



November 3rd, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 7th November 2022** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre & MS Teams.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 03-10-2022.pdf](#)

Page 1

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 October 2022

 [Council Minutes 03-10-2022.pdf](#)

Page 5

5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 September 2022

 [Sp Council Minutes - NIHE 26-09-2022.pdf](#)

Page 18


6.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 October 2022

 [Special Council Minutes - 24-10-2022.pdf](#)

Page 23

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

7.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2022

 [ERT Minutes 10 October 2022.pdf](#)

Page 27

8.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2022

 [Strategy Policy Resources Meeting Minutes 13 -10-2022.pdf](#)

Page 32

9.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2022

 [Minutes of Active Healthy Communities 17 Oct 2022.pdf](#)

Page 40

10.0 Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting

11.0 Planning Section

LDP: Planning Policy Review

📎 Planning Meeting 19.10.2022.docx

Page 56

Correspondence

12.0 Warrenpoint Harbour Authority - Councillor Positions

For Information

📎 Letter seeking nominations for WHA Councillor position.pdf

Page 57

Notices of Motion

13.0 Notice of Motion - Social Model of Disability

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Taylor:

"This Council recognises that; many forms of disability, including for example impairments of mobility, vision, hearing, communication, neurological issues, mental health issues, neurodiversity, learning disability and chronic illness can impact people's ability to access our services. It has a duty to ensure that every service and facility is fully accessible, providing access to resources and services that remove barriers. This council, therefore, agrees to promote a Social Model of Disability, which says that people with impairments are 'disabled' by the barriers operating in society which excludes and discriminate against them. Further, commits to working with local businesses, community and service providers to ensure facilities and services are accessible for everyone and will ensure that any new service or facility is developed using a co-design approach with disability organisations and local groups".

14.0 Notice of Motion - Kings Coronation

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Lewis:

"This Council recognises that many residents across Newry Mourne and Down will welcome and celebrate the coronation of His Majesty the King. We note that the coronation has been announced for Saturday 6th May 2023. To mark this momentous occasion we would ask that funding be made available for communities and organisations who wish to join together in Recognition and celebration".

15.0 Notice of Motion - Government help with Cost of Living Crisis

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Andrews:

"Over the past few months and due to a variety of reasons and circumstances we have seen price hikes and increases on a wide scale that have impacted severely on so many in our district resulting in hardship and unable to make ends meet. Newry Mourne and Down District Council demands that the Government put in place much needed measures to provide much necessary help and support to residents of the District who have been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis. If this motion is adopted Council writes to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, also the other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland enlisting their support for this motion".

16.0 Notice of Motion - Electronic Travel Authorisation

Notice of Motion received from Councillor McAteer:

"That this Council strongly rejects the intentions of the United Kingdom Government to introduce Electronic Travel Authorisation for International & Non-Irish EU citizens entering Northern Ireland from the Republic. That this Council write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland informing him of the serious damage this course of action would inflict upon our business, tourism and healthcare sectors. That this Council also write to the Minister for Justice in the Republic urging her not to facilitate or cooperate with the imposition of such travel requirements at points of entry or exit into or out of the Republic, if enacted by a U.K. Government.

Furthermore, this Council believes the imposition of an application process and accompanying charges would be tantamount to an act of legislative sabotage, potentially destroying the post-conflict gains in attracting tourists and business travellers alike to Northern Ireland over recent years."

17.0 Notice of Motion - Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland's Ancient East destination marketing brand

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Byrne:

"This Council recognises the four key pillars of Ireland's Ancient East: Ancient Ireland, Early Christian Ireland, Medieval Ireland, and Anglo Ireland; align with and strengthen our districts tourism offering.

This Council supports the inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in the Ireland's Ancient East destination marketing brand".

18.0 Notice of Motion - Invitation to An Taoiseach

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Stokes

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council write to An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to cordially invite him to visit our district.

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
C/084/2022	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28.03.22 – with NIAS & SHSCT	It was agreed to bring forth problem solving solutions to the NIAS in all facets of their work and for this action to be retained on the Action Sheet to keep track of progress	Democratic Services		N

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/156/2022	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 05.09.22	The Action Sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/157/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 05.09.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/158/2022	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 12.09.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/159/2022	Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12.09.22	<p>The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, subject to the following amendment: ERT/151/2022: <u>Update re: AONB and Geopark</u></p> <p>On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed:</p> <p>1.To approve the Service Level Agreement (SLA, Appendix 1) with Bluebell Lane Glamping for 2022 – 2023 at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report</p> <p>2. To amend the SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023. SLA will be at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report for the following projects: SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023 for a maximum cost of as outlined in the officer's report for delivery against the below 3 projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop costed proposal for visitor management at Minerstown Beach. • Detailed visitor management survey and costed proposals for the Ring of Gullion • Camlough Mountain Access feasibility Study. SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023 for a maximum cost as contained within the officer's report for delivery against the below project, subject to funding being secured 	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop costed programme of upgrade, repair and maintenance for the Lecale Way. 			
C/160/2022	Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15.09.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/161/2022	Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20.09.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/162/2022	Minutes of Audit Communities Committee Meeting held on 22.09.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
	Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22	The Annual Report was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/163/2022	Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 22.09.22	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.</p> <p>Mr Lipsett to contact Councillor Devlin regarding works for Donard Park Car Parking.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>M Lipsett</p>	Noted	
C/164/2022	Minutes of Special Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 26.09.22	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/165/2022	Planning Minutes Extract re: LDP Progress Report, quarterly update	It was agreed to note the extract from the Minutes of Planning Committee held on 24 August 2022 regarding the LDP Progress Report, quarterly update.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/166/2022	Letter from Department for Communities – Council Remote/Hybrid Meeting	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/167/2022	Notice of Motion – Revenue from EV Charging Infrastructure	The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	A Cassells	Tabled at SE Committee Meeting on 18 October 2022	
C/168/2022	Notice of Motion – Irish Passport Office in Northern Ireland	<p>“This Council acknowledges the increased demand for Irish citizens in the North, particularly since the Brexit referendum and calls for additional services to be put in place to manage the demand.</p> <p>This Council reiterates the call made in 2018 for an Irish Passport Office to be located in the North of Ireland.</p> <p>Council will write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, expressing concern at the current backlog and delays for Irish Passport applications, and request a passport office to be established in the North of Ireland to help manage this demand.”</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>Correspondence sent to Minister for Foreign Affairs</p>	Noted	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 October 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:

Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor J Brennan
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor R Howell
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor K Owen
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin

In attendance via Teams

Councillor W Clarke	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor G Malone
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in attendance via Teams:

Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture and Events
 Mrs P McKeeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/154/2022

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne, Casey and Harte and from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

C/155/2022

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairperson congratulated and wished the following clubs within the District well in reaching football finals including:

- Warrenpoint and Kilcoo on making the Down Senior Football Championship
- Rostrevor and Saval who were to play in the Intermediate Football Final
- Teconnaught and Dromara on reaching the Junior Football Final
- Killeavy and Crossmaglen in the Armagh Championship Football Semi-Final

A special mention was given to the Special Olympian, Bethany Firth on receiving her OBE.

The Chairperson congratulated Niamh Node from Bessbrook and Sophie Lennon from Mayobridge who had excelled to the semi-finals of the Junior Eurovision and wished them well in the rest of the competition.

The Chairperson congratulated Ardglass Skiffie Club on the recent launch of their new boat which had been a momentous day.

Reference was made to St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel which had held centenary celebrations at the weekend and the Chairperson wished them well for the rest of the year in celebrating 100 years of education within the District.

The Chairperson spoke of his privilege in representing Council in Cavan at the Shared Island Local Authority Development Awards and pointed out Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had picked as many, if not more, than any other Council on the island to receive SEED and initial funding and congratulated Directors and Officers for the work carried out in securing the funding streams.

Lastly, the Chairperson spoke of the very successful Chairperson Civic Awards which had taken place and paid tribute to all the Civic Award winners. He commented that it was a humbling occasion and that the District was blessed to have so many dedicated people within it. He thanked Councillors for nominating such a wide range of remarkable people and organisations.

C/156/2022 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/157/2022 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022 (copy circulated).

C/142/2022: Minutes on Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 August 2022 (ERT/125/2022, Tourism Events)

Councillor Devlin enquired if evidence had been submitted to Council to substantiate the claims made by the DUP at the Council Meeting regarding the recent Eats and Beats Festival Newcastle and enquired if an investigation had been launched and if so at what stage was the investigation at.

The Chief Executive confirmed she had met with DUP Councillors that afternoon and a report would be brought to the October Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting. She added no formal investigation had been launched as yet and the matter was to be considered by the SP&R Committee.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.**

C/158/2022 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 12 September 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/159/2022 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2022 (copy circulated).

Mr Mallon advised an amendment was required as an incorrect recommendation had been recorded in the minute and on the audio recording.

The following amendment was outlined for Members:

ERT/151/2022: Update re: AONB and Geopark

On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed:

- 1. To approve the Service Level Agreement (SLA, Appendix 1) with Bluebell Lane Glamping for 2022 – 2023 at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report*
- 2. To amend the SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023. SLA will be at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report for the following projects: SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023 for a maximum cost of as outlined in the officer's report for delivery against the below 3 projects.*
 - Develop costed proposal for visitor management at Minerstown Beach.*
 - Detailed visitor management survey and costed proposals for the Ring of Gullion*
 - Camlough Mountain Access feasibility Study.*
 - SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023 for a maximum cost as contained within the officer's report for delivery against the below project, subject to funding being secured*
 - Develop costed programme of upgrade, repair and maintenance for the Lecale Way*

ERT/149/2022: Halloween and Christmas Events 2022

In response for an update from Councillor Devlin regarding Hallowtides in Newcastle 2022, Mr Mallon confirmed expressions of interest had been secured from a group within Newcastle and other major centres and would be communicated to them following Council approval at this meeting and subject to call in.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lee- Surginor, seconded by Councillor Larkin subject to the following amendment:**

ERT/151/2022: Update re: AONB and Geopark

On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed:

- 1. To approve the Service Level Agreement (SLA, Appendix 1) with Bluebell Lane Glamping for 2022 – 2023 at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report**

2. To amend the SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023. SLA will be at a maximum cost as outlined in the officer's report for the following projects: SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023 for a maximum cost of as outlined in the officer's report for delivery against the below 3 projects:

- **Develop costed proposal for visitor management at Minerstown Beach.**
- **Detailed visitor management survey and costed proposals for the Ring of Gullion**
- **Camlough Mountain Access feasibility Study.**
- **SLA with ORNI for 2022 – 2023 for a maximum cost as contained within the officer's report for delivery against the below project, subject to funding being secured**
- **Develop costed programme of upgrade, repair and maintenance for the Lecale Way.**

C/160/2022 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

C/161/2022 MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2022 (copy circulated).

SE/130/2022: Household Recycling Centre Usage and Access Policy

Councillor McKee highlighted concerns regarding problems associated with the introduction of height restriction barriers at Kilkeel Recycling Centre and queried who decided upon what was commercial waste and suggested it would create cost for Council as there would be an increase in flytipping.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Councillors Hanna and Reilly also spoke of problems associated with height restriction barriers and suggested they be removed on all sites and see how the online booking system would work. Councillor Owen supported this and referred to similar issues for Ballynahinch recycling centre.

Councillor Hanna proposed height restriction barriers were removed completely and a booking system introduced for anyone wishing to dispose of commercial waste only in recycling centres. This was seconded by Councillor Reilly.

Councillor McAteer stated that whilst an online booking system was well intentioned, he had concerns and that it was best to trust operatives on site to do their job.

During discussion Councillors Ó Muirí, McMurray and Sharvin voiced support for the recommendation as agreed by the Committee, and it was pointed out that any complaints received could be dealt with by the Councils Complaints Procedure.

Mr Cassels suggested the proposal could proceed as was and that the online booking system would be introduced in the next month and an update report brought back to the Sustainability and Environment Committee.

The Chairperson then put Councillor Hanna's proposal, seconded by Councillor Reilly for height restriction barriers to be removed completely and an online booking system introduced for anyone wishing to dispose of commercial waste only in recycling centres to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 7
AGAINST: 29

The proposal was lost.

Agreed: The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Owen.

C/162/2022 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2022 (copy circulated).

Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Devlin.

Agreed: The Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22 was approved on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

C/163/2022

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2022 (copy circulated).

AHC/156/2022: Donard Park Car Parking

In welcoming the reconfiguration works for Donard Park Car Park, Councillor Devlin enquired how soon the work would be taking place. The Chief Executive confirmed Mr Lipsett who was absent from the meeting would come back directly to Councillor Devlin on the matter.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

Mr Lipsett to contact Councillor Devlin regarding works for Donard Park Car Parking.

C/164/2022

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on item 3 which related to exempt information by virtue of paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council, and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

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

SPR/147/2022: Trade Union Dispute Update

12

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported a recorded vote (copy of which is appended to these minutes) was taken on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher regarding SPR/147/2022: Trade Union Dispute Update.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher and following a recorded vote (copy of which is appended to these minute), the results of which were 31 FOR and 4 AGAINST, it was agreed to approve the local pay offer in full and final settlement of this current dispute. It was also agreed to note the cost implications as set out in the officer's report and further agreed to an efficiency programme as set out at paragraph 2.6 in the officer's report.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of Special Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

Councillor Mulgrew left the meeting during the above discussion – 6.59pm.

C/165/2022 PLANNING SECTION – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 24 August 2022 Re: LDP Progress Report, Quarterly Update. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to note the extract from the Minutes of Planning Committee held on 24 August 2022 regarding the LDP Progress Report, quarterly update.**

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES

C/166/2022 LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES – COUNCIL REMOTE/HYBRID MEETINGS

Read: Correspondence dated 26 September 2022 from the Department for Communities regarding Council remote/hybrid meetings. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence from the Department for Communities regarding Council remote/hybrid meetings was noted on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/167/2022 NOTICE OF MOTION – REVENUE FROM EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

"Council notes that last year's notice of motion seeking a target of between 80 and 181 EV charging points in NM&D car-parks resulted in a management report in May 2022 suggesting that such charging points would cost £12,000 each and as much as £2.7 million in total with no business case. Thus a target of 1% of parking spaces (80) or 1 per Council car-park (181) was unrealistic from a cost point of view.

Council notes that new information has emerged to back the suggestion that EV charging companies want to lease car-parking spots from Council throughout the District and are prepared to share charging revenue with Council. Far from costing money, EV infrastructure going forward can be seen as a new form of Council revenue.

Council resolves to seek long-term rental and revenue sharing opportunities with EV infrastructure companies to keep Newry Mourne and Down District Council competitive in Tourism , Business and to replace the rates being lost by the on-going closure of filling stations across the district.

Within 3 months of this motion, Council will make an open offer of 6 tranches of 20 parking spots to all 3 EV charging companies operating on the Irish/Ni grid system as a trial run for a 2-year period.

Following the 2 year trial of the offerings by the different EV charging companies; and based on service and value for money to Council; long-term contracts should be made with companies offering the best solutions to residents and visitors alike to Newry Mourne and Down District Council".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

Councillor Enright left the meeting at this point – 7.11pm.

C/168/2022**NOTICE OF MOTION – IRISH PASSPORT OFFICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND****14**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

"This Council acknowledges the increased demand for Irish citizens in the North, particularly since the Brexit referendum and calls for additional services to be put in place to manage the demand.

This Council reiterates the call made in 2018 for an Irish Passport Office to be located in the North of Ireland.

Council will write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, expressing concern at the current backlog and delays for Irish Passport applications, and request a passport office to be established in the North of Ireland to help manage this demand."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Hanlon said there was a clear need for an Irish Passport Office in the North to help meet the rising demand for Irish passport services and she said this was evident by the many requests received by elected representatives from constituents for assistance with passport applications due to the backlog.

