

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 June 2026

For Information

Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2026

For Approval

5.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 June 2026

For Approval

Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2026

For Approval

7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2026

For Approval

8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2026

For Approval

9.0 Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2026

For Approval

10.0 Planning Section

Correspondence

11.0 Correspondence Report

For Information

11.1 Correspondence from Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs re: NOM - Fires in the Mournes

For Information

11.2 Correspondence from Secretary of State for Northern Ireland re NOM - Inadequacy £17m Fund for NI Households

For Information

Notices of Motion

12.0 Notice of Motion - SEN provision

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor C King:

"This Council notes the urgent need for increased SEN provision across Newry, Mourne and Down and South Armagh, particularly for rural families who face barriers accessing support and services.

Council welcomes the £27.5 million allocation in March 2025 by Finance Minister O'Dowd SEN allocation secured to develop pilot programmes in early intervention and workforce training, but expresses concern at the how the Department of Health, Communities and Education are administering this within our constituency.

Council therefore agrees to write to the Departments of Education, Health and Communities seeking a breakdown of SEN funding and investment allocated to the Newry, Mourne and Down and South Armagh areas, including support for rural families, specialist provision and summer schemes.

Council also agrees to develop a local action plan recognising the growing need for SEN provision across the district, with a focus on improving support, accessibility, and opportunities for children and families."

13.0 Notice of Motion - Suspension of Membership the of City and District of Sanctuary

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Reilly:

"Given the uncertainty regarding the effect that the Republic of Ireland joining the EU migration and asylum pact will have on border areas in Northern Ireland, that this Council suspends any move towards membership of the City and District of Sanctuary for asylum seekers and refugees scheme."

14.0 Notice of Motion -150th anniversary of the Catalpa Escape

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Mathers:

"This Council notes the 150th anniversary of the Catalpa Escape which occurs this year.

The audacious escape of 6 Fenian prisoners from the British penal colony of Western Australia was one of the greatest ever prison breaks.

One of the escapees was James McNally, from Newry. It was McNally who actually wrote the famous 'Voice from the Tomb' letter to the IRB leaders in America which put the escape in motion.

On this the 150th anniversary, this Council notes the limited commemorative events taking place in Ireland and compares this to events which have been organised in Australia and America, including a 9-day Fenian Festival in Fremantle Western Australia which has recently concluded.

This Council will write to the Minister for Communities in the Executive and the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport in the Dublin government to request the hosting of commemorative events.

This Council will also examine the possibility of hosting a commemorative event in the district to acknowledge the bravery of the escapees, in particular James McNally, and those who planned and participated in the Catalpa Rescue."

15.0 Notice of Motion - Additional Training Provision for Gaelic Games

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Campbell:

"This Council recognises the significant growth in participation levels across Gaelic Games within the district and acknowledges that a number of clubs are experiencing increasing pressure on existing training and playing facilities.

We would ask that Council Undertake a review of Council owned sporting facilities and land assets to identify opportunities for additional training provision for Gaelic Games. Engage with clubs that have demonstrated, through membership figures, participation rates, facility demand and development plans, that their existing sporting infrastructure is insufficient to meet current need.

Explore options for the temporary, seasonal or permanent use of underutilised Council facilities and lands to accommodate training activity where such use is compatible with existing operational requirements and community need.

Consider such arrangements as an interim measure to support clubs experiencing capacity pressures until the completion and full operation of the Down GAA Centre of Excellence at Ballykinlar."

16.0 Notice of Motion - Purchase of Saintfield Bus Depot for Parking

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Bowsie:

"This council recognises the chronic lack of parking in Saintfield and the impact this has on a flourishing high street. The sole off-street carpark on Downpatrick Street has merely 66 spaces and is at full capacity most days, causing parking problems elsewhere in the village.

The former Saintfield Bus Depot on Belfast Road has the potential to create 42 much-needed additional parking spaces in Saintfield. Translink has agreed to sell this 1/3-acre site to NMD Council. This offer will be honoured until the end of August, before the site is put onto the open market.

This council agrees to buy this last remaining brown-field site in Saintfield for the purposes of creating additional public car parking to meet local community needs."

