### **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### NMC/SC

# Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 June 2019 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor T Andrews

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor R Burgess Councillor P Byrne Councillor D Curran Councillor C Enright Councillor H Gallagher Councillor O Hanlon Councillor G Hanna Councillor H Harvey Councillor T Hearty Councillor R Howell Councillor M Larkin Councillor A Lewis Councillor C Mason Councillor D McAteer Councillor H McKee Councillor K McKevitt Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Ruane Councillor M Savage Councillor D Taylor Councillor B Walker Councillor J Tinnelly

### (Officials)

Mr. L Hannaway, Chief Executive

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing

Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

### Also in attendance: Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Mr D McCallan, Chief Executive

### **Northern Ireland Water**

Dr S Blockwell, Head of Investment Management Mr G Millar, Head of Wastewater Infrastructure Delivery Mr I Jackson, Head of Operational Contract Management

Centre

### SC/10/2019 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey, Clarke, Devlin, Doran, Gibbons, Harte, Kimmins, Magennis, Malone, McEvoy, Mulgrew, O'Hare, O Muiri, Sharvin, Stokes and Trainor.

The Chairman stated he was delighted to announce Mrs Marie Ward had been appointed as the new Chief Executive for Newry, Mourne and Down District. He congratulated Mrs Ward on her appointment and wished her well in her new role as Chief Executive.

The Chairman also took the opportunity to thank Mr Liam Hannaway for all his years' service to this Council and wished him well on his endeavours.

### SC/11/2019 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SC/12/2019 PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION 'BRINGING** 

**CERTAINTY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT'** 

The Chairperson invited Mr McCallan, NILGA Chief Executive to deliver his presentation.

Mr McCallan referred to the NILGA Annual General Meeting which took place on 21 June 2019 when outgoing President, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Councillor Dermot Curran, was replaced by Councillor Burton from Mid Ulster Council. He went on to provide an overview of the role NILGA played for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and all Councils in Northern Ireland.

A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

Councillor Curran reinforced NILGA was needed in the future and encouraged Councillors to put forward any questions they needed to ask.

In response to a query about the prospect of devolution on a local level in the future Mr McCallan suggested the likelihood of it formally happening was very slim but by stealth possibly.

Mr McCallan reinforced the need for local government to be provided with greater neighbourhood powers and more funding to have the capacity to provide services targeted locally to those who needed them most. There was real concern about the next four years and the ability to make decisions for local people and ensure that all services would be sustainable.

Members were informed NILGA & SOLACE were holding a Border Economy Event in Newry on 3 December 2019.

Mr McCallan referred to the Members who had been nominated to represent Newry, Mourne and Down District Council at NILGA and reinforced the NILGA product was for all Members.

It was agreed a copy of the presentation would be circulated to Members for their information.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation.

Councillor Savage joined the meeting during the above presentation – 6.15pm.

Councillors Enright and Reilly left the meeting after this presentation - 6.35pm.

SC/13/2019 PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

WATER 'OUTLINE CAPITAL SUBMISSION PRICE

**CONTROL 2021-27'** 

The Chairman welcomed the delegation from Northern Ireland (NI) Water to the meeting and invited them to deliver a presentation, a copy of the which is appended to these minutes.

Dr Steve Blockwell, Head of Investment Management from NI Water thanked the Chairman and Council for inviting them to the meeting. He provided an overview of NI Water, highlighting the water and waste water services that existed within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

Members were informed that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had received £54.9m in capital project spend since 2015 (10.5% of Northern Ireland Water's capital spend) which compared favourably with the District's 9.5% share of Northern Ireland's population.

Dr Steve Blockwell then provided the following update on the questions raised by Members prior to the meeting as follows:

- A number of years ago NI water approved development plans in Drumaness.
   Contractors want to move ahead but were being told there was no longer the capacity in the system for their new homes despite NI Water previously saying it was ok.
  - Can confirm there was limited treatment capacity at the wastewater treatment works which would restrict new connections to the sewerage system. This location was being considered as part of the Price Control 21 submission to the Regulator.
- There was re-occurring smells relating to sewage systems in the Vianstown Road area, Downpatrick.
  - NI Water was aware of this issue and was working with local Traders and residents in order to resolve.
- There was chemical put into the system to mitigate smell at the Ardglass Road, Downpatrick. How regularly was this done as there had been episodes of the smell?
  - NI Water had a chemical dosing plant to supress odours from sewage at the wastewater water pumping station. The dosage was automated and dependent on flow volume and temperature of sewage.
- Were the current pipes and system in place on Irish Street, Downpatrick fit for purpose, given recent issues that needed emergency attention? Were there any

plans to upgrade system in this area? If so was this communicated to Transport NI prior to the Environmental Scheme and resurfacing project for Irish Street? NI Water was aware of the issue and had identified broken lateral sewers that may have been broken as part of the public realm surfacing works. Downpatrick Drainage area plan was ongoing which would inform NI Water's future drainage investment in this area.

- What could be done to avoid sewage over flowing from manhole covers and spilling onto the walkway of the Annalong River Bridge?
   NI Water was aware of incapacity of sewers at this location. Annalong Drainage Area Plan was ongoing and would inform NI Water future investment plans in this area.
- Over the last 12 months the quality and colour of the household water in the Ballymegough Road, Kilkeel had been poor. NI Water were taking samples. Were there plans to replace the system? NI Water were aware of discoloured water supply in this area. Two recent burst watermains had disturbed sediment in cast iron watermains. NI Water would continue to flush the watermains and sampling until the issue was resolved.

### Members also asked the following questions:

- The odorous smell had returned to the Downpatrick Road, Kayleigh through the vents. Had the filters been replaced and if not, would they be replaced?
- The work and survey commenced to address the sewage problems in Saintfield was welcomed. How long would it take for the survey to be completed and a model to be drawn up?
- Was the Meadow Area of Newry included within the top projects planned?
   There was ongoing lack of infrastructure in that area. Periods of heavy rain were causing sewage to seep into homes on the Kiley Road, Newry.
- There were issues with sewage causing rat infestation in the Spring Farm Heights area, Newry which needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- There were problems associated with burst mains and overflow in the Glen Hill area, Newry. This needs to be investigated to establish if it was a capacity issue following new builds in the area.
- Problems associated with a pumping station were causing issues for homes at Conclave Manor, Spa. Can an update be provided on the adoption of the sewers and wastewater pumping station?

### The following response was provided:

- The filters had not been replaced recently at Downpatrick Road, Killyleagh. NI Water would inspect and replace if deemed required.
- There was an ongoing Saintfield Drainage Area Plan which would reach options and needs stage by the end of 2019. The findings would be used to inform Price Control 2021 investment submission.
  - NI Water had repaired a collapsed sewer and road culvert on Listooder Road and detected and repaired three defects on sewer along Old Grand Jury Road. These repairs would reduce the risk of out of sewer flooding.

NI Water was aware of agricultural land flooding to the South of Grange Avenue. Also, surface run-off from agricultural land could cause overland surface water flows in Old Grand Jury Manor.

NI Water had shared findings with DFI Roads and DfI Rivers.

Funding was essential and the support of Councillors was required to put pressure on DFI to ensure adequate funding.

NI Water representatives undertook to provide an update on any outstanding issues raised during the meeting at a later stage.

The Chairman thanked NI Water for their presentation and responses to the questions forwarded to them prior to the meeting. Members were advised that NI Water representatives were happy to meet following the meeting to address any further questions or queries they may have.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.10pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 5 August 2019.

Signed:			
3	Chairperson		
	Chief Executive		



## Derek McCallan Chief Executive NILGA

24th June 2019





the voice of local government







# NILGA – WHO WE (YOU) ARE

- · Representative body for Local Government
- · Led by Councils, supported by Parties
- National network UK ( + EU, Commonwealth & Ireland)
- Effective Regional Representation
- · Effective Regional Co-ordination
- · Effective Regional Learning & Development
- Effective Communication
- Benefitting Every Member of Every Council





### HOW, WHAT?

- NILGA members are drawn from each of the 11 councils
- x11 Policy, Investment, Procurement, Learning, Promotion
- Bringing Gov, Economic & Social Partners to LCCC
- Constituted by and accountable to the member councils as the sector's representative body.
- NILGA and the11-member councils have a Programme for Local Government
- From June 21<sup>st</sup> (AGM), all Council *Policy & Learning Networks* will be launched.
- Legislation & Ideology need to shift gears. Councils like LCCC are service and representative hubs, but:





# What we do

- Promote, develop, champion and improve Local Government
- Deliver elected member learning & development and negotiating National Pay Agreements.
- Proactive policy development Reform and Improvement, Devolution,
   Shared Services, Waste Management, Community Planning, Local
   Planning, Economic Development; Strategic Migration and the PfLG
- Work with councillors and officers, representing NI LG at UK National, Irish, European, Commonwealth and other international groupings.













### THEMES AND DRIVERS OF OUR WORK

- Council Corporate Plans = NILGA's (new) Corporate Plan
- Effective Regional Representation
- Effective Regional Communication and Co-ordination
- Developing & Challenging the NI Local Government Sector
- Backing NMDDC and others on, e.g. Community Planning Policy Changes, Resources from Central Government









# NILGA - WORKING FOR, WITH, IN NMD

- Elected Member Development
- · Workforce Policy, Pay, Performance
- · Pay Spine, HMRC and related pensions advice
- Sustainable Prosperity Fund £3.5 billion
- Officer & Member Policy & Learning Networks
- Policy Transformation Reform, Devolution
- · Elected Member Representation
- · Venues and promoting NMDDC









### **BIG ISSUES & SOLUTIONS**

- Councillor MLA Policy Forum Assembly Pending
- Further Transferring Functions NOT without £££
- Performance improvement, e.g. Community Planning & measuring the right things the right way

· Legislation - NI Loc. Gov Act, Power of Gen Comp









# TWO WAYS TO WORK









### **CHALLENGES AHEAD**

- Global issues will impact locally. As a sector, councils in NI through NILGA must plan ahead.
- 2019 2023 Regional Programme of Learning & Development
- Member Development & Training
- Waste & Planning Guides
- · 2019 Councillors Guide

- Local Government's sole political corporate network, events, training, policy provider and strategic partner forum
- Efficiency, Improvement, Shared Services Our Way
- Unity is strength: part of the 450+ Local Government Group (UK / IRL)





**Brexit:** 

Responding to the Challenges – are there opportunities?



the voice of local government



# Long term opportunities?

- Devolution below Whitehall & Stormont
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- EU Peace Plus programme
- Trade international links in China, CLGF
- Circular economy approach to waste management
- State aid / procurement social value, local economy
- · Cross-Border groups, Irish Regional Assemblies
- North South, East-West infrastructure council led





# **Practical Next Steps**

- Up the ante, Shared Prosperity Fund council co-design
- UK & Irish governments strongly aware of NI councils' position
- Who owns the £60m + Brexit Support Fund?
- £3.5m for export health certifications recompense
- NILGA & SOLACE with councils One voice, heard by many

8 October – Killyhevlin Hotel **Place Shaping** 

Early December – Newry **Border Economy** 







# NMDDC, COUNCILS, NILGA = PLACE SHAPING, CREATING SUSTAINABLE, COMMUNITY WEALTH

- NILGA sees 2019 2023 as the second phase of local government's contemporary, collective development
- PfLG provides the rationale for the proper planning and sustainability of our democratically mandated councils
  - A PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2016 2021 & BEYOND

- Councils are now part of a wider government partnership, formally contributing, as in all neighbouring jurisdictions, to the priorities of government and the region. But it's still immature.
- The democratic, civic, economic, social, cultural, service delivery and partnership credentials of our emerging 11 councils *must put the local into government*, more so than in the past.
- Provided that councils gain the investment and resources to deal with increasing demands and functions, and gain the support of wider government within the NI Assembly and its Departments, they will plan, co-ordinate and do more and better things for more people, locally.







NI Councils invest over **£600m a year** 

on procuring services and products

nilga

# THE FUTURE'S NOW – HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE SERVICES MATTER TO NMDDC

- Councils are a £2 billion p.a. investment across NI
- · Strategic, informed development & community planners
- · Conveners of local people
- · Shapers of local places
- · Investors and representative
- · Scrutineers, entrepreneurs, custodians
- Productive but constrained first term 2015 2019
- · Transition is over. Transformation must now follow, urgently.
- Local Government has the legitimacy other institutions have the resources?





# **Member Policy and Learning Networks**

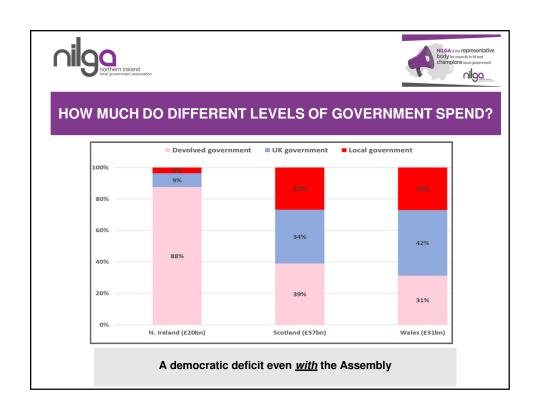
- Reform, Devolution and Improvement
- Economy & International Opportunities
- Place Shaping and Infrastructure
- Elected Member Development
- Health, Social and Environmental Wellbeing

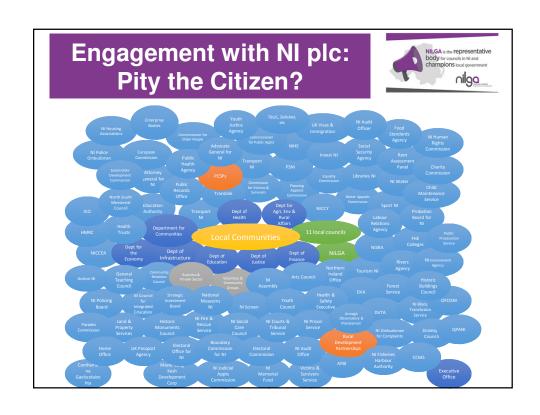






			H	ow we	Learr	ı is Ke	y to s	succe	SS.		
McKee Report Themes A core dited Provision Options	May 2019	August 2019	Local Planning Leadership Programme (Il odule 1) 20th September 2019 2 - 4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	October 2019  Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 2) 25° October 2019 2-4-30pm Antrim Civic Centre	November 2019 Leadership Programme (Module 1) 14th November 2019 Leadership Programme (Module 3) 29th November 2019 2-430pm Antrim Civic Centre	December 2019 Leadership Programme (Module 2) 6th December 2019	January 2020 Leadership Program me (Illocule 3) 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 Local Planning Leadership Programme (Illocule 4) 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020 2-4-30pm Antim Civic Centre	February 2020 Leadership Programme (Module 4) 13th February 2020 Local Planning Leadership Programme (Module 5) 21th February 2020 2-4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	Ilarch 2020 Leadership Programme (Ill odule 5)  12th March 2020  Local Planning Leadership Programme (Ill odule 6)  20th March 2020  2-430pm Antim Crivic Certre Local Planning Leadership Programme (Study Trip)  5th March 2020	Anti 2020 Leadership Programme (Ikiodute 6) 22rd Apri 2020 Local Planning Leadership Programme (Ikiodute 7) 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 2.4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre	May 2020
Master- classes (Strategic learning for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Councillors)	Planning Programme (Condensed) 28th May 2019 10.30 – 3.30pm Magherafelt Council		Scrutiny and Challenge 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 2.00 – 4.30pm Antrim Civic Centre				Performance Improvement 27th January 2020 10.30 – 1pm The Braid Ballymena			Performance Improvement 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 2.00 – 4.30pm Downshire Civic Centre	
Network Events	Offices			Place Shaping Event 8th October 2019 Killyhev lin Hotel Enniskillen		Border Economy TBC		NILGA Flagship Local Government Conference 20th February 2020 Crowne Plaza Belfast			
Sub Regional Development Compliance Sessions			Environmental Impact Assessment 17th September 2019 10.30 – 1.00pm			GDPR 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 6.30 – 9.00pm		Civil Contingencies 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 6:30 – 9:00pm			Rural Needs 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 10.30 – 1 pm
Workshops (Practical learning Sessions)		Code of Conduct 29 A ugust 2019 10.30 – 12.30 pm Mossley Mill	Lough Neagh	Code of Conduct  22nd October 2019  6.30 – 8.30pm  Cookstown	Data and Evidence 21st November 2019 10.30 – 1.00pm Craigavon Civic Centre	Bangor Castle	Code of Conduct 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 2.30 – 4.30pm Cloonavin	Bangor Castle			Lough Neagh Data and Evidence 21st May 2020 2.00 – 4.30pm Mossley Mill









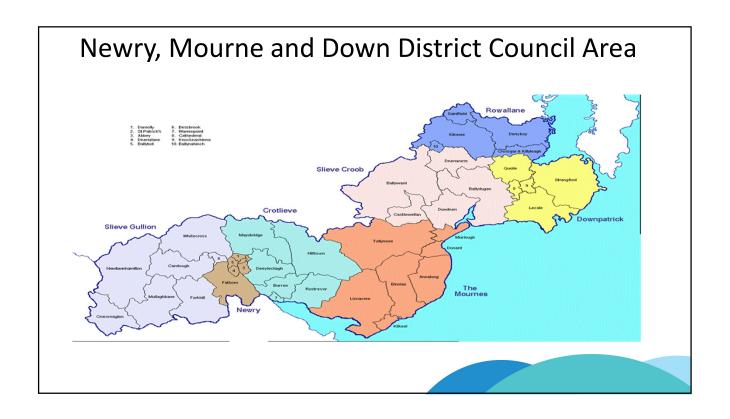


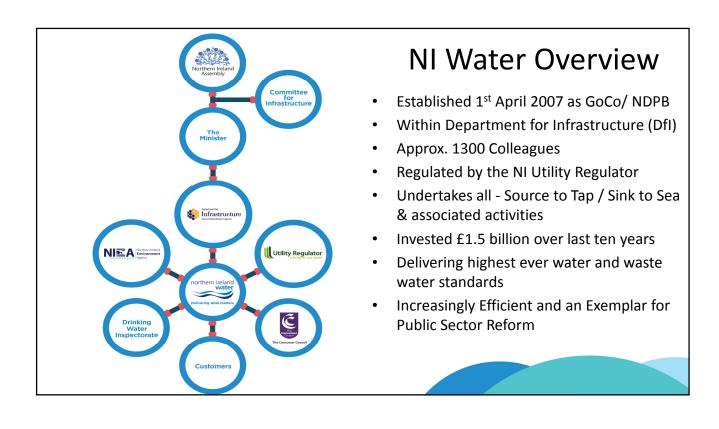


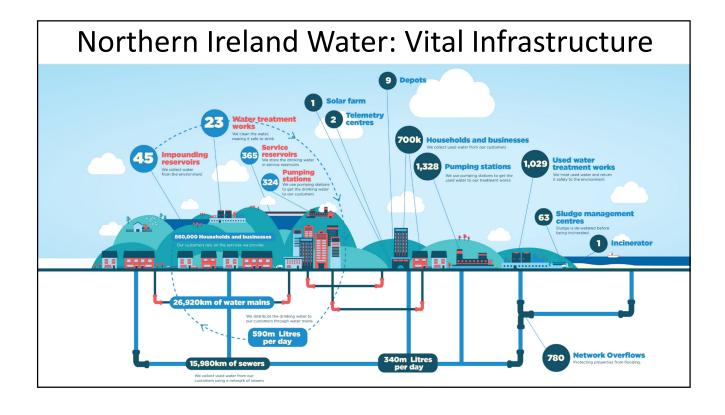
# **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

Dr Stephen Blockwell - Head of Investment Management Mr Grahame Millar - Head of Wastewater Infrastructure Delivery Mr Ivan Jackson – Head of Operational Contract Management Centre









# **Capital Investments**

	Capital Project Spend				
Investment Year	NI Water	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council			
2015/16	£95m	£12.2m			
2016/17	£101.6m	£9.4m			
2017/18	£106.6m	£10.5m			
2018/19	£121.7m	£8.9m			
2019/20	£96.8m	£13.9m			
Total	£521.7m	£54.9m			

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council benefits from 10.5% of NI Water's capital spend and a considerable percentage of NI Water's Water & Sewerage £61m annual Capital Maintenance Expenditure for the PC15 period. This compares favourably with the District's 9.5% share of Northern Ireland's population.

# Top Investments (over £100k)

### **Projects In Construction / Recently Complete**

Newpoint WWPS Screen upgrade

Culmore, Strabane and Warrenpoint Sewer Investigations

Northern Ireland Drought Mitigation

Killeavy Castle Water Distribution Improvements

Silent Valley recreational facilities appraisal

Newry Depot premises upgrade

PC15 Year 3 WwTW Capital Maintenance - East Region

Dundrum WwTW

PC15 Watermains Rehabilitation WP1 - Foffany/North Lisburn

South

Sewers Structural Rehabilitation Package 2

Copeland Road, Comber, Tank Sewer

### **Projects In Construction / Recently Complete**

WIIM 1 Phase 2 Carran Hill Crossmaglen WP

Manse Road, Seaforde Storm Sewer Extension

PC15 Year 3 WwTW Capital Maintenance - South Region

Mourneview, Newcastle, Flood Alleviation

Newry West WPS, fire damage

CSO Monitoring Within Shellfish and Bathing Water

Banbridge South Armagh WIIM 2.1 Work Package

Dundrum DAP, UIDs Upgrades.

Annalong DAP UIDs, Upgrades.

Kilkeel DAP Phase 1

Drumaroad WTW Clear Water Tank

# Top Investments (over £100k)

### Programmed/Prospective Projects (subject to funding & land purchases)

Sheemore Crescent/Hanwood Way, Kilkeel, Foul&Storm Sewer Extension

Station Road Saintfield Mains Replacement.

Adj 110 Saul Road Downpatrick F&S Sewer [Potential PC21]

Green Road, Ardglass, Foul and Storm Sewer. [Potential PC21]

Appraisal of DG5 At-Risk Register Locations (Mitigation Phase 4) [Potential PC21]

The Slopes Rathfriland Wwps appraisal [Potential PC21]

Meigh WWTW Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]

Warrenpoint WWTW - Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]

Dublin Road Newry Out of Sewer Flooding [Potential PC21]

Downpatrick (SPSs) [Potential PC21]

Cranfield WwTW Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]

Kilkeel WWTW Feasibility Study [Potential PC21]

Cranfield Catchment, Kilkeel Storm Seperation [Potential PC21]

Annalong WwTW [Potential PC21]

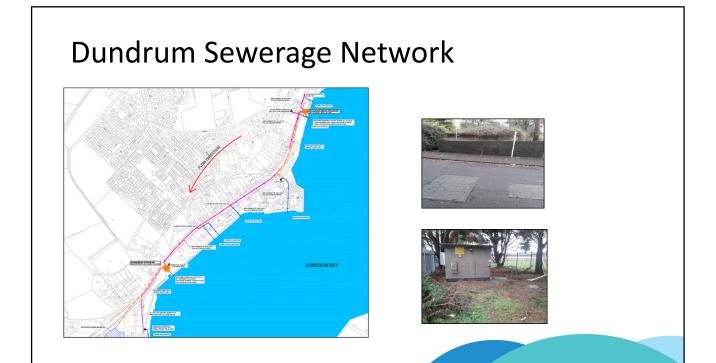
# Projects / Activities Update

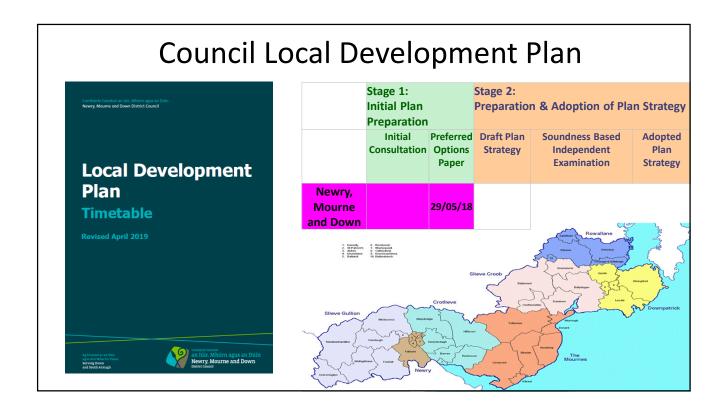
# Mourne Wall Restoration Project

Building Conservation & Project of the Year - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors









# Funding for water and wastewater 2021 to 2027



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# What is a Price Control?

- As a monopoly, NI Water is regulated by the Utility Regulator through Price Controls.
- A Price Control determines the allowed revenue and expenditure for the company during the price control period.
- A Price Control determines the efficiency and outputs targets to be met by the company during the price control period.
- PC21 will be 4<sup>th</sup> Regulatory Price Control for NI Water

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# What does a Price Control involve?

# **Objectives specified – Social & Environmental Guidance**

• With input from stakeholders

### Revenue and expenditure to deliver objectives quantified

• NI Water develops Business Plan to comply with Ministerial objectives and guidance

### Value for money assessed

• Utility Regulator assesses Business Plan and challenges value for money

### Regulatory contract agreed

 Utility Regulator determines revenue and outputs - contract is agreed with customer price limits determined for the PC period, outputs agreed and delivery monitored

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# NI Water's Funding



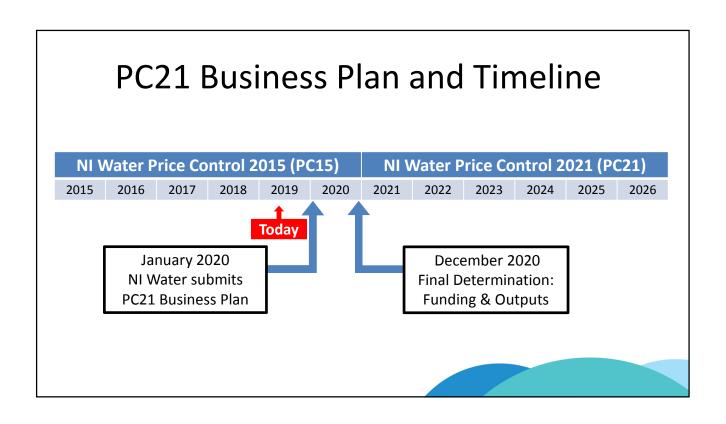
NI water is a Government Owned Company (GoCo) and Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) within DfI

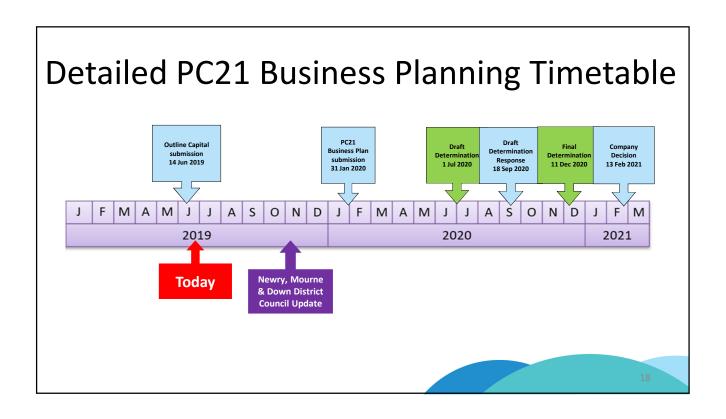
NDPB status means NI Water can only spend within its Public Expenditure (PE) budgetary envelope – this is an important difference verses GB Water Companies.

