

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/SC/9

**Minutes of the (Shadow) Council Meeting held on 6 January 2015 at 6.00pm in
Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor N Bailie
Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Burns
Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey (Chairperson)
Councillor P Clarke
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor S Doran
Councillor S Ennis
Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer
Councillor C McGrath
Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin
Councillor P Ó'Gribín
Councillor B O'Muirí
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor

Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive Designate
Mr R Dowey, Head of Finance
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Environmental Services
Ms V Keegan, Marketing Manager
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Administration (Equality)
Mrs D Starkey, Committee Administrator

Also in attendance: Mr Ronnie Ferguson, National Association of Councillors
Ms Therese Hogg, Blu Zebra Consultants

SC/57/2014: APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Sharvin.

SC/58/2014: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/59/2014: PRESENTATION FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

NOTED: Presentation from Mr Ronnie Ferguson, National Association of Councillors. **(Attached at appendix 1)**

Mr Ronnie Ferguson appealed to the new Council to continue membership of the National Association Councillors at a cost of £3,280 per annum.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ferguson for the presentation and advised membership of the National Association of Councillors would be considered during the rates estimates process.

SC/60/2014: PRESENTATION ON COUNCIL'S GOOD RELATIONS STRATEGY 2015-18

NOTED: Presentation from Ms Therese Hogg, Blu Zebra Consultants regarding emerging issues relating to the Newry, Mourne and Down Good Relations Strategy 2015-2018. **(Attached at appendix 2)**

In concluding the presentation, Ms Hogg advised the next stage was for the results of online surveys to be mapped and to identify key issues. The final strategy and action plan would then be developed for commencement by April 2015.

During discussion the findings in relation to consultation on the Council's Good Relations Strategy were welcomed. A number of Members referred to valuable work undertaken by the Good Relations Forums within Down District Council and Newry and Mourne District Council in dealing with contentious issues, and stressed that this work needs to be continued within the new Council. They said the opportunity to engage and make progress on difficult issues was facilitated within the Good Relations Forum, rather than within Committee or Council meetings and such engagement must continue.

SC/61/2014: MINUTES OF SHADOW SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Read: Minutes of Shadow Council Meeting held on 2 December 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as a correct record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Stokes, SECONDED by Councillor Burgess.

SC/62/2014: MINUTES OF SHADOW PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Read: Minutes of Shadow Planning Committee Meeting held on 2 December 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as a correct record.**

The Minutes were adopted on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Doran, SECONDED by Councillor Burgess.

SC/63/2014: MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Read: Minutes of Governance Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **The Minutes were AGREED as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:**

GC/72/2014: Identity and branding for the new Council
The three potential names were agreed as:

- ***SlieveLough***
- ***Mourne***
- ***South Down and South Armagh***

It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Reilly, SECONDED by Councillor Walker to amend the potential name 'Mourne' to 'Mourne Regional'.

At the request of Councillor Burgess the Chief Executive agreed that the minute be amended to record his reference to a preference for the name Down County Council.

NOTED: A discussion ensued during which the Chief Executive confirmed recommendations arising from committee meetings could be amended when the report of the committee meeting was tabled for consideration and approval by Council.

Councillor Carr requested that his opposition to the process be recorded.

Councillor Ruane PROPOSED the potential name put forward at the Governance Committee Meeting 'South Down & South Armagh' be amended to an alternative name 'Newry City, Mourne & Gullion'. This was SECONDED by Councillor Burns.

At the request of Councillor Ruane it was agreed to take a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: Councillors Bailie, Brown, Burns, Casey, W.Clarke, Donnelly, Doran, Ennis, Fitzpatrick, Harte, Hearty, Hyland, Kimmins, Larkin, Loughran, K.McAteer, Mulgrew, Ó'Gribín, Ó Muirí, Ruane and Stokes **(21)**

AGAINST: Councillors Burgess, Craig, Curran, Devlin, Enright, Hanna, Harvey, D.McAteer, McGrath, McKee, Murnin, Quinn, Reilly, Taylor, Tinnelly and Walker **(16)**

ABSTENTION: Councillors Andrews, Carr, P.Clarke **(3)**

The Chairperson declared the proposal **CARRIED**.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burns to amend the name of 'South Down & South Armagh' to 'Newry City, Mourne & Gullion'.

NOTED: Councillor McGrath **PROPOSED** that the name of Newry, Mourne and Down be added to the list of potential names to result in a choice of four names to be decided upon. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor McKee.

