

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 25 June 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor H McKee	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Savage
Councillor W Walker	

Also in attendance:

Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor J Tinnelly	

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant of Director of Corporate Planning and Policy
Mr C Quinn, Assistant Director of Estates & Capital Projects
Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/78/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Enright.

SPR/79/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/80/2020 SUSPENDED IRISH LANGUAGE BURSARY SCHEME 2020-2021

Read: Report dated 25 June 2020 from Mrs Regina Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, Suspended Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2020-2021 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí advised the Irish Language Working Group had asked that officers explore the possibility of young people applying for this year's budget to attend next year's Gaeltacht, if not able to receive the funding in advance, at least provide a letter of offer advising young people they had been successful in achieving the funding which would make it more affordable for them to attend. He stated there was still some way to go and officers were looking into the governance issues, however, he was happy to propose the recommendations as contained within the officer's report. This was seconded by Councillor Doran.

Councillor Lewis asked whether other schemes would also be ring-fenced in the same way as he felt all those schemes that had not been able to occur due to the pandemic should be treated in a similar manner.

Mrs Carville advised that ring-fencing of budgets would be subject to the rates process, however the recommendation from Irish Language Working Group was to ringfence the budget in question. She stated that other financial assistance schemes that had not been able to be spent in the current financial year, there was an intention to re-look at the potential for ringfencing these, however this would all be considered again when progressing through the rates process.

Councillor Savage spoke in support of the proposal from Councillor Ó Muirí and Councillor Walker advised although he was not opposed to this particular fund being ringfenced, Councillors need to be mindful that other schemes would merit ringfencing and Members should support these schemes also.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Doran, to agree to the following recommendations:

- 1. Council's Irish Language Unit proceed to re-open the Irish Language Bursary Scheme for period 2020/2021 for calls related to periods April – September 2020 and October 2020-March 2021.**
- 2. Underspend within the Irish Language Bursary Scheme budget for the period April – September 2020 be ring-fenced for the next financial year (2021-2022).**
- 3. Officers to give consideration as to the appropriate governance, including applicants' letters of offer and opening date of a call for applications to an Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2021-2022; this to be tabled for consideration at a future meeting of the Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group.**

SPR/81/2020 PAVEMENT CAFÉ AND PROVISION OF OUTDOOR SPACE

Read: Report dated 25 June 2020 from Mr Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding, Pavement Café and provision of outdoor space **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne proposed to amend the recommendation outlined in 3.1 of the officer's report that applications on Council sites would be assessed using the criteria being used to compile the list of open spaces, in parallel with compiling the list of open spaces that would be suitable to ensure those businesses ready to go can avail of the scheme immediately. He also proposed to amend 3.2 of the officer's report to waive the current Pavement Café license fee for 12 months to show support to the local traders within the District.

Councillor Savage seconded the proposal highlighting the need to work with and support the hospitality and license trade in the coming weeks.

Members spoke in support of the amendments and engagement with businesses assisting them to re-open and welcomed the creative potential across the District, but at the same time asked officers to be mindful of people with mobility issues and those with visual impairments across the District ensuring safe access on pavements.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, to approve the following recommendations.

- That applications on Council sites would be assessed using the criteria being used to compile the list of open spaces, in parallel with compiling the list of open spaces that would be suitable.
- Members waive the current Pavement Café license fee for 12 months.
- If successful in securing a letter of Offer from the Department, members approve that officials develop and deliver a programme of revitalisation works in the form of seating, benches, tables, pergolas etc to facilitate outdoor gatherings in a socially distanced manner.

SPR/82/2020: BREXIT FORUM MEMBERSHIP

Read: Report dated 25 June 2020 from Mr Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding, Brexit Forum Membership **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Mallon advised the next meeting of the Brexit Forum would be held on Tuesday 30 June 2020 and asked that the names of the additional Members and confirmation of membership be received as soon as possible.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, Council to consider the current membership of the Brexit Forum and adopt a membership structure similar to Council Project Boards of 2 SF, 2 SDLP, 1 UU, 1 DUP, 1Ind/Alliance.

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 Ó Muirí, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/83/2020 ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADES - PERFORMER INVOICES

Read: Report dated 25 June 2020 from Mr Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding, St Patrick's Day Parades - Performance Invoices **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to note the contents of

the report and officers to continue to engage with suppliers on outstanding payments to determine eligible costs incurred, and settle these invoices as soon as possible.

SPR/84/2020: RECOMMENCEMENT OF CHARGING AND ENFORCEMENT IN OFF STREET CAR PARKS

Read: Report dated 25 June 2020 from Mr Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism regarding, Recommencement of Charging and Enforcement in off street car parks **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Council delay the introduction of car parking charges until Monday 10th August 2020 and that this be reviewed before reintroduction of car parking charges. It was also agreed to recommence enforcement of parking compliance across the District on 1st July 2020.**

SPR/85/2020 SURPLUS ASSETS AT JUNE 2020

Read: Report dated 25 June 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Surplus Assets at June 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the following was agreed:**

- 1. Note the report and appendix A which had been attached to the officers report.**
- 2. To remove 7 assets from the Surplus Asset listing and retain for Council use namely:**
 - Mare's Field Recreation Area, Camlough**
 - Art McCooey Play Park, Glassdrumman, Crossmaglen**
 - Bog Road Amenity Area/Picnic Area/Play Area, Forkhill**
 - Linkside Park Play Area, Newcastle**
 - Carlingford Park Play Area/Bitmac Area, Newry**
 - Surplus strip of land, Saintfield Community Centre**
 - Gallows Hill, Struell Road, Upper Scotch Street, Downpatrick**
- 3. To release 6 assets deemed surplus for open market sale:**
 - Ashtree former Play Area, Rathfriland Road, Newry**
 - Bleary Bungalows Play Area, Newry**
 - Croreagh Refuse Site, Newry**
 - Daisy Hill Nurseries, Carnagat Section, Newry**
 - Lock Keepers Cottage, Newry Canal**
 - Crown Villas Play Area, Crieve Road, Newry**

4. To release 1 asset on D1 process:
- Lismore Park, Playing Field, Crossmaglen

SPR/86/2020

COMMERCIAL UNIT AT NEWRY VARIETY MARKET

Read: Report dated 25 June 2020 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Commercial unit at Newry Variety Market **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that that members authorise the direct payment to LPS of the sum of £9,282.00 representing the arrears of rates on behalf of the tenant of unit 18B Newry Variety Market, and to note the proposed regularisation of legal agreements with all occupiers of these units.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.19pm

Signed: Councillor Gareth Sharvin
Chairperson

Signed: Dorinnia Carville
Director of Corporate Services