



October 4th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 4th October 2021** at **6:00 pm** in **Microsoft Teams**.

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 06 09 2021.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 September 2021

 [Council Minutes 06.09.21.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

5.0 Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2021

 [Minutes of Special Audit Cmtee 13 Sept 2021.pdf](#)

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6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2021

 [ERT Minutes 13 September 2021.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 September 2021

 [SPR Minutes -16.09.2021.pdf](#)

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7.1 Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 27 September 2021

 [Strategy Policy and Resources Committe Minutes -27.09.2021.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2021

 [Active and Healthy Communities Committee Minutes 20092021.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held

on 21 September 2021

 *NS Minutes - 21-09-2021.pdf*

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10.0 Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2021

 *Minutes Audit Committee 23 Sept 2021.pdf*

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11.0 Planning Section

Local Development Plan

 *Planning Section - Council 04.10.2021.pdf*

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Correspondence and Conferences

12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes - August 2021

 *Housing Council Minutes 12th August 2021.pdf*

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13.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - September 2021

 *Members Bulletin - September 2021.pdf*


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14.0 NILGA Regional Programme - September 2021 - April 2022

 *Regional Programme 2021-22 Brochure (Final).pdf*

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15.0 Correspondence dated 28.09.21 from Minister of Education re. NOM C/109/2021

 *Correspondence dated 28.09.21 from Dept of Education.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

16.0 Notice of Motion - Permanent 20mph Speed Limits

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McMurray:

'That this Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure asking that a consultation, with a view to legislation, be instigated to allow for the roll-out of permanent 20mph speed limits across Northern Ireland. Such limits should be introduced in residential and/or commercial areas where there is a high frequency, and close proximity, of pedestrians,

cyclists and motorists. In concurrence, this request, Newry, Mourne and Down Council shall write to the Department of Infrastructure and request that this District be considered for any future trials of permanent 20mph speed restrictions.'

17.0 Notice of Motion - Universal Credit

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Byrne:

This Council recognises that the £20 Universal Credit uplift has provided a lifeline to many families and recognises the devastating impact that its proposed removal would have at this critical juncture of the recovery period when workers face the end of the furlough scheme and massive increases in energy bills. The Council also recognises that the removal of the £20 per week payment will be devastating for those living here, will push more people into poverty, increase reliance on foodbanks, and increase homelessness, as well as having dire consequences for our local economy. The Council calls on the Communities Minister, in the absence of any action from the Westminster government, to liaise with her colleague, the Finance Minister, to uphold this uplift for the remainder of the financial year and commit to expediting a long term strategy to tackle the shameful levels of poverty and social deprivation across Newry, Mourne and Down.

18.0 Notice of Motion - Memorial: Coronavirus Pandemic

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

"This Council notes the serious impact that the Coronavirus pandemic has had on Northern Ireland.

We recognise that many families have lost loved ones and note that death figures continue to rise.

We wish to also acknowledge the sacrifice of service from our health service families along with those from across our voluntary and communities sector, who helped their communities at the time that they were at their most vulnerable.

The Council will seek to commission a memorial to be placed within the grounds of Downshire Civic Centre to mark the pandemic, collective loss and sacrifice of healthcare staff including those from the public, private and voluntary sector.

We also note and support the call of Health Minister Robin Swann to establish a Northern Ireland wide memorial."

19.0 Notice of Motion - Community Wealth Building

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

"That this Council:

Recognises the economic disruption caused to communities across the District caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, periods of economic recession, and Tory austerity;

Further recognises long-standing economic problems in the District, including inequality, low-paid employment, poor rates of socially effective investment, deprivation, and unsustainable levels of carbon emissions and ecological damage;

Acknowledges that local economic models which prioritise wealth extraction and profit maximisation over community wellbeing have unacceptable consequences for workers and communities;

Acknowledges the success of CWB as a community-oriented strategy of economic development focused on securing well-paid employment, deploying local finance to the benefit of the community, greater community control and more strategic use of land and property, nurturing economic democracy and cooperative enterprises, and making best use of local anchor institutions to locally procure goods and services and provide decent employment."

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr Charlie Casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Cllr Laura Devlin

Mr Eoin Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Sean Doran

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Cllr Hugh Gallagher

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mrs Janine Hillen

Cllr Roisin Howell

Mr Colum Jackson

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Alan Lewis

Mr Michael Lipsett

Mrs Regina Mackin

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Gavin Malone

Cllr Cathy Mason

Mr Johnny Mc Bride

Colette McAteer

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever

Cllr Karen McKevitt

Cllr Andrew McMurray
.....
Catrina Miskelly
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muiri
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Mr Fearghal O'Connor
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Cllr Gerry O'Hare
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Kathryn Owen
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Ms Alison Robb
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Michael Savage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Cllr Gary Stokes
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Sarah Taggart
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Paul Tamati
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr John Trainor
.....
Cllr William Walker
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
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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 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/167/2021	Chairperson's Remarks	Councillor Walker asked that a letter of sympathy be sent to the family of former Down District Council Councillor Ethel Smyth who had passed away	Democratic Services	Actioned	
C/169/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 02.08.21	The action sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/170/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting 02.08.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/171/2021	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23.08.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/172/2021	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 09.08.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/173/2021	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 12.08.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/174/2021	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 16.08.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/175/2021	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 18.08.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/176/2021	Planning Committee	Noted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/177/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 10 June 2021	The minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/178/2021	Bulletin dated August 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council	The bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/179/2021	Local Government Annual Conference 2021	Any Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/180/2021	Next meeting of the UK – France Local Government Forum in Nancy (France) on 25 – 26 October	Any Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/181/2021	National Association of Councillors - Local Government Conference – The Station Hotel, Carlisle, 1 – 3 October 2021	Any Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/182/2021	Letter dated 10.08.2021 from Causeway Coast & Glens BC re Regional Home Safety Educational Facility	Referred to AHC Committee for consideration	Democratic Services M Lipsett	Noted To AHC – 18 October 2021	Y
C/183/2021	Correspondence from the Minister for Health dated 25 August 2021 RE: NOM C.091.2021	Noted	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/184/2021	NILGA Local Development Planning Programme 2021 – 2022	Any Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/185/2021	Notice of Motion – Rights of Nature	Referred to AHC Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6	Democratic Services	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
			M Lipsett	To AHC – 18 October 2021	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor C Mason

In attendance:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
	Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
	Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
	Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
	Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
	Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
	Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
	Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
	Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
	Councillor H McKee	Councillor McKeivitt
	Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
	Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G O'Hare
	Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
	Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
	Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
	Councillor J Trainor	Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
 Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events
 Mr F O'Connor, Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting)
 Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/167/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran, Gallagher and Owen.

The Chairperson paid respects to Mark Gibney, a Council employee and friend who had passed away suddenly. The Chairperson spoke of Mark being one of life's true gentlemen

who loved all things sport, being a former player at Loughisland GAC, former basketball player at Ardglass Sharks, played pool for Castlewellan League as well as being a passionate golfer at Spa Golf Club. His love for sport transferred into his work as a Fitness GP Referral instructor at the Newcastle Leisure Centre and he would be sorely missed by all his colleagues. The Chairperson passed on heartfelt sympathy to all Mark's family and friends at this difficult time.

The Chairperson then spoke at length about her mental health and wellbeing theme for the month of September being the focus of positive mental health and wellbeing in children and young people.

The Chairperson commented that with September bringing about not only a change in seasons, but bringing children and young people back to school. she believed it was crucial to take the opportunity to have important conversations with our young people and to focus on maintaining positive mental health.

The Chairperson also spoke about bullying and the implementation of the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act from 1 September 2021 aimed at tackling prejudice bullying in schools.

The Chairperson spoke of the World Prevention Suicide Day on 10 September 2021 which aimed to remove the taboo and start conversations about suicide and encourage everyone to have conversations with young people about all the services available and the importance of focusing on positive mental health.

Councillor Walker paid respects to former Down District Council Councillor Ethel Smyth who had passed away and asked that a letter of sympathy be sent to her family at this time.

C/168/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/169/2021 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2021

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/170/2021 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2021

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 were agreed and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Sharvin subject to Councillor Enright being noted as present.**

C/171/2021 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 AUGUST 2021

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23 August 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 23 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/172/2021 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 AUGUST 2021

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2021 (copy circulated).

ERT/111/2021

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews regarding the procurement exercise to appoint a team to identify sites for electric charging points, Mr Mallon confirmed it was ongoing and should be back within the next 2/3 weeks.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

C/173/2021 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2021

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/174/2021

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 16 August 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 16 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.**

C/175/2021

**MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2021 (copy circulated)

During discussion the following points were highlighted, and it was agreed Mr McBride would respond to individual Members regarding their queries:

NS/121/2021: Bus Shelter Requests

In welcoming the recommendations Councillor McAteer asked that officers liaise with the Translink Project Manager, Mr Jonathon Elliott to deliver the bus shelter at Bridge Road, Burren as soon as possible. Mr McBride advised an update would be provided at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting.

NS/119/2021: Neighbourhood Services Operational Update

Councillor Hanlon commended officers for their response and help at local festivals over the bank holiday weekend.

In requesting an update regarding the appointment of a contractor to carry out deep Cleansing, Councillor Hanlon expressed concern at the complaints being received regarding cleansing of towns and villages from residents and visitors from outside the District. Mr McBride confirmed a contractor had been appointed with work underway in coastal resorts and a schedule would be presented at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting.

Councillor Ruane spoke about concerns regarding cleansing in Warrenpoint and highlighted sap falling from trees in Warrenpoint were causing pavements to become slippery and sticky and asked if officers could investigate.

Councillor Lewis thanked Mr McBride and his team for the response to issues regarding refuse collection within the Slieve Croob area and asked officers to examine better ways to communicate with residents within that area.

Councillor Lewis also asked if street cleansing within Maghera could be looked at.

Councillor Casey expressed concern at the amount of litter on the approach roads to the main roundabouts near Fiveways and Mourne Country.

NS/125/2021: Distribution of Compostable Food Bags and Food Waste Caddy Bins
In response for a date for the rollout of food waste bins for schools across the District from Councillor Devlin, Mr McBride confirmed it would be done as soon as possible following ratification of the committee minutes at this meeting.

Councillor Harte asked the Neighbourhood Services Department to write to Openreach and NI Water regarding the ongoing work by the utility groups in the Church Street, Cann Street and Fullerton Road, Newry regarding the way in which the streets were being left.

Councillor Clarke commented about the marked improvement in cleansing of the Main Street, Newcastle and highlighted concerns regarding the cleansing of housing estates.

Mr McBride confirmed he would respond to the individual queries raised and contact Members offline.

Agreed: **The Minutes Meeting held on 18 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

Councillor Brown left the meeting during the above item – 6.25pm.

C/176/2021 PLANNING MINUTES

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2021 (copy circulated)

Noted: **The extracts from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 28 July 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

FOR NOTING

C/177/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES JUNE 2021

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 10 June 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 10 June 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

C/178/2021 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – AUGUST 2021

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

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

Councillor Savage enquired about a date for the Housing Needs Conference and highlighted the need for engagement with Councillors and key stakeholders including developers to shape the agenda.

Councillors Savage, Enright, Reilly and McAteer spoke at length about the need to deliver housing across the District.

Councillor Savage spoke of the importance of the Minister and the Chief Executive of the Housing Council attending the conference.

The Chairperson advised Members there was a Special Meeting relating to housing scheduled to take place on 27 September 2021.

Councillor Mulgrew left the meeting at this point – 6.46pm.

C/179/2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Read Save the Date – Local Government Annual Conference 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was noted that NILGA Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services.

C/180/2021 SAVE THE DATE – NEXT MEETING UK – FRANCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

Read: Next meeting of the UK – France Local Government Forum in Nancy (France) on 25 – 26 October. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was noted that NILGA Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services.

C/181/2021 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE – THE FUTURE FOR THE REGIONS / LEVELLING UP

Read: Local Government Conference – The Station Hotel, Carlisle, 1 – 3 October 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was noted that National Association of Councillors Members wishing to attend contact Democratic Services.

C/182/2021

CORRESPONDENCE DATED 10.08.2021 FROM CAUSEWAY & GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Read: Letter dated 10.08.2021 from Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council re Regional Home Safety Educational Facility. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Hanlon advised she felt further clarity was required on what it was Council was being asked to support.

The Chief Executive advised the matter would be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for consideration.

Councillor Byrne asked that when the paper was brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee that other ways of delivering safety messages be considered.

Councillor McKevitt asked that the matter be brought to the PCSP for consideration also.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí for the correspondence from Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council regarding Regional Home Safety Educational Facility be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for consideration.**

C/183/2021

CORRESPONDENCE DATED 25.08.2021 FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH

Read: Letter dated 25.08.2021 re. Notice of Motion C.090.2021. (Copy circulated)

The Chairperson welcomed the letter from the Minister of Health following a Notice of motion she had brought before Council and welcomed the new Mental Health Strategy.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis to note the correspondence from the Minister of Health regarding the Notice of Motion C.090.2021.**

C/184/2021

NILGA LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROGRAMME 2021 – 2022

Read: NILGA Local Development Planning Programme 2021 – 2022

Agreed: **It was noted that NILGA Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services by 12pm on 7 September 2021.**

It was noted Councillors Burgess, McKee and Murphy had already expressed an interest in attending the event.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/185/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – 'RIGHTS OF NATURE'

12

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Gibbons:

"Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the 'Rights of Nature' aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.

Council recognises that 'Rights of Nature' can help catalyse an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractivist, economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

Council commends the excellent work already being done by our Council officers on the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis but recognises the need for a rights based approach to nature.

Council will, over the next 6 months, collaborate with civic society (including The Gathering, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland and trade unions) to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the council will in the next 6 months hold two community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the Council area to be brought back before Council for adoption.

Council asks for a report to come to Council on embedding 'Rights of Nature' as a keystone concept into Council's operational practices, planning processes and long term decision making.

Council notes our position as a border region and our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention and so invites all Councils in the North to also explore 'Rights of Nature' for their Council areas".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Councillors Gibbons and McMurray spoke of their disappointment that the motion was being referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee and not being considered by Council.

The Chairperson advised the motion was being referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee under Standing Order 16.1.6.

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 18.55pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 October 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 September 2021 in the Mourne Room Downshire Civic Centre Downshire Estate Downpatrick, at 2.15pm.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**
 Councillor P Byrne
 Councillor C Casey
 Councillor L Devlin
 Councillor O Hanlon
 Councillor A Lewis
 Councillor D Murphy
 Councillor D McAteer

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
 Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services
 Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
 Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM
 Ms L Gordon NIAO
 Mr J Walsh Belfast City Council Legal Services (via Teams)

AC/070/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor M Gibbons
 Councillor K Owen

AC/071/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

CLOSED SESSION

Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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 these items of business.

AC/072/2021: **REPORT FROM ASM INTERNAL AUDITORS
RE: GOVERNANCE REVIEW - NEWRY CITY CENTRE
REGENERATION PROGRAMME (NCCR)**

Read: Report dated 10 September 2021 from ASM Internal Auditors regarding a Governance Review - Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme (NCCR).
(Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

When the Committee came out of Closed Session the Chairperson reported the following decisions had been taken on the item discussed:

AC/072/2020: **Report from ASM Internal Auditors
Re: Governance Review - Newry City Centre
Regeneration Programme (NCCR)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed as follows:

- a) To note Report from ASM 'Governance Review – Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme'.
- b) To note the legal advices provided to the Committee.
- c) To report the Conclusions of the Report, as outlined in Section 6, to the Strategy Policy & Resources Committee, together with the recommendations contained in the Report, subject

to any redactions considered necessary by Officers.

- d) Officers to consider further any updates required to the Governance Statement contained in the draft Statement of Accounts and bring the necessary revisions to the next Audit Committee meeting.
- e) Officers to consider further any steps to be taken in accordance with Council's Anti Fraud Policy.
- f) Officers to consider further any additional measures required in the furtherance of Member/Officer relations to enhance governance and bring proposals to a future meeting of the Audit Committee.
- g) All Members be reminded of the confidentiality of the Report and of their responsibilities in this regard including their responsibilities with regard to the Code of Conduct.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.20pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

Signed: **Ms D Carville**
Director Corporate Services

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
Independent Chairperson

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**17**

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 13 September 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room
Downshire Estate Downpatrick, and remotely via Microsoft Teams**

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 G Hanna (Chamber)
 Councillor M Larkin (via Teams)
 Councillor R Mulgrew (via Teams)
 Councillor A McMurray (Chamber)
 Councillor H Reilly (via Teams)
 Councillor M Ruane (via Teams)
 Councillor M Savage (via Teams)
 Councillor G Stokes (via Teams)

Non Members: Councillor H McKee (via Teams)
 Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)
 Councillor J Tinnelly (via Teams)
 Councillor L Devlin (via Teams)

Officials Ms M Ward Chief Executive
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
 Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates & Capital Programmes
 Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
 Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr Owen Lyttle Director of Fisheries & Marine Division DAERA

ERT/154/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor V Harte.

ERT/156/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

**ERT/157/2021: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 09 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 09 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/136/2021 – Motorhome Strategy

Noted: In response to a query from Councillor Andrews seeking an update on progress regarding a Motorhome Strategy, Mr Mallon said Officers were due to start developing proposals in the coming weeks.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 09 August 2021.**

PRESENTATIONS

**ERT/158/2021: PRESENTATION BY DAERA
RE: FISHING & SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
KILKEEL AND ARDGLASS HARBOURS**

All Members were invited to attend the meeting for discussion on this item.

Mr Owen Lyttle Director of Fisheries & Marine Division DAERA, explained it was hoped the project would successfully deliver an infrastructure in harbours and build the necessary relationships to realise opportunities and benefits for the development of the fishing and Seafood Development Programme. He gave an overview of Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report including the key areas of work, and work that needed to be undertaken for the harbour capital investment.

A detailed discussion took place during which Members raised the following points:

- Concerns regarding the 2025 timeline for the harbour project
- Progress should be made regarding deepening of Ardglass Harbour to provide the infrastructure needed for larger vessels
- Mitigating the risk involved to ensure funding is released
- Role of Council Officers within the stakeholder grouping in driving the project forward
- Environmental / technical studies done to date.
- Possibility of commencing with smaller components of the project, ie, dredging of Ardglass Harbour.
- Details regarding training for new technologies, renewable energy and reduction in carbon.
- Brexit obstacles
- Creation of an economic legacy between the Ports
- Length of time funding will remain available
- Design options

Mr Lyttle responded to the points above and said a major project such as this involved a significant amount of public money and due to the work involved would have a lengthy timeline in order to progress a project of this size. He said the sites to be examined interfaced with marine environment therefore technical difficulties could arise.

He said approval of the Strategic Outline Case would allow the project to proceed to the next stage with Department of Finance and the necessary procurement processes that would follow and he assured the project was a priority at ministerial level. The Environmental and Technical Studies would be procured following DoF approval of the Strategic Outline Case - it was hoped to commence the studies by the end of the financial year and these would progress into 2022 and 2023, with other services in the meantime to undergo procurement, ie, OBC development; Habitats Regulation; Environmental Impact Assessments.

Mr Lyttle said whenever the Strategic Outline Case was confirmed costs could then be identified and the necessary bids submitted to the Department for Finance with political and stakeholder support, adding that DEFRA Ministers had sought to seek funding from the UK Government for this project. He explained the importance of communication and collaboration as this would tie in with the different elements of the project as it

progressed, ie, bids with Council involvement for onshore projects, and move forward with a joined up approach.

He said that subject to the outcome of Environmental & Technical studies, and the Strategic Outline Case, that if this allows for preliminary works to start then where possible this will happen, and added that it was important that a mechanism was in place to ensure issues at a particular harbour would not result in a delay for the entire programme.

He referred to the importance of Department of Economy involvement and Councils to ensure the various strands of the project were brought forward and necessary training provided.

He said Brexit matters are being addressed by the various departments and this would be an ongoing process should any issues arise to ensure they are resolved as soon as possible.

He advised some projects will commence sooner than others and progress faster but all projects will have to be delivered to meet the objectives of value for money.

Mr Mallon said Council Officers were prepared to engage with DEARA when required and that actions arising out of meetings officers attend would be reported to Members.

With regard to the indicative timeline of 2025, Mr Lyttle said where possible the department will endeavour to reduce the timeline however, any issues that arise, ie, appeals, etc, will have to be dealt with in the appropriate way and can bring delays.

He said it should be recognised this was a modern harbour infrastructure project and will be a catalyst to push the blue economy and bring modern facilities to the fishing industry and he gave assurances that he would remain engaged with the Council and endeavour to drive the project forward and avoid delay.

Councillor Howell thanked Mr Lyttle for presenting to Members.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

ERT/159/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION RE: STAFF SHORTAGES WITHIN HOSPITALITY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor L Devlin and Councillor M Savage:

"Recognising the significant and growing staff shortages within the Hospitality sector, this Council calls for the establishment of a forum with representatives from the South Eastern and Southern Colleges, Department for the Economy and other key stakeholders to undertake an assessment of the training needs to address the shortage within the hospitality sector with the aim of providing short, medium and long term solutions to tackle this crisis and to enable our hospitality industry to survive and to aid our covid recovery."

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on staff shortages within hospitality. **(Copy circulated)**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Devlin said the hospitality industry was in crisis as a shortage of chefs was having a detrimental impact on the industry's ability to keep businesses open. She said without chefs there is no food or drink industry; kitchens are closed and restaurants unable to open their doors.

Councillor Devlin referred to the food and drink industry in the Newry Mourne and Down area and the exceptional culinary variety that exists and stressed the need that this is a key element of our Covid recovery and as staycation demand in our coastal towns has been huge, without chefs tourists are not getting the full culinary offering our towns and businesses have to offer as many establishments have had to reduce opening hours while others have had to close. She said the staff shortages in the hospitality has left a huge gap in this industry and given the emphasis the Council place on tourism in the District, that urgent intervention is required by Council in the form of economic development and the promotion of local tourism in the District and she hoped the Council would do all in its power to address this significant economic situation.

She referred to an initiative in Mid Ulster Council area which offers significant support in tandem with Invest NI to target industrial sectors including manufacturing and engineering and asked if a similar initiative be explored by the Economic Forum for Newry Mourne and Down that would offer significant support for the hospitality industry to assist with equipment, re-skilling, etc, and she also suggested input from SERC and SRC specific to hospitality.

Councillor Savage concurred with Councillor Devlin and said Newry Mourne and Down had a unique offering and he supported the suggestion to explore an initiative similar to Mid Ulster and support our key industry. He also referred to the importance of encouraging young people to become involved in the hospitality industry as a future career.

Councillor Savage formally seconded the Motion.

Councillor Clarke supported the Motion and highlighted the need for adequate training to be provided to allow people to enter the catering and hospitality industry and suggested the Council examine the possibility of holding a jobs fare for the hospitality industry which would give representatives from the hospitality industry and the people seeking jobs the opportunity to meet together and he suggested this as a possible amendment to the Motion or include in the officer Report.

Mr Mallon confirmed this work would be carried out through the Economic Forum.

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

- (a) To adopt the Notice of Motion regarding staff shortages within hospitality.**
- (b) To note Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration, and that Officers proceed to action the content of the Motion through the Economic Forum structures which exist, taking into consideration issues raised by Members including supply and demand within the hospitality industry and to explore the possibility of a Jobs Fare.**
- (c) Officers to report back to the ERT Committee in November / December 2021.**

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/160/2021: FORKHILL FORMER POLICE BARRACKS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding the assessment of options regarding the future of remaining land on the former Barracks site at Forkhill. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) Council and Department for Communities ensure that the Partnership Committee are kept updated in relation to the ongoing Land Transfer Process.**

- 2) **Council commission a Value for Money process to appoint a facilitator to draw up a Biodiversity & Access Plan for the Forkhill Former Barracks Site in consultation with the local community.**
- 3) **Council approve a Business Case for the £50,000 on offer from the Peace Programme and undertake the required procurement/framework appointment once a final plan has been agreed.**
- 4) **Council work closely with the Peace Programme and Challenge Fund to ensure the eligibility of whatever items are being put forward in the proposed Biodiversity & Access Plan.**

ERT/161/2021: WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Warrenpoint Frontshore Public Realm Scheme Task & Finish Steering Group Meeting held on 13 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve the following recommendations arising from the Warrenpoint Frontshore Public Realm Scheme Task & Finish Steering Group Meeting held on 13 August 2021:**

- 1) **To accept the Breakwater Concept Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with inclusion of the suggested adjustments / amendments following consideration by the Task & Finish Steering Group and proceed to a Public Consultation Process and Planning Application thereafter.**
- 2) **To approve Business Case and Payments to Department for Infrastructure (60,000) and BT (£20,000) for future elements of works as part of the overall scheme.**

ERT/162/2021: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise Regeneration Tourism, regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park National Lottery Heritage Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- 1) To note the Action Report from the Steering Group meeting held on 26 August 2021.**
- 2) To approve a Business Case for a landscape scheme at the sea view entrance of the Park in anticipation of National Lottery Heritage Funding approving the plans and there being sufficient time left in project delivery**
- 3) To appoint an artist to design an interpretative art piece and install it in the Park. The themes of the art piece will reflect the heritage and landscape of Warrenpoint Park and Town.**
- 4) To appoint a Horticultural / Arboricultural Consultancy to undertake a survey of Warrenpoint Municipal Park.**

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS**ERT/163/2021: CONSUMER TRADE SHOWS 2021 - 22**

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding attendance at tourism and consumer trade shows in conjunction with Tourism NI Tourism Ireland. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed 1 No. Council Officer attend tourism trade and consumer shows in conjunction with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to support the tourism industry in the recovery period from Covid 19.**

ERT/164/2021: EXTERNAL SIGNAGE FOR NEWRY & MOURNE MUSEUM

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the installation of new signage at Newry & Mourne Museum. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve capital funding to install new signage at Newry & Mourne Museum.**

ERT/165/2021: SPONSORSHIP FOR HOSPITALITY EXCHANGE CONFERENCE

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding sponsorship for Hospitality Exchange Conference and Exhibition 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to approve Council support in the form of sponsorship for the Hospitality Exchange Conference and Exhibition 2021.**

BUILDING CONTROL & LICENSING**ERT/166/2021: CONSULTATION RE: BUILDING CONTROL REGULATIONS**

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Licensing regarding a consultation by Department of Finance on Part R of the Building Regulation (NI) 2020 Changing Places Toilet Provision (CPT). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to note Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Licensing and approve the response provided by Officers as per Appendix 2, regarding a consultation by Department of Finance on Part R of the Building Regulation (NI) 2020 Changing Places Toilet Provision (CPT).**

It was also agreed if Members have any additional comments for inclusion in the response to the Department that these are forwarded directly to Mr C Jackson Assistant Director of Building Control & Licensing.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Burgess, 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/167/2021: COVID RECOVERY WORKING GROUP MEETING 20 AUGUST 2021

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr C Mallon regarding recommendations from the NMDDC Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on 20 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/168/2021 HALLOWEEN EVENTS PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding Halloween Events – Service Level Agreements. **(Copy circulated).**

ERT/169/2021: NEWRY CHAMBER MUSIC PROPOSALS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding Newry Chamber Music Arts and Community Outreach Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

ERT/170/2021: STRANGFORD LOUGH TOURISM CLUSTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Ards and North Down BC and Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster. **(Copy circulated).**

ERT/171/2021: TNI PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND – SLA AGREEMENTS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding TNI Product Development Fund – SLA agreements. **(Copy circulated).**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess 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/167/2021: Covid Recovery Working Group Meeting – 20 August 2021

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to seek a recommendation to access Covid recovery funding for sustainability, biodiversity, general upgrade works and feasibility study for a pump track at Islands Park, Newcastle.**

ERT/168/2021: Halloween Events Programme

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to recommend approval to issue Service Level Agreements for the delivery of Halloween or Christmas events to five community/development groups in 2021, with named event organisers required to ensure events can be delivered safely, whilst taking all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus.**

ERT/169/2021: Newry Chamber Music Arts and Community Outreach Programme

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to recommend approval to establish a Service Level Agreement between Council and Newry Chamber Music for the delivery of an arts and community outreach programme in the 2021/2022 season.**

ERT/170/2021: Memorandum of Understanding with Ards and North Down BC and Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to note the Memorandum of Understanding between NMDDC; Ards and North Down BC and the Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster (SLTC) which outlines a model of collaboration for the promotion and development of tourism providers within the Cluster.

ERT/171/2021: TNI Product Development Fund – SLA Agreements

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to recommend approval for Council to enter into Service Level Agreements with the Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Businesses detailed in the report to deliver a programme of events/experiences as part of the Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme 2021/22.

FOR NOTING

ERT/172/2021: APPROVAL OF GRANT OFFERS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – TOURISM EVENTS

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr A Patterson regarding approval of grant offers for financial assistance for Tourism and Arts Events. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the contents of this paper on financial assistance grant funding to support Tourism and Arts Festivals and Events that are being planned in the remainder of 2021/22.

ERT/173/2021: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed:**

- **To note the extension to DAERA Lo0 to 31 January 2022.**
- **To note the action report from the Task and Finish Board meetings held on 23 April; 25 June and 26 August 2021.**
- **To note the phased permission to start approach.**

ERT/174/2021: COVID 19 REVITALISATION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration regarding the DFC/DAERA/DFI Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the update report provided on progress of delivering the Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation funding.**

ERT/175/2021: 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/176/2021: NEWCASTLE HARBOUR UPDATE

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly regarding Newcastle Harbour. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to note the report and recommend Council to review the Conservation Plan for Newcastle developed in 2011 as part of an overall review of the Councils 4 Masterplans, a proposal for which is being developed with DfC and will be brought to a future ERT Committee.**

ERT/177/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FIGURES

Read: Report regarding Planning Performance Figures for August 2021
(Copy circulated)

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

**ERT/178/2021: SUBMISSIONS TO DFI
RE: GREENWAY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS**

Read: Report dated 13 September 2021 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding DFI Greenway and Active Travel – call for applications.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the submission to the DFI Active Travel Section in regards to the applications outlined in the report and report back in due course on the outcome.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed that given their importance to the District's tourism industry, Task and Finish Working Groups be set up for:

- Development of Greenways
- Newcastle Harbour

An update be provided to Councillor Stokes regarding the application in respect of Newry Greenway.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

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

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 September 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 D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor M Savage
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor G Stokes

Officials in Attendance In Chamber: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR & Safeguarding
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in Attendance Via Teams: Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Tourism & Regeneration
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting)
Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

SPR/135/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Brown and Gallagher.

