

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 August 2019 at 6.30pm in the
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor C Casey

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor S Doran
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor R Howell	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKevitt	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B O'Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr. L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and
Tourism
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and
Policy
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

DFI Roads

Mr Simon Richardson, Divisional Roads Manager
Mr Stephen Duffy, Maintenance Engineer
Mr Ian Templeton, Maintenance Engineer

Translink

Mr Greg McLaughlin, Service Delivery Manager, Newry
Mr Ciaran McHugh, Service Delivery Manager,
Newcastle/Downpatrick

Mr Arthur Hamilton, Area Manager
Mr Peter Murphy, Area Scheduler

SC/14/2019 **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Byrne, Curran, Devlin, Kimmins, Larkin, Mulgrew, Savage, Sharvin, Stokes and Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services.

The Chairman updated members that the Special Council meeting with the Housing Executive date had been changed from 23rd September to 30th September 2019.

SC/15/2019 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SC/16/2019 **PRESENTATION FROM DFI ROADS**

Mr Richardson introduced his two colleagues, Mr Duffy and Mr Templeton, he then proceeded to give a verbal presentation on his Annual Report 2019/20 for work in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. (Annual report attached)

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session for each DEA area and the following points were raised:

Crotlieve

Mr Richardson confirmed there had been a significant reduction in budgets throughout the district. In Newry, Mourne and Down District the budget allocated was £200,000 and with the Barton Review and the NI Audit office report highlighting the underinvestment in the roads network, by DFI Roads this budget could not be reduced.

The A1 scheme between Loughbrickland and Hillsborough Junction 2 was progressing. The stretch between Loughbrickland and Beechill is not a scheme at present but they are hoping to progress through the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP).

Mr Richardson advised he would discuss the issue regarding usage of underpasses on the A1 with Councillor McKeivitt outside of the meeting.

There had been a significant reduction in the routine maintenance budget since 2016, and it was now a limited service with no indications of any increase.

Downpatrick

Councillor Trainor highlighted the reduction in budget was affecting the street lighting

and asked whether it also affect the expansion of the upgrade to LED lighting.

Mr Richardson confirmed that funding had been secured to continue the roll out of the LED lights with a two-fold benefit of LED lights having a life expectancy of up to 20 years, plus the energy and maintenance savings.

Mr Richardson took on board points raised with the problems with Irish Street scheme and hoped that Collins' Corner scheme would be more straightforward and delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The Mournes

Mr Richardson confirmed that the work at Newcastle roundabout would go ahead as planned and would clarify the location of the Puffin crossing in Annalong as per Councillor Hanna's request

Mr Richardson confirmed he was happy to have an inter-agency meeting in relation to the parking problems at Bloody Bridge and Tollymore, also happy to speak to the Chief Executive about any Belfast Region City deal in relation to the A2 and also alternative route to Kilkeel.

In relation to contract issue with road markings and maintenance, this was currently being looked at and the department were hoping to have this resolved soon however budget constraints still exist.

Micro surfacing was being used more often and had been very effective.

Mr Richardson confirmed in relation to the Southern Relief Road, they were progressing the preferred option and had completed a community consultation event. All comments and feedback received from the consultation would be considered in the round.

Mr Hannaway also confirmed that Council were investigating the potential need for a lifting bridge along the stretch of road.

Newry

Members had raised a number of issues in the Roads Service clinic earlier in the day which representatives had taken on board and would respond to in due in course.

Rowallane

Members conveyed gratitude to staff at Castlenavan and the DFI Roads for all their hardwork and improvements in the area.

Mr Richardson advised the A7 Dorans Rock although classed as a large minor scheme, was not currently on their Strategic Roads Programme until funding becomes available.

Slieve Croob

Mr Richardson confirmed residential roads do get inspected and prioritised by Roads Service staff and there were a number of options of resurfacing available depending on priority.

The Spa issue whereby the road was not yet adopted in "Carnglave Manor" would be investigated with the development control teams.

Councillor Lewis had raised the issue of speed limits within Seaforde and Mr Richardson advised guidelines existed for the setting of same and although these had already been applied to Seaforde, he would keep the query on record.

Mr Richardson advised he had noted the safety issues which had been raised regarding the stretch of road and carpark at Murlough beach.

Slieve Gullion

The Creamery Road was not within the schedule due to the lack of funding that existed at present.

Gullies would be cleaned once a year however a commitment could not be given that these would all be completed in time for the winter season.

Mr Richardson acknowledged the problems that had existed regarding the spraying of weeds and advised he would investigate the potential to plan this work in a more efficient and effective manner.

Mr Richardson confirmed there was no difference in level of service provided throughout the District. He apologised if there were potholes in certain areas that had been neglected and would investigate the issue and address these appropriately. Mr Richardson concluded by passing on his thanks to the Chief Executive for the work done between Council and Roads Service and wished him a happy and long retirement.

Councillors Doran, Hanna, Hearty, Mason, O'Muiri and Reilly left the meeting during the above discussion – 7.26pm, 7.38pm, 7.38pm, 7.20pm, 7.38pm, 7.38pm

SC/17/2019

PRESENTATION FROM TRANSLINK

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from Translink and invited them to make their presentation

Mr McHugh thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity to present to Council once again and introduced his colleagues Mr Greg McLaughlin, Mr Arthur Hamilton and Mr Peter Murphy.

Mr McHugh thanked all Councillors who attended the 'Meet your Manager' event in Downpatrick and proceeded to present a slideshow and short video presentation for the Downpatrick and Newcastle area (copy presentation appended to these minutes)

Representatives from Translink then responded to queries as follows:

Rowallane

Councillor Walker asked for an update on a Park and Ride site being identified close to Downpatrick and within the Rowallane area.

Councillor Walker also highlighted the need for a direct service for children travelling to Ballynahinch from Killyleagh area and asked Translink to examine the route from Belfast to Killinchy to see if this could be extended further.

Mr Murphy confirmed the direct service from Killyleagh to Ballynahinch had been raised with the Education Authority who had declined to progress it. He stated however, if the opportunity arose within budget there may be scope to revisit the scheme.

Crotlieve

Councillor Tinnelly congratulated Translink on the increase in the use of the X5 service and asked whether the feeder route from Newcastle had increased due to the X5 success. He also asked whether consideration would be given to putting on a smaller bus and continue the nightline service to Kilkeel

In response Mr Hamilton confirmed that route 39 was still being considered to be upgraded and a case was being made but it will take time before it comes to fruition.

Mr Murphy confirmed the 240 service to Newcastle had not been enhanced, however there had been a growth in numbers, and from September the times had been amended to accommodate the changeover.

The nightline was the Councils initiative and was partly matched for funding, Translink were only the supplier. The pilot was deemed unsuccessful by Council.

Councillor O'Hare raised the concern of limited security lighting and safety issues regarding this at the carpark at Sheepbridge Park and Ride.

Mr Hamilton agreed he would raise the security concerns regarding Sheepbridge Park and Ride.

Downpatrick

Councillor Trainor welcomed the new improvements to the express service to Belfast and supported Councillor Walker's request for an update on a potential Downpatrick Park and Ride site.

Councillor Trainor queried the uptake since the changes were introduced to the town service including the Civic centre in its route.

Mr McHugh confirmed there had been no further progress on obtaining a Park and Ride site, however it was still being worked on.

Mr McHugh confirmed that the town service was not very well supported generally in the Downpatrick area, the same service was still in place with minor adjustments to offer more facilities to the public.

Councillor Hanlon asked for clarification on whether the town service had been rerouted due to antisocial behaviour.

Mr McHugh confirmed there had recently been another attack on Thursday evening, however, it would be a very last resort to curtail or redirect the service. He advised they would continue to monitor the situation in the coming weeks.

The Mournes

Councillor McKee asked whether there was a smaller URBYS-style bus with modern facilities onboard as an incentive for more people to use the service.

Mr McHugh confirmed there wasn't a smaller version at present but if an opportunity presented itself they would investigate the possibility, however it would be subject to funding.

Slieve Croob

Councillor Lewis asked whether there was anticipation of any changes to the senior smart pass due to the continual reduction in budgets and was this subsidised by Translink or the Department.

Mr Hamilton confirmed that this was funded by the Department.

Councillor Gallagher raised concerns regarding the bus service to Belfast from Castlewellan for students.

Mr Murphy confirmed the road structure did not support the use of double decker buses to Castlewellan and with Newcastle being a seasonal town buses tend to be busy. He stated other ideas were being investigated at present to try to come to a resolution.

Mr McHugh concluded the presentation and queried whether Council could lend support to Translink with the management of antisocial behaviour on buses due to an increase in underage drinking on buses attending concerts.

Mr Hannaway advised Council would be content to share the information through its social media channels if Translink send it through to the Council's Marketing Department.

Mr Clarke proposed it be worth raising the issue with the PCSP and to contact off licence's about limiting the amount of alcohol sold to coaches for these type of events

Councillor Trainor seconded the proposal for PCSP to liaise and perhaps have a Community safety warden for the visibility aspect in depots.

The Chairman thanked Translink for their presentation, Mr Hamilton concluded by wishing Mr Hannaway a long and happy retirement.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7th October 2019.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive



Let's go Together.



