



September 2nd, 2020

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 7th September 2020** at **6:00 pm** in **Skype Call**.

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 3 Aug 2020.pdf](#)

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### *Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing*

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## 4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020

 [Council Minutes 03 08 2020.pdf](#)

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### *Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption*


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## 5.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 August 2020

 [ERT Minutes 10 August 2020.pdf](#)

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## 6.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2020

 [SPR Minutes 13 August 2020.pdf](#)

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## 7.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2020

 [Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 170820.pdf](#)


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## 8.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2020

 [SPR Minutes 18 August 2020.pdf](#)

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## 9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2020

 [NS Minutes - 19-08-2020.pdf](#)

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## ***Planning***

### **10.0 Extract from draft Planning Committee Minutes dated 26 August 2020**

There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 August 2020

## ***Correspondence***

### **11.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 June 2020**

 *Housing Council Minutes - 11th June 2020.pdf*

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### **12.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - August 2020**

 *Members Bulletin - August 2020.pdf*

*Page 83*

### **13.0 Correspondence dated 20 August 2020 received from NIAS ref. C/092/2020**

 *Correspondence dated 20 August 2020 from NIAS re C.092.2020.pdf*

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## ***Conferences/Events***

### **14.0 The Flooding Conference: Resilience, Management and Response Conference**

Government Events

23 February 2021 - Central Manchester

Public sector rate: £389

## ***Notices of Motion***

### **15.0 Notice of Motion - Dog Euthanasia**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Brown:

‘Council welcomes reports from DAERA that incidences of dog euthanasia are down across Northern Ireland in 19/20, but is extremely concerned that in the same period our District has had substantially more dogs put down than any other council area. To address this Council will take the following actions:

- Undertake an investigation into why these figures are so high in the District and bring a report back for consideration on this to the AHC committee.
- Write to the 10 other council areas asking what measures they took to successfully reduce the number

of animals killed, particularly Derry & Strabane which has seen an 80% reduction and Ards & North Down which killed zero dogs this year

- Consider ways in which the Council can bring together strategic partners such as the Dog Warden, local kennels, Animal Welfare Officer, PSNI and animal rescue charities, to address the issue, including through tackling illegal and unethical breeding and sale of dogs, particularly online'

## **16.0 Notice of Motion - Social Value Strategy**

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Clarke:

This Council agrees to develop a social value strategy to further social, environmental and economic goals of Newry Mourne and Down Council.

As far as permissible by Law, this Council should increase the value of social impact clauses at the pre-procurement stage and to include them within the award criteria.

Contracts should be informed by a social needs assessment with consideration given to how social clauses can help address those needs. Assessments should be conducted with key stakeholders, including members of the public, as appropriate.

The social value strategy should promote more creative use of social clauses to deliver positive social benefits. Council officials should set up monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the delivery of social clauses at the start of the contract and these should be included in the tender documents. The social value strategy should be outcome based and used to tackle poverty, particularly within areas of multiple deprivation.

Tackling zero hour contracts and encouraging living wage employment should be central to the strategy and should include but not be limited to our own council and its workforce.



**ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

**ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/088/2020	Action Sheet Arising from Council Meeting held on 06.07.2020	The action sheet was agreed	Democratic Services	<b>Actioned</b>	
C/089/2020	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 06.07.2020	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Actioned</b>	
C/090/2020	Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 06.07.2020.	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Actioned</b>	
C/092/2020	Correspondence from Department of Health Re. Motions C/084/2020 –	Write to the Chief Executive of NIAS and the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Health requesting that Council be provided with updates and progress reports on the Clinical Response Model.  The correspondence from Mr R Swann, Minister of	Democratic Services	<b>Letters sent to M Bloomfield, CEO, NIAS and R Pengelly, Permanent Secretary DOH</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	Reinstatement of Emergency Cover at Downe Hospital And C/085/2020 – Ambulance Cover	Health in relation to Motions C/084/2020 – Reinstatement of emergency cover at Downe Hospital and C/085/2020 – Ambulance Cover was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Actioned</b>	
C/093/2020	The Somme Association - Invoice	Agreed to pay the invoice from the Somme Association for Council Membership Subscription Fee for April 2020 – March 2021.	Democratic Services	<b>To Accounts for payment</b>	
C/094/2020	Correspondence dated 10 July 2020 from Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to a Motion regarding Public Health Strategy.	Refer the correspondence received from Derry City and Strabane District in relation to a Motion regarding Public Health Strategy be deferred to the Health Working Groups to formulate a response.	Sinead Trainor	<b>The Health Working Group Meetings are biannual. The next meeting will be held in February 2021 at which this matter will be tabled</b>	

C/095/2020	Correspondence dated 2 July 2020 from DFI Roads regarding the adoption of streets at Hillcrest Village, Bessbrook	The correspondence was noted	Democratic Services	<b>Actioned</b>	
C/096/2020	Correspondence dated 30 July 2020 from Minister of Justice, Naomi Long in response to letter dated 21 July regarding Pavement Café and Provision of Outdoor Space Ref: C/071/2020 – SPR/81/2020	The correspondence was noted	Democratic Services	<b>Actioned</b>	
C/097/2020	Notice of Motion – Supporting our Local Economy	<p>The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Taylor:</p> <p><i>"That the Council supports, where possible, our local producers and businesses within the procurement processes of Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council. This will complement the "SHOP LOCAL" initiative supported by various elected representatives and will provide much needed investment to the Council's area. We would ask that a report on this matter is brought forward as quickly as possible with a view to supporting our local economy."</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the ERT Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	C Mallon	<b>To be tabled at the September ERT Committee Meeting</b>	

C/098/2020	Notice of Motion – Information on Localised Outbreaks of Covid Cases	<p>It was agreed that this council supports the need for greater localised information from the Department of Health regarding localised outbreaks of COVID positive cases in the area. In the wake of the suspected localised outbreak in the Rowallane area, had local representatives access to more specific information, a downturn in footfall and containment of anxiety in non-affected regions may have been prevented.</p> <p>Therefore this council calls on the Department of Health and Public Health Agency to provide DEA specific information or to provide a helpline for Councillors to reduce this from happening to other areas going forward.</p> <p>It was agreed the Motion be circulated to the other 10 Councils in N. Ireland.</p>	Democratic Services	<b>Letters sent to R Pengelly, DOH, V Watts, PHA and 10 Councils NI</b>	
C/099/2020	Emergency Motion – Impact of Job Losses at Collins Aerospace, Kilkeel	<p>It was agreed that this Council acknowledges the devastating impact of job losses at Collins Aerospace Kilkeel, recognises the need to help employees their families and local economy at this very difficult time. This Council will write to the N.I Executive, the UK Government, urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to address the serious impact of Covid-19 on the aviation sector and work with the Northern Ireland Executive to rebuild the sector."</p>	Democratic Services	<b>Letters sent to Chancellor or the Exchequer and NI Executive Office</b>	
END					

# **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

## **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 August 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype**

**In the Chair:** Councillor L Devlin

<b>In attendance:</b>	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor M Larkin
	Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
	Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
	Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKevitt
	Councillor A McMurray	Councillor D Murphy
	Councillor K Owen	Councillor G O'Hare
	Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
	Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor B Walker

### **(Officials)**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**C/086/2020**

### **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Burgess, Doran, Gallagher, Mulgrew, Ruane and Trainor.

- The Chairperson paid tribute to John Hume who had sadly passed away following a short illness and spoke at length about John and his lasting legacy on the island of Ireland as a person who was highly respected by all communities. The Chairperson advised she had opened a virtual book of condolence for people to pass on their sympathies to his wife Pat and the wider Hume Family.

Councillors Byrne, Clarke, McMurray, Taylor and Walker paid tribute to John Hume and offered their condolences and that of their respective parties to John's wife, family and his colleagues in the SDLP.

- The Chairperson offered condolences to the family of Richard Weir from Warrenpoint who had passed away following a car collision in November 2019.
- The Chairperson acknowledged the tragic death of Patrycja Wyrebek in Drumalane over the weekend in tragic circumstances and offered condolences to her family. She commended the Community response by way of a Go Fund me page to enable Patrycja's family to fly here to pay their respects.
- The Chairperson offered condolences to Joe Deegan, Community Services Manager for East of the District and his children and family following the death of his wife Jennifer following a short illness.
- The Chairperson also paid tribute to Mrs Margaret Walsh, the grandmother of Miss Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager who had recently passed away.
- The Chairperson took the opportunity to raise COVID-19 and remind people that the virus was still very much among us. She urged everyone to exercise extreme caution and when indoors and/or in a situation where they could not socially distance urged people to wear masks, keep their distance and regularly wash their hands.
- The Chairperson reminded everyone that the "Dine out, Eat out Scheme" had been launched from 3 August 2020 with 50% off food and non-alcoholic beverages at a variety of businesses right across the District from Monday to Wednesday and encouraged people to participate and support the hospitality sector whilst ensuring all guidelines were adhered to.
- Members were advised an emergency motion relating to Collins Aerospace in Kilkeel was to be considered later in the meeting, a copy of which had been circulated.

**C/087/2020**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C/088/2020**

**ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020**

**Read:** Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

*C/070/2020 - NS/156/2020: Notice of Motion: Dog Fouling across the District*

Councillor Casey expressed his disappointment at the level of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling within the District.

In response to queries from a number of Members Mr Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed an Enforcement Improvement Plan was to be presented at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting on 19 August 2020.

*C/067/2020 - ERT/064/2020: Warrenpoint Baths*

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer, the Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, Mr Mallon confirmed a report would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on 10 August 2020.



*C/071/2020 - SPR/81/2020: Pavement Café and Provision of Outdoor Space*

In response for clarity from Councillor Finnegan in relation to applications for a café pavement licences and that consideration be given for the needs of people with disabilities and sight loss, Mr Mallon confirmed one of the fundamental elements of the application process was that there was free unobstructed passage on the pavement, and that any pavement café provision would not impact on the free passage of pedestrians of all abilities.

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/089/2020**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020**

**Read:** Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

In response to a query raised from Councillor Hanlon, Mrs Ward confirmed a report regarding the reopening of swimming pools would be presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in August 2020.

*C/085/2020 Emergency motion – Ambulance Cover*

Councillor Ó Muirí enquired if it had been of benefit for the motion to go to the individual Ministers as opposed to the NI Executive and if there had been any responses received to date. Members were advised the responses received to date were included within the agenda.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/090/2020**

**MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020**

**Read:** Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 6 July 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 6 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

**C/091/2020**

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 29 JULY 2020**

**Noted:** **There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 July 2020.**

## CORRESPONDENCE

### **C/092/2020      DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RE. MOTIONS C/084/2020 – REINSTATEMENT OF EMERGENCY COVER AT DOWNE HOSPITAL AND C/085/2020 – AMBULANCE COVER**

**Read:** Correspondence from R Swann, Minister of Health in relation to Motions C/084/2020 – Reinstatement of emergency cover at Downe Hospital and C/085/2020 – Ambulance cover. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage acknowledged the detail within the response received however expressed disappointment that the Minister of Health had not agreed to meet with Council and hoped that the reinstatement of the emergency departments would be delivered. Councillor Hanlon echoed these comments.

Councillor Savage referred to the future funding of NIAS and its Clinical Response Model and proposed Council write to the Chief Executive of NIAS and the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Health requesting that Council be provided with updates and progress reports on the Clinical Response Model. He pointed out Council needed to be provided with an update at the earliest opportunity given its rural District to ensure emergency cover provision met the demand and need. This was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne to write to the Chief Executive of NIAS and the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Health requesting that Council be provided with updates and progress reports on the Clinical Response Model.

**Agreed:** The correspondence from Mr R Swann, Minister of Health in relation to Motions C/084/2020 – Reinstatement of emergency cover at Downe Hospital and C/085/2020 – Ambulance Cover was noted.

### **C/093/2020      THE SOMME ASSOCIATION - INVOICE**

**Read:** Invoice from The Somme Association for Council Membership Subscription Fee – April 2020 – March 2021. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillors Andrews to pay the invoice from the Somme Association for Council Membership Subscription Fee for April 2020 – March 2021.

### **C/094/2020      DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL – MOTION RE. PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 10 July 2020 from Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to a Motion regarding Public Health Strategy. (Copy circulated)



Councillor Murphy voiced support for the Motion from Derry and Strabane District Council and spoke of how two different health strategies were dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and how effective shared services such as paediatric cardiac services in Dublin had been. Councillor McAteer concurred with these comments.