At the request of Councillor Fitzpatrick it was agreed to take a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: Councillors Andrews, Bailie, Brown, Burgess, Burns, Carr, Casey, P.Clarke, W.Clarke, Curran, Devlin, Donnelly, Doran, Ennis, Enright, Fitzpatrick, Harte, Hearty, Hyland, Kimmins, Larkin, Loughran, D.McAteer, K.McAteer, McGrath, McKee, Mulgrew, Murnin, Ó'Gribín, Ó Muirí, Quinn, Ruane, Stokes and Taylor **(34)**

AGAINST: Councillors Craig, Harvey, Reilly and Walker **(4)**

ABSTENTION: Councillors Hanna and Tinnelly **(2)**

The Chairperson declared the proposal **CARRIED**.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor McGrath, **SECONDED** by Councillor McKee that Newry, Mourne and Down be added to the list of potential names to result in a choice of four names to be decided upon.

AGREED: The Minutes were adopted on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Kimmins, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hearty with the exception of the amendments to the recommendation at minute ref: **GC/72/2014**.

SC/64/2014: CORPORATE IDENTITY & BRANDING FOR NEW COUNCIL

NOTED: The Chief Executive reported that there was now an agreed list of four potential names for the new Council:

- SlieveLough
- Mourne Regional
- Newry City, Mourne and Gullion
- Newry, Mourne and Down

NOTED: The Chief Executive advised that the Council should decide upon a process to allow for one preferred name to be agreed from the four options. He said there was no provision within Standing Orders stipulating how such a process should be carried out and suggested that an initial stage be undertaken to reduce the four names to a preferred two, with a vote to be taken by Council to select the final choice.

The Chief Executive suggested the initial stage could be undertaken by way of a paper exercise, if the Council so decided.

A discussion ensued as to the process to be undertaken to decide the name of the Council.

AGREED: **It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Brown, SECONDED by Councillor Enright to conduct the first stage of preference voting by way of a paper exercise, with the two potential names gaining the least number of points being eliminated at stage one. The remaining two potential names would then proceed to a second stage vote, with the name gaining the highest votes being the agreed name.**

NOTED: Mr Hannaway clarified that for the first stage of voting, a first preference vote would be awarded 4 points, a second preference vote would be awarded 3 points, a third preference vote would be awarded 2 points and a fourth preference vote would be awarded 1 point. He further clarified that Councillors who did not wish to award preferences to all four names did not have to do so, and only those preferences indicated would be awarded a mark.

AGREED: **It was AGREED on the PROPOSAL of Councillor Burns, SECONDED by Councillor Ruane that each stage of the selection process be subject to a recorded vote, and that the paper voting sheet submitted by each Councillor would act as the public record of the first stage of voting.**

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting to enable voting sheets for stage 1 of the voting process to be prepared.

The meeting did then adjourn – 7.20pm

The meeting did then resume – 7.40pm

Voting sheets were circulated and collected for counting by Council Officers.

AGREED: It was agreed to proceed with the remaining items on the agenda while the stage 1 votes were counted by Council Officers.

SC/65/2014: **MINUTES OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Read: Minutes of Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 December 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: The Minutes were **AGREED** as a correct record.

The Minutes were adopted on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Hearty, **SECONDED** by Councillor Stokes.

SC/66/2014: **MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Read: Minutes of Development Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2014. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: The Minutes were **AGREED** as a correct record.

The Minutes were adopted on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Donnelly, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess.

SC/67/2014: **RECONSTITUTION OF NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

Read: Correspondence dated 19 December 2014 from Minister of Justice regarding Reconstitution of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. **(Copy circulated)**

NOTED: The Chief Executive referred to the proposed approach for the appointment of independent members to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. He said the Department of Justice proposed moving to a rolling appointments model for appointing independent Board members, effective from 2017. This would provide for three independent members to be either appointed or

reappointed to the Board every year, in contrast to the current approach which sees nine members appointed once every four years.

Councillor Ruane PROPOSED Council write to the Minister of Justice rejecting the proposals for rolling appointments to the Northern Ireland Policing Board, and requesting an extension of 1 year to the existing independent membership. This was SECONDED by Councillor Burns.

Councillor Taylor stated he was against the proposal as Council should not respond and that individual political parties should instead respond to this consultation. Councillor Burgess said he agreed with this approach and, at the request of Councillor McGrath, the Chief Executive agreed to examine the referral of similar consultations to the Governance Committee for consideration.

A show of hands was taken on Councillor Ruane's PROPOSAL the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	18
AGAINST:	18
ABSTENTIONS:	4

The Chairman used his casting voted and Councillor Ruane's PROPOSAL was CARRIED.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burns that Council write to the Minister of Justice rejecting the proposals for rolling appointments to the Northern Ireland Policing Board and requesting an extension of 1 year to existing membership.

An adjournment to finalise the counting of voting sheets took place and the meeting resumed at 8.35pm.

SC/68/2014: **CORPORATE IDENTITY & BRANDING FOR NEW COUNCIL**

NOTED: The Chief Executive reported on the result of stage 1 voting for the Council name, as detailed:

- SlieveLough 45
- Mourne Regional 39
- Newry City, Mourne and Gullion 83
- Newry, Mourne and Down 82

NOTED: In accordance with the agreed process, the names of SlieveLough and Mourne Regional were eliminated at this point.

A recorded vote on the two highest scoring names being Newry City, Mourne and Gullion and Newry, Mourne and Down took place, the results of which were as follows:

Newry City, Mourne and Gullion:

Councillors Bailie, Burns, Casey, W. Clarke, Donnelly, Doran, Ennis, Harte, Hearty, Hyland, Kimmins, Larkin, Loughran, Mulgrew, Ó'Gribín, Ó Muirí, Ruane **(17)**

Newry, Mourne and Down:

Councillors Andrews, Brown, Burgess, Carr, P. Clarke, Craig, Curran, Devlin, Enright, Fitzpatrick, Hanna, Harvey, D. McAteer, K. McAteer, McGrath, McKee, Murnin, Quinn, Reilly, Stokes, Taylor, Tinnelly, Walker **(23)**

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Andrews, **SECONDED** by Councillor Burgess that the name of the Council remain as Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at **8.50pm**.

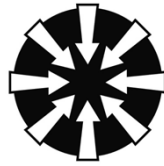
For consideration at the Shadow Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 February 2015.

Signed:

Presiding Councillor

Signed:

Chief Executive Designate



How the NAC supports councillors

- The National Association of Councillors is the only organisation directly run by councillors
- We fight for their interests with local authorities, Ministers, government departments and other relevant bodies
- We have made major gains in councillors' pay and conditions as a result of councillors acting collectively in their common interest

For example we have

- Increased councillors' allowances
- Speeded up payments
- Achieved a councillors' pension scheme
- Achieved a Dependants' Carers' Allowance
- Pushed for improved councillor training
- Represented councillors' interests during the local government reorganisation
- Achieved the Independent Remuneration Panel and increased councillors' allowances for the new councils
- Achieved severance payments for councillors
- Had councillors' travel expenses exempted from tax and NI
- Given advice on making tax and expenses claims to HMRC

What we do for councillors

- We provide help with individual problems relating to remuneration, tax, welfare benefits, expenses, elections, ethics and other issues
- We provide updates on changes in legislation, revised allowances, government consultations and other developments affecting councillors
- We provide a forum for councillors to voice opinions and concerns, and exchange information and experience, through our regular members' meetings

Our current aims and objectives

- Assisting councillors in their changed roles with the new super-councils, and pressing for any extra help or training
- Monitoring the new Councillors' Code of Conduct and assisting any councillor who is complained about
- Responding to consultations on new legislation and taking up proposals detrimental to councillors
- Ensuring councils provide councillors with the best possible admin, facilities and training
- To represent councillors' interests and ensure they are taken into account in all relevant bodies

The NAC Northern Ireland is run by a 13-strong Executive Committee that includes all the major political parties plus independent councillors

We are currently supported by all 26 local councils and represent all 582 councillors as well as all 462 shadow councillors

We fight for the interests of all councillors regardless of party or creed. Our only aim is to help councillors give the best possible service to their constituents

