

April 24th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 23rd April 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor O Hanlon **Chairperson**

Councillor D McAteer **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor C Enright

Councillor M Hearty

Councillor R Howell

Councillor T Howie

Councillor A King

Councillor C King

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Rice

Councillor D Taylor

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Meeting held 12 March 2026

 *SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2026 03 12.pdf*

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Elected Member Development Charter

For Decision

 *Elected Member Development Charter.pdf*

Page 4

5.0 Expression of Interest – Warrenpoint Square Retail Unit 2

For Decision

 *SPR Committee Report - EOI Wpt Sq Retail Unit.pdf*

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6.0 Emergency Works, Canal Bank Car Parks, Newry

For Decision

 *SPR Committee Report - Emergency Works Canal Bank Car Parks Newry.pdf*

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 *Appendix 1.pdf*

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Exempt Appendices

6.1 Appendix 2 - Resource Implications

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 *Appendix 2.pdf*

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

7.0 Downpatrick Regeneration

For Decision

Exempt Appendices

7.1 Downpatrick Regeneration - Exempt Appendix

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

SPR Downpatrick Regeneration -Appendix 1.pdf

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

8.0 BRCD Tourism Project Outline Business Case

For Decision

SPR BRCD Tourism Project OBC.pdf

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Exempt Appendices

8.1 BRCD Tourism Project - Exempt Appendix

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

SPR BRCD Tourism Project OBC - Appendix 1.pdf

Not included

Appendix 2 - Draft Press Release.pdf

Not included

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

9.0 Dundrum Pitches

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

SPR Report Dundrum Playing Fields - vf.pdf

Not included

10.0 Kilkeel Town Hall

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR - Kilkeel Town Hall.pdf**

Not included

11.0 Request for Easement at The Banks Recreation Area, Dundrum

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR April 2026 Request for Easement at The Banks Recreation Area Dundrum.pdf**

Not included

 **Map for Easement Dundrum.pdf**

Not included

12.0 Deed of Dedication for Newry City Park

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR 23 April 2026 Deed of Dedication Newry City Park.pdf2.pdf**

Not included

 **Deed of Dedication 2026.pdf**

Not included

13.0 NCCR Theatre Conference Review

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR Report - NCCR Theater and Conference Facility Operating Model.pdf**

Not included

14.0 Castlewellan Forest Park NLHF Project

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **Castlewellan NHLF - Project Completion.pdf**

Not included

15.0 Strategic Capital Projects Director

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR Strategic Capital Projects Director.pdf**

Not included

 **Appendix 1 - PM.pdf**

Not included

 **Appendix 2 - Capital PM.pdf**

Not included

16.0 Waste Management Resources

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR Committee Report - Waste Management Resources 23.04.26.pdf**

Not included

17.0 SOLACE Policy Officer Post

For Decision

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraphs 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 **2026.04.23 SPRC Recruitment for Solace NI funded post.pdf**

Not included

FOR NOTING Items deemed to be exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

18.0 Hilltown HRC Lease

For Information

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR Committee - Hilltown HRC site.pdf**

Not included

19.0 Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on Friday 6th February 2026

For Information

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 1 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.

 **Minutes Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board 06.02.2026 (restricted).pdf**

Not included

20.0 Financial Assistance Funding

For Information

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 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.

 **SPR Financial Assistance funding.pdf**

Not included

21.0 Minutes of Mourne Mountain Gateway Project meeting of 2 April 2026

For Information

📎 *Minutes of Mourne Mountain Gateway Project - Programme Board Mtg 02.04.2026 FINAL.pdf*

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22.0 Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2026

For Information

📎 *Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period January March 2026.pdf*

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📎 *Appendix I - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period January - March 2026.pdf*

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23.0 Correspondence from Minister Kimmins MLA re Water Connections

For Information

📎 *Letter to Minister Kimmins, Dfl.pdf*

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📎 *COR-0246-2026 - FR .pdf*

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Invitees

Ms Sally Andree

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Marina Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Aurla King

Ms Elaine Kirk

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Jonathan McGilly

Mr Martin McKibbin

Ms Tracie McLoughlin

Mr Colin Moffett
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Ms Alison Robb
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Mr Peter Rooney
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
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Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
.....
Cllr Helena Young
.....