Councillors Taylor and Owen voiced concern that it may be politically motivated however supported the referral to the Health Working Groups for consideration.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed by all to refer the correspondence received from Derry City and Strabane District in relation to a Motion regarding Public Health Strategy be deferred to the Health Working Groups to formulate a response.**

**C/095/2020** **DFI ROADS SOUTHERN DIVISION RE. HILLCREST VILLAGE, BESSBROOK**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 2 July 2020 from DFI Roads regarding the adoption of streets at Hillcrest Village, Bessbrook

**Agreed:** **The correspondence from DFI Roads was noted.**

**C/096/2020** **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RE. PAVEMENT CAFES AND THE USE OF PRIVATE LAND FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 30 July 2020 from Minister of Justice, Naomi Long in response to letter dated 21 July regarding Pavement Café and Provision of Outdoor Space Ref: C/071/2020 – SPR/81/2020.

Councillors Byrne and Hanlon welcomed the response from Minister of Justice and asked that officers ensure to follow up on the matter being passed to the Minister for Communities.

**Agreed:** **The Correspondence from Minister of Justice, regarding Pavement Café and Provision of Outdoor Space Ref: C/071/2020 – SPR/81/2020 was noted.**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/097/2020** **NOTICE OF MOTION – SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY**

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

**“That the Council supports, where possible, our local producers and businesses within the procurement processes of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. This will complement the “SHOP LOCAL” initiative supported by various elected representatives and will provide much needed investment to the Council’s area. We would ask that a report on this matter is brought forward as quickly as possible with a view to supporting our local economy.”**

Councillor Lewis seconded the proposal.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

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

**C/098/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – INFORMATION ON LOCALISED OUTBREAKS OF COVID CASES**

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

**“That this Council supports the need for greater localised information from the Department of Health regarding localised outbreaks of COVID positive cases in the area. In the wake of the suspected localised outbreak in the Rowallane area, had local representatives access to more specific information, a downturn in footfall and containment of anxiety in non-affected regions may have been prevented. Therefore this council calls on the Department of Health to provide DEA specific information or to provide a helpline for Councillors to reduce this from happening to other areas going forward”.**

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Owen advised Members that on 7 July various media outlets had reported an outbreak of up to 30 COVID positive cases within the Crossgar / Ballynahinch areas. She said the information was completely unfounded and only served to create fear and panic locally, resulting ultimately in businesses being adversely affected due to a reduction in footfall. Councillor Owen said local councillors were unable to get specific guidance from the Department of Health and Public Health Authority and only after many phone calls to local residents they were able to confirm there were indeed 11 confirmed cases, however not in the locations being reported, but rather in the Rowallane area. Councillor Owen continued, saying had more specific information been available, it would have been possible to allay fears quickly and avoid areas being adversely affected through misinformation and rumour.

Councillor Owen said the Department of Health dashboard, currently showed 34 new cases in the Newry Mourne and Down District in the last 7 days and that whilst it was an excellent tool, it could be enhanced to include more specific information such as the precise locations of clusters as they arose.

Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal saying the misinformation had resulted in huge anxiety and a downturn in footfall for businesses which was completely unwarranted. He said a dedicated helpline telephone number should be put in place and he asked that the motion be circulated to the other 10 Councils in N. Ireland.

Councillor Brown spoke in support of the motion and commended Councillor Owen's swift action in coordinating the Rowallane Councillors to effectively deal with the misinformation that had led to the outbreak of fear and anxiety. He said localised outbreaks would be a part of life for the foreseeable future and that Council had an important role to play, in particular the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Department and he asked that a paper be brought to ERT Committee with regard to how Council could work with businesses to raise awareness and improve messaging in helping to keep people safe, in terms of wearing face coverings, social distancing and advertising the COVID tracker app.

Councillor Howell stated she fully supported the motion and asked that a small amendment be made to include writing to the Public Health Agency in addition to the Department of Health.

Councillor Owens accepted Councillor Howell's amendment to include writing to the Public Health Agency and Councillor Andrew's request that the motion be circulated to all 10 Councils in N. Ireland.

Councillors Hanlon, O'Muiri, Taylor Clarke and McAteer all spoke in strong support for the motion saying a balanced approach was needed, testing more readily available and best practice undertaken.

In summing up, Councillor Owens thanked Members for their support for the motion and said with the latest figure of 34 cases in the district, it was very timely.

**Agreed:** **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owens seconded by Councillor Andrews that That this council supports the need for greater localised information from the Department of Health regarding localised outbreaks of COVID positive cases in the area. In the wake of the suspected localised outbreak in the Rowallane area, had local representatives access to more specific information, a downturn in footfall and containment of anxiety in non-affected regions may have been prevented.**

**Therefore this council calls on the Department of Health and Public Health Agency to provide DEA specific information or to provide a helpline for Councillors to reduce this from happening to other areas going forward.**

**It was agreed the Motion be circulated to the other 10 Councils in N. Ireland.**

Mrs Ward advised an emergency Notice of Motion had been received, the wording of which had been emailed to all Councillors earlier in the day and to enable it to be heard, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders 16.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting).

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Clarke to suspend Standing orders 16.1 at this point in the meeting to allow for the tabling of the emergency motion due to the urgency of the issue and its importance to the district. The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

It was unanimously agreed by qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1. (copy attached).

**Agreed:** **It was unanimously agreed that Standing Order 16.1 be suspended in order to allow the emergency Notice of**

**Motion received from Councillors McKevitt, Doran, Hanna and McKee for that item only.**

**C/099/2020: EMERGENCY MOTION – IMPACT OF JOB LOSSES AT COLLINS AEROSPACE, KILKEEL**

The following Emergency Motion came forward as a four party proposal with Councillors Karen McKevitt, Sean Doran, Glynn Hanna and Harold McKee jointly proposing:

**“This Council acknowledges the devastating impact of job losses at Collins Aerospace Kilkeel, recognises the need to help employees their families and local economy at this very difficult time. This Council will write to the N.I Executive, the UK Government, urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to address the serious impact of Covid-19 on the aviation sector and work with the Northern Ireland Executive to rebuild the sector.”**

In proposing the motion, Councillor McKevitt said Collins Aerospace was a major employer in the area and manufactured aircraft seats for some of the biggest airlines in the world. It was a great company to work for and ensured job security and stability for many families in the district. She said it currently employed 948 employees and before the COVID pandemic, the company was seeing growth, however orders were showing a decrease of 40% this year and 40% next year resulting in a loss of 235 jobs.

Councillor McKevitt advised the company were proactive in proposing salary cuts, job sharing and reduced working hours to soften the devastating impact. They had also invited applications for voluntary redundancies in an effort to reduce the need for compulsory redundancies, however Councillor McKevitt said the redundancies stood to cost the local economy £10 million per year.

Councillor McKevitt said the 28 October 2020 was the date that consultation between management, unions and staff representatives ended and therefore there was less than 90 days for Council to do all they could to save jobs. She said a proper strategy to future proof the aviation industry was needed in addition to setting up training programmes and it was vital to do everything possible to save jobs and skills.

Councillor Murphy seconded the motion saying the NI Assembly and UK Treasury needed to address this issue as a matter of urgency.

Councillors Clarke, McMurray, Hanna, Reilly and McKee all spoke in strong support for the motion reiterating the devastating effect the job losses would have to the local economy, the importance of providing measures around skills and retraining, exploring sustainable employment opportunities, the possibility of ring fencing funding for when the aviation industry would recover, and additionally that consideration should be given to those families where two or more members were employed by Collins Aerospace.

In summing up, Councillor McKevitt thanks Members for their support and said she hoped that significant work could be done before the deadline of 30 October resulting in being in a position to have some positive news for the employees.

**Agreed: It was unanimously agreed on the joint 4 party proposal by Councillors McKevitt, Doran, Hanna and McKee that this Council acknowledges the devastating impact of job losses at Collins**

**Aerospace Kilkeel, recognises the need to help employees their families and local economy at this very difficult time. This Council will write to the N.I Executive, the UK Government, urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to address the serious impact of Covid-19 on the aviation sector and work with the Northern Ireland Executive to rebuild the sector.”**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.38pm.

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

14

**DATE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 **VENUE:** Skype Meeting **MEETING:** Council Meeting

**SUBJECT OF VOTE:** Qualified Majority Vote to suspend Standing Order 16.1 to allow discussion for Emergency Notice of Motion

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
P Brown	2			
R Burgess				1
P Byrne	3			
C Casey	4			
W Clarke	5			
D Curran	6			
L Devlin	7			
S Doran				2
C Enright				3
A Finnegan	8			
H Gallagher				4
M Gibbons				5
O Hanlon	9			
G Hanna	10			
V Harte	11			
R Howell	12			
M Larkin	13			
A Lewis	14			
O Magennis	15			
G Malone	16			
C Mason	17			
D McAteer	18			
L McEvoy	19			
H McKee	20			
K McKevitt	21			
A McMurray	22			
R Mulgrew				6
D Murphy	23			
G O'Hare	24			
B Ó Muirí	25			
K Owen	26			
H Reilly	27			
M Ruane				7
M Savage	28			
G Sharvin	29			
G Stokes	30			
D Taylor	31			
J Tinnelly	32			
J Trainor				8
B Walker	33			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>33</b>			<b>8</b>



**NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 10 August 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype.**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor A McMurray

**In attendance:** **(Committee Members)**

Councillor R Burgess  
Councillor W Clarke  
Councillor D Curran  
Councillor G Hanna  
Councillor V Harte  
Councillor R Howell  
Councillor M Larkin  
Councillor H Reilly  
Councillor M Ruane  
Councillor M Savage  
Councillor G Stokes  
Councillor J Tinnelly

**Non Members:** Councillor T Andrews  
Councillor P Brown  
Councillor C Casey  
Councillor H Gallagher  
Councillor O Hanlon  
Councillor J Trainor

**Officials in attendance:** Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events  
Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration  
Mr A McKay Chief Planning Officer  
Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Regulation  
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager  
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer  
Ms P McKeever Democratic Services Officer  
Ms L O Hare Democratic Services Officer

**ERT/080/2020: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor D McAteer  
Councillor R Mulgrew

**ERT/081/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/082/2020: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
- MONDAY 08 JUNE 2020**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 June 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

The following issue was raised:

**ERT/066/2020: Mountain Bike Trails**

**Noted:** It was noted a report on Mountain Bike Trails will be available at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in September 2020.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 June 2020.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**ERT/083/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION  
RE: ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for discussion in the name of Councillor W Clarke:

"Whilst this Council recognises the strategic importance of sustainable tourism as a



local economic driver; it notes with growing concern that increasing numbers of visitors to the District is creating stress on our local environment, including many areas of ecologically sensitive importance. In recognition of this, this Council will bring forward options towards the establishment of Environmental Wardens – including delivery model, resource implications and partnership opportunities with existing organisations. “

Councillor Clarke formally proposed the Notice of Motion.

He said many of the Districts tourist hotspots, in particular within the Mournes DEA, were under pressure with increased visitor numbers. He said a cohesive response was needed from all relevant statutory agencies to investigate how to manage the areas and including detail on financial support, and that there was an onus on the Council to provide an adequate Environmental Warden system to manage these locations. He suggested that revenue from a number of Car Parks should be used in a sensible manner to make areas safe and reduce the impact of large visitor numbers on local residents, livestock and the environment.

Councillor Clarke asked that a report outlining options and costings in respect of the provision of an Environmental Warden system, be prepared and tabled at a meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

Councillor Hanna seconded the Motion. He pointed out that the investigation of an Environmental Warden system would require input from other departments within Council.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion regarding Environmental Wardens, and that Officials prepare a report outlining options towards the establishment of Environmental Wardens, including delivery model, resource implications and partnership opportunities with existing organisations, to be tabled at a future meeting of the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

**ERT/084/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION**  
**RE: UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor P Brown and Councillor J Trainor:

“In the wake of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this Council recognizes the need for a reformed, fairer welfare system that protects

everyone in society. It recognises the need to provide economic security for all and invest in people to protect livelihoods and kickstart the economy.

Therefore, it calls on the Departments of Communities and Finance and the UK Treasury to design and deliver a recovery Universal Basic Income (UBI) for Northern Ireland.

Additionally, this Council supports in principle the investigation of a full, permanent UBI for Northern Ireland, recognising the need for a radical overhaul of the welfare state and the positive impact this would have on poverty alleviation, inequality and mental health in particular. Council will commit to producing a plan for how a pilot of a full UBI would be implemented within the District, and formally expresses its support for said pilot."

Councillor Brown formally proposed the Motion. He highlighted the following points:

- A universal basic income is a fixed regular amount paid to every resident in an area, regardless of circumstances, replacing many means tested benefits, and providing everyone with a basic level of financial security.
- The current welfare system in Northern Ireland is not fit for purpose – a Universal Basic Income would be a fair and less stigmatising system.
- The Universal Basic Income system has gained prominence as a result of pilots in Finland, Spain, Canada (and soon in Scotland), and where tested was found to have positive or neutral impact on people's likelihood to work; possibly removing poverty traps/disincentives to work found in current conditional benefits; improved mental health and wellbeing of recipients.
- Universal Basic Income could be a potential solution to many adverse economic impacts of COVID with UK cross party support for calls for a 'recovery basic income' to deal with the impact of the pandemic, including backing from most Northern Ireland political parties and the First and Deputy First Ministers.
- Despite schemes ie, furlough scheme, grants and increased access to universal credit, millions of people will potentially remain unsupported in the UK, whereas a 'recovery Universal Basic Income would ensure everyone received support.
- A recovery basic income, would help rebuild household finances, help re-start the economy through stimulating consumer spending, and help build resilience into the economy in the event of future crises.
- A 3 month Recovery Universal Basic Income scheme would cost less per person than the furlough scheme over a similar timeframe, and much less than the 2008 bank bailout, and could be funded mainly through replacement of most benefits, excluding disability benefits, and scrapping personal tax allowance.
- Several Councils across the UK have adopted similar Motions calling for a Universal Basic Income to be trialled in their areas.



Councillor Savage seconded the Motion.

Members raised the following points:

- Discussion on a Universal Basic Income should be discussed by the Executive at Stormont as Councils in Northern Ireland do not have the same powers as those in England, Scotland and Wales.
- The current welfare system in Northern Ireland and Great Britain is not fit for purpose and needs examined but there are concerns a Universal Basic Income would give more money to the wealthy and those most in need could slip through such a system.
- Emphasis needed on dealing with the imbalance and inequalities in society.
- What provision would a Universal Basic Income system make for self-employed and pensioners.?

Councillor Brown concluded and said although Northern Ireland Council's would have limited powers in terms of initiating trials etc, they can however express support, as a local democracy, in principle, for a Universal Basic Income. He said a recovery Universal Basic Income would be affordable and would be distributed to everyone unconditionally and a trial would involve the more vulnerable in society, as means testing only creates a stigmatised system. The net cost of a long term Universal Basic Income would not be high if other benefits and taxes which are in the system were removed. He added that self-employed would receive the Universal Basic Income and he stressed the importance that people be given the basic means to take themselves out of poverty.

The Motion was put to a Recorded Vote (copy appended to Minutes) and voting was as follows:

For: 6  
 Against: 5  
 Abstentions: 2

The Motion was declared carried.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Brown seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion regarding a Universal Basic Income, and proceed as follows:

- (a) Council calls on the Departments of Communities and Finance and the UK Treasury to design and deliver a recovery Universal Basic Income (UBI) for Northern Ireland.

- (b) Council commit to producing a plan for how a pilot of a full Universal Basic Income would be implemented within the District, and formally express its support for said pilot.**

**T/085/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION  
RE: COARSE FISHING**

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

“Recognising the importance of Coarse Fishing to tourism and the local economy, particularly in the Quoile River, and noting the proactive approach taken by other Councils in Northern Ireland to restock fish on behalf of anglers, this Council will commit to fund restocking of fish in line with other Council areas, carry out a review of Course Fisheries across the District, and work with DEARA and other Councils, to develop a best practice approach.”

In the absence of Councillor Enright, Councillor P Brown formally proposed the Motion.

Councillor Curran seconded the Motion.

Councillor Clarke said that the content of the Motion was the responsibility of DEARA and therefore urged caution and proposed the following Amendment be included in the Motion:

“Recognising the importance of Coarse Fishing to tourism and the local economy, particularly in the Quoile River, and noting the proactive approach taken by other Councils in Northern Ireland to restock fish on behalf of anglers, this Council will commit to *investigate funding for* restocking of fish in line with other Council areas, carry out a review of Course Fisheries across the District, and work with DEARA and other Councils, to develop a best practice approach.”

Councillor Hanna seconded the Amendment.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Brown seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion regarding Coarse Fishing, to read as follows:**

**“Recognising the importance of Coarse Fishing to tourism and the local economy, particularly in the Quoile River, and noting the proactive approach taken by other Councils in Northern Ireland to restock fish on behalf of anglers, this Council will commit to**

investigate funding for restocking of fish in line with other Council areas, carry out a review of Course Fisheries across the District, and work with DEARA and other Councils, to develop a best practice approach.”

## **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION**

### **ERT/086/2020: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Read: Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2020-2025 .  
(Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed Council approve the draft Economic Development and Regeneration strategy as attached in Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.

### **ERT/087/2020: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT RE: RESEARCH PROJECT - RED SQUIRREL**

Read: Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding entering into a Service Level Agreement with Waterford Institute of Technology. (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Larkin seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed Council sign a Service Level Agreement with the Waterford Institute of Technology Waterford Institute of Technology for implementation of a research project which will provide monitoring data on red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) abundance in the Ring of Gullion area for the period of 2020/21. Project is an action within the NIEA Letter of Offer for Ring of Gullion and funding / budget is available meet the cost of £3,100.

### **ERT/088/2020: COVID 19 REVITALISATION PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant



Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the COVID 19 Revitalisation Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed as follows regarding the Covid 19 Revitalisation Programme:

- (a) Subject to final approval and confirmation from the funder, Council accept relevant Letter Of Offer from DFC/DAERA for £1,024,000 for the respective 'Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan'.
- (b) Council approve relevant Business Cases in association with the carrying out the required procurement of consultants/contractors/suppliers for the 'Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan'.
- (c) Council proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises for the 'Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan' and following assessment and award, appoint relevant suppliers, if within available sectional programme budgets.

**ERT/089/2020:** **CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Larkin it was agreed as follows regarding the Carlingford Lough Greenway:

- (a) Council to note submission of the Formal Planning Application for the Carlingford Lough Greenway (Northern Section) and Council Officials to follow-up with Planners to ensure progress and a decision by early 2021.
- (b) Council to note the submission of an amended Business Case to the Interreg funder seeking the required additional funding to deliver the project.

- (c) Council to enter into the required legal tenure agreements with Land Owners along the Northern Section of the route.
- (d) Subject to SMC approval, phase 1 repairs to be agreed with Council and its consultant, with the existing Contractor to proceed with completion of the works.

**ERT/090/2020: PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Public Health Enhancement Scheme. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed as follows regarding the Public Realm Enhancement Scheme:

- (a) Subject to final approval of the funding application and confirmation from the funder, Council proceed to accept the relevant Letter Of Offer once received from DFC for £500,000 for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.
- (b) Council approve relevant Business Cases in association with the carrying out the required procurement/appointment of consultants/contractors/suppliers for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme'.
- (c) Council proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises for the 'Public Realm Enhancement Scheme' and following assessment and award, appoint relevant suppliers, if within available sectional programme budgets.

**ERT/091/2020: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed as follows regarding Castlewellan Forest Park:

1. To note the actions of the Task and Finish Board meeting on 19 June 2020
2. To note the repurposing of the Stove Conservatory to an interpretation centre
3. To approve the award of the Most Economically Advantageous Integrated Supply Team to undertake the construction/refurbishment of the Bothy Yard/Walled Garden subject to being within budget
4. To note the application date of 23 November 2020 for NLHF
5. To note the receipt of a draft lease and license agreement from Forest Service
6. To approve developing a Terms of Reference for an Advisory Group for Castlewellan Historic Demesne and approve inviting key professionals from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales to attend bi-annual meetings (either in person or online) for the to sit on an Advisory Group for Castlewellan Historic Demesne - Expert knowledge of the management of botanical collections and historic designed landscapes required
7. To approve Council submitting a planning application in November 2020 for the scheme
8. To approve the MoU with RBGE for the purposes outlined.

**ERT/092/2020:** **WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed as follows regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park:

- (a) To liaise with CAFRE regarding hosting a student placement to undertake a horticulture project – catalogue of woody plants in Warrenpoint Municipal



**Park.**

**(b) To procure horticulture training for volunteers**

**(c) To procure a landscape architect to design a planting scheme in line with the historic nature of Warrenpoint Municipal Park.**

**ERT/093/2020: WARRENPOINT BATHS**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Baths. **(Copy circulated)**

Concerns were expressed at the delay in securing a project for Warrenpoint Baths and reference was made to restoration works needed at the Rock Pool in Newcastle.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed as follows regarding Warrenpoint Baths:**

**(a) Council to note the ongoing progress on looking at options for the Warrenpoint Baths site and identification of learning from other similar projects.**

**(b) Council consider including £10,000 funding for the 21/22 financial year to progress options and carry out consultations within the local community.**

## **BUILDING CONTROL AND REGULATIONS**

**ERT/094/2020: CAR PARK  
MARKET STREET DOWNPATRICK**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding a Business Case for the resurfacing of access roadway at Market Street Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve the business case for the projected spend of approximately £45,000 to**

carry out the re-surfacing project for the Market Street access roadway.

**ERT/095/2020: CAR PARK  
BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding proposed redevelopment of Bann Road Car Park Castlewellan.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to progress the proposed redevelopment of the Bann Road parking area in collaboration with DFI and approve the submission of a planning application for a change of use for the area concerned.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION**

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

**ERT/096/2020: SUPPORT PROGRAMME  
TOURISM EVENTS & ARTS SECTOR**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Support Programme for the Tourism Events and Arts Sector.  
**(Copy circulated)**

(7.45pm - Councillor Andrews left the meeting)

**ERT/097/2020: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT  
GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY NI**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a Service Level Agreement with Geographical Survey NI.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/098/2020: TENDER: ICE CREAM PROVISION  
SLIEVE GULLION FOREST PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a Tender for the provision of Ice Cream at Slieve Gullion Forest Park.  
**(Copy circulated)**

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

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

**ERT/096/2020: Support Programme – Tourism Events & Arts Sector**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Larkin it was agreed as follows regarding a Support Programme for the Tourism Events & Arts Sector:

**(a) To engage local audiences and visitors, and to provide support to the local tourism, events and arts sectors over the next six months, the available underspend from the Tourism Events Programme & Tourism Events Financial Assistance Budget to be allocated as follows:**

- 1. Council to launch a new Challenge Fund for Arts & Tourism Events - £60,000**

2. Council to re-launch a Tourism Partnership Marketing Fund - £10,000
3. NMD Autumn Concert Series to be produced & broadcast online - £10,000
4. Council to utilise an allocation of the budget underspend from the DownTime festival to deliver a programme of art installations and animation in Downpatrick – to be delivered through a SLA with Down Community Arts in partnership with Downpatrick Town Committee - £8,000.
5. Following the success of the recent al fresco dining experience hosted in Newry Market, officers will progress plans to pilot similar events in Newcastle, Downpatrick and again in Newry – up to c£8,000 in each of the three locations. Other additional locations will also be considered following the outcome of this pilot.

(b) All events and activities will be delivered in strict adherence to the latest Government guidelines on the COVID response.

**ERT/097/2020: Service Level Agreement – Geographical Survey NI**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Larkin seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve a Service Level Agreement with Geographical Survey NI for a 3 year period from April 2020- March 2023, based on a total budget of £23,581.16

The SLA will be issued annually and in 20/21 the SLA will be issued in the amount of £10,144.29

**ERT/098/2020: Tender re: Ice Cream Provision Slieve Gullion Forest Park**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Larkin seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to proceed to tender for a service provider for ice cream provision at the Upper carpark (beside play area) at Slieve Gullion Forest Park for a period of 3 years renewed annually.

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/099/2020: BREXIT FORUM**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Brexit Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the following regarding the Brexit Forum:

- (a) To note content of Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Brexit Forum.
- (b) Reconvene the Forum in 4-6 or earlier if need be
- (c) Council develop a plan to push information to business as it emerges that will assist with Business planning.

**ERT/100/2020: DUBLIN/BELFAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor. **(Copy circulated)**

- AGREED:**
- (a) To note the research paper on the development of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor undertaken by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre and Dublin City University
  - (b) To note correspondence to the North South Ministerial Council.

**ERT/101/2020: ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION PROJECTS**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration updating on Enterprise Employment & Regeneration projects. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note progress made in relation to Enterprise Employment & Regeneration section projects as per Report from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, and report back to the ERT committee on individual projects as and when required.

**ERT/102/2020: DAERA RURAL SMALL BUSINESS GRANT**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the DAERA Rural Small Business Grant Scheme 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note Council have signed and accepted a contract for funding for implementation and administration of a rural micro business capital grant programme in 2020/21 to the value of £71,300 (£62,000 business grants and £9,300 administration grant). ▪

To note that Council will implement the rural micro business capital grant programme in 2020/21 according to DAERA contact and agreed business case.

**ERT/103/2020: FREE PORTS - CONSULTATION**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Free Ports Consultation. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note the content of the Free Port Economic Analysis report, with further reports to be tabled at Council for discussion as this develops to ensure the Council can formulate a formal position on the matter as required.

**ERT/104/2020: SLLP LIVE HERE, LOVE HERE**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding SLLP Live Here Love Here Small Grant Award. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note that SLLP have successfully secured £1,600 from Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme. This will deliver

the 'Coast Care - Extreme Clean' project which will fund up to 2 clean-up events, working with volunteers to remove marine litter from hard to reach coastal areas and the islands of Strangford Lough during 2020/21.