Newry, Mourne and Down Good Relations Strategy 2015-2018 Emerging Issues

6th January 2015

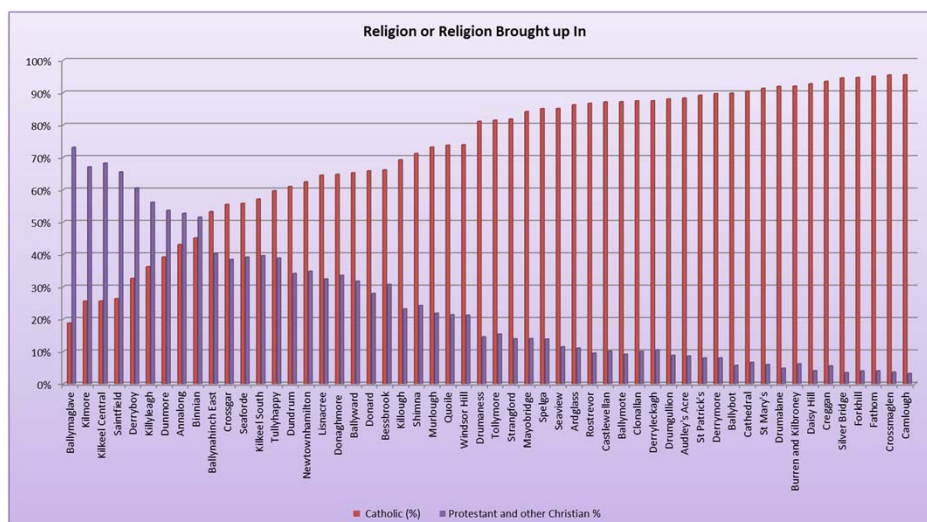
Our Methodology

- A review of the strategic context, both local and regional
- A detailed socio economic profile of the new area
- An extensive consultation and engagement process - included a series of one to one consultation sessions with community, voluntary sector and business representatives and staff from both councils (S75)
- Public meetings in each area
- Facilitation of staff consultation sessions
- Facilitation of statutory sector consultation sessions
- Questionnaires to community sector and business representatives in the Newry, Mourne and Down areas as well as the general public
- Questionnaires to staff in Council
- A series of one to one interviews with a cross section of elected members in each Council area

Socio Economic Context

- The estimated population of Newry, Mourne and Down Local Government District at June 2013 was **174,829**
- Newry, Mourne and Down account for **9% of the total population** of NI (1,929,725)
- Relatively **low population density** with 1.06% people per square hectare - NI average of 1.34%.
- **Higher proportion of migrants from EU** 2.81% (**4,811**) compared to NI average 2.51% (45,407)
- **0.94% were from an ethnic minority population** and the remaining 99.06% were white (incl. Irish Traveller);
- **72.32%** belong to or were brought up in the **Catholic** religion
- **23.91%** belong to or were brought up in a '**Protestant and Other Christian** (including Christian related)' religion;
- **Within 52% of the wards, (28 /54wards) over 80% of the resident population** have stated their religion or religion brought up in to be **Catholic**;
- **17% of the wards (9/54 wards)** have **over 50%** of the resident population stating their religion to be **Protestant or other Christian**;
- Ballymaglave ward at 73% is the only ward that has over 70% of the resident population stating their religion to be Protestant or other Christian;
- **28.53%** indicated that they had a **British national identity**
- **44.31%** had an **Irish national identity** and
- **30.39%** had a **Northern Irish national identity** while 3.32% had an "other" identity
- **16.05%** had some knowledge of **Irish**;
- **4.45%** had some knowledge of **Ulster-Scots**; and
- **3.03%** of people spoke another language other than English as their first language. This equates to **4,968 who did not have English as a first language** in 2011 (NI - 3.14%)

Religion or Religion Brought up in (2011)



SWOT

Strengths

- Section 75 legislation (statutory duty)
- Commitment to good relations in both areas
- The GR team and its expertise and contacts
- The breadth of what is done and spread of target groups
- Programmatic and progressive CD approach
- Internal GR focus (in Newry and Mourne)
- The GR Forums and Travellers Forum (N&M)
- The Ethnic Minority Support Centre and officer (in N&M)
- Challenge of Change project & other EU projects (N&M)
- The Latvian and Polish Consuls
- The Elected Members Forum (N&M)
- Equality Diversity Group (Down)
- Councillors Good Relations Forum (Down)
- South Down Intercommunity Forum (N&M)
- Link with NR and PCS in each area
- Down Diversity in Action Forum - ethnic minorities & migrant workers
- Festivals and parades aimed at inclusion and diversity
- St Patrick's Day festivals as shared events
- Focus on youth
- Work with museums, sports and arts
- Inter-church work
- Communications with local communities

Weaknesses

- Public display of cultural manifestations (flags, emblems, parades) and territorial markings
- Only access those who want to engage
- Reduced budget but also seen as a "pot of money"
- Still need to address some hard issues
- Letter of Offer is always late - difficult to plan
- Getting the buy in to tackle really hard issues
- GR Posts and programme reliant on annual OFMDFM funding
- No internal good relations focus in Down
- Need to access and do more with PUL community
- Need to be more in-depth and hard hitting
- Need to hear and understand dissenting voices
- Communications with local communities needs improved
- Need more engagement with business community
- Encouraging young people, especially from the Protestant community to participate in cross community activities
- Party political motivations, behaviour & language of Elected members
- Both areas in different PEACE programmes previously
- Lack of GR Forums in Down area

SWOT

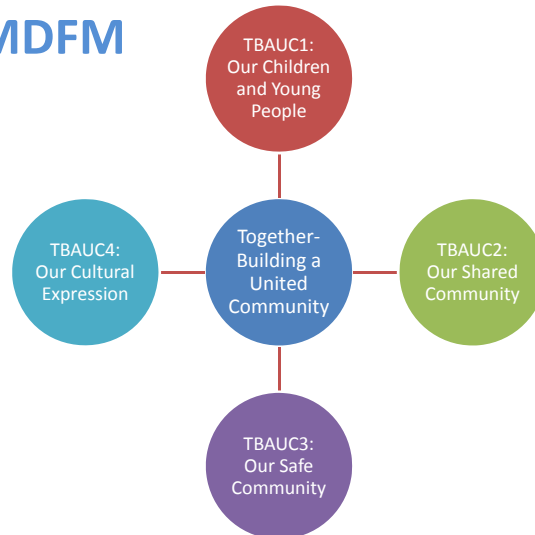
Opportunities

- A new Council
- Commitment of elected members to good relations
- Continuing to widen and build the Forums
- Community planning & a focus on mainstreaming GR
- Internal good relations focus across new Council
- Elected Member Forum in new Council
- The size of Council and staff as a resource
- Building more engagement with the private sector
- The sharing of practice and programmes across area
- The new Code of Conduct for elected members
- The new Community Plan and link with DEA Forums
- Together - Building a United Community
- Cross border and neighbouring councils collaborations
- Complementing new Peace IV, RDP, Interreg Programmes
- Memorandum of Understanding with Louth CoCo

Threats

- The transition to a new Council and the uncertainty that brings
- The decoupling of Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations functions (Section 75 1 and 2)
- OFMDFM on-going support
- The balance of budget between staff and programmes
- Budget cuts at Stormont
- Return to violence
- Continuing issues
- Maintaining both an internal and external focus
- Negative media coverage

Together- Building a United Community - OFMDFM



Emerging Issues – Sectarianism and Racism

- Tackling silent and covert sectarianism
- Influencing the influencers
- Accessing and building the capacity of the PUL community
- Listening to dissenting voices and acknowledging the past
- Acknowledging the dissident threat
- Hearing the views of the BME and Travelling community

Emerging Issues – TBAUC 1: Our Children and Young People

- Shared education opportunities
- The influence of others and wider influences
- Education and awareness is power
- Articulating the voice and building the leadership skills of young people
- Supporting less connected young people

Emerging Issues – TBAUC2: Our Shared Community

- The need to recognise and embrace our intercultural society in the new Council area
- Addressing hard issues
- Building a sense of belonging and place for all
- The need to recognise the impact that good relations has on social and economic issues that fuel discontent in local areas
- The need to develop consensual as well as shared spaces

TBAUC 3: Our Safe Community

- Impact of crime and societal issues on civic pride
- Addressing suicide and mental health and well-being issues
- Dissident activity is still a worry
- Dissenting voices need to be heard
- Prejudice still exist in parts

TBAUC 4: Our Cultural Expression

- The need to address hard issues in a safe manner
 - Continued dialogue opportunities through the Forums – widen Forums to Down area
 - Widening and deepening understanding
 - Move beyond polite acceptance
- Recognising and celebrating all cultures
 - Increasing local understanding – deeper
 - Explore shared histories
 - Utilising museums and arts organisations

Leadership

- Leading by Example
- Safe spaces for facilitated dialogue among elected members – Elected Members Forum
- Connecting and engaging with local people
- Using the Media as way of increasing the visibility of civic leaders