



June 29th, 2021

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 5th July 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 7 June 2021

 [Action Sheet Council Meeting 07 06 2021.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2021

 [Annual Meeting Minutes 01.06.2021.pdf](#)

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5.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 June 2021

 [Council Minutes 07.06.21.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6.0 Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2021

 [ERT Minutes 14 June 2021.pdf](#)

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6.1 Minutes of Appeal Hearing re. Boyle Bingo

 [Minutes of Appeal Hearing re Boyles Bingo 14-06-2020.pdf](#)

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7.0 Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2021

 [SPR Minutes 17.06.2021.pdf](#)

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8.0 Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2021

 [AHC Minutes 21.06.21.pdf](#)

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9.0 Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 23 June 2021

 [Neighbourhood Services Committee Minutes - 23-06-2021.pdf](#)

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10.0 Planning Section

There was no Planning Committee Meeting held in June 2021.

Minutes for Noting

11.0 Report of Special Health Meeting held on 21 June 2021

 *Report Special Health Mtg 21-06-21.pdf*

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Correspondence

12.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes - 13 May 2021

 *Housing Council Minutes 13th May 2021.pdf*

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13.0 Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - June 2021

 *Members Bulletin - June 2021.pdf*

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14.0 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - June 2022

 *Platinum Jubilee Central Weekend announcement 2021.pdf*

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15.0 Acknowledgement Letter from Taoiseach M Martin ref. NOM C.132.2021

 *Acknowledgement Letter re NOM C.132.2021.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

16.0 Notice of Motion - Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McMurray:

“That this Council endorses and supports the Fishing and Seafood Development Programme Report, as produced by the Strategic Investment Board, and presented to DAERA. To demonstrate support and continuing assistance, this Council shall:

- Send written confirmation of our support to the respective Ministers for the Departments: of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; of the Economy; of Finance.
- Request a ministerial meeting between the Minister of Finance and NMDC Senior

Management Team to ensure the business case, and the securing of funds, for this project is progressed in a timely manner.

- Establish a Project Board made up of representatives from all parties with a dedicated Council Officer to liaise between both Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie Harbours, DAERA and Ards and North Down Council to assist in the development and implementation of the respective projects within our district.
- Actively include the FSDP recommendations to develop the Blue Green Economy - and the associated requirements for skills development - within council promotions and strategies."

17.0 Notice of Motion - Motorhome Strategy

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Clarke:

"With the ever increasing numbers of Motorhome owners opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in Newcastle, Council acknowledge the signs of tension that are now growing between local residents and motorhome users. Council recognise that freedom camping has become unsustainable at some key areas, In turn this is placing operational and environmental pressure on visitor attractions originally designed for day time recreational use only. Council develop a motorhome strategy for Newry Mourne and Down Council region, encompassing Newry and the main towns and villages."

18.0 Notice of Motion - Defibrillator Provision

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Taylor:

"To ask Newry, Mourne & Down District Council to undertake a programme of engagement with local sports clubs and community organisations across the District to establish the level of defibrillator provision within their various facilities. The Council should endeavour to offer practical support to respective sporting and community organisations to increase the level of defibrillator provision and endeavour to achieve maximum capacity of this life saving equipment in all sporting and community facilities at the earliest opportunity. The Council should also develop a programme which is designed to increase the numbers of officers and volunteers within all sporting and community organisations who can perform the vital life saving skill of CPR".

19.0 Notice of Motion - Revival of Downpatrick Town Centre

Notice of Motion received from Councillors Sharvin, Trainor and Curran:

"That this council recognises the importance of supporting the revival of Downpatrick town centre post pandemic and beyond. This motion calls on council to appoint a town centre manager for Downpatrick. A Town Centre Manager who can liaise with the business community creating initiatives, opportunities and developing programmes that would support the future development of the county Town"

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20.0 Notice of Motion - Workers' Rights End Fire and Rehire

Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Hanlon:

"That this Council recognises that an unprecedented number of workers have lost, or are at risk of losing their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic; acknowledges that workers who lose their jobs should be entitled

to fair compensation and due process; agrees that the age discrimination which exists in terms of redundancy pay is unfair and should be ended; believes that employers should adhere to the normal collective redundancy consultation processes; is concerned that large unscrupulous companies particularly in the retail, hospitality and aviation sectors are using the Covid-19 crisis to by-pass collective redundancy consultation processes and are adopting the 'fire and rehire' approach to re-employ workers on worse terms and conditions; and calls on the Minister for Economy to bring forward legislation that strengthens redundancy protections for workers to protect against 'fire and rehire' and delivers on the New Decade New Approach Agreement employment commitments to improve worker's rights and entitlements".

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Mr Alan Beggs

Ms Kate Bingham

Cllr Patrick Brown

Cllr Robert Burgess

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mrs Dorinnia Carville

Cllr Charlie Casey

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Dermot Curran

Ms Alice 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

Mr Conor Haughey

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

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Harold McKee

Patricia McKeever
.....
Cllr Karen McKevitt
.....
Cllr Andrew McMurray
.....
Catrina Miskelly
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Mr Ken Montgomery
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Cllr Roisin Mulgrew
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Barra Ó Muirí
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Linda O'Hare
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Cllr Gerry 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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Mr Kevin Scullion
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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
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Cllr John Trainor
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Cllr William Walker
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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 7 JUNE 2021

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/115/2021	Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 04.05.21	The action sheet was agreed.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/116/2021	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04.05.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/117/2021	Minutes of Special Council 24.05.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/118/2021	Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 22.04.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/119/2021	Minutes of ERT Committee Meeting held on 10.05.21	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/120/2021	Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 13.05.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/121/2021	Minutes of AHC Committee Meeting held on 17.05.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/122/2021	Minutes of NS Committee Meeting held on 19.05.21	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/123/2021	Planning Committee	The extracts from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meetings held on 5 May 2021 were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/124/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes – 15 April 2021	The Bulletin was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/125/2021	Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin - May 2021	The minutes were noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/126/2021	Response from Ards & North Down Borough Council Re: NOM C/088/2021 Violence against Women and Girls	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/127/2021	Correspondence from the Minister of Health re: Provision of Additional Covid Testing Facilities	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/128/2021	Response from the Department of Communities re: LGBT	The correspondence was noted. Once the consultation opened, discussions to take place at Good Relations Forum to allow an opportunity for Members to feedback to the initial response.	Democratic Services C Moffett	Noted Noted - To be tabled for discussion at Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group once consultation opens	
C/129/2021	Correspondence from Ards & North Down Borough Council re: N.Ireland Centenary	The correspondence was noted. This correspondence to go forward for discussion at the Good Relations Forum in July 2021.	Democratic Services C Moffett	Noted Will be discussed at Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 6 July 2021	
C/130/2021	Response from Minister of Justice Re: NOM C/112/2021	The correspondence was noted.	Democratic Services	Noted	
C/131/2021	Notice of Motion – Recognition of NHS Staff	The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.	Democratic Services M Lipsett /P Tamati	Noted To AHC – 21/06/21	

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/132/2021	Notice of Motion – Humanitarian Strategy	It was agreed Newry Mourne and District Council request the United Nations to immediately implement a humanitarian strategy to alleviate the Human Right abuses in the Israel/ Palestine conflict. The large numbers of children and youth seriously impacted by this sad situation is unacceptable. Newry Mourne & Down District Council fully supports the Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions movement which continues to put pressure on the Israeli Government to cease their unacceptable treatment of the people of Palestine. Call on the Taoiseach, Micheál <i>Martin</i> and the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar to progress the Occupied Territories Bill through its stages in the Oireachtas and make it law.	M Ward Democratic Services	Letters sent	
END					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/AGM/

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Council held on Monday 1 June 2020 at 6pm in the Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid).

In the Chair in chamber:

Councillor L Devlin 6.00pm - 6.27pm
Councillor C Mason 6.28pm - 6.48pm

In attendance in chamber:

(Councillors)

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor H McKee	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

In attendance remotely:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Doran	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor K Owen	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor J Trainor

(Officials)

Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Mr J Mc Bride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

AGM/1/2021**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

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

As outgoing Chairperson, Councillor Devlin welcomed everyone to the meeting highlighting that when she took up the chain of office last year she did so in full knowledge that it would be a year like no other as she assumed the role in the midst of lockdown and did all within her power to provide leadership and calm amidst a raging storm.

Councillor Devlin highlighted the devastating impact Covid had had throughout the community acknowledging even though everyone did their best to ensure it would not overcome them and the speedy rollout of the vaccine, too many people had died and families left behind grieving their loss.

Councillor Devlin paid tribute to the outgoing Vice-Chairperson Harold McKee who so ably deputized when needed, and also paid particular tribute to the SDLP party for their confidence in her as Chair. She went on to thank council senior management team, officers, staff and in particular the team in Democratic Services headed up by Sarah who had worked so hard to ensure Council continued to operate with some semblance of normality. Lastly, she said very special thank you to Sheila Kieran for the huge role she played with such professionalism, integrity and kindness.

Councillor Devlin went on to wish Councillors Mason and Magennis the very best in their new roles in which she had every faith they would undertake with the same spirit of warmth, generosity and compassion.

Councillor Devlin highlighted that, serving as Chair had been the greatest honour of her life. She thanked everyone who had afforded her the opportunity and she looked forward to devoting herself to serving the people of the Mournes fully once more.

The outgoing Deputy Chairperson, Councillor McKee thanked the UUP for choosing him as Deputy Chairperson and thanked Councillor Devlin for doing a great job in what was a difficult year. He stated that although he did not get to fulfil the role in full and duties limited as a result of the pandemic he enjoyed his time and remembered those who had suffered at the hands of the pandemic and those who had lost loved ones and that had been hospitalised. Councillor McKee wished the incoming Chair and Deputy Chairperson well for the incoming year.

Councillors Walker, Ó Muirí, Byrne, Brown, Taylor, Tinnelly and Malone paid tribute to the way Councillor Devlin and McKee conducted themselves during what was a very difficult year acknowledging that although they were unable to attend many of the public engagements as in previous years due to the pandemic they did a fantastic job across the District and conducted themselves in a very respectful and professional manner at all times.

Members took the opportunity to welcome the incoming Chair Councillor Mason and Deputy Chair Councillor Magennis in their new roles.

The Chief Executive on behalf of the management team offered a huge thank you to Councillor Devlin & McKee, stating it had been pleasure to work with them both over the previous year in what had been very unprecedented times.

AGM/2/2021

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AGM/3/2021

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Read:

List of Statutory Positions of Responsibility (copy circulated)

AGM/4/2021

NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON TO ASSUME THE CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR ROLE

The Chief Executive called upon Councillor Ó Muirí as nominating officer for Sinn Féin to nominate a Councillor for the position of Chairperson of Council for 2021/22.

Councillor Ó Muirí nominated and proposed Councillor Cathy Mason for the position of Chairperson of Council for 2021/22. This was seconded by Councillor Magennis and subsequently accepted by Councillor Mason.

The Chief Executive called upon Councillor Ó Muirí as nominating officer for Sinn Féin to nominate a Councillor for the position of Deputy-Chairperson of Council for 2021/22.

Councillor Ó Muirí nominated and proposed Councillor Oonagh Magennis for the position of Deputy Chairperson of Council for 2021/22. This was seconded by Councillor Byrne and subsequently accepted by Councillor Magennis.

The Chief Executive stated that Councillor Mason and Councillor Magennis had been duly nominated as Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson respectively of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the year 2021/22.

Councillor Devlin vacated the Chair at this point in the meeting – 6.27pm.

Councillors Mason and Magennis assumed the Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson roles at this point – 6.28pm.

Councillor Mason, in her acceptance speech as the newly appointed Chairperson of Council for the 2021/22 term, thanked the outgoing Chair Councillor Devlin and Deputy Chair Councillor McKee for discharging their responsibilities with great professionalism and humanity in what had been a very difficult year for the District.

The newly appointed Chairperson thanked her party colleagues for nominating her to take the role of Chairperson, stating it was an honor and privilege to be chosen to lead the Council in this difficult period and looked forward to working with all Councillors, officers, community organizations and agencies to help build back from Covid and mitigate the effects of Brexit.

Councillor Mason advised the incoming year would be about Covid recovery, investing in local economy, protecting and attracting jobs, delivering a better deal for workers and families, building more affordable homes, ensuring the impact of Brexit was mitigated as much as possible and to ensure a sustainable infrastructure to enjoy the natural world across the District. She stated that Covid had had a huge impact on social and personal

well-being and the need for local fit-for-purpose health services was now needed greater than ever.

Councillor Mason stated she looked forward to working with Councillor Magennis as Deputy Chair in what was a big year ahead presenting many challenges and hopefully many opportunities.

Councillor Magennis, in her acceptance speech, thanked the outgoing Chair Councillor Devlin and Deputy Chair Councillor McKee for all their hard work over the last year in very challenging times. She thanked her own party Sinn Féin for proposing her for the role and thanked her family who had been a great support throughout her tenure as Councillor so far.

Councillor Magennis said she was delighted to be Deputy Chair and to working closely with her colleague Councillor Mason, highlighting it was a testament to both their abilities and changing times that two women had been selected for those roles.

Councillor Magennis stated she had no doubt the incoming 12 months would continue to be a challenge as the last year had been a testing one for all and as a Slieve Gullion Councillor she hoped that the strong strategic alliance with counterparts on Louth County Council continues to grow. Cross-border cooperate was essential and Covid had made that close connection even more necessary.

The Chief Executive offered her congratulations to Councillor Mason and Councillor Magennis on their nominations as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Council and stated that she looked forward to working closely with them in the year ahead.

The Chief Executive then called upon the nominating officers of each of the parties to nominate to the following statutory positions of responsibility. The nominations were made by the respective nominating officers and formally accepted by the nominees as follows:

Chair of ERT

Councillor Howell

Proposed by Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis

Deputy Chair of ERT

Councillor Andrews

Proposed by Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Devlin

Chair of AHC

Councillor McKeivitt

Proposed by Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Walker

Deputy Chair of AHC

Councillor Casey

Proposed by Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason

Chair of NS

Councillor Owen

Proposed by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Taylor

Deputy Chair of NS

Councillor Finnegan

Proposed by Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis

Chair of SPR

Councillor Hanlon

Proposed by Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Mason

Deputy Chair of SPR

Councillor Brown

Proposed by Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly

Chair of Planning

Councillor McAteer

Proposed by Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Devlin

Deputy Chair of Planning

Councillor Enright

Proposed by Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly

AGM/5/2021

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES - 2021/22 (LIST ATTACHED SHOWING APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE BY QUOTA OF GREATEST REMAINDER AND REMAINING POSITIONS TO BE FILLED USING d'HONDT.)

Read:

List attached showing appointments to be made by Quota of Greatest Remainder and remaining positions to be filled using d'Hondt

The Chief Executive advised it had been agreed to use the default method of Quota of Greatest Remainder for appointment to Committees, with the remaining 12 positions being allocated by the d'Hondt method. The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and Independent Members were then asked to put forward their picks.

The UUP had the first 2 picks, the remaining positions were confirmed as follows:

UUP	Planning and NS
Councillor Malone	AHC
Councillor Reilly	ERT
Councillor Tinnelly	AHC
Councillor Gibbons	ERT
Councillor Enright	Deputy Chair of Planning
Councillor Malone	AHC
Councillor Reilly	SPR
Councillor Tinnelly	SPR
Councillor Gibbons	Audit
Councillor Enright	Audit

The Chief Executive advised that the remaining names for committee selection should be given to democratic services by close of play Tuesday 2 June 2021.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the appointments to Committees using d'Hondt (copy of Committee List 2021/22 appended to these minutes)

AGM/06/2021:

APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BOARDS/BODIES AND COUNCIL COARDS/BODIES

Read:

External and Council Bodies List (Copy circulated)

Noted: It was agreed to note the External Bodies and Organisations List (excluding Statutory Positions of Responsibility) (copy of External Bodies and Organisations List 2021/22 appended to these minutes).

AGM/07/2021: SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES 2021/22

Read: Scheme of Allowances 2021/22 (Copy circulated)

Noted: **It was agreed to note the Scheme of Allowances 2021/22 (copy of Scheme of Allowances 2021/22 appended to these minutes).**

AGM/08/2021: SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR INCOMING YEAR

Read: Schedule of meetings for incoming year (Copy circulated)

Start times for the Schedule of Meetings for the year June 2021-May 2022 to be agreed at the first meeting of each Committee.

Noted: **It was agreed to note the Schedule of meeting for the incoming year (copy of Schedule of meetings for incoming year appended to these minutes).**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.42pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 June 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 D Curran	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Owen	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

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

C/113/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Savage.

The Chairperson referred to the recent identification of a small number of probable cases of the Delta variant of Covid 19 in Kilkeel. She said the Public Health Agency were currently in the area and testing centres and an operational base had been set up in Kilkeel over the weekend. She asked that it be put on record, her huge thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to encourage residents to get tested which resulted in more than 1000 people being tested between Saturday and Sunday.

The Chairperson said she had been to the site and witnessed first-hand the professional operation the Council had facilitated, and she paid tribute to Mrs Ward for her leadership which had resulted in Council responding swiftly to the situation.

The Chairperson extended her best wishes to Mrs Sheila Keenan from Warrenpoint Road, Newry who would celebrate her 100th birthday tomorrow.

In acknowledging her new role as Chair of Council, Councillor Mason said one of her main themes would be mental health and well-being. She said that for the duration of her term each Council meeting would begin with a key theme relating to mental health and well-being. She said she would give a short overview of the theme of the month and then set the chamber a task relating to it. She said she hoped, given the importance of the topic, that Councillors would get on board and take part, using social media to post about carrying out their tasks to help raise awareness.

The Chairperson said the topic for this month would be for Members to focus on their own mental health and well-being. She said their role as Councillors carried a lot of stress, which had only been exacerbated during the past year.

The Chairperson asked Members that they each focused on their own thoughts and feelings and they take some time out each week to do one thing to look after their own mental health and well-being, whether it was spending time in nature, connecting with friends, getting active or even something as simple as reading their favourite book. She asked that they post it on social media, post why they were doing it, tag Newry Mourne & Down page and use the hashtag 'NMDMentalHealthMatters'.

The Chairperson reiterated that her door was always open if anyone wished to speak to her about any concerns they may have.

The Chairperson advised Members that as per the schedule of Committees, there would be no Committees in July, but there would be a Council Meeting.

Councillor Reilly said there was a lot of confusion around how to book a test in Kilkeel at the various sites and asked for clarification on the booking process. Mrs Ward advised that the mobile test unit located at Kilkeel Leisure Centre was available for booking on the online platform, however people who had been directly contacted by the PHA did not need an appointment and could go directly to the other sites in Kilkeel.

C/114/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Owen declared an interest in Item No. 19 – Notice of Motion – Recognition of NHS Staff.

C/115/2021 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2021

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

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

Councillor Reilly asked if a response had been received from DfI Roads regarding the underspend in the District on roads maintenance.

Mrs Ward advised that all responses were tabled at Council Meetings, however a review of the responses would be undertaken and an update would be provided to Councillor Reilly.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/116/2021

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2021

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

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

C/117/2021

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2021

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 May 2021 (copy circulated).

Councillor McMurray asked how the setting up of the conference as agreed at the meeting would be progressed.

Mrs Ward advised him that discussions had already taken place regarding this and it would be tabled at a future SPR Committee Meeting, possibly in August.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 24 May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/118/2021

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2021

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Casey.

C/119/2021

MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2021

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/120/2021 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2021**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2021 (copy circulated).

SPR/068/2021 Action Sheet arising from Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2021

Councillor Stokes said that Councillor Savage, in his absence, had asked him to clarify what he had requested at the Committee Meeting; he was eager to protect the various projects within the Newry City Regeneration particularly in relation to Newry Civic Centre and that if Plan A was not feasible, a Plan B should be developed.

Councillor Stokes stated that Newry Councillors had met with the parish last week and they were not supportive, and it was important to see these projects through to fruition and protect them, therefore a plan B would need to be developed.

Mrs Ward advised that the public consultation had just concluded, and this issue could be raised via the Programme Board.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2021, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/121/2021 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2021**

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 May 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

C/122/2021 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2021**

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

NS/083/2021: Request to Lease Units attached to Public Toilets

Councillor Andrews asked if officers could look at the points raised in relation to Downs Road and consider a short terms lease if the timescale wasn't realistic in delivery of Changing Places for those buildings for the remaining term of Council.

In response, Mr McBride said he would be happy to look at this, however, he pointed out the recommendation had been that no action

be taken.

NS/084/2021: *Enforcement Improvement Plan*

Councillor O'Hanlon referred to the bird proof litter bins for coastal areas and asked that she be included in any updates relating to this.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 May 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.**

PLANNING

C/123/2021 **PLANNING MINUTES**

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meetings held on 5 May 2021.

Noted: **The extracts from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meetings held on 5 May 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Murphy.**

FOR NOTING

C/124/2020 **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES APRIL 2021**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 15 April 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 15 April 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

C/125/2021 **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – MAY 2021**

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

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

C/126/2020 **RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM ARDS & NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOM C/088/2021 - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Read: Correspondence dated 10 May 2021 received from Ards & North Down Borough Council re NOM C/088/2021 – Violence against Women and Girls (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

**C/127/2021 RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH RE:
PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL COVID TESTING FACILITIES**

Read: Correspondence dated 11 May 2021 from the Minister of Health re: Provision of Additional Covid Testing Facilities. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

**C/128/2021 RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES
RE: LGBT COMMUNITY**

Read: Correspondence dated 17 May 2021 from the Department of Communities re: LGBT Community.

Councillor Byrne asked that once the consultation had opened, discussions could take place within the Good Relations Forum, so they could feed into the initial response before it came back to Committee.

Agreed: **Once the consultation opened, discussions to take place at Good Relations Forum to allow an opportunity for Members to feedback to the initial response.**

The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

**C/129/2021 CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS & NORTH DOWN BOROUGH
COUNCIL RE: N. IRELAND CENTENARY**

Read: Correspondence dated 24 May 2020 from Ards & North Down Borough Council re: N. Ireland Centenary.

Councillor Taylor asked that this correspondence be discussed at the Good Relations Forum. Mrs Ward said this item would go forward for discussion at the Good Relations Forum in July.

Agreed: **This correspondence to go forward for discussion at the Good Relations Forum in July 2021.**

The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

**C/130/2021 RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM MINISTER OF JUSTICE RE. NOM
C/112/2021**

Read: Correspondence dated 27 May 2021 from the Minister of Justice re: NOM C/112/2021 re: Accessing Healthcare Services.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/131/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – RECOGNITION OF NHS STAFF

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

"This Council should recognise NHS staff for their service during the Covid-19 pandemic, with a gesture of discounted use of council facilities such as gyms, swimming pools, tennis courts and leisure centres for a period of one year. I would suggest a minimum of at least a 50% discount on charges, possibly free of charge completely."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Walker.

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

C/132/2021

NOTICE OF MOTION – HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY, ISRAEL/PALESTINE CONFLICT

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

"I am calling on Newry Mourne and District Council to request the United Nations to immediately implement a humanitarian strategy to alleviate the Human Right abuses in the Israel/ Palestine conflict. The large numbers of children and youth seriously impacted by this sad situation is unacceptable. There is an urgent need for a unified International agreement to offer senior arbitration to resolve this situation before it gets out of control and leads to another full-scale war and prevent further atrocities".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Brown.

Councillor Murphy thanked Councillor Malone for bringing the motion to Council and spoke at length about the issue and his experience following a visit to the West Bank as part of a humanitarian group in 2004 where he witnessed firsthand the human impact of Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people living occupied territories. He added the indiscriminate targeting of civilians and infrastructure and continued acquiring of territory by force undermined peace and was a violation of international law and a breach of UN Security Council Resolutions. Councillor Murphy stated the international community and Irish Government had a duty to help end the crisis, address poverty, inequality and injustice. He referred to a motion tabled and passed in the Oireachtas on 26 May 2021 condemning the de facto annexation of the Palestinian land by Israeli authorities.

Councillor Murphy highlighted the need for more action by Governments and various groups and the next stage was to make the purchasing of goods and services from Israeli settlements illegal.

Councillor Murphy proposed the following amendment to the motion to read as follows:

"I am calling on Newry Mourne and District Council to request the United Nations to immediately implement a humanitarian strategy to alleviate the Human Right abuses in the Israel/ Palestine conflict. The large numbers of children and youth seriously impacted by this sad situation is unacceptable. Call on the Taoiseach, Micheál *Martin* and the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar to progress the Occupied Territories Bill through its stages in the Oireachtas and make it law".

Councillor Enright seconded Councillor Murphy's amendment.

Councillor Malone agreed to accept Councillor Murphy's amendment.

Councillor Reilly spoke against the motion commenting it was absurd that Newry, Mourne and Down District should concern itself with peace in the Middle East when there were matters unresolved in the District and made comments on hypocrisy of Sinn Féin.

Councillor McMurray stated whilst he welcomed the original motion, he would be unable to support the amendment to the motion without knowledge of the Bill and that the Alliance Party supported the two-state solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Councillor Taylor commented the amendment took away from the impartiality of the motion and therefore could not support the amended motion.

Councillor Walker also stated he would not be supporting the amended motion.

Councillor Byrne stated he felt the wording of the original motion went far enough and that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council should be condemning and putting out its position on the matter.

Councillor Ó Muirí advised he was fully supportive of the amendment to the motion and was proud to represent a party that stood up to Human Rights abuses, internationally and at home. He stated the amended motion called on Council to put out a statement on where it stood on the issue.

Councillor Enright spoke at length on the amendment and the need to focus on international law and how he would like to see Council have discussions on similar action to apartheid and boycott on Israeli products produced on annexed land.

Councillor Tinnelly spoke at length about the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement which works to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law. Councillor Tinnelly wished to put forward a further amendment.

Councillor Byrne proposed a recess to consider Councillor Murphy's amended motion. This was seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

The meeting did then recess at 18.55pm.

The meeting did then resume at 19.06pm.

Councillor Byrne asked that Councillor Murphy retract the wording of his amendment relating to the Occupied Territories Bill.

Councillor Murphy's amended motion, seconded by Councillor Enright was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

FOR:	19
AGAINST:	7
ABSTENTIONS:	10

The Motion was declared CARRIED.

Councillor Tinnelly proposed a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Enright to read as follows:

"I am calling on Newry Mourne and District Council to request the United Nations to immediately implement a humanitarian strategy to alleviate the Human Right abuses in the Israel/ Palestine conflict. The large numbers of children and youth seriously impacted by this sad situation is unacceptable. Newry Mourne & Down District Council fully supports the Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions movement which continues to put pressure on the Israeli Government to cease their unacceptable treatment of the people of Palestine. Call on the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin and the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar to progress the Occupied Territories Bill through its stages in the Oireachtas and make it law".

Councillor Tinnelly's amendment was accepted by Councillor Malone and was put to a vote and the voting was as follows:

FOR:	27
AGAINST:	7
ABSTENTIONS:	2

The Motion was declared CARRIED.

Agreed:	<p>It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Enright, that Newry Mourne and District Council request the United Nations to immediately implement a humanitarian strategy to alleviate the Human Right abuses in the Israel/ Palestine conflict. The large numbers of children and youth seriously impacted by this sad situation is unacceptable. Newry Mourne & Down District Council fully supports the Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions movement which continues to put pressure on the Israeli Government to cease their unacceptable treatment of the people of Palestine. Call on the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin and the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar to progress the Occupied Territories Bill through its stages in the Oireachtas and make it law.</p>
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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 as ratified by Council, subject to any conflict of interest or legal advice that the decision is unlawful.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.18pm
For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 July 2021.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting
held on Monday 14 June 2021 at 6.00pm remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell
Deputy Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

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

Non Members: Councillor G Malone
 Councillor C Mason
 Councillor J Tinnelly

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

ERT/103/2021: APOLOGIES / CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Councillor W Clarke

ERT/104/20201: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest.

**ERT/105/2020: START TIMES
ERT COMMITTEE MEETINGS
JUNE 2021 – MAY 2022**

Read: Paper recommending proposed dates and start times for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings from June 2021 to May 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McMurray seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed the start time for ERT Committee Meetings from June 2021 - May 2022 will be 6pm.

**ERT/106/2021: ACTION SHEET
MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION &
TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 10 MAY 2021**

Read: Action Sheet arising out of the Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 May 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 10 May 2021.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**ERT/107/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor G Malone and Councillor M Gibbons:

I refer to recent announcements by the Government on its proposals to provide additional funding to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales totaling £800m. This

funding is to replace lost EU funding and will target Town / City Centre regeneration etc. I am calling on the Council to set up a committee including Councillors, Senior Management Officers, Chambers of Commerce, Newry BID, Voluntary Sector, etc, to develop an innovative strategy and action plan to maximize our opportunities with this substantial pot of money. I also request that the Council's number one priority ie, 'The People's Park' on the Albert Basin site be seriously considered as a priority for this funding."

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on additional funding from Government. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Malone asked when the last Meeting of the Economic Forum was held and requested to be provided with a copy of the Minutes of same.

He also proposed the following Amendment to the Notice of Motion:

That a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum be convened to which all Members of the ERT Committee be invited, to discuss the Levelling Up Funding Strategy, and that a comprehensive paper be circulated in advance of the meeting outlining all opportunities offered by this funding initiative, in order that Councillors and Economic Forum members can be prepared to table suggestions, and also a timetable of future application dates for Levelling Up calls for submissions, to be tabled at the above said meeting.

Councillor Gibbons seconded the Amendment.

The Chairperson suggested a recess to allow Members to consider the Amendment to the Notice of Motion.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Burgess it was agreed to take a recess to allow Members time to consider the proposed Amendment to the Notice of Motion.

18.14 – The meeting adjourned.

18.23 – The meeting resumed.

The Chairperson read out the Amendment as proposed by Councillor Malone and seconded by Councillor Gibbons:

That a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum be convened to which all Members of the ERT Committee be invited, to discuss the Levelling Up Funding Strategy, and that a comprehensive paper be circulated in advance of

the meeting outlining all opportunities offered by this funding initiative, in order that Councillors and Economic Forum members can be prepared to table suggestions, and also a timetable of future application dates for Levelling Up calls for submissions, to be tabled at the above said meeting.

Councillor Mulgrew referred to the work done by officers to identify funding streams for a range of projects. She said the park development was a key project for Newry City and that it was important Members are aware that progress was being made regarding all elements of the regeneration of Newry City; a consultant's report would be tabled at the next Programme Board Meeting followed by a stakeholder engagement and the consultation has closed on the overall regeneration for the City. She said she had no issue with any Councillor being invited to an Economic Forum or other Committees within Council structures.

Councillor Stokes said it was important we ensure funding is secured and he was happy to proceed with meetings.

Councillor Gibbons asked if Council had missed the first bid for Levelling Up Fund as he understood bids had to be submitted by 18 June 2021.

Mr Mallon explained it had been agreed at ERT Committee May 2021 the Council would not submit a bid in June 2021 for Levelling Up Fund but continue with work to prepare robust applications bids for future rounds of funding from the Levelling Up Fund.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to accept the Amendment to the Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor Malone and seconded by Councillor Gibbons, that a Special Meeting of the Economic Forum be convened to which all Members of the ERT Committee be invited, to discuss the Levelling Up Funding Strategy, and that a comprehensive paper be circulated in advance of the meeting outlining all opportunities offered by this funding initiative, in order that Councillors and Economic Forum members can be prepared to table suggestions, and also a timetable of future application dates for Levelling Up calls for submissions, to be tabled at the above said meeting.

Councillor Malone thanked the Chair and Members for supporting the amended Notice of Motion. He said he was aware that a number of other Councils had applied for the first round of funding.

ERT/108/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION
RE: MENTAL HEALTH – COVID RECOVERY STRATEGY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillor C Mason and Councillor O Hanlon:

"This Council is alarmed at the findings of the recent Down Business Centre Survey which revealed the impact that Covid-19 has had on local self-employed and notes that the two-thirds of small businesses in the Newry Mourne and Down Council area and over a third of business owners have experienced major or severe mental health problems as a result.

This Council will ensure that the mental health services, support and resources are made a priority within the Covid-19 recovery strategy.

This Council will create specific action plan for supporting the mental health of our business owners and local self-employed."

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Notice of Motion on provision of mental health services in the Covid Recovery Strategy. **(Copy circulated)**

Councilor Mason spoke of the existing mental health crisis society was facing which has been greatly exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic and as restrictions begin to ease it was critical that appropriate support was in place for both providers and those seeking help and she highlighted the importance of a dedicated, regional and all island plans brought forward as a matter of urgency and that Council plays its part with this. She referred to the Down Business Centre survey of local employees which re-emphasized the need for a plan for mental health support as it revealed stark figures for those affected by Covid 19 and how their mental health has suffered as a result and she stressed the need for Council to engage as soon as possible and offer meaningful support for the local self employed sector.

She welcomed the recommendations contained in the Officers Report that a financial support programme would be put in place through the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group, for businesses and communities to avail of mental health support and help staff deal with the negative impact of Covid.

Councilor Mason asked that Council continue to communicate directly with businesses to address the long term problem arising from the pandemic and expressed thanks to the officers for bringing forward the report.

Mr McGilly referred to Reports of Covid Working Group Meetings which would be tabled later in the Meeting which outlined plans to set aside a funding package for organisations, the community and private sector to avail of for mental health support which currently is available through mainstream Health Service programmes. He said consultations with local private sector representatives and bodies identified a need to address the issue both for entrepreneurs and business owners but also staff.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the content of Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, in regard to the Notice of Motion relating to additional funding to ensure:

This Council will ensure that the mental health services, support and resources are made a priority within the Covid-19 recovery strategy;

This Council will create specific action plan for supporting the mental health of our business owners and local self-employed.

BUSINESS PLANS / GOVERNANCE

ERT/109/2021: **ERT DIRECTORATE: BUSINESS PLANS**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism, regarding assessment of Emergency Business Plan October 2020 to March 2021 and Directorate Business Plan 2021-22. **(Circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve:

- The assessment of the ERT Emergency Business Plan (October – March 2021)
- The ERT Directorate Business Plan 2021-22.

ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & REGENERATION

ERT/110/2021: **BUSINESS START UP SCHOOL**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration regarding Council's involvement and support in Rebel Business School – Rebel on Demand Virtual Platform, and 4C UR Future event in 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

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

- Council to support a 6 month free pilot programme with the Rebel Business School – Rebel On Demand Virtual

Platform, providing support to businesses who are at the pre-start, start-up and early start up stage.

- **Council to enter into a collaboration agreement with 4C UR Future for delivery of a 4C UR Future Live event in Council area in spring 2022. The approximate cost to support the event will be £3,000.**

ERT/111/2021: ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, capital funding for the pilot On Street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS).
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the request to procure consultancy services to investigate the feasibility of identified sites in order to work towards the submission of a full application to Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).**

Councillor McMurray asked for clarification on the number of electric charging points the funding would provide and the financial viability of engaging consultants and the possibility of providing the necessary expertise in-house.

Mr McGilly said the research would determine the number of charging points and required and locations, and this information will be reported back to Members in due course.

With regard to the use of consultants the Council would need to decide whether to explore establishing a dedicated post to undertake this work.

Mr Mallon said a dedicated resource may be required in-house to deliver on various other similar schemes going forward however it would be premature to make a recommendation for additional staff at this stage.

This is a unique fund targeted at on-street charging points where people who own an electric vehicle but who cannot park and charge on their own property. He said criteria requires the charging points to be on public land and the necessary infrastructure needs to be in place to power the charging points therefore work must be carried out on this bid to ensure the scheme will meet criteria.

ERT/112/2021: ERDF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding an update on ERDF Digital Transformation Programme.
(Copy circulated)

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

- (a) To sign the collaborative agreement with all 11 Councils subject to review and commentary from Council's legal team.**
- (b) To approve a budget allocation of £35,000 in total for the duration of the programme, with £17,500 allocated in 2021/22 and £17,500 allocated in 2022/23.**

ERT/113/2021: GREATER NEWRY AREA BUSINESS AWARDS

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding a request for support for the Greater Newry Area Business Awards 2021 to be held on Thursday 09 September 2021 in the Canal Court Hotel Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed Newry Mourne & Down District Council support the Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade by being the main sponsor of the Greater Newry Area Business Awards event to be held Thursday 09 September 2021 in the Canal Court Hotel Newry.

ERT/114/2021: LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding an update on progress on the Newry Mourne and Down District Labour Market Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to proceed as follows regarding the establishment of an LMP Unit:

- (a) **Submission of a strategic assessment and action plan to Department for Communities for the establishment of a Local Labour Market Partnership.**
- (b) **To accept a letter of offer from the Department for Communities for the implementation of a local Labour Market Partnership.**
- (c) **To approve Business Cases for LMP activity and proceeding to procurement of the required deliver agents (including where relevant the establishment of Service Level Agreements), which will enable implementation of LMP activity.**
- (d) **To establish an LMP resource following Council HR policies and procedures.**
- (e) **To note for 2021/2022 delivery NMDDC are able to apply for a budget from Department for Communities of up to £669,209.96, inclusive of programme delivery costs and 20% allocation to administration / resourcing.**

NOTED: Councillor Andrews asked of Officers could explore similar schemes in tandem with the Labour Market and other agencies to help people get placements within the Council organisation and other public sector departments.

**ERT/115/2021: LUNASA FESTIVAL 2021
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding a Service Level Agreement for the Lunasa Festival 2021.
(Copy circulated)

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

- (a) **To note that NMDDC through the AONB Partnerships, the Lunasa Festival Working Group have delivered an annual festival since 2015 (with the exception of 2020 due to Covid)**
- (b) **To approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with the Lunasa Festival Working Group, with the working**

group Chairperson nominated as lead on behalf of the working group, for the period May 2021 – October 2021, for the total of a maximum of £25,000. Budget has been profiled from within existing Tourism budgets (£20,000), and Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Legacy Fund (£5,000).

- (c) The delivery of the 2021 Lunasa Festival will be subject to favourable covid-19 easing of restrictions. The event organisers must comply with all current health and safety guidance at time of event delivery.

**ERT/116/2021: WARRENPOINT FRONTSHORE
PUBLIC REALM SCHEME**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration, regarding the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme – Task & Finish Steering Group Meeting held on 04 June 2021.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to accept the recommendation arising from the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Task & Finish Steering Group Meeting held on 04 June 2021 as follows:

- (a) Agree the Public Realm Design proposals as presented by AECOM, with inclusion of the suggested adjustments / amendments following consideration of the Public Consultation Report.
- (b) Proceed to submission of a Planning Application for the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme and shared with the Task & Finish Steering Group and wider public when available.
- (c) Complete an Economic Appraisal seeking Council match funding for consideration at t future Council meeting, in advance of formal submission to the Department for Communities.
- (d) Progress discussions with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority in regards future works to the Breakwater.

- (e) Extend AECOM appointment and develop & approve a Business Case to enable Breakwater design works RIBA Stages 1-3, at a projected cost up to £20,000, from the Council's own existing Capital Budget, to be undertaken to allow a separate DfC Economic Appraisal to be completed and Planning Application submitted.
- (f) Proceed to procurement and appointment of Interpretation Plan consultants within the available budget of £15,000, with design costs to be covered from the Council's own existing Capital Budget, with the agreed Interpretation elements to be delivered via the DfC funding subject to Economic Appraisal approval.
- (g) DfI to advise when the local community will be informed of the next steps following the completed One Way System study for Warrenpoint.

TOURISM CULTURE & EVENTS

ERT/117/2021: ANNALONG HARBOUR SEAFLAG

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Annalong Harbour Seaflag funded elements: Harbour NE and NW Quays Repointing Works / Slipway & Boat Car Park Repairs.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to proceed as follows:

- (a) Council to note approval of funding from the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) of the North West and North East Quay Restoration and Slipway/Boat Car Park Wall Works and the requirement to provide 20% match funding of £16,117 from its Harbour Repair and Harbour EI Capital Budgets.
- (b) Council to now accept FLAG letter of offer and approve the relevant Business Cases before proceeding to appoint its Framework Contractor to carry out the North West and North East Quay Works and Slipway/Boat Car Park Wall repair.

**ERT/118/2021: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
TOURISM EVENT AND ARTS**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding funding to support Tourism and Arts Festivals and Events being planned later in 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed Council open a Financial Assistance funding call to support Tourism and Arts Festivals and Events that are being planned for delivery from September 2021 to March 2022, with all applicants required to demonstrate strict adherence to Covid regulations via the submission of detailed event management plans, risk assessments and public liability insurance, etc.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

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

ERT/119/2021: INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EVENTS 2022

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding International Tourism Events 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

**ERT/120/2021: REPORT OF COVID RECOVERY WORKING GROUP
MEETINGS:
- 25 MAY 2021 / 07 JUNE 2021**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding Reports of Covid

Recovery Working Group Meetings held on 25 May 2021 and 07 June 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

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

ERT/121/2021: **KILBRONEY TRAILS: THE FALLOWS WALK PHASE 2**

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding Kilbroney Trails – The Fallows Walk Phase 2. **(Copy circulated)**

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

ERT/119/2021: **International Tourism Events 2022**

AGREED: To provide a letter of support, in principle, to the promoter of the International Tourism Event in 2022.

ERT/120/2021: **Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meetings**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed to approve funding from the Covid 19 Recovery Reserves for the following, as per the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on 25 May 2021:

- Public Rights of Way Maintenance
- Tourism Sector Support
- Tourism Events
- Newry & Mourne Museum, Down Museum Engagement
- Golf Tournament

It was also agreed to approve funding from the Covid 19 Recovery Reserves for the following, as per the Covid 19 Recovery Working Group Meeting held on 07 June 2021:

- Application to NIEA Challenge Fund for AONBs
- Community Centres Additional sanitisations systems
- Community Centres Additional programmes
- Be Active Cup – District Wide Junior Soccer Competitions
- COVID and Capacity Training for Sports Clubs
- COVID Equipment for 16 Sports Pavilions

- Additional Resources for Suicide Prevention financial call
- Additional Resources for Men's Health/Mental Health initiatives
- Economic Recovery Support for BME Community in the midst of Brexit
- Minority Support Bulgarian Interpreter
- Minority Support Romanian interpreter
- Minority Support Arabic interpreter
- Minority Support ESOL classes for BME
- DEA Programme The Check in, Check up and Check it out Awareness Raising Campaign
- DEA Programme Mental Health Roadshow
- DEA Programme Youth Media Programme
- Sports capital minor - funding shortfall
- Sports Capital major - funding shortfall
- Additional sports capital minor

ERT/121/2021: Kilbroney Trails: The Fallows Walk Phase 2

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Gibbons seconded by Councillor McMurray it was agreed as follows:

1. To approve the Business Case for Fallows Phase 2 which is based on blend of funding from DAERA and match funding from Councils capital programme.
2. To appoint a contractor to carry out the Fallows Phase 2 based on receiving a successful funding bid to DAERA and receipt of letter of offer which is part of an application currently being considered.

FOR NOTING

ERT/122/2021: ANNALONG HARBOUR NORTH PIER WALL RESTORATION

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events, regarding Annalong Harbour North Pier Wall Restoration. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the update and change to the commencement of the Annalong Harbour North Pier repair works and at a future Council Meeting, consider an amended Business Case outlining the change to the delivery programme and Consultant/Contract cost

implications, as a direct result of storm damage in February 2021, once additional costs are fully detailed.

ERT/123/2021: COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the UK Community Renewal Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note as follows:

Officers will continue to work with Southern Regional College (SRC) and South Eastern Regional College (SERC) to develop a Digital Literacy Project.

Council to be named as a partner in support of the Colleges joint application.

If successful, Council to help promote the programmes and skills interventions available to residents and businesses across the District.

ERT/124/2021: FISHING & SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the Fishing & Seafood Development Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the above Report and Officers continue to liaise with DAERA and NIFHA, NIFPO, ANIFPO, etc, to progress the report findings to the next stage and establish a robust governance structure to ensure ongoing engagement as the projects move through various stages of development.

ERT/125/2021: ERT HISTORIC ACTION TRACKER

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes To note the Historic Action Tracker Report for Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee.**

ERT/126/2021: UPDATE RE: IRISH STREET REGENERATION PROJECT

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding an update on the Irish Street Regeneration Project. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes It was agreed to note the Report of the Irish Street Regeneration Working Group Meeting held on 27 May 2021.**

ERT/127/2021: REPORT OF LOUTH / NMD STRATEGIC ALLIANCE 24 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Report of Louth / Newry Mourne & Down Strategic Alliance meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the Report of Louth / Newry Mourne & Down Strategic Alliance meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2021.**

ERT/128/2021: MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Read: Report dated 10 May 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Covid 19 Revitalisation District Wide Marketing Campaign. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the media**

campaign and the images which have been developed and presented in the presentation attached to Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding the Covid 19 Revitalisation District Wide Marketing Campaign.

ERT/129/2021: PLANNING PERFORMANCE

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

AGREED: To note the Planning Performance Figures for May 2021.

ERT/130/2021: VISITOR MANAGEMENT SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAGIN

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr A Patterson Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the visitor management social media campaigns.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Tourism Culture & Events regarding the visitor management social media campaigns

ERT/131/2021: WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL PARK

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment & Regeneration regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park National Lottery Heritage Funding.
(Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to note the Action Report arising from the Steering Group Meeting held on 06 May 2021 regarding Warrenpoint Municipal Park.

Mr C Mallon read out 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 concluded at 7.21pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 July 2021.

Signed: Councillor R Howell

Chairperson of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

Signed: Mr C Mallon

Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism Committee

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Appeal Hearing re: Application for Amusement Permit by Boyle
Bingo held on Monday 14 June 2021 at 5.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor R Howell

In attendance: (Committee Members)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor D Curran
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor A McMurray
Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Stokes

(Non Committee Members)

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor McKevitt
Councillor H McKee

Officials in attendance: Mr C Mallon Director Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism
Mr C Jackson Assistant Director Building Control & Regulation
Mr F O Connor Head of Legal Administration
Mr F Quinn Head of Licensing & Enforcement
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr E Connolly BID
Mr Liam Boyle Boyle's Bingo

APOLOGIES

No apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest.

APPEAL HEARING

RE: APPLICATION FOR AMUSEMENT PERMIT BY BOYLE BINGO PREMISES AT 36a MERCHANTS QUAY NEWRY

Read: Report dated 14 June 2021 from Mr C Jackson Assistant Director ERT regarding an application from Boyle Bingo for an Amusement Permit for premises at 36a Merchants Quay Newry. **(Circulated)**

Mr Jackson explained Sections 4 and 5 of the Council's Gaming and Amusement Policy was amended in 2013 to cap the number of amusement permits being granted within the District.

He explained the basis on which the applicant would propose to object to the officer recommendation to refuse the application, ie:

- 1) This is a regularisation of a legacy anomaly rather than a new application
- 2) This is not a new application
- 3) There are no new machines
- 4) There will be no additional signage
- 5) The application was submitted after investment in the premises to facilitate social distancing for Covid restrictions.

He advised that the above statements were technically incorrect explaining as follows:

- The existing premises operated as Bingo Hall for many years with a section for gambling machines ancillary to the main purpose of the Bingo Hall however the premises has never been granted an Amusement Permit by Council and therefore must be treated as a new application.
- Gaming machines were operated under the Bingo Licence and under this Legislation an Amusement Permit for Gaming Machines is not required for commercial bingo clubs therefore existing machines were exempt under this Legislation.

- The applicant advises the new area is to be run and managed separately from the Bingo Hall area - presently there is no licence for these premises therefore it is considered a new location.
- The plans submitted indicate there are additional machines.
- The Amusement area is separate from the Bingo Hall and therefore under the Legislation, signage will be required.
- A Building Control application was submitted in 2017 – showing a new layout. This was prior to Covid restrictions.

Mr Jackson explained the purpose of the permit application is to enhance the opening hours beyond that of the Bingo Hall, ie, premises to be open 7 days per week, 9am to 3am.

Mr Jackson pointed out the Licencing Department did not receive any objections in relation to this application during the public consultation process.

He asked Members to refer back to Policy which was amended to restrict the number of Amusement Permits in the District, and on this basis it was recommended to refuse this application.

He said should the Council decide to refuse the application, the applicant had the right to appeal this decision to the County Court.

Mr Eamon Boyle then gave a 10 minute presentation raising the following points:

- Boyle Bingo are a major employer in the District
- The application is not a new Licence but a regularisation of an historic anomaly.
- Gaming machines have been on the site for 25 years under the existing Bingo Licences with no issue.
- An original planning application in relation to a derelict building was submitted in 2016 which did not envisage any change in relation to gaming.
- An application was made for gaming licence in February 2021 to enable social distancing under Covid restrictions, triggering objection under current policy.
- The decision is being appealed on the grounds of the anomaly.
- There shall be no extra machines; this is not an extra location; no additional signage ; no objections/complaints following public advertisement;
- All staff receive appropriate training with risk supervised in a regulated format.
- Long standing partnerships with local partners ie, Chuan Mhuire who have provided endorsements commending operations.

- The business is committed to continuing best practice and are willing to engage with Council to ensure a service is offered to the local community and invest and protect jobs.

Councillor Mulgrew asked that it be noted she had visited the premises noting the extension is not significant in size and it is proposed to move machines rather than providing new machines. She referred to additions and mental health and said she received assurances staff training was provided and people would be given support and guidance.

With regard to new signage, Mr Connolly said while there would be no additional external signage affecting the curtilage of the public realm, but there would be internal signage compliant with regulations.

Mr Connolly and Mr Boyle left the meeting and discussion followed.

Councillor Mulgrew proposed and Councillor Savage seconded not to accept the Officers recommendation to refuse an Application for an Amusement Permit by Boyle Bingo for premises at 36a Merchants Quay Newry, and support the business Boyles entertainment.

Councillor McMurray proposed to accept the Officers recommendation.

The proposal was put to a vote by way of a roll call, and voting was as follows:

For:	10
Against:	1
Abstentions:	0
Absent:	4

The proposal was declared carried.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Savage it was agreed not to accept the Officers recommendation to refuse an Application for an Amusement Permit by Boyle Bingo for premises at 36a Merchants Quay Newry. The Committee voted in favour of granting the Amusement Permit.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.25pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 July 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 17 June 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)****In the Chair:** Councillor O Hanlon

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor R Howell
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker	

Also in attendance:

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor H McKee
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor K McKeivitt

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR & Safeguarding
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates & Capital Projects
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Employment & Regeneration
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy
Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director Finance
Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager
Mrs K Bingham, Head of Performance & Improvement
Mrs L Fitzsimons, Human Resources Manager
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/84/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Gallagher.

SPR/85/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Savage declared an Interest in Item 25 – Communications and Marketing Activities in Response to Covid-19 (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

SPR/86/2021: TO AGREE START TIMES FOR SPR COMMITTEE MEETING FROM JUNE 2021 TO APRIL 2022

Read: Copy of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting Dates and Times (Copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded

by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings would commence monthly at 6.00pm.

SPR/87/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 13 MAY 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 May 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2021, be approved.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/88/2021: SOCIAL MEDIA AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Social Media and Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown stated that the report did not differentiate enough between employees and Elected Representatives. He stated that part of the role of Elected Representatives was their right to scrutinise and constructively criticise where necessary the functions of Council as part of the democratic process. He asked whether officers had consulted with the National Association of Councillors and whether the policy had been benchmarked with those of other Councils as the policy made no reference to elected members' freedom of speech and expression.

Councillor Sharvin queried who had access to the social media platforms and asked what would be foreseen as an emergency as outlined in 15.4 of the social media procedures.

Councillor Ó Muirí stated that he could not stress highly enough the need for a social media policy to protect and safeguard against bullying and it should not be used as a platform to criticise, as words can be misinterpreted. He highlighted the various ways that concerns could be raised without posting automatically on social media.

Mrs Mackin responded to the queries as follows:

- 9.2 contained within the procedures stated that everyone has right to freedom of speech which was balanced not only with legislation but also with what was generally acceptable. She stated that Council had a duty of care towards employees and Elected Members.
- Council had not consulted with National Association of Councillors, but had carried out considerable consultation and looked at best practise across a number of other Councils both large and small. She highlighted that under 8.6 of the report the guidance for Councillors, social media and code of conduct is available.
- The Communications and Marketing team were responsible for the day to day management of the Corporate social media channels with other Directorates being responsible for management of any social media channels specific to their own directorate, however guidelines were applicable to all.

- With regards to 15.4 of the social media procedures relating to purdah, an example would be a very major accident or fire, this would be deemed as a true emergency where the Chairperson would be permitted to issue a statement or a comment.

Councillor Brown proposed that Council consult with the National Association of Councillors before passing the policy, this was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal to a vote the results of which were as follow:

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 10

The proposal was LOST

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Doran, to approve the draft Social Media and Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure.

SPR/89/2021: DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Directorate Business Plans. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Savage welcomed the inclusion of the 'Housing Needs Conference' within quarter 3 of the plan and questioned whether the knock-on effect of Covid on delivery times of new builds and completion of much needed renovation and maintenance works would be added into the plan going forward. He highlighted it was very important to include the spiralling cost of building materials to ensure the Department of Communities and Housing Executive were taking steps to mitigate against this to ensure schemes were able to be delivered.

Councillor Sharvin acknowledged the IT team and the manner in which they adapted quickly throughout the pandemic to allow Council to continue as an organisation.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the Assessment of the Chief Executive's and Corporate Services Emergency Business Plans (October 2020 – March 2021) and the Chief Executive's and Corporate Services Directorate Business Plans 2021-22.

SPR/90/2021 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2021-22

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to approve the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 (including the five performance improvement objectives), Consultation and Engagement Report 2021-22 and Objective Delivery Plans 2021-22.

SPR/91/2021: REPORT RE: THE CREATION OF A NORTHERN MUTUAL BANK

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding the creation of a Northern Mutual Bank **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown thanked the officers for all their hard work in liaising with the campaigners and bringing the motion back to committee.

Councillor Sharvin welcomed the clarity that was received around the investment of money.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to agree to support the campaign for the implementation of a Northern Mutual Bank and for a Councillor to join the Advisory Committee.

SPR/92/2021: CENTENARY COMMEMORATION OF THE OPENING OF THE ULSTER TOWER – 20 NOVEMBER 2021

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower – 20 November 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Walker proposed an amendment to the recommendation to replace Councillor Owen with himself as she was no longer a member of the DUP, this was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Byrne stated he could not support the amendment as it was unfair to remove a Councillor because political allegiance had changed.

Councillor Taylor asked Councillor Walker if contact had been made with Councillor Owen to see if she was content to be taken off the planned trip. Councillor Walker confirmed no contact had been made with Councillor Owen but at the initial AGM when it was discussed who would attend it was agreed that over the course of the term the representatives would be 3 DUP, 3 UUP and 2 SDLP to attend.

The Chairperson clarified with the Democratic Service Manager that it was a DUP position.

Councillor Walker stated that he would contact Councillor Owen after the meeting and confirm with Democratic Services if she still wished to attend and if so he would be happy to pay for himself to attend, in addition to the four named Councillors proposed in the paper.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Taylor, to approve 4 places be booked to attend the Ulster Tower Centenary Commemoration event 18-21 November 2021, with Councillor Walker to confirm if Councillor Owen will be attendance. If confirmed that Councillor Owen wished to attend, it was agreed that Councillor Walker could also attend, however, he would be paying the cost himself.

SPR/93/2021: REQUEST FOR NAMES TO BE ADDED TO KILLYLEAGH WAR MEMORIAL

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services, regarding request for names to be added to Killyleagh War Memorial **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Taylor, to approve the request for 5 names as listed in 2.6 of the officer's report to be added to the Killyleagh War Memorial.

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SPR/94/2021: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS GENERAL MANAGEMENT MEETING

Read: Correspondence received in relation to National Association of Councillors General Meeting. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Doran, to approve the request for Councillor Casey to attend as Vice-Chair of National Association of Councillors.

FOR NOTING

SPR/95/2021: SICKNESS ABSENCE REPORT JUNE 2021

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, Human Resources Manager, regarding Sickness Absence Report June 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/96/2021: FRIENDS OF THE SOMME – YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION 2021/2022

Read: Correspondence received dated 26 May 2021 in relation to Friends of The Somme – Yearly Subscription 2021/2022 **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/97/2021: NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD

Read: Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting – 13.04.2021 and Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Workshop – 4 May 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown proposed that NCCR minutes were brought immediately to the next Strategy Policy and Resources Committee meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

Mrs Carville confirmed that as soon as the minutes of the project board meeting were agreed they were brought to the next available SPR meeting and that was the practise happening

currently. She advised that Councillor Brown's comments could be brought back to the Project Board but there was a process to be followed to reach agreement before the minutes were tabled in front of a committee.

Councillor Brown confirmed it was his understanding that minutes were going to the next NCCR meeting before going to the next Committee meeting for ratification therefore causing a bottle neck.

Councillor Byrne clarified as joint chair of the Project Board that the minutes were tabled at the next available SPR meeting so long as they were ratified by members of the Project Board prior to the committee meeting.

The Chairperson asked whether Councillor Brown's proposal still stood in relation to clarity on how NCCR minutes were ratified.

Councillor Brown confirmed that he had received clarification on the minutes and his proposal no longer stood.

Councillor Brown proposed that it was the understanding of the Councillors of the committee that discussions related to the civic centre location between Council officers and the parish were requested to be kept confidential by Council officers, not the parish. This was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly

Mrs Carville advised that Councillor Brown should not make a proposal without the evidence to support it, and further advised that the Chief Executive had written to Councillor Brown on the matter relating to discussions between council and the parish.

Councillor Brown stated the letter received from the Chief Executive did not fully clarify the matter and felt that his proposal should stand.

Councillor Sharvin confirmed he had not seen the letter sent by the Chief Executive nor was he privy to the decisions on who it would have been that decided to keep any discussions private so would not be in a position to make a decision on it.

Mrs Carville confirmed in response to query raised by Councillor Sharvin that the public consultation had closed and a timeline for the outworking would be presented to the Project Board meeting next week.

Councillor Savage asked whether the Project Board and the SPR committee, on the back of the consultation report and other solution reports, would draw the conclusion that the civic centre hub element was potentially undeliverable or fraught with difficulty. He asked whether it would be prudent therefore to investigate other sites across the city as a plan B that had since become available.

Mrs Carville advised it would be wrong to speculate until the outworking of the public consultation were made known.

Councillor Byrne put on record that he had received no correspondence whatsoever from the parish nor had sight of any letters from the parish.

Councillor Walker left the meeting during the above discussions – 7.09pm

Councillor Tinnelly stated he found it hard to believe that Chair of the Project Board had not had sight of any letters, and that the church was totally against the siting of the new civic centre at the back of the Cathedral.

Councillor Doran left the meeting at this point – 7.16pm

The Chairperson asked Councillor Brown to clarify his second proposal:

Councillor Brown confirmed his proposal was to agree collectively that the understanding of the councillors of this committee was that discussions with the parish around the Civic Centre location were requested to be kept confidential from Councillors by council officers, not the parish. Councillor Brown requested a recorded vote.

Mrs Carville clarified as previously advised that the position of officers was that it was agreed between the parties involved that those meetings would be confidential.

Councillors Taylor, Byrne, Savage and Hanlon raised concerns at Councillors being asked to make a decision on something they did not have full knowledge about.

Councillor Byrne proposed a recess to consider Councillor Brown's proposal. This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

The meeting did then recess at 7.29pm.

The meeting did then resume at 7.35pm.

The Chief Executive, on a point of order, advised all Councillors that this was not a matter to be dealt with at committee as it was an allegation against an officer and if any members had a complaint against an officer they should refer it to the Chief Executive and go through the appropriate procedure.

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote the results of which were as follows and are appended to these minutes:

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 4
ABSTAIN: 6

The proposal was LOST

Councillor Tinnelly proposed that Council agree only to proceed with the Civic Centre Hub element of this project when there was written confirmation received from Newry Cathedral parish that they support the proposals, and when confirmation was received that the majority of respondents to the public consultation were supportive of the proposals. This was seconded by Councillor Brown.

The Chief Executive reminded members that it was the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee that put in place the governance procedures around the management of one of the most strategic projects in the Council and the appropriate forum for discussion on this initially would be through the Programme Board and back into the SPR. She advised that the Public Consultation had just closed and members had not yet had sight of the outworking of this consultation, therefore any decision taken prior to any further works or information provided would probably be pre-emptive and would need to give consideration to the financial implications of such a decision.

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote the results of which were as follows and are appended to these minutes:

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 7
ABSTAIN: 2

The proposal was LOST

Councillor Savage confirmed he would write to the Chief Executive to seek clarity as to why there appeared to be two different version of events and withdrew any previous proposal.

The Chief Executive stated she would be happy to discuss matters in relation to officers in a confidential manner as she would expect all Councillors to believe as appropriate.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 13 April 2021 and Workshop held on 4 May 2021.

Councillors Taylor and Savage left the meeting at 7.48pm

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 Brown, 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/98/2021: FORKHILL FORMER BARRACK SITE – REPORT OF SLIEVE GULLION

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr J McGilly Assistant Director Enterprise Employment and Regeneration, regarding Forkhill Former Barrack Site – Report of Slieve Gullion. **(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 Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

1. Council reply to DFC acknowledging the correspondence following the completion of the public consultation process and reaffirm its continuing commitment to work with them and others to take forward the overall development of the site.
2. Given the ongoing maintenance issues with the former play area/toilets Bog Road leased site (which is not in Council ownership), acquisition of the remaining green central acreage of the Forkhill Site presents an

opportunity to work with the local community to develop a grassed/planted open space area under full Council maintenance and management.

3. Officials to approach funders to work with Council and the local community to help develop and fund green space proposals for future community use and enjoyment of the Forkhill Former Barracks Site.
4. Council to ensure that any transfer of lands from DFC to Council is at Nil Cost as previously discussed at the outset of the DI process.
5. Relevant Council Departments to be mindful of the site in regards future leisure/play/sports plans and strategies that they are developing.

SPR/99/2021: BANN ROAD CASTLEWELLAN – STORM ATTENUATION PROJECT

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management regarding, Bann Road Castlewellan – Storm Attenuation Project **(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, that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- 3.1 Members to note the content of the report and approve to add this project to the Capital Programme.
- 3.2 Based on the costs estimate provided by our consultant approval of a budget of £95,000 be assigned to the capital programme for this project.

SPR/100/2021: REQUEST FROM PHA FOR NATIONAL TESTING PARTNERSHIP VENUE IN DOWNPATRICK (WALK – IN TESTING FACILITY)

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management, regarding request from PHA for National Testing Partnership Venue in Downpatrick (Walk-In Testing Facility) **(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 Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- That members consider the content of the report.
- Members confirmed their agreement to continue discussions with the PHA for the potential leasing of the all-weather play area at Down Leisure Centre, for the purposes of a 'walk-in' Covid-19 test centre for up to 6 months.
- A further report to be brought to this Committee prior to the end of the first 3 months to determine if Council wishes to exercise our rights to terminate the lease after the first 3 months.

SPR/101/2021: REGULARISATION OF IDOX PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Regularisation of IDOX Procurement and Contractual arrangements **(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 Byrne it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following:

To consider the attached business case and approve the regularisation of the procurement and contractual arrangements for a five-year term with the incumbent supplier, utilising Lot 2b of Crown Commercial Service Framework Agreement RM3821, as a compliant procurement vehicle to direct award existing service continuation.

SPR/102/2021: RATES SUPPORT GRANT 2021/2022

Read: Report dated 17 May 2021 from Mrs D Carvill, Director of Corporate Services regarding Rates Support Grant 2021/2022 **(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 Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members note the officer's verbal update provided and the contents of the letter attached, and together with other affected Councils contact the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Finance to express this Councils concern at the reduction of Rates Support Grant to Councils and request its immediate reinstatement to previous level of support.

SPR/103/2021: SITING OF BEE-HIVES ON FORMER COUNCIL LANDFILL SITE AUGHNAGUN

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Siting of Bee-Hives on former Council landfill site at Aughnagun. **(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 Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Byrne, It was agreed that Elected Members approve the following:

- i) A valuation is obtained to assess the licence fee payable for use of the Council Lands at Aughnagun by the bee-keeping group, following which approval is then Sought from the Department for Communities for the granting of the Licence agreement at a nominal sum.

SPR/104/2021: LICENCE AGREEMENT WITH DRUMANESS SNOOKER CLUB

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Services (Acting), regarding Licence Agreement with Drumaness Snooker Club **(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 Elected Members approve the following:

- i) That approval be given to a 10-year Licence agreement with Drumaness snooker club at an annual rate of £1,000 subject to Departmental approval being obtained of the lower rate payable in respect of the annual licence fee.

SPR/105/2021: LICENCE OF STRIP OF LAND AT DOWN LEISURE CENTRE

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Services (Acting), regarding Licence of strip of land at Down Leisure 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 Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following:

- i) That approval to be sought from the Department for Communities for the granting of the Licence agreement for the operation of a cycling hub at a nominal sum and a Licence agreement is then entered into with Cycling Ireland;

SPR/106/2021: **PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT AMERCAM LANE, CRANFIELD, KILKEEL TO NI ELECTRICITY NETWORKS**

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Services (Acting), regarding proposed lease of lands at Ameracam Lane, Cranfield, Kilkeel to NI Electricity Networks. **(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 Reilly It was agreed that Elected Members approve to grant a Lease to NIEN of the lands outlined in red on the Map as per the officer's report, for the term of 99 years subject to a one-off premium of £1000.00.

FOR NOTING

SPR/107/2021: **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO MARCH 2021**

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Management Accounts to 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: It was agreed to note the Management Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

SPR/108/2021: **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (1 APRIL 2021 – 31 MARCH 2021)**

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Communications and Marketing Activities in Responses to Covid-19 (1 April 2020 – 31 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: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SPR/109/2021: **DRUMEE ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN**

Read: Correspondence received dated 9 June 2021 from Department for Infrastructure, regarding Private Roads within Newry Mourne and Down District Council (**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 Byrne, it was agreed to note the contents of the report, and to write to the Divisional Manager and seek clarity in the correspondence received by Council.

SPR/110/2021: **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY: MATERIAL SHORTAGES AND PRICE INCREASED – POTENTIAL IMPACT TO COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Read: Report dated 17 June 2021 from Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates and Project Management (**Copy circulated**)

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

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

Mrs Carville, on behalf of the Chief Executive read the following statement:

"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 concluded at 20.54pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 July 2021.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2021

**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on
Monday 21 June 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson: Councillor K McKevitt

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor C Casey	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor V Harte
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor McEvoy	Councillor McMurray
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker	

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews Councillor G Hanna

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

AHC/111/2021: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Trainor.

The Chairperson thanked Councillors McEvoy and O'Hare for their work as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in the past 12 months and wished them well.

AHC/112/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/114/2021:

Mr Lipsett confirmed Council had a policy in place, established by the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for agreements with clubs who wished to take lease or management arrangements for Council pitches throughout the District.

Mr Lipsett added Council would encourage any club that wished to do so, to come forward and officers would work through the process with them.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 May 2021.**

AHC/115/2021 **NOTICE OF MOTION – DISCOUNTED USE OF COUNCIL FACILITIES FOR NHS STAFF**

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Notice of Motion referred from Council Meeting held on 7 June 2021 regarding discounted use of Council facilities for NHS staff.

Councillor Hanna presented and proposed his motion as follows:

“This Council should recognise NHS staff for their service during the Covid-19 pandemic, with a gesture of discounted use of council facilities such as gyms, swimming pools, tennis courts and leisure centres for a period of one year. I would suggest a minimum of at least a 50% discount on charges, possibly free of charge completely.”

Councillor Hanna advised he had brought the motion to Council to allow all Councillors the opportunity to express their gratitude in a practical way to all NHS Staff who stepped up to the mark when the pandemic started in March 2020. He spoke at length about the care delivered to the sick and dying during the pandemic and how all NHS staff put caring of patients before their own personal safety.

Councillor Hanna spoke about how nurses, doctors, porters and medical staff were the only human contact with patients during COVID-19 illness, holding many hands of patients who lost their battle with the disease. Many NHS staff had contracted the virus and there were NHS staff who had lost their lives caring for victims of the pandemic and they should not be forgotten.

Councillor Hanna stated he believed Newry, Mourne and Down District Council needed to deliver recognition to NHS staff in a way that would be to the physical and mental well-being of the dedicated health workers.

Councillor Walker seconded the motion.

Councillors Ó Muirí, Sharvin, McMurray and Lewis all spoke in support of Councillor Hanna's motion.

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

- 1. That Councils Corporate membership is reviewed and tabled at the next AHC Committee for approval.**

2. That the review of Councils Corporate membership includes a 50% discount for NHS workers for a period of 12 months.

DIRECTORATE

AHC/116/2021

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Annual Assessment of Directorate Business Plan 2020-21 Emergency Business Plan October 2020-March 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

In presenting the report, Mr Lipsett commended the work of officers within the Department throughout the most difficult of circumstances with COVID-19.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the assessment of the Active and Healthy Communities Emergency Business Plan (October 2020-March 2021) and the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2021-22.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/117/2021

DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

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

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

- The Mournes DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Wednesday 2 June 2021.
- Downpatrick DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 8 June 2021.
- Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 8 June 2021

AHC/118/2021 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DFC) FOR FRONTLINE ADVICE SERVICES

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement, regarding additional funding from the Department for Communities (DfC) for Frontline Advice Services. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to note the report and agree to award the additional funding of £113,258.64 from the Department for Communities (DfC) to 'Community Advice Newry, Mourne and Down', alongside funding of £292,539.00 for Generalist Advice Services for 2021/2022.

AHC/119/2021 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB (CCH) UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Coordination Hub Update Report. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding any plans to carry out another financial call later in the year, Mrs Hillen advised that a Call 4 would exceed the current procurement electronic grant management system, and that the current plan was not to go out to Call 4, but that Call 1 would be issued in January 2022.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet of the Community Coordination Hub Meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

AHC/120/2021 UPGRADE WORKS TO BALLYNAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE AND MARKET HOUSE, BALLYNAHINCH

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding upgrade works to Ballynahinch Community Centre and Market House, Ballynahinch. **(Copy circulated)**

In welcoming the proposal Councillor McEvoy spoke of Ballynahinch Olympic, and how there had been proposals in the past, however the club did not have permanent facilities within its own town. She commented that any further pieces of work should try to ensure that teams were not left behind, and that Council consult with local sports teams regarding their needs.

Mr Lipsett provided an overview as to why the proposal for a site behind Ballynahinch Community Centre could not be progressed.

Mr Lipsett assured Members work continued in looking for potential for 3G pitch throughout Ballynahinch, and that it was being examined though the Sports Facilities Strategy and the review of Sports Hubs and a report would be presented to Committee at some point in the future.

