

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 March 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:	Councillor M Savage	
In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor J Brennan Councillor D Curran Councillor C Enright Councillor H Gallagher Councillor G Hanna Councillor R Howell Councillor G Kearns Councillor A Lewis Councillor D McAteer Councillor K McKeivitt Councillor D Murphy Councillor H Reilly Councillor D Taylor	Councillor C Bowsie Councillor R Burgess Councillor L Devlin Councillor A Finnegan Councillor O Hanlon Councillor V Harte Councillor J Jackson Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor O Magennis Councillor L McEvoy Councillor A McMurray Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor G Sharvin
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor M Gibbons Councillor M Larkin Councillor H McKee Councillor M Rice Councillor G Stokes Councillor J Trainor	Councillor W Clarke Councillor C King Councillor G Malone Councillor G O'Hare Councillor M Ruane Councillor J Tinnelly
Officials in attendance in Chamber:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer	

**Officials in attendance
via Teams:**

Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Tourism, Culture
and Events

C/055/2023 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies.

C/056/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Clarke, Devlin and Hanna declared an interest in item 6: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2023 – ERT/030/2023: Service Level Agreements/Letters of Offer 2023/3024 - Board of Mourne Heritage Trust.

The Chairperson advised an emergency notice of motion had been received from Councillor King and for the motion to be heard it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders (which required a qualified majority vote, not less than 80% of Members present and voting) and this matter would be brought forward for consideration later in the meeting.

**C/057/2023 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 6 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 February 2023
(copy circulated).

**Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6
February 2023 was agreed on the proposal of
Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

**C/058/2023 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY
2023**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 February 2023 (copy
circulated).

**Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6
February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record
and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Brennan,
seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/059/2023 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30 January 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 30 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/060/2023 **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

C/061/2023 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2023 (copy circulated).

SPR/033/2023: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2nd February 2023

Councillor Sharvin took the opportunity to highlight concerns in relation to rumours circulating about the impact on Downshire Civic Centre and jobs and asked the Chief Executive to reaffirm the position on that.

The Chief Executive confirmed the development of the Civic Centre in Newry would have no impact on jobs in the Downshire Civic Centre and that it was always the decision of Council to have two centres. She advised that she had held staff briefings for Monaghan Row staff.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the**

**proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by
Councillor Magennis.**

**C/062/2023 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023 (copy circulated).

Councillor Gallagher referred to the Open House Programme and enquired whether there was a possibility of progression for the programme from heat and warmth over the winter months to a more social aspect to the hubs.

The Chief Executive advised she was aware further engagement work was being undertaken in the hubs with different agencies providing advice and that she would pick the matter up with the relevant officers.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McKevitt.

**C/063/2023 MINUTES OF SPECIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1
FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Special Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Special Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

**C/064/2023 MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2023 (copy circulated).

SE/021/2023: Waste Management – Fleet Replacement Programme

Councillor McAteer raised concerns regarding unprecedented number of missed bin collections in the Crotlieve area.

Councillor McKeivitt asked if information provided to Members could include names of areas and streets rather than rounds as previously agreed at Committee.

The Chairperson spoke of issues relating to the breakdown of information relating to brown bin collections.

Mr Cassells advised he would pick the matter up in relation to communications and information dissemination and the breakdown of information on brown bin collections and report back to individual councillors.

Councillor McKee spoke of the daily information provided and the need for information to include missed bins. The Chairperson agreed it would be easier to put the message out to the public and immediately provide clarification on missed collections and acknowledged that his was a work in progress with officers.

Councillor Ó Muirí commented that once reported, the message was normally out for bins to be left out until lifted. At times staff were under pressure with staff shortages and fleet issues and paid tribute to the bin men who were trying their best.

Councillor Lee Surginor wished to highlight that the comment section of reports being sent out were hard to establish what the message was and asked that a standardised messaging be used.

Councillor Hanna stated there were substantial number of bins being missed in the Mourne area that were being caught up on Saturdays and requested a report on costings to do that and asked were the missed collections simply down to the breakdown of lorries.

Mr Cassells advised it was generally breakdowns and occasional shortage of drivers but not exclusively and whilst the fleet replacement programme had been put into place it was going to take time.

Mr Cassells agreed to provide costing for Saturday collections which were generally done in overtime.

Councillor Clarke enquired about an update with regards to an app for residents for bin collections, street cleansing etc and the renewing of fleet in green technology.

Mr Cassells advised he would come back to Councillor Clarke with an update on an app for residents.

Mr Cassells referred to the greening of the fleet and referred to a report that had been brought to the Committee on 22 February 2023 about Council bringing forward in the near future business plans to include the provision of 10 electric vans. He added larger vehicles would see developments in the coming years with a push in the direction of hydrogen cell vehicles.

Agreed:

The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor

Bowsie.

C/065/2023 PLANNING SECTION

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 8 February 2023 in relation to the Local Development Plan (Copy circulated)

Councillor Murphy spoke about delays on planning decisions for applications, in particular one timebound application with regard to investment and how if decisions were not made investment could be lost. He added it had been raised on numerous occasions with planners to no avail and that the matter now needed to be dealt with by Council.

Mr Mallon stated he understood Councillor Murphy's concern and acknowledged the concerns around the speed to deal with applications to support economic development across the District. He added it was something he placed focus on, however there were challenges with the introduction of change for e.g. with the new planning portal.

Mr Mallon confirmed he would pick up that particular application with Councillor Murphy outside of the meeting with the view to progressing to a decision as soon as possible.

Councillor Reilly raised concerns about an application and queried if Northern Ireland Water had changed policy to which Mr Mallon advised he was not aware of a change in approach from Northern Ireland Water as a consultee and that he would raise the matter outside of the meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McAteer to note the extract from Minutes of Planning Committee held on 8 February 2023 in relation to the Local Development Plan.

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES

C/066/2023 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES - 12 JANUARY 2023 AND NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – 9 FEBRUARY 2023

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes, 12 January 2023 and Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin, 9 February 2023 (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 12 January 2023 and the bulletin dated 9 February 2023 were noted on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/067/2023 **RESPONSE FROM ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOM C/207/2022 – WORKERS LEGAL RIGHTS TO TIPS**

Read: Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council re: NOM C/207/2022 dated 8 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council.**

C/068/2023 **RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE NI RE: NOM C/184/2022 & C/014/2023 ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION**

Read: Correspondence from Secretary of State NI re: NOM C/184/2022 & C/014/2023 dated 9 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Secretary of State NI.**

C/069/2023 **RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE RE: NOM C/209/2022 £600 ENERGY SUPPORT PAYMENT**

Read: Correspondence from Secretary of State for Energy and Climate dated 3 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate.**

C/070/2023 **RESPONSE FROM CATHERINE MARTIN TD RE: NOM C/185/2022 & C/020/2023 – INCLUSION OF COUNTIES ARMAGH AND DOWN IN THE IRELANDS ANCIENT EAST TOURISM EXPERIENCE BRAND**

Read: Correspondence from Catherine Martin TD dated 21 February 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne thanked officers for rewriting to the Minister and voiced his disappointment to the response received once again.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from Catherine Martin TD.**

C/071/2023 **LETTER FROM DfC RE: RATES SUPPORT GRANT ALLOCATION WITH APPENDIX LETTER TO FIVE MAIN PARTY LEADERS**

Read: Correspondence from DfC dated 8 February 2023 and an appendix letter dated 23 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from DfC.**

C/072/2023 **RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMY RE: NOM C/051/2023 – NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS**

Read: Correspondence from the Department for Economy dated 1 March 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Department for Economy.**

C/073/2023 **LETTER FROM DFI RE: WATSON'S ROAD, NEWRY**

Read: Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure dated 26 January 2023 with appendix. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor King stated hopefully this was a sign that the housing development would commence soon as it had been held up despite being approved by Planning a number of years ago.

The Chairperson asked if any Members had objections to the correspondence to which

there were none.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/074/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION - INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE LEISURE FACILITIES

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Sharvin:

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council reaffirms its commitment to ensuring all leisure facilities are inclusive and accessible for everyone in our community.

The Council recognises that we can do so much more for people with a disability, such as autism, and will undertake a review engaging with service users, Autism network providers and Disability Sports NI.

The review should include the provision of training needs to all council staff both front of house, support staff and the aquatics team to provide inclusive 1:1 swim sessions for users with disabilities".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Curran.

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

C/075/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – VOTING AGE REDUCTION

The following motion was received from Councillor Andrews:

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and if this motion is adopted seeks the support of the remaining councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16-year-old and upwards to vote".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Andrews said the existing voting legislation was amended back in 1969/70 to allow the then 18+ year olds to have the franchise, and he considered 53 years later, the voting age should be reduced to 16.

Councillor Andrews said many young people at age 16 were already making crucial decisions that would impact their lives in terms of education, paying taxes, national

insurance, rent and rates and he said by reducing the voting age, it would ensure they could have their say via the ballot box and give steer on how their taxes were spent, passing verdict and voting on how the country should be governed, similar to their counterparts in Scotland and Wales who could vote at 16 years old.

Councillor Andrews said reducing the voting age to 16 could ignite a spark and help usher in a new generation of politicians and public representatives. He said the Good Friday Agreement was now approaching its 25th anniversary, and he said the young people who had enjoyed the peace it delivered, if it was today, couldn't cast their vote.

Councillor Andrews asked that the motion be formally amended to include writing to the other 10 Councils asking that they support the motion..

Councillor Byrne seconded the motion, saying more young people should be engaged in the democratic process, he said there were many young political groups and that young people had great vision and should be front and centre in this regard.

Councillor Bowsie said he would not be in support of the motion as he considered lowering the age to 16 was inappropriate. He said 18 was the age when one became a legal adult and gained legal independence and the right to vote should reflect this.

Councillors McMurray, Ó Muirí and Taylor all expressed support for the motion saying there was a clear benefit in engaging with young people and that young people could legally work from age 16.

Councillor McKee said he would not be in support of the motion as he considered the age of 18 was more appropriate as, he said young people would have sufficient maturity by that age.

The motion was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR:	34
AGAINST:	6
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The proposal was carried.

In summing up, Councillor Andrews thanked Members for their support and said he respected those Members with opposing viewpoints.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Byrne it was agreed that Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and write to and seek the support of the remaining 10 Councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16 year old and upwards to vote.**

Councillor Burgess left during the above discussion – 6.48pm.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Tinnelly thanked Councillor Savage for allowing the motion to be heard at the Council Meeting. He said there were 4 EI schemes being proposed as part of this small settlement improvement programme and the designs were currently being finalised before submission to Planning with the works to complete within the current financial year. Councillor Tinnelly said the design proposals were based on public engagement feedback and he said considering they would most likely be in place for the next couple of decades, the importance of getting it right could not be overstated.

Councillor Tinnelly said it was his understanding that due to the conservation status of at least one of the four areas, Planners had indicated the building materials they would deem acceptable to reflect the conservation status would use up the vast majority of the current budget; the knock on effect of this would mean the footprint area of the works would be greatly reduced and considering these works were generational, it was important to raise the issue at this stage as it was vital that any potential shortfall in funding was found in order that the works reflected the expectations of the residents in those 4 small towns.

Councillor Taylor expressed support the motion saying the EI Schemes were a good way of rejuvenating villages and it was important to look at the overall funding for these projects as he would not like to see any of them lost, and he said, he had a particular interest in the Bessbrook one as it was within his DEA area.

Councillor Sharvin said he wanted to see the delivery of these improvement schemes, however, he said there were 7 small settlement schemes currently under-way and he asked if there was an opportunity for the small settlement schemes to benefit from additional funding. Councillor Sharvin also asked for assurances that the additional funding from Council would be at the 10% ceiling as agreed. Councillor Savage said the motion was dealing with time sensitive projects that were up against inflationary and supply chain costs, whereas he understood there was some flexibility in relation to the small settlements and he said the issues raised by Councillor Sharvin would need to be discussed at officer level. Councillor Sharvin asked if a report would be tabled at the March ERT committee meeting detailing the additional monies being requested. Councillor Savage said officers would have to work on this and sufficient time would be needed to do this, and, he said it would be tabled at ERT as soon as possible.

There was general support for the motion on the basis of a paper being brought forward as soon as possible detailing revised budget requirements.

Councillor Tinnelly thanked members for their support.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Malone that Council welcomes the commitment from DfC, DAERA & DfI to help fund the 4 proposed Environmental Improvements schemes in Rostrevor, Bessbrook, Saintfield & Castlewellan that are currently being developed. This council also recognises that notwithstanding the recent welcome additional funding offer to offset inflationary construction costs, council's contribution to the overall cost of these projects may also need to be increased to take account of other

unforeseen factors and to accurately reflect the outworking's of the public engagement process. To that end, council officers will now bring forward a paper at the earliest opportunity with a revised budget requirement, to be considered by council as a contingency measure to cover any potential funding shortfall, in order that the EI schemes to be delivered in each of these 4 locations fully reflect the views and expectations of the local communities as per the public engagement process.

C/078/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – PROSTATE CANCER

The following motion was received from Councillor Gallagher:

"Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men in Northern Ireland. Prostate cancer usually develops slowly, so there may be no signs you have it for many years. Most cases develop in men aged 50 or older. I call on Newry Mourne and Down Council to proactively engage with the department of health to provide advice and sign post people on the symptoms of prostate cancer. This will result in the utilising the council's facilities and social media to promote the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer.

This Council write to the Department of Health to increase their own promotional campaign on Prostate Cancer ".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stokes.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Gallagher said Cancer Focus NI indicated that over 1200 men in N. Ireland were diagnosed with prostate cancer each year, making it the second most common cause of death in men, with approximately 290 men dying from the disease each year in N. Ireland. He said it developed when one cell in the prostate started to multiply out of control thereby forming a tumour, and whereas usually, it was slow growing, this was not always the case, and therefore patients would require prompt treatment. Councillor Gallagher said the risk of men contracting the disease increased with age, with 70% of cases occurring in men aged over 65.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the motion and asked if it could be amended to include writing to the Public Health Agency to raise public awareness and also writing to the Department of Health regarding allocation of funding within their cancer funding plan for the coming year.

Councillor Gallagher accepted Councillor McMurray's amendments.

There was unanimous support for the motion from Members.

In summing up, Councillor Gallagher thanked Members for their support and said he worked within Elderly Services and witnessed first hand the affect prostate cancer had on families.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Stokes that Newry Mourne and Down Council proactively engage with the Department of Health to provide advice and sign post people on the symptoms of prostate cancer. This will result in the utilising the council's facilities and social media to promote the signs and symptoms of prostate cancer.

This Council write to the Public Health Agency to raise awareness of prostate cancer.

This Council write to the Department of Health to increase their own promotional campaign on Prostate Cancer and with regard to the allocation of funding within their cancer funding plan for the coming year.

Councillor Malone left the meeting at this point – 7.15pm

C/079/2023

NOTICE OF MOTION- DOMICILLIARY CARE

The following motion was received from Councillor Trainor:

"This council recognises the importance of Domiciliary Care in ensuring people can be cared for in the comfort of the home environment. Will write to the South Eastern and Southern Health and Social Care Trust's calling for them to review their current models for providing these services and to increase the percentage of Care Packages delivered by the Trust's. Further calls for an urgent review into Domiciliary Care and how it is delivered across the North given the lack of capacity both in the Public and Private sectors."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McKeivitt.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Trainor said care within the home environment had become essential for those being discharged from hospital, aiding with recovery and those suffering from poor health or in end-of-life care, ensuring comfort, quality and for some, companionship. He said the Trusts had highlighted the benefits on being cared for in the home environment and additionally had alluded to the pressures caused by bed blocking when appropriate care packages could not be made available to those ready to be discharged from hospital.

Councillor Trainor said whilst he acknowledged it would not be a quick process, he said it must be undertaken with the utmost urgency and that whilst a review by the Department would not address the immediate pressures faced in delivering care, our HSC Trusts could affect certain changes that could help alleviate pressures.

He said the SE Trust had openly stated at a Special Council Meeting before Christmas that they delivered care packages on an 80/20 model, 80% being delivered by the private sector and 20% delivered by the Trust and he said both the Southern and SE Trusts were asked to review this arrangement, recruit staff needed to increase the amount of care that could be provided by the Trust and consequently allow people to receive good quality care provision.

Councillor McKeivitt seconded the motion saying domiciliary workers were very valuable within the care system and more enhanced packages were needed, she said the recruitment process was vitally important.

There was unanimous support for the motion within the Chamber with some Members relaying personal stories of family members having been dependent on domiciliary care.

Councillor McEvoy said she was as a Domiciliary Care Manager, and she had two questions to put to the Trusts:

1. What was being done to equalise the pay and conditions across the social care workforce, bearing in mind most of the domiciliary care was being delivered by the independent sector and
2. What plans were in place to recruit and retain social care workers into these important roles which helped provide care and support to many older people enabling them to live as independently as possible within their own homes.

Councillor McEvoy said in her role as a Domiciliary Care Manager she witnessed first-hand the challenges faced. She said included in the reform discussions was the need for a skilled and valued workforce. She said Age NI outlined in a briefing in 2017, that domiciliary care should be provided by skilled, competent and valued workers with decent salaries and appropriate pay scales, stable working conditions and manageable workloads. Councillor McEvoy asked the motion be amended to include the two questions she had outlined.

Councillor Trainor accepted the amendment.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt that this Council recognises the importance of Domiciliary Care in ensuring people can be cared for in the comfort of the home environment; will write to the South Eastern and Southern Health and Social Care Trust's calling for them to review their current models for providing these services and to increase the percentage of Care Packages delivered by the Trust's; calls for an urgent review into Domiciliary Care and how it is delivered across the North given the lack of capacity both in the Public and Private sectors;

Councillor O'Hare left the meeting at this point – 7.35pm.

C/080/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – MOURNE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

The following Motion was received from Councillor Mc Murray:

'The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mournes, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.'

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Councillor McMurray spoke of the truly dedicated group of individuals within the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team (MMRT) with an unparalleled amount of knowledge and skill in the upland environment. He also spoke of the unitary skills which allowed the team into very inaccessible areas and the multidisciplinary skills which allowed them to work with other agencies.

Councillor McMurray stated a name change was not insignificant and there were major concerns that it would impact the team operationally. The change of name from 'North West Mountain Rescue Service' to 'Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Team', suggested they covered all of Northern Ireland when that was not the case. He spoke of how the Mourne team were by far the busiest team in Northern Ireland and among the busiest in Ireland and there was a real risk that the wrong team could be tasked in an emergency situation leading to delays in response. He added the MMRT was also a purely voluntary organisation which relied solely on charitable donations and there were concerns that this name change would lead to confusion and impinge on the financial stability of the MMRT.

Councillor McMurray said this motion was about showing support for MMRT, who were always there for those enjoying the Mourne Mountains, Slieve Croob, Slieve Gullion and the Cooley Peninsula. It also called on the Council to liaise with the team in order to establish what practical help and support could be given.

Councillors Devlin, Taylor, Hanna and Clarke all spoke in support of the motion and paid tribute to the work of the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team and its volunteers.

Given the unanimous support the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Enright that the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mournes, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.**

Councillors Tinnelly, Ruane and Gibbons left the meeting during the above item – 7.39pm, 7.40pm and 7.41pm respectively.

The following Motion was received from Councillor Clarke:

"That this Council notes recent cold snaps which left many roads and footpaths in the district impassable, accepts the logistical challenges facing the workers with responsibility for gritting and maintaining roads and commends them for their efforts; Recognises the resource implication and the operational impact that such periods of colder weather can have on road services; And Calls on Council to engage with DFI Roads as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will ensure our roads and footpaths are maintained during cold snaps and the public are kept safe".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Howell.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/082/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – REBELLION ANNIVERSARIES

The following Motion was received from Councillor Brennan:

"Council notes that this year will see a number of historically significant local anniversaries, including the 225th anniversary of the 1798 United Irish rebellion; and the 220th anniversary of the execution of Thomas Russell in Downpatrick in 1803 Council recognises the significance of the 1798 rebellion to this district, in particular the battles at Ballynahinch and Saintfield as well as the execution of a founding leader of the United Irishmen, Thomas Russell, at Downpatrick Gaol; Council further recognises the unique and invaluable opportunities which exist to mark these events as key moments in our local shared history; Calls on Council to engage with all interested schools/community groups/historical societies with the objective of launching a series of events and initiatives that suitably mark these significant anniversaries".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Good Relations in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/083/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – VAPING AND E CIGARETTE AND RETAILERS

The following Motion was received from Councillor Rice:

'The Mourne Mountain Rescue Team provide an invaluable, indeed lifesaving, service to the High Mourne, Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion areas which lie within our Council District. The MMRT have expressed concern that their practical effectiveness and financial resources could be reduced due to the name change of a rescue team from the other end of the province. In order to mitigate against this, it shall be agreed that this Council, by endorsing this motion, both shows full public support for the MMRT as

well as liaising with the team in order to establish what practical help and support can be given as they seek to secure their position via the Charity Commission.'

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Finnegan.

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

Councillors Enright and Jackson left the meeting at this point – 7.50 and 7.51pm respectively.

The Chairperson advised an emergency Notice of Motion had been received, the wording of which had been emailed to all Councillors and to enable it to be heard, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting).

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

FOR: 31
AGAINST: 0

It was agreed by a qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1.1 (copy attached)

C/084/2023 NOTICE OF MOTION – FIXED BRIDGE DESIGN FOR NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD

The following Emergency Motion was received from Councillor King:

"That this Council is deeply disappointed with the Department for Infrastructures decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design for the Newry Southern Relief Road, stresses that the local community have made clear their support for an open bridge and for the Albert Basin to remain unhindered and open to navigation, recognises the potential of our waterways and their historical and cultural importance for the area, and urges the Department for Infrastructure to reconsider their decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Harte.

Councillor King began by stating that over the last number of years there had been clear opposition across the Newry, Mourne and Down area for the options for the Southern Relief road to be a fixed bridge. He added the local community and elected representatives had made it clear that they wished to have a lifting bridge option to ensure the Albert Basin in Newry would remain unhindered and open to navigation particularly for tall ships and vessels.

Councillor King said the decision announced by the DfI to proceed with a fixed bridge had been met with huge disappointment across the District and that as Council look the regenerate Newry City with ongoing development of a first class city park at the Albert

Basin and the greenway linking Newry to Carlingford making sure the waterways fulfil their potential and play a key role in tourism and economic prosperity of this area.

Councillor King asked Members to support the motion requesting DfI to listen to the people of the District and urgently reconsider this short-sighted decision for a fixed bridge.

Councillor Taylor spoke of the disappointment for everyone involved on hearing the news regarding the fixed bridge and that there was a clear desire that for Newry to realise its full long term potential of its waterways a listing bridge was needed. In supporting the motion Councillor Taylor put forward the following amendment to be added:

"It was also agreed to ask for Council representation to meet with senior officials within Department for Infrastructure to articulate the views of the local community".

Councillor King accepted the amendment put forward by Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Stokes voiced real concern that the decision having been taken during a time of democratic deficit when a local Minister is not in place and asked that the following amendment be added to the motion:

"And further request department to delay final decision until a local Minister is in place".

Councillor King accepted the amendment put forward by Councillor Stokes.

Councillors McMurray, Savage and McAteer all spoke in support of the amended motion.

Councillor Hanna advised he would be abstaining from the motion.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to talk of the need for the relief road on two fronts, Warrenpoint Port in need of it for expansion but also for the health and wellbeing of constituents. He spoke at length of the need to do it right and demand a first rate bridge to meet the potential for District and the development of the tourism product.

The amended motion was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR:	26
AGAINST:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	4

The proposal was carried.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor King, seconded by Councillor Harte that Council is deeply disappointed with the Department for Infrastructure's decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design for the Newry Southern Relief Road,**

stresses that the local community have made clear their support for an open bridge and for the Albert Basin to remain unhindered and open to navigation, recognises the potential of our waterways and their historical and cultural importance for the area, and urges the Department for Infrastructure to reconsider their decision to proceed with a fixed bridge design.

It was agreed to ask for Council representation to meet with senior officials within Department for Infrastructure to articulate the views of the local community.

And further agreed to request department to delay final decision until a local Minister is in place.

Councillor Gallagher left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.56pm.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
C Bowsie	2			
J Brennan	3			
R Burgess				1
P Byrne				2
W Clarke	4			
D Curran	5			
L Devlin	6			
C Enright				3
A Finnegan	7			
H Gallagher	8			
M Gibbons				4
O Hanlon	9			
G Hanna	10			
V Harte	11			
R Howell	12			
J Jackson				5
G Kearns	13			
C King	14			
M Larkin	15			
D Lee-Surginor	16			
A Lewis	17			
O Magennis	18			
G Malone				6
D McAteer	19			
L McEvoy	20			
H McKee	21			
K McKeivitt	22			
A McMurray	23			
D Murphy	24			
G O'Hare				7
B Ó Muirí	25			
H Reilly				8
M Rice	26			
M Ruane				9
M Savage	27			
G Sharvin	28			
G Stokes	29			
D Taylor	30			
J Tinnelly				10
J Trainor	31			
TOTALS	31	0	0	10