

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 9 January 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair:	Councillor M Savage	
In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor R Burgess Councillor D Curran Councillor G Hanna Councillor J Jackson Councillor C King Councillor D McAteer Councillor D Murphy Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Savage Councillor D Taylor	Councillor C Bowsie Councillor P Byrne Councillor C Enright Councillor V Harte Councillor G Kearns Councillor A Lewis Councillor A McMurray Councillor G O'Hare Councillor M Rice Councillor G Sharvin Councillor J Trainor
In attendance via Teams:	Councillor J Brennan Councillor L Devlin Councillor H Gallagher Councillor O Hanlon Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis Councillor L McEvoy Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor G Stokes	Councillor W Clarke Councillor A Finnegan Councillor M Gibbons Councillor R Howell Councillor D Lee-Surginor Councillor G Malone Councillor H McKee Councillor M Ruane Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
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 P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/001/2023

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor McKevitt and Mr Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed four new Members to Council including Councillors Kearns and King replacing Sinn Féin councillors for Newry and Councillors Bowsie and Jackson replacing DUP Councillors for the Rowallane area.

The Chairperson wished to acknowledge the passing of Reverent Deacon Brendan McAllister and passed on deepest sympathies of Council to his wife Elizabeth, daughter Anna and sons Joseph and Tom.

The Chairperson congratulated the Clonduff camogie team on becoming newly crowned All-Ireland Intermediate Champions and advised a suitable reception to honour their achievements would be organised in due course.

C/002/2023

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors McMurray and Howell declared an interest in item 27: Notice of Motion – Funding Cuts by the Education Authority.

Councillor Stokes declared an interest in item 22: Notice of Motion – Warrenpoint PSNI Station.

C/003/2023

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022 (copy circulated).

AHC/200/2022 – Newry Leisure Centre, Swimming Pool

At the request of Councillor Hanna, it was agreed officers would report back to the Mourne Councillors with an update on staffing issues at the Kilkeel Leisure Centre.

It was also agreed on the request of Councillor Harte for an update on Newry Leisure Centre to be provided.

Agreed:

The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/004/2023 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 December 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/005/2023 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 28 November 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 28 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/006/2023 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2022 (copy circulated).

ERT/190/2022 - Tourism Strategy and Branding

Councillor Devlin took the opportunity to highlight that there was a workshop organised for 17 January 2023 in the Down Arts Centre and spoke of the importance of encouraging attendance from as many tourism businesses as possible.

ERT/191/2022 – Newcastle Harbour, Pilot Fishing Tours

In welcoming the approval for a pilot programme of fishing tours Councillor Devlin appealed to boat owners to come forward and submit expressions of interest.

Agreed: The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 December 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

C/007/2023

**MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2022 (copy circulated).

SPR/196/2022 - Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Partnership Board Meeting, 1 December 2022

Councillor McMurray asked that his comments at the meeting in relation to the Alliance Party's opposition be included within the minute. The Democratic Services Manager agreed the amendments to the minute would be added accordingly.

SPR/188/2022 – Castlewellan Forest Park

In welcoming the progression of works at Castlewellan Forest Park Councillor Devlin expressed concern at the recent damage to the park gate and asked that officers meet to consider how to move forward and protect the heritage at the park.

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Hanlon subject to the agreed amendment as follows: "Councillor McMurray outlined the Alliance Party opposition to the Civic Centre development."

C/008/2023

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 December 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

C/009/2023

**MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2022 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 20 December 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by

Councillor Curran.

C/010/2023 PLANNING SECTION

There were no planning issues.

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES

C/011/2023 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES – 10 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes – 10 November 2022.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 10 November 2022 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/012/2023 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – 10 NOVEMBER 2022

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin – 10 November 2022.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin dated 10 November 2022 was noted on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran.

C/013/2023 RESPONSE FROM MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: NOM C/183/2022 – GOVERNMENT HELP WITH COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Read: Correspondence from Mid Ulster District Council re: NOM C/183/2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from Mid Ulster District Council.

Agenda items 14, 15 and 19 were taken together.

C/014/2023 RESPONSE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE RE: NOM C/184/2022 ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION

Read: Correspondence from re: NOM C/184/2022, Electronic Travel Authorisation. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McAteer spoke at length of his disappointment at the Secretary of State not responding himself to Council's concerns regarding electronic travel authorisation and instead a response was sent from the Minister of State for Northern Ireland on his behalf. He added that the response received had been in total contrast to that received from the Office of Foreign Affairs, who had grasped the seriousness of the matter and the implications for tourism and collaboration between north and south for work, health provision etc.

Councillor McAteer proposed Council write back to the Secretary of State highlighting that Council had written to him asking for his own comments and expressing Council's dissatisfaction at his lack of personal reply to the Council.

This was seconded by Councillor Devlin.

Councillor Devlin stated the reply from NIO was pathetic and showed no understanding of the uniqueness of the island of Ireland and the border and spoke of how the proposals were a huge barrier to tourism.

Councillor Reilly stated the DUP took reassurance from the reply received from the Secretary of State and spoke of the republic abusing the principles for a common travel area and growing concerns about immigration problems being out of control. He also spoke of how the proposals for electronic travel authorisation were a minor imposition on tourism.

Councillor Taylor pointed out a debate had already taken place at a recent Council meeting and that he was unsure of what the issue was that Councillor McAteer had with the response as Ministers responding on behalf of others happened on regular occasions. He added discussions were ongoing between the Irish and British Government and space should be given in order for those issues to be ironed out.

Councillor Enright spoke of how diverse the Republic of Ireland was and wished to distance himself from Councillor Reilly on that issue. Councillor Reilly replied that he was not against anyone based on colour, creed or religion but rather he was referring to concerns raised and safeguarding for the people.

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

For: 31
Against: 8

Councillor McAteer's proposal was carried.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Devlin that Council write back to the Secretary of State pointing out that Council had written to him and asked him for his comments regarding the concerns raised by Council and express Council's dissatisfaction at his lack of personal reply to Council.

C/015/2023 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MINISTER FOR JUSTICE RE: NOM C/184/2022 – ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION**

Read: Correspondence from Minister for Justice re: Electronic Travel Authorisation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Minister for Justice.

C/016/2023 **RESPONSE FROM OFFICE OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE RE. NOM C/184/2022 – ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION**

Read: Correspondence from Office of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence re: Electronic Travel Authorisation. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Office of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence.

C/017/2023 **RESPONSE FROM CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLEN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOM C/183/2022 GOVERNMENT HELP WITH COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Read: Correspondence from Causeway Coast and Glen Borough Council re: Government Help with Cost of Living Crisis. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from the Causeway Coast and Glen Borough Council.

C/018/2023 **RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY RE:
NOM C/207/2022 – WORKERS LEGAL RIGHTS TO TIPS**

Read: Correspondence from Dept. for the Economy re: Workers Legal rights to Tips. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agenda items 18 and 20 were taken together.

C/019/2023 **RESPONSE FROM ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE CRAIGAVON
COUNCIL RE: NOM C/185/2022 – INCLUSION OF
COUNTIES ARMAGH AND DOWN IN IRELAND'S ANCIENT
EAST DESTINATION MARKETING BRAND**

Read: Correspondence from Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon Council re: Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran to note the correspondence from Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon Council.**

C/020/2023 **RESPONSE FROM CATHERINE MARTIN TD RE: NOM
C/185/2022 - INCLUSION OF COUNTIES ARMAGH AND
DOWN IN IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST DESTINATION
MARKETING BRAND**

Read: Correspondence from Catherine Martin TD re: Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East Destination Marketing Brand. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne voiced his disappointment at the response received from the Minister and acknowledged that whilst it was known it was going to be tricky to get a formal arrangement to take Armagh and Down into Ireland's Ancient East it was to be fought for and believed in. He highlighted that within the response the Minister outlined that Failte Ireland's remit did not allow for the counties to be included but outlined numerous ways it could be included; all be it informally.

Councillor Byrne spoke at length about upcoming meetings and the importance of this matter being raised by the Minister including the details of the motion.

Councillor Byrne proposed Council write back to Catherine Martin TD Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and ask her to use all powers she

had to develop the inclusion of Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East and that she discusses this at the next meeting with the Department the informal ways Armagh and Down can play a role in All Ireland tourism.

This was seconded by Councillor Devlin.

The Chairperson referred to the recent activity in relation to the expansion to the Wild Atlantic Way into Causeway Coast and Glens.

Councillor Tinnelly voiced his support for the proposal.

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

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Devlin Councillor Byrne that Council write back to Catherine Martin TD Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and ask her to use all powers she had to develop the inclusion of Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East and that she discusses at the next meeting with the Department the informal ways Armagh and Down can play a role in All Ireland tourism.

C/021/2023 **SOLACE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE 23 FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Notification of 2023 Local Government Conference to be held on Thursday 23 February, Silverbirch Hotel Omagh

Agreed: **It was agreed that any Members wishing to attend the SOLACE Local Government Conference on 23 February 2023 were to contact the Democratic Services Department as soon as possible.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/022/2023 **NOTICE OF MOTION – WARRENPOINT PSNI STATION**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Ruane:

"This Council recognises that the vacant Warrenpoint PSNI station has been surplus to requirements for a number of years; Recognising the strategic location and the size of the site, this Council believes that efforts should be undertaken to return the vacant PSNI station to community use for the benefit of local people; Acknowledging that approximately 2,000 people are currently in housing stress across South Down this Council recommends that the site of the old PSNI station in Warrenpoint be used to address the identified need for affordable housing in the Warrenpoint & Rostrevor

areas; Given that the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association have officially expressed an interest in acquiring the site via the D1 process;

This Council should extend its full support behind them throughout this process and offer whatever practical assistance may be required to ensure the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association successfully acquire this site in order to deliver much needed social housing:

Council should also write to the Chief Constable and to the Chair of the Policing Board to put on record the Council's support for this proposal".

Councillor Ruane stated an addition to the end of the Motion should be added to read: *"It is also agreed that the Reilly family from Warrenpoint are notified and fully briefed on any development on the site and that Joanne's memorial is appropriately sited with the family's input and approval"*

The Motion was seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruane said there was a total lack of affordable social housing in the area, and this was an opportunity to do something about it.

Councillor O'Hare seconded the motion echoing Councillor Ruane's sentiments and said the current housing crisis was very disheartening for people who were struggling to find any type of accommodation.

Councillor McAteer expressed support for the Motion but said whilst he acknowledged there was a need for housing in the area, he said there was also a need for health care facilities, and he considered the vacant PSNI station could accommodate the health centre as well as social housing. He added the current situation in Warrenpoint with the library and the health centre sharing a building was far from ideal with not enough space for both entities to operate satisfactorily. He said there was a real danger of losing the health care facility which covered a wide area and he proposed to amend the Motion as follows:

"This Council recognises that the vacant Warrenpoint PSNI station has been surplus to requirements for a number of years; Recognising the strategic location and the size of the site, this Council believes that efforts should be undertaken to return the vacant PSNI station to community use for the benefit of local people; Acknowledging that approximately 2,000 people are currently in housing stress across South Down this Council recommends that the site of the old PSNI station in Warrenpoint be used to address the identified need for affordable housing in the Warrenpoint & Rostrevor areas; Given that the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association have officially expressed an interest in acquiring the site via the D1 process;

This Council should extend its full support behind them throughout this process and offer whatever practical assistance may be required to ensure the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association successfully acquire this site in order to deliver much needed social housing:

And also invite exploratory discussions between Libraries NI, Department of Health the Housing Executive and Housing Association and the current owners to consider

relocating the library to part of the site in order to facilitate the expansion of Warrenpoint health centre.

It is also agreed that the Reilly family from Warrenpoint are notified and fully briefed on any development on the site and that Joanne's memorial is appropriately sited with the family's input and approval"

Councillor Gallagher seconded the proposal.

Councillor Ruane rejected the amendment saying he considered it detracted from the Motion and the library and health centre was a separate issue that would need separate discussions.

Councillor Tinnelly expressed support for the original Motion and said the Housing Executive was the only respondent to the D1 Process. He said the importance of the D1 Process in this instance could not be overstated as it ensured the Housing Executive could seek to acquire the premises without competition from private developers. Councillor Tinnelly said it was a matter of public record that Paul and Anne Reilly's 20 year old daughter Joanne had been tragically killed by a bomb at the PSNI site in 1989 and a commitment had been given to retain a memorial.

Councillor Gibbons expressed support for the Motion and asked Councillor McAteer if he was speaking on behalf of either Libraries NI or the Health Centre in relation to his proposed amendment. Councillor McAteer said he had not, but he was aware the Health Centre had expressed a need to extend their current facility and it was up to local people to drive things forward in an effort to try and stop the collapse of the health service and he, as a local councillor wanted to draw awareness to it.

Councillor Enright expressed support for the Motion saying there was an acute shortage of affordable housing, and the Newry Mourne and Down District was the worst in N. Ireland.

The Chairperson put Councillor McAteer's proposed amendment to the motion to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 9
AGAINST: 28

The proposal was lost.

Councillor Hanna expressed full support for the motion and agreed it was appropriate to recognise a victim of terrorism.

In summing up, Councillor Ruane thanked members for their support and said he assumed it would have been a very straightforward motion and would not have required such in depth discussions. He said it was vital everything should be done to try and ease the current housing crisis.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor O'Hare this Council recognises that the vacant Warrenpoint PSNI station

has been surplus to requirements for a number of years;

Recognising the strategic location and the size of the site, this Council believes that efforts should be undertaken to return the vacant PSNI station to community use for the benefit of local people;

Acknowledging that approximately 2,000 people are currently in housing stress across South Down this Council recommends that the site of the old PSNI station in Warrenpoint be used to address the identified need for affordable housing in the Warrenpoint & Rostrevor areas;

Given that the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association have officially expressed an interest in acquiring the site via the D1 process; This Council should extend its full support behind them throughout this process and offer whatever practical assistance may be required to ensure the Housing Executive and Choice Housing Association successfully acquire this site in order to deliver much needed social housing.

Council should also write to the Chief Constable and to the Chair of the Policing Board to put on record the Council's support for this proposal".

It is also agreed that the Reilly family from Warrenpoint are notified and fully briefed on any development on the site and that Joanne's memorial is appropriately sited with the families input and approval.

C/023/2023

NOTICE OF MOTION – BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Enright:

"This Council recognises the important role that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) can play in promoting regeneration, leading economic development, and providing a collective voice for local businesses. It also recognises the excellent work already being done by Newry BID, and that this can serve as an exemplar for BIDs across the district. Council will use its human or other resources to enthusiastically welcome and support plans to establish new BIDs across the district, particularly in our main towns".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Agreed:

The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McMurray:

"This Council notes with concern previous, current and prolonged non-functioning of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly. This Council shall communicate to both the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of our opinion that structural reform of the institutions is a pressing necessity to end ransom politics and support continuous governance for the betterment of all in our society".

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Lee-Surginor.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McMurray said the Motion had been borne out of a frustration relayed to him by many regarding the current and previous, non-functioning of the Stormont Assembly and Executive. He said regardless of the current impasse, or indeed previous stalemates, structural reform of how the institutions operate was required to facilitate continuity of functioning democracy for the betterment of all in society and for it not to function only eroded the public trust and faith in political institutions. He said the current collapse was stymying the progress and development of many aspects of peoples' lives including the Health Service reform, cost of living crisis, economy stimulation, climate crisis and the green economy and educational underachievement and systemic challenges.

Councillor McMurray said reforming how the Executive and Assembly functioned did not alter the fundamental principles of the Good Friday Agreement and reforming Stormont would be significant in restoring public confidence in devolution and in ensuring the long-term stability of the Assembly and Executive and ending ransom politics. He said the Alliance Party recommended the following package of measures be implemented immediately:

1. To facilitate Executive formation - the process of nominating First and deputy First Ministers must be amended. If an eligible party are unwilling to do so, they should form an opposition and allow those willing to govern to do so.
2. To facilitate a functional Assembly - a weighted majority of approximately two-thirds should replace parallel consent in 'cross-community' votes
3. To facilitate a functional Executive – the threshold for triggering a 'cross-community' vote within the Executive should also be reformed.

Councillor Sharvin proposed an amendment to the Motion to read as follows:

"This Council notes with concern previous, current and prolonged non-functioning of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly. This Council shall communicate to both the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of our opinion that structural reform of the institutions in the spirit of the Good Friday Agreement is a pressing necessity to end ransom politics and support continuous governance for the betterment of all in our society".

Councillor Stokes seconded the proposal. Councillor McMurray accepted the amendment.

Councillor Reilly said the Belfast agreement had been designed to protect minorities in N. Ireland, ensure parity of esteem of both communities & enshrine the principle consent in underpinning NI's constitutional status as an integral constituent part of the UK. He said the constitutional balance had been totally upended by the NI Protocol and a recent report published by the Nuffield Institute outlined that N. Ireland was being deprived of up to 30% of medical drugs that were available to people in England, Scotland and Wales. He said the Alliance Party was virtually mute on the reform of Stormont when Sinn Féin refused to take their seats for three years and he said the DUP would continue to work for the benefit of all, and it would not be supporting the Motion.

Councillor Taylor said whilst the UUP wanted to see Stormont operating to its full extent, it had concerns with the Motion and it was important to note that how Stormont operated was an internal affairs matter for the UK government to deal with. He said the Belfast Agreement had been voted for by the people of N. Ireland via a referendum. Councillor Taylor said it was important to note the protections in place within the Agreement and said there were genuine unionist concerns regarding the N. Ireland Protocol that could not be dismissed. He said the Alliance Party did not call for change when Stormont was not functional for three years as a result of Sinn Féin's demands and consequently the UUP would not be supporting the Motion.

Councillor Murphy said Sinn Féin agreed with the first sentence of the Motion and many of the sentiments therein but would have difficulty with the words 'structural reform' without having proper debate and discussions within the relevant institutions and would therefore not be supporting the Motion.

A vote was taken on the amended substantive Motion, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	14
AGAINST:	24

The Motion was declared lost.

In summing up, Councillor McMurray expressed his deep disappointment and said the Motion had been about good governance and not the N.I. Protocol and the Alliance Party had called for reform previously when Sinn Féin had not taken their seats in Stormont.

C/025/2023 **NOTICE OF MOTION – 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NEWCASTLE FISHING DISASTER**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Clarke:

"This Council acknowledges that this month (January) is the 180th Anniversary of the Newcastle fishing disaster in which 73 fishermen lost their lives; This Council in partnership with The Harbour Heritage Association, and the harbour community should install a memorial garden as a permanent and fitting tribute to those who lost their lives in the 1843 tragedy as well as all those who have lost their lives through the dangerous occupation of fishing".

It has been extremely disappointing in the manner in which these matters have been communicated to youth service providers and service users. The lack of clarity and effective communication has meant that Youth Groups have been left in limbo wondering what the outcome of these cuts will have on the services they can provide for our young people;

This Council commits to writing to the Education Authority urging them to scrap any plans which cut youth services in Newry Mourne & Down.

This Council further calls on the DUP to get back to work around the Executive table with the other parties to get locally elected ministers in place and support the public against British Government budget cuts”.

Councillor Rice said he wished to add the following sentence to the end of the Notice of Motion: “ *This Council requests a Special Council meeting to discuss the proposed cuts by the EA, to allow us to voice our dissatisfaction and opposition to the cuts to youth services.*”

Councillor King seconded the motion saying the proposed cuts would have a detrimental impact to youth services and many young people would be disadvantaged especially those who were not part of a sports club.

Councillor Bowsie proposed to amend the Motion as follows:

“This Council recognises the potential for devastating funding cuts by the Education Authority on youth services;

We accept that the impact of these cuts will be devastating for youth providers, for youth services and ultimately for young people across this council area. Youth groups are already under immense pressure and further cuts will have a detrimental impact that will be felt for years to come;

It has been extremely disappointing in the manner in which these matters have been communicated to youth service providers and service users. The lack of clarity and effective communication has meant that Youth Groups have been left in limbo wondering what the outcome of these cuts will have on the services they can provide for our young people;

This Council commits to writing to the Education Authority urging them to scrap any plans which cut youth services in Newry Mourne & Down.

This council is disappointed that the Sinn Fein Finance Minister failed to make education a priority in his draft budget, which among other things, resulted in the majority of other parties in the Executive refusing to agree to that budget.

This council firmly believes that education should be a priority for any future Executive and calls on all parties to support this position.”

Councillor Hanna seconded the proposal. Councillor Rice rejected the amendment.

The proposal to amend the Motion was put to a vote, the result of which was as follows:

FOR: 7
AGAINST: 29

The proposal was lost.

Councillor Byrne expressed his disappointment at Members' homing in on the last paragraph of the Motion and said he was involved in his local youth centre and realised first-hand the devastating impact of the cuts. He said it was a very difficult process trying to retain jobs whilst dealing with soaring overhead costs. He said the argument should not be brought down to party political level as all youth centres across the district would be similarly affected and the focus should be on funding. Councillor Byrne advised youth clubs had received letters from the Youth Club Alliance regarding funding and due to the concerns expressed, the application process had been paused until 18 January 2023 with information on additional funding streams being made available around the 16 January. He said this timeframe was not acceptable and it was extremely difficult for youth clubs to outline their three year spend, which was a requirement, and yet the Education Authority did not currently have a budget. Councillor Byrne said maximum flexibility across expenditure was needed and proposed the Motion be amended to read as follows:

"This Council recognises the potential for devastating funding cuts by the Education Authority on youth services;

We accept that the impact of these cuts will be devastating for youth providers, for youth services and ultimately for young people across this council area. Youth groups are already under immense pressure and further cuts will have a detrimental impact that will be felt for years to come;

It has been extremely disappointing in the manner in which these matters have been communicated to youth service providers and service users. The lack of clarity and effective communication has meant that Youth Groups have been left in limbo wondering what the outcome of these cuts will have on the services they can provide for our young people;

This Council commits to writing to the Education Authority urging them to scrap any plans which cut youth services in Newry Mourne & Down and also ask the Education Authority to ensure in the absence of a set budget that maximum flexibility is shown to successful applicants regarding expenditure across budget headlines.

This Council further calls on the DUP to get back to work around the Executive table with the other parties to get locally elected ministers in place and support the public against British Government budget cuts.

This Council requests a special council meeting to discuss the proposed cuts by the EA, told allow us to voice our dissatisfaction and opposition to the cuts to youth services."

Councillor Trainor seconded the proposal. Councillor Rice accepted the amendment.

Councillor Trainor expressed support for the Motion and said he fully agreed with the amendment proposed by Councillor Byrne.

Councillor Taylor said it was an extremely serious issue that affected all youth clubs across the district, and he proposed in the interest of unanimity that the final paragraph be removed and the Motion to read as follows:

"This Council recognises the potential for devastating funding cuts by the Education Authority on youth services;

We accept that the impact of these cuts will be devastating for youth providers, for youth services and ultimately for young people across this council area. Youth groups

are already under immense pressure and further cuts will have a detrimental impact that will be felt for years to come;

It has been extremely disappointing in the manner in which these matters have been communicated to youth service providers and service users. The lack of clarity and effective communication has meant that Youth Groups have been left in limbo wondering what the outcome of these cuts will have on the services they can provide for our young people;

This Council commits to writing to the Education Authority urging them to scrap any plans which cut youth services in Newry Mourne & Down and also ask the Education Authority to ensure in the absence of a set budget that maximum flexibility is shown to successful applicants regarding expenditure across budget headlines.

This Council requests a special council meeting to discuss the proposed cuts by the EA, told allow us to voice our dissatisfaction and opposition to the cuts to youth services."

Councillor Tinnelly seconded the proposal. Councillor Rice accepted the amendment.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor King it was unanimously agreed this Council recognises the potential for devastating funding cuts by the Education Authority on youth services;

We accept that the impact of these cuts will be devastating for youth providers, for youth services and ultimately for young people across this council area. Youth groups are already under immense pressure and further cuts will have a detrimental impact that will be felt for years to come;

It has been extremely disappointing in the manner in which these matters have been communicated to youth service providers and service users. The lack of clarity and effective communication has meant that Youth Groups have been left in limbo wondering what the outcome of these cuts will have on the services they can provide for our young people;

This Council commits to writing to the Education Authority urging them to scrap any plans which cut youth services in Newry Mourne & Down and also ask the Education Authority to ensure in the absence of a set budget that maximum flexibility is shown to successful applicants regarding expenditure across budget headlines.

This Council requests a Special Council meeting to discuss the proposed cuts by the EA, told allow us to voice our dissatisfaction and opposition to the cuts to youth services."

C/028/2023

NOTICE OF MOTION – GOOD FRIDAY / BELFAST AGREEMENT

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Stokes:

