

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 30 November 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McEvitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor Ó Muirí
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

DFI Roads

Mr James Kelly, Network Development Manager
Mr Ian Campbell, Newry Section Engineer
Mr Hugh Morgan, Down Section Engineer

SC/20/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Doran. Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities advised the Chief Executive had been held up at another meeting and would join the meeting late.

The Chairperson advised members that Councillor Doran had taken unwell at the weekend and on behalf of Council sent thoughts and prayers to Councillor Doran and his family.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to congratulate Councillors Trainor, Lewis and Brown on their 'Movember Challenge' to date and reminded Members there was still time to donate, details of which could be found on the social media platforms.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr J Kelly, Mr H Morgan and Mr I Campbell from the DFI Roads to the meeting, outlining the procedure for the evening advising that once Mr Kelly had presented the report, there would be an opportunity for Members to ask any questions only related to the report. She asked that Members, when asking their questions, refer to the page number of the report. She stated if Members had any further queries not already addressed in the clinics, they should complete the proforma and send to Democratic Services who would forward to DFI Roads for a response.

The Chairperson passed Council's best wishes to Mr A Hamilton and his family who had recently retired from Dfi Roads and thanked him for all his hardwork and efforts over the years.

SC/21/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was none declared.

SC/22/2019 PRESENTATION FROM DFI ROADS

Mr J Kelly thanked Members for the opportunity to present the report and introduced his two colleagues, Mr I Campbell and Mr H Morgan, he then proceeded to make his presentation. (copy of annual report attached)

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session and the following points were raised:

- Ballynahinch Bypass –Members welcomed the news that the scheme was now progressing. Mr Kelly highlighted the Public Inquiry had been held in 2016 without further progress until now. He stated he Environmental Assessments were being refreshed to be presented to the Minister, who would make a further decision when and if the money would be made available to progress the project.
- Doran's Rock – A review of the Regional Strategic Network Transport Plan would be included in consideration with other schemes in the review, as to their merit in relation to each other. Inclusion of slow lane, passing bays and footpaths as in the report were assessed on requests received. Report was made up of projects that had progress through the process and have money allocated.
- Pedestrian Crossing Assessments were assessed based on the number of pedestrians, vehicles and numbers involved. There would be assessments carried out in the areas of the Dundrum Road and Castlewellan Road. Officials would revert to Members with an update once these have been completed.
- Public Realm Scheme Irish Street – there were some delays in completing the scheme due to concerns about the structural integrity of one of the buildings on the street. Council's Building Control were in ongoing talks with the property owner to try to rectify the situation. Councillor Curran agreed to speak to

- Building Control to try and expedite the matter.
- 20mph School Schemes – the assessment process was carried out with the prioritisation of some schools, however there were plans to roll out a second tranche of the scheme at schools next year, depending upon finances.
- Strangford Ferry - An additional passenger-only service had been added to the timetable on weekdays in the morning and in the afternoon to facilitate schools.
- Annual budgets running year to year dictates the pace and content of what can be completed in the following and subsequent years in relation to cleaning of footpaths due to grass encroachment etc.
- DfI Roads to clarify the location mentioned in page 45 of the report with regards to Main Street Annalong.
- There was an intention to honour the timetabled red textured road banding projects detailed in the report, regardless of contract expiring. The procurement process for the next contract would already be progressing alongside the expiration of the other contract.
- Chapel View, Crossmaglen (P56 of the report) – It would be for the developer to follow the relevant process and present for adoption. There were steps that could be taken if this was not completed. DfI would investigate and revert to Councillor Finnegan.
- Newry Southern Relief Road – the current status was the design was currently being developed and officials were working on the environmental impact statement for the scheme and the draft orders. Current proposal was for a fixed bridge, however the Minister was keen to consider the views and concerns of local stakeholders to consider any further justifications liable with the installation of an opening bridge. Once this had been considered the next step would be to publish the orders and that would signal the beginning of the statutory consultation process. It would likely take some time before the full information would be received.

Councillor Clarke proposed that Council write to DfI Minister Mallon and Finance Minister Murphy to seek an increase in the overall budget for DfI Roads Service to allow for an increased spend with regards to pedestrian road safety measures. This was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Kelly and the representatives from DfI for their very informed presentation and reminded Members any queries that were raised outside of the report could be sent to Democratic Services via the proforma and responded to accordingly by DfI Roads.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Council write to DfI Minister Mallon and Finance Minister Murphy to seek an increase in the overall budget for DfI Road Service to allow for an increased spend with regards to pedestrian road safety measures.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 19.02pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 4th January 2021.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive