NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 07 December 2020 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair:	Councillor L Devlin	
In attendance:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor R Burgess Councillor C Casey Councillor D Curran Councillor D Curran Councillor H Gallagher Councillor O Hanlon Councillor V Harte Councillor V Harte Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis Councillor C Mason Councillor C Mason Councillor L McEvoy Councillor K McKevitt Councillor K McKevitt Councillor R Mulgrew Councillor R Mulgrew Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor M Ruane Councillor G Sharvin Councillor D Taylor Councillor J Trainor	Councillor P Brown Councillor P Byrne Councillor W Clarke Councillor A Finnegan Councillor M Gibbons Councillor G Hanna Councillor G Hanna Councillor R Howell Councillor A Lewis Councillor A Lewis Councillor D McAteer Councillor D McAteer Councillor H McKee Councillor A McMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor G O'Hare Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Savage Councillor G Stokes Councillor J Tinnelly Councillor W Walker
	(Officials) Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting) Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (Acting) Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Service, Human Resources & Safeguarding Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)	

Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

C/160/2020 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran and Enright.

C/161/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Agreed:

On behalf of Council the Chairperson sent best wishes to Councillor Seán Doran who had been unwell but was improving. Thoughts continue to be with Sean and his family.

The Chairperson congratulated the Down Camogie team on winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship and the Armagh Camogie team for winning the All Ireland Junior Championships at the weekend.

The Chairperson paid tribute to Rostrevor native Susanna Ni Dhubhai who was the Senior Composite Design Engineer for the BWT Racing Point Formula 1 Team which had a fantastic result in the Grand Prix at the weekend, with a first and a third place. Members were advised the team was to be renamed Aston Martin Formula 1 for the 2021 season and that Susanna would be the most prominent Irish person involved with Formula 1 at this time.

The Chairperson once again reminded everyone that Covid 19 remained among us and that restrictions were to ease on Friday and appealed to everyone to shop local, support local but ultimately to stay safe. With further relaxations around Christmas, the Chairperson appealed to people to ensure that what they were doing was done safely whilst adhering to the public health messaging.

The Chairperson commented that whilst there was very positive news of a vaccine, it would be some months before it became widespread so for the sake of another few months she appealed to everyone to exercise caution.

The Chairperson sought Members co-operation in terms of contributions at Council meetings relating to Committee Minutes advising that Committees were the location to raise issues.

C/162/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 02 November 2020 (copy circulated).

Councillor Andrews enquired if a response had been received from the Department of Health, Health and Social Care Trusts and relevant bodies regarding correspondence sent to them about addressing and implementing procedures to provide treatments to deal cancer and other health conditions that had been delayed due to the current pandemic.

Mrs Ward confirmed there was no response to date and any response received would be circulated to Members.

The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 November 2020 was agreed on the proposal of

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/163/2020	MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2020	
Read:	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 November 2020 (copy circulated).	
Agreed:	The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.	
C/164/2020	MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2020 RE: GRUGANDOO WIND FARM PLANNNG APPLICATION	
Read:	Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 October 2020 re: Grugandoo Wind Farm Planning Application. (copy circulated).	

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 26 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/165/2020 <u>MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM</u> COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 09 NOVEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 09 November 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 09 November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Stokes.

C/166/2020 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2020 (copy circulated).

In proposing the approval of the minutes Councillor Savage reiterated that the Albert Basin Project Board would be set up and meet in January 2021 and a budget would be included within the 2020/21 rates process to ensure the delivery of phase one within this Council term.

Agreed:The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and ResourcesCommittee Meeting held on 12 November 2020 wereagreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the

proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

C/167/2020 <u>MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES</u> COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2020

- Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2020 (copy circulated).
- Agreed: The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor.

C/168/2020 MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2020

- Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2020 (copy circulated).
- Agreed:The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services CommitteeMeeting held on 17 November 2020 were agreed as an
accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of
Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen.

C/169/2020 MINUTES OF SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 November 2020. (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

C/170/2020 MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2020 re: outcomes of a conciliated process with the Labour Relations Agency. (copy circulated).

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne to defer the minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2020 to a Special Council Meeting, date to be confirmed.

PLANNING

C/171/2020 EXTRACT OF DRAFT PLANNING MINUTES 18 NOVEMBER 2020 UPDATE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Read: Extract of Draft Planning Minutes of 18 November 2020 re: Local Development Plan (LDP) Progress, update and revised timetable. (copy circulated).

Councillor McAteer wished for it to be put on record that the revised timetable and new proposed date for the publication of the Local Development Plan was the second quarter of 2026/27 and that it was hoped it would be delivered ahead of this date.

Agreed:The extract of Draft Planning Minutes of 18 November2020 was approved on the proposal of CouncillorO'Hare, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

FOR NOTING

C/172/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 2020

Read: Bulletin dated November 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted.

C/173/2020 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES OCTOBER 2020

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 8 October 2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed:The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 8October 2020 were noted.

CORRESPONDENCE

C/174/2020 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES – REGENERATION BILL

Read: Correspondence dated 9 November 2020 from Department for Communities regarding Regeneration Bill. (Copy circulated)

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Agreed: The correspondence was noted.
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C/175/2020 CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER FOR EDUCATION RE: CHILDREN TAKING TRANSFER TESTS IN THEIR OWN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Read: Correspondence Education re: ch

Correspondence dated 16 November 2020 from Peter Weir, Minister for Education re: children taking transfer tests in their own primary schools. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Ó Muirí pointed out that the Northern Ireland Mental Health Champion Professor Siobhan O'Neill was appalled that transfer tests were proceeding and welcomed the correspondence from Minister Peter Weir which put the onus back on the Board of Governors.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

C/176/2020 CORRESPONDENCE FROM FINANICAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY RE: C/132/2020 INCREASES IN VEHICLE AND HOUSE INSURANCE COSTS

Read: Correspondence dated 9 November 2020 from the Financial Conduct Authority re: C/132/2020 Increases in Vehicle and House Insurance Costs. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Magennis advised she was not happy with the response received from the Financial Conduct Authority in which they justify increasing the insurance premiums in the postcode areas of BT34 and BT35 without concrete evidence of the risk involved. She commented that it may be the case that legal advice would be sought.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

C/177/2020 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DERRY CITY AND STRABANE COUNCIL RE: MOTIONS PASSED REGARDING AIR QUALITY ISSUE

Read: Correspondence dated 13 November 2020 from Derry City and Strabane Council re: Motions passed regarding air quality. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

C/178/2020 CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER FOR EDUCATION RE: PLANNED DISPOSAL OF ARDNABANNON OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Read: Correspondence dated 6 and 17 November 2020 from the Minister for Education re: Planned disposal of Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre. (Copy circulated)

Councillor McMurray pointed that whilst the response from the Minister was addressed to him he paid credit to all DEA Councillors for signing the joint letter regarding the planned disposal of Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre. Councillors McMurray, Howell and Gallagher voiced their disappointment at the decision of The Minister of Education regarding the planned disposal of Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

C/179/2020 CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER FOR HEALTH RE: REOPENING OF A&E AT DAISY HILL AND DOWNE HOSPITAL

Read: Correspondence dated 23 November 2020 from the Minister for Health re: Reopening of A&E at Daisy Hill and Downe Hospital. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Trainor commented that Covid-19 was not the primary issue as to the current state of emergency services and that it was an historic lack of resources and funding to ensure appropriately trained staff.

Agreed:	The correspondence was noted.
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C/180/2020 CORRESPONDENCE FROM FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ON FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

- Read: Correspondence dated 13 November 2020 from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council re: Coronavirus Pandemic on Further and Higher Education Students. (Copy circulated)
- Agreed:It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne,
seconded by Councillor Andrews that Newry, Mourne
and Down District Council write to Fermanagh and
Omagh District to thank them for the correspondence
and support the motion on Coronavirus Pandemic on
Further and Higher Education as outlined in the letter.
It was also agreed to forward a copy of the Council's
support to the other 10 Councils.

C/181/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – SUSTAINABILITY

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

"We note that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council aims to embed the ethos of sustainability throughout its operations. Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of people today and providing them with a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. With that in mind this Council commits to producing a report on how we could be making funding available which could be utilised by community groups for the benefit of creating community gardens, encouraging the planting of apple, peach and pear trees, along with other edible fruit and veg plants. Making use of vacant lands which are within our ownership. We also commit to helping community groups engage with other public agencies to identify land which could be used for any such project".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

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

C/182/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – DUNLEATH PARK, DOWNPATRICK

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillors Trainor, Sharvin and Curran. Councillor Sharvin proposed the Motion.

"This Council recognises the importance of Dunleath Park to Downpatrick and the District, through sports, recreation, tourism and regeneration. With this importance and opportunity to develop Dunleath, this council will establish a working group of Downpatrick DEA ClIrs and council officers to establish a development plan for Dunleath that will include walking and cycling lanes, improvement to the MUGA and sports pitches, and gardens including sensory gardens".

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/183/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – FREE PARKING FOR HSC STAFF

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

"This Council notes and welcomes the decision by the Minister for Health to instruct the Health and Social Care Trusts to provide free parking to HSC staff until March 31st. Council further calls on the Minister to ensure that such provision of free parking is made available to HSC staff on a permanent basis with no specific time restrictions placed by any Trust."

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

C/184/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT ELECT

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

"This Council welcomes the victory of President Elect Joe Biden Vice President Elect Harris and extends our congratulations and best wishes for their term of office.

Noting the ancestral links that President-Elect Biden has with Ireland, including the Cooley Peninsula and the Port of Newry, and the impact that he can have as an ally in any future discussions with the UK government on Post-Brexit trade, Council will write to the White House and the NI Consulate after his Inauguration inviting him to our district; to the city of Newry, to the resting place of St Patrick in Downpatrick and the wider district as part of any official visit he may plan to the Island during his term as President. It will also write to Louth County council inviting them to send a joint invite".

In proposing the motion, Councillor Brown provided an overview of facts and figures in relation to President Elect Joe Biden's election victory and his links to this area. He pointed out it had been an historic election that had taken place during the unprecedented context of a global health crisis and that the President would have a busy start to his term dealing with the Covid pandemic and subsequent economic impact.

Councillor Brown pointed out Joe Biden had unwavering support for the peace process given the important role his party had played in bringing it together and that he has been vocal on his opposition to Brexit and the risks it poses for the Good Friday Agreement. He has a wealth of foreign knowledge and expertise.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Stokes referred to a speech Joe Biden had made in 2016 and that he was a man who valued his Irish heritage and ancestors. Councillor Stokes referred to the plans for the Albert Basin, formerly a site of Newry Port and how it would be fantastic if Newry, Mourne and Down Council had something to show on that site during a visit from the President.

Councillor Hanna spoke on behalf of the DUP and voiced disappointment at the motion and questioned why Council would welcome any political victor and that Council had not done so in the past. He expressed concern at divisive remarks made by President Elect Joe Biden and that his party would not be supporting the motion and called upon President Elect to apologise to the people of his tradition.

During discussion, Councillor Taylor acknowledged the ancestral links to the area however felt the motion was overtly political and for that reason he would not be supporting it.

Councillor Murphy spoke in support of the motion stating it was an opportunity to have access to the White House and provide leverage on matters such legacy issues.

Councillor Lewis advised his party would have supported the motion if it hadn't taken one broad side on taking a view on American politics.

In summing up Councillor Brown said he understood the unionist parties concerns however the motion was included within the wider political context and why President Biden might be visiting. The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's motion to a vote and asked for a show of hands, the results of which were as follows:

For: 31 Abstentions: 6

The motion was carried.

Agreed:

The motion was declared carried and it was agreed that Council welcomes the victory of President Elect Joe Biden Vice President Elect Harris and extends our congratulations and best wishes for their term of office.

Noting the ancestral links that President-Elect Biden has with Ireland, including the Cooley Peninsula and the Port of Newry, and the impact that he can have as an ally in any future discussions with the UK government on Post-Brexit trade, Council will write to the White House and the NI Consulate after his Inauguration inviting him to our district; to the city of Newry, to the resting place of St Patrick in Downpatrick and the wider district as part of any official visit he may plan to the Island during his term as President. It will also write to Louth County council inviting them to send a joint invite.

C/185/2020 <u>NOTICE OF MOTION – COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TRADE</u> <u>UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND COUNCIL POLITICAL</u> <u>PARTIES</u>

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

"This Council facilitates the formation of a forum to provide a regular means of communication between Trade Union representatives, and council political parties, Council officers will produce an option paper to be considered by councillors".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

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

C/186/2020 <u>NOTICE OF MOTION – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANTI DRINK</u> DRIVING CAMPAIGN

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

"This Council supports the PSNI annual Christmas anti drink driving campaign and recognises the seriousness of drink driving and the impact this can have and has had on many families across the District. Calls on the Minister for Justice to bring forward changes to the Drink drive limit to come into line with Scotland and to review the penalties that are imposed."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Trainor.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Gallagher stated that whilst the motion referred to the annual Christmas anti drink driving campaign it was something that needed to be brought forward 365 days a year. Between 28 November 2019 and 1 January 2020 there had been 418 drink and drug drivers arrested. The impact on families and the whole community required a change to legislation.

Councillor Trainor stated as a Council and through the work of PCSP Members were continually reminded of the dangers of drink driving.

A discussion ensued during which the motion was supported by Members.

Councillor Hanlon proposed an amendment to the motion that it include illegal and prescription drugs. Councillor Gallagher accepted the amendment.

In speaking in support of the motion, Councillor McMurray provided an overview of statistics from PSNI which showed an increase in driving under the influence over the Christmas period in 2018/19 on the same period in 2017/18. He also referred to legislation relating to drink driving and proposed an additional amendment that the motion to call upon the Minister for Infrastructure to bring forward the changes required.

Councillor Gallagher accepted the amendment to the motion.

Councillor Savage supported the motion and highlighted that as a border community there was a need for greater cooperation with Garda Siochana and PSNI.

The motion, as amended, was unanimously agreed and declared carried.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Trainor that Council supports the PSNI annual Christmas anti drink and drug driving campaign and recognises the seriousness of drink and drug driving and the impact this can have and has had on many families across the District. Calls on the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Infrastructure to bring forward changes to the Drink Drug drive limit to come into line with Scotland and to review the penalties that are imposed."

C/187/2020 <u>NOTICE OF MOTION – IMPACT OF MISOGYNY AND</u> TRANSMISOGYNY

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

"This Council recognises the impact of misogyny and transmisogyny on those affected by it, as well as the role these attitudes play in a variety of crimes, including harassment, assault, sexual assault and hate crimes, and on the career choices and personal lives of women, girls and non-binary people. The Council supports the inclusion of misogyny as a standalone offence and as a category of hate crime, recognising crimes targeted at women including trans women as hate crimes based on misogyny, and will write a letter to that effect to Judge Desmond Marrinan, as part of his ongoing review of hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland. The Council supports also the Raise Your Voice Project, which tackles sexual harassment and sexual violence across Northern Ireland, by placing posters in all Council properties to raise awareness of the project."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Devlin.

Agreed:

The Motion was referred to the Equality and Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

C/188/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – HOUSING SYSTEM

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

"This Council welcomes the recent announcement by Communities Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín regarding her plans to fundamentally address the significant challenges facing our housing system. We call on the Planning Service to urgently place more emphasis on planning as an activity that is both integrated with other local government agencies and is focused on delivery".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Harte.

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

C/189/2020 <u>NOTICE OF MOTION – NZEB (NEARLY ZERO ENERGY</u> <u>BUILDING) CODE</u>

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Enright and Councillor Brown proposed the motion in his absence:

"This Council calls upon Finance Minister Conor Murphy to immediately implement the NZEB Code (Nearly Zero Energy Building Code) that the EU Directive requires the NI Department of Finance to implement by the end of this year. This Directive has is adopted into UK law Council alerts the Minister to the following facts;

- 1. NI building code is 20 years behind GB. Every private sector house built between now and 2030 will have to be retrofitted to meet the UK's energy efficiency targets at 2030.
- 2. Every new house built in RoI is now more than £1000pa cheaper to run than an equivalent house in NI because of out of date building standards. All new homes in RoI thus have a typical Building Energy Rating (BER) of A2 or better.
- RoI in November 2019 signed into law the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) regulation under part L of the Building Code for all domestic homes – not just public buildings as in GB. New Public Buildings in RoI have already been NZEB since 31st December 2018".

The motion was seconded by Councillor McAteer.

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

C/190/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND ACT

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Councillor O'Muiri:

"This Council notes the centenary anniversary of the Westminster parliament's Government of Ireland Act.

We note that the Good Friday Agreement caused this act to be revoked. [we welcome this]

We note the deep and wide divisions this has sustained and entrenched both within Irish society and in the relationships between the islands of Ireland and Britain, not least of those consequences has been the multi-layered generational conflict our society has endured.

We welcome and support the agreed framework provided by the peace process to address and deal with all of this by peaceful and democratic methods. We recognise that the outworking of this – the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in all is aspects – remains a work in progress.

This includes – its core requirements for equality of treatment, parity of esteem and mutual respect and the provision for a referendum to give full effect to the exercise by the people of Ireland to the right to self determine our future destiny and the centrality to this of both the British and Irish governments.

In the first instance in respect of rights throughout the island. and in the second the particular responsibility on the British government to set a date for the referendum.

This council further recognises that a stark choice is opening up between the narrow, inward-looking vision of Brexit Britain and the open inclusive vision of a new Ireland.

Therefore we call upon this council to encourage space for debate to present experiences and perspectives, big ideas and a public discourse on our

constitutional future which threatens no one. and; this council call on both governments to expedite the delivery of their respective responsibilities contained within the Good Friday Agreement".

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mason.

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

C/191/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – ALBERT BASIN PARK

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

"On the third anniversary of its commitment to deliver a 15 acre park on the Albert BASIN this Council recognises that a city park is the number 1 regeneration priority for Newry and will allocate sufficient capital funding in this years rates process to enable the project to be delivered within this Council term".

Agreed: The Chairperson ruled that under Standing Orders 16.1.2 that this motion would not be heard as a 15 Acre City Park at the Albert Basin was already the agreed position of Council and was progressing through the standard channels.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.28pm.

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

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive