

## NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

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### Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 4 March 2024 at 6.00pm in Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick and via Microsoft Teams

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**In the Chair:** Councillor G Sharvin

**In attendance in Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor P Campbell	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
Councillor K Feehan	Councillor D Finn
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor C Galbraith
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor G Kearns
Councillor T Kelly	Councillor C King
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor A Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Rice	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Truesdale	

**In attendance via Teams:**

Councillor J Brennan	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor S O'Hare	

**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 Economy, Regeneration and  
Tourism  
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy  
Communities  
Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and  
Environment  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**C/044/2024**

**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

In the absence of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson Councillor Sharvin assumed the Chair.

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne, Harte, McAteer and McEvoy.

The Chairperson expressed condolences following the passing of Mark Murphy following a tragic accident with thoughts of Council extended sympathy to his partner Danielle, their children and the entire family circle.

The Chairperson expressed condolences to the family of Ally Smyth who had passed away following a tragic accident at Coney Island.

The Chairperson extended congratulations to St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan who were in the All-Ireland Final.

Congratulations were sent to Down Railway volunteer, Jonathan King from Dundrum on winning volunteer of the year across the UK and Ireland.

Congratulations were extended to Harry McVeigh from the Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche in Castlewellan who made history on becoming the youngest winner of the final of the NI Primary School Cross Country League.

Good luck and congratulations were sent to Owen Rooney from Kilcoo who flew to England to compete in the PPC Youth Tour qualifiers in Darts.

The Chairperson congratulated Saintfield Community Association on winning the Live Here, Love Here Champion Award from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Congratulations were extended to Ark Community Gardens, Newcastle on being recognised as the Live Here, Love Here Community Together Award.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to remind everyone of the St Patrick's Day events on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, scheduled for a great day and it was hoped there would be massive crowds in Downpatrick and Newry.

**C/045/2024**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Brennan and Hanna declared an interest in item 13: Letter from Department for Infrastructure regarding the appointment to Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

Councillor Enright declared an interest in Item 20: Notice of Motion, Newry Market.

In referring to item 13 (letter from Department for Infrastructure regarding appointment to the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority) the Chairperson asked if Party Group Leaders and Independents wished to have nominations submitted by Council that these be forwarded to Democratic Services before that item was considered later in the meeting.

Members were advised that should there be more than six nominations put forward Democratic Services would require a proposer and seconder for that item.

**C/046/2024**                    **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

Read:                            Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 February 2024 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                        **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 February 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Finn.**

**C/047/2024**                    **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

Read:                            Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 February 2024 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                        **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/048/2024**                    **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2024**

Read:                            Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2024 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                        **The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

**C/049/2024**                    **MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2024**

Read:                            Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2024 (copy circulated).

*ERT/015/2024: Financial Assistance Call 2*

Councillor Andrews enquired about accessibility for those without internet access.

Mr Mallon advised the previous grant system for financial assistance was online only and that this was similar. He added that there had been no concerns or evidence of people being unable to access applications and therefore it was the same process as previous years.



**Agreed:** The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

**C/051/2024** **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Read:** Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2024 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Magennis.

**C/052/2024** **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Read:** Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2024 (copy circulated).

The Chairperson advised this was the last Council meeting for Mr Cassells and wished him well in his retirement.

The Chairperson wished Mrs Murphy well in moving forward in her role as Director of Sustainability and Environment.

Councillors Andrews, Reilly, Taylor, Lee-Surginor and Hanlon joined the Chairperson in thanking Mr Cassells and wishing him well in his retirement and wished Mrs Murphy well in her new role as Director of Sustainability and Environment.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Larkin.

**C/053/2024**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON 26 FEBRUARY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024 (copy circulated).

*AC/027/2024: Kilbroney Pitches*

Councillor Tinnelly asked that it be placed on record his concerns about the procedure undertaken in relation to this matter and how he had been unable to speak on the findings.

The Chairperson and Mrs Kelly confirmed Councillor Tinnelly was not able to take part in discussion or invited to the meeting due to conflict of interest.

**Agreed: The Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Devlin.**

**C/054/2024**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024 (copy circulated).

*SPR/034/2024: Flood Relief Scheme*

In response to a query from Councillor Lewis, Mrs Ward advised that once the minutes were ratified by Council the letter would be issued to the Minister for the Economy as agreed.

Councillor Galbraith spoke at length about the devastation of the flooding to many parts of South Down and beyond and the loneliness felt in the first couple of days as there were no officials from any Department or agency there to help. He spoke of how a whole Executive response was required that if flooding did recur in the future there would be a much quicker response. He added if changes needed to be made to the tidal bridge, the banks or to dredging, those needed to happen before businesses were left in exactly the same position of being left for months with no help or assistance.

Councillor Galbraith proposed Council write to the Minister for the Economy seeking an extension to the closing date of the current scheme, in order to allow the businesses affected an opportunity to gain a further understanding of the process and gather the necessary documentation to ensure they were not missing out.

Councillor Finn seconded Councillor Galbraith's proposal.

Councillor Hanlon voiced her disappointment at Councillor Galbraith's comments about not having agency and staff on the ground which she felt was an insult to the Council team who worked tirelessly to support businesses at the time and afterwards during cleanup.

Councillor Hanlon acknowledged it had been a lengthy process getting money distributed, and that it was not enough, however it was not the doing of the Departments but that of the Secretary of State who had not allowed enough to cover the scheme. She added the scheme did present many challenges however the Minister for the Economy had worked as fast as he could when he got into post.

In response to a query from Councillor Finn in relation to an appeals process for the initial payment scheme and if it could be done with the latest scheme, Mr Mallon advised the enhanced scheme had an appeals process in line with Council's Financial Assistance appeals process. He added the previous scheme did not have appeals process in place; however any queries or concerns were addressed for applicants who were ineligible and dealt with accordingly.

Mrs Ward took the opportunity to encourage all businesses including those who were not eligible in the initial scheme to complete applications as the scheme had changed and there could be different considerations.

Councillor Hanlon queried the proposal put forward by Councillor Galbraith as asking for an extension would delay money going out to businesses by it going into the next financial year.

Mr Mallon advised extending the scheme could have issues as firstly as part of the letter offer for the fund Council had to accrue £1.1million expenditure within the current financial year and applications would need to be submitted, closed and a preliminary assessment undertaken by end of March 2024. Secondly any delay to the closing date would delay an assessment of the total and the need to determine if the scheme was within the allocated funding envelope and payments could not be issued until the volume the number of eligible applications were determined.

In light of the information provided Councillor Galbraith agreed to withdraw his original proposal.

It was then agreed by all on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Galbraith that Council write to Economy Minister asking that given the tight deadline if a business applies after the 24 March 2024 deadline that a further scheme is opened up to ensure they do not lose out.

Councillors Hanna, Lee-Surginor and Taylor voiced support for the proposal.

**Agreed: The Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor O'Hare, seconded by Councillor Quinn.**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Galbraith that Council write to Economy Minister asking that given the tight deadline if a business applies after the 24 March 2024 deadline that a further scheme is opened up to ensure they do not lose out.**

**C/055/2024**

**PLANNING SECTION**

There were no issues arising.

Councillors Brennan and Hanna left the meeting during discussion on the following item – 6.47pm.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**C/056/2024**

**LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
REGARDING APPOINTMENT TO WARRENPOINT HARBOUR  
AUTHORITY**

Read: Letter dated 30 January 2024 from the Department for Infrastructure seeking Council nominees for the appointment to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lee-Surginor, seconded by Councillor Lewis that the names of the nine nominees be submitted for the appointment to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.**

**C/057/2024:**

**LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES  
REGARDING COUNCIL REMOTE/HYBRID MEETINGS**

Read: Letter dated 1 March 2024 from the Department for Communities regarding Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings.

Mrs Ward advised the correspondence outlined the end to legislation that had enabled and facilitated hybrid working and from Wednesday 6 March 2024 all statutory meetings including Council meetings, Committee meetings and Special Council meetings would have to be held in person in the Council Chamber in which they were to be held.

Mrs Ward advised non-statutory meetings such as working groups, workshops, DEA meetings would remain hybrid and that a discussion would take place at the Party Leaders Grouping and reported to the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee in due course.

Councillor Kelly spoke of the benefits of hybrid meetings and how the decision to end such meetings would significantly disadvantage many.

In agreement Councillor Hanlon said the Minister had acted quickly regarding the removal of hybrid meetings and had not listened to the consultation that had been previously undertaken.

Councillor Devlin spoke in support of the proposal particularly as mother of two young Children.

Mrs Ward confirmed the media would have the ability to join statutory Council meetings in hybrid form and details around that would be examined and communicated to them to enable them to continue to engage.





*Appendix 6: Department for Infrastructure in relation to C/029/2024 and SE/004/2024 Notice of Motion, Flood Defences*

Councillor Enright welcomed the response received and the maintenance schedule included however stated there were two omissions including the Belfast Road Bridge, Downpatrick and the 1934 Tidal barrier. He advised he had visited these sites with the Chair of the Flooding Council and both were blocked prior to flooding within the town.

Councillor Enright proposed that Council write back to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking the same maintenance data for the Belfast Road Bridge and 1934 Tidal Barrier in Downpatrick and seek clarity on the date following the major recent floods they were dug out and unblocked.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Truesdale.

Councillor Truesdale made reference to the Department having responsibility for designated water courses and that non-designated water courses were the responsibility of the riparian landowner.

In referring to Island Park, Newcastle with watercourses on both sides and a main river she advised they were currently blocked and deemed by DfI as belonging to the riparian land owner. She enquired if Council held information on what was designated and non-designated watercourses.

Mrs Ward advised she would have the matter investigated to establish whether it was the responsibility of Council.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Truesdale that Council write back to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking the same maintenance data for the Belfast Road Bridge and 1934 Tidal Barrier in Downpatrick and seek clarity on the date following the major recent floods they were dug out and unblocked.**

*Appendix 2: Bank of Ireland in relation to C/249/2023 Notice of Motion, Bank Closures and Euro ATMs*

Councillor Mathers welcomed the response from the Bank of Ireland however stated it was not the outcome Council had hoped for as access to Euro cash was limited across the District taking into the account the number of people working in the South with limited access to cash. He added the all island economy was thriving on both sides of the border and access should be encouraged by financial institutions.

*Appendix 4: Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to C/250/2023 Notice of Motion, Cystic Fibrosis Medication*

Councillor Andrews welcomed the response received from other Councils regarding such an important matter and he hoped such responses encourage the provision of cystic fibrosis medication.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright to note the correspondence report and appendices including the following:  
**Appendix 1: BBC NI**  
**Appendix 2: Bank of Ireland**  
**Appendix 3: Derry City and Strabane District Council**  
**Appendix 4: Ards and North Down Borough Council**  
**Appendix 5: Minister for the Economy**  
**Appendix 6: Minister for Infrastructure**

**C/059/2024**                      **NOTICE OF MOTION – DEMOCRATIC IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNCIL’S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

The following motion was received from Councillor Bowsie:

*"This Council notes with concern: 1) the scale of dissatisfaction from community groups who were disallowed vital community funding from NMDDC in 2023; 2) a drop in SLA funding to community associations by 42% from the previous year, the largest decrease in this council's history; 3) the absence of any member of the appeals panel being independent of Council; 4) the lack of a right of appeal for applicants who are rejected at Stage 1 even when the rejection is caused by a Council error; 5) the reluctance of Council to acknowledge ambiguous and flawed application questions which elicit inadequate answers; 6) The onus on councillors to approve all community funding recommendations presented to them without any detail whatsoever on the application and the reason for its approval or rejection. And therefore, this Council calls on senior officials to acknowledge and resolve these democratic shortcomings in its Financial Assistance programme."*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lewis.

**Agreed:**                      **The Motion was referred to the Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

**C/060/2024**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PROJECTED RATES INCREASE**

The following motion was received from Councillor Enright:

*“In view of cost of living pressures on ratepayers, Council must tailor its investment plans to what the people of Newry Mourne and Down can actually afford. Current projected rates increases in our Council over the next few years are unsustainable both in the short-term and longer term. This requires a root-and-branch re-examination of proposed capital expenditure with any major non-essential projects with a negative rate of return cancelled to make rates affordable in the medium term. In particular, Council directs management to prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only. Alternate sites should be considered like Bagenals Castle LIDL site that only came on the market in December 2023.*

*This should take account of - The loss of the Civil Service as an anchor tenant; The need to avoid speculative development in line with UK Department of Finance Guidance for Councils; The collapse of the office market in Ireland and GB since Covid and since Council voted to initiate this project in August 2019; An examination of any more affordable or appropriate sites; Aim to preserve the £130,000+ pa income stream from the Abbey car-park; These costings should include an option to remove the second fully-featured Council Chamber as an unnecessary luxury.*

*A cost benefit case for this project should likewise be prepared showing the annual savings from leaving current premises v’s the annual cost of operating the new premises to ensure Councillors are fully informed. Council notes that no such operational cost/benefit case exists at the moment. Council request management to bring forward the above costings as soon as possible.”*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Truesdale.

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

**C/061/2024**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN BELFAST AND DUBLIN INCLUDING SCHEDULED STOPS IN NEWRY**

The following amended motion was received from Councillor Feehan:

*“Newry Mourne and Down District Council notes the disparity between Newry and Portadown Rail Stations in morning commuter services to Belfast, welcomes the announcement by the Irish Government of €12.5m in funding for a new hourly service between Belfast and Dublin. Asks that this Council write to Department for Infrastructure and Irish Government requesting a commitment from both that the proposed new hourly rail service between Dublin and Belfast will include scheduled stops at Newry Train Station in both directions, with a particular focus on ensuring that the morning and evening commuter departure times from both Newry and Belfast should facilitate normal work starting times and furthermore that Council writes to Translink to gauge demand for additional commuter services from Newry Train Station”.*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Finn.

In presenting the motion Councillor Feehan advised he had brought the motion to highlight and address the stark disadvantage that Newry people find themselves in, with respect to commuting to both Belfast and Dublin.

He spoke of how at present there were eight scheduled morning train services per day from Portadown to Belfast arriving before 9am and by comparison, Newry had only one. Commuters travelling from Portadown were able to avail of a service departing every 20 minutes from 6am through to 8:20am, all of which guarantee arrival in Belfast before 9am. Commuters in Newry had one option, departing at 6:35am and arriving at 7:33am.

Councillor Feehan pointed out that in terms of commuting to Dublin, there were four morning services departing from Dundalk, as opposed to just one from Newry. He said it would be valuable to know how many Newry commuters were commencing their journeys from Dundalk in the morning rather than their local station, raising legitimate questions around the viability, or the credibility of decarbonising public transport when inadequate services from Newry were arguably giving rise to unnecessary car journeys to more adequately serviced stations.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Finn spoke of the frustration of commuting from Newry to Belfast and not being able to get into the office before 9am. She said she would like to see some form of survey undertaken by Translink and there needed to be more done at looking at active travel to ensure less cars on the road and ensure facilities were available for people going forward.

Councillor King stated workers from across the district would be delighted to hear that part of the Irish Government's financial package for the north included €12.5 million to provide an hourly Dublin to Belfast rail service and that this was welcome news as capacity on the Enterprise was currently stretched and there was an appetite for better services. He stated the hourly service would create greater access for jobs and opportunities, help to tackle the climate emergency and provide a boost to the thriving all-island economy.

Councillor Kelly spoke in support of the motion on behalf of Alliance and welcomed the Shared Island Funding announcement from the Irish Government including the commitment to the Narrow Water Bridge.

The Rail hub in Newry promotes cross border trade, tourism and opportunity and welcomed the commitment to a one hour travel time for the Belfast to Dublin service.

The inclusion of regular stops and journeys to and from Newry would connect the District to the major cities of Belfast and Dublin in a sustainable way and investment in rail services was needed to promote public transport and tackle the climate emergency.

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor Finn that Newry Mourne and Down District Council notes the disparity between Newry and Portadown Rail Stations in morning commuter services to Belfast, welcomes the announcement by the Irish Government of €12.5m in funding for a new hourly service between Belfast and Dublin. Asks that this Council write to Department for Infrastructure and Irish Government requesting a commitment from both that the proposed new hourly rail service between**

**Dublin and Belfast will include scheduled stops at Newry Train Station in both directions, with a particular focus on ensuring that the morning and evening commuter departure times from both Newry and Belfast should facilitate normal work starting times and furthermore that council writes to Translink to gauge demand for additional commuter services from Newry Train Station.**

Councillor Gibbons left the meeting at this point – 7.15pm

**C/062/2024                      NOTICE OF MOTION – NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC SERVICE OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS**

The following amended motion was received from Councillor Devlin (on behalf of Party Group Leaders).

*“This Council expresses its concerns at the processing time for NIPSO complaints. Noting that some investigations can take up to 4.5 years, this Council calls on the Northern Ireland Assembly’s Audit Committee to assess whether the staffing levels within NIPSO are adequate so that determinations can be made in a timely manner.”*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Devlin stated that as a body, the Northern Ireland Public Sector Organisation played an essential role in promoting good governance, improving accountability in public administration and addressing individual cases. The work of NIPSO was designed to be proactive and played an essential role in promoting the Councillor’s Code of Conduct.

Councillor Devlin highlighted the facts were stark and that since its establishment in 2016, the number of complaints made to NIPSO had only increased and that the best way to address these complaints was through early resolution and effective communication. This ensured the correct outcome and public confidence in such bodies and members was maintained. Despite this, there had been multiple instances in which it took NIPSO and the NI Local Government Commissioner for Standards over 4 years to make a determination on any given case detracted from public confidence and was not acceptable.

Councillor Devlin advised she wanted to highlight these delays and put on record Councils concern for the processing times and ask the issue to be escalated to the Executive Office for review and improvement.

Councillors Hanlon, Hanna, Lee-Surginor and Taylor all spoke in support of the motion.

**Agreed:                      It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that Council expresses its concerns at the processing time for NIPSO complaints. Noting that some investigations can take up to 4.5 years, this Council calls on the Northern Ireland Assembly’s Audit Committee to assess whether the staffing levels within NIPSO are adequate so that determinations can be made in a timely manner.**

The following motion was received from Councillor Finn:

*"Newry Mourne and Down District Council embraces the historic importance of Newry as a market town and acknowledges with concern lower than expected attendance to our local market. NMDDC commits to revitalising the market through engagement with traders, the business community and other potential stakeholders. Council officers will reach out to local councils with successful markets such as Belfast and Galway, and explore additional uses to encourage footfall, including with our arts and community groups."*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Feehan.

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

here being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.24pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 8 April 2024.

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**