**ERT/105/2020: MIPIIM PROPERTY EVENT – MARCH 2021**

**Read:** Report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the MIPIM Property event rescheduled for March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** To note content of report dated 10 August 2020 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the next steps in relation to the MIPIM Property Event which has been rescheduled for March 2021.

**ERT/106/2020: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES – JUNE 2020**

**Read:** Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for June 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the Planning Performance Figures for June 2020.

**ERT/107/2020: HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER  
ENTERPRISE REGENERATION & TOURISM**

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

**Noted:** To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.55pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 September 2020.

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**Signed:**     **Councillor A McMurray**  
  
                 **Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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



**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL****Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on  
Thursday 13 August 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype****In the Chair:** Councillor G Sharvin

**In Attendance:**

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor H McKee
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor M Savage	Councillor W Walker

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor G Malone
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services  
 Mr C Mallon, Director or Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
 Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance  
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding  
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration)  
 Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates & Capital Projects  
 Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director  
 Mr P Preen, HR Policy & Projects Officer  
 Mrs E McGrath, HR Business Partner  
 Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor  
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
 Mrs C Hanvey, PA to Director of Corporate Services  
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer  
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

**SPR/87/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

There were no apologies received.

- The Chairperson expressed sympathy to Brian Black's family who sadly died due to a tragic accident in Strangford village recently.
- The Chairperson congratulated Conleth Fitzsimons on finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Flo Gas Champion of Champions which recently took place.

**SPR/88/2020:            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SPR/89/2020            ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY POLICY AND  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2020  
AND 25 JUNE 2020**

Read:                    Action Sheets of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2020 and 25 June 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed:                    **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 11 June 2020 and 25 June 2020, be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

**SPR/90/2020            NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 6 JULY 2020**

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

**“The Council recognises that society has changed fundamentally within the last four months and there will most likely be austere times for many residents of our district for the foreseeable future, the Council also recognises the new financial realities in the time ahead for us as a local authority and therefore it is now time to postpone any further work on the proposed new civic centre project for the remainder of this term”.**

Councillor Malone proposed the above motion and asked that it be given due consideration. He outlined the premise behind the motion stating the future was uncertain, particularly with the ongoing effect of Brexit and stated that Council should revisit the largest capital spend since the formation of the Council and the possible negative financial impact this was likely to have on ratepayers within the District. He stated that, as Elected Members, it was imperative to review and evaluate Council's finances and by continuing with the new civic centre project, Elected Members would have failed the ratepayers.

Councillor Malone asked whether the consultation that had been previously agreed had been carried out, and if not, how could a capital project of this magnitude be progressed. He drew comparisons between the civic centre project and the consultation that had been carried out regarding the Albert Basin project and asked whether the two projects were being treated differently. He went onto say that some business owners in Newry city centre were concerned about the removal of parking spaces and lack of information as to how these would be replaced.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Brown.

Councillor Savage proposed an amendment to the motion to read:

***“The Council recognises that society has changed fundamentally since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic and acknowledges the economic challenges our citizens, businesses and ratepayers face in the coming months and years and recognises the need for Council to re-evaluate our capital expenditure priorities. This Council agrees to await the Consultants’ Report on the proposed Newry Civic Centre which is to be***



***presented to Council in September 2020; agrees not to go to tender or submit a planning application on this scheme until this report is re-evaluated by Council and the recommendations of that re-evaluation are put to an extensive public consultation”.***

In proposing the amendment, Councillor Savage stated he understood the rationale of Councillor Malone on bringing the motion before the Committee as he had been lobbied on the issue as a Newry Councillor also. He stated a lot of organisations, including Council, needed to re-evaluate its operations throughout the ongoing pandemic.

Councillor Savage stated his amendment came about as there was currently nothing tangible on the table to evaluate or to postpone as the consultant's report was due in September 2020. He stated that Council had legal and financial contracts in place to get the consultant's report and it would not be prudent to see the process through. Once the consultant's report was available, it could be critiqued and re-evaluated at that stage with everything taken into consideration. He suggested that Council could look at current assets with regard to meeting the need for Council offices and a civic building and was aware there was a need to vacate the Monaghan Row site to allow for the potential expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital, however the decision being taken was very serious and needed proper discussion. He reiterated SDLP's support for a park in Newry city and their support for the civic centre capital project and believed tangible proposals were required, therefore he proposed that Council wait until the consultant's report was available which could then be taken through the project board and decisions could be taken at that stage based on size, scale, expenditure and need, which may have changed due to the current pandemic.

Councillor Brown seconded the amendment.

The amendment was accepted by Councillor Malone.

The Chairperson acknowledged the proposal calling for an adjournment at this stage in order that Members could consider the amendment, however, he felt it was prudent to have the officer's present their report and invited Mr Mallon to do so.

Mr Mallon outlined the purpose of the report stating it was to update Members on the current progress with the civic centre project, outline the strategic objectives and benefits, present the key milestones achieved, outline the decision-making process, advise on the current programme and inform Members on the consequences of any decisions made with regard to the tabled notice of motion. He advised the report recommended that the Committee note the current reviews that were ongoing in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on remote working, the real estate market and the business case review of the Newry City Regeneration Programme. The report further recommended that Committee approved the continuation of the work on the programme to enable projects to reach tender readiness and planning approval with any intention to proceed to issue a tender for capital build coming back to SPR Committee for decision.

The Chairperson advised it had been proposed by Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon to take a 10 minute recess at this stage.

Councillor Brown stated he was opposed to a recess at this stage and the matter was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

**The proposal to recess was CARRIED.**

**The meeting did then adjourn – 6.27pm**

**The meeting did then resume – 6.37pm**

The Chairperson advised that as the proposer of the original motion had accepted the amendment, the amendment became the substantive motion and therefore was the only motion that Members could address.

Councillor Ó Muirí stated that Sinn Féin were not happy to accept the amendment and had no issue letting the process continue to planning and the public consultation would take place through the planning procedures. He outlined the expenditure and funding that was due to go into the project which had been discussed at length for many years. He stated in 2015 it was agreed to include in the corporate plan for 2015-19 for a new civic centre in Newry to complement the one that had been built in Downpatrick in preparations for the merger of the two Councils.

Members discussed the amendment at length, with senior officers providing responses to questions asked..

The Chairperson put the amendment to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

**The amendment was CARRIED.**

<b>Agreed:</b>	It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Malone, seconded by Councillor Brown, that the Council recognises that society has changed fundamentally since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic and acknowledges the economic challenges our citizens, businesses and ratepayers face in the coming months and years and recognises the need for Council to re-evaluate our capital expenditure priorities. This Council agrees to await the Consultants' Report on the proposed Newry Civic Centre which is to be presented to Council in September 2020; agrees not to go to tender or submit a planning application on this scheme until this report is re-evaluated by Council and the recommendations of that re-evaluation are put to an extensive public consultation.
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<b>Agreed:</b>	It was agreed that Mr Mallon would circulate the timetable of stakeholder engagement to all Members for their information.
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## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

<b>SPR/91/2020:</b>	<b><u>CONSULTATION ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES</u></b>
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**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding regarding, Consultation on the Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Miskelly advised the Local Government Staff Commission was undertaking consultation on the revised Code of Conduct and she had provided the updated Code of Conduct, the schedule of amendments within the report for Members' information and a consultation response from the Council which was recommended for approval by the Committee.

Members discussed the issue and raised the following queries:

- There was disparity between the Code of Conduct for Councillors and that for Employees and direction should be sought from NAC and other Councillor bodies before agreeing to submit the consultation response.
- Concerns exist around the Councillors Code of Conduct and the restrictions that were placed upon Councillors that limit them from carrying out their role. The matter of close personal working relationships needed clarified.
- Clarity required on Political Neutrality and closing off the possibility to represent the local community, only because someone was an employee of the Council, would be penalising and inhibitive. Suggest looking at the rules and regulations that exist within the Civil Service.

On a point of information, Councillor Andrews advised a lot of work had been ongoing through NAC regarding the Councillors Code of Conduct and there was a full Members' meeting being held next week which all Members were permitted to attend.

Mrs Miskelly advised that as members had indicated they needed further clarification and advices from other bodies, it would be prudent to defer any response until Councillors were content regarding the aspects of the code. She stated the language in terms of the working relationships could be reworked to ensure the positive aspect of same was highlighted. With regard to standing as a Councillor while an employee, this was set out in legislation and the Code of Conduct had been updated to try to reflect the legislation as it had not been previously included.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, to include the issues highlighted by Members and that an updated response be brought back to the Committee in September.

## **SPR/92/2020: DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding regarding, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policy **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Miskelly advised Council was committed to the principle that Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence was unacceptable behaviour and everyone had the right to live free from fear and abuse. She advised the policy presented to Committee had undergone extensive internal stakeholder engagement and was fully supported by both Council management and the recognised Trade Unions.

Members welcomed the report and commended Council on the forward thinking approach, and asked the following questions:

- Could a third person be permitted to accompany someone reporting an incident as some people may feel uncomfortable going on their own?
- Council were being incredibly proactive on the issue and the support services provided were fantastic and key that the names and numbers of trusted colleagues were displayed in all public buildings, however it was important to ensure these were placed on the website also due to the many staff now working from home.
- Welcomed the highlighting of domestic abuse within same-sex relationships as some people in these relationships may not feel comfortable speaking out for a variety of reasons. Would it be possible to have trusted colleagues for same-sex couples or those within the LGBTQ community so that they can speak to a trusted colleague.

Mrs Miskelly responded to the queries as follows:

- The line manager arrangement was in terms of practical aspects such as time off or support in relation to relocations.
- Trusted colleagues would be trained and available as the first point of contact for employees experiencing domestic abuse.
- Safeguarding Team deal with enquiries from employees and the team help to guide and signpost those employees.
- There was a dedicated page on the website regarding Safeguarding and e-learning that staff members could access from home.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to adopt and introduce the new Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policy and to include the list of names and numbers of trusted colleagues on the dedicated page on the website.

**SPR/93/2020:** **DOMESTIC ABUSE - 'SAFE PLACE'**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding regarding, Domestic Abuse - 'Safe Place' **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Miskelly advised the review of Council Safeguarding process identified that Council was formally and fully committed to supporting the 'Safe Place' scheme within designated Council facilities for anyone, whether staff or members of the public, affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence to confidentially access information.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Council renew its commitment to Safe Place through Council, supporting the principle that Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence was unacceptable behaviour and everyone had the right to live free from fear and abuse. To agree the designation of specific Council facilities outlined in Appendix 2 of the officer's report, as specified Safe Place locations for anyone affected by Domestic Abuse. This would ensure the appropriate facilities offer the necessary support for all customers and staff, mitigating any risk to Council and incorporate rural needs. Training to be provided to staff in supporting and signposting anyone wishing to avail of the designated 'Safe Place' NMDDC facilities. This would ensure staff at the relevant 'Safe Place' facilities were appropriately



skilled to offer the necessary support for all customers and staff, mitigating any risk to Council.  
 Training to be provided for staff (Managers and HR or other relevant staff) to ensure they had the necessary skills to support employees who were subject to Domestic Abuse (directly and indirectly) through application of the NMDDC Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Policy.

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

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

**SPR/94/2020      APPENDIX 3 IN RELATION TO ITEM 4 – DULY NOTED**

**SPR/95/2020      MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2020**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance regarding, Management Accounts to 31 March 2020 (**Copy circulated**)

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

**SPR/96/2020:      UPDATE ON COUNCIL FINANCES**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding, Update on Council Finances (**Copy circulated**)

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

**SPR/97/2020      MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 JUNE 2020**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Management Accounts to 30 June 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

**SPR/98/2020      REOPENING OF INDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES PLAN - PHASE 2**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Reopening of Indoor Leisure Facilities Plan – Phase 2 **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that members agree the phase 2 re-opening proposal for Indoor Leisure as per below recommendations:

1. That Indoor Leisure Reopens with an estimated additional financial impact as outlined in the officer's report.
2. Swimming Pools reopen on a restricted programme from the 17th August 2020 with clubs and lane swimming provided from this date and recreational swim sessions from the 22nd August 2020
3. Sports hall and court bookings remain restricted to clubs and non-contact sports with a minimum 2 metre social distancing rule until 7th September 2020 and subject to guidance.
4. Newcastle Centre and Ballymote remain closed until further notice with the exception of key statutory bodies and child care providers and who will be granted restricted access subject to satisfactory COVID-19 compliance measures being in place.
5. St Colman's Track and 3G Pitch remains open on restricted opening hours and commences with casual bookings for the athletics track in line and subject to guidance and best practice.
6. All sites close for the bank holiday on the 31st August 2020.

**SPR/99/2020      REOPENING OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Reopening of Community Facilities **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, that members agree the Draft Reopening Procedures as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report:

- To agree the Draft Community Centre Re-opening plan as detailed in Appendix 2 of the officer's report.
- To agree to the proposed Centre Restrictions detailed in section 2.2 and the Budget implications in section 4.1 of the officer's report.
- To agree to carrying out a consultation exercise with volunteers managing Council owned community centres in advance of reopening.

**SPR/100/2020      UPDATE ON THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS ASSETS**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding update on the Disposal of Surplus Assets (**Copy circulated**)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Doran, that members consider and agree the following:

1. To note the content of the officer's report and Appendices A – D.
2. To remove two assets from the Surplus Asset listing and retain for Council, namely:
  - Jonesborough Playing Field (new site) Regina Park, Jonesborough
  - Former refuse site at Courtney Hill, Ballinacraig, Newry
3. To release two assets deemed surplus for open market sale, namely:
  - Land at No.13 and No.15 The Square (Steel Structure) Ballynahinch
  - Former Kearns and Murtagh Yard, 60 Cecil St., Newry
4. To permit an additional period of six months for submission of a developed business case from one party interested in securing a surplus asset, namely:
  - Kilkeel Town Hall - from KDA/DTNI. During this period, assess the updated Questionnaire from KDA .
5. To permit an additional period of six months to one interested party, to secure their internal business case

approval, to enable them proceed with the acquisition a surplus asset, namely:

- Former Newry Sports Centre Site – from SRC.  
During this period, pursue the possibility of entering into a legal agreement between NMDDC and SRC regarding maintenance and running costs.
- 6. To consider business cases, through the AHC Committee, from two parties interested in securing our surplus assets, namely:
  - Former household recycling centre site, Chapel Rd. Newry (Moorhill) - from Mountaineering Ireland.
  - Derryleckagh New Lands, Newry - from Newry Rugby Club.
- 7. To consider a business case, through the ERT Committee, from an organisation interested in securing a surplus asset, namely:
  - McClelland Park / former PSNI Land at Corry Square, Newry – from Matt D'Arcy & Co. Ltd.

#### **SPR/101/2020      PLANNED LEAVE POLICY**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services, HR & Safeguarding regarding, Planned Leave Policy **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran, that members approve the Planned Leave Policy as included within Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

#### **SPR/102/2020      DLC, NLC – UPDATE TO SP&R COMMITTEE**

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates and Capital Projects **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that members approve the recommendation's outlined in the officer's report in relation to proceedings.

#### **FOR NOTING**

**SPR/103/2020      EFFICIENCY WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEETS 15 JUNE 2020, 23 JUNE 2020, 27 JULY 2020 AND 3 AUGUST 2020.**

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

**Noted:** It was agreed to note the Efficiency Working Group Actions sheets of 15 June 2020, 23 June 2020, 27 July 2020 and 3 August 2020.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 21.39pm

**Signed:** Councillor Gareth Sharvin  
Chairperson

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

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Ref: AHC/2020**

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 17 August 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor L McEvoy

**In attendance:** **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Casey
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

**Also In Attendance:** Councillor O Hanlon

**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities  
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing  
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement  
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**AHC/65/2020: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor McMurray.

**AHC/66/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Casey declared an interest in relation to item AHC/053/2020 on the action sheet regarding lease of lands at Barcroft Community Centre as a member of Newry Felons .



**AHC/67/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020**

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

*AHC/162/2019 – Saintfield Community Centre*

In response to a query from Councillor Walker, Mrs Hillen provided an update regarding the leasing of units at Saintfield Community Centre. She confirmed several meetings had taken place regarding the expression of interest exercise and although it had not yet been officially launched final approval was being sought from Senior Management Team to do so.

*AHC/206/2019 – Adoption Suicide Down to Zero*

In response to Councillor Gibbons, Mr E Devlin confirmed £10,000 had been allocated through the financial assistance scheme which remained open to see if there were any further applications. He advised that due to constraints of Covid-19 the working group with the Trust had not yet been progressed.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020.

**AHC/68/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – PERIOD POVERTY REFERRED FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanlon, referred from Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020.

***“That this Council supports the “Period Poverty” campaign and charities such as the Homeless Period and Red Box Project, the aim of these are to highlight the issue that sanitary products are not affordable for all females.***

***As an initial step, that this Council looks at the feasibility of the introduction of free sanitary products in all council public conveniences.***

***We should strive to proactively help efforts to tackle period poverty and be part of bringing about such positive change.***

***It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision.***

***We as a Council will also write to the to the relevant ministers to ask for an update on the introduction of free sanitary products in schools and education facilities.***

***Currently the North is the only area of the UK where free products are not provided to those in need”.***

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Hanlon spoke of the many women and girls struggling with rising costs of sanitary products and that Council as well as other public bodies could play their part in reducing this pressure.

Councillor Hanlon advised that the Scottish Parliament announced in 2018 that all women, visiting or working at Holyrood would have access to free towels or tampons and Stormont had recently announced a similar initiative. Derry and Strabane District Council also became the first local authority in Northern Ireland to offer products in some of its public buildings and that free sanitary products were also made available at schools in England, Scotland and Wales.

Councillor Hanlon referred to research published by the charity Plan International in 2017 that indicated that one in ten girls between the ages of 14 and 21 in the UK being unable to afford sanitary products, while 49% had missed an entire day of school because of their period and not having access to products. She advised she had been lobbied locally about this matter and welcomed the officers report that had been circulated and Councils support for the initiative.

Councillors McKevitt, McEvoy, Taylor and Walker all spoke in support of the motion.

Mr Devlin, provided an overview of the officer's report and recommendations, copies of which had been circulated regarding the notice of motion.

In summing up Councillor Hanlon welcomed the recommendations particularly with regard to the inclusion of the South Eastern Trust.

**Agreed:**

**It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the following:**

- **Write to Department for Education and Department for Economy to ask for an update on the provision of free sanitary products within schools and other educational facilities.**
- **That the feasibility of providing free sanitary products within all Council public conveniences is examined and a report brought back to the relevant Council committee.**
- **Develop a promotional initiative to highlight the area of Period Poverty and continue to work in partnership with the local Health Trusts to promote free provision across all sectors.**
- **Council continue to participate in the Pink Present project and seek to extend its reach within South Eastern Trust area.**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**AHC/69/2020**

### PEACE IV REPORT

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Walker, to note the update provided and approve to the following recommendations:

#### **Building Positive Relations:**

- Procure and appoint relevant facilitator to deliver online TV community broadcasts showcasing PEACE IV cross-community activity through Animation Projects and the community response to Covid-19. Estimated cost £20K (programme approved by SEUPB).
- Procure and appoint relevant facilitator for Irish Language & Ulster Scots Shared Language and Culture Programme. Estimated cost £25k (programme approved by SEUPB).
- Shared History Project – Procure and appoint facilitator to deliver a cross-community project on the life and legacy of John Mitchell. Estimated cost £25k (subject to approval from SEUPB).

**AHC/70/2020**

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

Members discussed the report and recommendations at length and concerns were raised regarding the Sports Capital Grant having a maximum level of funding for each applicant being £50,000. Concerns were also raised in relation to the bar prohibiting organisations from re-applying for a 3 year period.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt to re-examine the recommendations in relation to the Capital and Minor Works Financial Assistance themes, including the maximum level of funding for each applicant being set up to £100,000, as opposed to a limit of £50,000, and not prohibiting organisations from applying for a 3 year period. It was agreed a report would be brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

**AHC/71/2020      LISNACREE COMMUNITY CENTRE – LEASE AGREEMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Lisnacree Community Centre Lease Agreement. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor to contribute the amount of £500 per annum to compensate the Parish for the use of the lands and to cover the legal fees associated with the renewal of the ten-year lease for Lisnacree Community Centre.

**AHC/72/2020      COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Community Asset Transfer. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Mason to act as a Sponsoring Body for the potential development of a Personal and Family Wellbeing Centre at the Ardnabannon OEC site, Castlewellan.

**LEISURE AND SPORTS**

**AHC/73/2020      OUTDOOR RECREATION NI (ORNI) SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – 2020/21**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding the Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) Service Level Agreement – 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Mason in welcoming the Service Level Agreement for community trails raised concerns regarding boundaries for trails running alongside homes and the use of scrambler and quad bikes and referred to Tievenadarragh Forest. Councillor Mason advised it had been raised with Outdoor Recreation NI and suggested it was an issue that could be proactively examined going forward.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to approve a new Service Level Agreement with Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) for the 2020-2021 financial year at the total cost of £40,000 as per appendix 1 contained within the report.

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**AHC/74/2020**

### **SAFE CYCLING INITIATIVES**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding the promotion of safer cycling. **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion Members voiced support for the initiative with the following points were put forward:

- Such initiatives should be encouraged within rural villages and on rural roads that lead to schools.
- The need to maintain pathways and cycle lanes.
- Role for PCSP to play in partnership working to ensure promotion of safety.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Trainor that Council Officers work with key partners, including DfI Officials, PHA, Schools and Sustrans, to identify appropriate initiatives and funding opportunities to encourage an increase in cycling and promote Safer Cycling across the District.

**AHC/75/2020**

### **CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT OLDER PEOPLE'S HOUSING STRATEGY 2020/1-2025/26**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation response to Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/1-2025/26. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey to return the consultation response as presented within the report to Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

**AHC/76/2020**

### **SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Sustainability and Change Forum. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Mason to note the report from the Sustainability & Climate Change Forum on Tuesday 30 June 2020 and approve the actions contained within the attached Action Sheet.

## **FOR NOTING – LEISURE AND SPORTS**

**AHC/77/2020**

### **SPORTS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE RECOVERY PLAN**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Sports Development Service Recovery Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed by all to note the contents of the report and the Councils Sports Development Service Recovery Plan as per appendix 1.

**AHC/78/2020**

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY TRAILS**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding funding opportunity for Community Trails. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed by all to note the report on funding opportunity for Community Trails.

## **FOR NOTING – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**AHC/79/2020**

### **SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Social Investment Fund, Capital. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed by all to note the report on Social Investment Fund.

**AHC/80/2020**

### **POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP)**

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed by all to note the report as presented and to note the following Policing Committee and PCSP Minutes:

- Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2020.
- Minutes of the PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2020.
- Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 21 July 2020.



- Minutes of the PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020, approved at the Policing Committee Meeting on Tuesday 21 July 2020.

**AHC/81/2020**

**NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP**

**Read:**

Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**It was agreed by all to note the report and to note the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting Minutes:**

- Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020.
- Minutes of Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020, approved at Newry NRP Meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2020.

**AHC/82/2020**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – NOTICE OF MOTION**

**Read:**

Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding the notice of motion on Domestic Violence. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:**

**It was agreed by all to note the update report on the support available from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence.**

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

**FOR NOTING**

**AHC/83/2020**

**REOPENING OF INDOOR LEISURE SERVICES – PHASE 2**

**Agreed:**

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

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities regarding the reopening of indoor leisure services – Phase 2. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to note the report which had been agreed at the SPR Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2020 regarding Re-opening of Leisure Facilities Plan – Phase 2.

### **FOR NOTING**

**AHC/83/2020**

### **REOPENING OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

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

**Read:** Report dated 13 August 2020 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities regarding the reopening Community Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to note the report which had been agreed at the SPR Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2020 regarding Re-opening of Community Facilities.

AHC/84/2020

**SCHEME OF DELEGATION SCHEDULE**

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

**Read:** Report dated 17 August 2020 from Mr M Lipsett, Director, Active and Healthy Communities regarding Scheme of Delegation Schedule. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to note the decisions and authorisations contained within the officer's report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.07pm.

**Signed:** Councillor L McEvoy  
Chairperson

**Signed:** Mr M Lipsett  
Director of Active and Healthy Communities

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on  
Thursday 18 August 2020 at 3.00pm via Skype**

**In the Chair:** Councillor G Sharvin

**In Attendance:**

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor H McKee	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor W Walker

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor J Tinnelly	

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
 Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services  
 Mr C Mallon, Director or Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
 Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration)  
 Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy  
 Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates & Capital Projects  
 Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing  
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events  
 Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director  
 Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor  
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
 Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

**SPR/104/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Savage & Lewis.

**SPR/105/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of interest was given on behalf of those Members on the Committee who currently hold an SRA for Item 5 – SRA Allowances.

**CORPORATE SERVICES**

**SPR/106/2020 REVISION OF EFFICIENCY WORKING GROUP**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Revision of Efficiency Working Group (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Ó Muirí queried if the membership, based on party strength, was still reflective with Sinn Féin and SDLP having 2 members each, despite Sinn Féin being the larger party.

Mrs Carville responded stating the working group was not decision-making and would be open to other members, particularly during the rates setting process. However a core membership was required to commit to attend in order for discussions to take place throughout the year.

In response to a query from Councillor Brown regarding the Strategic Projects Working Group (SPWG), Mrs Carville stated that SPR Committee had previously stood down the SPWG and instead had created individual project boards that were attached to key strategic projects such as the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project Board.

The Chairperson requested that all nominees for the working group be forwarded to Democratic Services.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that members approve the following recommendations:

1. The EWG be reconstituted and renamed as the Strategic Finance Working Group (SFWG), with the Terms of Reference for the Group to be determined by the SFWG and agreed by SP&R Committee.
2. Membership of the group be agreed as 2 Sinn Féin, 2 SDLP, 1 UUP, 1 DUP and 1 Alliance/ Independent, with the Chair agreed annually from within the membership.
3. The Neighbourhood Services Transformation Group be stood down, with the SFWG taking on the role performed by this group.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that nominees for the Strategic Finance Working Group be submitted to Democratic Services as soon as possible.

## **CORPORATE PLANNING & POLICY**

**SPR/107/2020**      **DRAFT DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2020-2023 & DRAFT EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2020-2023**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy regarding, Draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2023 & Draft Equality Action Plan 2020-2023 (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Byrne stated that although Diversity Champions was mentioned within the reports, there has not been any update provided to those Members that were put forward as same and requested that an update be brought back to the Committee.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that Members approve the draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2023 & draft Equality Action Plan 2020-2023.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that officers would bring an update to Committee regarding Diversity Champions.

## **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SPR/107/2020:**      **SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES**



**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) regarding, SRA Responsibility Allowances **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown stated he had previously requested that the Chief Executive table his request to maintain an Alliance/Independent presence at the Party Representatives Meeting as this worked very well during the period of delegated authority, and as no decision had been made as yet, he proposed to hold off making a decision on the SRA. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Mrs Carville confirmed the Chief Executive did table Councillor Brown's comments at the Party Representative's forum and that there is no new decision to taken with regard the membership of the Forum.

Councillor Byrne stated that the Terms of Reference of the Party Representative's Forum were very clear on how to form a group. During the period of delegated authority, Councillor Brown was involved in those meetings, and some Independent Councillors felt they were not being updated by Councillor Brown following those meetings.

Councillor Enright confirmed that himself, Councillor Tinnelly and the 2 Alliance Councillors wished to form a group with the way open being left should the remaining Independent Councillors wish to join.

Councillor Byrne asked for a point of information with regard to Members being asked to vote on something in which they have declared an interest.

Mrs Carville clarified that Councillors were being asked to delay consideration on the paper and would suggest they could vote on the matter.

The Chairperson put Councillor Browns proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

***The proposal was LOST.***

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed that Members proceed with the officer's recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Doran.

The Chairperson put Councillor Ó Muirí's proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

***The proposal was CARRIED.***

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Doran, that Members agree the outstanding SRA be allocated among those other positions which receive SRA payments and that this is backdated to 1 June 2020.



## POLICIES

### **SPR/108/2020: CONDITIONS OF HIRE POLICY**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding, Conditions of Hire Policy  
(Copy circulated)

Mr Patterson advised there had been a number of legacy Council policies for different service areas of the Council on the hire of venues and the purpose of the policy was to provide clarity to Council officers, Elected Members and external groups and individuals on the applicable legislative, safeguarding and health and safety requirements that must be adhered to in hiring Council facilities/venues.

The following queries were raised by Members:

- Was there anything Council could do to help out smaller groups that would not have the level of insurance required to hire Council facilities.
- What about individuals and families using centres for birthday parties and family events would they not be adequately insured?
- £10 million of insurance cover was too difficult to obtain, the Department of Education currently required £3 million.

Mr Patterson responded to the queries as follows:

- Council needed to identify groups to ensure they had the appropriate cover in place for high and low risk activities. Work would be undertaken by Assistant Directors regarding the type of facility in order to set the appropriate pricing schedule depending on use.
- The hiring of a Council facility for a birthday party would fall under Council insurance, however if an inflatable being used there was a separate policy and procedure in place.
- The sum of £10 million was the sum required in terms of Public Liability insurance.

Mrs Carville confirmed the advice from Council's Insurers was to have that level of insurance from the user groups. The impact of that is we would have to increase the premiums significantly and any risk from those groups would become a risk borne by Council. She also confirmed that £10 million is the level required and stated for the record in response to comments made by Cllr Enright that officials were not making up figures and these were the figures as advised from the insurers.

Mr Lipsett clarified there were different insurance requirements depending upon which building was used i.e:

- Anywhere that council staff were present and it was a Council-owned facility.
- Where you bring something else in or hired something Council cannot cover, you need your own insurance.
- Those centres that were not run by Council staff i.e. those being run by community associations needed their own insurance and the level of cover advised was £10 million.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve the new Conditions of Hire Policy for implementation across all Council Facilities as relevant.

## FOR NOTING

### **SPR/109/2020: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING ON 5 MAY 2020 & 21 MAY 2020**

**Read:** Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting on 5 May 2020 & 21 May 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting on 5 May 2020 & 21 May 2020 were duly noted.**

**SPR/110/2020** **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (APRIL – JUNE 2020)**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy regarding, Communications and Marketing activities in response to COVID-19 (April – June 2020) **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairperson acknowledged the great work the Communication and Marketing team completed over the COVID-19 period, stating it was great to see over 770,000 people being reached from our 20 Digital campaigns, 234 facebook posts and 194 tweets.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the content of the report.**

**SPR/111/2020** **STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2020**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy regarding, Statutory Reporting – Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the content of the report.**

**SPR/112/2020** **NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL POLICY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: A CORPORATE GUIDE TO POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy regarding, Newry Mourne and Down District Council Policy Development Framework: A Corporate guide to Policy Development **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the content of the report.**

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

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

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

**SPR/113/2020      PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT KILBRONEY, ROSTREVOR**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting) regarding, proposed lease of lands at Kilbroney, Rostrevor **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor McKee, that Elected Members agree to accede to the Centre's request and agree to Lease the lands for 20 years at a peppercorn rent, subject to the Centre discharging Council's valuation and legal fees and also subject to updated Departmental consent.

**SPR/114/2020      REQUEST TO SURRENDER LEASE IN RESPECT OF UNITS 1 & 8 MCGRATH HOUSE, MARGARET STREET, NEWRY**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting) regarding, Request to surrender lease in respect of Units 1 & 8 McGrath House, Margaret Street, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that Elected Members agree to accede to Mr McAteer's request and agree to surrender the Lease without penalty, subject to Mr McAteer paying all rent (save for April and May) until the date of the surrender and reinstating the Premises in accordance with the terms of the lease.

**SPR/115/2020:      RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NI PROTOCOL FOR EU EXIT**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing regarding, Resources required for implementation of NI Protocol for EU exit **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Brown, that Elected Members agree to approve the following recommendations:

- 3.5 FTE EHOs are recruited as detailed in the officers report
- Once further work is completed on establishing shift patterns and cover required, further EHO and supervisory roles may be recruited to meet the demands of the new service.
- A new temporary Senior/Lead EHO post is created from within existing staff to allow this work and that relating to Export controls and Approved premises to be managed
- To ensure adequate cover is available, all EHOs should be offered the opportunity to volunteer, through an Expression of Interest, to work shifts at the BCP, on completion of the required training programme.

**SPR/116/2020      ST PATRICK'S DAY EVENT COSTS**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding, St Patrick's Day Event Costs (**Copy circulated**)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that Council pays invoices to specified suppliers totalling £58,300 in relation to outstanding payments for St Patrick's Day 2020 Event costs and a claim is submitted to the Executive Office in relation to eligible costs.

**SPR/117/2020      REOPENING MUSEUMS**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding, Reopening Museums (**Copy circulated**)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, that the Council's two museums remain closed and an assessment is undertaken again in September 2020 to consider reopening the museums.

**SPR/118/2020      MOURNES GATEWAY PROJECT – BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events regarding, Mournes Gateway Project – Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case (**Copy circulated**)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Doran, that members agree to progress the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Mournes Gateway Project for submission to the next stage of consideration in the Belfast Region City Deal Programme.

**SPR/119/2020      TENDOR FOR THE COUNCIL'S STATUTORY ADVERTISING**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy, regarding Tender for the Council's Statutory Advertising **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that members agree to proceed with Option 2 as detailed in the Business Case, namely to issue a tender for Council's statutory advertising.

**FOR NOTING**

**SPR/120/2020      NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE - HITT CAFÉ LICENSE AGREEMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 18 August 2020 from Mr M Lipsett Director of Active & Healthy Communities regarding, Newry Leisure Centre – HITT Café License Agreement **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Clarke asked if there was any progress on Vending Machines in centres, Mr Lipsett replied there was limited progress due to the COVID-19 situation and would bring an updated report to the Active and Healthy Committee meeting.

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

**Noted:** It was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 5.19pm.

**Signed:** Councillor Gareth Sharvin  
Chairperson

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



## **NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype.**

**Chair:** Councillor O Magennis

**Deputy Chair:** Councillor T Andrews

<b>Members:</b>	Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor H McKee
	Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor K Owen
	Councillor H Reilly	Councillor D Taylor

**Non-Committee Members:** Councillor G Hanna  
Councillor W Walker  
Councillor J Tinnelly  
Councillor G O'Hare

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management  
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Waste Management (Acting)  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

### **NS/176/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor Stokes.

### **NS/177/2020: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

### **NS/178/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2020**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2020. ***(Circulated)***.

**AGREED:**                    **On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

Issues raised

- Mr Scullion confirmed the 12m high Christmas tree was intended for the events space in Kilkeel and he was not aware of any plans to provide a similar size tree for Newry.
- A tender had been issued for 145 pole mounted Christmas illuminations and these would replace some which were being used in various towns and villages throughout the District.
- Progress was being made on the procurement of PPE equipment and it was hoped this process would be finalised by the end of the year, dependent on officer time.

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

**NS/179/2020:      NOTICE OF MOTION –  
                             DELIVERY OF SMALL BROWN FOOD WASTE BINS**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Hanna:-

**"As the Council is promoting recycling as a key strategic objective, we need to commit to how this is delivered operationally. Distribution of small brown bins for food waste throughout Council area is an important part of achieving our objective by helping residents separate their waste. Under Covid19 restrictions normal practice of residents collecting these bins in person from Greenbank cannot occur at the moment, or in the near future. To ensure effective delivery of this service, Council staff should commit to delivery of these bins to local areas and work with local Councillors to support delivery of this service where practical. All bins distributed should be to a recorded address".**

Councillor Owen formally proposed the Motion, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

A number of Members spoke in support and raised the following issues:-

- One of the Council's strategic aims was to increase recycling and the provision of small brown food waste bins and liners was essential in encouraging the public to sort different types of waste and improve their recycling.
- Suggesting that a supply of brown caddies could be given to individual Councillors who were in agreement to distributing these within communities, subject to them being distributed to a recorded address.

- Brown bin liners were currently being distributed through Household Recycling Centres and consideration needs to be given as to how these could be distributed further.
- Reference made to a previous Notice of Motion in relation to the distribution of caddy liners – the issues raised in both Motions needed to be considered together and options presented as a joint package.

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr J McBride, regarding the Notice of Motion and recommending that the Committee agree to the Motion and that Officers undertake necessary research and report back to NS Committee presenting options and costs for consideration and approval. *(Circulated)*.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to approve the above recommendation and also that officers look at options both for brown bin caddies and liners and report back to Committee.**

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

### **NS/180/2020: REWILDING AND WILDFLOWER AREAS ACROSS THE NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL ESTATE**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: progress update on work being undertaken by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Section to create rewilding/wildflower areas and tree planting schemes across the district. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the above report.**

#### Issues raised:

- Mr Scullion arrange for the relevant officer to contact Councillor Mason regarding proposed site for wildflower area in Drumaness.
- Mr Scullion arrange for the relevant officer to contact Councillor Clarke regarding the possibility of Island Park Newcastle being included as a wildflower area.
- A request from Councillor Murphy that further opportunities being offered through Slieve Gullion DEA Meetings to discuss potential wildflower areas in Camlough and Bessbrook.
- The Camlough Road Roundabout and the Roundabout at Carnbane Gardens were maintained by Dfi – given limited resources Council would not be doing works on areas for which they had no responsibility.

- Condemnation of vandalism/theft of trees planted by the Council along Abbey Way, Newry.
- Mr Scullion arrange for the relevant officer to update Councillor Casey on the planting/replacement of cherry trees along the Canal walkway.
- Important that officials liaise with local people when planning wildflower areas – e.g Knockchree Avenue Kilkeel where the majority of people seemed content with the current grassed arrangement.
- The necessity for good horticultural advice in relation to tree management.

**NS/181/2020: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS/CELEBRATIONS GROUP  
JULY 2020**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr K Scullion providing an opportunity to review the Actions Sheet (Appendix 1) from the Council's Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting which took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and to consider the recommendations from this meeting. (*Circulated*).

