



February 7th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 7th February 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Hybrid - Downshire Chamber & via 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 10 January 2022

[Action Sheet Council Meeting 10 01 2022.pdf](#)

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4.0 To set a District Rate for the Financial Year 2022/23 as required under section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011, as amended by The Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.

[Council Report re District Rate 2022-23 v1.pdf](#)

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4.1 Medium Term Financial Plan

[Appendix 1 - Medium Term Financial Plan.pdf](#)

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4.2 Capital Strategy Report 2022-23

[Appendix 2 - Capital Strategy Report 2022-23.pdf](#)

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4.3 Four Year Capital Programme

[Appendix 3 - Four Year Capital Programme 31.1.2021.pdf](#)

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4.4 Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022-23

[Appendix 4 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022-23.pdf](#)

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4.5 Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2022-23

[Appendix 5 - MRP Statement 2022-23.pdf](#)

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

4.6 Action Sheets of Strategic Finance Working Group

This item is 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.

📄 [Appendix 6 - Action Sheets of meetings of SFWG to consider rate setting process 2022-23.pdf](#) **Not included**

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

5.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 10 January 2022

📄 [Council_Minutes_10-01-2022.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 11 January 2022

📄 [Minutes Audit Committee 11.01.2022.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2022

📄 [ERT Minutes 17.01.2022.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 20 January 2022

📄 [SPR Committee Minutes -20.01.2022.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2022

📄 [AHC Committee Minutes 24.01.2022.pdf](#)

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📄 [AHC - Appendix 1 ORNI Presentation.pdf](#)

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10.0 Minutes of Special Active and Healthy Communities 13 January 2022

📄 [Special AHC Committee Minutes 13-01-2022.pdf](#)

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11.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Services Committee Meeting held on 26 January 2022

📄 [Minutes NS Committee Meeting 26.01.2022.pdf](#)

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12.0 Planning Section

There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee

Correspondence and Conferences

13.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Minutes - 9 December 2021

 *Housing Council Minutes 9th December 2021.pdf*

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14.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - January 2022

 *Members Bulletin - January 2022.pdf*

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15.0 APSE Meeting Dates

 *APSE National Council Meeting Dates.pdf*

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16.0 NAC Meeting Dates

Retrospective approval required for Cllr Casey for attendance at Executive Meeting in Leeds - 7th February 2022

Approval required for upcoming meetings as set out in report attached

NAC Community Empowerment Conference in Glasgow 25th-27th February 2022

 *NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS ANNUAL EVENTS.pdf*

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 *NAC Conf agenda.pdf*

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 *NAC Conference Weekend.pdf*

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 *NAC Glasgow Booking form.pdf*

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17.0 Response from Department for Communities re NOM C/243/2021- Fuel Poverty Taskforce

Letter dated 13 January 2022 attached.

 *Response from Dept for Communities re C.243.2021 Fuel Poverty.pdf*

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18.0 Response from Department of Finance re NOM C/243/2021 - Fuel Poverty Taskforce

Letter dated 17 January 2022 attached.

 *Response from Dept of Finance re. NOM C.243.2021.pdf*

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19.0 Response from Department for Infrastructure re. NOM C/244/2021 - Road Network

Letter dated 21 January 2022 attached.

 *Response from DfI re. NOM C.244.2021.pdf*

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20.0 Response from Department of Health re. NOM C/013/2022 - Dental Services during Covid 19 Pandemic

Letter dated 24 January 2022 attached.

 *Response from Dept of Health re NOM C.012.2022 Dental Care.pdf*

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21.0 Response from Department for Communities ref. C/011/2022 - Housing Crisis / AirBnB

Letter dated 28 January 2022 attached.

 *Response from DfC re NOM C.011.2022.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

22.0 Notice of Motion - Platinum Jubilee

Notice of Motion received from Councillors Taylor, Lewis and Burgess:

"To ask Council to establish a funding programme to enable local citizens and community organisations across the District to mark the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II"

23.0 Notice of Motion - Online Accounts

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Walker:

'That this Council write to twitter and other social media platforms calling for improved scrutiny of online accounts.

And also write to the Department of Justice Minister to explore a change in the law to ban anonymous accounts.'

24.0 Notice of Motion - Female Self Defence

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Malone:

'After the shocking murder of Ashling Murphy in Tullamore I am requesting that Newry Mourne and Down District Council organise and advertise Female Self Defence Courses in all local Leisure Centres, Community facilities etc to increase the confidence of our local female population. These courses could provide much needed expertise to females, which they can utilise to maybe save their or other individuals lives if they find themselves in difficult situations.'

25.0 Notice of Motion - Animal Welfare

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Brown:

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

26.0 Emergency Notice of Motion - Emergency Surgery Provision at Daisy Hill Hospital

Emergency Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mulgrew:

"This Council expresses its complete opposition to the Southern Trust's decision to temporarily remove Emergency Surgery provision at Daisy Hill Hospital. We call on that decision to be reversed and efforts redoubled to guarantee continued and improved service provision for people in this district.

We further call on all parties to support the proposed 2022-25 Budget which will see huge increases in health spending across the north.

We ask that this motion be forwarded to the Southern Trust and the Health Minister."

27.0 Emergency Notice of Motion - Ports

Emergency Notice of Motion received from Councillor Ó Muirí:

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

The Council further notes with concern that this is likely to impact its ability to meet the legal obligations for which it is responsible, relating to inspections at the Port.

This Council joins with Belfast City council in initiating legal proceedings to compel the Minister and the British Government to comply with Protocol requirements, subject to any current derogations in the grace period.

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 4 NOVEMBER 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/003/2022	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 08.12.21	<p>The action sheet was agreed.</p> <p><i>C/246/2021: Notice of Motion – Meeting Government Targets for Electric Vehicles</i></p> <p>It was agreed an officer from Building Control would contact Councillor Reilly in relation to his comments on how it had been made obligatory for Councils in England to have Building Control departments install individual electric car chargers.</p> <p><i>C/242/2021: Notice of Motion – Down High School</i></p> <p>It was agreed to note Councillor Reilly and McAteer's comments regarding the possibility of a presentation to a Committee by a group called Forest Schools Awards.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon / C Jackson</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Building Control Officer contacted Cllr Reilly</p>	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/004/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 06.12.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/005/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 08.12.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. A date for a meeting with the Southern Trust regarding Daisy Hill Hospital and the expansion of services to be arranged as a matter of priority.	Democratic Services E Devlin	Noted Meeting held on 1 February 2022	Y
C/006/2022	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 13.12.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. <i>ERT/245/2021: Warrenpoint Pontoon</i> It was agreed Mr Mallon would contact Councillor Gibbons directly regarding his query in relation to an equality impact assessment for undertaking the dredging of the pontoon pocket area by Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. It was agreed Mr Mallon would contact Councillor Reilly in relation to his request for a site meeting with contractors and Councillors in relation to Annalong Harbour.	Democratic Services C Mallon C Mallon	Noted Actioned Actioned	 Y Y
C/007/2022	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 16.12.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted subject to amendment to item SPR/194/2021: Notice of Motion – Revenue Targets from Renewables.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/008/2022	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 20.12.21	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>Mr Lipsett agreed to speak with Councillor Reilly regarding points raised in relation to play park inspections and anti-social behaviour in the area of the Killeel Bowling Pavilion.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>M Lipsett</p>	Noted	
C/009/2022	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 21.12.21	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p><i>NS/187/2021: Maintenance of Newry Canal from Fearon's Lock to Reilly's Lock</i></p> <p>Councillor McAteer said there was the potential for major opportunity and asked if Waterways Ireland could be included. Mr Mallon said he would take Councillor McAteer's comments on board.</p> <p><i>NS/193/2021: Business Case for Medium-sized Chassis Cab and Cleansing Sweeper Vehicle Replacements</i></p> <p>Councillor Sharvin said he considered there to be an imbalance of where the vehicles were located within the district and enquired how this imbalance would be addressed. Mr McBride agreed to speak to Councillor Sharvin outside of the meeting on this issue.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon</p> <p>J McBride</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed – email sent</p>	
C/010/2022	Planning Committee	<p>The extract from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2021 was noted.</p> <p>It was agreed that a study be undertaken to determine the response times of statutory consultees and depending on the outcome,</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>ongoing</p>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		a letter be sent to the Minister asking that Consultees respond within specified timeframes.			
C/011/2022	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11.11. 2021	The minutes were noted. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Minister requesting a review be undertaken to ascertain the impact Airbnb was having on local accommodation provision.	Democratic Services	Noted Letter sent	
C/012/2022	Bulletin dated December 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council	The bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/013/2022	Correspondence from DOH re. NOM C/111/2021 – Dental services during Covid 19	The correspondence was noted. It was agreed to write to the Minister of Health to request that priority be given to ensuring an extension to the 12 month free dental care period for mothers who had given birth during the Covid-19 pandemic period be implemented and that a decision on this matter be forthcoming as soon as possible.	Democratic Services	Noted Letter sent	
C/014/2022	Correspondence from DfI re. NOM C/202/2021 - Permanent 20 mph Speed Limits	The correspondence was noted. Local DEAs look at the schools within their respective areas with speeding issues and report back to Council.	Democratic Services All DEA Co-ordinators	Noted A Rennick collating a report to go to AHC Committee	

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	7 th February 2022
Subject:	District Rate 2022-23
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Marie Ward, Chief Executive Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Gerard Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting)

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	For noting only	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Members are asked to approve the recommendations at 3.1 below.

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>District councils are obliged under legislation to fix for the next financial year the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates made by the Council before 15 February each year; section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and regulation 3 of Part 2 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 refer.</p> <p>Last year, due to the COVID19 emergency situation District Councils were obliged under the Rates Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 to set district rates not later than 1 March. However, after consultation with councils via SOLACE NI the Department has agreed with the Department of Finance (DoF) that this date will be changed back to 15 February for the 2022/23 financial year and subsequent years.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Chief Executive's submission to Council on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and robustness of the revenue estimates.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Chief Executive, as Chief Financial Officer is required to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves position as part of the rate setting process.</p> <p>Detailed estimates have been formulated, presented and scrutinised by members via the Strategic Finance Working Group (SFWG) meetings. These have taken into account past outturn, current spending plans and likely future demand and pressures.</p>

	<p>Significant uncertainties highlighted by the Chief Executive</p> <p>Future impact of COVID We continue to operate in unprecedented times. The impact of COVID continues to impact on Council's operations and finances in the current year. The future impact of COVID on operations, on our rate base and on our finances remains uncertain, and many assumptions are included within our budgets for 2022-23 (see 2.3).</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of other significant uncertainties within the current estimates:</p> <p>Draft budget at NI Executive level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NI Executive is currently determining a three year budget for NI (2022-25), with a draft budget out for consultation. In the absence of an agreed and legislated budget, there are some significant uncertainties which remain at the time of striking the district rate. • Included within our 2022-23 estimates are various areas of funding received from central government. We have included amounts on the basis of our previous arrangements with central government. However, it is important to note that until such times as a budget is agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive these funding streams are uncertain. <p>Rates Support Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils recently received additional sums of Rates Support Grant (RSG) for the current year, 2021-22. In accordance with Departmental Directions this has been allocated to reserves in the current year. • Councils have been advised of the percentage allocations of RSG being made available by the DfC for 2022-23. However, until a draft budget is agreed, the total amount of RSG to be awarded to the local government sector is not yet confirmed for the year 2022-23. <p>Uncertainties surrounding Brexit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various uncertainties remain as to the impact of Brexit on the NI Economy and NMDDC rate base and funding streams, and no provision has been made in the estimates for any financial implications arising. Furthermore, included within our 2022-23 estimates are various areas of funding received from the European Union under programmes which we have been advised will continue during the 2022-23 year.
2.2	<p>Long Term Financing of Council</p> <p>I am satisfied that the estimates presented, subject to the significant uncertainties noted above, should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2022-23 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to the Council as known to us have been made in the preparation of the estimates.</p> <p>The minimum prudent level of reserves that the Council should maintain is a matter of judgement. CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and</p>

	<p>Accountancy) guidance does not set a statutory minimum level but advised Councils to have reserves appropriate to meet your medium term financial commitments. Therefore, it is up to the Council itself, taking into account all the relevant local circumstances, to make a professional judgement on what the appropriate level of reserves and balances should be.</p> <p>As noted above, there remain many significant financial uncertainties facing Council. The impact of COVID and of forthcoming revaluations on our rate base remain unknown. Sums have been ringfenced in reserves to protect the Council and ratepayer in this regard and this will continue to be closely monitored by SFWG.</p> <p>Councils capital programme ambitions are a corporate priority and Council reserves will assist with any economic impacts in relation to the increasing costs of construction and future economic challenges.</p> <p>The general fund reserve of Council is expected to be in the region of £22m at 1 April 2022, representing around 34% of its gross expenditure.</p> <p>I am therefore content that the current reserves held by the Council are adequate to meet the medium term financial commitments of NMDDC.</p>
2.3	<p>Key factors contributing to proposed rate increase in 2022-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of COVID will continue to affect Council services in 2022-23, with assumptions made and included within budgets as to the continuing impact of COVID on our trading operations and, most notably our income generation. • A 2% pay increase for Local Government employees has been estimated and included in budgets for the 2022-23 year. The national insurance increase from April 2022 has also been factored into Council's budgets. • The increased tonnages and associated costs of waste and recycling across the district as a result of the COVID pandemic has been estimated to continue into 2022-23 and is included in the budgets. • DfC have advised NMDDC on our percentage RSG allocation, and further advised of the total amount of RSG in the draft budget for the 2022-23 year. Included in budgets is an assumption that the RSG allocation will be in accordance with the draft budget. • Increased costs of fuel, utilities and insurance which are impacting globally has seen an increase in budgeted costs for 2022-23.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are asked to approve the considerations and recommendations of the Strategic Finance Working Group in relation to the 2022-23 rate setting process (see Appendix 6) and, having regard to the Chief Executive's statement as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 (see 2.1 & 2.2 above):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve an increase in the district rate for 2022-23 of 1.95% based on an estimated penny product of 2,567,939 meaning a non-domestic rate of 24.9209 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4224 pence;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Approve the Medium Term Financial plan and authorise the 2022-23 expenditure included in the estimates (Appendix 1); 3. Approve the Capital Strategy Report for 2022-23 as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code. (See Appendix 2); 4. Approve the capital programme (see Appendix 3); 5. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022-23 (see Appendix 4); 6. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2022-23 (see Appendix 5). 7. Note the action sheets of the Strategic Finance Working Group relating to the rate setting process. (see Appendix 6: Restricted item)
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Resource implications are as detailed in the appendices.
5.0	Equality and good relations implications
5.1	No equality or good relations implications have been identified.
6.0	Rural Proofing implications
6.1	Due regard to rural needs has been considered in making the recommendation.
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1: Medium Term Financial Plan Appendix 2: Capital Strategy Report 2022-23 Appendix 3: Four Year Capital Programme Appendix 4: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022-23 Appendix 5: Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2022-23 Appendix 6: Action Sheets of meetings of Strategic Finance Working Group to consider rate setting process 2022-23 [Restricted item].</p>
8.0	Background documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

APPENDIX 2

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Capital Strategy Report 2022/23

Introduction

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

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

Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is where the Authority spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets. The Authority has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £2k are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

In 2022/23, the Authority is planning capital expenditure of £29m as summarised below:

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

	2020/21 actual	2021/22 forecast	2022/23 budget *	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget
General Fund services	12.3	13.8	29.0	42.7	31.6
Add: Leasing	-	-	1.7	-	-
TOTAL	12.3	13.8	30.7	42.7	31.6

**An estimated £1.7m of capital expenditure in 2022/23 arising from a change in the accounting for leases will be brought onto the Balance Sheet and does not represent cash expenditure.*

The main General Fund capital projects in 2022/23 include: City Centre Regeneration Project £12.8m, Albert Basin Park £2m, Castlewellan Forest Park £0.96m, Kilbroney Park Phase 2 £0.94m, Vehicles £3.7m, IT and Equipment £1.08m, Planning IT System £0.8m.

Governance: Service managers prepare business cases on new projects which are included in the Authority's capital programme. Projections are collated by the Corporate Finance Department who calculate the financing cost (which can be nil if the project is fully externally financed). The Council's Finance Working Group appraises all projects based on a comparison of service priorities against financing costs and makes recommendations to Council. The final capital programme is then agreed by full Council at a special meeting to ratify the Council's Four-Year Plan in February each year (in March 2021 due to Covid).

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

Table 2: Capital financing in £ millions

	2020/21 actual	2021/22 forecast	2022/23 budget *	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget
External sources	6.7	1.3	5.7	17.0	18.1
Capital resources	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	-
Revenue resources	0.3	11.5	2.3	-0.3	-
Debt	4.0	0.0	21.7	25.0	13.5
TOTAL	12.3	13.8	30.7	42.7	31.6

* An estimated £1.7m of debt financing in 2022/23 will arise from a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent new payments

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

Table 3: Replacement of prior years' debt finance in £ millions

	2020/21 actual	2021/22 forecast	2022/23 budget	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget
Capital resources	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	-
Revenue resources	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.8	5.8
TOTAL	7.1	6.2	6.2	6.8	5.8

- The Authority's full minimum revenue provision statement is shown at Appendix 5

The Authority's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt. The CFR is expected to increase by £18.9m during 2022/23. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Authority's estimated CFR is as follows:

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

	31.3.2021 actual	31.3.2022 forecast	31.3.2023 budget *	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget
Total CFR	90.9	97.2	116.1	135.0	142.6

*£1.7m of the CFR increase in 2022/23 arises from a change in the accounting for leases

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

Asset disposals: When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans

and investments also generate capital receipts. The Authority plans to receive £1m of capital receipts in the coming financial year as follows:

Table 5: Capital receipts receivable in £ millions

	2020/21 actual	2021/22 forecast	2022/23 budget	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget
Asset sales	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	-

Treasury Management

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

Due to decisions taken in the past, the Authority currently has £69.7m borrowing at an average interest rate of 5.63% and £18m treasury investments at an average rate of 0.03%.

Borrowing strategy: The Authority's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Authority therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheap short-term loans (currently available at around 0.10%) and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher (currently 1.5 to 2.5%).

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

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

	31.3.2021 actual	31.3.2022 forecast	31.3.2023 budget	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	74.1	69.7	86.8	106.7	114.7
Capital Financing Requirement	90.9	97.2	116.1	135.0	142.6

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

Liability benchmark: To compare the Authority's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £1m at each year-end. This benchmark is currently £82.9m and is forecast to rise to £116.9m over the next three years.

Table 7: Borrowing and the Liability Benchmark in £ millions

	31.3.2021 actual	31.3.2022 forecast	31.3.2023 budget	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget
Outstanding borrowing	74.1	69.7	86.8	106.7	114.7
Liability benchmark	76.6	82.9	89.6	108.3	116.9

The table shows that the Authority expects to remain borrowed below its liability benchmark.

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

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

	2021/22 limit	2022/23 limit	2023/24 limit	2024/25 limit
Authorised limit - total external debt	114.2	126.1	145.0	152.6
Operational boundary - total external debt	105.7	116.1	135.0	142.6

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

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

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

Table 9: Treasury management investments in £millions

	31.3.2021 actual	31.3.2022 forecast	31.3.2023 budget	31.3.2024 budget	31.3.2025 budget
Near-term investments	16.2	15.0	5.5	5.0	5.0

- Further details on treasury investments are included in the treasury management strategy

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

- The treasury management prudential indicators are included in the treasury management strategy

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

Revenue Budget Implications

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

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

	2020/21 actual	2021/22 forecast	2022/23 budget *	2023/24 budget	2024/25 budget
Financing costs (£m)	8.1	7.3	7.4	8.4	8.8
Proportion of net revenue stream	12.3%	11.3%	11.4%	12.6%	12.9%

** £0.05m of the increase in financing costs from 2022/23 arises from a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent additional cost to the authority*

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

Knowledge and Skills

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

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

Description	Direct orate	TYPE	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
Renewable Energy Projects/(Sustainability)	AHC	Sustainability		100,000				100,000		100,000
Active Travel Masterplan	AHC	Sustainability		40,000				40,000		40,000
Water Fountains	AHC	Sustainability		22,000				22,000		22,000
Ballykinler Community Centre	AHC	Community	71,000					71,000		71,000
Renewable Energy Projects(C. Centres)	AHC	Community	148,000	50,000	50,000			248,000		248,000
Community Centre Enhancements	AHC	Community	32,900	50,000	50,000			132,900		132,900
Community Engagement Capital Build - Financial Assistance	AHC	Community	323,000					323,000		323,000
16 The Square Rostrevor Refurbishment	AHC	Community	590,400					590,400		590,400
Wi-Fi Community Centres	AHC	Community	75,000	0				75,000		75,000
Derrybegs Path Way BMX Trail SEUPB	AHC	Community	50,000	368,465				418,465	-318,465	100,000
Warrenpoint Community Centre	AHC	Community	150,000	200,000				350,000		350,000

Description	Direct orate	TYPE	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
Trojan Horse/ Fly. Horse Playground Upgrade	AHC	Community	30,000					30,000		30,000
Pitches- REFUCUS (SIF)	AHC	Community	670,500	27,000				697,500	-547,500	150,000
RDP - Match Funding Various Capital Schemes	AHC	Community	84,000	0				84,000		84,000
Camlough Community Centre	AHC	Community	50,000	0				50,000		50,000
Newry - Albert Basin Park (Consultancy 2nd Access)	AHC	Regeneration	150,000	2,020,000	7,100,000	3,550,000	3,550,000	16,370,000	-16,200,000	170,000
Bann Road Car Parking - Additional spaces and Pavilion	AHC	Playing Fields	295,000					295,000		295,000
Kilkeel L. Centre- Capital Works	AHC	Leisure Centre	30,000	200,000	750,000			980,000		980,000
Newcastle Centre/Tropicana	AHC	Leisure Centre	220,000	30,000				250,000		250,000
Derryjeckagh Complex Football Pitch	AHC	Playing Fields	15,350					15,350		15,350
Derryjeckagh Soccer Pavilion	AHC	Playing Fields		0	250,000			250,000		250,000
Community Walking Trails	AHC	Sports	100,000					100,000	0	100,000

Description	Direct orate	TYPE	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion	AHC	Playing Fields	50,000	218,550				268,550		268,550
Playpark Signage	AHC	Playgrounds	30,000	30,000	30,000			90,000		90,000
Kilbroney Pitches	AHC	Sports	60,000	50,000				110,000		110,000
Donard Park -Car park Ext.	AHC	Car parks	250,000					250,000		250,000
Clanyre Park Amenity Site New Paths	AHC	Amenity	25,000					25,000		25,000
Newcastle Rock Pool	AHC	Leisure Centre	50,000					50,000		50,000
Multi Sports Hubs Strategy	AHC	Sports		50,000				50,000		50,000
Jennings Park	AHC	Playing Fields	150,000					150,000		150,000
Play Areas -New Equipment	AHC	Playing Fields	75,000	25,000	25,000			125,000		125,000
Play Strategy	AHC	Playing Fields	773,333	506,667				1,280,000	-70,000	1,210,000
Sports Facility Stigy - Financial Assistance	AHC	Sports	0	275,000				275,000		275,000
Bann Road, Castlewellan - Storm Attenuation Project	AHC	Car parks	95,000					95,000		95,000
Newcastle Centre - Capital Build Project	AHC	Playing Fields	100,000	350,000				450,000		450,000

Description	Direct orate	TYPE	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
Islands Park N'Castle Paths	AHC	Sports		10,000				10,000		10,000
Dundrum Playing Field - Car Parking and Pavilion	AHC	Playing Fields		115,000				115,000		115,000
Milltown Sports Pavilion	AHC	Playing Fields		250,000				250,000		250,000
Planning - I.T. System	ERT	I.T.		787,000	8,000			795,000		795,000
Delamont	ERT	Tourism	10,000	50,000				60,000		60,000
Ballykinler Hut Project	ERT	Heritage	215,000					215,000	-150,000	65,000
Camlough Lake - Recreational Hub	ERT	Tourism	20,000	300,000	1,900,000	540,000	540,000	3,300,000		3,300,000
Forest Parks Development (REFCUS)Narnia &MTB Trails	ERT	Tourism	100,000	90,000				190,000		190,000
Annalong Harbour	ERT	Tourism	420,000	20,000				440,000		440,000
Slieve Gullion Forest Park (Trails & Walled Garden)	ERT	Tourism	890,000	50,000				940,000	-500,000	440,000
Lock no. 6	ERT	Tourism	30,000	70,000				100,000		100,000

Description	Direct orate	TYPE	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
Down County Museum - Ventilation Upgrade	ERT	Tourism	5,000	25,000				30,000		30,000
Tyrella Car Park/Beach -Car Park&Amenity Bldg.	ERT	Tourism	20,000	300,000				320,000		320,000
Camlough Lake - Vesting	ERT	Tourism		100,000				100,000		100,000
Annalong E.I.	ERT	Tourism	62,500					62,500	-31,250	31,250
Newcastle Pontoon	ERT	Tourism						0		0
Warrenpoint Town Hall - Ventilation	ERT	Tourism		15,000				15,000		15,000
Kilbroney Park - Phase 2	ERT	Tourism		940,000				940,000	-500,000	440,000
Mourne Gateway Project	ERT	Tourism	131,000	448,598	6,161,752	18,719,353	18,719,353	44,180,056	-29,766,870	14,413,186
Kilbroney Park, Various schemes	ERT	Tourism	194,000					194,000	-90,000	104,000
Delamont - Master Plan	ERT	Tourism						0		0
Financial Assistance for Tourist Accommodation	ERT	Tourism		500,000	500,000			1,000,000		1,000,000
Forest Park - TNI Funded	ERT							0		0
Bann Rd Car park(Park&Ride)	ERT	Park & Ride	15,000	100,000				115,000	-50,000	65,000

Description	Direct orate	TYPE	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
Saintfield Car Park Upgrade	ERT			198,735				198,735		198,735
City Centre Re-gen. Project	ERT	Regeneration	1,400,000	12,800,000	17,885,000	8,112,000	2,603,000	42,800,000	-8,000,000	34,800,000
Forkhill Regeneration	ERT	Regeneration	10,000	40,000				50,000	-50,000	0
Carlingford lough Greenway - Site Investigation	ERT	Tourism	0	40,000				40,000		40,000
Warrenpoint Front Shore P.R. Scheme	ERT	Public Realm	0	325,000	325,000			650,000		650,000
Newry - City Centre EIS	ERT	Enterprise	5,000					5,000	0	5,000
Downpatrick Regeneration	ERT	Regeneration		20,000				20,000		20,000
Derrymore Domain Improvement Scheme - 25 year lease - REFUCUS	ERT	Heritage	59,990					59,990	-50,000	9,990
Village Actions Plans (R.E.F.C.U.S.)	ERT	Regeneration	61,000	0				61,000	0	61,000
P.R. Enhancement(inc Grant)	ERT		510,800	15,000				525,800	-394,900	130,900

Description	Direct orate	TYPE	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
Castlewellan Forest Pk.(HLF & DAERA Funded) - REFCUS	ERT	Tourism	925,780	959,780	2,585,682			4,471,242	-2,422,831	2,048,411
Small Towns Programme (DFC /DAERA)	ERT	Regeneration	20,000	300,000	1,900,000	660,000	320,000	3,200,000	-3,000,000	200,000
Warrenpoint Municipal Park	ERT	Tourism		76,000				76,000		76,000
BRCD Programme Costs	ERT	Regeneration						0		0
GREENWAYS - NEWRY AND DPK	ERT	Tourism	50,000					50,000		50,000
GREENWAYS - NEWRY AND Warrenpoint	ERT	Tourism	45,000	50,000				95,000		95,000
Warrenpoint Marina	ERT	Regeneration		100,000				100,000		100,000
Bus Shelters	NS	Bus Shelters	27,500					27,500		27,500
Kilbroney Cemetery Ph.2	NS	Graveyard	£30,000	£279,793				309,793		309,793
Warrenpoint Graveyard Extension	NS	Graveyard	191,000	0				191,000	0	191,000
Provision of Secondary Glazing - Downshire Civic Centre	NS	Facilities	10,000	33,000				43,000		43,000
Heater Boiler Replacement	NS	Facilities	5,750					5,750		5,750

Description	Direct orate	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Total Gross	Income/Grant	Net Budget
GRAND TOTAL		13,812,210	29,038,237	42,661,032	31,581,353	25,732,353	142,825,185	-£62,141,816	£80,683,369
	Net Capital Spend						80,683,369		£0
	Amendment Log Total						80,683,369		£0
							0		

Appendix 4

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23

Introduction

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

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

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

External Context

Economic background: The ongoing impact on the UK from coronavirus, together with higher inflation, higher interest rates, and the country's trade position post-Brexit, will be major influences on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2022/23.

The Bank of England (BoE) increased Bank Rate to 0.25% in December 2021 while maintaining its Quantitative Easing programme at £895 billion. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 8-1 in favour of raising rates, and unanimously to maintain the asset purchase programme.

Within the announcement the MPC noted that the pace of the global recovery was broadly in line with its November Monetary Policy Report. Prior to the emergence of the Omicron coronavirus variant, the Bank also considered the UK economy to be evolving in line with expectations, however the increased uncertainty and risk to activity the new variant presents, the Bank revised down its estimates for Q4 GDP growth to 0.6% from 1.0%. Inflation was projected to be higher than previously forecast, with CPI likely to remain above 5% throughout the winter and peak at 6% in April 2022. The labour market was generally performing better than previously forecast and the BoE now expects the unemployment rate to fall to 4% compared to 4.5% forecast previously, but notes that Omicron could weaken the demand for labour.

UK CPI for November 2021 registered 5.1% year on year, up from 4.2% in the previous month. Core inflation, which excludes the more volatile components, rose to 4.0% y/y from 3.4%. The most recent

labour market data for the three months to October 2021 showed the unemployment rate fell to 4.2% while the employment rate rose to 75.5%.

In October 2021, the headline 3-month average annual growth rate for wages were 4.9% for total pay and 4.3% for regular pay. In real terms, after adjusting for inflation, total pay growth was up 1.7% while regular pay was up 1.0%. The change in pay growth has been affected by a change in composition of employee jobs, where there has been a fall in the number and proportion of lower paid jobs.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 1.3% in the third calendar quarter of 2021 according to the initial estimate, compared to a gain of 5.5% q/q in the previous quarter, with the annual rate slowing to 6.6% from 23.6%. The Q3 gain was modestly below the consensus forecast of a 1.5% q/q rise. During the quarter activity measures were boosted by sectors that reopened following pandemic restrictions, suggesting that wider spending was flat. Looking ahead, while monthly GDP readings suggest there had been some increase in momentum in the latter part of Q3, Q4 growth is expected to be soft.

GDP growth in the euro zone increased by 2.2% in calendar Q3 2021 following a gain of 2.1% in the second quarter and a decline of -0.3% in the first. Headline inflation has been strong, with CPI registering 4.9% year-on-year in November, the fifth successive month of inflation. Core CPI inflation was 2.6% y/y in November, the fourth month of successive increases from July's 0.7% y/y. At these levels, inflation is above the European Central Bank's target of 'below, but close to 2%', putting some pressure on its long-term stance of holding its main interest rate of 0%.

The US economy expanded at an annualised rate of 2.1% in Q3 2021, slowing sharply from gains of 6.7% and 6.3% in the previous two quarters. In its December 2021 interest rate announcement, the Federal Reserve continue to maintain the Fed Funds rate at between 0% and 0.25% but outlined its plan to reduce its asset purchase programme earlier than previously stated and signalled they are in favour of tightening interest rates at a faster pace in 2022, with three 0.25% movements now expected.

Credit outlook: Since the start of 2021, relatively benign credit conditions have led to credit default swap (CDS) prices for the larger UK banks to remain low and had steadily edged down throughout the year up until mid-November when the emergence of Omicron has caused them to rise modestly. However, the generally improved economic outlook during 2021 helped bank profitability and reduced the level of impairments many had made as provisions for bad loans. However, the relatively recent removal of coronavirus-related business support measures by the government means the full impact on bank balance sheets may not be known for some time.

The improved economic picture during 2021 led the credit rating agencies to reflect this in their assessment of the outlook for the UK sovereign as well as several financial institutions, revising them from negative to stable and even making a handful of rating upgrades.

Looking ahead, while there is still the chance of bank losses from bad loans as government and central bank support is removed, the institutions on the Authority's counterparty list are well-capitalised and general credit conditions across the sector are expected to remain benign. Duration limits for counterparties on the Authority's lending list are under regular review and will continue to reflect economic conditions and the credit outlook.

Interest rate forecast: The Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose is forecasting that Bank Rate will continue to rise in calendar Q1 2022 to subdue inflationary pressures and the perceived desire by the BoE to move away from emergency levels of interest rates.

Investors continue to price in multiple rises in Bank Rate over the next forecast horizon, and Arlingclose believes that although interest rates will rise again, the increases will not be to the extent predicted by financial markets. In the near-term, the risks around Arlingclose's central case are to the upside while over the medium-term the risks become more balanced.

Yields are expected to remain broadly at current levels over the medium-term, with the 5, 10 and 20 year gilt yields expected to average around 0.65%, 0.90%, and 1.15% respectively. The risks around for short and medium-term yields are initially to the upside but shifts lower later, while for long-term yields the risk is to the upside. However, as ever there will almost certainly be short-term volatility due to economic and political uncertainty and events.

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

For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that new treasury investments will be made at an average rate of 0.03%, and that new long-term loans will be borrowed at an average rate of 2.5%.

Local Context

On 31st December 2021, the Authority held £71.9m of borrowing and £18m of treasury investments. This is set out in further detail at **Appendix B**. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.3.21 Actual £m	31.3.22 Estimate £m	31.3.23 Forecast £m	31.3.24 Forecast £m	31.3.25 Forecast £m
Capital financing requirement	90.9	97.2	116.1	135.0	142.6
Less: Other debt liabilities *	-	-	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7
Loans CFR	90.9	97.2	114.4	133.3	140.9
Less: External borrowing **	-74.1	-69.7	-85.1	-105.0	-113.0
Internal borrowing	16.8	27.5	29.3	28.3	27.9
Less: Balance sheet resources	-30.5	-29.3	-27.5	-27.7	-26.7
Treasury investments (or New borrowing)	13.7	1.8	-1.8	-0.6	-1.2

* leases that form part of the Authority's total debt (in 2022/23 arising from a change in the accounting for leases)

** shows only loans to which the Authority is committed and excludes optional refinancing

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

The Authority has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme, but minimal investments and will therefore be required to borrow up to £113m over the forecast period.

CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation during 2022/23.

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

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	31.3.21 Actual £m	31.3.22 Estimate £m	31.3.23 Forecast £m	31.3.24 Forecast £m	31.3.25 Forecast £m
CFR	90.9	97.2	116.1	135.0	142.6
Less: Balance sheet resources	-30.5	-29.3	-27.5	-27.7	-26.7
Net loans requirement	60.4	67.9	88.6	107.3	115.9
Plus: Liquidity allowance	16.2	15.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Liability benchmark	76.6	82.9	89.6	108.3	116.9

The Authority expects to remain borrowed below its liability benchmark over the forecast period.

Borrowing Strategy

The Authority currently holds £69.7 million of loans, a decrease of £4.4 million on the previous financial year, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that the Authority expects to borrow up to £85.1m by the end of 2022/23. The Authority may also borrow additional sums to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £126.1 million.

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

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

By doing so, the Authority is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal / short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Authority with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Authority borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2022/23 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.

The Authority has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Government Loans Fund via the Department of Finance but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code.

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

Alternatively, the Authority may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOBOs: The Authority holds no LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. Total borrowing via LOBO loans, should the Council decide to use this source of finance, will be limited to £3m.

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

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

Treasury Investment Strategy

The Authority holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Authority's treasury investment balance has ranged between £9.8million and £18.0 million, and a level closer to £5m is expected to be maintained as the forthcoming year progresses.

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

Negative interest rates: The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk that the Bank of England will set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term investment options. Since investments cannot pay negative income, negative rates will be applied by reducing the value of investments. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.

Strategy: Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority aims to diversify, where practical, into more secure and/or higher yielding asset classes during 2022/23. All of the Authority's surplus cash is currently invested in short-term unsecured bank deposits and money market funds. This diversification will represent a continuation of the strategy adopted in recent years.

Business models: Under the new IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Authority's "business model" for managing them. The Authority aims to achieve value from its treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

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

Table 3: Treasury investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	50 years	Unlimited	n/a
Local authorities & other government entities	25 years	£3m	Unlimited
Secured investments *	25 years	£3m	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured) *	13 months	£3m	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured) *	13 months	£3m	£6m
Registered providers (unsecured) *	5 years	£1m	£5m
Money market funds *	n/a	£3m	Unlimited

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

*** Minimum credit rating:** Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

For entities without published credit ratings, investments may be made either (a) where external advice indicates the entity to be of similar credit quality.

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

Secured investments: Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

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

Registered providers (unsecured): Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

Money market funds: Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Authority will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

Operational bank accounts: The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £3m per bank where practical. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.

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

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

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

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

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2020, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.

Investment limits: The Authority's revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £22 million on 31st March 2022. In order that no more than 14% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £3 million. A group of entities under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes.

Credit risk exposures arising from non-treasury investments, financial derivatives and balances greater than £3m in operational bank accounts count against the relevant investment limits.

Limits are also placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts and foreign countries as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Table 4: Additional investment limits

	Cash limit
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£3m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account	£3m per broker
Foreign countries	£4m per country

Liquidity management: The Authority uses cash flow forecasting to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Authority being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments.

Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Authority's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

The Authority will, where practical, spread its liquid cash over at least four providers (e.g. bank accounts and money market funds) to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

Treasury Management Indicators

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

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

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	A

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

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

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

Interest rate risk indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£200,000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£200,000

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

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

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	20%	8%
12 months and within 24 months	10%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	20%	10%
5 years and within 10 years	30%	18%
10 years and above	48%	38%

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

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

Price risk indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£2m	£1m	£1m

Related Matters

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

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

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

Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria, assessed using the appropriate credit rating for derivative exposures. An allowance for credit risk calculated using the methodology in the Treasury Management Practices document will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.

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

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

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

Financial Implications

The budget for investment income in 2022/23 is minimal, based on an average investment portfolio of £5 million at an interest rate of 0.03%. The budget for debt interest paid in 2022/23 is £2.2 million, based on an average debt portfolio of £77.4 million at an average interest rate of 4.86%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from those forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.

Other Options Considered

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

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

Appendix A - Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast - December 2021

Underlying assumptions:

- The global recovery from the pandemic has entered a more challenging phase. The resurgence in demand has led to the expected rise in inflationary pressure, but disrupted factors of supply are amplifying the effects, increasing the likelihood of lower growth rates ahead. The advent of the Omicron variant of coronavirus is affecting activity and is also a reminder of the potential downside risks.
- Despite relatively buoyant activity survey data, official GDP data indicates that growth was weakening into Q4 2021. Other data, however, suggested continued momentum, particularly for November. Retail sales volumes rose 1.4%, PMIs increased, and the labour market continued to strengthen. The end of furlough did not appear to have had a significant impact on unemployment. Wage growth is elevated.
- The CPI inflation rate rose to 5.1% for November and will rise higher in the near term. While the transitory factors affecting inflation are expected to unwind over time, policymakers' concern is persistent medium term price pressure.
- These factors prompted the MPC to raise Bank Rate to 0.25% at the December meeting. Short term interest rate expectations remain elevated.
- The outlook, however, appears weaker. Household spending faces pressures from a combination of higher prices and tax rises. In the immediate term, the Omicron variant has already affected growth - Q4 and Q1 activity could be weak at best.
- Longer-term government bond yields remain relatively low despite the more hawkish signals from the BoE and the Federal Reserve. Investors are concerned that significant policy tightening in the near term will slow growth and prompt the need for looser policy later. Geo-political and coronavirus risks are also driving safe haven buying. The result is a much flatter yield curve, as short-term yields rise even as long-term yields fall.
- The rise in Bank Rate despite the Omicron variant signals that the MPC will act to bring inflation down whatever the environment. It has also made clear its intentions to tighten policy further. While the economic outlook will be challenging, the signals from policymakers suggest their preference is to tighten policy unless data indicates a more severe slowdown.

Forecast:

- The MPC will want to build on the strong message it delivered this month by tightening policy despite Omicron uncertainty.
- Arlingclose therefore expects Bank Rate to rise to 0.50% in Q1 2022, but then remain there. Risks to the forecast are initially weighted to the upside, but becoming more balanced over time. The Arlingclose central forecast remains below the market forward curve.
- Gilt yields will remain broadly flat from current levels. Yields have fallen sharply at the longer end of the yield curve, but expectations of a rise in Bank Rate have maintained short term gilt yields at higher levels.
- Easing expectations for Bank Rate over time could prompt the yield curve to steepen, as investors build in higher inflation expectations.
- The risks around the gilt yield forecasts vary. The risk for short and medium term yields is initially on the upside but shifts lower later. The risk for long-term yields is weighted to the upside.

	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Artinaclose Central Case	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25
1-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.05	0.05	0.25	0.35	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Artinaclose Central Case	0.25	0.55	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.25	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.30	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35
3yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.50	0.50	0.45	0.45
Artinaclose Central Case	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.75
Downside risk	-0.10	-0.20	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.25	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.10	0.25	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.55	0.55
Artinaclose Central Case	0.80	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.90	0.90	0.95	0.95
Downside risk	-0.10	-0.25	-0.30	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.30	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Artinaclose Central Case	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Downside risk	-0.15	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.25	0.30	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Artinaclose Central Case	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.05	1.10	1.10	1.15	1.15
Downside risk	-0.15	-0.30	-0.35	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.40	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45	-0.45

Government Loan Rate = relevant gilt yield + 1.00%

Appendix B - Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	31/12/21 Actual portfolio £m	31/12/21 Average rate %
External borrowing:		
Government Loans Fund	65.9	5.63
Local authorities	6.0	0.09
Total gross external debt	71.9	
Treasury investments:		
Banks (unsecured)	9.0	
Money market funds	9.0	
Total treasury investments	18.0	0.035
Net debt	53.9	

Appendix C - Additional requirements of the Government Investment Guidance

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

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

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

Non-specified investments: Any investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment is classed as non-specified. The Authority does not intend to make any investments denominated in foreign currencies, nor any that are defined as capital expenditure by legislation, such as unlisted bonds and shares. Non-specified investments will therefore be limited to long-term investments, i.e. those that are due to mature 12 months or longer from the date of arrangement; investments with bodies and schemes without high credit ratings; and investments where the principal sum to be repaid at maturity is not the same as the initial sum invested, for example corporate bonds. Limits on non-specified investments are shown in table C1 below.

Table C1: Non-specified investment limits

	Cash limit
Total long-term investments	£1m
Total investments without credit ratings or rated below A- (except UK Government and local authorities)	£2m
Total investments (except pooled funds) with institutions domiciled in foreign countries rated below AA+	£1m
Total investments where the principal amount varies (other than those with the UK Government)	£1m
Total non-specified investments	£5m

Investment training: The needs of the Authority's treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed as part of the staff appraisal process, and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.

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

Investment advisers: The Authority has appointed Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers and receives specific advice on investment, debt and capital finance issues.

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

The total amount borrowed will not exceed the authorised borrowing limit of £126.1 million. The maximum period between borrowing and expenditure is expected to be two years, although the Authority is not required to link particular loans with particular items of expenditure.

APPENDIX 5

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2022/23

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

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

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

- For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2012, MRP will be equal to the principal repayments of the associated borrowing.
- For capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2012, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset either in equal instalments or as the principal repayment on an annuity with an annual interest rate equal to the average relevant PWLB rate for the year of expenditure, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over an appropriate period.
- For assets acquired by leases or the Private Finance Initiative, MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.
- Where former operating leases have been brought onto the balance sheet on 1st April 2022 due to the adoption of the *IFRS 16 Leases* accounting standard, and the asset values have been adjusted for accruals, prepayments, premiums and/or discounts, then the annual MRP charges will be adjusted so that the total charge to revenue remains unaffected by the new standard.
- Capital expenditure incurred during 2022/23 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2023/24.

Based on the Authority's latest estimate of its capital financing requirement (CFR) on 31st March 2022, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31.03.2022 Estimated CFR £m	2022/23 Estimated MRP £
Capital expenditure before 1.4.2012	13.6	1.8
Supported capital expenditure after 31.3.2012	83.6	3.4
Total	97.2	5.2

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

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 at 6.00pm
via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair:	Councillor C Mason (Chamber)	
In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor O Hanlon Councillor M Rice	Councillor D Curran Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor W Walker
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Brown Councillor P Byrne Councillor W Clarke Councillor C Enright Councillor M Gibbons Councillor V Harte Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis Councillor D McAteer Councillor H McKee Councillor R Mulgrew Councillor G O'Hare Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Savage Councillor G Stokes Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor R Burgess Councillor C Casey Councillor L Devlin Councillor A Finnegan Councillor G Hanna Councillor R Howell Councillor A Lewis Councillor G Malone Councillor L McEvoy Councillor AMcMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor K Owen Councillor M Ruane Councillor G Sharvin Councillor D Taylor Councillor W Walker
Officials in attendance in Chamber:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer	
Officials in Attendance Via Teams:	Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Health Communities Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting) Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer	

C/001/2022 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and McKeivitt.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Rice, new Councillor for the Mourne DEA to his first Council meeting.

The Chairperson commented that with the new year Members would reflect on the year of 2021; a year remembered with heavy hearts as we lost members of our community, family members and dear loved ones. 2022 offered a new year of hope and opportunities and it was important that a helping hand in doing so was given to one another.

The Chairpersons mental health initiative for January was focusing on the potential pressures of new year resolutions. She spoke of how these pressures could lead to negative self-reflection and to questioning the direction of your life which had a knock-on effect on a person's mental health and well-being.

The Chairperson asked everyone to focus on their own lives and their own mental health and well-being and if anyone was experiencing increased feelings of pressure and anxiety to slow down and take time out to refocus on doing something that made them feel good. She added that everyone was on their own journey and must help and support each other along the way.

The Chairperson wished fellow Councillors and all the people of Newry, Mourne and Down health, peace and happiness in the year ahead.

C/002/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/003/2022 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2021

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 8 December 2021 (copy circulated).

C/246/2021: Notice of Motion – Meeting Government Targets for Electric Vehicles
It was agreed an officer from Building Control would contact Councillor Reilly in relation to his comments on how it had been made obligatory for Councils in England to have Building Control departments install individual electric car chargers.

C/242/2021: Notice of Motion – Down High School

It was agreed to note Councillor Reilly and McAteer's comments regarding the possibility of a presentation to a Committee by a group called Forest Schools Awards.

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 8 December 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/004/2022 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 December 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 December 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/005/2022 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 8 December 2021 (copy circulated).

In response to Councillor Mulgrew regarding the need for a special meeting with the Southern Trust regarding Daisy Hill Hospital and the expansion of services as a matter of priority it was agreed the date would be followed up with the Trust.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 December 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

A date for a meeting with the Southern Trust regarding Daisy Hill Hospital and the expansion of services to be arranged as a matter of priority.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**C/006/2022 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2021 (copy circulated).

ERT/245/2021: Warrenpoint Pontoon

It was agreed Mr Mallon would contact Councillor Gibbons directly regarding his query in relation to an equality impact assessment for undertaking the dredging of the pontoon pocket area by Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

ERT/244/2021: Small Settlement Regeneration Programme

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Sharvin regarding settlements with a population less than 1,000 being excluded e.g., Strangford and Killough Mr Mallon confirmed all settlements, whether they were below 1,000 population or not, were being considered as part of the development of the scheme going forward. Mr Mallon also confirmed the timescale was the next financial year.

It was agreed Mr Mallon would contact Councillor Reilly in relation to his request for a site meeting with contractors and Councillors in relation to Annalong Harbour.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/007/2022 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2021

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2021 (copy circulated).

SPR/194/2021: Notice of Motion – Revenue Targets from Renewables

Councillor Enright asked that the original motion be included within the minute. Mrs Carville agreed to look at the matter and make any necessary amendments.

SPR/209/2021: Belfast Region City Deal – Complimentary Fund

In welcoming the fund allocation for the Albert Basin Park Project Councillor Brown requested an update on the three other projects that had been applied for including Active Travel, Kilkeel and Ardglass Harbour Development and the joint project for Larne and Warrenpoint Ports. He enquired if the projects had been rejected, and if so had there been feedback from the Department of Finance as to why they had been rejected.

Mrs Ward confirmed the three projects had not been considered by the Department of Finance in this round, however they may be considered as part of the second round of complimentary funding and that Council would be seeking feedback on all applications.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Casey.**

C/009/2022 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 DECEMBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 21 December 2021 (copy circulated)

NS/189/2021: Fleet Replacement Programme Update

Councillor Reilly asked for an update on the purchase of new refuse vehicles and said the refuse service in the Mourne area over Christmas and the new year period had been unacceptable. He asked for an explanation as to why the service had been so bad and an assurance it would not recur.

Mr McBride said it was anticipated an order of up to 30 new vehicles should be progressed in early March 2022, however there was a 12 month delivery time. Mr McBride said he was aware of the refuse collection issues in the Mournes over the festive period and said that due to breakdowns in the larger vehicles, smaller capacity vehicles had to be used.

NS/187/2021: Maintenance of Newry Canal from Fearon's Lock to Reilly's Lock

Councillor McAteer said there was the potential for major opportunity and asked if Waterways Ireland could be included.

Mr Mallon said he would take Councillor McAteer's comments on board and advised a date was being sought for a meeting with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council and Neighbourhood Services would be involved in that meeting from a maintenance perspective.

NS/193/2021: Business Case for Medium-sized Chassis Cab and Cleansing Sweeper Vehicle Replacements

Councillor Sharvin said he considered there to be an imbalance of where the vehicles were located within the district and enquired how this imbalance would be addressed. Mr McBride agreed to speak to Councillor Sharvin outside of the meeting on this issue.

Councillor Mulgrew said she was aware that some recycling plants had been forced to close early and she asked for an assurance that all would be done to ensure sufficient staffing levels to cover street cleansing and recycling plants. Mr McBride agreed to speak to Councillor Mulgrew outside of the meeting.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 21 December 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee.**

C/010/2022 **PLANNING MINUTES**

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2021 (copy circulated)

Councillor Mulgrew said she was aware of delays in responses from Consultees and she proposed a study be undertaken to determine which consultees responded within the specified timeframe and which did not and depending on the outcome of this study, a letter be sent to the Minister asking that all consultees respond within specified timeframes. Councillor Taylor seconded the proposal.