NI Water is not permitted to hold surplus cash reserves – all costs must be met from existing public expenditure budgets within NI Water or the Dept for Infrastructure (DfI).

NI Water is successful – in top 5 of Belfast Telegraph top 100 companies – but accounting profits provide no additional spending power to NI Water.

# The PC15 Funding Challenge Capital Business Plan (2015 to 2021) What NI Needed Could spend ffordability feed on the first spenditure (PE) cuts since 2015





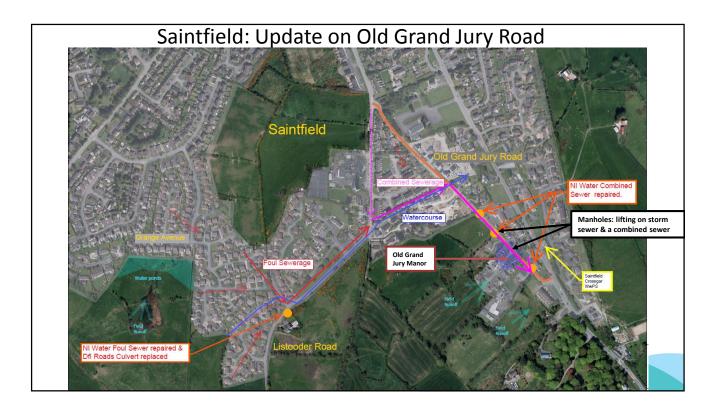
# **Supporting Future Economic Development**

- Current governance model has not delivered the investment funding needed to date
- Across NI significant investment is now needed for wastewater and water infrastructure
- Developers should engage as early as possible with NI Water through the Pre Development Enquiry process

**Questions Received from Councillors** 

Issue Raised & Concillor	QUESTION
Drumaness	A number of years ago NI water approved development plans in the
Cathy Mason	village, now that contractors want to move ahead they are being told there is no longer the capacity in the system for their new homes despite NI Water previously saying it is ok. Can you advise on this?
Vianstown Road	Re-occurring smells relating to sewage system.
John Trainor	
Ardglass Road	Understand that there is chemical put into the system to mitigate smell,
	how regularly is this done as there have been episodes of the smell?
John Trainor	
Irish St	Are the current pipes and system in place on Irish St fit for purpose, given
	the recent issues that needed emergency attention?
John Trainor	Are there are any plans to upgrade system in this area? If so was this
	communicated to TNI prior to the Environmental Scheme and resurfacing
	project for Irish St?

Issue Raised &	QUESTION
Councillor	
Annalong Marine	What can be done to avoid sewage over flowing from manhole covers
Park/Commill Area	and spilling onto the walkway of the Annalong River Bridge?
Harold McKee	
Sean Doran	I Have an issue for the special council meeting with NI water Over the last 12 months the quality and colour of the house hold water in the ballymegough road kilkeel has been really poor, The water in the tanks in houses XX XX XX is a brown colour and its leaving a young family unable to bathe their children and its very unhealthy looking.  NI Water have been taking samples and been coming out on a regular basis to flush the pipes out indeed they were out today the 19 June and it took 45 of flushing the pipes before they could get clean water. I think it's old lead pipes that are causing this problem and want to know if they have plans to replace the system
Killyleagh	The odorous smell has returned to the Downpatrick Rd through the vents,
Downpatrick Rd	has the filters been replaced if not will they be?
William Walker	
Saintfield sewage	Looking for an update on the sewage problems in Saintfield, has the
problems	survey been completed and has the money been sourced to rectify the
J	problem?
William Walker	



# How To Reach Us

- Dedicated 24/7 Elected Representative Hotline: 0345 3006461
- Email : waterline@niwater.com
- Website: <u>www.niwater.com</u>
- Twitter: @niwnews
- Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/niwater</u>
- **24/7 Waterline for public:** 03457 440088.
- #deliveringwhatmatters