SPR/136/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

SPR/137/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 12 AUGUST 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Howell that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021, be approved.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/138/2021: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2020-21

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director Corporate Services regarding Assessment of Performance 2020-21. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- The Assessment of Performance 2020-21, including the summary document 'Our Performance Looking Back Going Forward'
- That the Assessment of Performance 2020-21 is published by 30 September 2021, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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/139/2021: EASEMENT OVER COUNCIL LANDS AT ISLANDS PARK, NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Easement over Council lands at Islands Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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 approve the grant of an easement at Islands Pk Newcastle, subject to the applicant discharging the cost of the easement as assessed by Council's retained valuation experts, and any

associated legal and valuation costs.

SPR/140/2021: UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF WARRENPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding, Update on the Development of Warrenpoint Community Centre **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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 approve the following recommendations:

- That Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the content of the report and the associated appendices.
- That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the project moving to the next stage i.e. to appoint a consultant team to advance the design of the preferred option (Option 3) and to secure full planning approval. It is recommended that the consultant is appointed for all stages of the project with the inclusion of break clauses, should planning approval not be secured, or if Council take a decision not to proceed to any of the subsequent stages (detailed design, procurement or construction delivery).
- It is recommended that an amount detailed in the officer's report is added to the capital programme for the appointment of a consultancy team to advance to project to secure planning approval, inclusive of any ground investigations, traffic, flood risk assessment, ecology and drainage surveys required to complement the planning application. A further report will be brought to the Committee seeking approval for the next stages of the project, after planning approval is secured.

SPR/141/2021: LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding, Leasing of Council land and facilities – Expression of Interest **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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 that Elected Members consider the following Expressions of Interest (EOI) received for the leasing of Council land and facilities and agree the approval to lease lands and facilities as per stage 3 of the Councils Sports and Community leasing policy (2016).

1. Moorehill Quarry: Adjacent to Newry recycling Centre, Newry, Appendix 1
3. Generator House: Adjacent to the yacht club, Newcastle. Appendix 3
4. Burren Village Green Field/land: Adjacent Play park and community centre, Burren, Appendix 4
5. Drumaness Cricket Pitch: Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness, Appendix 5 Blue
6. Drumaness Soccer Pitch: Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness, Appendix 5 Red

Item 2 – Derryleckagh Field/Land: Adjacent to Derryleckagh playing fields, Newry, Appendix 2, to be deferred until Council arrange to meet with the Rugby Club and DEA Councillors in relation to the NIE request and bring back to a future Strategy Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

SPR/142/2021: REVISED RISK POLICY AND STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding, Revised Risk Policy and Strategy (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Taylor it was agreed that Elected Members approve the Risk Policy and Risk Strategy as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

SPR/143/2021: DEBT WRITE OFF AT 31ST MARCH 2021

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding, Debt Write Off 31st March 2021 (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Magennis It was agreed that Elected Members approve the bad debt write-off for the year ending 31 March 2021 as detailed in the officer's report.

SPR/144/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Neighbourhood Services. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Howell, It was agreed that Elected Members approve the engagement of the SIB advisor on the terms set out within the report.

SPR/145/2021: REVIEW OF TEMPORARY CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Review of Temporary Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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 approve the following Recommendations:

- That Members support the approach set out within the report which will result in a number of temporary arrangements being confirmed as permanent. These principles will extend and apply as appropriate, to any temporary contracts post the April 2021 data.
- That Members confirm their agreement to designate the 25 posts identified on Appendix 1, as 'Permanent subject to funding' and that going forward, when entering into funded arrangements which include the employment of staff, that an assessment is made as to whether such posts should be regarded as 'Temporary', 'Fixed-Term' or as 'Permanent subject to funding'; on the same basis.

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/146/2021: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET
– 27 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 27 August 2021.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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 to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 27 August 2021.

FOR NOTING

**SPR/147/2021: MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME
BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2021 & 24 JUNE 2021**

Read: Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting –20 May 2021 and 24 June 2021. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage requested that the two Newry Councillors who are not on the project board be invited to the Albert Basin Park next steps meeting as guests. The Chairperson noted Councillor Savage's request and asked that he speak with the Director and the Co-Chair's of the programme board directly regarding the matter.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, It was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 20 May 2021 and 24 June 2021.

**SPR/148/2021: FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT FOR CIVIL CONTINGENCIES
NORTHERN IRELAND**

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Framework Document for Civil Contingencies Northern Ireland (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SPR/149/2021: SICKNESS ABSENCE

Read: Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager, regarding Sickness Absence (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.34pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
 Chairperson

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 September 2021 at 1.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor W Walker

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor R Howell
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor V Harte
Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor J Trainor
Councillor G Stokes

**Officials in Attendance
In Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)
Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active Healthy Communities
Mr J McBride, Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant

Also in Attendance:

Mr J Walsh, Belfast City Council
Ms C Hagan, ASM
Mr R Moore, Deloitte
Mr T Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy
Ms A Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy

SPR/150/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

SPR/151/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

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 Sharvin 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.

FOR NOTING –**SPR/152/2021: REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE – GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director Corporate Services regarding report from Audit Committee – Governance Review of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, Elected Members agreed to note the Report and the findings of Appendices 1 and 2.

FOR DECISION**SPR/153/2021: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL OUTLINE BUSINESS CASES**

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding, Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown proposed that '£10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert Basin Park project. This would ensure delivery of phase 1 of the park in this term and would also greatly assist in drawing down external funding for the park'. His proposal was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

Following advices, it was acknowledged that this could only be an agreement 'in principle' subject to a report being brought back to committee with proper due diligence being carried out.

Councillor Brown agreed to amend his proposal, proposing that '£10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert Basin Park project, acknowledging the advices provided'. This was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal to a recorded vote the results of which were as follows: (copy appended to these minutes)

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 10
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was LOST

Councillor Byrne proposed that the wording 'including site selection and finances' be added to the officer's recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Savage.

The Chairperson put Councillor Byrne's proposal to a recorded vote the results of which were as follows: (copy of which is appended to these minutes)

FOR: 10
AGAINST: 2
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was CARRIED

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members approve and note the following recommendations:

To consider the contents of the report and approve the inclusion of the adjusted financial estimates for the NCCR and Mourne Mountains Gateway Project within the Belfast Regional City Deal Document.

The Belfast Regional City Deal Document will be tabled through the Council structures at an appropriate meeting in Council in October 2021.

All projects within the Belfast Regional City Deal proposition are at Outline Business Case stage and there remains scope within the development of these projects to consider and take actions deemed appropriate to matters as they arise including site selection and finances.

The Belfast Regional City Deal proposition includes the following infrastructure projects specific to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area:

- Southern Relief Road

- Gateway to the Mournes
- Newry City Regeneration Programme (Public Realm, Theatre Conference, Grade A Office Accommodation, Civic and Regional Hub)
- Digital and Innovation Hub

A fund of £132.4m for the Newry, Mourne and Down Region will be supported by Council contributions.

SPR/154/2021: ALBERT BASIN CITY PARK

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin City Park **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, 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 approve the following recommendations:

- To complete a business case to allow for: the appointment of an economist to complete an outline business case (OBC) for the Albert Basin City Park, to identify a preferred option and appoint a consultant team to provide design and cost information to support the completion of the OBC.
- That detailed costs, concept design and timeline be tabled at the Strategy Policy and Resources in October 2021.
- Tetratex be appointed to carry out a mapping exercise on the Albert Basin site and that a site visit to Haulbowline Park in Cork for the Programme Board members be arranged.
- That the detailed cost breakdown be sent to the members of the programme board in the strictest confidence.
- Note these cost estimates are commercially sensitive and not for further circulation.

Councillor Walker left the meeting at this point - 14.35pm

FOR NOTING

SPR/155/2021: NEWRY CITY CENTRE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding, Newry City Centre Regeneration Public Consultation. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Ó Muirí and Savage welcomed the report stating that the setting up of the working group was a hugely positive move and dispelled the narrative that the views of the public consultation were being ignored. They stated it would give the members of the community the opportunity to work with their elected representatives to have their views recognised through a partnership approach.

Councillor Tinnelly proposed that elected representatives accept the recommendations in 3.1 of the officer's report without recommendation 3.2, the setting up of a working group. This was seconded by Councillor Brown.

The Chief Executive advised that, following the programme board meeting it had been stated by all councillors that they considered the importance of giving due consideration to the consultation process. She stated that following discussions with the Department of Community representative, he had recommended it would be good practice to establish the working group to report back to the programme board.

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

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 9
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was LOST

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

- Note the report, the findings of the public consultation, the recommendation contained therein and the presentation included in Appendix 1 and the report in Appendix 2.
- And note that officers will establish a working group to consider the public consultation report in detail and how the Council should respond to the comments and report back to the Programme Board. The working group will include representatives from the Council's Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Directorate; Community Relations Team (DEA); Planning Team; the Communities and the Department for Infrastructure.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 14.43pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 27/09/2021 **VENUE:** Mourne Room Downshire/Hybrid **MEETING:** SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Cllr Brown's proposal - that £10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert basin park project.'

