associated with response contracts, when new tenants were being advised that it could possibly be 2 to 3 months before receiving their keys. It was asked if an interim policy could be drawn up to quicken the process once the health & safety checks etc are carried out on a property. It was also noted that within these 2 to 3 months the Housing Executive were not receiving rents for these properties.</p>	

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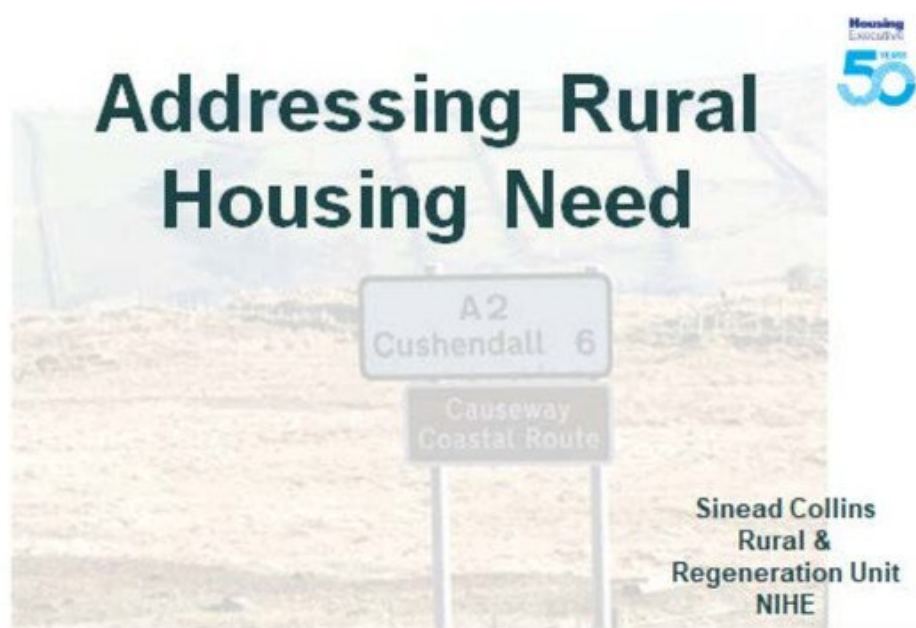
<p>11.2</p>	<p>Mr McQuillan confirmed that the average change of tenancy is 16 to 17 days in normal circumstances, but he added that he was aware of a particular situation in the Antrim & Newtownabbey Council area and will keep the Chair updated on this particular issue.</p> <p><u>Documentation for Housing Council Meetings</u></p> <p>Members requested that any documentation for Housing Council Meetings be provided at least five working days in advance of the Meeting, in order to give Members suffice time to read and prepare associated questions.</p> <p>Also were practical, slide presentations to be circulated to Members, prior to the Meetings.</p>	<p>C McQ</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p>12.0</p>	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th June 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex</u></p> <p>The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th August 2021 via Webex.</p>	

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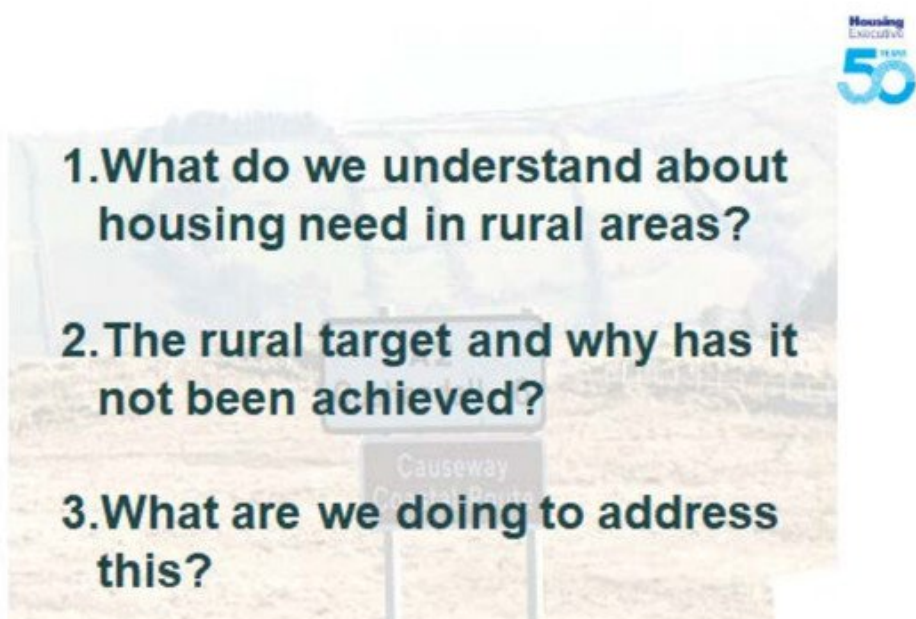
The Meeting concluded at 1.00 pm.