Mrs Ward advised this issue had been discussed at SOLACE and a meeting had been arranged with the Permanent Secretary to discuss Planning concerns and the challenges being faced by Councils across the board.

Councillor McAteer commented that Council response times should also be looked at.

Councillor Clarke stated it was important this issue was addressed as it reflected badly on the Council and he referred to the Scottish planning model, whereby if consultees did not respond within specified timeframes, applications proceeded without their input.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Taylor that a study be undertaken to determine the response times of statutory consultees and depending on the outcome, a letter be sent to the Minister asking that Consultees respond within specified timeframes.**

Noted: **The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 17 November 2021 was noted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor O'Hare.**

FOR NOTING**C/011/2022** **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2021**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 November 2021. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage asked for an update following the recent Housing Needs Conference in Newcastle.

Mr Mallon advised it was their intention to work the Housing Executive and bring a report to Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in the coming months.

Councillor Reilly and Councillor Clarke expressed concern at the huge shortage of

accommodation in the private sector. Councillor Clarke proposed a letter be sent to the Minister requesting a review be undertaken to ascertain the impact Airbnb was having on local accommodation provision. Councillor Reilly seconded the proposal.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Reilly that a letter be sent to the Minister requesting a review be undertaken to ascertain the impact Airbnb was having on local accommodation provision.**

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 November 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Andrews**

C/012/2022 **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2021**

Read: Bulletin dated December 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/013/2022 **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH REGARDING DENTAL SERVICES DURING COVID 19 PANDEMIC REF: NOM - C/111/2021**

Read: Correspondence 11 December 2021 regarding Notice of Motion – Dental Services during Covid 19 Pandemic. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Finnegan expressed her disappointment that this issue had not been addressed and proposed that a further letter be sent to the Minister requesting priority be given to ensuring an extension to the 12 month free dental care period for mothers who had given birth during the Covid-19 pandemic period be implemented and that a decision be forthcoming as soon as possible. Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Hanlon to write to the Minister of Health to request that priority be given to ensuring an extension to the 12 month free dental care period for mothers who had given birth during the Covid-19 pandemic period be implemented and that a decision on this matter be forthcoming as soon as possible.**

Agreed: The correspondence from the Minister of Health was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

C/014/2022 **CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING PERMANENT 20MPH SPEED LIMITS REF: NOM - C/202/2021**

Read: Correspondence dated 6 December 2021 regarding Notice of Motion Permanent 20mph Speed Limits. (Copy circulated)

Councillor McMurray expressed disappointment there would not be further consultation carried out to look at how legal speeds could be reduced.

Councillor McAteer said the proven effectiveness of 20 mph speed limits with calming measures should be noted in terms of Planning.

Councillor Ó Muirí said he welcomed any measures that slowed traffic outside schools and built up areas and proposed that the DEAs look at the number of schools within their respective areas with speeding issues. Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal.

Agreed: Local DEAs look at the schools within their respective areas with speeding issues and report back to Council.

Agreed: The correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the Notice of Motion – Permanent 20mph Speed Limits was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor McAteer.

C/015/2022 **N. IRELAND PLANNING CONFERENCE – MARCH 2022**

Read: Annual Northern Ireland Planning Conference – 2 March 2022, Europa Hotel.

Agreed: It was agreed any Councillor wishing to attend the N. Ireland Planning Conference contact Democratic Services.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/016/2022 **NOTICE OF MOTION – LIVESTREAMING / VIDEO RECORDING FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Brown:

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 11 January 2022
via Microsoft Teams.**

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor D McAteer

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
Ms D Carville Director of Corporate
Services
Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood
Services
Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance
(Acting)
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM
Ms K Beattie NIAO

AC/001/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor L Devlin
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor C Enright
Councillor K Owen
Mr M Lipsett Director Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

AC/002/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest.

**AC/003/2022: ACTION SHEETS ARISING FROM:
SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 13 SEPT 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 September 2021.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Special Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 September 2021.

**AC/004/2022: ACTION SHEETS ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 23 SEPT 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 23 September 2021.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Special Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 September 2021.

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)

AC/005/2022: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville said the Corporate Risk Register had been updated following a quarterly review carried out in December 2021, by the Senior Management Team, and added there have been no significant changes to risks and risk profiles.

She also referred to the Risk Register for the ERT Directorate, which was being presented to the Audit Committee for information.

During discussion the following issues were raised:

- Potential risk regarding the sharing of information at meetings and that the discussion of items in closed session could present a risk to Council in terms of public perception.
- Information to be provided to the Audit Committee on public sector risks which are identified but which are not applicable to Council.

- Updates to be provided to the Audit Committee on risks that do not change but which remain static.
- Management to examine the audit time allocated to look at future plans for staffing and lack of skill set within the workforce.

Ms Carville referred to Local Government Act legislation which provided parameters in respect of taking items in closed session. She said agenda items are reviewed by Directors to ensure that any item under closed session complied with this legislation.

She said Senior Management Team carry out a quarterly review on risks which may potentially become a future risk for Council – these risks are actively considered but not all will make their way onto the Council Risk Register.

She explained Talent Management and Succession Planning was an issue currently being discussed by Senior Management Team and by SOLACE in respect of local government regionally.

Noted: Ms Carville explained that following Mr G Byrne's appointment as Assistant Director of Finance (Acting), the post of Audit Services Manager was currently being covered on a shared basis between Mr Byrne and Ms K Bingham, and although this will not be a long term arrangement, management were content this arrangement did not pose any significant governance risk.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed as follows:**

- (a) To approve the updates to the Corporate Risk Register highlighted within the summary at Appendix 1. (Full Corporate Risk Register can be evidenced at Appendix 2)**
- (b) To note the revised ERT Directorate Risk Register at Appendix 3.**
- (c) Officers to consider further the most appropriate manner to advise Councillors of risk considerations.**

AC/006/2022: **PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding Prompt Payment Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Quarter 2 2021- 22 Prompt Payment statistics.

AC/007/2022: MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Ms D Carville Director Corporate Services regarding the Members' Register of Interests. **(Copy circulated)**

Members raised concerns regarding the level of assurance provided from the Members' Register of Interests due to the low level of responses.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to note the 6 month review Report regarding Members' Register of Interests, and that going forward where there is no change in a Members circumstances, Officers to seek a nil return.

NIAO (OPEN SESSION)

AC/008/2022: NIAO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR'S REPORT 2021

Read: Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Local Government Audit Report 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms K Beattie NIAO, explained the NIAO Annual Report covered Local Government Auditor work for the previous year, 2019/20, and contained various statistics including prompt payments and absenteeism.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Local Government Audit Report 2021.

AC/009/2022: NIAO ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

Read: Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Annual Audit Letter. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms K Beattie NIAO, expressed apologies for the delay in producing the NIAO Annual Audit Letter. She explained the letter addressed recent work undertaken by NIAO and covered a range of key statistics.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Annual Audit Letter.

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)

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

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

AC/010/2022: **NIAO
(FINAL) REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH
GOVERNANCE**

Read: Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Final Report to Those Charged with Governance.
(Copy circulated)

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/011/2022: **UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding an update on Audit Recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/012/2022: **UPDATE
RE: FRAUD & RAISING CONCERNS**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding an update on fraud and raising concerns. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/013/2022: QUARTERLY UPDATE
RE: SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS (STAs)**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding a quarterly update on Single Tender Actions (STAs) (or Direct Award Contracts DACs). **(Copy circulated)**

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/014/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT - SUMMARY REPORT

Read: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 11 January 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/015/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND SECURITY**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 07 January 2022 regarding Information Systems and Security. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/016/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: PROGRAMMES UNIT
– FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 22 October 2021 regarding Programmes Unit – Financial Assistance Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/017/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: FOLLOW UP – IMPLEMENTATION IT STRATEGY**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 07 January 2022, regarding Follow up of Implementation of IT Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/018/2022: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 17 December 2021, regarding Asset Management. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/019/2022: **ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
AUDIT FIELDWORK 2021-22
RE: ESTATES MANAGEMENT & SECURITY**

Read: ASM Audit Fieldwork Report dated 17 December 2021,
regarding Estates Management and Security.
(Copy circulated)

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

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

AC/010/2022: **Final Report to Those Charged with Governance**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by
Councillor Lewis it was agreed to note the Northern
Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Final Report to Those
Charged with Governance.**

AC/011/2022: **Update re: Audit Recommendations**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by
Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the update in
relation to previous audit recommendations.**

AC/012/2022: **Update re: Fraud & Raising Concerns**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by
Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the update in
relation to Fraud and Raising Concerns cases.**

AC/013/2022: **Quarterly Update re: Single Tender Actions**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by
Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the 2021-22
Quarter 3 update in relation to Single Tender Actions.**

AC/014/2022: **ASM Internal Audit Summary Report**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by
Councillor Casey it was agreed to note the ASM
Summary Audit report dated 11 January 2022.**

- AC/015/2022:** **ASM Internal Audit**
Audit Fieldwork re: Information Systems & Security
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the ASM Audit Fieldwork Report regarding Information Systems & Security.
- AC/016/2022:** **ASM Internal Audit**
Audit Fieldwork re: Programmes Unit
- Financial Assistance Programme
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Audit Fieldwork Report regarding Programmes Unit Financial Assistance Programme.
- AC/017/2022:** **ASM Internal Audit**
Audit Fieldwork re: Follow up
- Implementation of IT Strategy
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Audit Fieldwork Report regarding follow up of Implementation of IT Strategy.
- AC/018/2022:** **ASM Internal Audit**
Audit Fieldwork re: Asset Management
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Audit Fieldwork Report regarding Asset Management.
- AC/019/2022:** **ASM Internal Audit**
Audit Fieldwork re: Estates Management & Security
- AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Audit Fieldwork Report regarding Estates Management and Security.

PERFORMANCE (CLOSED SESSION)**AC/020/2022: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT 2020-2021**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to note the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2020-21.**

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)**AC/021/2022: MID YEAR ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2021**

Read: Report dated 11 January 2022 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Mid Year Assessment Performance Improvement Plan 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne confirmed the Mid Year Assessment Performance Improvement Plan 2021 had been approved at the SPR Committee Meeting in December 2021.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to note the Mid Year Assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22.**

CIRCULARS**AC/022/2022: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE RE: GUIDANCE ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Read: Correspondence dated 29 September 2021 DAO (DoF) 07/21) from Department of Finance regarding Guidance on Conflicts of Interest. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note correspondence dated 29 September 2021 DAO (DoF) 07/21) from Department of Finance regarding Guidance on Conflicts of Interest.**

**AC/023/2022: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
RE: CAPITALISATION**

Read: Correspondence dated 22 December 2021 from Department for Communities (LG 24/21) regarding Capitalisation. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note correspondence dated 22 December 2021 from Department for Communities (LG 24/21) regarding Capitalisation.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.40 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 February 2022.

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

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
Independent Chairperson

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 17 January 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room Downshire
Estate Downpatrick, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

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

Non Members: Councillor P Brown (via Teams)
 Councillor O Hanlon (via Teams)
 Councillor G Malone (via Teams)
 Councillor D McAteer (via Teams)
 Councillor J Tinnelly (via Teams)

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

Also in attendance: Ms Janice Gault Hotels Federation

ERT/001/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor R Howell

ERT/002/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/003/2022: PRESENTATION
JANICE GAULT: NI HOTELS FEDERATION**

Ms Janice Gault NI Hotels Federation was in attendance to deliver a presentation to Members on the challenges and opportunities in the hotel industry. She explained the NI Hotels Federation was a body who looked after the interests of the hotel sector in the north of Ireland whose membership covers hotels, guest accommodation and guest houses. She then proceeded with a power point presentation covering the following areas:

Tourism Spend 2019
Accommodation
Accommodation Product NMD Area
Covid 19
Opportunities/Challenges
Support
Skills/Staffing

She said Tourism Spend figures for 2019 would be used as benchmark for comparisons this was prior to the pandemic. She said all accommodation had grown over the last decade with many investments in the district. She said Newry Mourne and Down had a very good authentic hotel product which provided employment and investment and the market was performing very well.

She referred to the rising costs resulting from the Covid pandemic which with it brought uncertainty to the market and revenue reduction but provided growth in rural destinations with the increase in staycations with the diverse offering within the District.

She said skills and staffing within the sector was a big challenge with a major careers campaign planned and that the continuation of reduced VAT and rates holiday would help with the rise in inflation and costs.

Discussion followed during which Members raised the following issues:

- As a nation Ireland is known for its hospitality and offering in terms of food and hotels and – a lot of hotels had significant personal investment and it would be devastating if this sector suffered any further setbacks.
- The need to liaise with schools and colleges to address skills and staffing.
- Sustainability of different types of accommodation.
- Popularity of outdoor activities
- An All Ireland VAT model should be introduced.
- Development of Ireland's Ancient East brand.
- Planning permissions for new hotel developments.
- Hotel expansion along coastal routes and geopark potential.
- Impact of staffing and cross border workers
- Food quality and cost challenges.

Ms Gault responded with the following points:

- Many hotels have added self-catering to their offering as post Covid many people are seeking a more independent way to holiday.
- Many hotels have relationships with outdoor activity companies.
- A 12.5% VAT rate was implemented for Northern Ireland in July 2020, and VAT in the Republic of Ireland is 9% and will be reviewed in September 2022.
- The majority of cross border tourism products such as Irelands Ancient East; Wild Atlantic Way; Causeway Coastal Route etc , all come from different funding sources. Irelands Ancient East includes strong historical products of interest for which Ireland has built a reputation and many join together on a cross border basis albeit from different funding sources. The St Patrick's offering and new Game of Thrones experience are strong products for the District.
- The make-up of hotels has changed considerably due to customer demand for a different product and new hotel development is based on this. Hotel development over the past years has been concentrated in particular areas – a good product in the right location will be successful if this is well marketed.
- Hotels in Ireland have performed well as an industry, but staffing continues to be a major issue and its important to encourage people to join the industry. Immigration

policy issues continue to have an impact on cross border workforce.

- Ireland has excellent quality of food and ingredients with clean agriculture businesses and food promotion is very useful going forward. Food content has risen as it is more expensive to buy it, prepare it due to rising energy costs, and to serve it due to wage inflation. It is very unlikely that there will be an immediate change to this situation and it is a factor that impacts economies globally.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed the Council write to the Chancellor calling for the VAT reduction to remain in place.

**ERT/004/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 December 2021.

NOTICE OF MOTION

**ERT/005/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: FREE CAR PARKING FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

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

"In the interest of encouraging people to reduce their carbon footprint and incentivise the ownership of electric vehicles in the District, Council will introduce free car parking for electric vehicles in all Council owned car parks"

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding free parking for electric vehicles in Council off-street car parks. **(Circulated)**

Councillor Brown presented the Notice of Motion. He said he took on board the points made in the Officers report and the challenges of the proposal to provide free parking for EV motorists. He extended his appreciation to officers in compiling the report adding that EV cars could be easily identified by providing parking attendants with a list of makes/models that are EV. He agreed Central Government must play a role in the encouraging EV take up and this should not be left to local government alone however he felt Councils should be doing more to improve the EV charging network across the District given that Council is the body responsible for most of car parking across the District.

Whilst he welcomed the report stating Councils should continue to work collaboratively on funding for EV charging points, he felt figures were needed in terms of how many EV charging points are presently available in Council car parks compared with how many there are in other Council areas of similar geography and bring this information back to a future Committee meeting.

Mr Jackson said the Council currently had 8 charge points in its car parks and a further 15 have been proposed throughout the District with locations yet to be agreed.

Members discussed the Motion and Mr Jackson responded to the issues raised by Members during discussions:

- EV charging is currently free but charges may be applied in the future as the infrastructure rolls out- these details are not yet available. Facilities may be managed by private operators and a tariff may be applied.
- Council currently apply a charge of 40 pence per hour across 11 car parks which is spent towards maintenance costs, ie, surfacing; lighting; white lines; electricity for street lighting; enforcement costs and cleaning.
- Members supported the need for greener energy but that this should be made affordable to the population with sustainable solutions to provide the required fuel and infrastructure and necessary input from the planning authority.
- Councillor Brown said officers had produced a well-balanced report however he felt Council should still encourage free charging for EV to encourage ownership of these vehicles. He welcomed the proposed 15 additional charging points but that more were needed and he requested Officers to obtain figures in terms of how many EV charging points are presently available in Council car parks compared with how many there are in other Council areas of similar geography and bring this information back to a future Committee meeting.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the content of Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding free parking for electric vehicles in Council off-street car parks, and that Officers continue the collaborative work in relation to both the Faster and On-Street Residential Charging Schemes in order to secure funding for increasing EV charging provision within the District.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/006/2022: ALL IRELAND SMART CITIES FORUM

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum Update. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed:-

- To approve the cost of renewal of membership of €4,809 per annum. This cost includes facilitation support of Maynooth University Business School, the bi-monthly meetings and the Annual All-Ireland Smart Cities Conference.
- To note that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continue to avail of the expertise from the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum. An ERT officer and representative from East Border Region will continue to attend the meetings and disseminate the information to relevant stakeholders.

