

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMC/SC**

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**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31 March 2025 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor D Lee-Surginor

**In attendance in Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor P Campbell	Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor V Harte
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor G Sharvin	

**In attendance via Teams:**

Councillor P Byrne	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor K Feehan
Councillor C Galbraith	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor K Murphy	Councillor S O'Hare
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor H Young	

**Officials In attendance in Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director of Regeneration  
Mrs L Jackson, Development Plan Manager  
Mr M McQuiston, Senior Planning Officer: Development Plan  
Ms L O'Connor, Senior Planning Officer: Development Plan  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in attendance:** Mr C Fegan, Belfast Legal Services

**SC/001/2025**

**APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Finn, S Murphy and Taylor. Apologies were also received from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, and from Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment.

As the Chairperson was in attendance remotely, it was agreed that the Deputy Chairperson would host the meeting.

**SC/002/2025**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014**

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on item 3, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

**SC/003/2025      LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY  
CONTENT, PUBLICATION AND CONSULTATION  
ARRANGEMENTS**

**Read:** Report dated 31 March 2025 from Mr J McGilly, Assistant Director, Regeneration regarding Local Development Plan, Draft Plan Strategy Content, Publications and Consultation Arrangements. **(Copy circulated)**

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Jackson, to approve the following:

- The content of the draft plan strategy, including its objectives, strategic and operational policies
- Publication, launch and consultation arrangements

It was also agreed to note the proposed launch date of the publication of the draft Plan Strategy on Friday 27 June 2025 (venue to be confirmed).

Councillor Lewis, Sharvin, Reilly, Young, Devlin and McEvoy left the meeting during the above discussion at 7.15pm, 7.30pm, 7.35pm, 7.37pm, 7.44pm and 7.49pm respectively.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.59pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**