Councillor Hanlon said she had been liaising with people who had been forced to cancel holiday plans, travel to Dublin and spend hours on the phone to the passport office without success, all of which had resulted in the utmost stress and expense.

Councillor Hanlon concluded, saying it made sense for the Irish Government to set up a passport office in the North to ease the burden on the service and to support applicants living here.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor McEvoy said the huge rise in the number of people holding Irish passports was a clear indication of the need for an Irish Passport Office in the North. She stated the 2021 Census figures revealed a staggering 63% rise in the number of people who had become Irish passport holders over the last 10 years.

Councillor McEvoy asked that Council write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, to highlight the importance of this office, not only to help applicants but also to take the pressure off staff to help meet the rising demand for Irish Passport services.

Councillor Andrews expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the SDLP, and asked it be noted, his appreciation to the staff in the Passport Offices in Balbriggan, Dublin and Cork, who, he said were very courteous and efficient when he spoke with them on behalf of his constituents.

Councillor Andrews acknowledged lots of family holidays had been ruined due to the backlog and he said the establishment of a Northern Ireland Passport Office would create jobs in addition to reducing the waiting list and would mean less travelling time for those people who required emergency passports.

Councillor Reilly stated he would not be supporting the Motion. He said he did not consider there was a need for a passport office in the North given there was no office

in either Donegal or the West of Ireland. He said people from all backgrounds in the North had Irish passports for convenience purposes and the reason people were experiencing difficulty getting through via telephone was due to Covid 19 and staff working from home, he said this was the same situation in the UK. Councillor Reilly said it was unrealistic to expect the Irish Government to fund an Irish Passport Office in the North as they had cut back on public spending, they were promoting online passport applications and they did not have passport offices in either the West of Ireland or Donegal.

Councillor Taylor said the UUP would not be supporting the Motion and although he acknowledged an increased demand for Irish Passports, he said it did not warrant a dedicated office in N. Ireland. He said a reason for some of the delays was as a result of forms not being completed correctly and he considered the demand for Irish passports was more to do with political significance than necessity.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the Motion and said there was an Irish Passport Office in Galway. He said it was not a political endorsement to have an Irish passport but was as a result of a political decision that had been made.

Councillor McKee stated he would not be supporting the Motion and said the Irish passport website indicated a shorter wait time for processing applications compared to the UK passport website. He said the delay could be, in part, contributed to more people travelling following the Covid lockdown period.

Councillor McAteer expressed support for the Motion saying statistics indicated there was an increase in the demand for Irish passports, and a decrease in the demand for UK passports.

In summing up Councillor Hanlon said some of the comments raised by Members had been contradictory. She said it should not be about geography, but rather demand. Councillor Hanlon said it was taking months to process Irish passports, resulting in many holidays being ruined.

A vote was taken to ascertain support for the Motion, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	26
AGAINST:	7
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The Motion was carried.

Agreed: **"This Council acknowledges the increased demand for Irish citizens in the North, particularly since the Brexit referendum and calls for additional services to be put in place to manage the demand.**

This Council reiterates the call made in 2018 for an Irish Passport Office to be located in the North of Ireland.

Council will write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, expressing concern at the current backlog and delays for Irish Passport applications, and request a passport office to be established in the North of Ireland to help manage this demand."

Councillor Trainor left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.23pm.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.29pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 November 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

17

DATE: 3rd October 2022 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item SPR/147/2022 – Proposal by Cllr Sharvin, seconded by Cllr Gallagher to approve the minute

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
J Brennan	X			
R Burgess	X			
P Byrne				X
C Casey				X
W Clarke	X			
D Curran	X			
L Devlin	X			
C Enright	X			
A Finnegan	X			
H Gallagher	X			
M Gibbons				X
O Hanlon	X			
G Hanna		X		
V Harte				X
R Howell	X			
M Larkin	X			
D Lee-Surginor	X			
A Lewis		X		
O Magennis	X			
G Malone	X			
D McAteer	X			
L McEvoy	X			
H McKee	X			
K McKevitt	X			
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew				X
D Murphy	X			
G O'Hare	X			
B O' Muiirí	X			
K Owen		X		
H Reilly		X		
M Rice	X			
M Ruane	X			
M Savage	X			
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor	X			
J Tinnelly	X			
J Trainor	X			
B Walker				X
TOTALS	31	4	0	6

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 September 2022 at 7.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Rice
Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor J Tinnelly

In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mrs G Long, Chief Executive, NIHE
Mr J McCartan, Regional Manager South Region, NIHE
Mr L Gunn, Area Manager, NIHE

In Attendance via Teams: Mr A Kennedy, NIHE
Ms S Collins, NIHE
Ms R O'Neill, NIHE

SC/24/2021 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies recorded.

SC/24/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor Rice joined the meeting during the following presentation – 7.15pm.

SC/25/2021 PRESENTATION FROM NIHE – HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland Housing Executive and invited them to make their presentation.

Mrs Long thanked Council for the opportunity to meet and then delivered a presentation on the Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2022 (copy of which is appended to these minutes).

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Long for her presentation and suggested it would be of great value to hold another Housing Symposium to build on the relationships and work already done.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members as follows:

- Concerns were highlighted relating to the Place Shaping Team and a number of small developments in Newry where commitment had been given from the team and once landowners and contractors were ready to go, they were getting feedback from the team that they were at capacity.
- Acknowledgement was given for the difficulties faced by NIHE with a diminishing budget however it was important to deliver a good service for the people.
- An update on the window replacement scheme for Ardcairn, Newry with people living in terrible conditions with windows needing replaced.
- Problems associated with grass cutting service and grass being left to lie. Could contractors ensure that sides to areas of grass cutting were maintained also?
- Entry ways under the ownership of NIHE were not being maintained to a reasonable standard.
- Concerns were raised regarding service provision from some general maintenance groups with an example provided of problems associated with a property in Dominic Street, Newry.
- How many NIHE houses were being lost through selling off every year?
- What impact were blockages on planning applications from NI Water where NIHE were seeking to build? E.g., Dundrum and other areas within the District.
- Have NIHE taken into consideration the current housing stock and with many houses built in 1950/60s were there plans to build more houses with disability awareness incorporated in design.
- Request for an update on maintenance schemes in the Rowallane area.
- How to address lack of new builds within rural areas? Reference was made to areas such as Lecale, Newtownhamilton, Cullyhanna etc.

People seeking housing in rural housing villages tend not to be put these down as a choice due to a perceived lack of available properties available, this was causing families being forced to move away from their local area with family and friends or seek private rentals. The knock-on effect on education, cultural, emotional needs and sporting facilities within these rural areas was highlighted as a real concern.

- Concern for the levels of homelessness with private landlords selling properties and rising costs within the private rental sector.
What levels of readily available stock was there within the South Down for people who found themselves homeless?
- There was a massive shortfall for temporary/interim housing in this area.
Was there anything Council and the voluntary sector could do to assist with temporary accommodation?
- Was there a process in place to review NIHE properties were ready for new tenants moving in?
- Concerns regarding energy efficiency with NIHE form of heating being gas which was being charged at an extortionate rate. There was a need for NIHE to think about this and if possible keep options available for oil and open fires given today's costs.
- CCTV installation for Bracken Avenue flats in Burrendale Park required to make the accommodation safer and expanded throughout the Burrendale estate, Newcastle.
- Difficulties for residents getting a contractor for adaptation work. How often does the contractors select list be updated?
- Could help be afforded for people requiring an Occupational Therapist assessment in order to get adaptations.
- Thanks to all staff in the Downpatrick and Newry NIHE offices for the support provided to Members. A word of thanks was given to Ms Magorrian from the Downpatrick office for the outstanding work done in the Model Farm area.