ERT/007/2022: BRCD – RENEWED AMBITION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the BRCD – Renewed Ambition Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve Council participation in the Renewed Ambition Programme at a cost

of £15,000 for 2022-23, subject to budget estimates Rate setting.

ERT/008/2022: SMALL SETTLEMENT REGENERATION PLAN

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve the relevant business cases and commence the required procurement processes/framework appointments for scheme design consultants and contractors and proceed to tender/quotation/assessment and award if within budget. In advance of this all proposals will be presented to the relevant DEA for a by way of consultation.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/009/2022: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK OPERATING MODEL PROCUREMENTS

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director TCE, regarding Castlewellan Forest Park Operating Model Procurements. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/010/2022: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Labour Market Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/011/2022: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR – PROVISION OF SERVICES

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events, regarding Newcastle Harbour – provision of services. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/012/2022: NEW NI PLANNING IT SYSTEM

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planner, regarding new Planning IT system. **(Copy circulated)**.

ERT/013/2022: SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LDA SLA

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding LDP: Draft Plan Strategy – options for undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment; revised Service Level Agreement with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (Shared Environmental Service). **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/014/2022: TOURISM NI PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Read: Report dated 13 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism Culture and Events regarding Tourism NI Product Development Fund – Service Level Agreements. **(Copy circulated)**.

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

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

ERT/009/2022: Castlewellan Forest Park Operating Model Procurements

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor McMurray it was agreed as follows:

- a) To award 2 No. trading pitches at Castlewellan Forest Park under the terms detailed in the report.
- b) To appoint a co-sourced grass and hedge cutting services for a three-year period via public procurement.
- c) To appoint a suitably experienced and certified specialist maintenance contractor for a three year period via a public procurement.

ERT/010/2022: Labour Market Partnership

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

- Council issue a Service Level Agreement to Southern Regional College (SRC) and also to South Eastern Regional College (SERC) to create an Apprenticeships Awareness Campaign across the District, delivering against the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan.
- Council issue a Service Level Agreement to Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre to implement the LMP Action "Stimulate self-employment as an "employment" opportunity", offering follow-on support to their Go for It Clients.
- Council issue a Service Level Agreement to DFC (or an appropriate partner if DFC cannot fulfil within the timescales) to implement the delivery of a virtual jobs fair during 2021/2022.
- To note Council have received and accepted a Letter of Offer from DFC for implementation of LMP Actions between January 2022 and March 2022. The report above outlines the anticipated actions that can be implemented within this timescale.

- To note Council will commence engagement regarding the submission of a further action plan outlining LMP Actions for 2022/2023 and which is due to be submitted to DFC in February 2022.

ERT/011/2022: Newcastle Harbour – Provision of Services

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve a pilot programme for a sailing academy to operate from Newcastle Harbour from April – October 2022 subject to the conditions set out in the report.

ERT/012/2022: Planning IT System

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreement and associated costs of the Shared Service for the new Planning system.

ERT/013/2022: Shared Environmental Services LDP SLA

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to note the content of report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer, and approve the preferred option – i.e. agree the revised Service Level Agreement with Shared Environmental Services (SES), and allow Shared Environmental Services to continue their work through the draft Plan Strategy stage.

**ERT/014/2022: Tourism NI Product Development Fund
- Service Level Agreements**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed Council enter into Service Level Agreements with Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Businesses detailed in the report to deliver a programme of events/experiences as part of the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22.

FOR NOTING**ERT/015/2022: DOG EUTHANASIA UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations regarding update on euthanasia of dogs. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the content of this report; welcome the reduction in dogs euthanised and continue to work with all the relevant agencies to limit the number of dogs euthanised within our district.

ERT/016/2022: REVIEW OF NMD ENTERPRISE WEEK 2021

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration, regarding review of NMD Enterprise Week 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the impact of NMD Enterprise Week 2021, led by Council in partnership with key business support providers within and outside the District with the aim of enhancing the entrepreneurial activity and partnership working across the District.

ERT/017/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

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

ERT/018/2022: INVEST NI ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director of Enterprise, Employment and Regeneration regarding Invest NI Economic Recovery Action Plan (ERAP) Sub Regional Funding. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the funding secured through Invest NI Economic Recovery Action Plan for the completion of a number of research projects into the wider economic outlook.

ERT/019/2022: LOUTH/NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE REPORT

Read: Report of Louth/NMD Strategic Alliance Meeting held on 15 September 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the report.

ERT/020/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for December 2021.

**ERT/021/2022: ULSTER UNIVERSITY ECONOMIC POLICY CENTRE REPORT
WHAT NEXT FOR COMMUTING AND REMOTE WORKING**

Read: Report dated 17 January 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Ulster University Economic Policy Centre Report – what next for Commuting and Remote Working. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the content of the report and utilise the findings going forward to inform future programme development etc.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 February 2022.

Signed: Councillor T Andrews

**Deputy Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 20 January 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams****In the Chair:** Councillor O Hanlon**In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor P Brown
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker**Also in attendance:** Councillor T Andrews**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director, Estates & Capital Projects
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director Finance (Acting)
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services
(HR & Safeguarding)
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer**Also in Attendance:
Via Teams:** Mr C Campbell, Legal Advisor, Belfast City Council**SPR/001/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher, Howell and Taylor.

SPR/002/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

**SPR/003/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 16
DECEMBER 2021****Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held
on Thursday 16 December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Byrne that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2021, be approved.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SPR/004/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING CONTACTLESS PAYMENT SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE HOMELESSNESS

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (acting), regarding Notice of Motion - Contactless Payment Solutions to tackle Homelessness **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown spoke at length on his notice of motion stressing that Council had previously had a number of debates, motions and proposals around homelessness and that all Members had been dedicated in addressing the troubling and ever rising homelessness figures in the district through holding housing conferences, calling for more social houses and dealing with housing related issues on an almost daily basis. He had himself worked closely with a number of local charities i.e Newry helping the homeless and the Simon community and seen first hand the great work they do.

He referred to various organisations who had trialled and installed a variety of ways to help tackle homelessness through various options of contactless terminals and urged Members to support the motion and help tackle homelessness in our community.

Members raised the following points:

- Was there a need for a cashless system, when there were various other ways to donate through buying the 'Big Issue' and through social media and over the phone via texts etc.
- Was the Council at risk of favouring one charity over another by setting up cashless system for just the homelessness.
- What happens if another equally important Charity ask for the same, this could be a section 75 issue and could set a precedent going forward?
- Council were already working closely with Housing Executive in tackling homelessness.
- The cost of setting up these pay stations could run into tens of thousands, would Council be better off if that was the case just giving the money directly to the charity to do with what they want.
- In Manchester the Andy Burnham scheme works very well with pay stations being installed in high footfall areas for the one charity.
- Perhaps the Chairperson's chosen charities which would cover a large number of organisations and benefit a range of charities could be considered.
- A company in Manchester called Goodbox had designed a platform where charities were able to purchase hardware/software which allowed them to go contactless.
- As the motion was limited to one particular charity, officers need to look at the infrastructure being asked for if it could be implemented to accommodate more than one charity.
- ATM's and similarly some shops offer the option of a round up donation when purchases are made by card to support local charities.
- Sentiments of the motion were great but would require further exploration to support a range of charities.

Councillor Ó Muiri proposed an amendment by writing to the Housing Executive asking them to work with the Council to implement the scheme, to use Council land to install the paypoints and work with Council throughout it.

Councillor Brown did not accept the amendment stating that he thought Council could take the lead on this themselves and through the process write to DfC, liaise with the Housing Executive, draw down on grant funding from trusts and foundations through charity partners to spread the cost as much as possible.

Councillor Byrne proposed that Council explore avenues to roll this out including through the Chairs charitable fund as soon as possible. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

Councillor Brown stated he was happy to look if the platform could support other charities and any equality issues around that but would be reluctant to assume that the money would be split between different sectoral interests but was happy to accept the amendment.

The Chairperson proposed that Council write to the local bank's or the services that service the governance of the ATM'S about the option of being able to donate through ATM's to charities on a rotational basis. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

Councillor Brown accepted the above amendment.

Councillor Walker stated some excellent comments had been made and seconded Councillor Brown's proposal to go away and explore the paper further, with more scrutiny and bring back a paper with the additional comments and proposals that had been made for discussion.

In summing up Councillor Brown thanked Councillor Walker for seconding the proposal and highlighted that it was at the exploration stage and no hard and fast decisions should be made. He stated he worried about watering down the main focus on the homelessness issue but welcomed the idea of exploring further to support other charities and look at a later date based on officer's advice on how to best proceed.

Mrs Carville clarified the recommendation stating that officers would research further equality issues and bring back a report on the matter.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the following recommendations:

- **Officers to follow up on the cost, security and equality issues outlined at section 2.1 and also conduct further research of suppliers.**
- **Officers will then bring proposals back to Members for consideration before the end of this financial year.**
- **Council explore avenues to roll this out including through the Chairs charitable fund as soon as possible.**
- **Council write to the local bank's or the services that service the governance of the ATM'S about the option of being able to donate through ATM's to charities on a rotational basis.**

SPR/005/2022: PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE, OBC PUBLIC CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Programme Governance, OBC Public Consultation Working Group **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown asked for clarity for the rationale for church members being identified specifically, in the report and expressed concern that there was no representation from the Arts sector and proposed a representation from the Arts be included, this was seconded by Councillor Savage.

Mr Mallon clarified the proposal was for consideration to include representatives from the local churches and the intention was to include the local churches on Hill Street, Newry that would be impacted by the regeneration project. He advised if Members wished to, he could add the Arts sector to the list in Annex 1.

Councillor Brown further proposed that union representation was included in the working group.

Mr Mallon confirmed there was union representation on the Project Boards for each individual project within the internal Council structures, and that there was an Arts sector working group that worked with the Project Board on delivering the Theatre and Arts projects. He advised he was content to approach the group and ask for a representative to sit on the OBC Public Consultation Working Group if members so wished.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muiri, seconded by Councillor Savage to approve the following recommendations:**

- **To approve the recommendation of the NCCR Programme board to revise the programme governance arrangements to include the addition of the OBC Public Consultation Working Group and scheduling Programme Board meetings two-monthly with ability to schedule intermittently.**
- **Representatives from all the local church denominations are included as members of the OBC Public Consultation Working Group.**
- **To approach the Arts centre Working Group and ask that a representative sit on the OBC Public Consultation Working Group.**

SPR/006/2022: CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON REMOTE HEARING REGULATIONS

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding call for evidence on remote hearing regulations **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to approve the response on behalf of Newry Mourne and Down District Council to the call for evidence on the use of the remote hearing regulations by local Councils in Northern Ireland.**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Magennis 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/007/2022: PROPOSED LEASES OF LANDS AT KILBRONEY PARK, GREENBANK DEPOT AND CLOUGHREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR ELECTRICITY SUBSTATIONS

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding proposed Leases of lands at Kilbroney Park, Greenbank Depot and Cloughreagh Community Centre for electricity substations **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the leases of the following lands to Northern Ireland Electricity Networks, with NIEN being responsible for ancillary legal and valuation costs: -

- A lease of lands at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor as outlined in red on Map 1 attached to the officer's report for a term of 99 years, subject to a one – off premium of £1000.
- A lease of lands at Cloughreagh Community Centre, Bessbrook as outlined in red on Map 2 attached to the officer's report for a term of 99 years, subject to a one – off premium of £1000.
- A lease of lands at Greenbank Depot, Newry as outlined in red on Map 3 attached to the officer's report for a term of 99 years, subject to a one – off premium to be determined by Council's valuer.

SPR/008/2022: LEASES OF COUNCIL LANDS UNDER SPORTS AND COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY

Read: Report dated 20 January 2020 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding, Leases of Council lands under Sports and Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following terms of years for the leases previously agreed as follows: -

1. Moorehill Quarry, Lease to MCI Climbing Walls Ltd for a term of 25 years
2. Generator House, Lease to Newcastle Harbour Heritage Association for a term of 5 years.
3. Burren Village Green, Lease to Trustees of Burren's Men Shed for a term of 5 years.
4. Drumaness Cricket Pitch, Lease to Trustees of Drumaness Super Kings Cricket Club for a term of 25 years.
5. Drumaness Soccer Pitch, Lease to Trustees of Drumaness Mills Football Club for a term of 25 years.

SPR/009/2022: LICENCE OF A PORTION OF THE WALLED GARDEN, SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding Licence of a portion of the Walled Garden, Slieve Gullion Forest Park **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to grant a Licence to Clanrye permitting them to carry out horticultural work within the Walled Garden as shown hatched red on the map attached to the officer's report and to create and thereafter maintain a meditation garden as per plan attached to the officer's report for a 5-year period. The Licence will be subject to a yearly Licence Fee to be determined by Council's valuer, consent from Forest Service, receipt of statutory approvals (if relevant) in relation to the meditation garden, reimbursement of Council's valuation costs and the creation and agreement of a scheme of horticultural works to be carried out by Clanrye.

SPR/010/2022: CONACRE ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding Conacre Arrangements in respect of Castlewellan Forest Park **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker seconded by Councillor Rice, it was agreed that Elected Members approve that an Expression of Interest was issued in respect of the lands outlined in red on the map attached to the officer's report with a minimum conacre licence fee as provided by Council's Valuer. The Expression of Interest to be advertised once in a local paper available in the vicinity of Castlewellan.

That Elected Members agreed to Council entering into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of three years in respect of lands outlined in red on the map attached to the officer's report.

SPR/011/2022: **REQUEST TO PURCHASE LANDS TO THE REAR OF 57 VIOLET HILL AVENUE, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding request to purchase lands to the rear of 57 Violet Hill Avenue, Newry. (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members approve a transfer of the area outlined in green on the map attached to the officer's report for the proposed use and subject to all necessary statutory approvals, with the cost to be the market value of the property as determined by Council's valuer and with the applicants being responsible for Council's legal and valuation costs. The applicants will also be responsible for the construction and cost of a suitable new boundary with Council lands which will be subject to officers' approval.

SPR/012/2022: **REFUSE COLLECTION WORKFORCE REVIEW**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr J McBride, Director Neighbourhood Services (Acting), regarding Refuse Collection Workforce Review. (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the workforce establishment figure for the service at

124 full time equivalent; and to agree that sixteen (16) temporary posts be made permanent via an HR process.

Councillor Brown left the meeting during discussions of the above item – 19.18pm

SPR/013/2022: LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION (LGSC) DISSOLUTION/CONTINUING OPERATION

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Corporate Services Director, regarding Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Dissolution/Continuing Operation. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and confirm they support of the view set out by NILGA in Appendix 3; that the Local Government Staff Commission should be closed at the very earliest opportunity.

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/014/2022: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet - 13 December 2021

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet - 13 December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 13 December 2021

SPR/015/2022: D1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CECIL STREET NEWRY

Read: Report dated 20 January 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, regarding D1 Expression of interest – Cecil Street Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the intention to submit an

expression of interest through the D1 process for the 2 sites on Cecil Street, Newry as indicated in Appendix 1

FOR NOTING

SPR/016/2022: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2022

Read: Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting – 13 January 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Tinnelly queried why were the Programme Board minutes for noting and not for decision as members didn't get the chance to raise queries, and why were the Project Board minutes not presented to Strategy Policy Resources Committee for decision and scrutiny?

Councillor Byrne advised that as a member of the Programme Board on which all political groups are represented, the Programme Board was the umbrella board and under this there were distinct Project Boards and the minutes of those go to the Programme Board for discussion and then to Strategy Policy Resources Committee for noting, just like any other committee. Any decisions or recommendations come as separate papers. If any member wished to request a copy of papers or minutes of any Project Board meetings these could be forwarded on.

The Chairperson added that at no time had she stopped anybody from commenting on for noting items and does let people speak if indicated.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 13 January 2022.**

SPR/017/2022: STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2021

Read: Statutory Reporting – Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for Period October – December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for Period October – December 2021.**

SPR/018/2022: STATUTORY REPORTING – DAERA RURAL NEEDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2020 - 2021

Read: Statutory Reporting – DAERA Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report 2020 – 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to note the Statutory**

**Reporting –DAERA Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report
2020 – 2021**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 20.01pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 February 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 24 January 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate and via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)**In attendance via Teams:**
Councillor C Casey
Councillor V Harte
Councillor G Malone
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor G Malone
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor W Walker**Also in attendance via Teams:** Councillor T Andrews**Officials in attendance In Chamber:**
Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer**Officials in attendance Via Teams:**
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estate and Capital Project Management
Mrs L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer**Also in attendance Via Teams:** Mr P Weston, Outdoor Recreation NI**AHC/005/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Trainor.