In response to a query from Councillor Walker regarding the steel structure element of the Market House, Ballynahinch, Mr Lipsett undertook to report back to Councillor Walker with an update.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lewis to accept the proposals for the Market House and begin reconfiguration works immediately (approx. cost £20,000) and accept option 2 as the preferred option for the upgrade to Ballynahinch Community Centre and develop subsequent business case (to include community consultation) for proposed scheme.

AHC/121/2021 SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY TRUST DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT THE REAR OF THE INDOOR 3 G PITCH SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Saintfield Community Trust developing a community garden at the rear of the indoor 3 G pitch Saintfield Community Centre.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McMurray to proceed with approval for Saintfield Community Trust to develop a community garden at the rear of the indoor 3 G pitch Saintfield Community Centre and update the Trusts Facility Management agreement to include the Community Garden.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

AHC/122/2021 CONSULTATION ON RATIONALISATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROL SHELLFISH BIOTOXIN AND PHYTOPLANKTON MONITORING POINTS IN CARLINGFORD LOUGH

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr E Devlin Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a consultation on the rationalisation of official control shellfish biotoxin and phytoplankton monitoring points in Carlingford Lough. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to submit the consultation response (attached to the report) to the Food Standards Agency on the proposed guidance on the rationalisation of official control shellfish biotoxin and phytoplankton monitoring points in Carlingford Lough.

AHC/123/2021 FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2021/22

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Food Service Plan for 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy to adopt the Food Service Plan 2021/22, as attached to the officer's report.

AHC/124/2021 CONSULTATION FROM DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY ON POLICY OPTIONS FOR NI ENERGY STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding consultation from the Department for the Economy on policy options for NI Energy Strategy.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to return the consultation response as attached to the officer's report to the Department for the Economy on Policy options for NI Energy Strategy.

AHC/125/2021 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM ACTION SHEET – 20 MAY 2021

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Action Sheet held on 20 May 2021.

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding requests for potential locations for wildflower planting, Mr Devlin advised a programme for rewildings had been carried out and that Councillor Sharvin should forward proposed areas to Mr Devlin directly or to the Council's Biodiversity Officer.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Sharvin to note the report and approve the action contained within the action sheet from the Sustainability & Climate Change Forum Meeting which took place on Thursday 20th May 2021.

AHC/126/2021 SHIP SANITATION CHARGES 2021/22

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding the implementation of the new pricing structure (2021/22) for charging for the issuing of Ship Sanitation Exemption and Control Certificates from 1 April 2021.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McMurray to implement the new charging regime with effect from 1 April 2021.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AHC/127/2021 DOWNPATRICK NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership update report.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the report and Minutes of the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021, approved at the Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 11 May 2021.

AHC/128/2021 NEWRY NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership update report.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the report and Minutes of the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021, approved at Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Meeting held on Wednesday 12 May 2021.

AHC/129/2021 POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding the Policing and Community Safety Partnership report.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on Tuesday 30 March 2021, approved at the Policing Committee & Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 25 May 2021.

AHC/130/2021

SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding the Social Investment Fund Update.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the report and Minutes from the Social Investment Fund Board Meeting held in April 2021.

AHC/131/2021

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding an update on Social Inclusion work.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the report on Social Inclusion Work.

AHC/132/2021

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT APPLICATION

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a letter of support for electric vehicle infrastructure project application.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the report and letter of support for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project Application, which had already been submitted to ESB in order to meet the deadline of 18 June 2021.

AHC/133/2021

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PSNI IN RELATION TO ENFORCEMENT OF CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing, regarding a Memorandum of Understanding and Information Sharing Agreement between the Council and the PSNI.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the report regarding the Memorandum of Understanding and Information Sharing Agreement with PSNI.

AHC/134/2021

SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding the Summer Activity Programme planned for July and August 2021.

On behalf of Councillor Devlin, Councillor Gallagher enquired if the revised schedule for General swimming lessons at Tropicana, Newcastle going ahead.

Mr Tamati advised it was anticipated Council could deliver swimming lessons at Tropicana week commencing 19 July 2021, subject to recruitment.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Walker to note the summer activity programme for July and August 2021 as per appendix 1 of the officer's report, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

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

AHC/135/2021

LEISURE ADVERTISING AND MARKETING PROVISION

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

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding Leisure Advertising and Marketing Design Services.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to approve:

1. The Business Case as per appendix 1 for Leisure and AHC directorate Marketing and Design Support services and approve the procurement via public tender for these services and supplies.

2. That officers undertake the appropriate evaluation of the above public tender in line with procurement guidelines and appoint a preferred bidder and enter into a contract for up to 3 years to the value outlined in the business case as per appendix 1.

AHC/136/2021

KILKEEL BOWLING PAVILION – PUBLIC TENDER

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

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mr Paul Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport, regarding a public tender for upgrade works to Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McMurray:

1. To appoint the preferred bidder with a bid as outlined within the report for repairs and upgrade works to Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion.
2. An additional allocation to the capital programme for Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion to align the budget with the final tender costs as outlined within the report.
3. For officers to agree the terms and enter into a contract with the preferred bidder, subject to AHC and full Council ratification.

AHC/137/2021

BUSINESS CASE TO PROCEED TO NEXT STAGE OF THE REPLACEMENT TROJAN HORSE PROPOSAL

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to exclude the public

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

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding the proposed replacement of the Trojan Horse Community Facility and Upgraded Play Park, Downpatrick.

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to provide the additional funding as detailed within Section 1.1 of the officer's report required for the completion of the necessary checks and progression to full planning application.

Councillor Casey left the meeting at this point – 7.09pm.

Councillor Harte left the meeting at 7.14pm.

AHC/138/2021 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – SAINTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs Janine Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding expressions of interest for Saintfield Community Centre.

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

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to proceed and approve the officer's report and recommendation to:
- Advise both applicants that they had passed the scoring threshold and ask them to provide evidence of the funding/statutory approvals to carry out the works as outlined in the EOI process.
"Each applicant will be allowed 12 - weeks from stage 2 award to provide such evidence, failure to provide this after 12 weeks will make any award/contract null and void"
 - If both parties were able to provide the evidence of suitable funding that the Council split Building B into two smaller units which would allow one applicant to utilise building C and one to utilise one half of building B. This would allow both applications to proceed.

AHC/139/2021

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

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

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement, regarding Financial Assistance.

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

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor O'Hare to approve the following:
- For the four Service Level Agreements to undertake 20% financial verification on a quarterly basis with 100% review of their Outcome Based Accountability.
 - Approval of the enclosed business case including the budget requirements over the procurement period as detailed in Section 4.1 of the report.
 - Approval for recommendations outlined in 1.1 above in relation to the Financial Assistance Policy.

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.”

As this was the first meeting as Chairperson of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Councillor McKeivitt welcomed all new members to the Committee.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.18pm.

Signed: Councillor K McKeivitt
Chairperson

Signed: Michael Lipsett
Director Active and Healthy Communities

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor W Walker

Deputy Chair: Councillor A Finnegan

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

Non-Committee Members: Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor A McMurray

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
Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement
Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

NS/092/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Taylor.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that for his incoming year as Chair he would ask Members to treat officers with the utmost respect; that he would only allow a Member to speak once on an issue unless it was on a point of order and that he would allow non-Committee Members to contribute but only after all Committee Members had spoken.

NS/093/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/094/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2021

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

Issues raised

- In response to a query from Councillor Andrews regarding the distribution of bio-degradable caddy bags for Councillors, Mr McBride said there was currently insufficient stock to meet all demands and at a minimum it would be August before there was sufficient to distribute to Councillors. However he said the Department may be able to accommodate Councillor requests on a case by case basis.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

NS/095/2021: START TIMES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS JUNE 2021- MAY 2022

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings start at 6.00 pm for June 2021-May 2022.

NS/096/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 REVIEW AND BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr J McBride, providing the Committee with a review of the six-month Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan (2020-21) and seeking Committee approval for the NS Directorate Business Plan (2021-22). *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to approve the review of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan (October 2020 to March 2021); and to approve the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan (2021-22).

NS/097/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES RECOVERY PLAN

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr J McBride, providing the Committee with an update on the service recovery plan for the Neighbourhood Services Directorate's services as COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approved the Neighbourhood Services service recovery plan.**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/098/2021: SCOPING EXERCISE FOR PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: scoping exercise for the Council's Public Toilet Strategy. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- A request that the public conveniences at Downs Road Newcastle and The Square, Warrenpoint be used for the provision of changing places facilities.

Mr Scullion advised the purpose of the Scoping Exercise would be to air Councillors mixed views and take these on board as part of the mapping exercise.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to agree to the setting up of a Public Toilet Scoping Exercise under the terms detailed in section 2.3 of the report.**

NS/099/2021: PROPOSED MEMORIAL GARDENS LANDSCAPE SCHEME

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: proposed memorial gardens landscape scheme. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to recommend approval of the choice of locations for both Memorial Gardens as outlined in the report and the implementation of the proposed design for each site.**

Members, including Councillor Tinnelly who had originally put forward the proposal for a memorial gardens scheme, thanked the officers and Mr Jonathon Ellis, for the work

they had put into this project. Councillor Tinnelly said he was delighted to see this report being tabled at Committee and said clearly a lot of thought had been given to the design, layout and symbolism of the trees. He said the proposed memorial gardens would be appreciated by families right across the District.

NS/100/2021: APPLICATIONS FOR BUS SHELTERS IN CROSSGAR AND SAINTFIELD

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: application received for the relocation of a bus shelter in Crossgar and an application for the erection of a new shelter in Comber Street Saintfield. ***(Circulated)***.

Issues raised

- Mr Scullion arrange for the relevant officer to update Councillor Murphy on request for a bus shelter at Whitecross
- Concerns at what might happen if the site of the bus shelter at Downpatrick Street, Downpatrick was re-developed in the future

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note contents of this report and to approve the recommendations in Appendix 1 circulated for the erection of a bus shelter at Comber Street Saintfield and the relocation of a shelter at Downpatrick Street, Crossgar.**

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/101/2021: PROVISION OF RESTRICTED ACCESS LITTER BINS

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: provision of restricted access litter bins. ***(Circulated)***.

Issues raised

- A request that Killyleagh and Dundrum be included on the list for these bins; also Newcastle Promenade up to the Harbour; Warrenpoint, Kilkeel, Rostrevor and Cranfield; Ardglass
- Mr White confirmed that the tender for the bins had been issued on 23 June and there would be a 2-week period for returns, followed by a 2-week period of assessment. He estimated it would be a minimum of 6 weeks before any bins might be put in place.

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

It was also agreed officers email Councillors to ascertain what areas they would like the bins to be placed in and these requests would then be assessed and Councillors advised of the outcome in due course.

NS/102/2021: REFUSE COLLECTION ESCORT VEHICLES UPDATE

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr P Whyte, re: refuse collection escort vehicles update. *(Circulated)*.

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

FOR NOTING

NS/103/2021: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – 27 MAY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – 27 May 2021. *(Circulated)*.

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was also agreed that a report on the availability of compost from brown bin collections to community and environmental groups, be tabled at the August Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee. In the interim officers would email Councillors advising them of the availability of this compost and the processes to be followed.**

NS/104/2021: Arc21 JC MINUTES – 29 APRIL 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 29 April 2021 *(Circulated)*.

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

NS/105/2021: THE LOW ROAD, NEWRY (ABANDONMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2021 – S.R. 201 NO. 148

Read: Correspondence dated 4 June 2021 from DfI re: The Low Road, Newry (Abandonment) Order (NI) 2021 – SR 2021 No. 148. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- In response to a query from Councillor Finnegan asking if direct contact had been made with the owner of the land to advise of the proposed abandonment, Mr McBride said the proposal was being made by DfI and they had provided contact details in their correspondence which Members could use if they had any queries. In relation to concerns that the area was used for illegal dumping and who would be responsible for this if the area was abandoned, Mr McBride advised that it was the responsibility of the owner to remove any illegally dumped material on their property.

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

It was also agreed Mr L Dinsmore revert to Councillor Finnegan on the issue of any illegally dumped material at this location.

NS/106/2021: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

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

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 were 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 Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.

NS/107/2021: ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 29 APRIL 2021

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 29 April 2021. *(Circulated)*.

NS/108/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr J McBride re: Neighbourhood Services Directorate Action Plan Update. *(Circulated)*.

NS/109/2021: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL – USE OF A SUITABLE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE SUPPLY OF LIQUID AND SOLID FUELS

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr J McBride re: economic appraisal – use of a suitable national framework for the supply of liquid and solid fuels. *(Circulated)*.

NS/110/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING APRIL 2021

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: business case for Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting held on 15 April 2021. *(Circulated)*.

NS/111/2021: BUSINESS CASE TO PROCEED WITH PHASE 2 EXTENSION OF KILBRONEY MUNICIPAL CEMETERY AND REFURBISHMENT WORKS TO PHASE 1

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: business case to proceed with Phase 2 Extension to Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery and refurbishment works to Phase 1. *(Circulated)*.

NS/112/2021: BUSINESS CASES £30,000 TO £100,000 UNDER FACILITY MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: business cases £30,000 to £100,000 under Facility Management and Maintenance Department. *(Circulated)*.

NS/113/2021: BUSINESS CASES FOR MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF COUNCIL FACILITY CCTV

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: business cases for the maintenance and monitoring of Council facility CCTV.

NS/114/2021: FLEET OPERATORS LICENCE UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr T Daly, re: Fleet Operator's Licence Update and Action Plan. *(Circulated)*.

NS/115/2021: BUSINESS CASES FOR SUPPLY OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS MATERIALS FOR USE BY IN-HOUSE BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TEAMS

Read: Report dated 23 June 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: business cases for the supply of building and grounds materials for use by in-house Building and Grounds Maintenance Teams. *(Circulated)*.

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

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

NS/107/2021 - Arc21 Joint Committee Minutes 29 April 2021

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 29 April 2021.**

NS/108/2021 – Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan Update

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the progress update report; note that services would continue "out of contract" until new contracts were awarded and regularised and approve the updated schedule for regularising the procurements as set out in section 2.6 of the report.**

NS/109/2021 – Economic appraisal – use of a suitable national framework for the supply of liquid and solid fuels

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the business**

case for the use of a suitable national framework for the supply of liquid and solid fuels for the next 4 years.

NS/110/2021 – Business Case – report of Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting 15th April 2021

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the content of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 15th April 2021 and to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 2.1 to 2.5 (and associated Appendices 2,3,4 and 5) of this report.