<u>Minute Ref</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Actions taken / progress to date</u>	<u>Remove from Action Sheet? Y/N</u>
<u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u> <u>Thursday 14 August 2025</u>					
SPR/135/2025	Business Case – Residual Waste Contract	It was agreed that the requested rates per tonnage be brought back before Members as discussed.	S Murphy	New rates not available until Procurement Process completed Update tabled at March 26 meeting.	N
<u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u> <u>Thursday 22 January 2026</u>					
SPR/011/2026:	Kilkeel Town Hall	It was agreed to defer this item to be tabled at a future Committee meeting.	C Boyd	On April SPR Committee Agenda	Y
<u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u> <u>Thursday 12 March 2026</u>					
SPR/033/2026	Action sheet of meeting held 12/02/2026	It was agreed to note the action sheet	M Ward	Agreed	Y
SPR/034/2026	Go Succeed NI Update	It was agreed to approve an increased Council contribution to match DFE funding for delivery of the Go Succeed subject to agreement of all Councils as detailed at section 4 of the officer's report.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
		It was further proposed to write to the UK Government reminding them of their promises that EU funding would be matched and request that the council be reimbursed for the funds it is putting towards the Go Succeed programme.	M Ward	Ongoing	N
SPR/035/2026	NCCR Theatre & Conference Facility Update	The following was agreed: - To note the BRCD and DfC approval of the revised timetable for delivery of the NCCR programme of works with the Theatre/Conference associated public realm and the flood alleviation work to be completed in early 2028. - To approve the additional Integrated Consultancy Team fees as part of the capital budget incurred on the project since the Full Business Case approval - To approve the introduction of the contractual X1 inflation clause on the ICT fees as part of the	C Mallon	Agreed	Y

		capital budget schedule from January 2026. - To approve the additional contractual X1 inflation costs incurred on the construction project since the FBC approval. - To note the proposed change of NEC4 Project Manager for RIBA stages 5 – 7 of the project.			
SPR/036/2026	NCCR Theatre & Conference – Operating Model	It was agreed to defer the paper to enable further details to be provided regarding the proposed model and engagement with the local Trade Unions	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/037/2026	Delamont Country Park Caravan Site	It was agreed to approve Council operation of the Delamont Country Park caravan site from June to September 2026 and for the site to be marketed and booked through the camp manager system, the same as Castlewellan and Kilbroney caravan site. A report to be tabled in October regarding the operation outcomes and to consider most appropriate management from 2027.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/038/2026	Monaghan Row Lease	The following was agreed: - To note the extended lease with the SHSCT until 30 June 2026 - Subject to meeting the IT and security requirements for the temporary site, Council progress the works to facilitate the lease of the building at a cost detailed at section 4.1 of the officer's report. - That Council enter into a lease for the temporary building at the estimated annual rental cost as detailed at section 4.2 and 4.3 of the officer's report.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/039/2026	Capital Programme – Client Side Project Managers	The following was agreed: - To approve the appointment of Client-Side Project Managers to support the delivery of Newry City Park and Warrenpoint Health and Wellbeing Hub and allocate the capital budget as detailed at section 4.1 of the officer's report. - To approve the business cases as attached at Appendix 1.	C Boyd	Agreed	Y
SPR/040/2026	Waste Contract Procurement Update	It was agreed to note the contents of the report.	S Murphy	Agreed	Y
SPR/041/2026	2025/26 Q3 Management Accounts Update	It was agreed to note the quarter three 2025/2026 Management Accounts	G Byrne	Agreed	Y

SPR/042/2026	Treasury Management	It was agreed to note that Council will lead the group procurement process on behalf of all 11 Councils for the Treasury Management and Technical Accounting and Support Service contracts.	G Byrne	Agreed	Y
SPR/043/2026	Minutes of NCCR Programme board meeting of 8//12/25	It was agreed to note the minutes.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/044/2026	Action sheet of women's working group meeting held 11/02/26	It was agreed to note the action sheet	M Ward	Agreed	Y

Report to:	StrategyPolicy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 April 2026
Subject:	Elected Member Development Charter
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Marie Ward, Chief Executive
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sarah Taggart Democratic Services Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	x	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members following discussions at Party Leaders' Forum regarding the Elected Member Development Charter and to seek approval for a revised approach to Elected Member development.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	The Member Development Charter requires Councils to demonstrate: • Clear commitment from political and managerial leadership • A cross-party councillor development group • A structured and regularly reviewed development strategy • Named Members and officers responsible for development
2.2	At the Party Leaders' meeting held in September 2025, Members considered the resource implications, administrative requirements, and overall benefit of reattaining the Charter at this stage.
2.3	Party Leaders agreed that, while the principles of the Charter remain valuable, pursuing formal reattainment at this juncture may not represent the most effective use of resources or best meet the immediate and emerging development needs of Councillors.
2.4	Instead, it was agreed that priority should be given to the development of a comprehensive and forward-looking Elected Member Training Plan. This plan would: • Focus on equipping Councillors with the practical skills required for modern governance • Reflect current and future challenges, including digital transformation, community leadership, and decision-making in complex environments • Provide flexibility to respond to emerging needs rather than adhering to a fixed accreditation framework
2.5	This approach is intended to deliver more immediate and meaningful benefits to Members, while retaining the option to revisit Charter reattainment in the future should it be considered advantageous.

2.6	Council pays annual membership to NILGA, and this is separate from any costs of Charter reattainment. The annual membership fee does include support on Member Learning and Development with the Democratic Services Manager and Councillor Andrews both sitting on the Regional Member Development Network. NILGA also provide numerous training courses for Members to avail of, therefore, if Council decides not to pursue reattainment of the Charter, these services will still be available through the annual membership.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that members agree - • That Council does not proceed with reattainment of the Member Development Charter at this time. • That officers develop and bring forward an Elected Member Training and Development Plan, tailored to the current and future needs of Councillors with the plan being presented to a future SP&R Committee for consideration and approval.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Councillor and officer time into design, deliver and participate in the proposed training plan. Training costs will continue to be met from the existing Councillor training budget, with a focus on maximising value and relevance.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐

5.3	Proposal initiating consultation Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 rd April 2026
Subject:	Expression of Interest – Warrenpoint Square Retail Unit 2
Reporting Officer:	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Contact Officer:	Gail Kane, Head of Facilities Management

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Committee to proceed and undertake an Expression of Interest for commercial retailers to lease retail unit 2 behind the public toilets in Warrenpoint Square.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	- There are 2 No. retail units at the back of the public toilet block located in the Square, Warrenpoint. Both units have been vacant for quite some time. - Council's Legal Services team recently undertook a rental valuation of retail unit 2, which is c.158 sq. ft (14.69 sq. m.) with one door and window. - The proposal is for the expression of interest to go out for leasing the unit for a 5-year period with the tenant to be responsible for maintenance of the internal areas of the property. The permitted use is to be limited to retail use only. - The proposed rental value is £2000 per annum which is to include water and electricity charges. Any further utility charges are to be paid by the tenant.
2.2	- It should be noted that there are 2 No. retail units in this location with both units vacant. - It is proposed that an expression of interest is undertaken for retail unit 2 only. Other long-term plans are in place for the use of retail unit 1 as part of the Councils' Public Toilet Strategy.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to agree to the recommendations contained within section 2 of the report, to proceed with an expression of interest for the lease of retail unit 2 at Warrenpoint Square public toilet block.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	£2000 per annum income to public toilet revenue budget.

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	23rd April 2026
Subject:	Emergency Works, Canal Bank Car Parks, Newry
Reporting Officer	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Contact Officer	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	X	For noting only	
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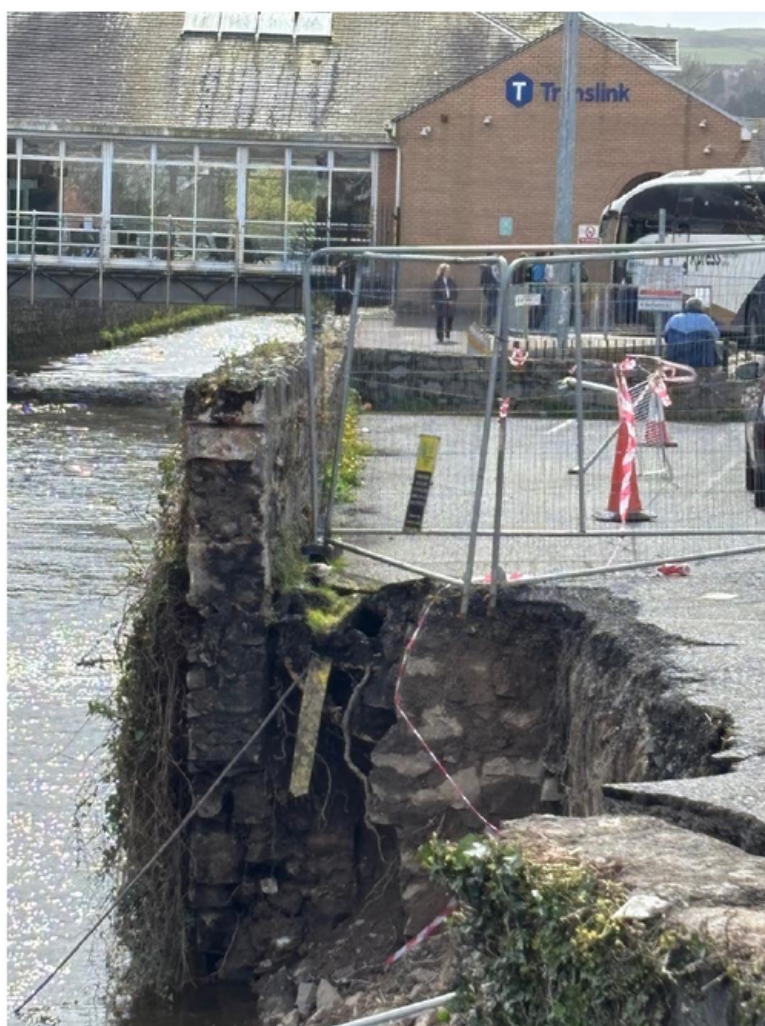
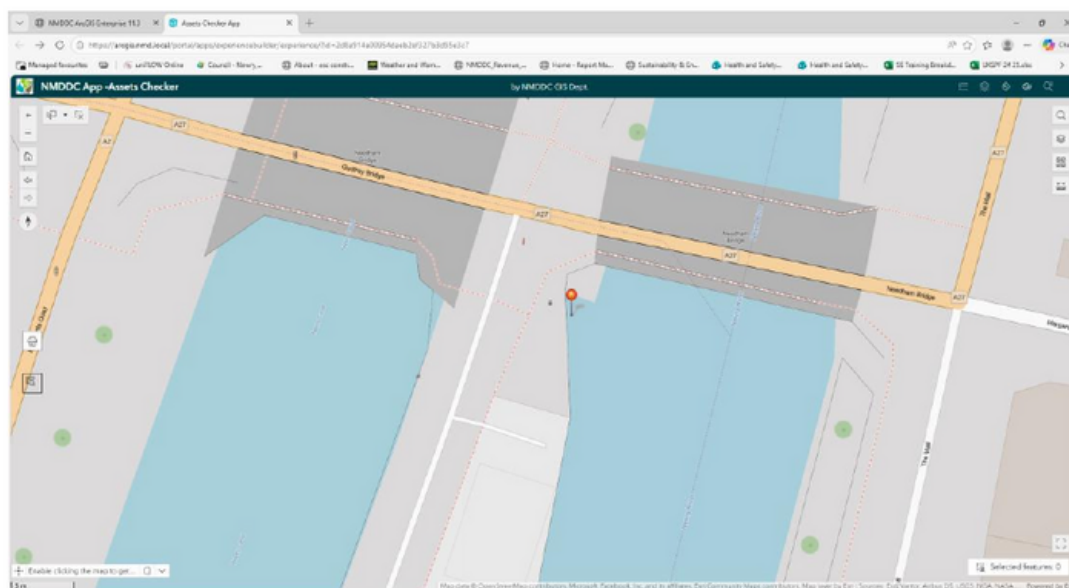
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> The purpose of this report is to update and inform Members of the emergency appointment of a contractor to carry out emergency repair works at Canal Bank 2 and Canal Bank 3 car parks in Newry.
1.2	<u>Background</u> A section of the retaining wall, including a small section of car park at Canal Bank 3 subsided into Newry River on Easter Sunday (5th of April) 2026. Due to the safety risks posed by the subsidence of the canal bank and collapse of the retaining wall structure, the Chief Executive Officer engaged with party leaders advising that under emergency measures it was necessary to immediately appoint a contractor to make the area safe. In response to the emergency incident, a civil engineering contractor was immediately attended the site to assess for any further risk of failure and to commence works to structurally stabilise the embankment.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<u>Canal Bank 3</u> The failure appears to be confined to a discrete section of the retaining wall. While the precise cause of this localised failure has not been fully established, it is considered highly likely that it has been influenced by extreme flood events in recent years, in combination with the age and original construction of the Canal Bank and associated retaining walls. The car park was immediately secured and closed off to prevent members of the public from entering. Canal Bank 3 is a non-charged car park comprising of 13 spaces. The location of the failure at Canal Bank 3 is shown in Appendix 1.
2.2	<u>Canal Bank 2</u> A section of the river wall adjacent to the Canal Bank 2 car park has been adversely affected by extreme flooding in recent years, resulting in the displacement of stonework and ongoing evidence of structural undermining. It is necessary to carry out immediate repairs to this section of the wall to prevent further degradation and reduce the risk of continued structural failure. Location of structural issue at Canal Bank 2 is shown in Appendix 1.

2.3	It is proposed to appoint a civil engineering contractor to design and implement a permanent repair solution at Canal Bank 2 and 3. Immediate intervention is considered essential to mitigate the risk of further structural degradation, potential progressive failure, and associated health and safety risks, particularly given the recent subsidence and the site's exposure to future flood events. The cost of the works has not been fully established at this stage; however, an estimated value outlined in Appendix 2 has been deemed appropriate for the purposes of the contractor appointment. Members should note that this estimate may be subject to change as the scope of works is further developed, reflecting the current unknowns and the inherent complexity of the site conditions. Council are engaging with DfI Rivers Agency to consider the longer-term flood alleviation works required along the canal bank.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to approve the appointment of a contractor to carry out emergency repair works at Canal Bank 2 and Canal Bank 3 car parks in Newry.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Resource allocation outlined in Appendix 2.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

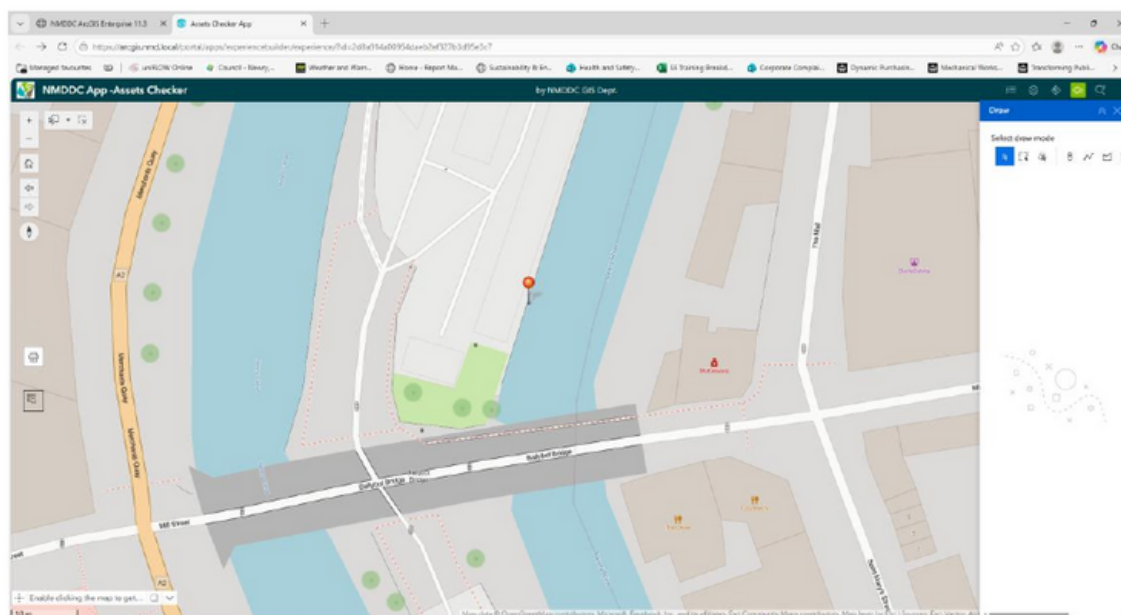
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – Location maps Appendix 2 – Resource implications (in closed session)
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Appendix 1

Location of Failure at Canal Bank 3



Location of structural issue at Canal Bank 2



Report to:	SPR Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 rd April 2026
Subject:	Downpatrick Regeneration
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon: Director: Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon: Director: Economy, Regeneration & Tourism

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0			Purpose and Background
1.1			The purpose of this report is to see members approval of the recommendations set out in section 3 of the report Background Through the Living High Street tool kit delivered in Downpatrick a number of projects opportunities have been identified that would regenerate and improve the streetscape and urban environment in the town. Council have also been progressing the Irish Street Development project in partnership with DfC.
2.0			Key issues
2.1			<u>Dunleath Park</u> The development of the pump track and skate park along with the new access proposed from St Patricks Avenue offers the opportunity to create an urban loop in the town through the connection of the skatepark to Dunleath Park and Market Street. A preliminary proposal to develop a soft landscaped link between the 2 locations has been presented by the DRWG for consideration and its proposed that a design team is appointed to develop the design of the project to procurement and planning approval stage. Following appointment of the design team, engagement with the DRWG and local park users would inform the final design.
2.2			<u>Grove Peace + project</u> Council are also progressing the Community engagement and consultation Peace + project at the Grove in Downpatrick, technical support is proposed to take feedback, ideas and suggestions from those engagement sessions and translate them into images and a vision for the area, this will allow project details and designs to be developed to procurement and planning approval stage. <u>Irish Street Regeneration Scheme</u>

2.3	Council have been working in partnership with DfC on the development of the Irish Street site and a masterplan has been developed that will be released to the market to secure a delivery partner. DfC are currently finalising the case for the Irish Street project internally and will release the marketing and procurement exercise when approval has been secured. A promotional event is being organised that will mark the release of the project to the market.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members approve the allocation of funding and the appointment of the technical support to assist with the delivery of the Grove Peace + project in Downpatrick as set out in Appendix 1
3.2	Members approve the allocation of funding and appointment of the technical support to assist with the delivery of the project to link the skate park and Dunleath Park in Downpatrick as set out in Appendix 1.
3.3	Members approve allocation of funding to the Irish Street project in Downpatrick as set out in Appendix 1 and the procurement for the Irish Street development subject to approval from DfC.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Refer to Appendix 1 – Financial Information
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Consultation period will be 12 weeks Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.	☐ ☐ ☐
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	☒
7.0	Appendices	
	Appendix 1 – Financial information	
8.0	Background Documents	
	None	

Report to:	SPR Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 rd January 2026
Subject:	BRCD Tourism project– Outline Business Case
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon: Director: Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Mallon: Director: Economy, Regeneration & Tourism

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to see members approval of the recommendations set out in section 3 of the report Background Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) includes a dedicated Tourism and Regeneration pillar, recognising tourism as a key economic driver capable of delivering a step change in inclusive economic growth, increased visitor numbers and job creation across the region. The Mourne Gateway project was subsequently selected and developed as the preferred mechanism to deliver this strategic ambition, aligning with BRCD objectives to enhance regional attractiveness, stimulate private sector spend and generate long-term economic benefits for the wider region. Following the National Trust’s decision not to support a lease for MMGP early-stage desktop investigations and consultation were undertaken to assess the potential for relocating the project to Kilbroney Forest Park. (note no expenditure incurred on exploring the Kilbroney option). The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) issued a formal statement in July 2025 confirming that it could not support the Council’s proposal to investigate the project at Kilbroney Forest Park. Following discussions, through August 2025 the BRCD Executive Board and NICS partners supported the retention of the funding allocation within the NMDDC area subject to presentation of a project that meets the objectives of the BRCD programme. Officers and elected members have been engaging since September 2025 to discuss and develop a project concept that will deliver against the BRCD objectives The Tourism and Regeneration projects within BRCD aim to enhance the attractiveness of Northern Ireland, increasing out of state visitors and supporting the regeneration of towns and villages across the region and deliver economic benefits to a range of businesses across NI by generating demand for accommodation, hospitality, recreational, cultural activities and transport services and spread sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits around the region, so that communities in all parts of Northern Ireland benefit, all year round.

2.0	Key issues
2.1	3 Elected member workshops were facilitated by officials and a specialist Tourism consultant on • 8 September 2025 • 4 November 2025 • 13 January 2026 With a presentation of the concept proposals on the 23rd March 2025 Officials also met with our BRCD Partners on the following dates • BRCD Project Management Office 19 January 2026 • Tourism NI, Department for Economy & Department of Finance officials on 22 January 2026 • BRCD Executive Board 18 February 2026 • Tourism NI Board 19 March 2026 The proposals generated a positive response from all partners and approval was secured from BRCD Executive board to progress the development of the proposal to OBC stage, with Tourism NI board confirming support for the strategy presented. The OBC should be presented by end of 2026. Following agreement of the BRCD Executive Board and the positive feedback from partners, officials have been engaging with a multi disciplinary team through the SCAPE framework to scope and cost the completion of the OBC. This will develop the project and taking the information available from the masterplans etc develop conceptual design proposals that respond to the client's requirements, project objectives, and budget constraints. A stakeholder engagement strategy will be developed in partnership with the multi disciplinary team to ensure that all relevant parties are involved in the development of the concept and that decisions are informed by technical, operational, financial and community perspectives.
2.2	The BRCD allocation for a tourism project is £29.2m, in line with the development of all BRCD projects, council must fund the OBC development costs.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members approve the appointment of a multi disciplinary team to deliver the Outline Business Case for the BRCD Tourism project at the fee estimate set out in Appendix 1
3.2	Members note the draft press release in Appendix 2
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	See Appendix 1 – Financial Information

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – Financial information Appendix 2 - Draft press release
8.0	Background Documents
	None

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Mournes Gateway Project - Programme Board Meeting Thursday 2nd April 2026, 4pm MS Teams