The Chairperson requested a letter of congratulations be sent to Kilcoo GAC on winning the Ulster Championship and wished them good luck going forward to the All-Ireland.

The Chairperson along with Councillor Sharvin wished St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick good luck in the MacLarnon Cup semi-final on Saturday.

The Chairperson provided an update on the Ballymote Centre in that there was a review ongoing looking at the areas of low vaccination uptake and there was to be a future targeted push in the area. Therefore, the Department would like to keep the Ballymote Centre set up

at present for potential future use if possible. She added that there may also be interest from the Blood Transfusion Service.

The Chairperson then wished everyone a happy new year and thanked Councillor Casey for his support as Vice Chairperson last year and for the year ahead.

AHC/006/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harte declared an interest in item 21: Barcroft Report.

AHC/007/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 DECEMBER 2021

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**.

In response to the Chairperson Mr Boyd provided an update on the Warrenpoint Community Centre advising that an alternative consultant framework had been utilised enabling 6/9 months to be taken off the programme and that it was hoped the consultant would be formally appointed in the next week.

Councillor Tinnelly commended the work and welcomed the new approach for capital projects.

Councillor Sharvin enquired what impact the plans for the Ballymote Centre had on the reopening of the centre and its use pre covid. Mr Lipsett advised the Department of Health had asked to keep the current set up in the Ballymote Centre for vaccinations and testing in place to enable a big push over the coming weeks and that Members would be kept informed of what was happening.

Mr Tamati added that the sports hall within the Ballymote Centre was open and that it was the gym that was closed to the public at this time.

AHC/248/2021: NI E Car Consortium - Potential EV Charge Point Locations

Mr Devlin provided an update for Councillor Sharvin advising that the current legislation allowing enforcement within proposed electric vehicle bays did require a change and work was ongoing with other Councils and that the matter had been brought to the attention of DFI.

Mr Devlin confirmed that Councillors Shervin's request for white lines for Killough Car Park had been passed onto the Assistant Director of Tourism, Culture and Events.

AHC/143/2021: Notice of Motion – Defibrillators

In response for an update from Councillors Lewis and Andrews, Mr Devlin confirmed an update report was due to be presented to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in February 2022.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lewis to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 December 2021.

PRESENTATION

AHC/008/2022: **OUTDOOR RECREATION NORTHERN IRELAND – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, Service Level Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Philip Weston from Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Weston thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet and then delivered a presentation (copy of which is appended to these minutes).

Following the presentation, the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members which were responded to as follows:

- Hilltown Pump Track consultation and design plan to be completed within this financial year.
- The aim of the focus for the Hilltown Pump Track was for teenagers and the design was less of a mountain bike pump track but more of a scooter/small bike pump track. Consultation with the local population was to be carried out.
- The surface for the Hilltown pump track would be hard surface to ensure sustainability.
- The ecological appraisal for the Bright trail was ongoing and an update would be provided directly to Councillor Sharvin.
- The next phase for Bright as well as Tip Wood, Teconnaught and Inch Abbey was to take the projects to shovel ready. These would then be considered by the Active and Health Communities Committee to establish if they would be included in next years' Service Level Agreement, dependant on the feasibility studies for each, along with funding availability.
- Shorter trails to help shore up grounds that were more vulnerable could be considered and would be dependant on community need and indicators within the framework. Members were encouraged to forward suggestions.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the report and the presentation delivered by Outdoor Recreation NI.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/009/2022: **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 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 Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Walker, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached to the officer's report for:
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 14 December 2021.
 - Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 14 December 2021.
 - Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 16 December 2021.

AHC/010/2022 **COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McKevitt to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 15 December 2021.

AHC/011/2022 **LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST, KILLOUGH ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE, DOWNPATRICK**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an expression of interest, Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick . **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Hillen pointed out there was an amendment to the report as presented, in that the expression of interest process to be publicly advertised for a period of 2 weeks and not 8 weeks as listed.

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, to approve the following:
- An expression of interest process be carried out for the land at Old Killough Road Community Centre, Downpatrick.
 - A valuation being sought for the leasing of this site over a 21-year period.
 - The EOI process be publicly advertised for a period of two weeks.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING**AHC/012/2022 CONSULTATION RESPONSE NI ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a consultation response to the NI Environment Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to return the attached Consultation response and to note the response had been submitted by the required date (18 January 2022) on the proviso that it was subject to Council Approval.**

AHC/013/2022 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM – 2 DECEMBER 2021

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum held on 2 December 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Finnegan to approve the actions arising from the meeting as attached on the Sustainability and Climate Change Action Sheet form Thursday 2 December 2021 (appendix 1 of the officer's report).**

AHC/014/2022 REQUEST FOR COUNCIL TO SUPPORT NATIONAL VEGETARIAN WEEK - MAY 2022

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a request for Council to support National Vegetarian Week, May 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion Councillor McMurray suggested that Council supplement the support for National Vegetarian Week by using social media to provide vegetarian recipes.

Councillor Sharvin put forward that it may an opportunity for DEAs to carry out a programme of promotion through cookery lessons.

Mr Devlin welcomed the comments and stated he was happy to incorporate any suggestions from Members.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí for Council to support National Vegetarian Week 2022 and join the campaign as part of its approach to tackling the climate and nature emergency.**

AHC/015/2022 **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DAERA FOR CERTIFICATION OF PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with DAERA for the certification of products of animal origin.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with DAERA as outlined within the Officer's report.**

AHC/016/2022 **DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding a Service Level Agreement with the Drinking Water Inspectorate. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Finnegan for the Chief Executive to sign the Service Level Agreement with the Drinking Water Inspectorate.**

AHC/017/2022 **HOME SAFETY SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a Service Level Agreement for Home Safety Services. **(Copy circulated)**

Cllr Sharvin enquired about what arrangements were in place for the legacy Newry and Mourne side with regards Home Safety and Mr Devlin explained there was provision for that, and funding came directly from PHA.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement and the annual contribution for maintenance of the Home Safety Database Scheme as outlined within the officer's report.**

AHC/018/2022 **CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO DFC ON NOTICE TO QUIT**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response to the Department for Communities in relation to Notice to Quit within the private rent sector.

Councillor Sharvin welcomed the 12 weeks notice to quit and enquired if there were any exceptions for a change in landlord circumstances when there was a need to sell the property sooner. Mr Devlin advised the consultation was more focused on the tenant however it could be looked at and he would report back to Councillor Sharvin on the matter.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to approve the consultation response as outlined within the officer's report to the Department for Communities in relation to Notice to Quit.

AHC/019/2022 **APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ANALYST**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the appointment of a Public Analyst.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to approve the appointment of the person identified within the officer's report to act as a Public Analyst.

LEISURE AND SPORT

AHC/020/2022 **KILBRONEY PITCHES – CAPITAL PROJECT**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding the progression of the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Capital Project. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Tinnelly, Mr Boyd advised an external consultant was required given the bespoke nature of the project to expediate the process so that the economic appraisal was completed within the timeframes concurrent with the planning application.

Councillor Tinnelly asked for commitment that any aspect of the project not subject to Ecological reports be submitted to planning and not hold back the project. Mr Boyd confirmed officers would endeavour to submit those parts of the project.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to approve the following:

- To appoint an economist to complete an Outline Business Case for the Kilbroney Playing Pitches Project.
- To allocate an additional £50,000 to Councils Capital Programme to accommodate point 1 and support any works required to complete the Outline Business Case.

AHC/021/2022: **LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AT LISMORE – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding expression of interest in relation to the leasing of Council land at Lismore. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note a report is to be tabled at the Strategic Policy and Resource Committee recommending approval to lease land at Lismore, Crossmaglen (appendix 1) to Crossmaglen Rangers GAC as per the final stage of Councils Sports and Community Leasing Policy (2016).

AHC/022/2022: DOWNPATRICK PARK RUN

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Downpatrick Park Run. **(Copy circulated)**

Cllr Sharvin enquired if there was a schedule for when the snag list for Dunleath track would be completed to enable a definitive date for the Park Run to commence.

Mr Tamati advised the snagging would be expediated as quickly as possible and he would report back directly to Councillor Sharvin.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor McMurray for Downpatrick Town Committee in partnership with Parkrun UK LTD to manage and operate a weekly 'Parkrun' event at Dunleath Playing Fields on the recently established community trail, subject to satisfactory submission and approval of all event documentation.

FOR NOTING

AHC/023/2022 SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND REPORT

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Social Investment Fund, Capital. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly to note the report.

AHC/024/2022 PEACE IV UPDATE

Read: Report dated 24 January 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update on Peace IV. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly to note the report and Minutes of the Peace IV Partnership Meeting held on 13 January 2022.

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

AHC/025/2022 UPGRADE WORKS AT BARCROFT AND THREEWAYS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Casey, 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 24 January 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding upgrade works at Barcroft and Threeways Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- That officers consult with the group at Threeways community centre to advise them of the nature of the required upgrade works.
- Accept the business case for the Upgrade works at Barcroft and Three Ways Community Centre.
- The procurement of an M&E consultant to provide the necessary technical specifications and proposals to carry out the works.
- The procurement of a suitably qualified contractor to carry out the necessary works for both sites.

AHC/026/2022 NO 16 THE SQUARE, ROSTREVOR

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Casey, 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 24 January 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding an update in relation to agreed works at No 16, the Square, Rostrevor. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly to note the content of the officer's report.**

AHC/027/2022 KNOCKNASHINA PLAY AREA CAR PARK, DOWNPATRICK

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Casey, 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 24 January 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Knocknashina Play Area Car Park, Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- **The establishment of a car park next to Knocknashina Play Area at a cost as detailed within the officer's report to address the health and safety issues outlined in the independent play audit for the park as per appendix 1.**
- **The business case for the above works as per appendix 2 in line with Council's procurement policy.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.14pm.

Signed: Councillor K McKevitt
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Active and Health Communities

Community Trails - Update

Philip Weston – 24th January 2022



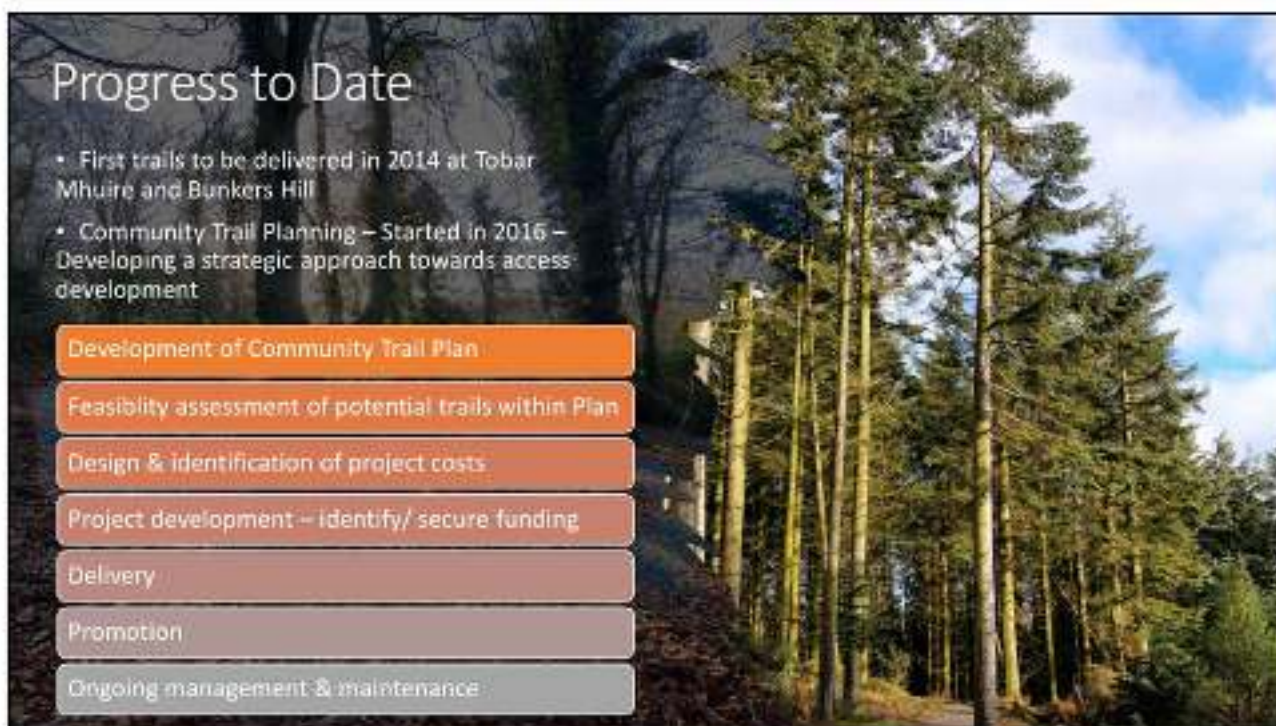
1

What are Community Trails?

- Formal trails that connect –
 - Communities to local outdoor spaces
 - Different communities together
- Includes –
 - Linear routes – Community Trails
 - Site based trail systems – Community Trail Hubs
- Community Trails link together to create –
 - A Community Trail Network



2



Progress to Date

- First trails to be delivered in 2014 at Tobar Mhuire and Bunkers Hill
- Community Trail Planning – Started in 2016 – Developing a strategic approach towards access development

- Development of Community Trail Plan
- Feasibility assessment of potential trails within Plan
- Design & identification of project costs
- Project development – identify/ secure funding
- Delivery
- Promotion
- Ongoing management & maintenance

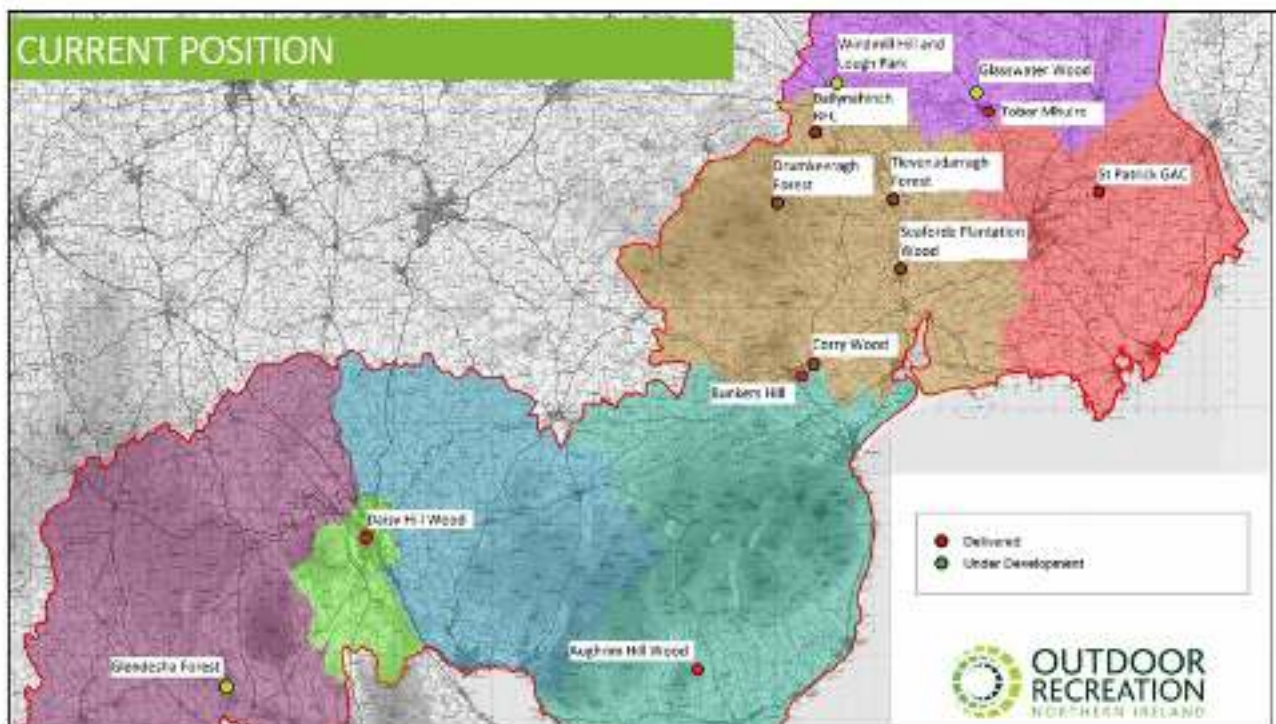
3



Progress to Date

- The process of delivering on each plan (through the assessment and development of trails and networks across the Council area) has been ongoing since the completion of the community trail plans in 2018
- 2019 – The Hinch Trail and The Family Trail at Ballynahinch RFC and St Patrick GAC, respectively
- 2020 / 2021 – Community trails and trail hubs developed at:
 - Drumkeeragh Forest
 - Tievenadarragh Forest
 - Seaforde Plantation Wood
 - Corry Wood
 - Daisy Hill Wood
 - Aughrim Hill Wood
- 2021 / 2022 – Ongoing development
 - Glasswater Wood
 - Glendeshia Forest
 - Windmill Hill and Lough Park

4



5

Investment in the Future

- Since 2019, Community Trail Development in NMDDC has seen investment of over £1.9 million pounds (capital only):
 - Over £400k through match funding from NMDDC
 - Over £1.5m from third party funders
- This has included funding from DAERA (TRPSI and ECF), Rural Development Programme, Sport NI and Woodland Trust
- Social Return on Investment

6



2021 / 22 SLA

- Progressing 5 projects to delivery within the next 6 months:
 - Improvement works at Drumkeeragh and Tievenadarragh Forests
 - New trail development at Glasswater Wood, Glendesha Forest and Windmill Hill and Lough Park
- Feasibility assessment
- Shovel ready trails projects and pump track
- Community Trail Framework:
 - Managed approach to identifying future community trail development
 - To help assess the need of any future trail proposals through a process of prioritising each trail on the basis of key indicators
 - May include new trails or improvements to existing trails
 - In most cases, to be carried out prior to assessing the feasibility of a trail

7



Thank you for listening
philip@outdoorrecreationni.com

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NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

Minutes of Special Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 January at 4.45pm via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Councillor K McKeivitt
Via Teams**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**
Via Teams Councillor C Casey Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor V Harte Councillor G Malone
Councillor A McMurray Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muiri Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director Active & Healthy Communities
Via Teams Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
Mr J Campbell, Head of Environmental Health (Residential)
Mr K Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager
Mrs N Largey, Legal Advisor
Sgt, Ryan Duffy, PSNI
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer**Also in attendance:** Mr S Coleman, Applicant
Mr R O'Callaghan, Objector**AHC/001/2022:** **APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

There were no apologies received.