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

- **Note the contents of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**
- **If agreed by the Committee, Officers to report back to the Committee in September on the practicalities and costs to undertake proposed extensions to the Christmas illuminations displays in Rostrevor, Newcastle and Newtownhamilton.**
- **Agree to the replacement of the sustainable Christmas trees in Bessbrook, Dundrum and Crossgar.**
- **Endorse other actions detailed in the report of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

Issues raised:

- Mr Scullion arrange for the relevant officer to update the Mourne Councillors in relation to the placement of a Christmas tree in Annalong, following the recent Environmental Improvement Scheme.
- Officers to consider a request from Councillor Clarke that Christmas illuminations be provided in the Newcastle Harbour area.
- In response to a query from Councillor Finnegan regarding the placement of a sustainable Christmas tree in Crossmaglen this

year, Mr Scullion said he was confident this timeframe would be met but if there were any difficulties a cut tree would be provided.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **NS/182/2020: UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN**

Read: Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr J McBride, providing an update on the status of the Enforcement Improvement Plan which the Committee approved at its meeting on the 19 June 2019. *(Circulated)*.

A detailed discussion followed during which Members raised issues in relation to the urgent need to take stronger action on the enforcement of dog fouling and littering to include the amending of legislation and increasing fines; the Councils Environmental Health and Neighbourhood Services Departments working more closely together on these issues; the need for improved signage warning against dog fouling and littering; naming and shaming offenders; the number of fixed penalty notices issued by the Council and an update on benchmarking with other Councils.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the above report.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was also unanimously agreed to write, at the earliest opportunity, to the Minister for Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), to request the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences be increased from the current limit of £80 to £250; and that officers report to Members on the annual cost of District cleansing and enforcement in relation to littering and dog fouling offences, with a view to further proposals which may assist in achieving a 'polluter pays' principle for the District, including but not limited to the possibility of requesting devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to Councils.

It was also agreed to write to the other 10 Councils seeking their support for this proposal and asking that they also write to the Minister.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to table a report at the September Neighbourhood Services Meeting on the costs of cleansing and enforcement and in relation to dog fouling and littering offences based on the 2019 financial year figures



**and table a report on the outcome of the benchmarking review with the other 10 Councils.**

**NS/183/2020: RECOVERY OF THE BULKY COLLECTION SERVICE**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr J McBride giving an update on the recovery of the bulky collection service which was suspended in March 2020 due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to note the above report and that the service would be kept under constant review and enhanced at the earliest opportunity.**

**NS/184/2020: DAERA CONSULTATION**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr J McBride advising The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) was seeking views on a public discussion document on the "Future Recycling and Separation of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland" (Appendix 1 *Abridged Version*). *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the above report and agree that Waste Management would start collating a reply on behalf of Council and prepare draft for NS Committee in September.**

**At the request of Councillor Clarke it was agreed Officers consider holding a Workshop to brief Members on this document, following on from a NILGA Workshop which was being held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

**NS/185/2020: HRCs RE-OPENING PLAN UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr J McBride providing an update to the Committee on the re-opening of the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), in accordance with the relaxation of social distancing measures by the NI Executive and resource availability. *(Circulated)*.

**Issues raised**

- A number of Members expressed their disappointment and concern that there were still no plans for Saturday opening at some of the HRCs. In their view this disenfranchised residents who were

unable to go to the sites during the working week – a suggestion that HRCs be closed one day in the earlier part of the week and open on Saturdays.

- Issues with bin collections being missed and a request that officers liaise with DfI to ensure contractors carrying out roadworks would try to be as accommodating as possible to allow bin lorries access.
- Any proposed changes to operating hours/days needed to be well marketed so that the public were aware of them e.g. changes to the Crossmaglen HRC operating times.
- Crotlieve Councillors expressed their concerns that there was no date for the re-opening of Hilltown Civic Amenity Site.
- The need for clear signage at the Warrenpoint HRC which accurately reflected the opening and closing times.

Mr Moore and Mr McBride responded to the issues raised by Members and said officials were continuing to review plans to recover the service and move back to normal operations but this was dependent on managing COVID 19 related risks and the continuing availability of staff resources.

Mr Moore gave an assurance that officers were working hard to put arrangements in place to re-open the facility at Hilltown and there were no plans to permanently close the site.

**AGREED:**                    **It was unanimously agreed to note the update in relation to the next phase of the re-opening of the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).**

### **FOR NOTING**

**NS/186/2020:**    **Arc21 MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN JUNE 2020**

Read:                    Arc21 Members' Monthly Bulletins for June 2020. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:**                    **It was unanimously agreed to note the above Bulletin.**

**NS/187/2020:**    **Arc21 MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN JULY 2020**

Read:                    Arc21 Members' Monthly Bulletins for July 2020. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:**                    **It was unanimously agreed to note the above Bulletin.**

**NS/188/2020:**    **Arc21 CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24**

Read:                    Arc21 Corporate Plan 2020-24. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the above Corporate Plan.

**NS/189/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

**AGREED:** At the request of Councillor Clarke it was agreed Mr Scullion investigate the current position in relation to the access to the beach at Glen River car park, Newcastle and advise him of the outcome.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Items 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

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

**NS/190/2020: RECYCLING OF MATTRESSES**

Read: Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr J McBride re: mattress recycling. (*Circulated*).

**NS/191/2020: BUSINESS CASE FOR USE OF A SUITABLE FUEL SUPPLY FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT THE USE OF A FUEL CARD**

Read: Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr J McBride re: Business Case for the use of a suitable fuel supply framework to support the use of fuel cards. (*Circulated*).

**NS/192/2020: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BIOMASS WOOD PELLETS**

Read: Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Case for the supply and delivery of biomass wood pellets. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/193/2020: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE ANNUAL SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IN COUNCIL BUILDINGS**

Read: Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Case for the annual servicing and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment in Council Buildings. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/194/2020: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN**

Read: Report dated 19 August 2020 from Mr R Moore re: procurement action plan to address contract and procurement issues within the Neighbourhood Services Directorate. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/195/2020: RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT ("THE PROJECT") BRIEFING PAPER ON NOARC21 QUERIES**

Read: Briefing Paper on the Residual Waste Treatment Project ("The Project") NoARC21 Queries. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/196/2020: ARC21 JC SCHEDULE BRIEFING**

Read: Arc21 JC Schedule Briefing. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/197/2020: ARC21 JC – VIRTUAL MEETING**

Read: Minutes of ARC21 Joint Committee Virtual Meeting held on 30 July 2020. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Owen proposed and Councillor Murphy seconded to come out of closed session.

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

Item 15 – Recycling of Mattresses

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the content of the report and agree to the recommendations contained at 2.3**

**and 2.4 of the report in relation to the recycling of mattresses.**

Item 16 – Business case for the use of a suitable fuel supply framework to support the use of fuel cards

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case for the use of a suitable fuel supply framework to support the use of fuel cards across the entire District.

Item 17 – Business Case for the supply and delivery of biomass wood pellets

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case to proceed to Tender for a Biomass Wood Pellet Supplier for an initial 12-month contract with a view to extending to 24 months.

Item 18 – Business Case for Annual Servicing and Maintenance of Fire Fighting equipment in Council Buildings

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and accept the conclusion of the Business Case to see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent contractor to inspect, maintain and testing of all Fire Fighting Equipment in Buildings in the Council's asset register.

Item 19 – Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note that services will continue "out of contract" until new contracts are awarded and also to approve the recommended Neighbourhood Services Directorate procurement action plan.

**It was also agreed a quarterly update on the Plan would be provided to Committee.**



Item 20 – Residual Waste Treatment Project (“The Project”) Briefing Paper on NoARC21 queries

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the briefing paper on Residual Waste Treatment Project (“the Project”) on NOARC21 Queries and that the Paper be circulated to all Councillors for their information.

Item 21 – ARC21 Joint Committee Schedule Briefing

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the ARC21 Joint Committee Schedule Briefing dated 25 June 2020.

Item 22 – ARC21 JC – Virtual Meeting

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the ARC21 Briefing Papers of the Virtual Meeting held on Thursday 30 July 2020.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.30pm.

**Signed:** Councillor O Magennis  
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

**Signed:** Mr R Moore  
Director of Neighbourhood Services



Minutes of the 470<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council  
Conference Call via Webex  
Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 10.30 am

The Officers joined the Meeting at 10.45 am

**Present:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Clark Bailie	Chief Executive (NIHE)
Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight (DfC)
David Polley	Director of Housing Strategy & Co-ordination (DfC)
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (NIHE, Secretariat)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
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1.0	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  None.	
3.0	<b>To adopt the Minutes of the 469<sup>th</sup> Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b>  It was proposed by Alderman J Speers, seconded by Councillor N Mathison and resolved, that the Minutes of the 469 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair.	

4.0	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	
4.1	<p><u>Item 4.2 – Adaptation Performance and OT waiting times and assessments</u></p> <p>A joint presentation by representatives from the Department of Health &amp; Social Services and the Housing Executive would be re-arranged for a future meeting, to revisit and monitor the Adaptation Performance and OT waiting times and assessments.</p>	<b>Secretary</b>
4.2	<p><u>Item 9.0 – NI Water</u></p> <p>A presentation by representatives from NI Water to be re-arranged for a future meeting in relation to wastewater capacity issues.</p>	<b>Secretary</b>
5.0	<p><b>The Housing Executive's Board Bulletin Board Meeting – Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b></p> <p>Mr Bailie reported on the Housing Executive Board' deliberations as follows:-</p>	
5.1	<p><b>Update on COVID-19</b></p> <p>Mr Bailie gave Members an update on the current situation within the Housing Executive and the impact on its services, due to COVID-19. He overviewed the undernoted items:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grounds Maintenance;</li> <li>2. Community Funding Approach;</li> <li>3. Housing Benefit (HB);</li> <li>4. Housing Management Activity;</li> <li>5. Phased Return to Work;</li> <li>6. £3.3m Funding Availability for COVID-19 pressures;</li> <li>7. PPE supply and provision;</li> <li>8. NIHE Rent Increase 2020/21 – Until October 2020.</li> </ol> <p>All Members highly commended the ongoing work of the Housing Executive during these unprecedented times, and asked Mr Bailie to convey their appreciation of the fantastic efforts made by Housing Executive staff during the COVID-19 emergency. Several Members quoted many examples of how Housing Executive staff has provided caring and practical support for residents in their own particular local areas.</p>	<b>C Bailie</b>

	<p>In response to the question in relation to contractors being back on-site, Mr Bailie explained that outside work is able to be carried out adhering to social distancing that will be the first to resume. In terms of interior works this will be a more slower process as there are risk assessments to be carried out, additional costs incurred due to social distancing and tenants are still reluctant to let people into their homes. He added at present works in vacant properties were being undertaken to get the property back into use.</p> <p>Referring to the question on allocations of houses, Mr Bailie explained that the Housing Executive awaits the directive from the Northern Ireland Executive to allow the re-opening of the housing market.</p> <p>Referring to the 'new normal' Mr Mathison felt that discussions should take place; how to conduct future meetings in relation to public expenses ie: (venue costs; refreshments; travel costs and the environmental issues).</p> <p>Board Papers considered for approval were as follows:-</p>	
5.2	<b>Corporate Risk Register (COVID-19)</b>	
5.3	<b>Finance Report as at 30 April 2020</b>	
5.4	<b>Housing Benefit Systems – Hosting Management Development Budgets 2020-21</b>	
5.5	<p><b>CT045- Fence Painting Tender</b></p> <p>The Board had approved contracts for fence painting works in Housing Executive Properties for a period of 18 months subject to the government guidance on COVID-19 at point of award.</p>	
5.6	<p><b>Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2020-2025</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Board had approved the Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2020-25, which sets out how the Housing Executive plans to provide the Travelling community with access to good quality, culturally appropriate housing accommodation which fosters sustainable, vibrant Travelling communities and promotes inclusion, a sense of belonging and security over the next 5 years.</p> <p>The Strategy would be subject to a 12 week period of public consultation before being resubmitted to Board for final approval and implementation.</p>	

5.7	<p><b>Undeveloped Land Schedule 2019/20</b></p> <p>The Board had approved the Undeveloped Land Schedule 2019/20 and the classification of sites to be transferred to Housing Associations, retained for future use, declared surplus to requirements for disposal and reclassified as existing open space.</p>
5.8	<p><b>Hope Street Development Proposal Update</b></p> <p>The Board had approved the Draft conditions of contract for the disposal of the Hope Street site.</p> <p>Other papers were noted by the Board, as follows:-</p>
5.9	<p><b>Business Performance Monitor as at end of April 2020</b></p>
5.10	<p><b>Land Acquisitions and Disposals Quarterly Update</b></p>
5.11	<p><b>Supporting People Monthly update</b></p>
5.12	<p><b>Department for Communities (DfC) Inspection Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIHE Transformation Programme</li> <li>• NIHE Community Safety Strategy</li> <li>• NIHE Tenancy Fraud Strategy</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety on NIHE Construction Sites</li> </ul>
5.13	<p><b>Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) Performance 2019/20 and Delivery Risk Assessment 2020/21</b></p> <p>The Board had noted the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) performance against targets for the 2019/20 year and was provided a Delivery Risk Assessment for the 2020/21 year.</p>