The delegation responded to queries as follows:

- Mrs Long to follow up with Chairperson on the issue of Place Shaping Capacity and problems referred to in relation to developments within the Newry area.
- There was no question that since Covid and with the economic headwinds being faced that ensuring contract works were continuing and were effective was extremely challenging. NIHE was facing significant inflationary costs and difficulties with labour supply both locally and regionally.
There were clear and strict targets for contractors and whilst the majority work well NIHE wanted to hear about instances when contractors were not performing.
- Planned Maintenance Contract had been delayed for a range of reasons since Covid in particular with uplifts with some delays but not across all areas. NIHE happy for Members to follow up on any local issues.
- Aware of issues locally regarding grass cutting and entryways with some successes also noted.
- Approximately 500 NIHE houses were sold under the high sale scheme per year (21 local units sold). The net effect of which was that last year 1900 homes were commenced.
- New builds were impacted by NI Water constraints. Meetings held regularly and NI Water were trying to undertake design led solutions in an attempt to unpick the challenges. Ultimately longer term investment was required.
- Powers had not yet been transferred to NIHE to build, hopefully by 2025.
- NIHE aware of maintenance issue at property in Dominic Street, Newry and work was ongoing to resolve.
- Discussions were ongoing regarding Ardcairn replacement windows project to find a resolution within this financial year.

- NIHE was aware of grass cutting issues with sub-contractor contract discontinued and encouraged Members to report problems so issues could be resolved through Grounds Maintenance.
- NIHE had an Adaptations Programme ongoing with purpose built accommodation factored in for families with specific needs.
- Rural housing need was a critical priority for NIHE with a Rural Housing Strategy to increase the supply of rural housing.
A number of significant pieces of work were being undertaken and work with the Housing Association to identify suitable sites etc. whilst working with Council and NI Water to unblock barriers.
NIHE encourage people to take part in the latent demand testing.
There was a need to take a Place Shaping approach and reference was made to Community Planning and the importance of the Housing Symposium in identifying how best to grow need and demand.
- Acknowledged homeless figures were alarming with the scale of demand for temporary accommodation being unprecedented and a direct result of Covid and that NIHE were not out the other side yet with no let up in demand. A number of pieces of work were underway on where to place people locally with (521 placed locally in the last year).
- Work was ongoing with Housing Association to identify voids in properties.
- NIHE would prefer a multi year budget to allow the leasing of accommodation long term and have responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of those properties.
- NIHE encouraged Members to inform offices of any issues regarding change in tenancy arrangements.
- NIHE was required to retrofit 84,000 energy efficient homes in the next 30 years, and it was difficult to comment on issue of gas versus oil. NIHE took a fabric first approach with provision of good insulation on properties and approximately £40million had been spent this year on energy efficiency in NIHE homes.
- A successful CCTV programme undertaken in North Belfast for the Mount Vernon and New Lodge areas was to be replicated within the Burrendale, Newcastle with progress being made regarding that. The Scheme would afford residents a high degree of safety and security and it was hoped this would take place in 2023, subject to programme issues.
- The administration of the Grants Programme for adaptations to homes rests with NIHE however it was led by the individual applicant with an Occupational Therapist report required sometimes. A Housing and Health Team had been set up to help progress the Grants Programme and it was acknowledged there needed to be a policy that did not place the onus on the applicant to navigate a difficult market to have adaptations undertaken.
- NIHE did not endorse contractors for works only provide a contractors list on its website for applicants.

Councillors Lewis and Sharvin left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.35pm and 7.55pm respectively.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation from NIHE for their presentation and the comprehensive answers to the queries on behalf of the Council. He commented that he hoped the close working relationship with NIHE would continue and thanked the NIHE staff in the Downpatrick and Newry Offices.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.07pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7 November 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 October 2022 at 6.00pm in
Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams**

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor A McMurray

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor K Owen
Councillor M Rice
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Trainor

In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

In Attendance via Teams: Mr M McPeak, DfI Roads
Mr S Duffy, DfI Roads
Mr I Campbell, DfI Roads

SC/24/2021 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran, Devlin, Hanna, McAteer, Sharvin, and Stokes.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr M McPeak, Mr I Campbell and Mr S Duffy from DfI Roads to the meeting, advising there had already been an opportunity for Members to submit queries and attend the recent Clinics to discuss local and less strategic issues. If Members had any unresolved issues they could contact the representatives from DfI Roads after the meeting.

SC/25/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/26/2021 PRESENTATION FROM DFI ROADS – ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

The Chairperson then invited the representatives from DfI Roads to make their presentation.

Mr McPeak thanked Members for the opportunity to present the report and thanked Members for their attendance at the recently held Clinics, advising Members that the two section office staff were the first port of call for any queries.

Mr McPeak then proceeded to make his presentation. (copy appended to these minutes)

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

- There was approximately 23,000 pieces of correspondence received a year, with limited resources, staff do their best to respond and response times in general were very good. Traffic team had a backlog in responses at present however there was a lot of background work happening to improve this and the 'report a fault' system was currently being reviewed to include a map associated with reported defects.
- Members took the opportunity to thank the staff at DfI Roads and section office for being very helpful and courteous.
- Ballynahinch Bypass – Members raised concerns at the delay in getting the project shovel-ready and the effect it was having on local businesses and services. Mr McPeak confirmed the Department was committed to the scheme. Progression to construction would very much depend on multi-year budgets going ahead and currently awaiting a decision as to where the scheme fits in priority of funding in future years.
- Doran's Rock – Nothing seems to have changed, why had scheme been paused and was the scheme subject to statutory process.
- Darragh Cross 40mph speed limit - There was standard guidance and criteria regarding where speed limits are applied and at present Darragh Cross still met the 40mph speed limit.
- Coastal Erosion - Councillor Clarke raised concerns especially at the Glen River carpark as there was huge erosion and there was a real danger of the road being washed into the tide if there was a heavy storm. Mr McPeak confirmed the Department was currently engaged with NIEA in undertaking a coastal survey of the whole of Northern

Ireland, it would take a number of years to establish a baseline and monitor this to establish future erosion. Mr Duffy agreed to take a closer look at Glen River and see what the issues were and what was required at the location.

- Resurfacing – No additional resources had been allocated to help with the backlog due to the absence of a contractor, however a contractor had now been appointed. Newry Mourne and Down area had been one of the first areas prioritised to maximise resources to deliver as much as they could this financial year and a lot of prep work had already been done.
- Main Street Saintfield – Aware of the issues and some works had been carried out in recent months, however not considered a priority at present considered medium term project over the next few years.
- Ardglass Road/Edward Street upgrade – Mr McPeak would investigate further what the issues were and revert to Councillor Hanlon.
- Dublin Road, Kilcoo - There was no timeframe at present, however the Department was committed to carrying out a holistic safety review of Kilcoo village and possibly have a combination of restrictions to slow traffic down, Mr McPeak advised he would feedback on a timeframe for this.
- Representatives responded regarding local roads issues raised as follows:
 - Hilltown/Mayobride/Rostrevor – Large scale patching to be carried out early 2023, gullies issues be addressed in coming weeks.
 - Representatives to come back with an update with regards the Crossgar Island/zebra crossing request.
 - Jolly's entrance Newry – would clarify but didn't think it warranted bollards to be installed.
 - An annual traffic report is available for the public to view, however speeding was a police matter and should be reported on the non-emergency telephone number 101.
 - Mr S Duffy agreed to carry-out an inspection of the Annacloy B2 Road to inspect the road surface as reports of it being slippery when wet.
 - Monaghan Street, Newry – Gullies need inspected as soon as possible after recent heavy rainfall.
 - In response to a query from the Chairperson, representatives advised The Glenn would commence on the 5th November 2022 once final approval had been received regarding the road closure. A letter drop, discussions with residents and press release would then commence.
 - Catherine Street project would be a summer scheme due to warranty period with Firmus and 3 schools in the area would make it difficult to do before then.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation from DfI Roads for their very comprehensive report and continued efforts and engagement over the past year.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.01pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7 November 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 10 October 2022 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber Council
Offices Monaghan Row Newry, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Deputy Chairperson: Councillor D Curran (Chamber)

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
 Councillor C Enright (Teams)
 Councillor G Hanna (Chamber)
 Councillor R Howell (Teams)
 Councillor R Mulgrew (Teams)
 Councillor M Larkin (Teams)
 Councillor D Lee-Surginor (Teams)
 Councillor H Reilly (Chamber)
 Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Non Members: Councillor H McKee (Chamber)

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism
 Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment &
 Regeneration
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture &
 Events
 Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
 Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer

ERT/155/2022: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor Curran spoke of the tragedy in Creeslough Co Donegal and asked everyone to stand for a minute's silence as mark of respect for those who lost their lives.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to request the Chairperson of Council to send a letter of condolences to Donegal County Council**

on the tragic events in Creeslough.

The following apologies were received:

Councillor R Burgess

Councillor V Harte

Councillor J Trainor

ERT/156/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/157/2022: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 September 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 September 2022.

NOTICES OF MOTION**ERT/158/2022: CRISIS WITHIN THE PRIVATE RENTAL SECTOR
LIVING OVER THE SHOPS**

Read: Report dated 10 October 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Notice of Motion heard at Council Meeting August 2022 (C/136/2022) on Crisis within the Private Rental Sector Living Over the Shops Scheme.
(Copy circulated)

Mr Mallon said the purpose of the above Report was to update Members on the actions arising from a Notice of Motion tabled by Councillor L Devlin at the Council Meeting held on 01 August 2022 regarding the crisis within the private rental sector living over shops.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note Report dated 10 October 2022 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding a Notice of Motion on Crisis within the Private Rental Sector Living Over the Shops.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/159/2022: SMALL SETTLEMENT SCHEME

Read: Report dated 10 October 2022 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on the Small Settlements Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor it was agreed as follows:

- a) Following consideration of the Consultation Responses by the Task and Finish Steering Groupings on the Concept Designs, Council now proceeds to obtain relevant statutory approvals and submit planning applications for the proposed Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield Environmental Improvement Schemes.
- b) Proceed to the procurement of Framework Consultants & Contractors for delivery against the EI Schemes.
- c) To progress required procurements for delivery against the actions agreed under each of the 7 Revitalisation schemes and all elements of the programme.

FOR NOTING

ERT/160/2022: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to note the Historic Action

Tracker Sheet for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

ERT/161/2022: HERITAGE PROJECTS

Read: Report dated 10 October 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding an update on current Heritage Projects. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 10 October 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding an update on current Heritage Projects.**

ERT/162/2022: SHARED ISLAND LOCAL AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SCHEME

Read: Report dated 10 October 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 10 October 2022 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme.**

ERT/163/2022: LICENSING REPORT MARCH – AUGUST 2022

Read: Report on Licensing for March – August 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to note the Licensing Report for March – August 2022.**

**ERT/164/2022: BUILDING CONTROL REPORT
MARCH – AUGUST 2022**

Read: Building Control Report for March – August 2022.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to note the Building Control Report for March – August 2022.

ERT/165/2022: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for August 2022.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6.20pm.

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

Signed: Councillor D Curran
Deputy Chairperson
Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon
Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

32

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 13 October 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams &
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B O'Muir
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Trainor

In Attendance via Teams:
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor M Rice
Councillor D Taylor

Non Committee Members:
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright
Councillor H McKee

Officials in Attendance:
Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Procurement
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/145/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Hanna.

SPR/146/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive declared an interest on behalf of all officers in Item 12 - Planning for the Future Tier 3 Voluntary Redundancy Call, and all relevant officers would be asked to leave the meeting at that point

**SPR/147/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY
15 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked for an update on SPR/142/2022- Lease of storage unit at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry.

Mrs Ward advised at this point Council was refraining from entering into a lease but that arrangements were in place for the next few months and would continue to be kept under review.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2022.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

SPR/148/2022: **CROSS BORDER TOURISM & ACTIVE TRAVEL**

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding Cross Border Tourism & Active Travel **(Copy circulated)**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

'This council recognises the opportunity presented by cross-border tourism and the importance of active travel for healthier, more sustainable lifestyles. It also recognises the key role that projects such as the Narrow Water Bridge and Albert Basin Park can play in supporting this. Council will appoint an officer responsible for identifying funding for cross border tourism and active travel in the area within a month of this motion being passed. and Council will formally write to the Southern Government's Shared Island Unit expressing their interest in submitting a formal application for a number of projects which will support cross border tourism and active travel in the area. This will specifically include applications for 1. the remainder of funding for the Albert Basin Park project, 2. an Omeath Road cycle expressway, and 3. connective cycle lanes and greenways between Newry city centre and Rostrevor to link to the Mourne Way as part of restoring the Ulster Way.'

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Gibbons.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Enright highlighted that progress had been made with Ards and North Down Borough Council having succeeded in obtaining funding supported by Newry Mourne and Down and other Councils to explore the Columban Way. He stated this should resolve many of difficulties with the St Patrick's trail and Ulster Way in the area with regard establishing an off-road route constructed.

Councillor Enright proposed that the officer's report be amended to include the specific items he had referred to in his motion for clarity on the capital funding projects that might be supported.

This was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Councillor Sharvin extended thanks to Mr Mallon and his team on the great detail of work already underway across the District and in particular within the Downpatrick DEA.

In summing up Councillor Enright advised, if Council was successful in having the greenway projects and off-road project like the Columban Way completed, then there was the potential to be as good as Kerry and Wicklow in terms of walking routes and active travel.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- **The appointment of an officer is not approved, the current resource exists within Council to identify and submit successful applications for funding for cross border and active travel projects.**
- **Council officers formally write to the Shared Island Unit expressing an interest in submitting applications for capital funding for projects which will support cross border tourism and active travel in the area. This will specifically include applications for 1. the remainder of funding for the Albert Basin Park project, 2. an Omeath Road cycle expressway, and 3. connective cycle lanes and greenways between Newry city centre and Rostrevor to link to the Mournes Way as part of restoring the Ulster Way.'**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/149/2022: **REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COUNCILLOR'S EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS REFERENCE GROUP**

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Revised Terms of Reference for Councillor's Equality and good relations Reference Group **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McMurray that Elected Members approve the revised Terms of Reference of the Councillor's Equality and Good Relations Reference Group.**

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

SPR/150/2022: **REQUEST BY COUNCILLOR MURPHY**

Following a request from Councillor Murphy that consideration was given to potential plans to use Council's facilities and resources to ease the burden on those that are most impacted by the cost of living crisis.

Councillor Murphy suggested it would be a good idea to touch base with those groups already working with those most affected through community associations and charities to see how best to make use some of Council facilities that are not being utilised at present.

All parties spoke in support and thanked Councillor Murphy for bringing the matter forward, speaking at length at the impact of the cost of living crisis and the importance of assisting and supporting those most affected, the following points were raised:

- Council should do all they can within their remit to support those affected.
- Engage with as many groups as possible already offering assistance in order to investigate how Council can best help.
- Council should build upon previous motion on Child Poverty and response from Department for Communities and try incorporating cost of living and the practicalities of poverty within the District.
- It would be useful to have a directory of services to signpost people for help and advice.
- A similar plan should be put in place as was implemented during Covid to help those affected and perhaps use the assistance centres that were previously used for Ukrainian families as a place people could go to.
- People who never needed help before were finding themselves in a situation they never thought they would be in.
- Councillor Trainor advised members there were two great tools Councillors could promote and signpost people to – 'Advice NI' and 'Make the Call' to see what resources and support are available to them.

The Chief Executive advised that Council, through the Emergency Planning Structures for Northern Ireland investigate emergencies and crisis situations, including the issues faced this winter. Council also have representation through the Emergency Leadership Group, bringing together various different bodies to look at the numerous challenges faced in the coming months.

On a local level Council were investigating 'Warm Banks' using own facilities to encourage people to visit them for heat etc. and a report would follow imminently around that specific issue.

The Chief Executive highlighted that Community Planning structures and the Strategic Stakeholder Forum Group had been strengthened as a result of Council's response during Covid and a survey had been undertaken to see what support and help could be provided, the results of which were imminent and would be brought back through the relevant committees demonstrating the various ways they can help.

The Council faces many challenges financially and consideration was also given through the Strategic Finance Working Group at what Council could do to help within the boundaries of what they are responsible for and what finances are available.

Councillor Murphy thanked Members for their support and hoped by working together that much needed help could be provided for those most in need.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

SPR/151/2022: DBEC RESOURCES

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding DBEC Resources. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed Elected Members approve the funding to deliver the DBEC objectives for 2023 and 2024 as set out in the officer's report.

SPR/152/2022: PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT MCCLELLAND PARK, NEWRY FOR A PROPOSED NEW ELECTRICTY SUBSTATION

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration regarding, Proposed lease of lands at McClelland Park, Newry for a proposed new electricity substation **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to enter into a 99-year Lease of the lands outlined in red on the map attached to the officer's report being lands at McClelland Park with Northern Ireland Electricity Networks subject to them discharging Councils legal and valuation costs.

SPR/153/2022: PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AT BELL'S LANE, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Public Right of Way at Bell's Lane, Newry. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- i) **To agree the amended map which will replace the 1992 map agreed at the time of assertion.**
- ii) **To engage with the representatives of the deceased land-owner with a view to regularising land ownership issues in respect of Bell's Lane on the best terms possible.**

SPR/154/2022: SURPLUS ASSET UPDATE

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates and Capital Projects regarding Surplus Asset Update **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- **Patrick Street Play Area (McCreesh Park).**
Recommendation to accept the proposals in the questionnaire and inform them to move to the next stage of the process, completion of the Business Case.
- **Land for No.13 and No.15 (Steel Structure) The Square Ballynahinch.**
Recommendation to proceed with removal of the Steel Structure and re-advertise on the Open Market.
- **Meadowlands Recreation Area – (Section of as per Planning Application).**
Recommendation to withdraw the planning application and remove from the Disposal List and retain. To be moved to AHC Open Space Strategy.
- **Play Area at Latt Villas, Latt Road, Mullaghglass.**
Recommendation to write to the neighbouring properties to gauge the interest in buying plots of the land.
- **Site at 4 Daisy Hill - Grills House Section.**
Recommendation to accept the highest bid as per the officer's report.
- **Bleary Bungalows play area.**

Recommendation to proceed with buying the freehold as valued by LPS to progress with the sale as per the officer's report.

SPR/155/2022:

TIMINGS OF MEETINGS AND WORKING GROUPS

Read:

Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Timings of Meetings and Working Groups (**copy circulated**)

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to keep the Statutory Committees as they were and for Senior Management Team to continue to review the model and timing of Working Groups and to implement appendix 2 of the officer's report.

All relevant officers left the meeting at this point – 19.07pm

SPR/156/2022:

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE TIER 3 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY CALL

Read:

Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Planning for the Future Tier 3 Voluntary Redundancy Call (**copy circulated**)

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed Elected Members approve to progress with Planning for the Future as per the officer's report.

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/157/2022:

RELEASE OF DEED OF COVENANT AND CHARGE – 168 NEWCASTLE ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN

Read:

Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration regarding, Release of Deed of Covenant and Charge – 168 Newcastle Road, Castlewellan (**copy circulated**)

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the officer's report.

FOR NOTING

SPR/158/2022:

EATS AND BEATS EVENT

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Eats and Beats Event **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Devlin welcomed the report and expressed her disappointment at the negative impact that had surrounded the Eats and Beats event which overall had been very successful and a superb family event that Council should be proud of.

Councillor Lewis responded by thanking the Chief Executive and her officers stating his party were happy that the issue had been raised at Council. He stated the only reason official complaints had not been received was due to the information officials had provided that there was no guarantee that individuals wishing to would remain anonymous.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed Elected Members note that Council take no further action and do not commission independent investigation in relation to alleged remarks made on stage at the Eats and Beats event.**

SPR/159/2022: **STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Report dated 13 October 2022 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Statutory Reporting – Section 75 Policy screening report – Quarterly Report for Period July – September 2022 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed Elected Members note the Section 75 Screening Report – Quarterly Report for July – September 2022.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.27pm.

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

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Marie Ward**
Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2022

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 17 October 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate
and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor H Gallagher (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber: Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor G O Hare
Councillor B O Muiri

In attendance via Teams: Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor G Malone
Councillor K Owen
Councillor A Lewis

**Non-Members
in attendance:** Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor H McKee (Teams)

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:** Mr M Lipsett Director Active and Healthy Communities
Mr E Devlin Assistant Director, Health & Wellbeing
Mrs J Hillen Assistant Director, Community Engagement
Mr P Tamati Assistant Director, Leisure & Sport
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Cummins Democratic Services Officer

AHC/161/2022: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor J Brennan
Councillor G Sharvin

The Chairperson referred to a final event hosted by the Newry Mourne and Down District Council Peace IV Partnership to celebrate the success of the Peace IV funded Local Authority Action Plan which has delivered over 180 community, sporting cultural historical and capital projects since 2017 engaging over 4,000 participants from the Council area. He said the Action Plan was funded through the EU Peace IV Programme as managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and border counties of Ireland and contribute to the promotion of social and economic stability through actions to promote cohesion between communities with match

funding provided by the NI Executive Office and Department for Rural Community Development in Ireland.

He further said that with a budget of £4.7m the programme supported 29 objectives with over 180 projects across 3 strategic themes, ie, Children and Young People, Building Positive Relations, and Shared Spaces & Services. He said that with over 4,000 children and adults engaging in the Peace IV Programme the action plan was managed by the Council's Peace IV Team with delivery partners in the Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

The Chairperson extended congratulation to Saval GAA on winning the Intermediate Final against Rostrevor and to Kilcoo GAC on winning their 10th county final in an 11 year season.

The Chairperson explained a late item had been added to the agenda regarding an update on the Play Strategy and would be tabled under Item 11.

AHC/162/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/163/2022: ACTION SHEET: ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22 September 2022. **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor O Muiri to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22 September 2022.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/164/2022: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT – CALL 3 2022 AND CALL 1 2023

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance Report for Call 3 2022 and Call 1 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor O Muiri stressed the importance of making the application process easier for the applicant and perhaps consider alerting applicants at an early stage in the application on areas that may require more focus and attention as he had received concerns expressed by community groups who found the process difficult.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O Muiri seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the following:**

- **The recommendations for Call 3 as per appendixes attached and issue Letters to associated groups.**

- The recommendations as outlined in Section 1.1 of the officer's report to approve themes and timeframe for Call 1 2023-2024.
- To note the issues in Section 2.1 of the officer's report and undertake the recommendations associated with each to procure additional services through the EGMS delivery agent.
- To action the appeals panel outcome and issue a letter of offer to project 3462 if budget is available.

**AHC/165/2022: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS
- UPDATE REPORT**

Read: Report dated 17 October 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 Lewis seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to note the report and approve the actions for:

- Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2022

AHC/166/2022: COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Co-ordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O Muiri seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**AHC/167/2022 CONSULTATION RESPONSE:
DRAFT HSENI CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2028**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding a consultation on the draft HSENI Corporate Plan for 2023-2028. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O' Muiri seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to agree to return the Consultation response, as attached to the officer's report. It was noted the response had been submitted by the required date (10 October 2022) on the proviso that it was subject to Council approval.

AHC/168/2022

PROPOSED COSMETIC REGULATION

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland and the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Owen to approve the sending of the letter to the Department for Health as attached to the officer's report.

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

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

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

LEISURE AND SPORTS

AHC/169/2022

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muirí seconded by Councillor O'Hare to approve new financial assistance arrangements for Sports Capital as outlined in 2.1.A and 2.1.B of the Officer's Report with a review after a 2 year initial period.

AHC/170/2023

PLAY STRATEGY – REVIEW

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the review of Play Strategy. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor seconded by Councillor McAteer to appoint consultants to complete a desktop review of the Councils Play Strategy

2017/18 – 2022/23 as per the points outlined in section 2.1 of the officer's report.

AHC/171/2023 PLAY STRATEGY – UPDATE

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding an update on the Play Strategy. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the revised project cost as outlined in 2.1.B of the Officer's Report.

AHC/172/2023 PUBLIC TENDER – PULSE FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Public Tender for Pulse Fitness Equipment. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muiri seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor to approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1 of the officer's report, for Fitness Equipment Servicing, Repairs and Maintenance in Kilkeel Leisure Centre, Newcastle Centre, Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre and Bridge Centre Killyleagh and approve procurement via a public tender for these services and supplies.

It was also agreed that officers undertake the appropriate evaluation of the above public tenders in line with procurement guidelines and appoint a preferred bidder and enter into a contract for up to 4 years to the value outlined on the business case.

AHC/173/2023 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LEASE: MCGRATH HOUSE NEWRY

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Ms Janine Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the lease of commercial space at McGrath Centre Newry. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Casey that the Council issue a lease following final discussions with Bidder A, for a 5 year period.

FOR NOTING – LEISURE & SPORTS

AHC/174/2022

KILKEEL LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Michael Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities regarding an update on Kilkeel Leisure Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Tamati explained that planning permission for a £1m upgrade project for Kilkeel Leisure Centre had now been secured and officers were in discussions regarding the appointment of design teams and thereafter a contractor, as per approval at the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting in September 2022.

He referred to operational issues which have arose at Kilkeel Leisure Centre over the past number of months due to recruitment and said that an ongoing recruitment process was underway and it was hoped to make appointments to fulfil the staffing structure at this facility.

He made reference to a Leisure review as agreed by Council in April 2021, and said the recruitment process will ensure implementation of this review and he was confident operations at Kilkeel Leisure Centre will return to normal and also be enhanced once the Leisure review was complete in Kilkeel Leisure Centre.

He said the appointment of an additional Swimming Instructor at Kilkeel Leisure Centre will increase swimming lesson availability at the Centre and that an additional 60 new places were released and sold out in September. He said when recruitment of the vacant post is completed it is anticipated there will be additional places. He also added that currently there are 160 children in Council's weekly lesson and over 200 in school lessons.

He referred to the introduction of 19 new health classes in Kilkeel Leisure Centre as part of the Be Active Programme which is being rolled out across the district and confirmed additional funding had been secured from the Public Health Agency for the expansion of the Council's Exercise Referral Scheme where GPs can refer patients directly to an Exercise Referral Co-ordinator who will primarily be based in Kilkeel and also in Newcastle.

With regard to issues concerning bookings for swimming Mr Tamati said the booking process for general swimming can be made via the App, by telephone or in person. He said advanced booking via the app is encouraged to limit customers turning up unannounced and being disappointed due to no availability.

Councillor McEvoy welcomed the update regarding Kilkeel Leisure Centre and hoped the introduction of new classes and the recruitment process will provide reassurance to users of the facility.

Councillor McKee enquired when the contractor would be on site and asked for clarification regarding queries raised on the need for multi-skilled leisure attendants.

He also referred to the booking process for swimming and said problems with over the counter booking had been reported, and problems regarding reimbursement for bookings.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O'Muiri to note the above report regarding Kilkeel Leisure Centre.**

FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/175/2022 PEACEPLUS LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Ms Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding the Inaugural Meeting of the PEACEPLUS Partnership held on 08 September 2022 and the second meeting 06 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O’Muir, to note the above Report.**

AHC/176/2022 PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Ms Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding the Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O’Muir, to note the above Report.**

AHC/177/2022 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Ms Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding the Report of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O’Muir, to note the above Report and note the Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2022, as approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.**

AHC/178/2022 DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Ms Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O’Muir, to note the above Report and note the Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Meeting held on Tuesday 24 May 2022, as approved at Downpatrick NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.**

AHC/179/2022 POLICING COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP)

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Ms Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding Minutes of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O'Muiri, to note the above Report and note the Minutes of the Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2022, as approved at the Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 2022.

AHC/180/2022 UPDATE RE: UKRAINIAN ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Ms Janine Hillen Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding the Ukraine Assistance Centre in Newry Leisure Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O'Muiri, to note the above Report.

FOR NOTING – HEALTH & WELLBEING

AHC/181/2022 DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE ANNUAL REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 October 2022 from Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding the Drinking Water Quality in Northern Ireland Report 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor O'Muiri, to note the above Report.

It was agreed Mr Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing contact the Drinking Water Inspectorate to seek clarification on whether the timeline to address high levels of aluminium in drinking water at Druma Road are sufficient and that the lack of funding for this Department will not endanger public health.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.20pm.

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

Signed: **Councillor H Gallagher**
 Chairperson
 Active & Healthy Communities Committee

Signed: **Mr M Lipsett**
 Director Active & Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Casey (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor A Finnegan (Chamber)
Councillor G Malone (Teams)
Councillor K McKevitt (Chamber)
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor K Owen (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)
Councillor J Tinnelly (Teams)

Non-Committee Members: Councillor C Enright (Teams)
Councillor H McKee (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

SE/137/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor A McMurray.

The Chair advised Councillor Andrews had made her aware that Strangford had been awarded the Best Kept Most Improved Village at the Amenity Council Awards and she extended her congratulations on this achievement.

SE/138/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/139/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

SE/140/2022: UPDATE REPORT ON VEGETATION GROWTH WITH AUGHIRM (LITTLE) RIVER AT THE EVENTS SPACE, KILKEEL

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, re: update on vegetation growth within Aughrim (Little) River at the Events Space, Kilkeel. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and to agree to Council organising a consultation with all relevant stakeholders on the findings of the report. Consultation to include Mourne DEA Councillors; Kilkeel Development Association; landowners adjacent to this section of the river; DFI Rivers Agency and Inland Fisheries. The purpose of the consultation would be to seek to agree a preferred option and agreement on a way forward.

Councillor Ruane said about a month ago he had raised an issue on behalf of a local fishing club, with the Director regarding a major fish kill at Donaghaguy Reservoir, Warrenpoint. He said he had asked for a full report to come back to Council to say exactly what happened and expressed his extreme disappointment that he still had not received any update. Councillor Ruane said it was totally not acceptable that a Councillor had to wait over a month for a response to an issue raised. In the same phone call he had raised an issue regarding a tree in Church Street Warrenpoint and it took 3 weeks to get it cut back.

Mr Cassells apologised to Councillor Ruane for not responding just yet as they were still awaiting a response from the Loughs Agency and NIEA. He said he accepted the comments made by the Councillor and would respond to him very shortly on the fish kill.

SE/141/2022: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING – 30 JUNE AND 6 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, re: report of Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting of 30 June and 6 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and the Action Sheets of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meetings held on 30th June and 6th October 2022 and to approve the recommendations as set out in Sections 2.3 and 2.5 of this report.**

- In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding any potential increase in electricity costs for lighting the Christmas illuminations and the impact this may have on budgets, Mr Scullion explained that how the Council were charged for electricity for Christmas illuminations differed from how they normally paid for electricity as the electricity for illuminations was fed through the lampposts themselves and this bill was paid for by DFI Street Lighting with the amount to be paid by the Council worked on as a mathematical calculation. He confirmed that because they were linked to a lamppost the illuminations came on when the street lights came on so there would be no change this year compared to previous years.
- In response to a request from Councillor Clarke that a Christmas tree be provided at Newcastle Harbour, Mr Scullion said there was currently no proposal to do anything along the Promenade this year but officials would be willing to work with the local community to see if anything could be done.

WASTE MANAGEMENT**SE/142/2022: UPDATE ON CLEANSING WORKSHOP**

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding update on Elected Member District Cleansing Workshop. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to approve the report of the Elected Member District Cleansing Workshop held on 5 October 2022.**

Issues raised

Councillor Andrews – referenced the implementation of an agreement signed by the

former Department of Learning – a scheme that gave young people and people who were unemployed a chance of employment in the waste collection and street cleansing service and other Departments within the Council. He said there had been a report previously and he asked that consideration be given to the recommendations from it being included alongside the recommendations from the Workshop.

Councillor Clarke – street cleansing in estates and the number of cars parked in estates which made it difficult to cleanse them and collect bins. He asked if there would a street cleansing schedule available for each town within the DEAs to alert residents and hopefully cars could be moved to allow this to happen. He also suggested the development of an app to enable people to know when areas were scheduled for cleansing.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SE/143/2022: NOTICE OF MOTION – REVENUE FROM EU CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Councillor Enright's Motion was as follows:-

"Council notes that last year's notice of motion seeking a target of between 80 and 181 EV charging points in NM&D car-parks resulted in a management report in May 2022 suggesting that such charging points would cost £12,000 each and as much as £2.7 million in total with no business case. Thus a target of 1% of parking spaces (80) or 1 per Council car-park (181) was unrealistic from a cost point of view.

Council notes that new information has emerged to back the suggestion that EV charging companies want to lease car-parking spots from Council throughout the District and are prepared to share charging revenue with Council. Far from costing money, EV infrastructure going forward can be seen as a new form of Council revenue.

Council resolves to seek long-term rental and revenue sharing opportunities with EV infrastructure companies to keep Newry Mourne and Down District Council competitive in Tourism, Business and to replace the rates being lost by the on-going closure of filling stations across the district.

Within 3 months of this motion, Council will make an open offer of 6 tranches of 20 parking spots to all 3 EV charging companies operating on the Irish/Ni grid system as a trial run for a 2-year period.

Following the 2 year trial of the offerings by the different EV charging companies; and based on service and value for money to Council; long-term contracts should be made with companies offering the best solutions to residents and visitors alike to Newry Mourne and Down District Council".

Councillor Murphy formally proposed and Councillor Owen formally seconded the Motion.

Councillor Enright said the Council had over 140 car parks of their own with over a 1000 managed on street parking spaces in towns such as Kilkeel, Newry, Warrenpoint and 51 car parks which were managed on behalf of the Department. He said it would appear that EV charging companies were interested in those that had originally belonged to the Council of which almost every settlement in the Council District had at least one.

Councillor Enright said it appeared that the economics of EV charging had changed in that they were now looking to rent parking spots and share revenue with the Council. He said officers should look at the 140 Council owned car parks to see which ones EV companies might want to rent from Council and share revenue and as the Officer report seemed to support this idea he was happy with it.

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment regarding Notice of Motion in relation to EV Infrastructure. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to endorse the recommendation made at the Strategic Finance Working Group Meeting of 16 June 2022 as set out in Section 2.2 of the report and that officers consider the most appropriate way forward in relation to identifying appropriate spaces that may be suitable for the proposal as outlined in the Notice of Motion.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 13-15 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

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

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:-

SE/144/2022: PROPOSED PHASE 2 EXTENSION TO KILBRONEY MUNICIPAL CEMETERY

Read: Report dated 18 October 2022 from Mr K Scullion regarding proposed Phase 2 extension to Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to proceed with Option 2 for the Phase 2 development of Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery. Option 2 would include refurbishment works to the existing cemetery site and an extension to the cemetery (circa 208 burial plots) in line with current planning approval.

It was also agreed to bring forward a proposal for lights for Phase 1 and 2 and the compound once planning had been approved.

SE/145/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 29 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.

SE/146/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 25 AUGUST 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 25 August 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the above Bulletin.

FOR NOTING

SE/147/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed the Historic Actions

**Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services
Committee/Sustainability and Environment Committee
Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.**

**In relation to Minute reference NS/174/2021 – Business
Case for Maintenance of Town Clocks – it was also agreed
at the request of Councillor Taylor that officers consider
the addition of the clock at St. Mary’s Parish Church, Newry
to the schedule for maintenance of town clocks and report
back to Committee.**

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

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

Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment

Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 19 October 2022 at 10.00am in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry and via Microsoft Teams.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CLOSED SESSION)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following items:

P/097/2022: **LDP: Planning Policy Review**

Read: Report dated 19 October 2022 by Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan: Planning Policy Review – Education, Health and Community Facilities.

On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to come out of closed session.

When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman advised the following had been agreed:

P/097/2022: **LDP: Planning Policy Review**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McAteer, it was agreed to note the LDP: Planning Policy Review provided in the report dated 19 October 2022 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan.



Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department for

Infrastructure

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

57

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

Public Appointments Unit
Room 4-13c
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

Telephone: 028 9034 7410

Email: dean.holland@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

3 October 2022

Dear Ms Ward

Appointment Vacancy - Non-Executive (Councillor) Member to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (WHA)

I am writing to invite you to submit a number of Council nominees to be considered by the Minister of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), for appointment to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, to fill the vacancy following the resignation of Cathy Mason.

The Warrenpoint Harbour Order (NI) 2002 provides that a maximum of three Commissioners shall be Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. You may be aware from the last round of Councillor Appointments in 2019 that appointed Cathy Mason, Glynn Hanna and Karen McKevitt, that these are not positions of responsibility as defined under the 2014 Act, which require to be shared across the parties using d'Hondt or Saint-Lague formula of the Single Transferrable Vote method. They are appointments to be made by DfI after consultation with the Council, and in compliance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland (CPANI) Code.

The Non-Executive Members of the Board, together with the Chair, have corporate responsibility for ensuring that WHA complies with all relevant statutory or administrative requirements including requirements in respect of the use of public funds. The role will be to work as a member of the Board to bring experience and judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance and governance. Members should bring wide experience and critical detachment to the work of the organisation and be prepared to constructively challenge and assist executive management in the development of strategic objectives and policies.

The new appointee will be expected to attend the full monthly Board meetings and other ad hoc meetings as required. Board meetings may vary in time commitment from month to month. The appointment may involve a commitment both inside and outside of normal working hours, including representing the Port at occasional evening engagements. Meetings are normally held at the Harbour Commissioners Office, The Docks, Warrenpoint BT34 3JR.

In order to provide the Minister with a choice of Council nominees as required by the Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland (CPANI), the Department invites your Council to nominate a number of members to be considered for appointment to the WHA Board. The Minister will be unable to make the appointment unless at least two nominations are put forward.

The Commissioner for Public Appointments also requires that public appointees should serve no more than two terms in the same position and no more than ten years in total. Please ensure that those who you are considering to nominate will not have served more than one term on the Board of WHA. Councillors who have already served two terms, of whatever lengths, will not be eligible to be interviewed.

I enclose copies of the Information Booklet and Application Form for completion by each Councillor nominated by the Council to be considered for appointment. Full details of the process are set out in the Information Booklet.

The date of commencement for the appointment will be as soon as possible following the Ministerial decision. The appointments will last for as long as the appointee remains on the Council, up to a maximum of four years. In lieu of the Local Government elections next year, the Minister may decide to create a reserve list to cover any unforeseen vacancies that arise within 12 months of the date of the decision to appoint.

Nominees should complete the application form. They will be invited to attend a short interview on the 15 December 2022. I am sorry but there is no flexibility around this date. The interview panel will comprise two departmental officials and an independent assessor allocated by CPANI. The interview will explore the nominees' understanding and experience of corporate governance and the role of a board member. Integrity, conflicts of interest and the time commitment involved in the appointment will also be discussed. The panel will draft a record of these discussions to be sent to the Minister to help him decide who to appoint.

Finally, DfI wants to improve diversity on our Boards. We would welcome Council nominations from the following under-represented groups; women, younger people, people with disabilities and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the completed application form for each nominee to be returned no later than **12 noon GMT, Friday 25 November 2022** to: publicappointments@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

or by post to:

Jennifer Macrory

DfI Public Appointments Unit
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8GB

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Dean Holland
DfI Public Appointments Unit