

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 July 2015 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair Councillor N Bailie

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor M Carr	Councillor C Casey
Councillor P Clarke	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer	Councillor C McGrath
Councillor H McKee	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor P Ó Gribín	Councillor B Ó'Muirí
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Recreation and Technical Services
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy
Ms S Burns, Programmes Manager
Mr P Green, Legal Advisor
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance: Mr Simon Richardson, TransportNI

Mr Stephen Duffy, TransportNI
Ms Cindy Noble, Transport NI

C/51/2015

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Ennis, Murnin and Sharvin.

Councillor Reilly proposed that, due to the length of the agenda, there should be additional plenary meetings of Council a month as opposed to one. This was seconded by Councillor Hyland. Following discussion it was agreed that the matter of two or three plenary meetings of Council a month be investigated by the Party Representatives' Grouping.

Councillor Hearty proposed that the presentation from TransportNI be postponed to be discussed at a Special Council Meeting as he believed to hear the presentation tonight would not be doing the subject matter justice, as it was such an important issue that needed time for all Members to have their say on. This was seconded by Councillor Hyland.

Members discussed the issue with some stating their dissent to the proposal believing that the representatives from TransportNI should be heard at the meeting as planned. Following further discussion, it was agreed that a Special Council Meeting be convened as soon as possible for the presentation from TransportNI.

Agreed: **It was agreed that the matter of additional plenary meetings of Council a month be investigated by the Party Representatives' grouping.**
It was further agreed that a Special Council Meeting be convened as soon as possible for the presentation from TransportNI to be heard.

C/52/2015

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were registered as follows:

Councillors Brown, Craig, Devlin, Harte, Larkin, Loughran, McKee and Ruane declared an interest in Item 26 – Notice of Motion received from Councillor Reilly.

Councillor McGrath declared an interest in AHC/31/2015 – Results of Second Call for Financial Assistance contained within Item 7 – Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2015.

Mr Hannaway declared an interest in item 23 – Chief Executive Appraisal.

C/53/2015

**ACTION SHEET FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
1 JUNE 2015**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 May 2015
(Copy circulated)

C/38/2015 – Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 May 2015

Councillor Mulgrew questioned whether a meeting had taken place with the developer of Bells Castle and if it had not taken place, whether Councillors would be invited to attend.

Mr Hannaway advised a meeting had been organised with the MLA and the developers, however another meeting will take place in September to which Councillors would be invited. Councillor Mulgrew expressed her disappointment at a missed opportunity to hold the meeting at an earlier juncture as the owners of the property have now returned to the United States.

C/41/2015 – Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2015

Councillor Reilly expressed his disappointment at the fact that no further progress had been made with regard to Annalong Harbour Gates.

Mr Hannaway stated there were insurance implications with this matter.

C/43/2015 – Invite to Glenough Wind Farm, Co Tipperary

Councillor Ruane asked whether a community delegation could be invited as part of any visit organised by Council.

Mr Hannaway advised details had been forwarded to the developer of the wind farm for them to make direct contact with the community. He agreed to follow this up with the developer.

Agreed: It was agreed that Mr Hannaway contact the developer of Glenough Wind Farm to ascertain if they had been in contact with community representatives.

Noted: The Action Sheet was noted.

Councillor W Clarke entered the meeting during the above discussions – 6.20pm

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/54/2015 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2015

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 June 2015
(Copy circulated).

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor P Clarke, seconded by Councillor Craig.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/55/2015 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2015

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2015 (Copy circulated).

ERT/56/2015 – Legacy re: Irish Open Event

Councillor Burns asked that, when the report on the Irish Open Event was ready, that this be circulated to all Members.

ERT/54/2015 – Gran Fondo Giro D'Italia

Councillor W Clarke proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mourne Heritage Trust for their organisation of the refreshment stops during the Gran Fondo cycle. This was seconded by Councillor Burns and agreed.

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.**

It was agreed that the report on the Irish Open Event, when ready, be circulated to all Members.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Burns that a letter of thanks be sent to Mourne Heritage Trust for their assistance during the Gran Fondo cycle.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor D McAteer.

C/56/2015 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2015

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2015 (Copy circulated).

SPR/87/2015 – Newry Community Care and Treatment Centre

Councillor Casey proposed that a letter be sent to the developer stating that Jennings Park was not for sale by the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Hyland and agreed.

SPR/85/2015 – Report on Newry Civic Buildings

Councillor Stokes questioned whether the Terms of Reference provided to the consultants could be circulated.

Mr Curtis advised that the brief was being finalised at this stage, however the Terms of Reference could be circulated and he would provide Councillor Stokes with a copy of same.

SPR/89/2015 – Nomination of Partnership Chairperson

The Chief Executive advised, following a meeting of the Party Representatives' Forum, Councillor Larkin was nominated to sit as Chairperson of the PCSP in Year 1. It was agreed that SDLP would Chair in Year 2, DUP in Year 3 and UUP in Year 4.

SPR/79/2015 – Report on Appointment of Members to External Agencies

The Chief Executive advised that nominations for positions to external organisations, based on discussions at the Party Representatives' Forum were set out in Appendix One.

Agreed: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Agreed: It was agreed that a letter be sent to the developer of Newry Community Care and Treatment Centre stating that Jennings Park was not for sale by the Council.

It was agreed that Councillor Larkin would sit as Chairperson of the PCSP in Year 1. It was agreed that SDLP hold Chair in Year 2, DUP in Year 3 and UUP in Year 4.

It was agreed to accept all of the nominations as set out in appendix one.

It was agreed that officers investigate whether it would be possible for those nominated to the Carlingford Lough Commissioners to serve on a yearly basis, and to bring a report back to the next Council meeting.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Taylor.

C/57/2015

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2015**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2015 (copy circulated).

AHC/31/2015 – Results of Second Call for Financial Assistance

Members discussed the issue and asked the following questions:

- When would groups find out whether they had been successful or not in their applications?
- How do Members activate call-in procedure without a list of those groups who had been successful or not being provided?
- Councillors should have been involved in the decision making process, why was this not the case?

Mr Lipsett and Ms Burns responded to the queries as follows:

- Groups would be contacted by 15th July as to their success or otherwise.
- Call-in could be done on either procedure issues or that disadvantage to a particular section of the community. The report provided showed that the funding was spread across the whole District very fairly, therefore there should be no disadvantage to any section of the community.
- The review process was in place for applicants and all groups were encouraged to undertake feedback to find out how where they went wrong. Groups could ask for an appeal within 14 days of first receiving a letter.
- Council agreed the review process and procedures.

Members thanked Ms Burns for her work on this matter and highlighted the good news story that the allocation of this funding represented for the District.

Agreed: The minutes were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Kimmins.

C/58/2015

**MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2015**

Read: Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2015 (copy circulated).

RTS/56/2015 – STAFF ISSUES – RECYCLING SITES

Councillor Burns asked for an investigation into whether issues existed for staff working extended hours on their own at household recycling sites.

Mr O'Rourke advised he would furnish Councillor Burns with a copy of the response he sent to Councillor Casey on this issue and a report would be brought to the next Committee meeting regarding staffing and opening hours at the recycling centres.

Agreed: Mr O'Rourke to furnish Councillor Burns with a copy of the response he sent to Councillor Casey on the issue of extended working hours at household recycling sites.

It was agreed that a report on staffing and opening hours at the recycling centres would be brought to the next Committee meeting.

The minutes were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor D McAteer.

MINUTES FOR NOTING

C/59/2015 **MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2015**

Read: Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2015 (copy circulated).

Members raised concerns about the conduct of some Members of the Planning Committee reporting on decisions taken by the Members Briefing Panel and Planning Committee.

Mr Hannaway advised that concerns had been raised with him and he had organised another code of conduct session for Planning Committee Members. He advised the Commissioner for Complaints would be coming to Council in September to address Members.

Mr Hannaway stated he could offer Members advice, however he could not tell a Councillor what to do or not do. He said it was a matter for individual Members not to leave themselves open to challenge.

Members also raised concerns about the inability to contact planning officers to deal with applications.

Mr O'Rourke advised new arrangements had been put in place with a dedicated phone line and email address for Councillors, as well as a new monitoring process for correspondence and complaints received.

Mr Hannaway advised when the service was transferred it had done so without resources and had been very difficult due to staffing issues. He stated the recruitment for planners and administrative staff was ongoing and performance targets to improve in this service had been set.

Noted: **The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2015 were noted.**

C/60/2015 **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2015**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2015 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The minutes were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Burns.**

PRESENTATIONS

C/61/2015 **TRANSPORTNI SPRING 2015 REPORT**

As agreed previously, the presentation was postponed to a Special Council Meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES

C/62/2015 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MINISTER KENNEDY, DRD RE: NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF WARRENPOINT HARBOUR AUTHORITY**

Read: Correspondence received from Minister Kennedy, DRD re: Non-Executive Members of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (Copy circulated)

Noted: **The correspondence received from Minister Kennedy, DRD re: Non-Executive Members of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority was noted.**

Councillor Burgess left the meeting at this stage – 7.39pm

C/63/2015 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM TRANSPORTNI RE: STRANGFORD FERRY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT WORKS**

Read: Correspondence received from TransportNI re: Strangford Ferry Infrastructure Improvement Works. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Bailie proposed that Council write to TransportNI requesting information on how the improvement works would infringe on services to the public. This was seconded by Councillor Hearty and agreed.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Bailie, seconded by Councillor Hearty that a letter be sent to**

TransportNI requesting information on how the improvement works would infringe on services to the public.

C/64/2015

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM TRANSPORTNI RE: PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING – BALLYLOUGH ROAD, ANNSBOROUGH, CASTLEWELLAN

Read: Correspondence received from TransportNI re: proposed traffic calming – Ballylough Road, Annsborough, Castlewellan (Copy circulated)

Councillor P Clarke proposed that Council respond in support for the traffic calming scheme. Councillor Burns seconded this proposal and included that TransportNI should be asked where the scheme sat on the list for completion.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor P Clarke, seconded by Councillor Burns that a letter be sent to TransportNI in support of the traffic calming scheme at Ballylough Road, Annsborough, Castlewellan and asking where the scheme was on the list for completion.

C/65/2015

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM POST OFFICE RE: PROPOSED MOVE TO NEW PREMISES AND BRANCH MODERNISATION – ROSTREVOR POST OFFICE

Read: Correspondence received from Post Office re: Proposed move to new premises and branch modernisation – Rostrevor Post Office (Copy circulated)

Noted: The correspondence received from Post Office re: Proposed move to new premises and branch modernisation for Rostrevor Post Office was noted.

C/66/2015

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM POST OFFICE RE: BRYANSFORD POST OFFICE – BRANCH TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Read: Correspondence received from Post Office re: Bryansford Post Office – Branch Temporary Closure

Noted: The correspondence received from Post Office re: Bryansford Post Office temporary closure was noted.

C/67/2015

CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DELIVERY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Notification of Conference on the Future of Health and Social Care Delivery in Northern Ireland to be held on Wednesday 16 September 2015 from 8.30am-1.00pm in Central Belfast (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed that any members wishing to attend should contact the Democratic Services Officers. Councillors Harvey, Hyland and D McAteer asked that their names be put forward to attend the conference.**

C/68/2015

PROPOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr Hannaway advised a special consultation meeting had been arranged to take place on 20th August 2015 in the Downshire Civic Centre to discuss the proposed changes to the operation of the Ambulance Service.

Members discussed the issue and it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor D McAteer to also invite representatives from both South Eastern and Southern Trusts to talk about ambulance based issues.

Councillor McGrath suggested the Health and Social Care Board be invited to the meeting also as they provide the funding. This suggestion was accepted by Councillor Burns and added to the proposal and agreed.

Councillor Reilly asked if the public would be invited to the meeting also. Mr Hannaway stated the meeting would be a consultation meeting to discuss issues relating to the ambulance service and this would involve only Councillors at this stage. He suggested a public meeting could be organised following the consultation meeting if so decided by Council

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor D McAteer that the South Eastern and Southern Trust representatives, along with representatives from the Health and Social Care Board be invited to attend along with the Ambulance Service to the consultation meeting on 20th August 2015 to discuss ambulance based issues.**

SEALING DOCUMENTS

C/69/2015

SEALING DOCUMENTS

Agreed: It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Doran:

1. Lease in duplicate - Lease of Former Cinema, Newry Street, Kilkeel to PSNI for period 01/05/15-30/04/16 (agreed at Finance in March 2015 and approved at District Development Meeting in March 2015)
2. Lease x 3 of Additional Portion of Foreshore, Newcastle
3. Lease by Reference of Foreshore in Down District
4. Street License Agreement - Warrenpoint (Church Street/The Square) Public Realm Scheme
5. Street License Agreement - Newry Cathedral Corridor Public Realm Scheme
6. Regulating Lease of foreshore and bed of the Sea at Cranfield Bay, Carlingford Lough

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

C/70/2015

CONSULTATION ON GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (GCSE) GRADING

Read: Consultation received on General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) Grading (Copy circulated).