Downpatrick/Newcastle

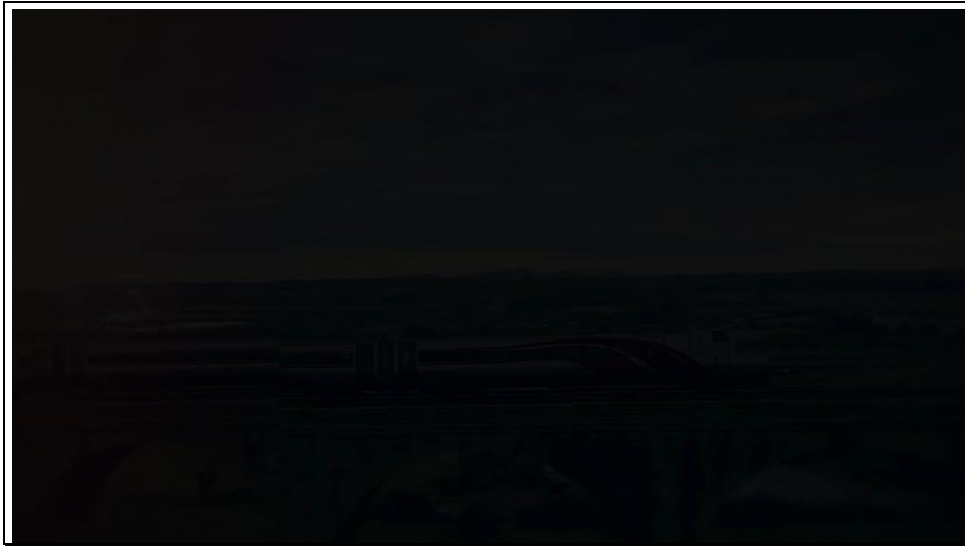


Bus and Train Week
Replacement Vehicles
Express Service Amendments
Local Service Enhancements
Local School Bus Improvements

Let's go Together.



Slide 3



Replacement Vehicles Downpatrick/Newcastle

Scania I6 URBY



Urby Liner



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Express (GLE) Service Amendments (Downpatrick)

215: Downpatrick/Belfast No Longer Call at Church Rd Carryduff
Reducing Journey Time by 10 Minutes

237: Newcastle/Belfast No longer Stopping at Carryduff
Reducing journey time by 5 minutes

240: Downpatrick/Newry Improved Connections With X5
Dublin/Dublin Airport \Service ex Newry

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Local Service Enhancements Downpatrick/Newcastle

Introduction of URBY Services **652** Extended to Ballynahinch as Part of Carryduff Review Including Extra Departures

07:35 **16E** Strangford – Downpatrick Now Connects With 08:00 215 Belfast Service

09:15 **17B** Newcastle – Downpatrick via Castlewellan Serves Downshire Civic Centre Site and Downe Hospital

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Local Service Enhancements

Sunday Service 2 x **16A** now Previously Terminated at Ardglass
Now Extended to Ballyhornan

Town Service **315A** Minibuses Now No Longer in Service and
Replaced by Full Size Buses and Now Serve The Downshire
Civic Centre Site and Rear Downe Hospital Entrance
Three Early Morning 16F Inbound Services ex Ardglass Call at
The Civic Centre

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Local School Bus Improvements



Extra Bus From Assumption Grammar Ballynahinch to Strangford

Extra Bus From St Patrick's Grammar to Ballynahinch

Direct Bus From Downpatrick to Lagan College

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Newry:



Growth on X5 GLE Service Dublin/Airport
Opening of New P&R Facilities
Introduction of New Tri Axle Vehicles on X5
New Direct Service From Banbridge to Belfast
Midnight Service from Belfast – Newry Friday and
Saturday Nights from September

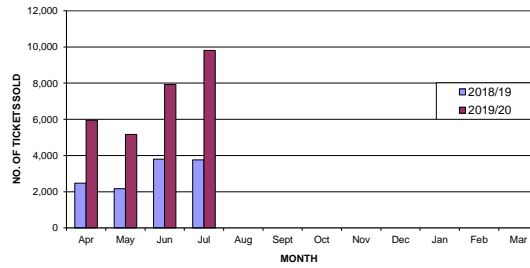
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Substantial Growth on X5 Newry – Dublin



DUBLIN EXPRESS - PASSENGER NUMBERS
2018/19 (12,185 v 2019/20 (28,824)
Variance: + 16,639 (+ 137%)



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Park and Ride Site Banbridge



Let's go Together.



Park and Ride Site Sheepbridge



Let's go Together.



Introduction of 15 new Sunsundigui tri axel coaches for the X5 Dublin/Airport Service



Let's go Together.



Service Enhancements Newry:



Direct Service to Belfast from Banbridge

Introduction of a Midnight Service on Friday and Saturday Nights Commencing September 2019

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Thank You For Your Attention Any Questions Please?

Arthur Hamilton	Southern Area Manager
Greg McLaughlin	Service Delivery Manager Newry
Ciaran McHugh	Service Delivery Manager Downpatrick and Newcastle
Peter Murphy	Area Scheduler

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Translink

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THAT'S THE TRANSLINK
Spirit
FIRST CHOICE FOR TRAVEL