



November 30th, 2021

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 6th December 2021** at **6:00 pm** in **Hybrid - Downshire Chamber & via Microsoft Teams**.

# Agenda

As a mark of respect, following the passing of Councillor Sean Doran, it is proposed after Chairperson's Remarks and an opportunity for Councillors to offer their condolences, the remainder of the meeting be adjourned and reconvened on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 6pm.

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 November 2021

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 01 11 2021.pdf](#)

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### *Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing*

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## 4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 November 2021

 [Council\\_Minutes\\_01-11-2021.pdf](#)

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## 5.0 Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 25 October 2021

 [Minutes Sp Council Mtg 25-10-2021.pdf](#)

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### *Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption*

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## 6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 November 2021

 [ERT Minutes 08.11.2021.pdf](#)

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## 7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2021

 [Strategy Policy Resources Committee Minutes -11.11.2021.pdf](#)

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## 8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2021

 [Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 15112021.pdf](#)

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## 9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2021


 *Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 16-11-2021.pdf*

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## 10.0 Planning Section - Local Development Plan

Extract from Planning Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2021

 *Planning Section - Council 06.12.2021.pdf*

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### *Correspondence and Conferences*

## 11.0 N.Ireland Housing Council Minutes - 14 October 2021

 *Housing Council Minutes 14th October 2021.pdf*

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## 12.0 N. Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - November 2021

 *Members Bulletin - November 2021.pdf*

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## 13.0 Correspondence from Derry City & Strabane District Council regarding Parental Leave and Pay

Correspondence dated 27 October 2021 attached.

 *Derry City and Strabane District Council Motion Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay.pdf*

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## 14.0 Correspondence from PSNI regarding Permanent 20mph Speed Limits - NOM C.202.2021

Correspondence dated 28 October 2021 attached.

 *Response from PSNI re. NOM C.202.2021.pdf*

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### *Notices of Motion*

## 15.0 Notice of Motion - Down High School

(Pupils from Down High School will be in attendance to present their motion as winners of the Local Democracy Week event held by the Council's Women's Working Group)

We are here as members of Down High School Eco group because we understand it is our generations duty to tackle climate change. We are very concerned about the increasing levels of CO2 emissions, and the low density of woodland. We would love to see the extension of the Downpatrick Schools' Community Woodland Project to plant 2026 trees as part of Cop26.

We want **Newry, Mourne & Down District Council** to help support us in the organisation a Community Eco Fun Day to get the community and local schools involved in supporting tree planting and raising awareness of Climate Change. This project will help to:

- Raise awareness about the climate crisis
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Provide a new recreational area for our community

We need our Council to show leadership in promoting Climate Change within the community.

## **16.0 Notice of Motion - Fuel Poverty Task Force**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Taylor:

"That this Council notes with concern the significant increase in the cost of energy; recognises this will adversely affect many households across Northern Ireland and calls on the Minister for Communities to establish a departmental led fuel poverty task force to assist the department in developing solutions to support those impacted and prevent many more people from falling into fuel poverty."

## **17.0 Notice of Motion - Road Network**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Magennis:

"That this council acknowledges the unacceptable condition of our road network; notes that the allocations from the Finance Minister allowed for the structural maintenance budget to be £120 million this year; regrets that resurfacing contracts have now been delayed until next year in the Newry Mourne and Down council area due to a legal challenge; is frustrated that badly needed investment for our roads is now delayed until next year and that this area has missed out on a year of proper investment in resurfacing; and calls for badly needed investment to be forthcoming for our roads as a matter of urgency and as soon as possible."

## **18.0 Notice of Motion - Free Car Parking for Electric Vehicles**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Brown:

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



## **19.0 Notice of Motion - Meeting Government Targets for Electric Vehicles**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

"In the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area there are over 7000 officially designated parking bays spread over 180 car parks between Carryduff and County Monaghan. Mostly managed by AHC with a small number managed by ERT. These have a total of 13 charging points with 6 of these not currently working. This means that only people with large front gardens with the capacity for charging points can have electric cars in Newry Mourne and Down.

Council sets a target for every car park to have one charging point within one year, and for 5% of all Council-managed parking bays to have charging points by the year 2022/23. Ramping up from there to meet the Government's target (both North and South) of no new diesel or petrol cars being sold by 2030. If possible, this program of investment will mimic Dundee Council and be a long-term revenue generator for Council."

**ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

**ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/208/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 04.10.21	The action sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/209/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04.10.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/210/2021	Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 27.09.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/211/2021	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 11.10.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.  It was agreed to write to the Department of Communities to request that the monies for all phases of the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm	Democratic Services  C Mallon	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Actioned</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		Scheme be forthcoming in 2022/23.  It was agreed Mr C Mallon contact Councillor Gibbons directly to update him regarding the Consultation on Charged Parking for Council's Forest and Country Parks and to discuss areas of concern regarding the Mountain Bike Trails in Rostrevor.	C Mallon	<b>Actioned</b>	
C/212/2021	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 14.10.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.  It was agreed that SPR/164/2021 Surplus Assets Update relating to 5 Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick (former site of Killough Road community Centre) be removed from moving to Open Market sale and Officers continue to liaise with the local community group as it has been identified to be suitable for their needs.	Democratic Services  D Carville	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted and in progress.</b>	
C/213/2021	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 18.10.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.  It was agreed that the Newry Mourne and Down Active Travel Masterplan document remain an open and living document that can be added to going forward.	Democratic Services  M Lipsett	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>	
C/214/2021	Minutes of Special AHC Committee Meeting on 21.10.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, subject to the following amendment: <i>SPR/216/2021</i> Address to be amended to read 42 and 44 Pound Road and not Pound Street as was reflected in the minutes.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/215/2021	Minutes of NHS Committee Meeting held on 19.10.21	<p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, subject to amendment. <i>NS/148/2021: Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting – 11 October 2021</i></p> <p>Councillor Casey said his proposal had been to contact Newry Cathedral administrators to request the gardens were opened to the public so people could enter the gardens and access the crib, rather than just view the crib.</p> <p>It was agreed a report be presented at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting regarding works relating to the removal of Bamboo Planting in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor and that a statement from Council be released on the matter.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>J McBride</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>A report was tabled at the NS Committee Meeting on 17.11.2021</b></p>	
C/216/2021	Planning Committee	The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 22 September 2021 were noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/217/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 9 September 2021	<p>The minutes were noted.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Minister Hargey to attend the Housing Needs Conference in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle on 9 November 2021.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p> <p>C Mallon</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Invite issued and declined.</b></p>	
C/218/2021	Bulletin dated October 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council	The bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/219/2021	Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh DC	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
	regarding the Notice of Motion – Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade				
C/220/2021	Correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh DC regarding the Notice of Motion – Wealth Tax	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/221/2021	Correspondence from DfC dated 26 October 2021 regarding NOM C/203/2021	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	<b>Noted</b>	
C/222/2021	NAC Local Government Conference	It was agreed that any Councillor wishing to attend the NAC Local Government Conference as an NAC Member contact Democratic Services as soon as possible.	Democratic Services	<b>Bookings processed.</b>	
C/223/2021	Notice of Motion – Contactless Payment Stations	The Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services  D Carville	<b>Noted</b>  <b>To be heard at SP&amp;R on 16/12/2021</b>	
C/224/2021	Notice of Motion – Making Council Finances fit to tackle Climate Changes	The Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services  D Carville	<b>Noted</b>  <b>To be heard at SP&amp;R on 16/12/2021</b>	
END					

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

**NMD/C/**

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 November 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor C Mason (Chamber)

**In attendance in Chamber:** Councillor T Andrews Councillor D Curran  
Councillor C Enright Councillor O Hanlon

**In attendance via Teams:**

Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor L Devlin	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 L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor McKeivitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor K Owen	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor W Walker

**Officials in attendance in Chamber:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance Via Teams:** Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events  
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director, Estates & Capital Projects.  
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

## **C/206/2021**

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Gallagher, O'Hare and Trainor.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Walker back following his recent illness.

The Chairperson congratulated Carrickcruppen GAC who had won the Armagh Intermediate Championship and Belleek GAA on winning the Junior Championship. Congratulations were also sent to Downpatrick RGU ladies on winning the Senior A intermediate Championship.

The Chairperson outlined the mental health and wellbeing topic for November as focusing on a healthy lifestyle and the impact this had on mental health and general well-being.

The Chairperson spoke at length about nutrition and the need for a well-balanced diet, measured alcohol intake, healthy work life balance, good sleep patterns and plenty of exercise and activity. She also referred to studies supporting the link between exercise, sleep, mindfulness, acupuncture and mental health and growing evidence indicating that nutrition may also play an important role in the prevention, development and management of diagnosed mental health problems including depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and dementia.

The Chairperson spoke about the positive impact getting out and about had on well-being, pointing out Council had identified this in its corporate objectives stating: "It will encourage local people to lead healthy and active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces"

The Chairperson asked Members to personally have a close look at their own lifestyle, commenting that the job they do did not lend itself well to having an adequate work life balance and asked them to take a step back and put more of a focus on lifestyle and take a conscious step to promote to others the benefits a healthy lifestyle could have.

At the request of Councillor Hanna the Chairperson also sent congratulations on behalf of Council to Ballyvea Football Club on winning the Fosters Cup Final.

## **C/207/2021**

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **C/208/2021**

### **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 4 October 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 October 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**



## **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

### **C/209/2021      MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 October 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                      **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

### **C/210/2021      MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 September 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                      **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 27 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

## **COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

### **C/211/2021      MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                      **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

*ERT/185/2021:      Report of Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme Meeting 5 October 2021*

Councillor McAteer emphasised he believed there was a need to tighten up on the delivery of the project and expressed concern it was to be delivered in phases. He proposed a letter be sent to the Department for Communities requesting reassurance that the monies for all phases of the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme be forthcoming in 2022/23. Councillor McKevitt seconded the proposal.

Councillor Gibbons asked for an update on the Consultation on Charged Parking for Council's Forest and Country Parks that had completed in January 2021.

Councillor Gibbons advised a number of experienced mountain bikers had contacted him regarding safety concerns on some of the mountain bike trails in Rostrevor, he acknowledged some work had recently been done on the trails, however, he said there was an issue with water logging and maintenance concerns.

Mr Mallon said he would speak to Councillor Gibbons outside of the meeting to address both of



these issues.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McKevitt to write to the Department of Communities to request that the monies for all phases of the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme be forthcoming in 2022/23.

It was agreed Mr C Mallon contact Councillor Gibbons directly to update him regarding the Consultation on Charged Parking for Council's Forest and Country Parks and to discuss areas of concern regarding the Mountain Bike Trails in Rostrevor.

**C/212/2021** **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2021 (copy circulated).

*SPR/164/2021: Surplus Assets Update*

Councillor Sharvin advised with regard to 5 Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick, liaison had now taken place between the local community group and officials, and he proposed to remove it from moving to open market and officers continue to liaise with the local community group as it had been identified to be suitable for their needs. Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal.

Ms Carville to take this action forward.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Strategy, Policy Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that SPR/164/2021 Surplus Assets Update relating to 5 Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick (former site of Killough Road community Centre) be removed from moving to Open Market sale and Officers continue to liaise with the local community group as it has been identified to be suitable for their needs.

**C/213/2021** **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 October 2021 (copy circulated).

*AHC/200/2021: Newry, Mourne and Down Active Travel Masterplan*

Councillor Ó Muirí stated the Newry Mourne and Down Active Travel Masterplan was a fantastic plan but expressed concerns as to whether it was largely aspirational or if it was something that could be worked on to make a reality.

In response, Mr Lipsett agreed it was a very ambitious document and it would take a long time for all actions contained in it to be actioned, if indeed this was the case. He said it would require the efforts of a lot of government departments and agencies but that Council would work hard to realise the targets set out.

Councillor Byrne welcomed the document and said it was important it was adopted. He said NMDDC was a largely rural area and whilst the document addressed a lot of issues pertaining to the bigger towns and villages, he said these proposed changes would not improve active travel in rural areas and it was important to explore ways to connect the smaller, more rural areas around the big towns.

Councillor Byrne proposed the document remained an open living document so that it could be added to going forward. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Mr Lipsett to take this action forward.

Councillor Reilly agreed with Councillor Byrne's comments regarding the rural areas and expressed concern at safety issues for people walking on dark roads and asked if Council could advocate the necessity for wearing reflective clothing when walking on dark roads.

Mr Lipsett said this was an issue that was already addressed by the DEAs and PCSP, however he said he would speak to Councillor Reilly on this issue outside of the meeting.

Councillor McAteer clarified the comments he had made at the meeting stating:

1. There was no linkage to Ballyholland via Courtney Hill and Temple Hill Roads and
2. There were still some parts of the old road and train track existing from Narrow Water Castle to the Greenbank in Newry which was worth looking at in terms of a Greenway.

Councillor McMurray added his support to that of Councillor Byrne and Ó Muirí saying it was important to have aspirational dreams to work within and suggested Councillor Byrne ask Minister Mallon to increase the spend per capita.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Andrews that the Newry Mourne and Down Active Travel Masterplan document remain an open and living document that can be added to going forward.**

**The Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 18 October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

**C/214/2021** **MINUTES OF SPECIAL ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2021**

**Read:** Minutes of Special Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2021 (copy circulated).

**SPR/216/2021:** *Application for the grant of a licence to operate a house of multiple occupation for 42 Pound Road, Newry Co. Down*

Councillor Casey asked that the address be amended to read 42 and 44 Pound Road and not Pound Street as was reflected in the minutes.

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of Special Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Finnegan subject to the amendment being made to the address under SPR/216/2021.**

**C/215/2021** **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2021**

**Read:** Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2021 (copy circulated)

Councillor Andrews offered his congratulations to the winners of the recent Green Flag Heritage Awards, in particular Delamont Country Park and he acknowledged the hard work and commitment of all staff involved.

Councillor Tinnelly raised the issue of the recent destruction and removal of historic bamboo planting within Kilbroney Park and the widespread anger this had invoked in the local community. He said this work had been carried out by contractors on behalf of the Council and said it was unacceptable especially as at the April Council Meeting he had raised the issue of an incident of extensive tree felling in Kilbroney Park and was assured that going forward Councillors would be advised of any intended extensive tree felling and the reasons for doing so.

Councillor Tinnelly said the removal of the bamboo planting had exposed a previously hidden badger sett which would be protected under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

Councillor Tinnelly acknowledged the planting may have been an invasive species but it was a much loved area of the park and many residents, himself included, remembered playing there as children.

Councillor Tinnelly asked that it be put on record he shared the outrage that existed within the community relating to this matter.

Councillor Tinnelly proposed that going forward Council Officials liaise with Councillors regarding intended works within any Council site that could result in a change of character of the area and the reasons given for the intended works and he asked that Council make an official statement on social media addressing what had occurred in Kilbroney Park.

Ms Ward said she appreciated the challenges Members had faced over this issue but assured them the matter was being dealt with. Mr McBride would progress the matter with Councillor Tinnelly outside the meeting. Ms Ward said it was an operational matter and not one to be voted on in Council and she assured Councillor Tinnelly Council had prepared a statement that would be released tomorrow morning.

Councillor Ruane said it was important the public were made aware the work had been carried out as part of Council's Bio Diversity Plan.

Councillor Reilly said he did not understand why the bamboo planting would have had to be decimated as he did not consider it to be invasive and checks should have been made in advance which would have uncovered the badger sett.

Councillor McKevitt said she could not defend the Council in this case and that a policy was

needed on the issue.

Councillor McAteer said there were lessons to be learned from what had happened.

Councillor Tinnelly was content a paper would be brought back to Committee on this issue and a statement would be issued on 2 November 2021.

*NS/148/2021: Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting – 11 October 2021*

Councillor Casey said his proposal had been to contact Newry Cathedral administrators to request the gardens were opened to the public so people could enter the gardens and access the crib, rather than just view the crib.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed a report be presented at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting regarding works relating to the removal of Bamboo Planting in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor and that a statement from Council be released on the matter.**

**The Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Curran subject to the amendment made at NS/148/2021.**

**C/216/2021**

**PLANNING MINUTES**

**Read:**

Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2021 (copy circulated)

**Noted:**

**The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 22 September 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Larkin seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

Councillor Harte left the meeting at this point – 7.55pm.

**FOR NOTING**

**C/217/2020**

**NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Read:**

Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 9 September 2021. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage asked that an invitation be extended to Minister Hargey to attend the Housing Needs Conference scheduled for 9 November 2021 in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle. He said doing this would send out a message of hope to those families who were facing real hardship.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews to invite Minister Hargey to attend the Housing Needs Conference in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle on 9 November 2021.

The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 9 September 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

**C/218/2021** **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2021**

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

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

**C/219/2021** **CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH & OMAGH DC RE. NOM SYRINGES FOR CUBA CAMPAIGN/END THE BLOCKADE**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 20 September 2021 regarding Notice of Motion Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** The correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh DC regarding the Notice of Motion – Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade was noted on the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

**C/220/2021** **CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH & OMAGH DC RE NOM WEALTH TAX**

**Read:** Correspondence dated 8 October 2021 regarding Notice of Motion Wealth Tax. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** The correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh DC regarding the Notice of Motion – Wealth Tax was noted on the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanlon

**C/221/2021** **RESPONSE FROM DfC RE. NOM C/203/2021**

**Read:** Response dated 26 October 2021 regarding NOM C/203/2021 (Copy circulated)

Councillor Byrne welcomed the letter received from the DfC and acknowledged Minister Hargey for submitting a bid for £55m in the October monitoring round, however expressed disappointment that there had not been foresight to make an application for either next years committed budget or for the January 2022 monitoring round.



Councillor O'Muiri said the only way to find the £55m for the uplift would have been to take it out of the £200m assigned to Health and he said as it was £200m was not enough for Health.

Councillor Byrne said he wished to clarify that he did not mean for the £55m to be taken out of the £200m, but he was stating that firstly he was thankful to the Minister for Communities for her direction and making a bid with the October monitoring round and to express his disappointment that there was not a will to work together for over commitments for the January monitoring round.

**Agreed:** **The correspondence from DfC dated 26 October 2021 regarding NOM C/203/2021 was noted on the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

## **C/222/2021      NAC – LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE**

**Read:** Details on the NAC Local Government Conference scheduled for 26 – 28 November 2021 (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran that any Councillor wishing to attend the NAC Local Government Conference as an NAC Member contact Democratic Services as soon as possible.**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **C/223/2021      NOTICE OF MOTION – CONTACTLESS PAYMENT STATIONS**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Brown:

**'Given the continued high homelessness rates in the District and the rise in cashless transactions, this council commits to installing a number of contactless payment stations in main urban areas across the District which can gather donations for homelessness charities based in the District to distribute to those most in need.'**

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

The Chairperson advised the motion was being referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee under Standing Order 16.1.6.

The Chairperson thanked Councillor Enright for bringing the Motion forward and she encouraged all Councillors to attend the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting when this matter was being tabled.

**Agreed:** **The Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

### **C/224/2021      NOTICE OF MOTION – MAKING COUNCIL FINANCES FIT TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

Council notes the supporting table below is based on a Freedom of Information reply from the Department of Finance, supplemented by FoI's from each of the 11 Councils. Council notes that or District is running in a poor last place in terms of revenue despite having the best potential renewable resources in the North of Ireland outside Donegal. Were it not for the £100,000+pa benefit of our old abandoned energy efficiency campaign, Newry Mourne and Down District Council's position would be worse.

Council formally adopts revenue targets from renewables as follows;

2022 - £1 million per annum  
 2025 - £5 Million per annum  
 2030 - £10 Million per annum

Council directs management that these targets can be met by rates from renewables projects, income from Council's own renewables projects and from a revitalised energy savings programme.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

The Chairperson advised the motion was being referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee under Standing Order 16.1.6.

**Agreed:                      The Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 19:07.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 December 2021.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Executive**

## NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 26 October 2021 at 2.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams

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**Chairperson:** Councillor O Hanlon

**In attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor K McKevitt
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor K Owen	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Trainor

**Officials in attendance:** Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance:** **South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust**

Ms R Coulter, Chief Executive  
Mr D Robinson, Director of Hospital Services  
Mr D Brannigan, Assistant Director, Mental Health Services  
Ms J Loughrey, Head of Communications

**Southern Health and Social Care Trust**

Mr S Devlin, Chief Executive  
Mrs A Magwood, Director of Performance, Planning & Information

**SC/026/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS**

In the absence of the Chairperson Councillor Mason, and the Vice Chairperson Councillor Magennis it was proposed by Councillor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Trainor that Councillor Hanlon assume the Chair.

The Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the Special Council Meeting, thanking the representatives from the South Eastern Trust and Southern Trust for taking time out from their busy schedule to attend.

Apologies were received from Councillors Magennis, Mason, Savage and Walker and the Chief Executive Mrs M Ward.



**SC/027/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**SC/028/2021: RESPONSE FROM SOUTH EASTERN & SOCIAL CARE TRUST**

Mrs Coulter thanked members for messages of support and encouragement since she had taken up the post of Chief Executive, confirming her commitment to the post and to building a genuine partnership going forward between the Trust and Council.

Mrs Coulter, Mr Robinson and Mr Brannigan provided an overview to members on where the Trust was in relation to the pressures caused by the Pandemic, pressures faced through the extremely challenging coming winter period with a special focus on Mental Health.

Members asked the following questions:

- How would the Trust pick and choose which services to close, in the event that it would have to happen?
- Was there a timeframe on the rollout of the Covid booster jab?
- Was it okay to have a booster jab that was a different brand than the vaccination?
- Was the increased wait on referrals, particularly in the Community Occupational Therapy Services, was this due to staffing levels and caseloads and was there a plan to try and address this in the short/long term?
- Was there any capacity to extend the hours of service for the Urgent Care Centre or the nurse lead Minor Injury Unit in Downpatrick to relieve some of the pressures at the Ulster Hospital A&E?
- The launch of Wellness Network was a fantastic project especially in terms of peer mentoring.
- Concern was raised that 12 beds did not seem a lot in the Shimna Addictions Unit to cover the area as a region, was there plans to expand on this?
- Was there a timeframe in terms of the Perinatal Mental Health?
- Members paid thanks to all the staff for the for all their hardwork throughout the pandemic and challenges yet to come.

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- Mrs Coulter confirmed that the possible closure of services referred to was across the whole of Northern Ireland and not in the Downe Hospital specifically and would be a temporary closure maybe of certain services due to the added pressure of the Pandemic.
- More information to follow on booster programme in the next few weeks – GP's and pharmacies would be administering the majority of the programme. The Trust were vaccinating all care homes and staff and were ahead of schedule in comparison to other Trusts.
- It was fine to have a different booster brand than original vaccination. Some research had shown that the level of immunity could actually be higher by having a different booster drug than the initial vaccination.

- Mrs Coulter would revert to Councillor Trainor on waiting times on referrals in the Community Occupational Therapy Services.
- Capacity pressure can sometimes be at 107%, those pressures were often not from Minor Injuries, they were from those patients that were really sick on trolleys and in desperate need of a bed to receive proper medical treatment.
- No plans at the minute to increase hours in Urgent Care Centre or the nurse lead Minor Injury Unit in Downpatrick due to lack of staff, it would be something could work towards in future if there was an increase in staff.
- Staffing problems right across the UK, looking at new programme called 'Position Associates' and more advanced Nurse Practitioners to complement the staffing challenges, planned meeting in the Down area on 18 November 2021 with over 100 GP's to maximise referrals in the system.
- There were no plans to expand on 12 beds in Shimna Addictions Unit as the service was predominantly community based and those 12 beds were for those who present with most medical risk or require in-patient care. There was a waiting list at present arising from the effects of Covid, however that was not the norm. There were 2 other units in the West and Northern Trust also providing an inpatient service.
- Perinatal Mental Health service would be commencing very soon, a small number of staff had been appointed on a temporary basis and currently going through a substantive recruitment exercise and developing protocols and systems to ensure a safe service is provided.
- Encourage members to support and promote the Wellness Recovery Network with further information to follow on this.

#### **SC/029/2021:      RESPONSE FROM SOUTHERN TRUST**

Mr Devlin provided an update on the current position in relation to the serious adverse incident's which happened last year with regards Covid outbreak at Daisyhill and Craigavon Hospital. The draft Independent report was now with the families affected and hoped to share the response of the consultations with members at the next meeting. Mr Devlin also confirmed that the Public Inquiry had been announced into Urology and members may have residents who had concerns about their own care or loved ones care and best way to raise those concerns is through the Trust or interact directly with the Public Inquiry.

Mr Devlin went onto to provide an overview to members on Strategy Development for the next 3-5 years and the direction the Trust was going including Daisyhill Hospital. Highlighting that a lot of the thinking hadn't happened as the last 18 months had been totally Covid focused.

Mrs Magwood updated members on the Winter Plan for October 2021 – March 2022 and how Covid demands and normal winter pressures are likely to impact on services.

Members asked the following questions:

- Was there the possibility of revisiting full face to face appointment s with GP's?

- What was the future for the new planned Community Treatment Centre in Newry with GP's not being onboard?
- Members highlighted the lack of communication and unacceptable waiting times patients are having to wait in the Emergency Department.
- Could a more detailed update be provided to included statistics on the numbers of postponed medical procedures as previously requested and in terms of the 62 day target and the Daisyhill Theatres.
- Increase in the amount of children being referred to Emergency Department by GP's for the likes of common cold etc.
- What guarantees was there that the discharge of older people into a temporary residential care setting until a care package put in place would follow through and not turn into a more long-term situation?
- Had the 'Phone First' made a difference in the amount of people turning up to Emergency Departments?
- Concerns raised at the amount of staff leaving the service and going into banking as they can pick and choose better paid shifts, this was going to lead to further problems for the service. How many staff had left the service during the pandemic and re-joined as agency and what affect had this on the budget?
- What effect had unvaccinated people presenting at hospital had on the planning for Winter pressures?
- Concerns raised on the 200 bed shortage, what capacity was the Southern Trust working under?

The delegation responded to the queries as follows:

- Mr Devlin as members to make contact with him directly with details of any individual complaints regarding unacceptable waiting times etc in the Emergency Department so he could investigate further.
- Trust does not run GP's. Council could engage with the British Medical Association or Commissioner of Services regarding the recommencement of face to face services.
- There had been an increase in people referred to the Emergency Department by their GP, however the vast majority of these people are genuinely sick and needed to be seen. The level of sickness had been really high this year in particular.
- GP's had confirmed that they would not be joining the new Community Treatment Centre building, however the space earmarked for GP's is now being looked at how it could be best utilised. It will still be Primary and Community based services.
- There was a direct link between Covid and the number of postponed operations in relation to Cancer as staff had to be redeployed to ICU. Theatre slots had started to open up again as ICU is down to 30% which is allowing the urgent time critical slots across the whole of NI to be filled.
- There had been huge growth in the amount of children attending Emergency Departments.
- Older people going into Intermediate Care are physically and psychologically in a safer place than in an acute hospital setting, more work was needed to be done to promote and make people aware of the reasons why. This did not affect their place in the queue for Domiciliary Care.
- Piece of work being done across all 5 Trusts to see how and what should be done to enhance ability and keep hold of staff and reduce the need for agency.

- Still early days with the 'Phone First' model and future evaluation was to be carried out before any further rollout. It had helped to create a safe place for people to attend by streaming Minor Injuries and improve the flow of patients. Directory of Services had been updated to enable a better interface with GP's to direct patients on an alternative pathway for some of the services.
- There was clear evidence that vaccination reduces the chance of people being hospitalised. High 80% of people in hospital beds with Covid are unvaccinated. There is a large number of challenges to be balanced and the uncertainty on the impact in other areas including capacity and demand is going to be the hardest to predict.
- Mr Devlin agreed to come back to members with numbers of staff who had left or re-joined as agency etc. Currently working on a more attractive recruitment and retention strategy to improve and rebuild the workforce.
- When everything was put together there was a capacity gap of 200 beds in the Southern Trust largely made up of the amount of people waiting on trolleys to be admitted to a bed.

Following a request from Councillor Byrne, that was approved by all Members, the Trust agreed to attend a special meeting of the Southern Health Forum, to be arranged as soon as possible in order to update members on the exact figures of postponed medical procedures; the Trust's position on the 62 day target and the context around the process; and to provide an update on the progress of Daisyhill Theatres.

The Chairperson clarified that all members would be invited to attend the planned meeting with the Southern Health Forum and the Trust would revert to Council in the interim with key messages and bullet points to be expanded on in the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 16.11pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 December 2021.

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**Signed:**      **Councillor O Hanlon**

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**Signed:**      **Mr M Lipsett**

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

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### **Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 08 November 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room Downshire Estate Downpatrick, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor R Howell (Chamber)  
**Deputy Chairperson:** Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

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

**Non Members:** Councillor C Casey (via Teams)

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism  
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events  
 Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment Regeneration  
 Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer  
 Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director Building Control & Regulations  
 Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager  
 Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer  
 Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer



**ERT/201/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Councillor M Ruane.

**ERT/202/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/203/2021: ACTION SHEET  
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &  
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021.

**ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION****ERT/204/2021: AONB / GEOPARK**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding an update on the AONB and Geopark initiative. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- a) To note the update provided in Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration.
- b) To approve the submission of an application to Atlantic Area for Atlantic Culture Scape phase 2 – September

**2022: December 2023, and approve match funding of £27,500, subject to approval of funding bid.**

**ERT/205/2021: NEWRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding Council sponsorship for Newry Chamber of Commerce events.  
**(Copy circulated)**

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

- a) Newry Mourne and Down District Council support the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade Workplace Health and Wellbeing Conference on 30 November 2021, at a sponsorship cost of £5,000.**
- b) Newry Mourne and Down District Council take 2 No. tables of 10 at the President's Banquet event on 19 November 2021, at a cost of £1,300 (£650 per table).**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was also agreed that should any remaining seats be available, that they are offered to Council staff and then to the mental health charities who took part in the chairpersons recent workshop.**

**ERT/206/2021: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment Regeneration regarding National Lottery Heritage Funding for Warrenpoint Municipal Park.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to accept an extension to the Letter of Offer, if awarded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, to 30 June 2022.**

**ERT/207/2021: MASTERPLANS  
NEWRY EAST CITY CORE STUDY**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Newry City Masterplan. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Mulgrew it was agreed to approve the review of the Newry City Centre Masterplan and match funding as set out in Section 4, of Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding the Newry City.**

**TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS**

**ERT/208/2021: AONB VISITOR ACCESS PROJECT**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Visitor Access projects for AONBs. **(Copy circulated)**

Noted: It was noted Visitor Access Projects would look at sites across the District.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor McMurray it was agreed to approve the sum of £12,000 from the existing tourism budget to match fund £48,000 secured from the Challenge Fund for the Visitor Access Project for AONB, noting this amount is currently within available budgets.**

**ERT/209/2021: COASTAL FLAVOURS FOOD AND DRINK EVENT  
- APPOINTMENT OF FACILITATOR**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events & Tourism regarding the appointment of a facilitator using the Tourism NI Framework to oversee all aspects of developing a new Coastal Flavours Food & Drink Safari. **(Copy circulated)**



Members requested more clarification on the proposed event including, to explore holding a competition for a regional dish; queries on the cost to Council and sourcing reports from the former Newry & Mourne District Council on similar work that was done.

Noted: The event will be 100% funded by Tourism NI and specifications from previous similar initiatives would be reviewed and that when appointed, the Facilitator will work in liaison with relevant stakeholders, to establish the details of the event.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Clarke it was agreed to appoint a facilitator using the Tourism NI Framework to oversee all aspects of developing a new Coastal Flavours Food & Drink Safari to include new experiences and to enhance existing experiences and to market test these food and drink experiences.**

#### **ERT/210/2021: NEWRY CANAL STRATEGY**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events & Tourism regarding correspondence from Inland Waterways Association of Ireland regarding Newry Canal. **(Copy circulated)**

During discussion reference was made to whether Newry Canal had been deemed obsolete and if this was the case, had the NI Assembly a role to ensure necessary funding was made available to have the Canal refurbished, and indeed reverse this decision.

Members also spoke of the history connected to Newry Canal and the links many families who lived in the area had with the Canal, and stressed the importance of working with Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Inland Waterways to progress the development of the Canal thus enhance tourism potential and provide a link to the Albert Basin, and the possibility of navigating from this point to Portadown and on to Lough Neagh.

Reference was also made to how well the towpath was used by walkers, runners and cyclists and the benefits to health and tourism and how pivotal the canal was to the development of Newry and its link to maritime history, and if there was merit in exploring the development of the Canal in line with initiatives to develop greenways and blueways.

Noted: The points raised by Members would be taken into consideration

during engagement with Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and a report would be brought back to the ERT Committee in due course.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to liaise with Council Officials in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council to consider correspondence from Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI) Newry & Portadown Branch, with a view to investigating joint working for the future development of Newry Canal and revert back to the ERT Committee with proposals to progress this.**

### **BUILDING CONTROL & REGULATIONS**

**ERT/211/2021: REVIEW OF PROTOCOL  
RE: HEARING OF REPRESENTATIONS/REFERRALS FOR  
LICENSING**

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**Read:** Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation, regarding a review of the revised protocol which has been amended in line with the Council's review process and recent advice from Legal Services.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to review and approve the revised protocol for Hearing of Representations and Referrals for Licenses and Permits, as per Appendix A, in Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation.**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

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

**person (including the Council holding that information).**

**ERT/212/2021: COVID 19 RECOVERY WORKING GROUP MEETING THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting regarding recommendations arising from the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021. **(Copy circulated).**

**ERT/213/2021: DOWNPATRICK & COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY - SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Service Level Agreements with Downpatrick & County Down Railway. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/214/2021: REVIEW OF TOURISM EVENTS**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding a review of Tourism Events. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/215/2021: RNLI LIFEGUARD SERVICES**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding a Service Level Agreement with RNLI Lifeguard Services. **(Copy circulated).**

**ERT/216/2021: WARRENPOINT TOWN HALL RE: VENTILATION WORKS**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding ventilation works at Warrenpoint Town Hall. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

**ERT/212/2021: Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting  
- Thursday 21 October 2021**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed:

- a) To support the implementation of a Jobs and Careers fair, focusing on the Hospitality and Tourism Sector.
- b) That works are carried out to improve beach access and provide facilities at coastal areas across the District including Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and Lecale.
- c) Development of a Masterplan to develop walking linkages at Quoile Downpatrick.

**ERT/213/2021: Downpatrick and County Down Railway  
Re: Service Level Agreements**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to issue a Service Level Agreement to Downpatrick and County Down Railway for the period 01 December – 31 March 2022, subject to updated COVID risk assessment, ensuring buildings are safe for visitor access and schedule of opening provision.

**ERT/214/2021: Review of Tourism Events**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed Council appoint a Creative Producer/Director to:

- a) Carry out a full review of the existing flagship events historically delivered by Council during the Summer season.
- c) Make recommendations to Council on a programme of Summer event for 2022.

**ERT/215/2021: RNLI Lifeguard Services**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve a continuation of the Agreement with RNLI Lifeguard Services for the period 2022 to 2026 inclusive, to provide lifeguard service at Tyrella, Murlough and Cranfield Beaches, subject to completion of legal formalities and approval of Service Level Agreement in Annual Programme of Service Level Agreements considered at the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting in February 2022.

**ERT/216/2021: Warrenpoint Town Hall  
Re: Ventilation Works**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Gibbons it was agreed to approve the allocation in the Capital Programme as outlined in Section 4.1 in Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, to enable the completion of works to Warrenpoint Town Hall within the current financial year.

**FOR NOTING**

**ERT/217/2021: UPDATE  
RE: BUSINESS PROGRAMMES**

**Read:** Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed as follows:

**a) To note the update provided under the following business development initiatives:**

- Go for It**
- NMD Growth**
- Digital Growth**
- Tender for Growth**
- Sales Accelerator and Digital Transformation Programmes**

**b) To approve the proposed Trade Mission to Glasgow/Edinburgh as part of the Sales Accelerator Programme in conjunction with Lisburn Castlereagh City Council.**

**ERT/218/2021: UPDATE  
RE: E-CHARGE**

**Read:** Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the feasibility of installing e-charge points at 7No. sites across the district. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was unanimously agreed to note the uplift in the budget allocation for the feasibility study element of the project with a view to preparing an application to the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) for the capital infrastructure.**

**ERT/219/2021: UPDATE  
RE: ECONOMIC FORUM MEETING**

**Read:** Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update arising from a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum including ERT Committee Councillors, and all interested Councillors held on 4th October 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** **It was unanimously agreed to note the update arising from a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum including ERT Committee Councillors, and all interested Councillors held on 4th October 2021.**

**ERT/220/2021: EMPOWERING POTENTIAL EVENT**

**Read:** Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding an event to showcase Council's achievements in stimulating regeneration, investment and employment across the District. **(Copy circulated)**



**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note Council will refresh the Open for “Business, Empowering Potential” messaging and take forward a communications and engagement campaign thorough a public event in early 2022.

**ERT/221/2021: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER**

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

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

**ERT/222/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES**

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

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

**ERT/223/2021: PURPLE FLAG INITIATIVE**

Read: Report dated 11 October 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding implementation of the Purple Flag Night time economy initiative. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided on the status, development and implementation of the ‘Purple Flag’ night-time economy initiative.

**ERT/224/2021: REGENERATION SCHEMES**

Read: Report dated 08 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the completion of 7 No. Environmental Improvement Schemes and Derrymore Demesne Regeneration. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the update provided on the completion of 7 No. Environmental Improvement Schemes and Derrymore Demesne Regeneration.

**ERT/225/2021: ERT SCHEME OF DELEGATION  
APRIL 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Read:** Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Department Scheme of Delegation April 2021 – September 2021.  
**(Copy circulated)**

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

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 December 2021.

**Signed:** **Councillor R Howell**  
**Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee**

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

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**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 November 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)**

**In the Chair:** Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

**In Attendance in Chamber:** Councillor P Byrne  
Councillor R Howell  
Councillor O Magennis  
Councillor B Ó Muirí  
Councillor G Sharvin  
Councillor D Taylor  
Councillor W Walker

**In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor P Brown  
Councillor D Murphy  
Councillor M Savage  
Councillor J Tinnelly

**Also in attendance:** Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in Attendance In Chamber:** Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr C Mallon, Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director, Estates & Capital Projects  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance Via Teams:** Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services  
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)  
Mrs L Fitzsimmons, HR Manager  
Ms V Keegan, Head of Communications & Marketing  
Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director NCCR  
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events  
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant

**Also in Attendance:**  
**Via Teams:** Mrs N Largey, Legal Advisor, Belfast City Council

**SPR/174/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Gallagher and Mr Lipsett Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that Mrs Largey a representative from Belfast Legal Services was in attendance.

**SPR/175/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs Carville declared an interest in item 12 – Planning for the Future, on behalf of all officers.

**SPR/176/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14 October 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

***SPR/019/2021 - Covid Walk Through Facility***

Mrs Carville advised Members that this had been on the action sheet for some time and that updates would continue to be provided periodically and proposed it be removed from the action sheet.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2021, be approved.

**CORPORATE SERVICES**

**SPR/177/2021: LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK 2021**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mrs D Carville Director of Corporate Services, regarding Local Democracy Week 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Carville advised Members that as part of Local Democracy week, the Women's Working Group had held two very successful 'Dragon's Den' style events in Newry Town Hall and Downshire Civic Centre involving six local schools, with a theme of protecting the environment.

Councillor Ó Muirí congratulated the Women's Working Group for organising an excellent event highlighting it was the perfect example of how Democracy week should be rolled out by encouraging students and schools to get involved in debating motions and it would be great if this could be made into some sort of annual event.

The Chairperson concurred with Councillor Ó Muirí's comments highlighting it was a good news story and that she was lucky enough to be one of the dragon's and the standard of the students was really impressive.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Howell to approve the following recommendations:

- Down High School, as winners of the 'Dragon's Den' event for Local Democracy Week 2021 be invited to attend the Council Meeting on 6th December 2021 in order to present their motion to full Council.
- A selection of the other motions presented by the schools to be amalgamated into an all-

encompassing motion at the next Women's Working Group Meeting in December, which would then be presented to Council in January 2022. A Teams link to view the meeting would then be provided to the schools that participated in the event.

**SPR/178/2021: MID YEAR ASSESSMENT - PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2021- 22**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mrs D Carville Director of Corporate Services, regarding Mid Year Assessment – Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin asked was there a reason why Delamont Park was not included in the measures of success under objective one and was there a list of the eight community trails.

Mr Mallon confirmed he would address in the next review with regards Delamont and include the figures of receipts at the gate, visitor counters and observations.

Mrs Carville confirmed she would revert back to Councillor Sharvin with details of the eight community trails.

Councillor Byrne stated there should be some sort of threshold with regards tracking visitor numbers into parks across the district as this had a knock on effect on how parks were funded and what the jewels in the crown were.

Councillor Byrne also highlighted that Council should be holding themselves to account in the fact that they were one of the top performers in recycling and setting themselves targets and performance thresholds rather than always reverting to the NI average in order to try and reverse this further for the next quarter. He stated there was poor uptake with regards to online training and digital growth and queried if this was something that could be progressed through the DEA's. In noting that 30% of applicants failed between stage 1 and stage 2, Councillor Byrne queried if they had been directed to the online training to ensure their application is improved for future funding calls?

The Chief Executive confirmed there was work ongoing to hold more sessions across all DEAs in relation to financial assistance and access to funding across the board and a programme of work would hopefully be rolled out early in the new year, with increased signposting to the online training.

Councillor Murphy asked if it was the same pool of people who dealt with planning applications and enforcement orders?

Mr Mallon confirmed there were two separate teams, a development management team who dealt with the applications and the enforcement team deal with enforcement matters.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the Mid Year Assessment of the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22.**

**SPR/179/2021: MID YEAR ASSESSMENTS OF DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS 2021-22**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mrs D Carville Director of Corporate Services, regarding Mid Year Assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2021-22. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Savage praised the Chief Executive and staff on the excellent job of bringing together key stakeholders to work collaboratively in the Housing Needs Conference. He stated as a result of this collaboration, there were opportunities to progress potential pilot schemes to help deliver social and affordable housing in the district.

The Chairperson concurred with Councillor Savage's comments stating the key message coming out of the conference was very much collaboration and all departments had a roll to play in tackling the housing needs issue.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, to approve the Mid Year Assessment of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2021-22 and to approve the Mid Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-22

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

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

#### **SPR/180/2021: AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Amendment of Standing Orders **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- To agree to the deletion of Standing Order 21.1(2)(a);
- To agree to the deletion of Standing Order 21.1(2)(b) and its replacement with the following:

“... a decision in respect of which any delay in implementation would result in a breach of a contractual or statutory duty or would be prejudicial to any emergency response. ‘Emergency’ shall be

construed as a threat of serious damage to human welfare and/or the environment.”

In line with standing orders this matter stands adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

**SPR/181/2021: GRANT OF LICENCE FOR WORKS AT CANAL BANK NEWRY**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding, grant of licence for works at Canal Bank Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members agreed to approve in principle the grant of a licence to carry-out works at the canal towpath and to widen a right of way in favour of a neighbouring landowner for improved access into their lands. The licence will be subject to approval of final plans and all necessary statutory consents, and to the payment by the landowner of any ancillary legal and valuation costs.

**SPR/182/2021: LICENCE OF STRIP OF LAND AT COUNCIL CAR-PARK, IRISH STREET DOWNPATRICK**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding licence strip of land at council car-park Irish Street, Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to grant a short-term licence agreement to the charitable group for the use of the strip of waste ground within the car-park at Irish Street, Downpatrick as a community garden for a nominal fee, subject to the approval by Department for Communities of the disposal at less than best value.

**SPR/183/2021: LEASE OF MINOR HALL WARRENPOINT TOWN HALL TO PUZZLES PLAYGROUP**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism, Culture & Events, regarding lease of Minor Hall, Warrenpoint Town Hall to Puzzles Playgroup **(Copy circulated)**



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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to formalise the occupation of the Minor Hall at Warrenpoint Town Hall to Puzzles Playgroup with a 5-year licence agreement inclusive of utilities at a Rent to be kept at the current amount: this is subject to legal advice and agreement at Council, with an update to be provided at full Council.

Councillor Brown left the meeting during discussions of the above item – 18.54pm

**SPR/184/2021: THEATRE/CONFERENCE – RIBA STAGE 2 REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding theatre/conference – RIBA stage 2 report. (Copy circulated)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and approve the following recommendations:

- Council accepts the Stage 2 report for the theatre/ conference project and Council progresses to RIBA Stage 3 - Spatial Coordination;
- Council proceeds with the procurement for an Integrated Supply Team (IST);
- The Pre-Application Notice (PAN) is concluded and Council proceeds with the submission of the full planning application.

Mr Boyd, Mrs Fitzsimons, Mrs Keegan, Mr Grimshaw, Mr O'Connor, Mr Patterson and Mrs Robb left the meeting at this point 19.00pm.

**SPR/185/2021: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding planning for the future. (Copy circulated)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that Elected Members



**approve the revised Tier 3 structure highlighted in yellow at Appendix 3 of the officer's report.**

**SPR/186/2021: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding Castlewella Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- To accept the draft lease as presented to Council subject to agreement by National Lottery Heritage Fund and resolution of outstanding issues between Council and Forestry Service.
- Approve a business case for an Integrated Consultancy Team to take the project from RIBA Stage 4-6 with 10% optimum bias included. This is based on a construction/restoration project of £3.2 million.
- To note the action report from the Task and Finish Board meeting held on 1 October 2021.

**FOR NOTING –**

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

**SPR/187/2021: LITIGATION SETTLEMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Litigation Settlement. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report.

**SPR/188/2021; MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2021/22 PERIOD 6**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Management Accounts – 2021/22 Period 6.

(Copy circulated)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members note the report.

**SPR/189/2021:** **NMDDC FUNDED HEALTH CASH PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES**

**Read:** Report dated 11 November 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding NMDDC Funded Health Cash Plan for employees.  
(Copy circulated)

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report.

Councillor Brown re-joined the meeting at this point - 19.13pm

**FOR NOTING**

**SPR/190/2021:** **MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2021**

**Read:** Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting – 4 November 2021. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, It was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 4 November 2021.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.17pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 December 2021.

**Signed:** **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**  
**Chairperson**

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

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Ref: AHC/2021**

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 15 November 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire  
Estate and via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor K McKevitt (Chamber)

**In attendance in Chamber:**

Councillor C Casey	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor V Harte	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor W Walker	

**In attendance via Teams:**

Councillor G Malone	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly	

**Also in Chamber:** Councillor T Andrews

**Officials in attendance  
In Chamber:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance  
Via Teams:**

Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement  
Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport  
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing  
Ms S Geary, Area Manager, Leisure and Sport  
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**AHC/212/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Trainor.

The Chairperson asked that letters of congratulations be sent to the following teams:

- Burren Minor Ladies team, the first team in South Down to win a Minor Football Championship and the Burren boys who also won a Minor Football Championship.
- Kilcoo GAA on winning the Senior Football Championship.
- Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry U-16 camogie team on winning the Ulster Championship.
- Mayobridge GAA Camogie team on winning the Down Intermediate Championship against An Riocht.

- Aughlisnafin GAA on winning the Down GAA Junior Football Championship.
- Kilclief GAC Camogie team on winning the Junior Championship final.
- An Ríocht GAA on winning the Camogie Down Intermediate final.

The Chairperson commended all stakeholders involved in delivering the great 3G facilities at Ballyhornan.

The Chairperson praised all community groups on organising the local Halloween events across the District.

Members were informed the Downpatrick Leisure Centre was currently closed until further notice due to an unforeseen technical issue and officers were working with the Council's maintenance team to resolve the matter ASAP. The Chairperson confirmed membership discounts would be applied in accordance with the disruption period.

#### **AHC/213/2021:                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **AHC/214/2021:                      ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 OCTOBER 2021**

**Read:**                                      Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 October 2021. **(Copy circulated).**

**Agreed:**                                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 October 2021.**

#### **DIRECTORS PAPERS**

#### **AHC/215/2021                      MID-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN ASSESSMENT 2021/22**

**Read:**                                      Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities Committee regarding the Mid-Year Business Plan Assessment 2021/22.

**Agreed:**                                      **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve the Mid-Year Business Plan Assessment 2021/22.**

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**AHC/216/2021**

### **PEACE IV UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace IV Update. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to Councillor Tinnelly's request for a briefing regarding the Tom Dunn Project, Mrs Hillen provided an overview and confirmed a revised proposal was being considered and the recommendation would protect the allocation of funding for the project and allow for negotiations between the group and SEUBP.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as set out below:

- To procure and appoint suitable providers for the Newcomer Programme. Estimated costs: £43,725.
- Tom Dunn project: delegated authority requested to progress the project. Estimated costs: £77,000.

**AHC/217/2021**

### **DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí thanked Mrs Hillen for her response in ensuring the timing of Slieve Gullion DEA meetings enabled the action sheets to be presented to the Committee.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached to the officer's report for:

- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 12 October 2021.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 21 October 2021.
- Rowallane DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 28 October 2021.

**AHC/218/2021**

### **COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Coordination Hub. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin enquired if the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and Council had endorsed and made an agreement to share costs for the new Parkrun in Downpatrick. Mrs Hillen advised she would follow up and respond to Councillor Sharvin directly on the matter.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, to approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 27 October 2021.

**AHC/219/2021**      **COVID-19 FINANCIAL INCLUSION FUNDING FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DFC)**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Covid-19 Financial Inclusion Funding from Department for Communities (DFC). **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to note the report and agree to award the COVID-19 Financial Inclusion Funding of £83,547.00 from the Department for Communities (DfC) to 'Community Advice Newry, Mourne and Down'.

**AHC/220/2021**      **LEASE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE AT THE MCGRATHS CENTRE**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding lease of commercial space at the McGraths Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Casey, Mrs Hillen advised Council had previously agreed to sell the commercial space however that decision had been revised in the short term.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Harte, that as per the Acquisition and Disposal of land procedure to approve the use of an Agent to market and lease the commercial ground floor space at the McGrath Centre, Newry.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**AHC/221/2021**      **REQUEST FOR CAPITAL BUDGET ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding a request for capital budget energy management programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin enquired that as part of the programme if community centres in the old Down District Council area could be included, and a generic path followed.



Mr Lipsett confirmed there were Service Level Agreements with a number of Community Associations that had buildings and they could apply through financial assistance. Mr Lipsett stated he was happy to revert back to Councillor Sharvin regarding this at another time.

Councillor Sharvin commented that some community groups did not have the luxury of officer's expertise and Mr Devlin advised the Sustainability Officer and the soon to be recruited Energy Management Officer could provide advice and assistance.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McMurray, to approve the contribution of £100,000 in the Capital Budget for 2022/2023 for development & implementation of an Energy Management Programme.**

**AHC/222/2021** **REQUEST FOR CAPITAL BUDGET WATER FOUNTAINS – SINGLE USE PLASTICS PROGRAMME**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding a request for capital budget water fountains, single use plastics programme.

Councillor Casey enquired about the cost for water fountains and Mr Devlin advised the request was allow for a suggested budget within the capital budget and that a procurement exercise would be undertaken.

In response to Councillor Shervin's query regarding the locations for the water fountains, Mr Devlin advised those decisions had not been made yet and were likely go through the DEAs to allocate. He added it was intended to be a rolling programme and a report would be brought back to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for Members to consider proposed locations.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to approve the contribution of £22,200 in the Capital Budget for 2022/2023 to procure 2 External and 8 Internal Drinking Water Fountains to encourage refilling of water bottles as part of the Council's Single Use Plastics Strategy.**

**AHC/223/2021** **REQUEST FOR CAPITAL BUDGET ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing regarding a request for capital budget active travel programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Sharvin and Ó Muirí welcomed the report and the provision of bike parking and shelters facilities contained within.

Councillor Sharvin proposed officers examine the Blue/Green Fund that Minister Mallon had available to see if the £40,000 could be doubled from external grant money to be able reach out to more schools for community active travel. Councillor Ó Muirí seconded Councillor Sharvin's proposal.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the contribution of £40,000 in the Capital Budget for 2022/2023 to fund Active Travel Infrastructure including Bike Parking and Shelter Facilities and items for Schools and Community Active Travel educational programmes as part of the Council's Active Travel Masterplan.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, for officers to examine the Blue/Green Fund that Minister Mallon had available to see if the £40,000 could be doubled from external grant money to be able reach out to more schools for community active travel.

**AHC/224/2021** **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL IN RELATION TO PRODUCT SAFETY FUNDING**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the service level agreement with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in relation to product safety funding. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to approve that the Committee approve the signing of the attached Service Level Agreement between Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, for the purpose of administering funding from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

**AHC/225/2021** **2021/22 DFC AREAS AT RISK FUNDING FOR BESSBROOK AND CROSSMAGLEN – ADDITIONAL FUNDING SECURED**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding notification of additional DfC funding available for the Areas at Risk programme. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, to note there was an additional £5,000 per location, in addition to the £24,000 previously secured to run educational programmes for residents from the Crossmaglen and Bessbrook areas, through DfC Areas at Risk Scheme. paying the annual subscription for membership of the NFLA to the value of £1283.00.

**AHC/226/2021      FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Read:** Report dated 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding Financial Assistance. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McKevitt to note the Financial Assistance report.

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

**AHC/227/2021      TROJAN HORSE UPDATE**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding an update report on proposed replacement of Trojan Horse community facility & upgraded play park, Downpatrick. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to note the report updating on the progress of the Trojan Horse Project.

**AHC/228/2021      NEWCASTLE CENTRE CAPITAL PROJECT**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding the Newcastle Centre Capital Project. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the Business Case for this project as per appendix 1 of the officer's report and to include the Tropicana Steel Slide in the planned demolition works at the Newcastle Centre.**

**AHC/229/2021      EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – LEASING LISMORE PLAYING FIELDS CROSSMAGLEN**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding expression of interest for leasing Council land at Lismore Playing Fields, Crossmaglen. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to approve the Lismore Site in Crossmaglen to progress to a public Expression of Interest process in line with the Sports & Community Facility Management & Leasing Policy (2016).**

**AHC/230/2021      LEISURE REOPENING PLAN**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding updates to the Leisure Reopening Plan and relaxations of Indoor Leisure COVID-19 protocols. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Harte to approve the following COVID-19 Protocols to remain in place and under review at all Indoor Leisure Facilities:

1. Track and Trace Protocols
2. Social Distancing at 2 meters
3. One-way systems
4. Sanitisation Points
5. Priority booking for Online and Advanced Bookings
6. Controlled Sessions (Moving to booking and access every 15 minutes where applicable)
7. Activity Capacity Caps
8. Requests for COVID-19 Risk Assessments from Block Bookers
9. Enhance Cleaning Regimes

- Appendix 1 COVID-19 Restrictions and Guidance was considered, and it was agreed Health Suites (Sauna, Steam Rooms and Spas) remained closed and under review.
- Appropriate membership discounts and/or extensions continue to be applied for any loss in service provision as a result of the above recommendations.

**AHC/231/2021**      **NOTICE OF MOTION – ACCESSIBILITY ONTO BEACHES IN NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN AREA**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) completing a Feasibility Study for Disability Access to Beaches. **(Copy circulated)**



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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy for Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) to complete a Feasibility Study for Disability Access to Beaches within the District as per appendix 1 of the officer's report and as part of the ORNI Service Level Agreement planned 2022/23.

**AHC/232/2021**

**BUSINESS CASE FOR COACH/MINIBUS/TAXI HIRE FRAMEWORK**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding a business case for Coach/Minibus/Taxi Hire Framework. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the report and approve the business case for a framework appointment for a three-year coach/minibus/taxi hire procurement for the entire Council at a value detailed within the officer's report.

**AHC/233/2021**

**BUSINESS CASE FOR BALLYNAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding a business case for the reconfiguration of Ballynahinch Community Centre. (Copy circulated)

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

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

- Approve the business case as outlined within the officer's report for the reconfiguration of Ballynahinch Community Centre including the associated professional fees.
- Submit the project for consideration in the 2022/2023 Capital rate estimates.
- When funding is secured proceed to finalise drawings and costings for the preferred option and apply for all necessary statutory approvals and prepare tender documents based on the preferred Option 3 as outlined in the business case.

**AHC/234/2021**

**NO 16 THE SQUARE, ROSTREVOR**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report of capital works for No 16 the Square, Rostrevor. (Copy circulated)

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor McEveitt to note the contents of section 2.7 of the officer's report.

**AHC/235/2021**

**UPDATE REPORT ON REOPENING OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, 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 15 November 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report on reopening of community facilities. (Copy circulated)

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the contents of the officer's report.

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.26pm.**

**Signed:** Councillor K McKevitt  
Chairperson

**Signed:** Michael Lipsett  
Director Active and Healthy Communities

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

**Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room. Downshire Civic Estate, Downpatrick and via MS Teams.**

**Chair:** Councillor A Finnegan (Chamber)

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

**Non-Committee Members:** Cllr. Tinnelly  
Cllr. Gibbons  
Cllr. Reilly

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

**Also in attendance:** Mr A Cassells Strategic Investment Board Advisor

### **NS/163/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Owen

### **NS/164/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

Councillor Taylor declared an interest in item 12 – Business Case for the maintenance of Town Clocks – as a member of the Select Vestry of St. Patrick's Parish Church.

**NS/165/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2021. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

Matters arising from Action Sheet

NS/148/2021: Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Brown seconded that in light of representations made by Gargory constituents that they would still like to have their tree, that officers meet on site with Gargory Community Group as soon as possible to try to come to some resolution that Gargory be provided with a Christmas tree for this year.

Mr Scullion said the NS Committee and full Council had agreed that this year a cut Christmas tree would not be placed in Gargory and it would be replaced with a planted tree now planted in Leitrim. He said there was now a progressive view in trying to reduce the number of cut trees and he would respectfully say to remain with the current position and not provide a tree in Gargory.

Councillor Ruane wanted it clarified that he had no problem with any community looking for a tree for their area for Christmas but it was setting a precedent if this was agreed. He said Council officers should speak with the group in relation to what could be done next year for Christmas but to do it this year would open the floodgates from any group from any part of the District who also wanted a tree. He said the allocation of Christmas trees had already been agreed through the Neighbourhood Services Committee and through full Council and there was also a Committee that put work into where the trees were located.

Councillor Curran spoke in support of the provision of a cut Christmas tree in Gargory for this year.

The proposal from Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Brown was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

FOR:	7
AGAINST:	5
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The proposal was declared carried.

**AGREED:**               **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Brown it was agreed that in light of representations made by Gargory constituents that they would like to have a cut Christmas tree provided this year, that officers meet on site with Gargory Community Group as soon as possible to try to come to some resolution that Gargory be provided with a Christmas tree.**

#### Christmas tree in Annalong

**AGREED:**               **It was agreed Mr Scullion provide an update to Councillor Reilly regarding the Christmas tree in Annalong.**

#### Newry Crib

Councillor Casey referred to his previous request that officials contact Newry Cathedral administrators requesting they open the garden to the public to allow them access to the Crib and said he did not accept the reply received that as far as they were concerned nothing had changed and it was not Parish's intention to open the area up to the general public, citing anti-social and liability issues. Councillor Casey said the piece of ground could be locked at night if necessary but at the very least during Christmas week it could be opened to allow people to visit the Crib and if necessary the crib pushed back in at night.

Mr Scullion advised he had contacted the Parish office and said the Crib was there on church property and it was their decision as to whether to provide access or not. He said the person he had spoken to did refer to the potential for anti-social behaviour and also potential liability issues should an accident happen in the grounds. He said it was the Parish preference that the arrangement continue as in previous years behind the gate, as if it were to be opened during the day there would be a requirement to have someone lock it at night and open it in the morning.

#### NS/147/2021 – Newry Canal

**AGREED:**               **In response to a query from Councillor Casey, Mr Scullion said he would check with the Council squad to see if they would be carrying out further maintenance works on the Canal which was in Council ownership (the piece to WIN Industrial Estate) and advise Councillor Casey. He would also liaise with colleagues in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council regarding works. He confirmed he would also be taking a report back to the December Committee meeting regarding an update from Rivers Agency.**

## FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

### **NS/166/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE – SIX MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN (APRIL 2021-SEPTEMBER 2021)**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Mr J McBride re: Neighbourhood Services Directorate – Six Month Review of the Directorate Business Plan (April 2021-September 2021). *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to approve the Six Month Review of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan (April 2021-September 2021).**

In response to comments from Councillor Andrews:-

- Mr McBride said in terms of the fleet replacement programme additional resources had been secured and progress was being made in terms of specifications and the plan was to go out to tender very shortly. He advised an update would be brought to Committee next month.
- Ms Murphy said plan was to progress the Garage review within Q2 but due to a number of impacts this would be completed by the end of Q4.
- Ms Murphy said in relation to education in recycling a campaign would be commenced within the next week or two which was a NI wide campaign and members would be able to see what the Council would be participating in in relation to this campaign.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

### **NS/167/2021: REMOVAL OF BAMBOO AT KILBRONEY FOREST**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2021 from Mr J McBride re: works relating to the removal of bamboo planting in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. *(Circulated)*.

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

- **Approve the report into works relating to the removal of Bamboo Planting in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor: and**
- **Agree to the development and implementation of new procedural arrangements whereby the Neighbourhood Services Committee be notified in advance of any**



**planned works, specifically in relation to the management of non-native invasive species, rewilding and the Council's tree strategy. Local DEAs to be consulted on any specific local issues.**

Councillor Tinnelly said he offered a qualified welcome to the findings of the report and thanked the Director and officials for their speedy response to concerns raised around this matter.

He said whilst he welcomed confirmation that the badger setts were empty this was a retrospective survey and he did not see any reference to the dates of when the setts possibly were vacated. However, he said 18 months of chemical spraying did not help matters and possibly deemed these setts uninhabitable and even though they were unused they were still subject to the Wildlife NI Order 1995.

Councillor Tinnelly then raised a number of issues in relation to the timeline included in the report presented to Committee. He said the context of the timeline for these events was very important and it was important the public were assured that no Councillors were aware that the bamboo planting was to be removed before it actually happened.

Councillor Tinnelly said the report as it currently sat did not make this clear and went on to address 4 specific issues regarding emails referenced in the report.

Mr McBride said the report as presented dealt with the facts and no information relating to any emails had been released as part of the report. He said it referred to the timeline of events pre and post the works and the information contained within the report dealt with the questions the Member was referring to.

Councillor Brown proposed and Councillor Malone seconded the report be amended to remove reference to those e mails to Councillors given the fact that the actual bamboo planting that was destroyed was not specifically referenced in these emails. The fact that this was not referenced meant that Councillors could not have known that this was the likely outcome and therefore the inclusion of that email in the report could be potentially misleading to the public.

Mr McBride said the report dealt with the facts pre and post the removal of the bamboo and referred to the conclusion of the report which stated that there was no evidence to suggest there had been any negative ecological impact arising from these actions. The report said this was supported by the removal of non-native invasive species which was consistent with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan and the ecology report which had assessed the badger sett was dis-used/not currently in use.

Councillor McKee said before he could agree or disagree to anything he did not believe there was enough detail on it and there was too much for him to grasp and it was something that should be put in writing and considered at the next meeting.

Councillor Ruane said Council had to be open and transparent with everything they did. He said reference was made to a sentence in emails but for Council, Members should be made aware of all the emails and what was actually contained in them. He also said that there may be a number of phone calls with officers that were not referenced either in the report. He suggested what was needed was a full disclosure of all emails in relation to any contact in relation to the works that were carried out and he would propose this.

Councillor Finnegan seconded this proposal.

Councillor Brown said he would be happy to withdraw his proposal on this basis.

**AGREED:**                   **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it was agreed a report detailing all communications between officials and Councillors on the issue of the removal of bamboo in Kilbroney Forest tabled at the December Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting for consideration.**

**NS/168/2021:       PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Read:                       Report dated 17 November 2021 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance regarding Public Convenience Strategy – governance arrangements. ***(Circulated)***

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

- **Note the contents of this report.**
- **Approve that governance arrangements for the delivery of the Public Toilet Strategy will be through the Neighbourhood Services Working Group.**
- **Officers to review the Terms of Reference of the Neighbourhood Services Working Group and report back for Committee consideration.**

Noted:                       Cllr. Andrews advised that as Councillor Stokes was the SDLP Group representative and the SDLP had a vacancy, Cllr. Curran would fill the SDLP vacancy on the Working Group.

## **WASTE MANAGMENT**

### **NS/169/2021: HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING REVIEW**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Household Recycling Centres update. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note and approve the contents of this report and note an update report on HRC review would be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee.**

In response to Councillor McKee, Ms Murphy advised the access control option for Kilkeel was the erection of automated barriers and for Hilltown, flow plates.

### **NS/170/2021: ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding implementation of the Enforcement Improvement Plan for dog fouling and illicit dumping. *(Circulated)*

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of this update report.**

### **NS/171/2021: DEEP CLEANSING OF PAVED SURFACES**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding schedule of deep cleansing of paved surfaces to other areas within the District. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to approve the deep cleansing schedule as set out in section 2.2 of the report.**

Ms Murphy responded to queries from Members:-

- Larger coastal villages like Ardglass would be included within the tier 3 settlements and officers were looking at options in terms of deep cleansing and would report these back to Committee.
- Noted the request that Newtownhamilton be included on the tier 3 settlement schedule.

- Noted comments that if there was resources for tier 3 areas there should be a way to prioritise this to try and tackle those areas that have that higher footfall, particularly those along the coast.
- Noted comments that Council should have their own in-house resource that would allow Council to do the work themselves on a year on year basis and this was something that could be discussed at the cleansing workshop next week.
- Expect work as detailed in the report would be carried out in the coming months, dependent on the contractor's availability.

Councillor Finnegan said she would like to pass on her thanks from herself and Crossmaglen Community Association to the Director, Officers and the Cleansing and Maintenance Team for the excellent work they did in over Halloween. She asked that her thanks be passed on to the Team on the ground.

### **NS/172/2021: CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 16 November 2021 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding arrangements for refuse collection services and opening of Household Recycling Centres for the 2021 Christmas and New Year holiday period.  
*(Circulated).*

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the arrangements in 3.2 for Refuse Collection Services and 3.3 for Household Recycling Centres for the 2021 Christmas and New Year holiday period to be publicised as follows:**

- **Publicised on Council website**
- **Posted on social media outlets**
- **Details to be recorded on 'out of hours' messaging**
- **Holiday arrangements to be displayed prominently at HRC sites from 13 December 2021**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Items 11, 12, 13 and 14 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 McKee, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.**

**NS/173/2021: MINUTES OF ARC 21 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on Thursday 30 September 2021. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/174/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF TOWN CLOCKS**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance regarding business case for maintenance of town clocks. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/175/2021: MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES CONTRACT**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Ms S Murphy Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding the extension of a contract for the management of the Council's Mixed Dry Recyclable (MDR) waste. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/176/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Mr J McBride, Director: Neighbourhood Services (Acting) regarding Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor McKee, and Councillor Magennis, seconded to come out of closed session.

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

NS/173/2021 - Minutes of ARC21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting – Thursday 30 September 2021

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor McKee, it agreed to note the Arc21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 30 September 2021.**

NS/174/2021 - Business Case for the maintenance of town clocks

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



- **Note the content of the report.**
- **Approve the findings of the business case that reviews options for maintenance of five town clocks. The preferred option (Option 3) would see a suitably qualified maintenance contractor appointed through tender to undertake routine maintenance of the six town clocks and provide breakdown cover for up to a maximum three-year period. The contract would include the option to remove existing clocks or add additional clocks from the service provision.**
- **Council consider undertaking a project which would lead to the restoration of the clock at Dan Rice Hall and if agreed to proceed then to approve the recommendations within section 2.3 of this report.**

NS/175/2021 - Mixed Dry Recyclables Contract

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it agreed to approve the contract for the Receipt and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclables with the Council's current contractor be extended from 1 April 2022 for two years.

NS/176/2021 – Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan Update

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to approve an extension to the Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan to the 30 June 2022.

**Noted:** Councillor McKevitt asked that it be recorded that she had expressed serious concerns at the amount of contracts that were currently out and the additional cost to the Council to procure these contracts, which had not been budgeted for in the rates process.

**FOR NOTING**

**NS/177/2021: ARC21 JC MINUTES  
THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Read:** Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 30 September 2021 (*Circulated*).



**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey , seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

**NS/178/2021: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER 2021**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on Thursday 28 October 2021 *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

**NS/179/2021: NISRA – NI LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS**

Read: Correspondence from NISRA re: NI Waste Management Statistics – April to June 2021. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note this information.

**NS/180/2021: ISSUE OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICES**

Read: Report dated 16 November 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: Update to Council on issue of fixed penalty notices. *(Circulated)*

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note this report.

Noted: Ms Murphy to liaise with Councillor Casey outside the meeting regarding his queries in relation to statistics for enforcement action taken against dog fouling.

**NS/181/2021: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 December 2021.

**Signed:** **Councillor A Finnegan**  
**Deputy Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee**

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

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

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**Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 10am in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate, Downpatrick and via Microsoft Teams**

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**P/097/2021: LDP: PLANNING POLICY REVIEW – WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Read:** Report dated 20 October 2021 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan – Planning Policy Review - Waste Management.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor McKee seconded by Councillor O'Hare the following was agreed:

- To note LDP: Planning Policy Review – Waste Management
- Agree the proposed draft planning policies for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy, and
- Authorise the Development Plan Team to amend the proposed draft planning policies as necessary (i.e. subject of further consultation engagement, sustainability appraisal, and any change to overarching regional policy) and report back to Members any substantive changes to proposed policy working or direction.

**P/098/2021: LDP: PLANNING POLICY REVIEW – TOURISM**

**Read:** Report dated 20 October 2021 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan – Planning Policy Review - Tourism.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor O'Hare the following was agreed:

- To note LDP: Planning Policy Review – Tourism
- Agree the proposed draft planning policies for inclusion within the draft Plan Strategy, and
- Authorise the Development Plan Team to amend the proposed draft planning policies as necessary (i.e. subject of further consultation engagement, sustainability appraisal, and any change to overarching regional policy) and report back to Members any substantive changes to proposed policy wording or direction.



Minutes of the 484<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 10,00 am via Zoom

**Present:**

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough

**In Attendance:**

Paul Price	Department for Communities
David Polley	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, Housing Executive
Andrew Shott	Director of Finance, Northern Ireland Co-Ownership
Maryann Dempsey	Department for Communities
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

**Apologies:**

Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

1.0	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price and David Polley from the Department for Communities and Grainia Long from the Housing Executive.</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenters, Andrew Shott, Co-Ownership and Maryann Dempsey, Department for Communities.</p>	
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2.0	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>	
3.0	<p><b><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 483<sup>rd</sup> Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Amanda Grehan, seconded by Councillor Mark Cooper and resolved, that the Minutes of the 482nd Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.0	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p>	
4.1	<p><b><u>Update on JMC Mechanical &amp; Construction Contractors</u></b></p> <p>Ms Long gave Members an update on the JMC Ltd Contracts who recently announced that it was entering into administration and who provided maintenance services to the Housing Executive.</p> <p>Ms Long assured Members that tenants for those who were effect by the planned maintenance improvement works which were on-site, have been contacted and a number of offers have been made.</p> <p>Alderman Grehan referred to planned maintenance scheme works carried out in the Castlereagh &amp; Lisburn City Council area by JMC Mechanical Contracts in May and not yet signed off, she claimed the work was not 'up-to standard' and the need to inspect the quality of the work.</p> <p>Ms Long undertook to pass her concerns to the Director of Asset Management to follow up on.</p>	G Long
5.0	<p><b><u>Forward Workplan</u></b></p> <p>The Paper was noted.</p>	Secretary

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6.0	<p><b><u>Department for Communities – Housing Top Issues</u></b></p> <p>Mr Paul Price and Mr David Polley gave an update of changes under the specific headings on the Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Newbuild starts</li> <li>• Co-Ownership</li> <li>• Programme for Social Reform</li> <li>• Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</li> <li>• Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers</li> <li>• Supporting People Delivery Strategy</li> <li>• Homelessness Strategy</li> <li>• Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</li> <li>• Increasing Housing Supply</li> <li>• Affordable Warmth Scheme</li> </ul> <p>In response to Councillor Cooper's question, Mr Polley confirmed that the Affordable Warmth scheme is actively promoted as it is 80% targeted and 20% self-referrals by Councils.</p> <p>Alderman Grehan enquired that if there was funding available due to targets not being met by Council's, could these funds not be used to provide technicians ie. plumbers, electricians etc feeling that she felt the lack of skilled tradesmen, was the core issue impacting on targets not being met.</p> <p>Mr Polley gave assurance that the approved budget will be spent next year and disagreed that the issue was lack of technicians.</p> <p>Alderman Speers requested further details of the way Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area deliver their Affordable Warmth Scheme.</p> <p>Mr Polley explained that Newry, Mourne and Down have been delivering the Scheme on behalf of ABC since July 2019 and this change was communicated to Elected Members in June 2019.</p> <p>Mr Polley undertook to check whether any other Councils plan to deliver the Scheme in this way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIHE Rent Increase</li> <li>• ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020</li> <li>• Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax</li> <li>• Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework</li> <li>• Long term rent trajectory</li> <li>• Affordability of social rents</li> </ul>	D Polley
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7.0	<p><b><u>Work of Co-Ownership</u></b></p> <p>Members received a Presentation by Andrew Shott, Director of Finance Co-Ownership on the work of the Organisation (<i>Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A</i>).</p> <p>Since Co-Ownership was founded in 1978, it has helped over 30,000 people buy their first home, and currently have over 9,000 Co-Owners.</p> <p><b>Co-Own</b> Members noted that shared ownership means you buy a share of a house and Co-Ownership buys the rest. You pay the mortgage on your bit and pay Co-Ownership rent on remaining bit, and you may not need a deposit. When you're able to, you can increase your share in the house bit-by-bit until you own it all.</p> <p><b>Rent to Own</b> It was explained 'Rent to Own' is you can choose a new build house anywhere in Northern Ireland up to a value of £165,000. Co-ownership will buy and rent it to the customer for up to three years after which time the customer buys it.</p> <p><b>Over 55's product</b> Mr Shott explained that a new product is being developed to be launched in the future, for the over 55's for people who own their own home, but can't afford to move a more suitable home.</p> <p>In response to the question of the over 55's product and the tenant then passes away, does the family receive the equity from the house. Mr Shott explained that the property would be sold and the proceeds would be divided up in proportion to the equity which the customer has in the home, when the house is sold by the executor.</p> <p>Members noted that in order to obtain Co-Ownership you need to be able to get a mortgage of a share of the property. Mr Shott also confirmed that there is a small percentage of people who are on the social housing waiting list who would directly avail of Co-Ownership.</p> <p>Mr Shott explained that Co-Ownership has a panel of Valuers who will value the home based on the current valuation of the property and the customer plays a £50.00 fee.</p> <p>Members welcomed the scheme and were particularly interest in the development of the new over 55's product being introduced. Members invited Mr Shott to attend a future meeting to give an update on the over 55's product when rolled out.</p>	A Shott
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	The Chair thanked Mr Shott for a very informative Presentation.	
8.0	<p><b><u>Intermediate Rent: Consultation on policy and model</u></b></p> <p>A presentation was received by Maryann Dempsey from the Department for Communities on Intermediate Rent: Consultation on policy and model. <i>(Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix B).</i></p> <p>Members learned that Intermediate Rent intends to offer affordable, good quality, secure, well managed and well maintained homes.</p> <p>It aims to provide a further supply of housing, to make available an additional affordable housing option for those households who either cannot afford home ownership, or who wish to live in the rented sector and who would struggle to afford market rents but may be able to pay above social housing rents.</p> <p>Members welcomed this new Policy and felt this will help with the working being undertaken to support those in the housing stress, and also that it is an attractive package to potential applicants.</p> <p>It was noted that the vast majority of the housing supply will be newbuild and also the possibility of renovations of properties, it was also noted that a single delivery partnered and procured by the Department working with the Housing Executive, Housing Associations and Developers etc. will be the main source for the housing supply.</p> <p>Ms Dempsey explained that it is expected that applicants will be charged no more than 80% local market rents and there will be flexibility to reflect regional variations.</p> <p>Members noted that the consultation opens for responses from 18 October 2021 - 14 January 2022 and the Department would appreciate the Housing Council's views on proposals for the implementation of a new Intermediate Rent policy and model for the housing market here.</p> <p>In conclusion, Members invited Ms Dempsey to a future Meeting to update Members on the outcome of the consultation.</p>	Ms Dempsey

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9.0	<p><b><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts September 2021</u></b></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	
10.0	<p><b><u>Housing Executive Key Contacts</u></b></p> <p>Members requested a list of Housing Executive staff Key Contacts in HQ, Regional &amp; Local Offices to be circulated to Members, for information.</p>	Secretary
10.0	<p><b><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 9.00 am via Zoom</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that at the Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, should be brought forward to 9 am via Zoom to accommodate those wishing to attend Annual Remembrance Services.</p>	Secretary

The Meeting concluded at 12.15 pm.

Appendix A



# Co%ownership

## Home ownership options with Co-Ownership

Presentation to the  
Housing Council  
October 2021

Housing Council  
484<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council



**Presentation content this morning...**

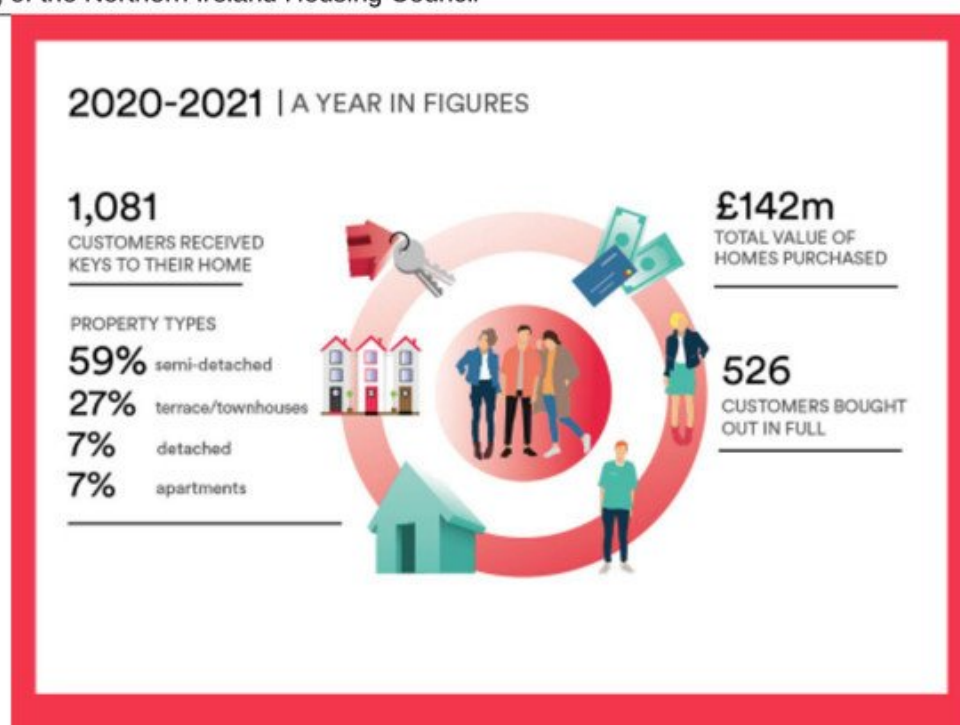
- About Co-Ownership
- The impact of Covid
- Who do we help?
- How do we help?
- Where do we help?
- The Co-Ownership Journey
- What our customers say about us
- Alternative option - Rent to Own
- Alternative option - Co-Ownership for Over 55s
- Contact details

**Our aim is to enable people to become homeowners**

- Established in 1978 to provide shared ownership
- We have helped over 30,000 into home ownership
- We currently have 10,000 co-owners
- Almost 20,000 households have bought us out fully
- Co-Ownership represents 10% of the first-time buyer market
- Our applicants choose their own home and take between 50%-90% share.
- Co-Owners can buy us out at anytime, in chunks of 5% or all at once



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## Our housing programme...

- £145m of government funding via Financial Transaction capital (long-term government loans)
- To deliver 4,000 homes over 4 years from April 2020 to March 2024
- 1,600 homes already delivered to date
- Additional funding of £13m to provide a further 422 homes due to the impact of Covid on first time buyers.



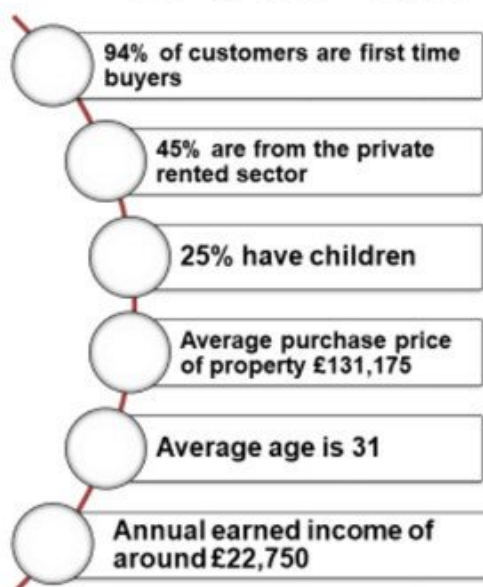


## The impact of Covid...

- Closed to applications for 3 months re-opening on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020
- Unprecedented demand when reopened
- Tightening of lender criteria
- New type of customer – those with good affordability but small deposits
- Home ownership even more of a priority
- Additional funding received to meet this new demand from DfC
- The effect on our co-owners



## Co-Own - who do we help?



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## Who do we help?

Fictional personas based on real life scenarios

**Dan and Jenny**



- Both 33 and have 2 young children aged 5 and 3.
- Dan & Jenny have always rented
- Dan is a heating engineer and Jenny is a teaching assistant.
- They live in an apartment
- The family need more space and would love a garden that the kids could play in
- They're worried they've left it too late – with their outgoings now for childcare, rent and loan repayments they're struggling to save anything and don't think they'll ever be able to get a deposit together.

**Amy**



- Amy is 26 & has been a full time nurse for 3 years
- She's been keen to buy her own place as she currently rents with 2 friends
- Amy recently bought a car to travel to and from work and between the repayments for that and the rent, she's found it difficult to save for a deposit
- She knows that her pay will increase in the future and she'll be able to make mortgage repayments but is struggling to get started
- She's been looking at houses online and would love a new build but doesn't think she can make the repayments

## Co-Own - who do we help?



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## How do we help?



## Where do we help?

Co-Ownership purchases during 2020/21 by Council area			
Council area	2020/21 purchases	%	Average purchase price 2020/21
Antrim + Newtownabbey	122	11	£124,377
Ards + North Down	146	14	£133,436
Armagh, Banbridge + Craigavon	203	19	£132,989
Belfast	167	15	£126,708
Causeway Coast + Glens	43	4	£137,330
Derry + Strabane	47	4	£132,602
Fermanagh + Omagh	11	1	£135,718
Lisburn + Castlereagh	122	11	£134,707
Mid + East Antrim	86	8	£121,852
Mid Ulster	72	7	£139,142
Newry, Mourne + Down	62	6	£135,882
<b>Total</b>	<b>1081</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>£131,175</b>

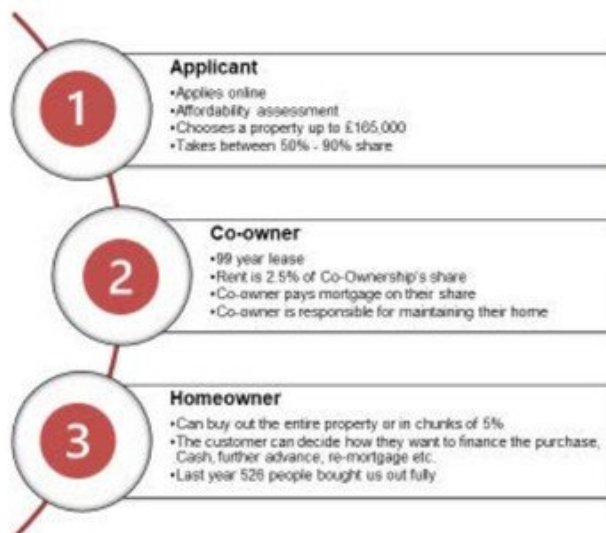


- Applicants can choose their home anywhere within N.I.
- Property prices are currently capped at £165,000



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## The Co-Own Journey





**Excellent**

★★★★★

Based on 406 reviews

As an older applicant making her last house move I was anxious that Co-Ownership might not work for me. Thankfully they were fantastic at each step of the application, especially with the continuing pandemic, and made the process so easy. They were always professional, helpful and friendly, putting me at my ease. My experience with Co-Ownership has renewed my faith in our government agencies and I will always be grateful to them.

After renting for 7 years I wanted to buy but with no deposit Co ownership was a life saver. Extremely easy application process and even though there was a bit longer than usual turn around time due to the pandemic it was still quick and stress free. Any questions I had were answered and my mind was at ease. I am now recommending co-ownership to friends.

**Scott**

Being a single dad with 2 kids I found it very hard to get a mortgage again on my wages. I decided to try Co ownership and found it very easy, with the help of my mortgage advisor we decided to go 65% mortgage and 35% Co ownership which worked best for me. If your struggling to find a 100% mortgage or don't have a large deposit I would recommend Co ownership as I'm now living in my new house and haven't been happier in years.

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# Housing Council 484<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

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For people who own  
their own home but  
can't afford to move  
to a more suitable  
home

## Meet Alison



- Aged 70
- Lives alone, husband passed away 2 years ago
- Her 3 bed home is difficult to maintain
- Alison had a fall last year and has difficulty managing the stairs
- She has seen new apartments in Lisburn for sale, near where her daughter lives.
- Her home is worth £85,000 (no mortgage) but apartment costs £145,000. Alison has £3,000 savings.
- Alison could take a 50% share in the new apartment.
- Benefits – she is living in more suitable accommodation, closer to her daughter. little repair needed to the apartment but she is still living independently

over  
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## Any Questions?



Main point of reference  
**[www.co-ownership.org](http://www.co-ownership.org)**

Interactive online tools to help new  
and existing customers:

- Help me choose a product
- How much can I afford?
- How much will it cost me?
- Buying out calculator

Customers can also call us and speak  
with our customer advisers on  
028 9032 7276 or email us at  
[hello@co-ownership.org](mailto:hello@co-ownership.org)

## Appendix B – Intermediate Rents



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Intermediate Rent  
Presentation for Ho

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**CHAIR**  
**Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald**

The Housing Centre  
2 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8P8

T: (028) 9598 2752  
E: [kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk)  
W: [nihousingcouncil.org](http://nihousingcouncil.org)

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## **NOVEMBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN**

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 9.00 am via Conference Call.

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

### **Present by Video Conferencing**

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough

### **Apologies**

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

### **Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Housing Executive**

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

- JMC Mechanical and Construction Ltd
- Temporary Accommodation / Single Lets
- COVID-19 Update
- Corporate Plan 2022-2025
- Stakeholder Engagement / Mapping, Press and Public Affairs
- Housing Investment Plans (HIP's)
- Update on the Sustainable Development Strategy and COP 26
- Housing Executive Revitalisation (HER)
- Supporting People Bank Scheme
- Department of Justice - Plans to bring forward legislative change via consolidated Hate Crime Legislation in New Mandate
- DfC - Social Housing "No Eviction" agreement for COVID-19 related arrears

Members received a Presentation by the Housing Executive's Director of Corporate Services, David Moore on the Housing Executive's Corporate & Business Plan.

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the November 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, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 am via conference call.

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

**Contacts**

**Secretary**, Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre,

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8PB

[Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk) Tel: 028 95982752



Our Ref: TJ C466/21

27 October 2021

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

Derry City & Strabane  
District Council  
Comhairle  
Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSratha Báin  
Derry Cille & Strabane  
District Council

Dear Ms Ward

At a Reconvened Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 4 October 2021, the following Motion was passed:

**That Council welcomes legislation at committee stage in Stormont for Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay.**

**Council notes the Coalition for Bereaved Workers concern that this bill is a 'missed opportunity' and 'does not go far enough'.**

**Council will write to the Stormont Economy Committee to urge that they further the legislation on bereavement policy so that everyone who is bereaved of a close relative or partner is entitled to 2 weeks' statutory bereavement leave and pay in line with the Coalition for Bereaved Workers campaign objectives.**

**Council will also undertake a review of its own bereavement policy in conjunction with unions that seeks to establish 2 weeks' statutory bereavement leave and pay for all Council workers.**

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter would be grateful for a response in relation thereto.

Yours sincerely

**John Kelpie**  
**Chief Executive**

Derry

C/o Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices  
47 Derry Road  
Strabane  
BT62 8DY

John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE., MIEI

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**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland

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Operational Support Unit  
Police Headquarters  
65 Knock Road  
Belfast BT5 6LE  
Email: sam.donaldson@psni.police.uk  
Tel: 028 9070 0851

28 October 2021

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive  
Newry Office  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry BT35 8DJ



Dear Sir/Madam

## RE: Notice of Motion – Permanent 20mph Speed Limits

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 regarding Permanent 20mph Speed limits. The Chief Constable has asked that I respond on his behalf.

You will appreciate that it is a function of the Department for Infrastructure to identify suitable locations for 20mph limits and zones and, as part of the process, PSNI will be consulted for our views. Upon receipt of the any formal consultation request, PSNI will consider each request and return a view as appropriate. It is important to note the guidance provided within the government document entitled "Setting Local Speed Limits" which states, "Successful 20 mph zones and 20 mph speed limits are generally self-enforcing, i.e. the existing conditions of the road together with measures such as traffic calming or signing, publicity and information as part of the scheme, lead to a mean traffic speed compliant with the speed limit. To achieve compliance there should be no expectation on the police to provide additional enforcement beyond their routine activity, unless this has been explicitly agreed."

With regards to the request for increased speed detection within Newry and Mourne District area I would like to reassure you that Road Safety remains a priority for us and that we will continue to deploy our resources across the District where speeding has been highlighted as an issue for the local community. I will also share a copy of this letter with the Head of Roads Policing asking that



S Taggart - FYA - Cond mtg.  
M Wood - FYI



# Police Service of Northern Ireland

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*the deployment of high visibility road policing deployments (including officers, vehicles and road safety vans) is maximised in your community in the coming months.*

*As always we will continue to work with the local community and partner agencies to ensure that road safety is improved.*

Yours faithfully

**Sam Donaldson**

A/Assistant Chief Constable