NS/111/2021 – Business Case to proceed with Phase 2 Extension of Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery and refurbishment works to Phase 1

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

- Note the content of the report and associated Business Cases.
- Accept the conclusion of the Business Cases that Option 2 was chosen as the preferred option. Option 2 would see the development of Phase 2 of Kilbroney Municipal Cemetery including refurbishment works to Phase 1.
- A sum as detailed in the report be provided as part of the Councils four-year Capital Programme to fund Phase 2 extension and refurbishment of Phase 1 of Kilbroney Cemetery. Further report be made to the Council prior to issue of contract for the works which provides a value engineer assessment of proposed additional costs with a final decision to proceed or not with these works being taken by the Council.

Councillor McKevitt asked that her comments that the costs of this scheme would need to be kept under review, be noted.

NS/112/2021 – Business Cases £30,000 to £100,000 under Facility Management and Maintenance Department

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the findings of the five Business Cases presented in that Option three was the preferred option in each case:-

1. **Catering Supplies Services – Option three would see appointment of a select list of catering suppliers to supply food and catering products to Downshire Civic Centre, Strangford Road Depot, Council Offices, Monaghan Row and Greenbank Depot.**
2. **Air Conditioning Systems Services – Option 3 would see appointment of a suitably qualified contractor to provide routine maintenance and repairs to Council’s air conditioning systems.**
3. **Locksmith Services – Option 3 would see appointment of a suitably qualified locksmith or locksmiths to provide key cutting service and other related services to the Council.**
4. **Gas Boiler Services – Option 3 would see appointment of a suitably qualified Gas Engineer to provide gas boiler maintenance and repairs for Council gas boilers.**
5. **Construction Design Management (CDM) Services – Option 3 would see appointment of a select list of consultants to provide CDM consultancy support to the Council’s Facility Management & Maintenance Department.**

NS/113/2021 – Business Cases for the maintenance and monitoring of Council facility CCTV

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the findings of the business cases presented – to accept Option 3 - to issue a tender for 1 + 1 +1 years to appoint a competent CCTV Contractor to provide maintenance and where required monitoring of Council Facility CCTV systems.

NS/114/2021: – Fleet Operators License Update and Action Plan

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the Fleet Management Action Plan; and agree to quarterly updates being provided to the Committee on the implementation status of the Plan.

NS/115/2021 - Business Cases for supply of building and grounds materials for use by in-house Building and Grounds Maintenance Teams

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the findings of the business cases presented – to accept Option 3 - to issue a tender to

appoint a Select List of suppliers of building and grounds materials for 1 + 1 +1-year period.

Mr J McBride read out 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 7.50 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 July 2021.

Signed: Councillor W Walker
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

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

Report of Special Health Meeting with Working Group Members, held on Monday 21 June 2021 via Zoom re: Notice of Motion : Department of Health, commitment to the retention and expansion of Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry and the Downe Hospital, Downpatrick'

In the Chair: Councillor C Mason

In attendance:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor T Andrews
Councillor H McKee	Councillor W Walker
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor M Savage
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor K Owen
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor P Brown
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor W Clarke

Also in attendance: Raymond Jackson Wellbeing Action Partnership
Deborah Boden Down Community Transport
Karl Hughes Wellbeing Action Partnership
Margaret Devlin SHSCT Trade Unions
Catherine Farrell SHSCT Trade Unions

Officials in Attendance: Michael Lipsett Director Active & Healthy Communities
Eoin Devlin Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing
Sinead Trainor Senior Environmental Health Officer (Health Improvement)
Sarah Taggart Democratic Services Manager
Louise Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Apologies: Marion Ritchie SEHSCT Trade Unions
Linda Baker Good Morning Down
Eamon McGrady Down Health Committee
Francis Gallagher Daisy Hill Hospital Action Group

Councillor L Devlin Councillor D Curran
 Councillor V Harte Councillor K McKeivitt
 Councillor L McEvoy Councillor J Trainor

Councillor Mason thanked everyone for attending the meeting to discuss what was a very important topic. She said Newry Mourne and Down District straddled across two Trust areas and it's two hospitals were facing many uncertainties at this time. She said following today's meeting the Council would refer the issues raised to the relevant Departments and to the Health Minister for response.

Raised by:	Issue:	Referred to:	
	SOUTHERN TRUST		
Raymond Jackson (Prior to and at the meeting)	Is the NIAS in a state of preparedness regarding the likely move to "specialist services at regional hospitals? What, if any guidelines have been provided to the Health service regarding the ongoing provision of services to those "without settled status" after 30/6/21? (EU Settlement Scheme).	NIAS DOH/HSCB	
Cllr C Casey (At the meeting)	When the Council site at Monaghan Row, Newry becomes surplus to requirements following development of a new Civic Centre, will the Southern Trust still have interest in this site which would be ideal to facilitate expansion at Daisy Hill Hospital? The Community Treatment Centre in Newry is a £40m project – are GP contracts in place and can an update be provided with regard to progress on this project?	SHSCT DOH/HSCB	
Cllr M Savage (At the meeting)	Given that Daisy Hill Hospital will have a key role in meeting the ongoing stress on waiting lists – concerned that decentralisation plans to establish 5 super hospitals will impact on emergency surgery provision at Daisy Hill Hospital. Seek assurances that emergency surgery services will be retained at Daisy Hill and not referred to one of the 5 super hospitals. Proximity to emergency surgery services is vital to the Newry Mourne & Down District given the rural nature of the area.	SHSCT	

Raised by:	Issue:	Referred to:	
	What measures are being taken to address the acute shortage in theatre nurses – this is a vitally important issue in order to tackle waiting lists and emergency surgeries.	SHSCT/SEHCST	
Cllr D Taylor (At the meeting)	Issue of recruitment a major issue – need to see evidence of what is being done to secure the necessary resources to protect services at Daisy Hill Hospital.	SHSCT	
Cllr H McKee (At the meeting)	What measures are in place to address security at Daisy Hill Hospital to ensure the protection of people and staff?	SHSCT	
Francis Gallagher (Prior to the Meeting)	That the council ask the Southern Health Trust for the figures for postponed medical consultations and procedures as a result of the covid crisis. Would Council ascertain from the Trust what action is being taken to address these waiting lists. Would councillors provide a timescale please when they think their Monaghan Rd premises would be available for the expansion and development of Daisy Hill Hospital.	SHSCT NMDDC	
SOUTH EASTERN TRUST			
Cllr O Hanlon (At the meeting)	If there is a return to pre Covid services, would this ease pressures on the Ulster Hospital and what are the plans for elective theatre cover? Assurances were given last year that A&E in the Down Hospital would be opened by Oct 2020 – given the vaccine roll out is at second dose stage, can assurances be provided for a return to a full Emergency Department in Downpatrick?	SEHSCT SEHSCT	
Deborah Boden (Prior to and at the meeting)	Pressures on Community Transport to transport people to hospital. The NIAS Non-Emergency Ambulance Passenger Transport Service was withdrawn during Covid, when will this service be reinstated?	NIAS	
Cllr A Lewis (At the meeting)	Many people from the Down area have to travel to the Ulster Hospital to access A&E services. When will A&E services at The Down Hospital be reviewed? – It is in the interests of the District to have A&E services at the Down Hospital open and operational.	SEHSCT	

Raised by:	Issue:	Referred to:	
Cllr G Sharvin (At the meeting)	<p>Seek statistics from Community Transport regarding volume of calls and how many calls can and cannot be facilitated, in order that this information can be forwarded to the Trusts.</p> <p>Seek a response regarding the restoration of services at the Downe Hospital.</p> <p>Seek a response regarding the provision of a permanent MRI Scanner at the Downe Hospital.</p>	<p>COMMUNITY TRANSPORT</p> <p>SEHSCT</p> <p>SEHSCT</p>	
Cllr T Andrews (At the meeting)	Will GP surgeries revert to operating the way they did pre Covid? – this is a matter being raised by constituents.	HSCB	
Cllr C Mason (At the meeting)	What plans have the Trusts and Department of Health in place to address the mental health crisis which has been exacerbated due to Covid.	DOH SHSCT SEHSCT	
Karl Hughes (At the meeting)	<p>Referred to a document of reference: Elective Care Framework Restart and Recovery – which contains responses to many of the issues raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing is impacting on the entire health programme across the District – lot of different types of staff needed in order to default back to the provision of services pre Covid. Shortage in GPs Minister has requested £700m investment to deal with waiting lists. Expectations in communities that services will return to what they were pre Covid. 		
Catherine Farrell (At the meeting)	<p>Increasing number of staff giving up permanent full-time positions in the Health Service and instead opting for Agency work.</p> <p>Arrangements are being explored between Trusts and colleges to put in place initiatives to assist people enrolling for nursing courses.</p> <p>Interest in Council site at Monaghan Row Newry.</p> <p>It is envisaged the Community Treatment Centre project will proceed.</p>		
Cllr K Owen (At the meeting)	<p>Lack of training:</p> <p>Need to remove red tape which is preventing people accessing medicine and nursing courses.</p>	DOH & HSCB	

Raised by:	Issue:	Referred to:	
	More courses and bursaries to be made available for medicine and nursing.		
Cllr Casey (At the meeting)	Given the worsening situation regarding health care staffing since the pandemic, is there now a bigger role for the private sector within health care?		
K Hughes (At the meeting)	A stronger working relationship between the statutory and private sector will have to evolve. A higher number of elective procedures can be carried out in a private sector setting than in a public sector setting as there are no additional unseen pressures/emergencies impacting on the service.		
Cllr Curran (Prior to and at Meeting)	What are the future planned services for the Downe Hospital? i.e. increase in day procedures and minor surgeries available. When will the Emergency Department at the Downe Hospital be fully restored?	SEHSCT SEHSCT	
Cllr J Trainor (Prior to and at Meeting)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recent months have seen a number of times the Trust have advised the public through social media of pressures at Ulster hospital ED. Could such pressures be alleviated if the Downe was returned to operation as per pre Covid? 2. What is the current usage of the theatres in the Downe? Are they running at full capacity or is there still capacity to be met? 3. Within the Trusts 5 year plan are there any planned works to expand services (diagnostic services in particular, MRI scanner)? If the money is currently not in the budget and if this is seen as an important service that can be delivered at the Downe will the Trust vie for extra funds from the DOH and impress upon the minister the need for such services? 4. How many people have been seen at Lagan Valley and Dundonald ED unscheduled between September 2020 - April 2021 compared to Sept 2019 - April 2021? 5. In the same period how many people have been seen at the Downe? 6. How many instances over the past year has cover been required from the Downe out of hours GP service due to lack of staff or resource within other areas of the Trust? 7. With the continued successful roll out of the vaccination programme and reduction in Covid cases at what point can services be delivered at a pre Covid level? 8. Would the Trust agree that any future changes within our Healthcare infrastructure depend on the ability to access services, importantly ambulatory cover that can ensure 	SEHSCT SEHSCT SEHSCT SEHSCT SEHSCT SEHSCT SEHSCT	

Raised by:	Issue:	Referred to:	
	a majority of cases can be seen within the acceptable timings. Any changes without due regard to this would be negligent.		

Mr Devlin said the issues raised would be referred to relevant bodies responsible.

The meeting concluded at 3.26pm.

For noting at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 July 2021.

Signed: **Eoin Devlin**
 Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing



Minutes of the 480th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 13th May 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)
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
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight (DfC)
David Polley	Director of Housing Strategy & Co-ordination (DfC)
John Goudy	Business Manager (NIHE)
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

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, John Goudy, Business Manager from the Housing Executive.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	

Housing Council
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3.0	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 479th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th April 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Allan Bresland, seconded by Alderman Amanda Grehan and resolved, that the Minutes of the 479th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 15th April 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p>	
4.1	<p>Page 6/7 – Item 7 – Rural Housing Needs</p> <p>It was noted that arrangements were being made for a representative from the Rural Community Network to attend the June meeting to address Members of their specific work carried out on rural housing needs.</p>	Secretary
4.2	<p>Page 9 Item12 – Investment in Housing Executive Stock</p> <p>Arrangements have been arranged for the August Meeting on the Investment in Housing Executive stock.</p>	Secretary
4.3	<p>Meeting with the Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Secretary to write to the Minister thanking her taking the time to meet with Members, which was a very positive and productive Meeting and to also convey their appreciation to her officials, Paul Price and David Polley, for their regular attendance at Housing Council Meetings. the Secretary to write to both the Chair of the Housing Executive and Officials from the Department for Communities asking if they would consider both the Housing Executive and the Department for Communities to jointly address each of the eleven local Councils at their monthly Council/Committee Meeting, to update local elected representatives on the way forward of this major reform within the housing sector. 	Secretary
4.4	<p>Town Centre Living (TCL) Heritage Lottery scheme</p> <p>Referring to Town Centre Living (TCL) Heritage Lottery scheme, Alderman Speers reiterated how the scheme was very beneficial, good value for money and regenerated town centre living and asked if the Housing Council Members who sit on the Board would raise the issue and urge the Housing Executive to continue to avail of such schemes.</p>	Board Members

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5.0	<p>Forward Workplan</p> <p>The Report was noted.</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary to send an invitation to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) to attend a future meeting, to discuss regular attendance at meetings and to explore how NIFHA and the Housing Council can develop a closer partnership on housing matters.</p>	Secretary
6.0	<p><u>Housing Issues, Department for Communities</u></p> <p>Mr Paul Price and Mr David Polley highlighted certain changes under the specific headings on the Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Issues:-</p>	
6.1	<p>Social Newbuild starts</p> <p>A total of 2,403 social housing units were confirmed as actual starts during the 2020/2021 year, exceeding the target of 1,850 starts, of these starts 2,111 are new build. A budget of £162m had been secured for the Social Housing Development Programme in 2021/2022.</p>	
6.2	<p>Co-ownership</p> <p>It was noted that Co-ownership homes delivered in 2020/21 was 1473 (End March 2021). £145m to fund Co-ownership for the next 4 years 2020/2021 to 2023/2024 (£36.25m per year) had been approved.</p>	
6.3	<p>Programme for Social Reform</p> <p>It was reported that the Minister for Communities intends to bring proposals to the Executive by March 2022, which will include details as to how to address the investment challenge facing the Housing Executive. Work has commenced on assessing the scale of this investment challenge and identifying suitable options to address these issues.</p> <p>It was noted that a Programme Board has been established and the Department will continue to engage with Housing Council.</p>	