	<p>This is a requirement under Financial Regulation 4 of 'Standing Orders', for the Board to be updated twice yearly on progress with the delivery of the SHDP against the Annual Budget Plan.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>Housing Issues, Department for Communities</b></p> <p>Mr Price thanked the Housing Executive for maintaining services under these extraordinary circumstances and gave an update on the current position of the work the Department and their continuity plan during COVID-19.</p> <p>He added that at present policy work is delayed and the focus is maintaining core services through the Housing Executive; obtaining extra funding for homelessness; supporting people and PPE.</p> <p>Mr Price also informed Members that the Minister for Communities agreed that COVID related rent arrears would not result in evictions during this pandemic, and the Department will support social landlords during these unprecedented times.</p> <p>Mr Price and Mr Polley gave a detailed monthly update on the Department for Communities Housing Issues, under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Newbuild starts</b></li> </ul> <p>Social housing scheme to be delivered over a 5 year period at which an additional 1,850 social homes are to be started by March 2020 (200 of which will be shared housing and 8.5% will be wheelchair accessible).</p> <p>Members noted that due to COVID-19 the delivery of the social newbuild starts was critically affected in March 2020, a total of 761 starts in 2020 compared to the target of 1,850.</p> <p>Mr Price highlighted the impact on the budget for 2020/21, he explained that there will be capital money that will exceed the capacity of industries that are currently struggling to spend the funding ie: construction industry, but in terms of resource there is likely to be strained budgets across all sectors including the impact on key services provided by the Housing Executive.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Co-ownership</b> <p>To support 1091 first-time buyers to purchase a new home through Co-ownership or similar schemes by March 2020 The PfG target is to support 3,750 first-time buyers to purchase a new home through Co-ownership or similar schemes by March 2021.</p> <p>Mr Polley added that Co-ownership is currently not open for applications but hopefully will resume services in the near future.</p> </li> <li> <b>Programme for Social Reform</b> <p>Options for structural reform have been developed in order to address the investment challenge in the NIHE. Complete preparations to implement Ministerial decisions to take forward a Programme of Social Housing Reform by September 2018.</p> </li> <li> <b>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</b> <p>Aims to develop way forward policy options and legislative proposals in response to the Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy. The Department has completed analysis of respondents' views in relation to the review and a consultation report has been drafted for publication. In December 2019 NIHE presented to the Department preliminary plans and potential costings to implement all 20 proposals for change, The plan is subject to Department approvals and funding and further consideration of modelling.</p> </li> <li> <b>Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers</b> <p>By 31 March 2020 work with the NIO to ensure the passage of legislation to maintain the classification of Northern Ireland's Registered Housing Associations to the private sector. The draft Housing (Amendment) Bill (Northern Ireland) 2020 was introduced to the Assembly on 26 May 2020.</p> </li> <li> <b>Supporting People Delivery Strategy</b> <p>The Strategy aimed to oversee both the delivery of the Supporting People Programme and the implementation of the 2015 Review Recommendations.</p> </li> <li> <b>Homelessness Strategy</b> <p>The inter-departmental Homeless Action Plan with NIHE and across Government to implement Homelessness Strategy to tackle homelessness.</p> </li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena</b> <p>To develop St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena as a mixed-tenure, mixed-use site underpinned by a shared ethos (PfG target by March 2021). Currently facing some delays owing to high levels of Asbestos</p> </li> <li> <b>Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</b> <p>To implement agreed recommendations arising from Review of the Role and Regulation of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) and prepare legislative proposals accordingly (PfG target). Progress to date includes a Landlord Helpline underway as of 01/09/18 and a pilot mediation service provided by Housing Rights Service has been operational since November19 and will run for a period of 2 years.</p> </li> <li> <b>Increasing Housing Supply</b> <p>Aims to move into new areas of housing policy by developing initial policy proposals for increasing housing supply, including in the private sector, in support of a potential new draft PfG Outcome 13.</p> </li> <li> <b>Affordable Warmth Scheme</b> <p>The Affordable Warmth Scheme aims to deliver 3,900 affordable warmth measures to 2,600 homes by 31 March 2020. The Scheme is on track to meet this target.</p> <p>Mr Polley added that during Covid-19, Councils are continuing to process emergency referrals for the scheme.</p> </li> <li> <b>NIHE Rent Scheme</b> <p>The Minister approved the increase of NIHE rents at CPI + 1% on 6 February 2020. The increase was to come into effect from 1 April 2020. However in light of the current public health crisis resulting from COVID-19 the Minister decided to temporarily suspend the introduction of the NIHE's approved rent increase of CPI +1% for 2020-21. The delay will be for a period of 6 months, with the rental increase coming into effect on 1 October.</p> </li> <li> <b>Welfare Reform Mitigation payments</b> <p>The "New Decade, New Approach" commits the Executive to continuing to mitigate for the Social Sector Size Criteria (also referred to as the Bedroom Tax).</p> </li> </ul>	
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	<p>The Department will work with the NIHE to ensure a joined up approach to communicating with tenants on the approach to continuing mitigation for SSSC and on decisions regarding other mitigation measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investment</b> </li> </ul> <p>Funding of €22.951 million has now been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through its Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme for Northern Ireland 2014-2020 and a further €22 million in funding is being invested by the NIHE. The six year €45 million programme is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.</p> <p>The Chair commended the Department and the Housing Executive staff and the team work approach through these exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Members raised their concerns at the budget constraints for this financial year and reiterated their support for the Housing Executive to be allowed to borrow money.</p> <p>In response Mr Price explained that due to COVID-19, these discussions have currently been suspended and he referred to the 'New Decade, New Approach', which will be considered by the Minister of Communities to present to the Northern Ireland Executive on the options for structural reform, later in the year.</p> <p>Alderman Grehan asked for a breakdown the social newbuild programme that was impacted by COVID-19 and those prohibited by planning and infrastructure. She also asked those impacted by the COVID-19 situation are they ready to be started when the construction industry has resumed works.</p> <p>Mr Price undertook to provide details on the social housing units for 2019/2020. He added that approvals had been obtained to deliver the target and unfortunately mid-March is when all normality was shut down placing a hold on the process. COVID-19 impacted site acquisitions due to the closure of Land Registry, planning approvals due to cancelled meetings and contracts not being signed following legal advice.</p> <p>Mr Price explained that there is a bank of approximately 1100 units capable of being delivered when processes are restarted, giving a head-start on new starts for next year, which will include the 1,850 starts in the programme, but explained that there will be added difficulties, ie. on-site social distancing which will increase cost, time etc. Members noted that the funding pressure will be a challenge.</p>	<p><b>P Price</b></p>
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	<p>Members were in agreement that the backlogs in March for meeting the targets at the last minute should be addressed.</p> <p>Mr Bailie responded to the question, in relation to the reopening of housing allocations and the related challenges this will pose. He explained that there was a reserve of tenants ready to move prior to COVID-19, so following the directive of the re-opening of the housing market the move can proceed quickly, although the Housing Executive is mindful of other services needing to be operative for those tenants.</p>	
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7.0	<p><b><u>New Decade, New Approach</u></b></p> <p>Members noted that options for structural reform have been developed in order to address the investment challenge in the Housing Executive. 'New Decade, New Approach' commits the Northern Ireland Executive to tackling this challenge. The Minister for Communities is aware of the challenge facing the Housing Executive and has indicated the priority to protect NIHE stock.</p> <p>Mr Price and Mr Polley highlighted the main issues relating to the Housing, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced investment from Executive for new social and affordable home starts.</li> <li>• Tackling the maintenance backlog for NI Housing Executive properties.</li> <li>• Augmentation of PfG Outcomes Framework to ensure new outcome. Specific focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for its needs.</li> <li>• Executive plans to bring forwards reclassification legislation to mark Housing Associations as external to public sector, this in turn will ensure the continuation of new social house building and the Co-ownership Housing Scheme.</li> <li>• The Executive's examination of options to potentially remove £307m of historical debt from the NIHE (£185m of this is capital, £122m is interest) and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax.</li> </ul> <p>Members expressed concern that the Housing Executive are obliged to pay Corporation Tax and would welcome a change in the legislation to exempt the payment.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Executive's plans to agree on a long-term trajectory for the rental charges of the NIHE that will support the long-term future of NIHE's social housing stock and provide demonstrably affordable rents to tenants.</li> <li>Measures that will be introduced, including legislation where necessary, to provide for controls to ensure affordability, and these options to ensure affordability of social rents will be presented for consideration by the Minister in due course.</li> </ul>	
8.0	<p><b>Social Housing Development Programme Housing Starts and Completions:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Report Year End 2019-2020</b></li> <li><b>Report end of May 2020</b></li> </ul> <p>Members noted the reports.</p>	
9.0	<p><b>The Housing Executive's Scheme Starts May 2020</b></p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
10.0	<p><b>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 10.30 am in the Housing Centre, Belfast.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the meeting would be held in the Boardroom of the Housing Centre for those who wish to attend the meeting in person. It was recognised that other Members may prefer to continue to participate through the video/conference call facility.</p>	<b>Secretary</b>

The Meeting concluded at 12 pm.



## **AUGUST HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN**

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

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

### **Members Present**

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

### **Members Apologies**

Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
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The Housing Council's considered various routine items at the Meeting, followed by detailed discussions on the undernoted matters:-

The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on **Housing Executive's Business from the June Board Meeting**, which included the following items:-

- Corporate Risk Register (COVID-19)
- Finance Report as at 31 May 2020
- NIHE Community Safety Strategy 2020-2023 and summary responses received from the public consultation exercise
- Extension of Queens Quarter Housing Ltd (QQH) – Dispersed Intensively Managed Emergency Accommodation (DIME) and Housing Management facility (Contract Variation) including associated housing support requirements
- Wellington Street, Lurgan
- CT071 – External Cyclical Maintenance Tender
- CT079 - Kitchen Replacement Tender
- CTU324 - Double Glazing Replacement Scheme - South Region
- Office Cleaning Services and Washroom Services - Approval to award a contract to Aramark Ireland Holdings Ltd

- Supporting People Programme-Annual Report 2019-2020
- Undeveloped Land Schedule 2019-20
- Update on TIU Recommendation 3.4 (b) / DfC IM 12: Major Adaptations (MAPD)
- The Strategy for delivering fixed electrical inspection programme and the commencement of a procurement competition for electrical contractors to support DLO
- Update on provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Framework
- Supporting People Programme Update
- DfC Final Report – (1) Inspection of GDPR Arrangements (2) Inspection of Procurement Arrangements in Housing Services Division

Members then received an update from David Polley & Judith Woodburn Department for Communities, on the **Departments' Housing Top Issues** to date, which included:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- NIHE Rent Scheme
- Welfare Reform Mitigation payments
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Investment
- Tackle the maintenance backlog for NI Housing Executive properties
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework
- Options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents
- Fresh Start Agreement

Members received two presentations on consultations documents which they will be giving a corporate response to:-

1. Housing Executive's Draft Older People's Housing Strategy 2020/21 – 2025/26
2. Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2020-2025

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



The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 am in the venue to be confirmed.

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

### **Contacts**

#### **Chair**

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#### **Secretary**

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# Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust



Council  
Agenda  
(ST.)  
1/9/2020

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Ms Marie Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
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Chief Executives Office  
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Your Ref: C/085/2020 & C/092/2020

20 August 2020

Dear Ms Ward,

Thank you for your letter to NIAS Chief Executive, Michael Bloomfield, dated 5 August 2020.

Michael is currently on leave and in his absence, I would like to thank you for the continued interest shown by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in the provision of ambulance cover within the area.

In your letter you referenced the future funding of NIAS in the context of our new Clinical Response Model. NIAS is confident that, when properly resourced, this new model will enable NIAS to, more quickly, identify those who are most seriously ill or injured and whose lives may be under immediate threat. The early identification of the seriousness of the condition will help ensure that our quickest response will be provided to the sickest patients.

The new model also provides NIAS call takers take a little longer to gather detailed information from callers, in respect of patients whose condition is not identified as immediately life-threatening, to ensure that the response most appropriate to their needs is provided by NIAS.

Preparation of the business case, identifying associated costs required to fully implement the new Clinical Response Model, is nearing completion prior to submission to Department of Health. NIAS has also been tasked with providing a situation update report to the Department of Health at the end of September.

On behalf of our Chief Executive, I undertake to ensure that NIAS will provide, through your office, an update on progress made, to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in October.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for their continued support in what have been challenging times for the health service in general and the ambulance service in particular. We particularly welcome the public messages of support from elected representatives, which are always well received by our staff.

Yours sincerely,

Maxine Paterson, Director of Planning, Performance and Corporate Services