Noted: The consultation was noted.

C/71/2015

EXTENSION TO END DATE – YOUTH COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Read: Youth Council Public Consultation – Extension to end date – responses required by 9 July 2015 (Copy circulated).

Noted: The consultation was noted.

C/72/2015

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO MANDATE WEARING OF HELMETS ON MOTOR TRICYCLES

Read: Consultation on proposal to mandate wearing of helmets on motor tricycles. (Copy circulated).

Noted: The consultation was noted.

As the information contained within the next item was exempt, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Craig to go into closed session.

The Chairperson asked members of the public and press to vacate the chamber at this stage – 7.55pm.

Having previously declared an interest in the following item, the Chief Executive left the chamber at this stage – 7.55pm

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

C/73/2015 CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPRAISAL

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Craig it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information virtue of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any individual. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Hearty to come out of closed session at this stage – 7.58pm.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson reported it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Donnelly to accept the recommendations as set out in the report dated 6 July 2015 from Mrs C Miskelly re: Chief Executive Appraisal.

C/74/2015 OFF-STREET PARKING: ENFORCEMENT OF DEBT

Read: Report dated 6 July 2015, from Johnny McBride, Change Manager regarding the Enforcement of Judgements Office (EJO) service to be used to recover debt on behalf of the Council, specifically in relation to unpaid Penalty Charge Notices (PCNS), and the Director of Regulatory and Technical Services is designated as the local point of contact for the management of this arrangement. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Brown to use the Enforcement of Judgements Office (EJO) service to recover debt on behalf of the Council, specifically in relation to unpaid Penalty Charge Notices (PCNS), and the Director of Regulatory and Technical Services is designated as the local point of contact for the management of this arrangement.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/75/2015

NOTICE OF MOTION – RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS BROWN AND K MCATEER

"That this Council believes that all couples in Newry, Mourne and Down, and across Northern Ireland, regardless of sexual orientation, should have the right to a civil marriage; that the rights of religious institutions to define, observe and practice marriage within their beliefs should be given legal protection; that faith groups which wish to marry same sex couples should not be prevented by the state from doing so; that all married couples of the same sex should have the same legal entitlement to the protections, responsibilities, rights, obligations and benefits afforded by the legal institution of marriage; and calls on the Minister of Finance and Personnel to introduce legislation to extend civil marriage provisions to same sex couples."

In proposing his motion, Councillor Brown advised the passing of this motion would send a message to the Northern Ireland Executive that Newry, Mourne and Down District was inclusive, free and open to all. He stated that 68% of Northern Ireland citizens were in favour of same sex marriage and this statement needed to be heard as loudly and as often as possible. He urged all Members to support the motion.

Councillor K McAteer seconded the motion and advised that with its passing, it would be a momentous day for this Council. He stated that change was happening across the world and countries are saying no to inequality however Northern Ireland was the only region in the United Kingdom that said no to equal marriage.

Members discussed the issue at length voicing their support or dissent for the motion as follows:

- Marriage is mentioned in the bible and should be between a man and a woman.
- SDLP are a party of equality and have been since its inception.
- Protections have been sought to ensure churches are not forced to carry out same sex marriages if they do not wish to do so.
- Sinn Fein calls for marriage equality and all citizens should be afforded the same rights.

- LGBT suffer higher levels of depression, self-harm and suicide due to inequality, this needs to change.
- People are trying to redefine the institution of marriage and society.
- Homosexuality used to be banned as it was physically dangerous to individuals, this danger still remains.
- The bible has not changed on matters such as stealing or murder, therefore why should it have to change on marriage.

Following further discussion, the Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 27
AGAINST: 7
ABSTENTIONS: 3

The motion was **CARRIED (Copy results attached).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor K McAteer to write to the Minister of Finance and Personnel asking for the introduction of legislation to extend civil marriage provisions to same sex couples.

C/76/2015 NOTICE OF MOTION – RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR REILLY

Councillor Reilly stated he wished to withdraw his motion on Wind Turbine developments which he would consider tabling at the next Council Meeting in August 2015.

The consent of the meeting was given to this withdrawal.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 06/07/15 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Notice of Motion received from Councillors Brown and K McAteer regarding same sex marriage

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	x			
N Bailie	x			
P Brown	x			
R Burgess				x
S Burns	x			
M Carr			x	
C Casey	x			
P Clarke	x			
W Clarke	x			
G Craig		x		
D Curran			x	
L Devlin	x			
G Donnelly	x			
S Doran	x			
S Ennis				x
C Enright	x			
G Fitzpatrick	x			
G Hanna		x		
V Harte	x			
H Harvey		x		
T Hearty	x			
D Hyland	x			
L Kimmins	x			
M Larkin	x			
K Loughran	x			
D McAteer			x	
K McAteer	x			
C McGrath	x			
H McKee		x		
R Mulgrew	x			
M Murnin				x
P Ó Gribin	x			
B Ó Muirí	x			
B Quinn	x			
H Reilly		x		
M Ruane	x			
G Sharvin				x
G Stokes	x			
D Taylor		x		
JJ Tinnelly	x			
B Walker		x		
TOTALS	27	7	3	4

APPENDIX ONE

Equality & Good Relations Reference Group:

Councillors Andrews(SDLP), Brown(Alliance), Hearty(SF), Hyland(Ind), Reilly(UKIP), Taylor(UUP) and Walker(DUP) were appointed. Councillors Bailie and Fitzpatrick would attend as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

Member Working Group on Organisational Improvements and Efficiencies:

Councillors W.Clarke(SF), McGrath(SDLP), Harvey(DUP), McKee(UUP) and K McAteer(Ind) were appointed along with the Chair of ERT, Councillor Curran(SDLP); Chair of AHC, Councillor Kimmins(SF); Chair of SPR, Councillor Burgess(UUP); Chair of RTS, Councillor Andrews(SDLP); and Chair of Planning Committee, Councillor Tinnelly(Ind).

Project Board for Economic Regeneration, Vision and Investment Strategy:

Councillors W.Clarke(SF), Hearty(SF), Quinn(SDLP), Curran(SDLP), Hanna(DUP) and Burgess(UUP).

Famine Commemoration:

Councillors Harte and Ruane(SF), D McAteer and Stokes(SDLP), Harvey(DUP) and McKee(UUP).

Ring of Gullion Management Group:

Councillors Donnelly, Hearty, Larkin, Loughran, Mulgrew, Ó'Muirí and Taylor.

Sports Association of Newry, Mourne and Down:

It was agreed to have one Councillor from each DEA on the Sports Association – Slieve Gullion – Councillor Ó'Muirí; Slieve Croob – Councillor Burns; Crotlieve – Councillor D McAteer; Downpatrick – Councillor Sharvin; Newry – Councillor Hyland; Rowallane – Councillor Walker, The Mournes – Councillor McKee.

Newry & Mourne Travellers Forum:

Councillors Casey(SF), Harvey(DUP), D McAteer(SDLP)
Plus 3 Councillors on the Local Government Partnership on Travellers' Issues – Cllrs Kimmins, K McAteer, Stokes

Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership:

Councillor Enright had been nominated by the Independent Grouping.
Councillor Burgess had been nominated by UUP.
Councillor Bailie was nominated by Sinn Fein.
Councillor Sharvin was nominated by SDLP.
Councillor Walker was nominated by DUP.

At this stage, Councillor Taylor advised that his nomination for Councillor Burgess was to be withdrawn.

As there were more nominations than positions available, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Burns that the nominations are shared and rotated on a yearly basis i.e. Councillors Enright & Sharvin to serve the 1st year; Councillors Bailie and Walker to serve the 2nd year; Councillors Enright

& Sharvin to serve the 3rd year; and Councillors Bailie and Walker to serve the 4th year.

Northern Ireland Museums Council:

Councillor Taylor proposed that Councillor Burgess be nominated to represent Council on the NI Museums Council. This was seconded by Councillor McGrath. All were in agreement.

Rural Community Network:

Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillors Hearty and D McAteer be nominated to the Rural Community Network.

Carlingford Lough Commissioners:

Councillor Fitzpatrick was nominated by SDLP.

Councillor McKee was nominated by UUP.

Councillor Ruane was nominated by Sinn Fein.

Councillor Reilly was proposed by Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Hyland.

Following discussion, it was agreed that officers investigate whether it would be possible for those nominated to serve on a yearly basis, and to report back to the next Council meeting.

Diversity Champions:

Councillors Mulgrew(SF), Quinn(SDLP), Craig (DUP/UUP) and Colin Moffett, Equality Officer.