AHC/002/2022: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Ó Muiri 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.

AHC/003/2022: REFRESHER TRAINING

Mr K Bloomfield presented a short presentation to members to familiarise them with the process.

AHC/004/2022: APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A LICENCE TO OPERATE A HOUSE OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION AT 10 MARY STREET, NEWRY, DOWN, BT34 2AA

Read: Report dated 13 January 2022 from Mr K Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager, regarding application for the renewal of a licence to operate a House of Multiple Occupation at 10 Mary Street, Newry, Down, BT34 2AA. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to grant the application with the following special conditions:**

- **The bedroom no.10 which is below the minimum size – the applicant has until 30 September 2022 to extend this.**
- **Bedroom no 5 and no 9 which had no ventilation and issues with light, not to be used for sleeping arrangements.**
- **The application approved for 1 year.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 17.42pm.

Signed: Councillor K McKeivitt
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26 January 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Estate, Downpatrick and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor K Owen (Teams)

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

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

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

NS/001/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

NS/002/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/003/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 December 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 December 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

Matters arising from Action Sheet

- In response to a query from Councillor Stokes, regarding progress on the Newry Canal item, Mr McBride said a scheduled meeting had to be re-arranged as representatives from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon were unable to attend. He said he would update the Committee as soon as the re-scheduled meeting took place.

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/004/2022: TRADE WASTE AND CARAVAN REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES

Read: Report dated 26 January 2022 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding changes to the provision of the commercial refuse collection service for trade waste customers and caravan operators. *(Circulated)*.

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

1. Alternate Weekly Commercial Waste Collection Service

- **Commercial refuse customers (shops and businesses) to be contacted and advised of the proposed move to an alternate weekly collection cycle of residual and dry recyclable waste, where this is achievable.**
- **Commercial customers, (not including Caravan Operators) to be provided with appropriate bins to facilitate this change, so there is no cost burden to customers as a result of this change.**

2. Collection Arrangements and Charges at Caravan Sites

- **Integration and alignment of the waste collection service for Caravan site customers with the waste service provided for Trade Waste customers by offering an alternate weekly collection service as required throughout the year.**
- **Commercial refuse charges for caravan parks to be increased to align with and be equitable to charges applied to other businesses from April 2022.**

Councillor McKee and Councillor Taylor asked that their concerns regarding the proposed commercial refuse charges for caravan parks be noted as it was a significant increase and they hoped would not be passed on to caravan owners, particularly as the Council were trying to attract more visitors and holiday makers to the District.

Before going into closed session the Chair advised that item 6 – Business Case for the provision of additional grounds maintenance services, had been withdrawn from the agenda.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 5, 6, and 7 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

NS/005/2022: ESTATES MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY AUDIT FINDINGS

Read: Report dated 26 January 2022 from Mr K Scullion, regarding estates management and security audit findings. *(Circulated)*.

NS/006/2022: WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Read: Report dated 26 January 2022 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding waste management procurement update. *(Circulated)*.

NS/007/2022: FLEET OPERATOR'S LICENCE – FLEET MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Read: Report dated 26 January 2022 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Fleet Operator's Licence – Fleet Management Action Plan update. *(Circulated)*.

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

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

NS/005/2022 - Report on Estates Management and Security Audit Findings

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it agreed to approve the Estates Management and Security Action Plan and agree to quarterly updates being provided to the Committee on the implementation status of the Plan.

NS/006/2022 - Waste Management Procurement Update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee, it agreed to note the issue identified with license requirements to carry goods for hire and reward associated with the tenders identified in the report and the follow up action taken by the Department

Noted: It was noted that whilst in closed session Councillor McKee had raised an issue regarding hook skips being full at Kilkeel Recycling Centre and Ms S Murphy advised she would investigate and report back to Councillor McKee.

NS/007/2022 – Fleet Management Action Plan Update

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it agreed to approve the Fleet Management Action Plan Update (dated 20 January 2022).

FOR NOTING

NS/008/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, 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.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.50 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 February 2022.

Signed: Councillor K Owen
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

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



Minutes of the 486th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 9th December 2021 at 10.00 am via Zoom

Present:

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Department for Communities
Kieran Devlin	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, Housing Executive
Siobhan McCauley	Director of Regional Services, Housing Executive
Robert Clements	Sustainable Development Manager, Housing Executive
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
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1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price and Kieran Devlin from the Department for Communities and Grainia Long, Siobhan McCauley and Robert Clements from the Housing Executive.</p>	
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Housing Council
486th 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 Minutes of the 485th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 11th November 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman J Speers, seconded by Alderman A Grehan and resolved, that the Minutes of the 485th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 11th November 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.0 4.1 4.2	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p><u>Housing Association Key Staff Contacts</u></p> <p>It was noted that Members had requested Housing Associations staff key contacts from Ben Collins NIFHA, the information was still awaited.</p> <p><u>Members Queries</u></p> <p>Members had received responses to their queries, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald – Housing Executive Policy on pets permitted in properties (Circulated for Information) 	Secretary
5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The Paper was noted.</p>	Secretary

Housing Council
486th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

<p>6.0</p>	<p><u>Department for Communities – Housing Top Issues</u></p> <p>Mr Paul Price and Mr Kieran Devlin gave an update of changes under the specific headings on the Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Newbuild starts <p>Referring to the 10% wheelchair access in the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP). Alderman Grehan was keen that family homes for those with children who have disabilities should be built. Siobhan McCauley undertook to provide a breakdown of how many family homes, apartments etc.” have been built with wheelchair access in social homes over the last 4/5 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Ownership • Programme for Social Reform • Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy <p>Paul Price confirmed that the 18 out of the 20 proposals in the Review does not require legislation. The Minister has approved the changes to the scheme and waiting implementation. He added that the resources to implement and deliver the proposed changes is the challenge.</p> <p>The Housing Council are keen to see the implementation of the proposals being taken forward by the end of March 2022.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper asked in relation to ‘right-sizing’ transfers would that be incorporated into the housing selection points system. It was confirmed that this will be part of the current ‘shared equity homes’ there is no direct relation to the points system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers • Supporting People Delivery Strategy • Homelessness Strategy • Regulation of the Private Rented Sector <p>Members welcomed the work in some areas to improve the private rented sector and reiterated the conditions and unfit standards which their tenants, who possibly are the most vulnerable in society are subjected to.</p>	<p>S McCauley</p>
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Housing Council
486th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<p>Members also welcomed the range of proposed enhanced powers to councils in relation to private landlords and their properties.</p> <p>Reference was made by way of supporting landlords in relation the 'notice period for tenants', who may have built up a substantial amount of arrears, it was explained that to date there has no changes to this set up, it would be an issue for the landlord and tenant to resolve.</p> <p>Members asked was resources going to be made available to private landlords in order to support them to bring their properties up to standards, funding similar to that of Housing Executive and Housing Associations.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the private rented sector is approximately 17% of the social housing market, but there is no discussions for an intervention to provide government funding to enable these properties to be brought up to standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Housing Supply • Affordable Warmth Scheme <p>Referring to the budget of approximately £18m for 2021/22, it was confirmed that the spent to date was approximately £7.2 m. It was explained that due to several factors impacting the works being carried out, in particular the increase of cost of materials, the Housing Executive Board has approved a 12% increase and 2,000 re-approvals and re-issued. The other issue is access to properties and staff shortages due to Covid.</p> <p>It was noted that Housing Executive and Council staff are working hard to get as much of the work carried out within this financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHE Rent Increase • ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020 • Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax • Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework • Long term rent trajectory • Affordability of social rents <p>Mr Devlin undertook to share the links to the Notice to Quit and Housing Supply Strategy Consultations and added that Members feedback on the Consultations would be much appreciated.</p>	<p>K Devlin All Members</p>
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Housing Council
486th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

7.0	<p>Reducing the impacts of Climate Change</p> <p>Robert Clements, Sustainable Development Manager gave Members an update on how the Housing Executive aims to participate in Reducing the impacts of Climate Change (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>Members welcomed the work the Housing Executive is carrying out and recognise that this is a massive challenge and the need for action is urgent.</p> <p>Councillor Mathison highlighted the Housing Executive's ambition in dealing with how heat is generated in Housing Executive stock and 2025 getting heat pumps installed and the retrofit programme for those properties of the gas grid and move towards possibly the hydrogen technologies. He added how far are those options are developed.</p> <p>Robert Clements explained that from the Housing Executive perspective, both as Strategic Housing Authority and NI's largest landlord, we indicated in our corporate response to the DfE Energy Strategy Policy Options paper an ambition to electrify heating for householders, with a focus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 'off the gas grid' initially through hybrid heating systems (oil/gas with heat pumps) by 2025 and then standalone air source heat pumps by 2030, with improved energy efficiency, better electric tariff options and improved householder education. b. on the gas grid' we aspire for green hydrogen to replace natural gas, however we stated if this wasn't an affordable option by 2030 (NIHE will have to revisit this date as the BEIS Heat & Buildings Strategy, Oct 2021 notes a decision point on hydrogen for heating should be made in 2026) we would move to electrify heating 'on the gas grid'. <p>All this is based on suitable funding and satisfactory outcomes from pilots and programmes.</p> <p>Going forward, the Housing Executive wants to support choice where possible, and will not prioritise fossil fuels in the medium to long term.</p>	
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Housing Council
486th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<p>Whilst acknowledging technology is evolving the Housing Executive believe decarbonisation choice is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. affordability, b. carbon free, c. sustainability of supply. <p>Members recognised the major challenge is the funding these programmes and the concern are there firms who are equipped to carry out such works.</p> <p>Councillor Cooper referred to the problem of cavity wall insulation with Housing Executive stock and there was a commitment reported in September to Members, that there will be a major CWI replacement programme, as part of the energy efficiency strategy, he added the concern is when funding permits, he felt that all energy efficiency programme could be put in place, but if the stock are not properly insulated, it is a waste of resources. A joint-up approach and investment is required to tackle these issues.</p> <p>Grainia Long confirmed that the Housing Executive Board approved a Cavity Wall Insulation plan which is part funded and she added that it is vital that the right sequence of works to homes is carried out.</p> <p>It was noted that there are several programmes to enable the Housing Executive to seek funding ie. Affordable Warmth scheme, European Regional Development Funding (EDRF) etc. It was recognised that this is a wider investment challenge as part of the Housing Executive's Revitalisation programme.</p> <p>The Chief Executive undertook to provide a Presentation on the Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan.</p> <p>Members would be keen to see at firsthand some of the Housing Executive's pilot projects illustrating Hybrid heat pumps and electric generation and storage. The Secretary undertook to arrange visits in Spring 2022.</p>	<p>G Long</p>
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Housing Council
486th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

8.0	<p>Housing Policy in NI Conference 'Minister & Housing Executive Keynotes – 7th February 2022.</p> <p>Agreed: Alderman Tommy Nicholl and Councillor Mark Cooper would represent the Housing Council at this Seminar.</p> <p>The Chair would advise the Secretary if she is able to attend nearer the time.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Chair</p>
9.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts December 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
<p>10.0</p> <p>10.1</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Appointed Consultants</u></p> <p>Alderman Speers referred to a property in Hamiltonsbawn where the Contractor was removing the guttering etc and discovered asbestos. Works had to be stopped and with the bad weather the water damaged the property. He sought clarification as to why the Consultant had not identified this issue, if he had have completed a thorough research/investigation of the property, prior to works commencing.</p>	<p>S McC</p>
11.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that at the Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 13th January at 10 am via Zoom.</p> <p>The Chair wished Members and Officers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

The Meeting concluded at 12.15 am.

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Appendix A



Reducing the impacts of climate change Housing Council

9 Dec 2021

Robert Clements
Sustainable Development Manager
Northern Ireland Housing Executive

www.nihe.gov.uk

2021- a tipping point?



This is a crisis 20 years ahead of what we are having now for the first time in the last two decades



Code Red for Humanity
'unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach'



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Housing Council
486th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

The Context.....Local Picture



Google **AGRICULTURE IN NI**

The Department for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (DAFNI) is the lead government department for agriculture in Northern Ireland. It is responsible for the day-to-day running of the sector and for the implementation of EU agricultural policy.

Climate change: Ireland getting warmer and wetter
Ireland is getting warmer and wetter due to climate change, according to a report published on...

BBC - 01

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The Context.....Local Picture



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BBC - 01



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UK Policy Context & Guidance



Duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the 1990 baseline



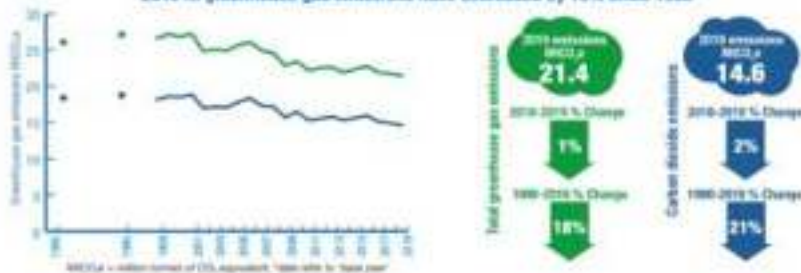
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NI Green House Gases Statistics 1990 - 2019



NI Greenhouse Gas Statistics 1990-2019

2019 NI greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 18% since 1990*



NI Housing reduce CO₂ by 29% from 1990s to 2016 (NIHCS)



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Climate Challenge in NI

30 YEARS TO ACHIEVE 20% CARBON REDUCTION – **NEXT 29 YEARS TO ACHIEVE 80% CARBON REDUCTION**



CHALLENGE SIMILAR TO UNFITNESS UPGRADES FROM 1970's

All sectors need to spend £1.5Billion per annum for next 20 years
Overall £6-9 Billion Housing Upgrades across NI

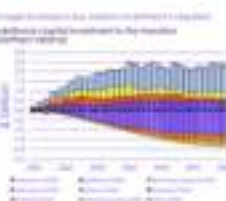


Step Change Now

CCC 6th Carbon Budget

Net Zero for ALL sectors needs 60% carbon reduction over next 15 years

By 2030 NI annual cost of carbon mitigation is **£1.5Bn per year**...achieve savings by 2040's!