Appendix A

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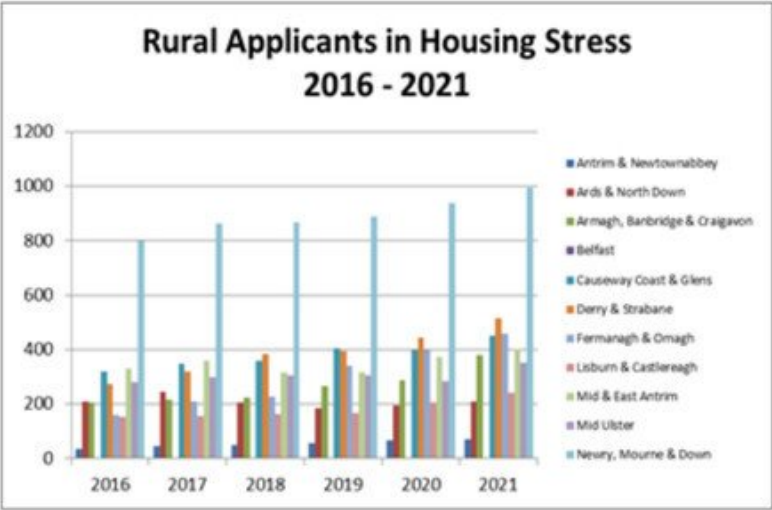


www.nihe.gov.uk

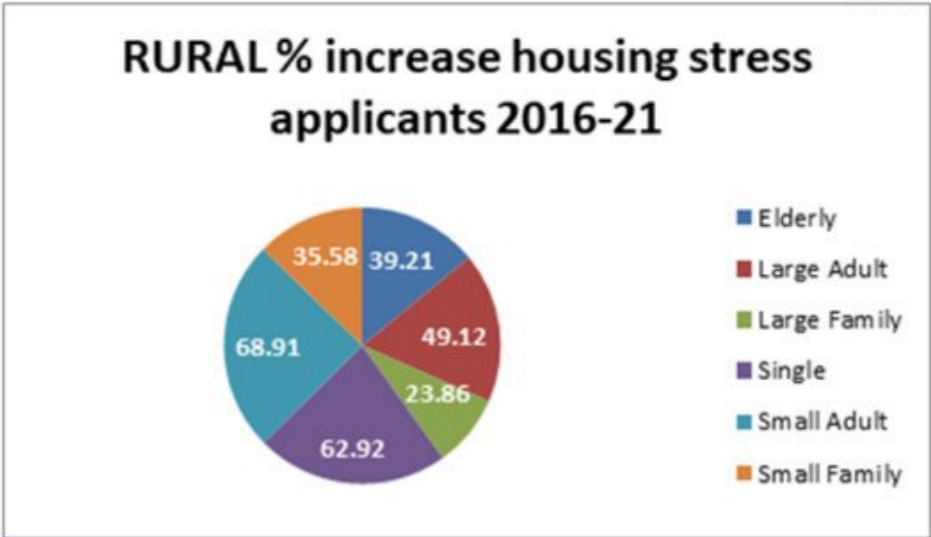


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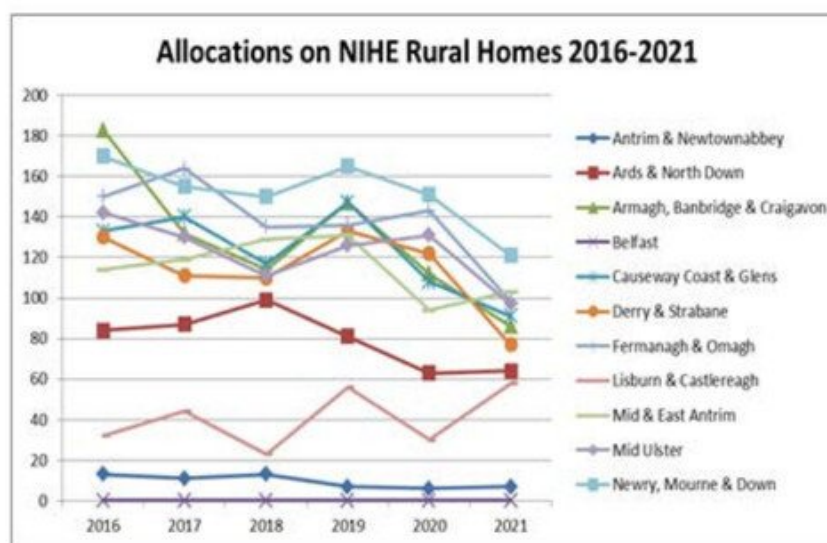