In Attendance:

Programme Board Members

Councillor Laura Devlin (Chair)

Councillor Oonagh Hanlon

Councillor Tierna Howie

NMDDC Officials

Conor Mallon, Director - Economy, Regeneration & Tourism

Andy Patterson, Director – Active & Healthy Communities

Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director - Economy, Growth & Tourism

Caolain Boyd, Assistant Director – Capital & Procurement

Tracie McLoughlin – Corporate Relationship Officer

MMGP/053: Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor P Byrne and Councillor J Truesdale. (Cllr Howie attending in place of Cllr Truesdale)

MMGP/054 Draft Minutes of Mourne Mountain Gateway Programme Board Meeting held 30 July 2025 (Item 2.0 as circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor L Devlin , seconded by Councillor O Hanlon, it was agreed the Minutes of the Mourne Mountain Gateway Programme Board Meeting held on 30th July 2025 be approved as a true and accurate account.**

MMG/055 Mourne Mountain Gateway Project Funding Agreement (Item 3.0 as circulated)

Mrs Smyth advised that under the BRCD Funding Agreement, Council are required to formally write to Belfast City Council BRCD Project Management Office (PMO) to advise they are no longer in a position to proceed with this project.

Members are asked to note that officials will issue said correspondence (draft circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor T Howie, seconded by Councillor O Hanlon, it was agreed to:**

- 1. Note the content of the report and the draft correspondence circulated advising the BRCD Project Management Office that Council will not be proceeding with the Mourne Mountain Gateway Project.**
- 2. The formally stand down of the Mourne Mountain Gateway Project Programme Board.**

**Approved by the Mourne Mountains Gateway Programme Board.
For Noting at Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting**

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 April 2026
Subject:	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2026
Reporting Officer:	Elaine Kirk, Assistant Director Legal and People
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	☐	For noting only	☒
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	In line with Council's Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly. The Quarterly Policy Screening Report for the period January – March 2026, including screening reports, is available on Council's website https://www.newrymournedown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality. This information has also been forwarded to our equality consultees.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	As per the Council's approved Equality Scheme: • All policies Council proposes to adopt must be equality screened, prior to implementation, to assess the likely impact of the policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations. • Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council's website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2026.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)

5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2026.

8.0	Background Documents
	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme.

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report January – March 2026**

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
New policies		
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2026-27	The following five performance improvement objectives have been developed, all of which are clearly linked to the Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2024-27. 1. We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services 2. We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting business growth, job creation and pathways to employment 3. We will improve the cleanliness of our District by continuing to promote recycling and addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents 4. We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change 5. We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme	No EQIA considered necessary
Unreasonable Behaviour Policy	To assist in managing unreasonable behaviour from customers towards NMDDC employees and other customers.	No EQIA considered necessary
Reviewed policies		
Asbestos Management Policy	The Council recognises that exposure to asbestos fibres can present a serious risk to health and are committed to protecting the health and safety of their staff, contractors, clients and visitors who may be affected by their activities, along with ensuring compliance with all relevant health and safety legislation.	No EQIA considered necessary

	The policy applies to all Council owned and leased premises constructed prior to 2000, to any extent, under the Council's control. The Policy and associated Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) sets down the framework by which the Council, all employees, contractors and visitors will be expected to meet their legal duties. The AMP details the requirements and standards that must be complied with in order to prevent uncontrolled disturbance of asbestos containing materials resulting in possible exposure of employees, visitors and external contractors; to prevent the spread of any asbestos contamination and to achieve and maintain compliance with all applicable health and safety legislation. The AMP provides a standardised approach for all persons who are responsible for managing workplaces, premises and facilities and work activities, thus ensuring consistency across the Council.	
Fire Safety Management Policy	The Council, as the "Duty Holder", by making this policy commits to provide safe working conditions for its employees, and others who may be affected by activities in its premises. The Council through this policy commits to assess the risks of fire within all its premises and to implement appropriate fire safety precautions in each premise. The Council through the successful implementation of its Management Plan will meet these policy objectives.	No EQIA considered necessary
Portable Appliance Management and Testing Policy	The objectives of this policy are to: • Ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, that portable electrical appliances used within the Council estate do not present a risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff, contractors, clients and visitors to the Council estate. • Provide and maintain safe systems of work for the use of portable electrical appliances, that are safe and without risk to health & safety; • Provide such information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure employees carry out their works safely.	No EQIA considered necessary

