

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 14 January 2020 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre
(Hybrid)**

In the Chair: Councillor G Sharvin

In Attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor D Curran	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor J Trainor

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR & Safeguarding
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services
Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing (Administration)
Mr F O'Connor, Legal Advisor
Mrs J McMurray, Legal Advisor
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/01/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Doran.

SPR/02/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/03/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2020

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2020. **(Copy circulated)**

SPR/169/2020 – PHA Report

Councillor Savage expressed his disappointment regarding the verbal response that was received by the Public Health Agency particularly given the rates of Covid-19 in the BT34 and BT35 postcode areas. Although there was a current walkthrough facility and they have indicated that there was drop off facility within the site, this had been very poorly communicated and was not suitable for those with reduced mobility, the elderly and the medically vulnerable.

Councillor Savage proposed that Council write as a matter of urgency to the Health Minister asking him to intervene and contact the Public Health Authority to facilitate both a drive-in and walkthrough facility in Newry. Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal and stated that Sinn Féin would be urging their MLA's to speak to the Minister and encouraged other parties to do the same to provide a dual facility in Newry.

Members spoke in support of Councillor Savage's proposal.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meetings held on 17 December 2020, be approved and that Council write to the Health Minister Mr Swann and contact the Public Health Authority as a matter of urgency to request both a drive-in and walkthrough facility in Newry.**

Mrs Ward and Mrs Miskelly left the meeting at 18.13pm.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/04/2020: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - RACISM

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, report on Notice of Motion - Racism **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Hanlon spoke on behalf of Councillor Clarke who was unable to attend the meeting, welcoming the report stating that it had been noted within the PCSP statistics that this type of racism was on the increase in the area and with the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign it was important to give this area attention and education through young people in schools was the best way forward.

Councillor Byrne and Councillor Ó Muirí supported the paper highlighting the good work that was ongoing through the Good Relations Forum, the Travellers Forum and through the work of the DEA's. Those type of events should be promoted more and included in the corporate booklet sent out to the district and residents advised where to find support.

In a response to a query raised by Councillor Enright, Mrs Mackin confirmed that any programme developed would be aimed at addressing all forms of racism.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Enright, that Council agree to continue to recognise the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, note the planned schools' initiative and reaffirm its commitment to address racism in all its forms**

through its programmes and initiatives. It was also agreed that the corporate booklet include examples of good practice across the District as well as advising on support services.

SPR/05/2021: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – NORTHERN IRELAND 100 YEARS

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding, report on Notice of Motion – Northern Ireland 100 Years **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Murphy, Byrne and Brown welcomed the report stating it was a positive step forward and provided an equal opportunity for everybody, open to all sections of the community and showed the positive work of the Good Relations Forum.

Councillor Enright queried whether an anniversary fund would be available for other significant events and commemorations.

Councillor Walker thanked members for their support stating the fund was to be used to mark the centenary and was open to all sections of the community.

Councillor Lewis welcomed the fund stating he hoped the fund would be used in a respectful manner and an educational way to celebrate those type of events.

Mrs Mackin advised members that due to timing constraints the funding programme would not be included until the second financial call in February and not call one as detailed in the report.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that Council approve to provide financial support to mark the 100th anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland and agree to establish a Centenaries Funding Programme of £40,000 to be included in the second financial call for 2021/2022.**

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

SPR/06/2021: MINUTES OF NEWRY CCR PB MEETING – 07.01.2021

Read: Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 07.01.2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Savage welcomed the appointment of the Consultants and Design Team on the Albert Basin Park and asked for clarity on how the budget would be drawn down in coming months and whether the budget would be a rolling one to deliver phase one and beyond.

Councillor Enright asked whether the overall project would have revenue impact in the coming year and would it impact upon the rates process?

Councillor Brown asked what the consultation facilitator would be used for i.e. procurement for Newry City Centre or Albert Basin project and would Strategy Policy and Resources Committee get full sign off before it would go to public consultation?

Councillor Brown proposed that the budget of £150,000 be increased to £1.5 million for the park project to deliver the first phase of the park within this Council term and possibly more if other external funding could be brought in. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

Mrs Carville advised a capital budget was agreed at any stage of the financial year once a business case had been adequately drawn up, considered by committee and approved, therefore there was no cut off point. If something was not in the budget at the start of the financial year this did not hold up the project, as capital projects were considered throughout the year.

Mrs Carville cautioned Councillors against voting a sum of money in advance of the presentation of a business case. She stated the £150,000 outlined was for the next stage of the park project which was largely consultancy spend to help develop the business case and once developed the full financial requirement for the park would proceed go through the relevant processes and be considered by the Project Board and Strategy Policy and Resources Committee.

In response to Councillor Enright's query, Mrs Carville confirmed in relation to the Newry City Centre Regeneration project, the costs would not impact the rate until the project is completed.

Mr Mallon confirmed that the consultation facilitator was for the Newry City Centre Regeneration programmes which included all projects that made up the outline business case submitted to the Belfast Region City Deal. It was hoped that the process would begin within the next two weeks with stakeholder engagement workshops to try and develop the questionnaire that would be published online for the public. The questionnaire would be presented to the Programme Board in draft format, any recommendations would be taken on board and the survey would be amended, then taken back through the Programme Board and ratified through Strategy Policy and Resources Committee and through normal Council structures.

Councillor Byrne and Councillor Walker commended officers for ensuring the meeting of the Albert Basin Project Board was organised expediently in order to be able to provide an update in advance of the Programme Board meeting. Councillor Byrne highlighted that Council had the opportunity to apply for additional funding through the Innovation Hub and other sources that would work in tandem with strands of the NCCR Programme.

The Chairperson confirmed that Council policy was to present a business case to secure the financial amount required to complete the project and the recommendation of the paper circulated was to progress the project to business case stage.

In response to a question by Councillor Enright as to why officers were referring to procurement when this project was not yet at tender stage, Mr Mallon advised members that procurement was an end to end to process and did not just cover the tendering process. He stated it began at the inception of the project and continues through the life cycle until disposal of the item or product procured, hence why the term was used. Mrs Carville reiterated when referencing procurement, she was signposting Councillors to where the policy with regard business cases was located, which was within the procurement policy.

The Chairperson asked Councillor Brown if he still wished to proceed with his proposal given the advices provided to him by the Director. Councillor Brown confirmed he still wished to proceed and requested a recorded vote.

Members asked for clarity on the proposal.

Councillor Brown clarified the proposal was to increase the current budget set aside in the Capital Programme for the Albert Basin Park from £150,000 to £1.5 million and all other recommendations as contained within the officer's report.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy appended to these minutes):

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 12
ABSTAIN: 0

The proposal was LOST.

Councillor Savage proposed that Members proceed with the officer's recommendation. This was seconded by Councillor Walker.

Councillor Brown indicated he was not in agreement and the Chairperson put the matter to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 12
AGAINST: 1
ABSTAIN: 1

The proposal was CARRIED.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Council proceed with the recommendations detailed in the minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 07.01.2021

Councillor Brown left the meeting at 19.19pm

FOR NOTING

SPR/07/2021: **STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy regarding Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October - December 2020 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SPR/08/2021: **LOCAL GOVERNMENT CIRCULAR 21/2020**

Read: Copy of Local Government Circular 21/2020 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the circular.

SPR/09/2021: **DFC LAND CASES- GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILS JANUARY 2021**

Read: Copy of Dfc Land Cases – Guidance for Councils January 2021 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Enright left the meeting at 19.20pm

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter 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/10/2021: CANN PROJECT P/T OFFICER POST

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing, regarding CANN Project P/T Officer Post. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Council recruit an additional part-time officer specifically for stakeholder engagement at the Magheraveely Special Area of Conservation.

SPR/11/2021: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CORPORATE SERVICES PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Chief Executive and Corporate Services Procurement Action Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, that members agree:

- The Chief Executive and Corporate Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan
- To approve the STA's outlined in the Appendix in excess of £30,000.

SPR/12/2021: LANDS AT DAISY HILL, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs J McMurray, Legal Advisor, regarding Lands at Daisy Hill, Newry. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, to approve a transfer of the lands shaded red on the map attached hereto to the Contractor at the market value of two thousand five hundred pounds (£2500.00) with the Contractor being responsible also for any legal and valuation costs.

SPR/13/2021: LETTER OF COMFORT TO SUFFOLK COASTAL

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director of Health and Wellbeing, regarding letter of Comfort to Suffolk Coastal.
(Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, to grant retrospective approval for the Chief Executive to sign the attached letter of Comfort to Suffolk Coastal.

SPR/14/2021: SIB PROJECT DIRECTOR - NCCR

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding SIB Project Director - NCCR
(Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, to approve that council avail of the option to extend the Project Directors contract by a further year.

SPR/15/2021: PARKING CONTROL MEASURES INCEPTION PROCESS

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Parking control measures inception process.
(Copy circulated)

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

- Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, to approve:
- The proposed Parking Control Measures Inception Process, both from the traffic management and potential increased revenue aspects and provide authorisation to commence the inception process, with the expectation of delivery by 1st November 2022 for the 8 car parks identified within Appendix A of the officer's report.
 - To appoint a Consultant to undertake the consultation process.

FOR NOTING

SPR/16/2021: TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2020/21

Read: Report dated 14 January 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Treasury Management MID-Year Report.
(Copy circulated)

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

Noted: It was agreed to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.42pm.

Signed: Councillor Gareth Sharvin
Chairperson

Signed: Dorinnia Carville
Director of Corporate Services

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 14/01/2021 VENUE: Teams Meeting MEETING: SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Proposal from Cllr Brown regarding Albert Basin Park increased funding. Seconded by Councillor Enright

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown	1			
P Byrne		1		
S Doran				1
C Enright	2			
H Gallagher		2		
O Hanlon		3		
R Howell		4		
A Lewis		5		
H McKee		6		
O Magennis		7		
D Murphy		8		
B Ó Muíri		9		
M Savage		10		
G Sharvin		11		
W Walker		12		
TOTALS	2	12		