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Year	Rural Target (Units)	Rural Target (%)	Rural Actual (Units)	Rural Actual (%)
2016/17	166	10.4	84	5.2
2017/18	189	11.4	144	8.2
2018/19	205	11.5	129	7.2
2019/20	89	11.7	68	8.9
2020/21	215	11.4	98	5.2
Total	864	11.3	523	6.7

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12.3%



Delivery Year	Total SHDP Target	Delivery	Strategic Rural Target
2021/22	1,900		234
2022/23	1,950		239
2023/24	2,000		246
Total:	5,850		719

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1. Support for housing association scheme proposals

2. Identification of sites in areas of unmet need

3. Statutory representation to local councils

4. Identification of hidden (latent) need

5. Identify other opportunities to increase housing supply



www.nihe.gov.uk

Draft Rural Strategy 2021-2025



www.nihe.gov.uk

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#RuralHomesNI campaign



Reaching
our rural
customers



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Missing the target

Presentation from Rural Residents' Forum to the NI Housing Council 10.06.21

Patricia McQuillan RRF Chair
Aidan Campbell RRF Secretariat

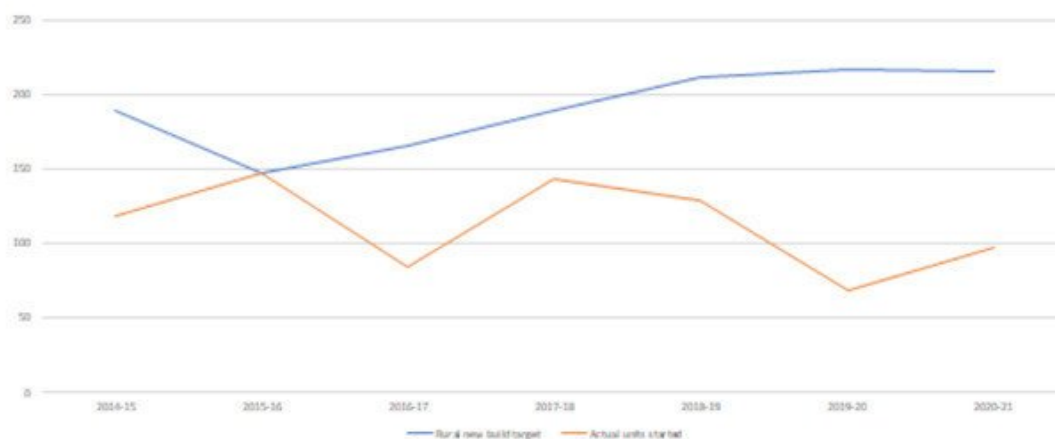
Rural Residents Forum Background

- Emerged from RCN Rural Estates project joint project with the Housing Executive 2003-2007.
- Part of the Housing Executive's Community Involvement Framework
- Holding housing Executive to account for its delivery of housing and other services in rural areas
- Identifying issues related to social housing provision in rural areas
- Missing the target for new build social housing has been a major issue we have focused on for the last three years

Why a rural new build target?

- Social Housing Development Programme sets a rural target
- Housing Executive work on rural proofing
- Some applicants indicate a preference for a rural community
- The level of “rural need” fluctuates between 10-12% of the waiting list.
- Hidden social housing need in rural communities

New Build Target for Social Housing in Rural NI v. Actual starts delivered



Why is the target being missed?

- Site constraints: smaller sites, access and services
- Wastewater infrastructure a problem in many settlements
- The increase in land prices
- Local objections & stigma
- Fewer opportunity sites exist

How do we change this?

- Ring fencing of % of SHDP budget for rural new build?
- Incentivising Rural new Build schemes?
- Put the rural New Build target in legislation – will that lead to greater accountability?
- Local area planning process
- Vesting of land?
- Modern methods of construction
- Tackling stigma associated with social housing

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Political issues

- Rural Needs Act – could application of the duty help? – Housing Executive do their bit on identifying need and rural target – what about DfC
- DfC doing a piece of work using housing benefit data to investigate if this could better direct housing need tests & social housing investment
- NDNA mentioned a housing outcome in PfG. Would this help and would an indicator on delivery of Rural new build target help accountability.
- Ultimately will need more public money invested

Thanks for listening

For Further information on work of the Rural Residents Forum contact

Rural Community Network

T 028 8676 6670

E aidan@ruralcommunitynetwork.org



CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8P8

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

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AUGUST HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 12th August 2021 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

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

Apologies

Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

1. Update from the Department of Communities on the Housing Top Issues.

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

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- NIHE Rent Increase

- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework
- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents

2. Members then received a presentation by Leeann Vincent from the Housing Executive on Investment in Housing Executive stock.

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9th September at 10.00 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

Secretary, Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

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



Local Government Annual Conference 2021

***A Better Northern Ireland:
Councils Make It Happen***

SAVE THE DATE

***Wednesday 24th November
Clandeboyne Lodge Hotel, Bangor & Online***

**Political Address from TEO Ministers
Additional Political & Policy Input (UK / NI / IRL)
Closing Address Minister Hargey, Communities Minister**

~ ~ ~

Key Themes

- 1. Our Economic Recovery & Growth**
- 2. Our Environmental Challenges**
- 3. Our Healthy Communities**

~ ~ ~

**Elected Member & Senior Officer Sessions to follow
immediately after Conference Close**

Contact events@nilga.org for further information.
Agenda and booking forms to follow.

Save the Date for the next meeting of the UK – France Local Government Forum in Nancy (France) on 25-26 October with Chief Executives. At the moment the intention is for a physical meeting but this may change to hybrid or virtual closer to the time.

NILGA is working with the other LGAs, the British Embassy in Paris and the French authorities to develop the programme and is taking initial expressions of interest from NI councils in speaking at the event. The themes are bilateral relations post Brexit, youth exchanges and green transition. It would be useful to have proposals for one speaker on each theme and then I can coordinate with the other LGAs to ensure a balanced approach on each speaker panel. As far as I am aware, there are few councils with strong twinning links with France, some are more so led by civic groups rather than the council. In terms of the environment theme it may be useful for a border area council to speak on this to bring a different element to what the GB based reps will be talking about, or to have an urban / rural mix.

We have persuaded the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to provide up to £500 of financial support to 5 delegates from Northern Ireland to attend the event, with a maximum of one per council area. One of the NILGA Office Bearer team will attend the event to represent NILGA, I will confirm who this will be asap. So this will leave up to 4 spaces, initially for elected members who will be speaking at the event on a first come first served basis. Other delegates can of course attend but the council would have to cover their costs. All booking will be done by the FCDO - all travel will be by economy class and hotels are expected to be £85-130 per night depending on the hotel chosen. Food and beverages would not be covered by the FCDO support.

We would need the names of the confirmed NI delegates **by 17 August** to be able to meet FCDO deadlines, after which the ringfenced allocation for NI would be reallocated in GB. However, it would be much appreciated if I had an idea of which councils were thinking to send people by the end of next week if possible so that I can keep the Embassy appraised.

Also, the second UK France Call for projects is now live. The competition aims to encourage cooperation between UK and French communities. In the context of the UK presidency of COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, the competition will support collaborative projects that help promote environmentally-friendly outcomes. The winners will be officially presented at the France UK Local government Forum in Nancy. A total of £30,000 is available to support common projects led by local authorities and community groups. These funds may be allocated to two or more projects, depending on the nature of the bids received. Bids should be for no more than £15,000. The deadline to apply is Monday 20 September. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-paris-second-call-for-franco-british-projects>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

Local Government Conference

The Future for the Regions / Levelling up

The Station Hotel, Carlisle 1st-3rd October 2021

Delegate Booking Form

Name of Delegate.....

Organisation

Delegate's Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone Number.....

Authorising Signature.....Order No if reqd.....

Printed Name.....

Position.....Organisation.....

To Register – Complete the delegate details above, and either:-Email a copy of this form to Cllr Brian Nelson
Generalsecretary@nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

or Post form to NAC Bookings, Council Offices, 6 Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8JJ

Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan, County, Unitary, Borough & District Councils

£295 plus VAT - Town, Parish and Community Councils

INVOICE – please send invoice to

Accommodation is available for delegates at the Conference Hotel at the special NAC Conference Delegate rate of £70 plus VAT per night. The accommodation fee is payable by delegate on departure from the hotel unless otherwise indicated on the booking form.

Delegate Accommodation Friday & Saturdays nights YES / NO

Local Authority to be billed direct for accommodation YES / NO

Please note that double and family rooms are also available (prices available on request)



Scan to Scan
to Council agenda.
25/8/21.

Our Ref.: ES/60/BE/af

10th August 2021

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

Dear Mrs Ward

Regional Home Safety Educational Facility

You will be aware of the recent closure of the regional safety facility RADAR based in Belfast. Unfortunately, due to reduced visitor numbers and staff resources as a result of the pandemic, our own Council has taken the difficult decision to close our local facility, Hazard House in Ballymoney after almost 17 years' service to the local community and beyond. The property has since been returned to the NIHE for social housing.

Members are very keen that a permanent regional facility be provided to aid the delivery of the home safety messages to reduce accidents in the home. To that end, I have been asked to write to all Councils seeking support for the building and running of a fit for purpose facility via central government funding.

I would appreciate if you could confirm your Council's support to this request and advise at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Edgar".

Bryan Edgar
Head of Health and Built Environment
Riada House, 14 Charles Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6DZ
Tel. No. 028 2766 0257

Civic Headquarters, Cloonavin,
66 Portstewart Road, Coleraine, BT52 1EY

Telephone: +44 (0) 28 7034 7034
Fax: +44 (0) 28 7034 7026
Email: info@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk
www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Marie Ward
 Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District
 Council
 O' Hagan House
 Monaghan Row
 Newry
 BT35 8DJ
council@nmandd.org

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

Your Ref: C/090/2021
 Our Ref: CORR-1535-2021
 Date: 25 August 2021

Dear *Marie,*

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding your motion to support access to GP counselling services.

I note the outcomes sought by the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to availability and accessibility of counselling services.

Firstly, please be assured that I am committed to ensuring that people get the help they need when they need it, without barriers or limitations.

You will be aware that I recently published a Mental Health Strategy 2021 – 31. The Strategy contains a number of actions which, individually and collectively, are designed to help ensure that individuals have good and equitable access to mental health services.

Adult mental health services in Northern Ireland are delivered in line with the mental health care pathway and the stepped care model. In general steps one and two are provided through primary care. This includes counselling, involvement of the community and voluntary sectors and, where available, referral to talking therapies/wellbeing/psychological therapies hubs. Many GPs have signed up to a Local Enhanced Service (LES) to provide a mild to moderate depression counselling service in-house. This LES is delivered by GP practices which contract to provide the service against a service specification. The time a person has to wait to access GP in-house counselling services will vary according to the clinical need of each individual patient.

My Department has been working to make additional mental health support available in primary care through the multidisciplinary team programme which has introduced new social work, physiotherapy and mental health roles into general practice. Through a holistic approach, it provides local populations with timely and accessible health and wellbeing support at the earliest stages, and is a cornerstone of transformation across the HSC.

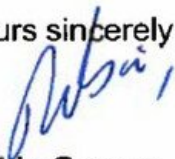
The Mental Health Strategy will change how mental health services are structured, with a greater focus on the community. This means reorganising mental health services around the community, with an increased focus on our GPs. This will involve increasing the availability of therapy hubs to meet local needs and will ensure a focus is maintained on, and will result in improved outcomes for, individuals. The Department has recently created a working group to consider new therapy hubs in line with the Strategy, and work is progressing at speed.

I also intend to refocus and reorganise primary and secondary care mental health services and support services around the community to ensure a person-centred approach, working with statutory and Community and Voluntary partners to create local pathways within a regional system. This will ensure timely access to services from primary and secondary care, and the community and voluntary sector, and will reduce waiting times. I have also made available £10m for a Mental Health Support Fund for charitable organisations to help them in their work in delivering mental health care and support to those who need it.

Implementation of the Strategy will require significant work so that we can ensure Northern Ireland has world-class and leading mental health services. It will also require significant funding. I remain committed to this work and to ensuring the best possible mental health outcomes for everyone in Northern Ireland.

I trust that you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Robin Swann
Minister of Health