Social Media and Acceptable Use Policy	The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with all social media communications activity. It aims are to ensure: • Effective engagement with the public and successful promotion of the Council and its services through the use of social media. • The Council's reputation and its employees and elected members are protected. • A consistent and corporate approach is adopted and maintained in the use of social media. • Council employees and elected members are aware of, fully comply with operate within existing policies, procedures, guidelines and relevant legislation. • Clear guidance on acceptable behaviour in the use of social media both professionally and personally is provided to employees and elected members. • Council information remains secure and is not compromised through the use of social media.	No EQIA considered necessary
Media Policy	The aim of the Policy is to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with all media communications activity. Our purpose in media relations is to: • Build a strong image and identity for the Council and strengthen its reputation • Improve citizens' awareness and understanding of the work of the Council • Ensure information about our aims, objectives and services is targeted to and accessible by key stakeholders as highlighted under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. • Invigorate local democracy and encourage and enable people to participate in the work of the Council • Build up a relationship of trust and mutual understanding that will benefit both the Council and the media.	No EQIA considered necessary
Pavement Cafes designation Policy	By virtue of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 the District Council may regulate the placing on public areas of furniture for use for the consumption of food and drink. Pavement cafés are becoming a familiar sight across the UK and Ireland. They can help develop a local café culture, which in turn can have a positive effect on urban	No EQIA considered necessary

	environments, promote town and city centres, contribute to the general well-being of communities and appeal to tourists. The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to designate a street or part thereof as a pavement café and whether to grant or refuse an application for a pavement café. Its aim is to provide, insofar as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.	
Pavement Cafes Enforcement Policy	By virtue of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 the District Council may regulate street trading through enforcement powers in a street or part thereof in its District. The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to take enforcement action against a person of whom there is reasonable grounds to suspect commission of an offence under this Act while involved in Pavement Cafés. Its aim is to provide, in so far as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.	No EQIA considered necessary
Temporary Road Closures on a public road for the purpose of holding a special event Policy	The purpose of this Policy is to outline the approach to be taken by the District Council when considering applications for temporary road closures on a public road for the purpose of holding a special event. Its aim is to provide, insofar as is possible, transparent, well informed and legally sustainable decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's (here after called 'the District Council') performance of its duties under the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Roads Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended),	No EQIA considered necessary

	This Policy is intended to ensure that the District Council’s Members and Officers are aware of those matters to be taken into consideration when determining if a street of part thereof should be prohibited or restricted for the purpose of holding a special event on a public road.	
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Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

30

3 March 2026

Liz Kimmins
Minister for Infrastructure
Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

Email: private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Dear Minister Kimmins,

At a recent meeting at the Council Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee, a query was raised in relation to water connections to properties that hadn't been active for a period of 5 years.

Can you please advise if NI Water will continue to consider the above as a new connection, given the challenges currently being experienced within the water infrastructure network as the Committee was advised this is proving problematic for some residents seeking planning to redevelop/replace single houses in the Countryside.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan McGilly
Assistant Director Regeneration



From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Jonathan McGilly
Assistant Director Regeneration
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Margaret.Rodgers@nmandd.org

Private Office
3rd Floor, James House
Gasworks Site
2 - 4 Cromac Street
Belfast
BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: COR-0246-2026
18 March 2026

Dear Jonathan,

WATER CONNECTIONS TO PROPERTIES

Thank you for your letter dated 3 March 2026, requesting clarification on whether NI Water will continue to consider water connections to properties that haven't been active for a period of 5 years as a new connection, given the Council being advised that the challenges currently being experienced within the water infrastructure network are proving problematic for some residents seeking planning to redevelop/replace single houses in the Countryside.

As this is an operational matter for NI Water, its advice was sought and it has advised that the vast majority of rural developments can obtain a water connection without difficulty, with issues arising only in limited circumstances which account for fewer than 1% of applications. In relation to wastewater connections, single rural dwellings do not require a wastewater connection as these properties are typically served by private septic tanks.

You will also be aware that the Newry Mourne and Down District Council, with NI Water's agreement, no longer consults NI Water on single rural dwelling applications. Applicants are instead directed to NI Water's Rural Single Unit Standing Advice, available on its website.

NI Water has further advised that in brownfield development scenarios where an NI Water wastewater asset is failing and causing environmental pollution, NI Water will consider 'like for like' connections to the public wastewater network, if the property has been occupied in the past 5 years.

NI Water has also confirmed that the issues raised in your letter have not been identified as a concern by the Council's planning team during the implementation of this process or since, nor are they considered to restrict rural development.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES GRAHAM
Private Secretary to the Minister