To meet 2050 net zero commitments, it is estimated that policies would need to drive...retrofits for over **50,000 buildings within the decade**. Current energy efficiency schemes in NI deliver. **16,500 buildings per year**, indicating that a doubling or trebling is needed... **Overall £6-9 Billion Housing Upgrades across NI**

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A busy policy and strategy landscape



NI Energy Strategy



NI Climate Change Bill



NI Green Growth



NI Building Regs

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Northern Ireland Housing Context



Carbon Emissions - 2018



Energy Consumption - 2017



Northern Ireland has the highest weekly household expenditure on energy of any UK region - it was 30% 14.7% higher in the period 2016-2019 than the UK average

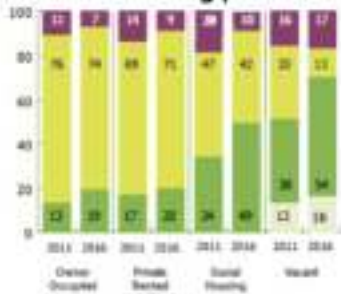
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Northern Ireland Housing



Domestic Heating (fuel sources)



- 68% Oil
- 25% N/Gas



NI highest weekly household expenditure on energy of any UK region – 14.7% higher 2016-2019 than UK average (36% 2012-14)

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Climate Change influence ALL areas of business



Housing Executive

86,000 houses
40+ Offices
3,200 staff



10 Key Solutions Needed to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

1. **Reduce car use** (Car sharing, public transport)
2. **Reduce energy & efficiency** (Energy audits, smart meters)
3. **Retain buildings** (Energy efficient buildings)
4. **Greenhouse gas emissions** (Renewable energy, energy efficiency)
5. **Reduce energy demand** (Energy efficient buildings, smart meters)
6. **Renewable energy** (Solar, wind, hydro)
7. **Encourage sustainable shopping** (Local food, bulk buying)
8. **Heat distribution & storage** (District heating, heat pumps)
9. **Reduce food loss and waste** (Food banks, composting)
10. **Efficient transport & fuel use** (Electric vehicles, car sharing)

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HECA Role

Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) Housing Executive statutory role

3 Themes to deliver HECA role

- **REPORT** annually energy efficiency across all residential tenures
- **SUPPORT** Practical, cost effective, significant improvement (VFM), **Innovation**
- **PROMOTE** energy efficiency awareness across all tenures





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Investment to transition to net zero



1. Housing Executive aims to deliver **£200m+** investment in our homes – and **£162m** in provision of new social housing in this year
2. How do we ensure this has maximum impact?
 - a. Make energy efficiency an infrastructure/strategic priority to **reduce energy demand & deliver a step change of energy efficiency retrofitting.**
 - b. **Transition to low and zero carbon heating** systems within new build and retrofit (on/off gas grid networks);
 - c. Greater societal change via the **promotion of education and empowerment** for householders to deliver behaviour change needed to understand new technology and systems.

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Some of the Challenges we need to solve



- a. Condition and functionality of **existing stock** and investment requirement
- b. NI has a **long-term dependence on carbon** and imported energy- oil boilers!!!
- c. **e. Fuel poverty is still relatively high** across Northern Ireland.
- d. Energy and climate policy in NI is **devolved into two separate government departments – economic and climate strategy alignment**
- e. Building Regulation policy in NI... **much more to do!**
- f. There is a **challenge of funding retrofitting- who pays and how?**
- g. **Lack of experience and capacity gaps** in local energy and construction sector, a skills shortage, as demonstrated in the NIHE ERDF project.

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Retrofit at scale



- Northern Ireland Housing Executive and ERDF funded retrofit Programme - up to 2000 homes and E45m investment
- **First retrofit, at scale** of its kind in Northern Ireland
- An opportunity to test, innovate, build public trust
- Pilot **PAS 2030 and Retrofit Coordinators**



As a consequence of the recent ERDF retrofit Programme,

- a. **Skills of both consultants and the supply chain** including contractors have increased significantly in this new market.
- b. Housing Executive has developed an **ARTES Initiative** which is their contribution towards **increasing trade skills and social value benefits** within our communities from its long term Maintenance Contracts.
- c. Aim to **use the local construction industry** to generate and mobilise local knowledge, where possible.

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Pilot Projects

AIM: Technology work around tenant, NOT tenant work around technology



- 6 Houses in Fermanagh**
- Hybrid heat pumps, electric generation and storage
 - Thermal improvement SAP Band C
 - Fitted Winter 2020



RULET

- 10 Houses in Omagh**
- Hybrid heat pumps with gas & oil
 - Heat pumps and storage
 - AG&E & Time of Use tariffs
 - Thermal improvement SAP Band C
 - Fit Autumn 2021



Outputs: Low Energy Bills, Low Carbon Heating, Improved Thermal Comfort

Look Forward to 200+ unit pilot for Winter 2022

Collaboration is the key to Success



The Housing Executive social housing new build ambitions:



NIHE New Build Pilot.

The Housing Executive is undertaking the construction of a small development of new social housing units through a research pilot scheme in North Belfast. This scheme will provide 6 no. semi-detached dwellings (2 bed, 3 person) and will incorporate the following:-

- **Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)**
- **Ultra-low energy** building techniques
- Mechanical ventilation and heat recovery system with integral heat pump.

New Build Scheme Objectives.

- **Demonstrate an exemplar social housing model**
- To independently assess modern methods of construction for:
 - Speed**
 - Fabric performance**
 - Value for money**
- **Reduce fuel poverty**
- Inform future policy

Embodied energy can also be reduced by using low-carbon building materials and construction methods. These standards far exceed the current Building Regulations. Building low energy housing now would futureproof our new build stock, as there would be no need to return to retrofit to a higher standard to meet UK targets.

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Our Vision...



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

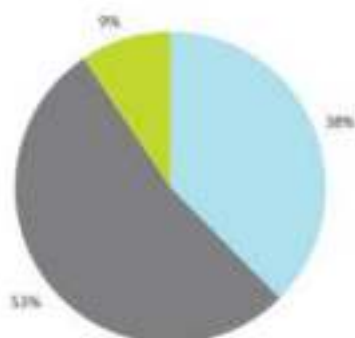


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Technology can't do everything



Role of societal and behavioural changes



- Low-carbon technologies or fuels not societal / behavioural changes
- Measures with a combination of low-carbon technologies and societal / behavioural changes
- Largely societal or behavioural changes

Source: CCC analysis

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Education and Empowerment



1. Local Offices Energy Awareness and Carbon Literacy training for staff and community groups - Green Champions
2. HOMEADVICE (evolution of the previous HEATSMART service):
3. Tenants with persistent heating issues and modern heating controls
4. Electronic Vehicle Charging Points – need govt policy direction
5. Rewilding in collaboration with Community Groups



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30 Years to meet Net Zero WE CAN DO IT



~1.2 million BEVs/year
(136 per hour)
(current 331 vehicles/hour)



~600k installations/year
(68 per hour)
(current 182 boilers/hour)

2025 – Fit Hybrid Heat Pumps off gas grid with deep retrofit – Our ambition

2030 – Fit Heat Pumps off the gas grid and hydrogen boilers on the gas grid – both with deep retrofit – Our Ambition

2030 – No new cars use fossil fuels – National Policy

2035 – No new hybrid cars, electric only – National Policy

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The Future.....



- **energy efficiency** (cavity wall and loft insulation, passive fitted windows and air tightness measures)
- **low carbon heating** (heat pumps and hydrogen ready boilers and bigger radiators, still with a wet system)
- **electric tariff change** (offer householders 'time of use' tariffs)
- **better householder education** (provide more interactive solutions, apps on mobile phones and home energy display devices)
- **more renewable technology** (solar PV on roofs, electric and thermal storage batteries)

- Reduced bills
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Healthier Homes – greater thermal comfort
- **Building communities not just houses**

'We can't afford not to do this....'





CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

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 E: kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk
 W: nihousingcouncil.org

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JANUARY HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 13th January 2022 at 10.00 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Chaired the Meeting)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Apologies

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive

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

- JMC Mechanical and Construction Ltd
- COVID-19 Update
- Regina Coeli Hostel - Belfast
- Temporary Accommodation / Single Lets
- Contractor issues, Rathcoole
- *NIHE 50th Anniversary Event - Tuesday 7 December 2021*
- *Recent Belfast Telegraph Article - Insulation in NIHE Homes*
- Climate Update
- Supporting People
- Nature Positive Solutions
- Upper Long Streets – Belfast

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Continued.....

- Private Sector Improvement Services - Recruitment Challenges and impact on service delivery
- Housing Executive Revitalisation (HER Programme Board Work)
- World Health Organisation - Belfast Healthy Cities Awards
- Hate Crime and Tackling Paramilitarism

Members also received a Presentation from the Housing Executive on Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan.

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10th February 2022 at 10.00 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

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2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

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



Association for Public Service Excellence

Timetable for Association Meetings 2021/22

Full Association	21 January 2022	Edinburgh
National Council	10 December 2021	Northern Ireland
	18 March 2022	London
	16/17 June 2022	York
	6 September 2022 (TBC)	Wales
Annual General Meeting	7 September 2022 (TBC)	Wales
Policy, Performance & Scrutiny Committee meeting	October 2021	Manchester
	February 2022	Wales

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS ANNUAL EVENTS

GENERAL MANAGEMENT/EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

7th February in Leeds – Retrospective approval required for Councillor Casey.

23rd May – location TBC

12th September – location TBC

CONFERENCES

25th-27th February in Glasgow – Community Empowerment Conference, Best Western Hotel, Glasgow – Cost = £350+VAT, accommodation @ £70+VAT per night. Flights additional

8th-10th April – Health & Wellbeing Conference – TBC

24th-26th June – TBC

25th-27th November inc AGM on 26th November - TBC

Hallmark Hotel, Glasgow

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National Association of Councillors

Community Empowerment

Agenda

Friday 25th February 2022

5 – 6pm Registration

6pm Chairman's Welcome, Cllr. Graham

1st Speaker

Questions from Delegates.

7.30pm Dinner

Saturday 26th February 2026

10.00am 2nd speaker

Questions

10.45am 3rd Speaker

Questions

11.30am Coffee Break

Hallmark Hotel, Glasgow

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11.45am Anne Bonner, NAC

Empowering Women

Questions

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm Regional Management Meeting

7-00pm Conference Dinner

Sunday 27th February 2022

10-00am Cllr. Brian Nelson, National Secretary, NAC

Interactive Workshops

12-00pm Lunch & end of event

Council Meeting – 7 February 2022

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NAC Conference Weekend,

Subject, Community Empowerment

The Best Western Hotel, Glasgow 25th – 27th February 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The National Association of Councillors are holding our next event in Glasgow and the subject we will be discussing is Community Empowerment.

This event has been requested by NAC members and will look at how we as Councillors can help to empower our constituents at grass route level.

I have engaged speakers with a wide range of expertise, and they will cover subjects including Participatory Budgets, Empowering women and other groups and the importance of communities and democracy.

The Hotel has good facilities and is in the city centre with good public transport links.

Please find the booking form and draft agenda attached.

Councillor Brian Nelson

National Secretary

National Association of Councillors

0191 3789947 office

0779 1574879 mobile

Note: Due to continued Covid 19 restrictions we will be following the guidelines from the Scottish Government in place at the time of the event.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

Conference

Community Empowerment

The Hallmark Hotel, Glasgow

25th-27th February 2022

Delegate Booking Form

Name of Delegate.....

Organisation

Delegate's Email

Telephone Number.....

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

Printed Name.....

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

INVOICE, email address for invoice.....

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

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

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

£295 plus VAT - Town, Parish and Community Councils

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)

Booking Condition: Please note that a charge is payable on any bookings cancelled. These charges will be kept to a minimum and will be in accordance with cost incurred by the NAC.



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Department for
Commonities

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From: The Private Secretary

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 9051 2662
e-mail: private_office@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref: CORR-0012-2022
Date: 13 January 2022

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

By email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Marie,

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUEL POVERTY TASKFORCE

Thank you for your recent letter to Minister Hargey. You wrote to make suggestions and offer valuable input regarding the increase in wholesale energy prices. The Minister passed your correspondence to officials who were developing fuel support schemes, and I am now writing to provide you with an update on that work.

Minister Hargey was pleased to announce that a £55 million Energy Payment Support Scheme has been approved by the Executive today. The Energy Payment Support Scheme is for vulnerable individuals struggling to meet rising energy costs due to the global fuel crisis.

A one-off payment of £200 will be made automatically to around 280,000 eligible individuals in receipt of specified benefits as soon as practicably possible. The payment will be made through existing payment channels, without the need for any application.

Individuals will be eligible for this payment if, during the qualifying week (Monday 13th December to Sunday 19th December 2021 inclusive), they were in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance; or
- Income Support.



You will be aware that the Minister has also announced a £2m Emergency Fuel Payment Scheme, operated by the Bryson Charitable Group, developed in very close collaboration with the Consumer Council, the Utility Regulator and a range of local energy companies in response to the recent and unprecedented energy price rises.

This is intended as an emergency fund for households facing a fuel crisis right now - households who are facing the real risk of disconnection in the next few days.

In terms of an update on the Emergency Fuel Payment Scheme, this has been developed in collaboration with Bryson Charitable Group, the Consumer Council and a range of local energy companies in response to the recent and unprecedented energy price rises.

A link to the website and form for the Fuel Crisis Fund is below, as well as a link for further information for the information announced by Minister Hargey today on indirect.

<https://www.brysongroup.org/news/emergency-fuel-payment-scheme>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/energy-costs-support-schemes>

I trust that you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Rosheen Thompson
Private Secretary

From the Minister of Finance

*Marie Ward,
Chief Executive,
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council*

Private Office
2nd Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED
Tel: 028 9081 6216
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C/243/2021
Our reference: Corr 0003-2022

Date: 17 January 2022

Dear Marie

ENERGY PRICES; ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASKFORCE

Thank you for your letter of 20 December.

I have written to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury asking that the VAT costs of 5% for domestic users and 20% for business be waived for a period of time. I will continue to press the British Government on this matter.

I have also secured Executive agreement to allocate £55m to the Department for Communities to introduce an Energy Payment Support Scheme, through which a one-off payment of £200 will be provided to individuals in receipt of certain benefits. It is expected that some 280,000 individuals will benefit from this Energy Payment Support Scheme.

Given the sheer scale of the unprecedented rise in energy costs, the Department for Communities Minister has also provided £2m in funding to the Bryson Charitable Group for an Emergency Fuel Payment Scheme, which will provide support to those who find themselves with a temporary inability to meet their energy bills. This will aim to benefit some 20,000 families and opened on 6 January.

I hope that these measures will begin to provide some relief to those vulnerable households who have been so badly affected by the recent significant rise in energy prices but I would be happy to consider any other proposals that Ministers may bring forward for further support.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conor Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**CONOR MURPHY MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE**



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagairwww.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA

Ms Marie Ward

council@nmandd.org

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: CORR-0015-2022
21st January 2022

Dear Ms Ward

ASPHALT RESURFACING CONTRACTS – NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2021 in relation to road resurfacing contracts in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

Following legal challenges to the award of resurfacing contracts in spring 2021, the Department has been working at pace to develop and implement a new term contract strategy to ensure that much needed resurfacing work is carried out in those areas without a contract.

The new asphalt resurfacing procurement strategy consists of four phases with six new term contracts in each. The first phase, which includes contracts for the Newry & Mourne, Down District Council area is currently out to tender with an anticipated award in March 2022. The remaining phases will follow at approximately three-month intervals. The majority of schemes that are currently on hold due to these contractual issues will be carried out as quickly as possible after the contract has been awarded.

In addition, in 2021-22 the Minister set up an enhanced Road Recovery Fund with £17 million of the capital budget allocated to target many short lengths of lightly trafficked roads that are in poor condition. In total, £15 million of this budget has been specifically directed towards rural roads, representing a 50% increase in funding of this initiative over the previous financial year; the highest level of funding yet specifically allocated to a rural roads initiative. Work to deliver this programme is continuing and will see many areas in the worst condition receive localised resurfacing treatment using the Department's other term contracts.

KATHRYN MCFERRAN
Private Secretary to the Minister

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

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

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

Your Ref: C/012/2022

Our Ref: CORR-0153-2022

Date: 24 January 2022

Dear *Marie,*

Thank you for your further letter of 14 January 2022 regarding extending the scheme providing 12-months free dental care for expectant and new mothers.

I appreciate that the issue is of importance and as I have advised, I have asked the General Dental Services Rebuilding Stakeholder Group to consider this issue as part of the wider rebuilding plans for dentistry. This work is ongoing and I would expect to be in a position to consider the matter in March or April of this year.

I trust you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health



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

An Roinn
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Department for
Commonities

From: Director of Housing Supply Policy

Level 3
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Telephone 02890515225
E-mail: David.polley@communities-ni.gov.uk

Your ref: C/011/2022

Our ref: CORR-0093-2022

Date: 28 January 2022

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

Email: marie.ward@nmandd.org

Dear Ms Ward

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL – IMPACT OF AIRBNB ON LOCAL ACCOMMODATION

I refer to your letter of 14th January to Minister Hargey which has been passed to me to reply.

In your letter you mentioned Members concerns about the shortage of housing in the Council area, in particular in the private sector and you asked for a review to be carried out on the impact that AirBNB is having on local accommodation provision.

In general terms you will be aware that policy responsibility for short term tourist accommodation lies with the Department of Economy, and that holiday lets are regulated by Tourism NI, and require to be licenced.

You will be aware that Minister is moving forward with work to develop and deliver a new Housing Supply Strategy. The Housing Supply Strategy will set out the policy framework within which interventions and programmes will be developed. The strategy recognises the need for a long term vision to address our supply challenges and takes a 'whole system approach'. This approach considers the wide range of demand drivers and levers to housing supply. It also recognises the interconnectedness of the housing supply system.

The impact of AirBnB's on accommodation has not been raised as a significant issue to date in the consultation on the strategy. However, the action planning process that will commence following approval of the strategy will offer the opportunity to consider a range of issues and establish where further data or evidence is required. We intend to work closely with stakeholders, including local government to develop these action plans, including in the identification and prioritising actions to increase housing supply.

I hope that this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely



DAVID POLLEY
Director of Housing Supply Policy