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown	X			
P Byrne		X		
S Doran				<u>X</u>
H Gallagher				X
O Hanlon		X		
R Howell		X		
O Magennis		X		
D Murphy		X		
B Ó Muíri		X		
H Reilly				X
M Savage		X		
G Sharvin		X		
D Taylor		X		
J Tinnelly	X			
W Walker		X		
TOTALS	2	10	0	3

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 27/09/2021 **VENUE:** Mourne Room Downshire/Hybrid **MEETING:** SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Cllr Byrne's proposal - that the wording 'including site selection and finances' be added to the officer's recommendation

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown		X		
P Byrne	X			
S Doran				<u>X</u>
H Gallagher				X
O Hanlon	X			
R Howell	X			
O Magennis	X			
D Murphy	X			
B Ó Muíri	X			
H Reilly				X
M Savage	X			
G Sharvin	X			
D Taylor	X			
J Tinnelly		X		
W Walker	X			
TOTALS	10	2	0	3

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 20 September 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire
Estate and via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor V Harte	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor G Malone	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor J Tinnelly	

**Also in attendance
via Teams:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
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**Officials in attendance
In Chamber:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
Ms 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
Ms S McEldowney, Head of Sustainability
Mr D Brannigan, Head of Engagement

AHC/173/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

The Chairperson portrayed her congratulations to Bethany Firth on her wonderful achievement of six Paralympic Games gold medals in Tokyo.

The Chairperson also commended the DEA Co-ordinators who organised the recent Walk for Life, Suicide Prevention Campaign.

Mr Lipsett advised the attachment for item 7 on the agenda had been omitted and was now available and should Members have any comments between this Committee Meeting and the next Council Meeting they could be forwarded if required.

AHC/174/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/175/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 AUGUST 2021

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 August 2021. **(Copy circulated).**

AHC/120/2021: Upgrade works to Ballynahinch Community Centre and Market House, Ballynahinch

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews regarding the upgrade works Mr Lipsett confirmed he would report back to him in the next week.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 August 2021.**

AHC/176/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – WHEELCHAIR BEACH ACCESS

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Notice of Motion referred from Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 regarding accessibility onto beaches.

Councillor Brown presented his motion as follows:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

Councillor Lewis seconded the motion.

In presenting his motion, Councillor Brown welcomed the update provided and advised he would await the outcome of the report at the next Committee Meeting.

Councillor Harte voiced support for the motion and asked that thought be given to people with no mobility whatsoever. She referred to an ongoing consultation on Changing Places and asked that before Council implement a wheelchair beach access scheme, that a Changing Places trial take place, wherever provision was to be made.

Councillor Tinnelly spoke in support of the Motion and proposed that the pilot project should include the two blue flag beaches at Tyrella and Cranfield and Warrenpoint thereafter if it was a success.

Councillor Brown supported the comments made by Councillor Tinnelly and stated he was aware there had been previous work in relation to Cranfield Beach and that he was keen to see the report before speaking to it.

Councillor Sharvin spoke of challenges he faced getting onto beaches with mobility issues and whilst he would welcome the inclusion of Tyrella and Cranfield he highlighted other beaches at Kilclief, Killough, Rossglass and Minerstown. He advised he would like to see within the report how long the pilot was likely to take, and if successful, what beaches would be included within phase 2 and how access would be provided.

In speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Trainor referred to a motion brought forward previously in 2019 in relation to access onto Newcastle beach and commented about the need to ensure reports were brought back to Committee timely. He also referred to the ERT department and queried if it was the more fitting department to be leading on the matter.

Mr Lipsett advised he chaired a cross departmental working group involving three departments with the AHC Committee having responsibility for Community beaches, ERT Committee having responsibility for Blue Flag beaches and other issues such as Changing Places facilities and toilet provision being the responsibility of NHS Committee. Mr Lipsett provided an overview of the issues being faced across the board and advised a detailed report would be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Councillor Ó Muirí commented that it was vital for the pilot project for access onto beaches to be run side by side with the Changing Places Scheme.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed an amendment to motion to read:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, in conjunction with the rolling out of the Toilet Strategy and Changing Places Scheme and work with officers to make it happen at the same time as quickly as possible with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

This amendment was seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

Councillor Brown accepted the amendment and for officers to examine this as part of the report.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to amend the motion as follows:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, in conjunction with the rolling out of the Toilet Strategy and Changing Places Scheme and work with officers to make it happen at the same time as quickly as possible with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/177/2021 DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

DEA/N/2021/1 Kickabout Killeavy Road

In response to Councillor Casey, Mrs Hillen confirmed an update would be reported back to him as soon as possible.

DEA/N/2021/4 Extension at Monkshill Graveyard

Councillor Harte voiced concern at the need to install proper fencing between the Graveyard and the housing estate. Mr Lipsett confirmed he would pass this on to the Neighbourhood Services Department.

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

- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2021.
- Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2021.
- Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 19 August 2021.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/178/2021 SUPPORT FOR GLASGOW DECLARATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing and presented by Ms Sheena McEldowney, Head of Sustainability regarding a request for the Council to support and sign the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that Council signs the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration ahead of COP26 and joins the commitment and call to action for a food-systems approach to tackling the climate and nature emergency.

AHC/179/2021

CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing and presented by Ms Sheena McEldowney, Head of Sustainability regarding a call for a plan to eliminate plastic pollution. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray enquired if there was something that could be done to cut down on waste from fast food provision. Mr Lipsett confirmed work was ongoing through the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum.

Ms McEldowney also advised the Council had a Single Use Plastics Group and the matter could be raised there, and officers could examine what other Councils and areas were doing to address this.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Lewis to return the attached Consultation response. The response would be submitted by the required date (1st October) on the proviso that it would be subject to Council Approval.

AHC/180/2021

CONSULTATION ON PEATLAND STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 20 September 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 Consultation Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 Consultation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that the Committee agree to return the attached Consultation response. The response will be submitted by the required date (1st September) on the proviso that it will be subject to Council approval.

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

AHC/181/2021 ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SCHEME OF DELEGATION REPORT

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Active and Healthy Communities Scheme of Delegation Schedules for February to September 2021.
(Copy circulated)

Mr Lipsett agreed following the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor McKevitt to look into the potential to replace rough playing surface at McParland Park.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the report and attachments.

AHC/182/2021 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND WINDMILL FIELD

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021, from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Saintfield Community Centre and Windmill Field. **(Copy circulated)**

It was noted there would be no direct financial implications arising from the report and that the group had asked Council to supplement if there was a shortfall in matched funding however this request was not agreed, and the group would instead be referred to the

Council Financial Assistance Programme.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to support their application to the Heritage Lottery Scheme and for the project generally and that the Council refer the group to the Council's Financial Assistance Programme.

AHC/183/2021

MARINE LITTER CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy 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 20 September 2021, from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing and presented by Ms Sheena McEldowney, Head of Sustainability regarding Marine Litter Capital Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council apply to the Marine Litter Capital Grant Programme for the programmes as detailed within the report.

AHC/184/2021

LEISURE COVID 19 REOPENING PLAN

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding Covid 19 Indoor Leisure Reopening Plan **(Copy circulated)**

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

Councillor Trainor referred to the Ballymote Centre being used for Lateral Flow Testing and whether a marquee facility within the grounds could be used to allow more capacity within the building. Mr Lipsett confirmed he would revert the point made to Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services who was working with the South Eastern Trust and Public Health Agency on the matter.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker, to approve the recommendations of the report and all Indoor Leisure Facilities to reopen as per the COVID-19 Leisure reopening Plan as outlined in appendix 1.**

Councillor Trainor left the meeting at this point – 7.06pm.

AHC/185/2021 No 16, the Square, Rostrevor

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update on Capital Works for No 16, the Square, Rostrevor **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the report and approve an additional £75,400 to be added to the Capital Programme to deliver the project.**

AHC/186/2021

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE
TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Expressions of Interest, Saintfield Community Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McMurray to approve the recommendations as set out in section 2.4 of the report.

AHC/187/2021

PEACE IV

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 20 September 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Casey to approve the recommendations of the PEACE IV Partnership as set out in section 2.3 of the report.

Mr Lipsett made the following statement on behalf of the Chief Executive:

“Due to the current legislative uncertainty around remote meetings and the restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Chief Executive also agrees to exercise her delegated authority under Standing Orders to implement the resolution of the Committee once ratified by Council, subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.”

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.22pm.

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 21 September 2021 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room. Downshire Civic Estate, Downpatrick and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor W Walker (Chamber)

Deputy Chair: Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor P Brown (Teams)
Councillor C Casey (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor O Magennis (Teams)
Councillor G Malone (Teams)
Councillor D Murphy (Teams)
Councillor K McKevitt (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)

Non-Committee Members: Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
Councillor R Howell (Teams)
Councillor A Lewis (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

NS/134/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

No apologies were received.

NS/135/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/136/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 August 2021. ***(Circulated)***.

Matters arising from Action Sheet

Overgrown section of Newry Canal from O'Reillys Lock towards Fearon's Lock

- Councillor Casey advised he was not referring to the overgrown trees/bushes along the banks on this section of the towpath and said Council workers were doing a great job maintaining these areas. However the Canal itself was very overgrown with weeds etc. and he asked that Council Officials contact Rivers Agency to get them to clear the waterway with a harvester, from O'Reilly's Lock towards Fearon's Lock.

AGREED: **Council Officials to contact Rivers Agency and report back.**

Broken and overhanging tree branches at Ring McIlroy Park, Warrenpoint

- Councillor Ruane expressed his strong disappointment that his request made at last month's Committee Meeting, that broken and overhanging tree branches in Ring McIlroy Park, Warrenpoint be cut, had still not been acted on. He said this was simply not good enough. Mr Scullion said these trees were outside the boundary of what was owned by Council and ownership of the land could not be determined but if this continued to be the case, Council would take action to have these trees cut back.

AGREED: **Council Officials follow this matter up with Councillor Ruane and provide a timetable as to when this work would be carried out.**

Public Toilet Strategy Update

AGREED: **In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Mr Scullion advised an update report in relation to the governance arrangements for the Public Toilet Strategy would be tabled at the October Committee Meeting.**

Distribution of food waste caddy bags

AGREED: **In response to a query from Councillor Andrews, Ms Murphy advised food caddy bags would be delivered this week and action would be taken to distribute them and issue the relevant communications around this.**

Christmas Illuminations

AGREED: **In response to a request from Councillor McMurray, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that officers look at what mechanisms would be available to re-distribute surplus Christmas Illuminations to interested Community Groups. A report**

be tabled at the October Christmas Illuminations Sub Committee Meeting and reported back to Committee in October.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Brown, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 August 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/137/2021: TRANSLINK PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR BUS SHELTERS IN COUNCIL AREA

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: Translink proposed programme for bus shelters in the Council area. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve option 2 – to delay installation of a bus shelter in Burren pending outcome of Translink's deliberations in October/November 2021 with the option to reconsider this position if Translink were deemed to be making limited progress in providing the bus shelter in Burren.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

NS/138/2021: DISTRIBUTION OF COMPOST FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: distribution of compost for community groups. *(Circulated)*.

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

1. Note and approve the contents of this report
2. Note an update report on Compost week will be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee
3. Direct requests for the supply of compost from local community groups to recycling@nmandd.org

4. Note an update report on future delivery of compost will be provided at a future meeting of the NS Committee

AGREED: It was also agreed that Ms Murphy contact Arc21 regarding the delivery charges for the compost to see if there would be an option for community groups to collect the compost themselves, or if there could be a reduction in the £25 delivery charge. Ms Murphy to report back to Committee on this matter as part of a future options report.

NS/139/2021: POWER WASHING SCHEDULE

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: schedule of deep cleansing of paved surfaces in Public Realm areas. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised by Members

The following issues were raised by Members and it was agreed Officers note these and where necessary, liaise with the relevant Councillor outside of the meeting:-

- Councillor Curran – queries regarding the standard of cleanliness in Downpatrick, particularly the Irish Street area.
- Councillor Taylor – if funding was secured for additional cleansing works, areas in Bessbrook and Newtownhamilton should be added to the schedule.
- Councillor Ruane – officials to explore the option of purchasing additional equipment for Council staff that would enable them to carry out minor cleansing works across the District.
- Councillor Andrews – noted the Council were applying to DAERA for funding for these works but in future years has the Council any plans to deal with these issues by securing funding and grants to enable the works to be carried out.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to approve the schedule as set out in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the report.

NS/140/2021: REVIEW OF DISTRICT CLEANSING

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Ms S Murphy re: Review of District Cleansing. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed an Elected Member workshop being organised as part of the initiation of a Review of District Cleansing.

Officers to look at a date and start time which would enable as many members as possible to attend and participate in the workshop.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

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

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

NS/141/2021: ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2021

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 24 June 2021. *(Circulated)*.

NS/142/2021: UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 21 September 2021 from Mr J McBride re: update on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan. *(Circulated)*.

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

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

NS/141/2021 - Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes 24 June 2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 24 June 2021.

NS/142/2021 – Update on Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the progress update report and note that services will continue “out of contract” until new contracts were awarded and regularised.

FOR NOTING

NS/143/2021: Arc21 JC MINUTES – 24 JUNE 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 24 June 2021 (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/144/2021: Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ MONTHLY BULLETIN HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2021

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members’ Monthly Bulletin held on 26 August 2021 (*Circulated*).

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/145/2021: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Magennis, 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 6.55 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 October 2021.

Signed: Councillor W Walker
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

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

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on Thursday 23 September 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

Chairperson:	Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson
In attendance:	(Committee Members) Councillor P Byrne Councillor C Casey Councillor O Hanlon Councillor A Lewis Councillor D Murphy Councillor D McAteer
Non Members:	Councillor G Stokes
Officials in attendance:	Ms M Ward Chief Executive Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services Mr M Lipsett Director Active & Healthy Communities Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) Ms S Murphy Assistant Director Waste Management (Acting) Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer Ms L O Hare Democratic Services Officer Ms C McAteer Democratic Services Officer
Also in attendance:	Ms M Lopez Santacruz ASM Ms K Beattie NIAO Ms L Gordon NIAO

AC/073/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor K Owen
 Councillor L Devlin

AC/074/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest.

**AC/075/2021: ACTION SHEETS ARISING FROM:
AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING: 05 JULY 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising from Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 05 July 2021.
(Copy circulated)

The following issues were raised:

AC/057/2021 – Corporate Risk Register

Noted: Training regarding changes to the Orange Book Management of Risk – Principles and Concepts will be completed prior to the Audit Committee Meeting in December 2021/January 2022.

AC/060/2021 – Quarterly Update re: Single Tender Actions

Noted: A Quarterly update regarding the use of Single Tender Actions would be discussed later in the Meeting.

AC/054/2021 – Members' Register of Interest

Noted: It is the responsibility of Members to update the Members' Register of Interest at any stage should a particular interest change. Any changes or updates to the Register should be done by contacting the Democratic Services Department. Officers will issue a 6 monthly reminder to Members to review their Register of Interest to ensure the Register remains current.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 05 July 2021.

CORPORATE SERVICES (OPEN SESSION)

AC/076/2021: CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding the Corporate Risk Register. **(Copy circulated)**

Ms Carville explained the Senior Management Team held a Special Risk Workshop on Monday 06 September 2021 which undertook a quarterly review of the Risk Register and also examined the new Risk Strategy, which was approved by the Audit Committee in July 2021, and formally approved by the SP&R Committee in September 2021.

She referred to changes that have been made to the Risk Register under the new Risk Strategy, as outlined under 2.1 in the above Report.

She also highlighted the following changes, also contained under 2.1 in the above Report:

- CR1 – updated to reflect material shortages and rise in construction costs.
- CR2 – has been amalgamated with CR3 to ensure procurement falls into line with breach of legislation
- CR9 - risk score has been reduced with regard to transforming and planning for the future

With regard to reporting on Directorate Risk Registers, Ms Carville said a report will be presented at each Audit Committee Meeting, regarding an individual Directorate, beginning with the Corporate Services Department which will be presented later in the Meeting.

Members raised the following issues on risks contained in the Risk Register:

- Councillor Byrne asked for clarity regarding amalgamating CR2 and CR3 and the wording for CR1.

Ms Carville explained that with regard to procurement, it was felt given the significant progress made in this area and in order to reflect same, it was decided CR2 should be moved into CR3. This area of risk would continue to be monitored and updates brought to the Audit Committee.

In explaining the description for CR1, she referred to the current risk surrounding the construction industry and the key posts within that service area to be filled, and the need for Council to ensure decisions taken are aligned to the Council's strategic priorities taking into account the challenges currently facing this area.

Ms Ward assured Members that the development of projects had formed part of the Senior Management Team discussions on this area, including the risks and challenges associated with reaching delivery stage for projects.

- Councillor Casey referred to the programme of delivery for key Council projects and aspects of the Belfast Region City Deal and as some projects were soon due to start, it appeared supply and demand was becoming a key element in progressing projects and asked if this would be reflected in the Risk Register.

In response to Councillor Casey, Ms Carville explained the Risk Register was reviewed on a quarterly basis and indications showed there would be

difficulties within this sector for some time but that work would continue to deliver the Council's Capital Programme as far as possible.

- Councillor McAteer referred to CR4 and the delay in actioning some historical planning applications which were awaiting legal advice and felt more measures needed to be in place to allow the progression of such applications.
- Councillor McAteer also referred to CR7 and questioned the level of responsibility for Council in this area as there were other factors which lay outside of Council's control and how the risk score could be improved.

Ms Carville said an action was in place regarding the backlog of cases for planning applications and a more detailed update report will be presented to the next Meeting of the Audit Committee regarding work ongoing within this area of risk.

With regard to economic and regeneration risk Ms Carville said actions have been formulated around areas which are within Council control but agreed other external factors existed which would be critical to progress in this area.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed as follows:**

- (a) To approve changes to the Corporate Risk Register as highlighted within the summary at Appendix 1 – full Corporate Risk Register can be evidenced at Appendix 2.**
- (b) To note the revised Corporate Services Directorate Risk Register at Appendix 3.**

AC/077/2021: **PROMPT PAYMENT STATISTICS**

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding Prompt Payment Statistics. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne presented the statistics on Prompt Payments for Quarter 1 for year 2021-22 stating Council had paid 92% of all invoices within 30 days and paid 22% of all invoices within 10 days with the average number of days to pay suppliers being 20 days and these statistics showed significant improvements had been made.

Ms Slevin welcomed the improvements reflected in the prompt payment statistics. She asked for further information regarding the 8% of payments made outside the payment period.

Mr Byrne explained NMDDC were the lead Council on the FFNI project and

had to await the payment of DCMS funding to other Councils and BSO, therefore this timing issue resulted in a percentage of payments being made outside the payment period.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to note the Quarter 1 2021-22 Prompt Payment statistics.

AC/078/2021: NMDDC
-STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS YE 31 MARCH 2021
-ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Read: Newry Mourne & Down District Council Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2021, and Annual Governance Statement. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Byrne explained the Draft Statement of Accounts had been presented to the Audit Committee Meeting held on 05 July 2021 after which they had been submitted to NIAO for external audit. He said NIAO have now issued a Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance which highlights that to date, there have been no material year-end adjustments.

He referred to a number of disclosure amendments to the accounts as recommended by the Department for Communities.

Ms Carville advised that should any material changes occur to the Accounts as presented to Members, this will be brought back to the Audit Committee for approval.

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer regarding absenteeism, Ms Carville confirmed a report on Absenteeism was brought to the SP&R Committee and she could arrange to forward details to Councillor McAteer.

Mr Byrne added that although absenteeism remained a significant governance issue, it had decreased.

Ms Slevin extended thanks to Mr Byrne and his team and to Ms Beattie and Ms Gordon from NIAO for their input with this process during what were still difficult times.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to approve the NMDDC Statement of Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021, subject to any further adjustments by Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO), and subject to any issues that may arise during consideration of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance for Year Ended 31 March 2021.

NIAO (CLOSED SESSION)

Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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 these items of business.

AC/079/2021: **NIAO
DRAFT REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH
GOVERNANCE**

Read: Correspondence dated 22 September 2021 from Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) regarding Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance for year ended 31 March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/080/2021: **NIAO
PERFORMANCE**

Read: NIAO verbal report on Performance.

CORPORATE SERVICES (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/081/2021: **UPDATE
RE: AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding an update on Audit Recommendations. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/082/2021: **UPDATE
RE: FRAUD & RAISING CONCERNS**

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding fraud and raising concerns update. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/083/2021: QUARTERLY UPDATE
RE: SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS (STAs)**

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding a quarterly update on Single Tender Actions (STAs) (or Direct Award Contracts DACs). **(Copy circulated)**

(Councillor Murphy left the meeting)

AC/084/2021: PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding Procurement Action Plans for each Council Directorate. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/085/2021: UPDATE
RE: FUEL MANAGEMENT**

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services (Acting) regarding an update on the implementation of the Fuel Management Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

INTERNAL AUDIT (CLOSED SESSION)

AC/086/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT - SUMMARY REPORT

Read: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report dated 23 September 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/087/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
FINAL REPORT
RE: COMMUNITY PLANNING**

Read: Final Report from ASM Internal Audit regarding a Review of Community Planning. **(Copy circulated)**

**AC/088/2021: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT
FINAL REPORT
RE: PCSP**

Read: Final Report from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding a Review of PCSP. **(Copy circulated)**

On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

When the Committee came out of Closed Session the Chairperson reported the following decisions had been taken on the items discussed:

AC/079/2020: NIAO Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed as follows:

- a) To note the findings of the NIAO Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance.
- b) To approve un-corrected mis-statements.

AC/080/2021: NIAO Performance

AGREED: It was agreed to note update from Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) regarding performance.

AC/081/2021: Update re: Audit Recommendations

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the update in relation to legacy audit recommendations.

AC/082/2021: Update re: Fraud & Raising Concerns

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the update in relation to Fraud and Raising Concerns cases.

AC/083/2021: Quarterly Update re: Single Tender Actions

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the 2021-22 Quarter two update in relation to Single Tender Actions as contained in Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting).

AC/084/2021: Procurement Action Plan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed:

- a) To note the update contained in the report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) relation to Procurement Action Plans for each Directorate
- b) Procurement Action Plans to be reported to the Audit Committee on a bi-annual basis.

AC/085/2021: Update re; Fuel Management

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to note the contents of Report dated 23 September 2021 from Mr J McBride Director Neighbourhood Services (Acting) regarding an update on the implementation of the Fuel Management Action Plan.

AC/086/2021: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the ASM Summary Audit report

AC/087/2021: ASM Internal Audit Final Report re: Community Planning

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note the ASM Internal Audit Summary Report – Community Planning.

AC/088/2021: ASM Internal Audit Final Report re: PCSP

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Report from Mr G Byrne Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Expenditure Report.

PERFORMANCE (OPEN SESSION)**AC/089/2021: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2020-21**

Read: Report dated 23 September 2021 from Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services regarding Annual Assessment of Performance 2020/21. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed to note the Assessment of Performance Improvement 2020-21, including the summary document 'Our Performance Looking Back Going Forward'.

CIRCULARS**AC/090/2021: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
RE: CONTRACTS REGISTER**

Read: Correspondence dated 07 September 2021 DAO (DoF) 05/21) from Department of Finance regarding Contracts Register. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note correspondence dated 07 September 2021 DAO (DoF) 05/21) from Department of Finance regarding Contracts Register.

**AC/091/2021: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
RECORD OF COUNICLLORS' AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FUNDED BY COUNCIL
2020/2021**

Read: Correspondence dated 07 September 2021 DAO (DoF) 06/21) from Department of Finance regarding revised Policy and Guidance on Best Practice in project delivery and engagement with the Gateway tm/Assurance Review Process – update to DAO (DOF) 02/20. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to note correspondence dated 07 September 2021 DAO (DoF) 06/21) from Department of Finance regarding revised Policy and Guidance on Best Practice in project delivery and engagement with the Gateway tm/Assurance Review Process – update to DAO (DOF) 02.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.25 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

Signed: **Ms D Carville**
 Director Corporate Services

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
 Independent Chairperson

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Extract from Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Wednesday 25 August 2021 at 10am in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate, Downpatrick and via Microsoft Teams

**P/078/2021: LDP : PROGRESS REPORT
QUARTERLY UPDATE**

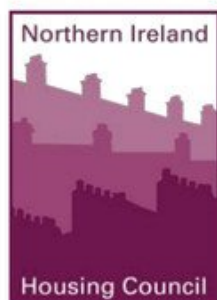
Read: Report dated 25 August 2021 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Local Development Plan – Progress Quarterly Report.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor O Hare seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed to note the LDP Progress Report Quarterly Update.**

P/079/2021: LDP: HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY REPORT 2020

Read: Report dated 25 August 2021 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer regarding the Housing Land Availability Report 2020.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor McKee it was agreed to note the Housing Land Availability Report 2020.**



Minutes of the 482nd Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 12th August 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex

Present by Video Conferencing:

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair – In the 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
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Department for Communities
David Polley	Department for Communities
Leeann Vincent	Assistant Director, (NIHE)
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

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

1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price and David Polley from the Department for Communities.</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenter, Leeann Vincent.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	

Housing Council
482nd Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

3.0	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 481st Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 10th June 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Allan Bresland, seconded by Councillor Mark Cooper and resolved, that the Minutes of the 481st Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 10th June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>It was noted that several matters arising items will being dealt with through the agenda today. Other Matters arising were as follows:-</p> <p>Page 3 Item 4.3 - Northern Ireland Federation for Housing Associations (NIFHA)</p> <p>It was noted that the Chief Executive, Ben Collins from NIFHA had agreed to attend the September Meeting to explore how NIFHA and the Housing Council can develop a closer partnership on housing matters.</p> <p>Page 3 Item 5 – Co-ownership</p> <p>It was reported that as requested a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive of Co-ownership inviting them to attend a future Meeting, a reply is awaited.</p> <p>Page 6 Item 6 – Welfare Reform</p> <p>A presentation on Welfare Reform has been arranged for the September Meeting.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p>
5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The Paper was noted.</p>	Secretary

Housing Council
482nd Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

6.0	<p><u>Housing Issues, Department for Communities</u></p> <p>Members reiterated that any documentation for Housing Council Meetings should be provided at least five working days in advance of the Meeting, in order to give Members suffice time to read and prepare associated questions.</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"> • Social Newbuild starts • Co-ownership <p>David Polley undertook to clarify whether the Housing Executive's Housing Options team signposts the Co-ownership scheme to tenants.</p> <p>Members also asked for details regarding the number of co-ownership clients who were on the social housing waiting list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme for Social Reform • Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy • Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers • Supporting People Delivery Strategy • Homelessness Strategy • Regulation of the Private Rented Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Housing Supply <p>Members requested that when the publication of the Consultation on the delivery of Intermediate Rent is launched they will hold a special meeting to receive the presentation to discuss/debate the consultation in detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Warmth Scheme <p>Members requested a joint presentation by the Housing Executive and the Department for Communities to be held as a 'special' meeting for approximately 1 hour via Webex. on the Affordable Warmth scheme, as this is 6 months into the financial year they would like to incorporate the following :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ an analysis of how many applications have been referred to the Housing Executive by Councils ➤ how many were approved and rejected by the Housing Executive 	<p>D Polley</p> <p>D Polley</p> <p>Secretary</p>
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Housing Council
482nd Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ how many has been successfully delivered ➤ to monitor the spend to date for this financial year, to see if the spend is on track at the half year mark <p>The discussions are to give Members the opportunity to see if there any anomalies at the half year mark and what can be done to improve areas of programme if necessary, in order to ensure that the budget is spent at the end of the financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent Increase • ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020 • Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax • Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework • Long term rent trajectory • Affordability of social rents 	Secretary
7.0	<p><u>Presentation on Investment in Housing Executive Stock</u></p> <p>Leeann Vincent, Housing Executive gave Members a presentation on the Housing Executive's stock investment planning, which included investment priorities, budgets, target, delivery issues and delivery completions to date. (Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>The Vice Chair Councillor Mark Cooper (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council) expressed concern of the timescales for change of tenancies and in particular the lack of communication to the tenants by local Housing Executive offices. He referred to at least 12 tenants in his area recently, who were supposedly to receive their keys in August and now being informed this has been delayed to December.</p> <p>He requested an update be provided on the reasons for these delays and why tenants are not being informed appropriately.</p> <p>Given a wide range of Members concerns in relation to Contractors performance within their areas, it was agreed that a Workshop should be arranged solely to discuss this issue further.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p>

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8.0	<u>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) by Council Area</u> Information Noted.	
9.0	<u>Asset Management Budget by Council area</u> Information Noted.	
10.0	<u>Social Housing Development Programme Progress Report – June & July 2021</u> Members noted the report as circulated.	
11.0	<u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts June & July 2021</u> Members noted the report as circulated.	
12.0	<u>Any Other Business</u>	Secretary
12.1	<u>Meetings/Workshops</u> Due to the high volume of business to be brought to the Housing Council Members for discussion and consultation over the remainder of the year, it was agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair after the meeting, that a second meetings/workshops should be held during the month, as when required, to deal with these issues individually.	
12.2	<u>Housing Executive/Department for Communities Attendance at Meetings</u> The Chair and Vice Chair have agreed that there is a void at the meetings not having the CX and DfC attending the monthly meetings. The reports will still be presented bi-monthly, reverting back to the previous practice. Therefore, feel that the Housing Executive and DfC should be in attendance at every meeting going forward.	
12.3	<u>Latharna Tower Blocks</u> Alderman Nicholl requested an update on the demolition of the site of Latharna and what the proposed options for the site when cleared.	Secretary

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13.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 9th September 2021 at 10.00 am via Webex</u></p> <p>The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 9th September 2021 via Webex.</p>	
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The Meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

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Appendix A



2021/22 Stock Investment Programme Housing Council 12th August 2021

Leeann Vincent
Assistant Director, Project Delivery

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Contents

- Stock Investment Planning
- Investment Priorities
- 2021/22 Stock Investment Budget
- 2021/22 Investment Targets
- Delivery Issues
- Delivery Completions, Year to date
- Questions

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Stock Investment Planning



The Stock Investment Programme is aimed at meeting:

- Our Landlord obligations with respect to the condition of our stock
- The appropriate regulatory or legislative housing standard
- The requirements of our own policies, standards, strategies and plans
- Emerging policy, guidelines or Departmental requirements

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Investment Priorities



- Context of significant funding shortfall
- Strategic priorities agreed with DfC:
 - Compliance/Health & Safety
 - Response Maintenance
 - Adaptations (major & minor)
 - External Cyclical Maintenance
 - Component Renewal backlogs
- Capital imps. subject to external funding
- Annual Programme Roll-On process

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2021/22 Investment budget



	2021/22 Budget
	£k
Planned Maintenance	39,081
Cyclical Maintenance	67,758
Response Void Apd Maintenance	57,758
Total Revenue Maintenance	164,597
Stock Improvements	41,238
Adaptations for Persons Disabled	10,880
Total Capital Improvements	52,118
Total Maintenance & Improvement	216,715

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2021/22 budget by Council



2021/22 Budget by Council Area	2021/22 Budget by Activity Areas					Total
	Stock Improvements	Adaptations *1	Planned Maintenance Work *2	Grounds Maintenance	Response Maintenance *3	
Belfast City	13.46	3.00	24.18	2.10	18.11	60.84
Lisburn & Castlereagh	1.29	0.93	7.91	0.90	3.11	14.14
Ards & North Down	2.50	1.75	4.84	0.58	4.06	13.75
Newry, Mourne & Down	1.15	1.21	6.21	0.53	3.73	14.83
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	9.98	1.10	6.50	0.87	5.08	23.53
Fermanagh & Omagh	0.74	0.69	5.68	0.44	2.12	9.67
Mid Ulster	0.91	0.62	4.12	0.35	1.89	7.88
Antrim & Newtownabbey	2.78	0.91	8.45	1.20	3.72	17.06
Mid & East Antrim	1.13	0.71	8.09	1.33	4.16	16.42
Causeway Coast & Glens	3.72	1.35	6.81	0.58	4.15	16.61
Donaghadee & Strabane	3.59	1.85	11.68	1.20	4.37	22.78
Total 2021/22 Budget	41.24	14.13	96.66	10.17	54.81	216.71

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2021/22 Investment targets



2021/22 Elemental Completion Targets by Council Area	2021/22 Elemental Completion Targets									
	Windows	BVRs	Kitchens	Bathrooms	Heating	ECMs	Roofs	ERDF Programme	Fence Painting	Total
Belfast City	334	2,121	-	800	1,061	2,913	72	242	3,024	10,567
Lisburn & Castlereagh	466	399	-	-	139	1,453	-	-	755	3,212
Ards & North Down	436	466	10	-	393	88	-	9	480	1,862
Newry, Moome & Down	289	546	90	87	458	927	53	-	480	2,900
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	304	481	9	40	80	1,076	36	241	960	3,237
Fermanagh & Omagh	171	601	7	64	397	651	94	-	240	2,225
Mid Ulster	-	476	84	89	311	1,005	-	-	240	2,205
Antrim & Newtownabbey	-	588	90	79	438	359	57	57	536	2,204
Mid & East Antrim	73	273	94	51	267	1,370	-	-	628	2,756
Causeway Coast & Glens	129	834	64	213	62	729	52	66	636	2,785
Derry City & Strabane	681	33	154	71	414	1,523	-	122	1,000	4,198
Total 2021/22 Elemental Targets	3,083	6,828	602	1,493	4,020	12,064	364	737	8,979	38,200

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Project Delivery Issues



- Delays in materials
- Rising cost in materials
- Successful procurement fulfilment
- Contractor labour resources capacity
- Contractor and or Tenant Covid Isolation Needs
- Utility provider delays
- Internal resources (i.e. difficulties in recruiting adequate numbers of Project Managers and Quantity Surveyors)
- Potential for a further lockdown?
- Subject to necessary scheme and business case approvals being obtained

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2021/22 Project Delivery Completions – July 2021



Workstream	Target	YTD Actual	% Complete
Windows	3,083	750	24.33%
Bathrooms/Kitchens/Rewires	6,828	2,188	32.04%
Bathrooms	1,493	386	25.85%
Kitchens	602	466	77.41%
Heating	4,020	1,337	33.26%
External Cyclical Maintenance	12,094	3,345	27.66%
Roofs	364	57	15.66%
Thermal Improvements (ERDF)	737	14	1.90%
Fence Painting	8,979	1,203	13.40%
Major Adaptations (starts)	126	35	27.78%

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SEPTEMBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 9th September 2021 at 9.30 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

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

Apologies

There were no apologies.

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:-

- Delivery of Business Plan 2021-22
- 2021/22 Budget Bid submission
- Revitalisation
- Sustainable Development Plan
- Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan
- Social Housing Development Programme
- Response and Planned Maintenance
- Mice Infestation
- Housing Investment Plans (HIPS) - Presentations to Councils
- Other Emerging Issues: Bonfires & Fire at Ulsterville Avenue / Temporary Accommodation

Contractor Performance

Several Housing Executive Officers were in attendance to answer Members questions in relation to Contractors Performance.

Update on Welfare Reform

An update on Welfare Reform was received by Catherine McFarland and Andrew Barbour from the Housing Executive.

Ben Collins Chief Executive from the Northern Ireland Federation for Northern Ireland (NIFHA)

The Chief Executive from NIFHA, Ben Collins had been invited to the Meeting to explore how NIFHA and the Housing Council can develop a closer partnership on housing matters.

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the October Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 14th October at 10.00 am via conference call.

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

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NILGA Regional Programme

September 2021- April 2022



Local Government Training Group

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Date	Time	Event	Venue	Approach	Facilitation
30th September 2021	10.30 — 1pm	Data and Evidence	Online	Workshop	NISRA, NI Local Government and Ulster University
26th October 2021	10.30 — 1pm	Civil Contingencies / Emergency Planning	Craigavon Civic Centre	Compliance	Local Government Resilience
9th December 2021	2 — 5.30pm	Climate Change Carbon Literacy	TBC	Workshop	Climate NI
13th December 2021	2 — 5.30pm	Climate Change Carbon Literacy	TBC	Workshop	Climate NI
13th January 2022	6 — 8pm	Lobbying Skills for Councillors	Ranfurly House, Dungannon	Masterclass	Chris Brown Communications
10th February 2022	6 — 8.30pm	Local Government Finance for Councillors	TBC	Masterclass	Local Government and CIPFA
24th February 2022	6 — 8pm	Code of Conduct	Online	Compliance	LG Commissioner for Standards
10th March 2022	6 — 8pm	Mental Health and Wellbeing for Councillors	TBC	Workshop	Multi-facilitation Team of MH&W Specialists
31st March 2022	6 — 8.30pm	Diversity and Inclusion Engaging Communities	TBC	Workshop	Multi –facilitation Team of D&I Specialists
7th April 2022	2 — 5pm	Scrutiny and Challenge	Antrim Civic Centre	Masterclass	APSE
22nd April 2022	2 — 5pm	Shared Leadership and Co-production	TBC	Workshop	Governance International



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Our Ref: CORR-1093-2021
Your Ref: C/109/2021

28 September 2021

Dear Marie,

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 June expressing the Council concerns over digital poverty, and how this adversely affects remote learning across your district and throughout Northern Ireland.

My Department recognises the importance of good telecommunications and the increasingly important role broadband services provide within our society. I welcome the investment by colleagues from the Department for Economy (DfE), who are responsible for the provision of broadband throughout Northern Ireland, to the ongoing development and roll out of Project Stratum. A £150 million was allocated to the project as a result of the Confidence and Supply Agreement, along with additional funding of £15m secured through the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

By way of background, Project Stratum aims to improve internet access across mainly rural areas of Northern Ireland, with an increase access to 30 Mbps or greater broadband services. This £165m broadband improvement contract has been awarded to Fibrus Networks Ltd and plans to deliver Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure to 79,000 premises that cannot yet access NGA broadband services. DfE report that 11,852 premises will be passed under by Project Stratum within the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Government District. Whilst the deployment of an infrastructure project of this size will take time to address the immediate difficulties, the project will play a vital role in transforming the connectivity landscape of many of our citizens in Northern Ireland and Fibrus has already completed extensive work in South Down, Mid Ulster and the North Coast.



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WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Furthermore, the Executive has developed the Building Forward: Consolidated Covid-19 Recovery Plan, which brings together a suite of recovery actions that, will be delivered over a 24-month period. Within this programme, is a Tackling Inequalities Action Plan, which references the strategic intent of "Addressing Vulnerability" by increasing and accelerating digital inclusion initiatives, along with a specified action to secure additional funding to extend Project Stratum.

My Department has undertaken significant investment in the provision of additional equipment and the upgrading of IT services for schools to meet the challenges arising from the pandemic. By the end of June 2021, the "Lending Digital Devices Scheme" had provided almost 25,000 new devices to our most vulnerable and disadvantage learners.

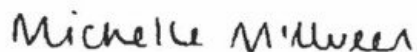
To complement the digital devices scheme, free Wi-Fi and mobile connectivity solutions were also provided to children and young people to support their online learning, including those in rural settings, who may not have had access to digital technology. Up to the end of June 2021, 7,166 vouchers and 2,342 MiFi devices had been requested and provided to learners. Schools were informed by the Education Authority (EA) that they could retain these devices for the forthcoming school year to provide ongoing support for disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils.

The scheme to provide devices to our most disadvantaged and vulnerable learners was well received by those who benefitted and the Expert Panel on educational underachievement has suggested that to support equitable access to learning, we should expand and accelerate delivery of digital devices/ broadband to learners. My officials are currently exploring delivery options.

I welcome the positive steps being taken by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council on this matter with the establishment of a Working Group to assist families gain access to online learning and broadband.

I trust you find this response helpful.

Regards



MICHELLE MCILVEEN MLA
Minister of Education