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<p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p> <p>6.6</p> <p>6.7</p> <p>6.8</p> <p>6.9</p>	<p>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</p> <p>It was reported that the associated budget requiring the implementation of the agreed proposals, has not yet been secured to date to the Housing Executive.</p> <p>Mr Price undertook to keep Members apprised of situation.</p> <p>Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers</p> <p>Following agreement by the Northern Ireland Executive, the consultation document on the future of the Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme will be launched in due course.</p> <p>Supporting People Delivery Strategy</p> <p>Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>It was reported that the Housing Executive had published their reset plan in November 2020. The plan assesses and evaluates the measures which have been put in place to address homelessness during the Covid-19 outbreak and makes recommendations as to how the Housing Executive and its partners can carefully transition from the current arrangements to a new operating environment post Covid-19.</p> <p>Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</p> <p>The Draft Private Rented Sector Bill has been circulated to stakeholders for comment, it includes measures to improve the safety, security and quality of the Private Rented Sector with longer term changes to follow in a further Bill in the next mandate.</p> <p>In addition to the new legislation, the Department has started work in some areas to improve the sector - considering how the powers of Councils can be enhanced in relation to landlord registration with links to new standards and fitness of properties. This would see Councils being provided with additional powers to strengthen and provide local enforcement of the Private Rented Sector, funded through registration fees.</p> <p>Increasing Housing Supply</p> <p>A launch of a 'Call for Evidence' document for public consultation, to help inform the housing supply strategy content will be issued next week.</p>	<p>P Price</p>
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6.10	<p>Affordable Warmth Scheme</p> <p>It was confirmed that a budget for £16m has been confirmed for 2021/2022.</p>	
6.11	<p>NIHE Rent Increase</p> <p>The Minister approved a NIHE rent increase for 2021-22 of CPI + 1% and it has been postponed its introduction until 1 July 2021.</p>	
6.12	<p>ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020</p> <p>It was noted that the six year €45 million programme is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. The Housing Executive issued a press release on 12 September to publicise the funding and investment which will improve the thermal efficiency of homes including cladding, new double glazing and insulation. Housing Executive's work on the schemes has started with some already completed. Contracts have been awarded for tranche 1 of No Fines schemes.</p> <p>Due to the restrictions put in place as a result of COVID-19 the NIHE had to halt works and as such will be behind on the programme, unfortunately the full impact of this will not be clear until normal working practices return.</p>	
6.13	<p>Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax</p> <p>It was reported that the Housing Executive would be exempted from Corporation Tax, effective from the 2020-21 tax year. The Department are continuing to liaise with DoF and HMT seeking the refund of the monies already paid by the Housing Executive over the past five years. Members will be kept updated.</p>	
6.14	<p>Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework</p> <p>The findings of the PfG outcomes framework, should be issued shortly.</p>	
6.15	<p>Long term rent trajectory</p>	
6.16	<p>Affordability of social rents</p>	

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<p>6.17</p> <p>6.17.1</p> <p>6.17.2</p> <p>6.17.3</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary to seek clarification from the Housing Executive in relation particularly to 'no fines' properties, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the work based on either the BDA report or the Savilles Report in particular to 'no fines' properties? • What types of insulation does this refer to? <p>Co-ownership</p> <p>In relation to advertising Co-ownership, Mr Polley confirmed that developers on billboards and mortgage brokers promote the service.</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary to seek clarification from the Housing Executive on the following information in relation to those presenting and being assessed for housing need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of referrals to the Private Rented Sector; • The number of referrals in temporary accommodation. • The number of referrals to co-ownership and if the Housing Executive offers co-ownership, as an option) <p>Affordable Warmth Scheme</p> <p>Mr Polley confirmed that Pension Credit has always been included in the calculation of income for the Affordable Warmth Scheme and when the new legislation is in place the income threshold will increase to £23,000. He undertook to clarify whether disability benefits Disability Living Allowance will be discounted from the calculation of income.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>D Polley</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p><u>Older Peoples Housing Strategy Report</u></p> <p>John Goudy, Business Manager gave Members a presentation on the Older Peoples Housing Strategy Report (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>The Strategy is set out under the following four key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning for the future: Under this theme there are two distinct strands: Exploring Housing Options for Older People, which looks at different housing models; and Supporting Independent Living, 	

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	<p>which looks at ways to assist those who can and wish to remain in their own home;</p> <p>2. Promoting and Maintaining Dignity: This theme sets out the services we currently provide and looks at ways to develop new and existing services to promote and maintain the dignity of our tenants and customers;</p> <p>3. Providing Housing Advice for Older People: In this theme sets out a direction to help us explore and develop new and existing housing information and advisory services, and how we can deliver these using a range of formats and methods; and</p> <p>4. Promoting Participation: Under this theme it is recognised how engaging, enabling and empowering older people to participate actively in community life can have positive impacts on their health, wellbeing and happiness. Loneliness can have a severe detrimental impact on all age groups, including older people, and we will work in partnership with others to support opportunities for older people to become involved in shaping, informing and enjoying the services that we deliver on their behalf.</p> <p>Alderman Speers left the Meeting – 11.40 am.</p> <p>The Vice Chair, Mark Cooper said he was delighted that the HAPPI Principles is the first pilot scheme of its type in his area of Monkstown. These focus on high quality design catering for the needs of older people as their circumstances change. The site will provide six three-person two-bed houses and 14 three-person two-bed CAT1 (elderly over 55) apartments for social housing use. The apartments within the scheme are designed to enhanced CAT1 criteria which meet HAPPI principles.</p> <p>Mr Cooper extended an invitation to Members to visit the scheme when completed.</p> <p>In response to Mr Cooper's question, Mr Goudy confirmed that there is no specific reference within the Strategy for the deaf community but he assured him that the Housing Executive do promote and support all communication needs and support, when required.</p> <p>Agreed: Mr Goudy to provide information links for the following; Supporting People Directory and Moylinney (Happi Scheme).</p> <p>Members welcomed the 'Making your money work' advice for the older people, as Members felt that it is not always clear what they are entitled to claim etc.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Goudy for a very informative presentation.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>J Goudy</p>
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8.0	<p><u>Energy Efficiency Strategy for Northern Ireland on Policy options</u></p> <p>Members noted the Report.</p> <p>Vice Chair, Councillor Mark Cooper left the Meeting – 11.55 am.</p>	
9.0	<p><u>Breakdown of Temporary Accommodation in each Council area</u></p> <p>Members were noted the information provided on the 'breakdown of temporary accommodation in each Council area'.</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary undertook to obtain further information on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown of the need in each Council area • How many are currently being occupied in each Council area • How many are currently vacant in each Council area <p>Alderman Grehan referred to recent cases of women with children, were she was being told that there was no accommodation in her area (Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough) and were being offered accommodation miles away, which she felt was unreasonable. She also sought confirmation how the families are offered local hotels or B&B's in the interim, as she hasn't had this offer to her referred cases.</p> <p>David Polley offered to attend the June Meeting for this discussion item.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>D Polley</p>
10.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Scheme Starts April 2021</u></p> <p>Members noted the report as circulated.</p>	
11.0 11.1	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Letter of Congratulations</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary to send a letter of congratulations to Michelle Kelly on the recent birth of her daughter.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

Housing Council
480th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

12.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th June 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex</u></p> <p>The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 10th June 2021 via Webex.</p> <p>It was also noted that the above monthly meeting would encompass attendance from the Housing Executive, with the Department for Communities returning to the August Monthly Meeting.</p>	
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The Meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.

Housing Council
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Appendix A



Background



Recognition of
changing
demographics



Carried out research
– evidence based



Engagement with key
stakeholders



COVID-19 related
delays



Public consultation
period



Published Strategy
and Action Plan
March 2021

At a glance...

Over 65s

set to surpass
the number of
under 16s by
2028



By 2043

almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of
Northern
Ireland will be
over 65



4 Themes

- Planning for the future
 - Exploring housing options for older people
 - Supporting Independent living
- Promoting and maintaining dignity
- Providing housing advice for older people
- Promoting participation

Planning for the Future – Exploring Housing Options for Older People

Key Themes

- Planning
- Accessible Housing
- New models of Housing
- Designing for the future

Key Planned Actions

- Publish our SHMA for Belfast and Derry/Londonderry
- Aim to reduce end to end times for major adaptations
- Explore options for new models of housing



Planning for the Future – Supporting Independent Living

Key Themes

- Planning for the future
- Extra-Care housing
- Hub and spoke housing
- Accessible housing and designing for the future

Key Planned Actions

- Reduce end to end times for DFGs
- Pilot schemes
- Ensure older peoples needs are reflected in the new rural strategy and SP strategy
- HAPPI Pilot



Housing
Executive



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Promoting and Supporting Dignity

Key Themes

- Supporting People
- Dementia Friendly
- Communication Support
- Fear of crime and ASB

Key Planned Actions

- Maximise the use of Floating Support
- Dementia Friendly Offices
- Communication Support
- Tackle fear of crime for older people



Housing Advice for Older People

Key Themes

- Support to stay
- Support to move
- Barriers to moving in later life
- Tenancy Sustainment
- Social Enterprise

Key Planned Actions

- Enhance housing advice and services
- Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy
- 'Making your money work'
- Represent and target information for older people



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Promoting Participation

Key Themes

- Loneliness
- Staying in touch
- Community Participation
- Planning and place shaping

Key Planned Actions

- Deliver Year 2 of the ONSIDE Project
- Support and encourage increased digital capability and inclusion
- Develop an older people's forum
- Deliver our Social Enterprise Strategy



Next Steps

- Included as a KPI on our 2021/22 Business Plan
- Factored into business plans
- Work towards achieving goals
- Plan Year 2 Action Plan later this year
- Year 1 update due summer 2022

john.goudy@nihe.gov.uk





CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

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JUNE HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 10th June 2021 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

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

Present by Video Conferencing

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Apologies

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

1. Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, NIHE

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**:-

- Engagement with Local Councils – Revitalisation
- Stakeholder Engagement / Mapping, Press and Public Affairs
- NIHE Draft Corporate and Business Plan 2021-22
- NIHE Board Workshops: (1) Human Rights, Equalities and Diversity - Wednesday 28 April 2021; and (2) Labour Market Recovery (DfC) and Modern Methods of Construction - 1 June 2021
- Annual NIHE Performance Meeting with the Minister for Communities and Permanent Secretary
- DfC NIHE Inspection Programme
- Welfare Reform
- Housing Stock Investment

- Membership of the Northern Ireland Circular Economy Coalition
 - NIHE House Sales Scheme - ONS Decision
 - Social Housing Development Programme Outturn 2020/21
 - Feedback from attendance at DfC Management Board on 15 April 2021
 - Housing Supply Strategy (Call for Evidence) - Attendance at Project Board Meeting
 - Definition of Affordable Housing
 - Timeline for NIHE Annual Report & Accounts
 - Special Council Meeting - Derry and Strabane City Council - Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 4pm
 - Civil Unrest / Disturbances
2. Members then received presentations on Rural Housing by Sinead Collins from the Housing Executive and from the Rural Community Network, Patricia McQuillan, and Aidan Campbell

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

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12th August at 10.30 am via conference call.

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

Contacts

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Belfast

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ROYAL COMMUNICATIONS

Wednesday 2nd June 2021

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Central Weekend 2022

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

There will be year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities and people come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign. Throughout the year, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee Weekend in June - one year from today.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

Thursday 2nd June

The Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour): Over 1,400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians will come together in the traditional Parade to mark The Queen's official birthday, usually held on the second Saturday in June.

Beginning at Buckingham Palace, the Parade will move down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, joined by Members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages. The Parade will close with the traditional RAF fly-past, watched by The Queen and Members of the Royal Family from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

Platinum Jubilee Beacons: The United Kingdom's long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons will be continued to mark

the Platinum Jubilee. Beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.

For the first time, beacons will also be lit in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth countries to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Friday 3rd June

Service of Thanksgiving: A Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign will be held at St Paul's Cathedral. Further events will be announced in due course.

Saturday 4th June

The Derby at Epsom Downs: Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by Members of the Royal Family, will attend the Derby at Epsom Downs.

Platinum Party at the Palace: The BBC will stage and broadcast a special live concert from Buckingham Palace that will bring together some of the world's biggest entertainment stars to celebrate the most significant and joyous moments from The Queen's seven decade reign. Members of the public will be invited to apply to attend this special event and details of the ballot for UK residents to secure audience tickets will be released in due course.

Sunday 5th June

The Big Jubilee Lunch: Every year since the idea began in 2009 The Big Lunch has encouraged communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. In 2022 The Big Lunch will bring the Jubilee celebrations into the heart of every community.

People are invited to share friendship, food and fun with neighbours as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A Big Jubilee Lunch can be big or small - street party or picnic, tea and cake or a garden barbeque. The Big Lunch provides tips and ideas for hosting an event.

The Platinum Jubilee Pageant: A pageant featuring over 5,000 people from across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth will take place against the backdrop of Buckingham Palace and the surrounding streets. It will combine street arts, theatre, music, circus, carnival and costume and celebrate the service of Her Majesty's reign, as well as honouring the collective service of people and communities across the country.

Further announcements:

Later this month details of a special Jubilee emblem competition, in conjunction with the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Design Museum and the Royal College of Art, will be released. The winning entry will become the official emblem for the celebrations next year.

More information on the details of the central weekend and other celebratory events across the UK and around the Commonwealth will be made in the months to come.

For further information please contact:

Hannah Howard, Royal Communications, hannah.howard@royal.co.uk 020 7024 5832

Susan Coulthard, Army Communications, susan.coulthard463@mod.gov.uk 07771 835111
Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, Platinum Jubilee Beacons, brunopeek@mac.com
Philip Fleming, BBC Studios, philip.fleming@bbc.com 07824 622077
Sarah Boniface, The Big Lunch, SBoniface@EdenProject.com 07904 723277
Rosie Shephard, Platinum Pageant, platinumjubilee@shephardcommunications.com

Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach



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22nd June 2021

Ms. Marie Ward
Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Newry Mourne and Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Dear Ms. Ward,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D. dated 15th June 2021.

A copy of your correspondence has been forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney T.D., for attention.

Yours sincerely,

Celine McEvoy
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194000
E-mail: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie