

October 15th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 15th October 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**.

Committee Membership 2026-27

Councillor C Bowsie **Chairperson**

Councillor O Hanlon **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Pete Byrne

Councillor Martin Hearty

Councillor Roisin Howell

Councillor Tierna Howie

Councillor Aurla King

Councillor Cathal King

Councillor Aidan Mathers

Councillor Declan McAteer

Councillor Siobhan O'Hare

Councillor Henry Reilly

Councillor Michael Rice

Councillor David Taylor

Councillor Jill Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held 17 September 2026

Attachment: SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2026 09 17.pdf

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion: Supreme Court Ruling

Attachment: Officer report on Notice of Motion - Supreme Court Ruling.pdf

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5.0 Lock 6, Newry Canal Restoration Works / Lock 7 Survey

Attachment: SPR Report - Lock 6 Newry Canal Restoration Works and Lock 7.pdf

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Exempt Appendices

5.1 Exempt Appendix - Lock 6, Newry Canal Restoration Works / Lock 7 Survey

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.

Attachment: Appx 1 - Lock 6 Newry Canal_OBC Oct 2026_R2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appx 2 - Lock 6 Newry Canal Restoration Works & Lock 7 - Financial Resources.pdf

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

6.0 Purchase of Saintfield Depot

Attachment: SPR Report - Purchase of Saintfield Depot.pdf

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Exempt Appendices

6.1 Exempt Appendix - Purchase of Saintfield Depot

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Attachment: Appendix 1 - Site Development Costs.pdf

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

7.0 Purchase of new Pay & Display Machines

Attachment: SPR Report - Purchase of New Pay and Display Machines.pdf

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Exempt Appendices

7.1 Exempt Appendix - Purchase of new Pay & Display Machines

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.

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Business Case Pay and Display Machines Oct 26.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appendix 2 - New Pay and Display Machines - Capital Cost.pdf

Not included

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

8.0 Licence of Office Space at Crossmaglen Community Centre

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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Licence of Office Space at Crossmaglen CC.pdfV2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Map 1 - crossmaglen community centre.pdf

Not included

9.0 Release of Charge from Part of Land at Mullaghbawn

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.

Attachment: *SPR 15 Oct 2026 Release of Charge from Part of Land at Mullaghbawn.pdfV2.pdf*

Not included

Attachment: *Map.pdf*

Not included

10.0 Licence for Car Park at Barnmeen Community Centre

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.

Attachment: *SPR 15 Oct 2026 Licence for Car Park at Barnmeen Community Centre.pdfV2.pdf*

Not included

Attachment: *Map for Car Park at Barnmeen CC.pdf*

Not included

11.0 Licence for Access at Mill Street Newry

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.

Attachment: *SPR 15 Oct 2026 Licence for Access at Mill Street Newry.pdfV2.pdf*

Not included

Attachment: *2025 Licence Map.pdf*

Not included

12.0 Surrender of Lease at Lir Grove Newtownhamilton

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.

Attachment: *SPR 15 Oct 2026 Surrender of Lease at Lir Grove Newtownhamilton.pdfV2.pdf*

Not included

13.0 Surrender of Part of Lands at Donard Park Newcastle

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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Surrender of Part at Donard Park Newcastle.pdfV2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: 20240627 Map showing the area leased and amended area.pdf

Not included

14.0 Canal Bank 3 Emergency Work

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.

Attachment: SPR Report - Emergency Works Canal Bank 3 Car Park Newry.pdf

Not included

15.0 Standby Generators

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.

Attachment: SPR Report - Standby Generators.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Business Case NLC Standby Generator.pdf

Not included

16.0 Development Management Review - Planning

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.

17.0 Rowallane DEA Multi-Sport Delivery Programme

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.

Attachment: SPR Report - Rowallane DEA Multi-Sport Delivery Programme vf.pdf

Not included

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

18.0 Legal Administration - Structure Review

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Attachment: SPR Report legal services October 2026 -15.10.26.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Legal and People - Legal Administration Org Chart SPR.pdf

Not included

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

19.0 NCCR Theatre Conference update report

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.

Attachment: SPR - NCCR Theatre Conference facility Programme Board update.pdf

Not included

For Noting

20.0 NCCR Programme board Minutes

Attachment: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board 28.09.26.pdf

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21.0 BRCD Tourism Proposition Project Board Minutes

*Attachment: Minutes of BRCD Tourism Proposition Project Board Mtg
23.09.2026.pdf*

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22.0 Statutory reporting: Section 75 Policy Screening Report- Quarterly report for period July – September 2026

*Attachment: Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly
Report for period July - September 2026.pdf*

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*Attachment: Appendix I - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for
period July September 2026.pdf*

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Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken / progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet? Y/N
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 14 August 2025					
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
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 20 April 2026					
SPR/058/2026	Castlewellan Forest Park NLHF Project	It was also agreed that a paper be brought to the next SPR Committee outlining the compensation events and the reporting structures for the project.	C Boyd	Ongoing	N
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 14 May 2026					
SPR/071/2026	LDP Revised Timetable	It was also agreed that the Council would write to the Planning Performance Improvement Forum requesting that it consider LDP development across the North and examine what legislative changes could be introduced to improve and shorten the LDP timeline.	J McGilly	Ongoing	N
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 13 August 2026					
SPR/117/2026	FMA / SLA Proposals	The following was agreed: • A one-year extension of the current FMAs and SLAs relating to community centres to facilitate a comprehensive review of contract specifications and service delivery. • The uplift in funding allocation to community groups who currently run community facilities under an FMA or SLA based on all relevant groups fully claiming the uplifted amount. • The incorporation of the Community	A Robb	Ongoing	N

		Development Strategy public consultation findings into the future re-procurement strategy for the facilities.			
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 17 September 2026					
SPR/141/2026	Action Sheet of SPR Meeting held 13 and 27 Aug 26	It was agreed to note the action sheet	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/142/2026	Downpatrick Church Street Public Realm Scheme	It was agreed to approve the allocation of project risk allowance as detailed in section 2.1, 2.2 and 4.1 of the officer's report	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/143/2026	Kilkeel Lower Square and River Walk EI Scheme	It was agreed to approve the allocation of project risk allowance as detailed in section 2.1, 2.2 and 4.1 of the officer's report.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/144/2026	Facility Refurbishment Project	It was agreed to approve the final project costs and payment to the contractor as detailed within the officer's report.	A Patterson	Agreed	Y
SPR/145/2026	HR Structure	It was agreed to approve the proposed HR & OD structure and associated additional payroll costs as detailed in the officer's report.	M Hughes	Agreed	Y
SPR/146/2026	Licence Re Hydrometric Units At Victoria Locks, Newry, And Canal Bank 1 Car Park, Mill Street, Newry	It was agreed to grant licences to the Department for Infrastructure – Rivers Agency in respect of Hydrometric Units at Victoria Locks and Canal Bank1 car park for measuring water levels for a term of 10 years subject to a peppercorn licence fee.	E Kirk	Agreed	Y
SPR/147/2026	Public Right of Way Between Ringhaddy Road and Quarterland Road	It was agreed to approve the Heads of Terms as detailed at section 2.2 of the officer's report. It was also agreed that officers will engage with the residents' group and two other landowners that have an interest in the Public Right of Way.	E Kirk	Agreed	Y
SPR/148/2026	Corporate Website Hosting and Web Services Contract	It was agreed to approve the establishment of a formal contract with the current supplier for the provision of website hosting and associated web services for an initial period of three years, with the option for Council to extend for up to two	V Keegan	Agreed	Y

		further periods of one year each, subject to satisfactory performance, continued business need, budget availability and compliance with the terms of the contract.			
SPR/149/2026	SFWG Minutes of meeting held 4 August 26	It was agreed to note the minutes	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/150/2026	Management Accounts Q1 26/27	It was agreed to note the Q1 Management Accounts	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/151/2026	Ministers Memo & Co-Chairs Letter	It was agreed to note the correspondence	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/152/2026	Planning Update Report	It was agreed to note the contents of the report	J McGilly	Agreed	Y
SPR/153/2026	Annual Registration Services Report	It was agreed to note the report	E Kirk	Agreed	Y
SPR/154/2026	Minutes of NCCR meeting of 30 June 26	It was agreed to note the minutes	A Jones	Agreed	Y

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 October 2026
Subject:	Officer report on Notice of Motion – Supreme Court Ruling
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Elaine Kirk, Assistant Director Legal and People
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Decision ▶

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jackson was referred to the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6: <u>C/094/2025: Notice of Motion – Supreme Court Ruling</u> <i>"That this Council welcomes the recent Supreme Court ruling which clarified that under the Equality Act 2010:</i> <i>• a 'woman' is a biological woman or girl (a person born female) • trans women (biological men) should not be permitted to use the women's facilities • if somebody identifies as trans, they do not change sex for the purposes of the Act, even if they have a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC). Furthermore, it accepts the initial assessment by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland that this judgement, in the context of our corresponding equality law, the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 ('SDO'):- "is likely to be deemed by our industrial tribunals and courts to be highly persuasive and, consequently, it is likely to be followed in cases where similar issues arise."</i> <i>Accordingly, Council resolves to urgently review all relevant Council policies and to make it clear that if a space or service is designated as women-only across the District, a person who was born male but identifies as a woman does not have a right to use that space or service."</i> The Notice of Motion was discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 30 September 2026.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Members were advised the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland has applied for leave to the High Court for an advisory declaration to clarify how the terms 'sex', 'men' and 'women' should be interpreted under Northern Ireland's equality laws and Article 2 of the Windsor Framework.

	Following consideration and discussion it was the consensus of those present that Council await the outcome of the High Court and direction of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.
3.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
3.1	To note the Notice of Motion: Supreme Court Ruling was discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 30 September 2026 and the consensus of those present was to recommend Council await the outcome of the High Court and direction from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to the Supreme Court Ruling.
4.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
4.1	None
5.0	<u>Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations</u>
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes ◀ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ▶
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ◀ No ▶ If yes, please select one of the following: ◀ Choose an item. ▶
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: ◀ Choose an item. ▶ Rationale:
6.0	<u>Due regard to Rural Needs</u>
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service.

	◀ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ▶
7.0	<u>Appendices</u>
7.1	
8.0	<u>Background Documents</u>
8.1	

Report to:	Strategy Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 th October 2026
Subject:	Lock 6, Newry Canal Restoration Works / Lock 7 Survey
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Conor Mallon Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Michelle Boyle Head of Tourism, Product Development and Visitor Experience

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Decision ▶

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To approve the recommendation in 3.1 of this report <u>Background</u> Newry Canal is a Scheduled Monument jointly owned by NMDDC and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. NMDDC is responsible for the section of Canal from Victoria Lock to just outside Poyntzpass village. Within the NMD area, there are 8 locks, Council have completed upgrade works to Victoria Lock (Lock 1) and Lock 5. Lock 6 is the sixth lock inland on the Newry Canal system from its mouth at the Irish Sea/Newry River on the south side of Newry city. The canal construction dates back to the 18th century, but it is unknown when Lock 6 was completed and what refurbishments or structural alterations have taken place throughout its life span. This lock would have been traditionally used for raising and lowering watercraft between two stretches of canal water at different levels either side of the lock, making the upper and lower reaches of the waterway navigable. Lock 7 further along the Newry Canal system, has the same background and detail as outlined above.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<u>Lock 6</u> • A structural condition survey on the lock structure was completed in 2019. The survey was visual and photographic with observations made from both ground level and at the base of the lock. • The structure of Lock 6 appears to be in average to poor condition for its age and type from a structural engineering viewpoint, and it contains some local problems and defects which are typical for structures of this nature where exposed to water flow. • There are concerns regarding any failure of the lock, and the impact failure may have on the adjoining towpath, which is very well utilised for local recreation. • To reinstate their full structural integrity and to prevent any further

	deterioration it is recommended that the walls are underpinned with new foundations provided to those areas affected by erosion. - It is recommended that the area of floor which has been washed away has the ground reprofiled with suitable material and the floor re-constructed. The full floor of the lock chamber should be dredged. All vegetation on the walls to be removed. - Subsequently in 2020 a method statement to complete the works and costing was prepared, the costing was updated in November 2024 and engagement held with HED on the proposed plans to restore. The recommendations in section 3 were initially considered and approved at Strategic Finance Working Group on 20 May 2025 and SPR on 12th June 2025. Considering the now completed Consultancy Design, the awaited HED Schedule Monument Consent (SMC) and most recently submitted Framework Contractor price, Council support is being asked for an additional budgetary commitment to deliver the Works to Lock 6.
2.2	<u>Lock 7 Visual Survey of Lock Chambers on Newry Canal</u> - Funding was previously obtained from the Historic Environment Fund Regeneration Stream to undertake a 'Conservation Statement & Visual Condition Survey of Lock Chambers 2,3,4,7 and 8 on Newry Canal'. The report outlines the historical significance of the Scheduled Monument and provides the baseline dataset to inform future use, repair, alteration, development, and management of the Lock Chambers. - Based on the findings of the Conservation Statement and Visual Condition Survey, a recommendation is now being put forward to progress with a detailed survey of Lock 7 to inform a restoration plan as per Lock 6 and the requested financial provision has been included as part of the request in Section 4.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To seek SPR approval for: - Procurement and appointment of a contractor and additional consultancy services as required to deliver the Lock No 6 project outlined in section 2.1 of this report. - Procurement of a detailed survey and restoration plan for Lock No 7 - To update the capital plan with the budget required to progress the project.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	To make additional provision in the Capital Programme (Increasing from an existing Council Capital Budget) as outlined in Appendix 2.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes

	◀ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ▶
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ◀ No ▶ If yes, please select one of the following: ◀ Choose an item. ▶
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation N/A The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: ◀ Choose an item. ▶ Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ◀ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ▶
7.0	Appendices
7.1	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 1. Business Case 2. Financial Provision
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	N/A

Report to:	Strategy Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 th October 2026
Subject:	Purchase of Saintfield Depot - Update
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Decision ▶

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the potential purchase of the former Saintfield Bus Depot. Background At the meeting of the Strategic Finance Working Group (SFWG) held in August 2026, Members agreed that Council Officers should undertake further investigations into the viability of the former Saintfield Depot site as a potential location for Council acquisition and development as a public car park. As part of this work, Council Officers were requested to engage with Translink to determine whether they would be willing to defer the sale of the site pending completion of the Council's investigations and consideration of the findings.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Council Officers undertook a site visit with a Translink representative on 27 August 2026, the visit did not alleviate previously identified concerns regarding the site. Substantial risks remain in relation to the potential for land contamination arising from its historic use as a vehicle servicing depot, the extensive overgrowth across the site, and the presence of substantial asbestos-containing materials within the existing derelict building. These factors are likely to result in significant site clearance, remediation and demolition costs, which would impact on the overall viability of the site.
2.2	Council's Planning Section has undertaken a high-level review of the site and its potential suitability for development as a public car park. Initial feedback indicates that obtaining planning approval may present challenges. The site is located within a predominantly residential area and, as such, the potential impact of a car park on neighbouring residential amenity, including issues such as noise, traffic movements and operating hours, would require careful consideration. The site also fronts onto a Protected Route, meaning consultation with DfI Roads would be necessary to assess the acceptability of any proposed access arrangements and the potential implications for road safety and traffic management.

	In addition, given the site's historic use as a vehicle servicing depot, there is potential for land contamination. As a result, detailed contamination and environmental surveys may be required to support any future planning application and to determine the extent of any remediation works that may be necessary.
2.3	Council Officers have also engaged with DfI Roads regarding the potential use of the site as a public car park. DfI Roads advised that they have agreed to acquire a strip of land along the road frontage of the site from Translink to facilitate the development of an enhanced bus stop and lay-by facility. DfI Roads has expressed concerns regarding the provision of vehicular access and egress to a potential car park and the impact that traffic movements could have on the operation and safety of the proposed bus stop and enhanced lay-by. In addition, DfI Roads highlighted concerns relating to the site's location on a Protected Route, which may present further challenges in securing the necessary approvals for access arrangements.
2.4	Council Officers have been advised by Translink representatives that the disposal of the former Saintfield Depot site is significantly behind their planned programme. As a result, Translink is under increasing pressure to progress the disposal process and complete the sale of the site. While Translink facilitated discussions with Council and provided time for further investigations to be undertaken, they have advised that they can no longer delay the process. Translink has requested that Council's intentions regarding any potential interest in the site be communicated as soon as possible to enable them to progress the disposal process and proceed with the marketing and sale of the site.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that Members: • Note the contents of this report and the findings of the further investigations into the former Saintfield Depot site. • Note that a number of significant concerns remain, including potential land contamination, asbestos removal requirements, planning and access constraints, and the associated development costs. • Agree that the findings indicate the site is unlikely to represent a viable option for Council as a public car park and, therefore, it is not recommended that Council progresses an interest in the site. • Agree that Translink be advised accordingly to allow them to progress the marketing and disposal of the site
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Site development costs are detailed in Appendix 1.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes

	◀ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ▶
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ◀ No ▶ If yes, please select one of the following: ◀ Choose an item. ▶
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: ◀ Choose an item. ▶ Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ◀ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ▶
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Estimated Site Development Costs.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	N/A

Report to:	Strategy Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 th October 2026
Subject:	Purchase of New Pay & Display Machines
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Gary McCurry, Manager Off- Street Parking Function

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Decision ▶

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	Purpose The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the purchase of 45 new Pay & Display ticket machines for Council-operated off-street car parks. The replacement machines are required to support the continued effective management of paid parking provision, improve customer payment options and ensure that the Council's car parking infrastructure remains reliable, secure and fit for purpose. Background The existing Pay & Display ticket machine stock has been in operation for a considerable period and is approaching the end of its operational life. These machines were circa 8 years old when they were transferred to Council along with the Off-Street Parking Function in April 2015 from Central Government. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain due to age, wear and the ongoing availability of parts and technical support. Continued reliance on ageing equipment increases the risk of faults, machine downtime, loss of income and inconvenience to users of Council off-street car parks. The present series of Pay & Display ticket machines operating within our charged car parks have a very limited life span remaining. Modern Pay & Display machines offer enhanced functionality, including chip and contactless card payment solutions, cash payment where required, vehicle registration input via Alpha Numeric keypad, remote monitoring and improved reporting capability. These features will provide motorists with greater flexibility and convenience, while supporting more efficient enforcement and operational management across the off-street car parking estate. The purchase of 45 replacement machines will enable the Council to modernise its parking payment infrastructure, improve resilience, reduce avoidable maintenance pressures and provide a consistent customer experience across the relevant off-street car parks. The proposal also supports wider service improvement by enabling more flexible payment arrangements and reducing the operational impact associated with obsolete or unreliable equipment.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Asset condition and business continuity: The current Pay & Display ticket machine stock is ageing and has a limited remaining operational life. In particular, the 'motherboard', which controls the machines' primary logic functions, is no longer manufactured. Continued reliance on obsolete equipment increases the risk of breakdowns, machine downtime, customer complaints, reduced service availability and potential loss of parking income.
2.2	Payment options and customer accessibility: Replacement machines will provide modern payment options, including cash, chip-and-pin and contactless card payments. Customers will continue to have the ability to pay remotely via a car parking app (currently RingGo). The specification also includes vehicle registration entry through an alphanumeric keypad, providing more accurate occupancy data and reducing the costly practice of ticket transfer between vehicles.
2.3	Income protection, data security and reporting: The machines will provide secure payment processing, reliable transaction data, remote reporting and audit trails to support income reconciliation and operational oversight. Data handling, payment card compliance, connectivity resilience and cyber security arrangements should be confirmed as part of the procurement and implementation process.
2.4	Procurement: The attached Business Case (Appendix 1) identifies the replacement of the existing pay and display machines with 45 new MS1 units as the preferred option. Procurement can be undertaken through the current Enforcement Contract with Marston Holdings Limited. The total capital cost, includes supply, installation, shipping and removal of the existing machines. The machines include a one-year warranty and will be maintained through the existing contract at no additional cost.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are requested to approve the purchase of 45 new MS1 Pay & Display ticket machines for Council-operated off-street car parks as detailed in section 2 of the report.
4.0	Resource Implications
4.1	Capital cost detailed at Appendix 2. The project would be overseen by the Off-Street Parking Manager in conjunction with our present Enforcement Contractor and the Supplier. Installation work will be conducted by an external contractor appointed by Marston Holdings.
5.0	Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations

5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes ☐ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☐
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ☐ No ☐ If yes, please select one of the following: ☐ Choose an item. ☐
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: ☐ Choose an item. ☐ Rationale:
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ☐ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Business Case for purchase of pay and display machines Appendix 2: Financial implications
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	N/A

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting
held on Monday 28th September 2026, 3pm
Warrenpoint Town Hall / MS Teams**

In Attendance:**Programme Board Members****By Teams:****Councillor Doire Finn (Chair)****Councillor Killian Feehan****Councillor Helena Young****NMDDC Officials****Conor Mallon, Director – Economy, Regeneration & Tourism****Andrew Patterson, Director – Active & Healthy Communities****Aileen Jones, Director – Corporate Services****Caolain Boyd, Assistant Director – Capital & Procurement****Conor Haughey, Assistant Director – Healthy Living****Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director – Regeneration****Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director – Economy, Growth & Tourism****Conor McGeown, Strategic Capital Projects Manager****Martin McKibbin, Corporate Relationship Officer****NCCR/258: Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted an apology from:
Cllr A. Mathers & Cllr Murphy

NCCR/259: Comms & Engagement Report

Mrs A Smyth provided an update on communications and marketing.

Theatre/Conference Centre

- Hoarding has now been erected, and press statement was released on 7th September;
- Council are working with Contractor regarding a time lapse video and are engaging with BBC regarding an article capturing footage of pre, during and post demolition.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor D Finn, seconded by Councillor H Young, it was agreed to note the report as circulated in Item 2.0 of the agenda.

NCCR/260: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 30th June 2026

Mr Mallon requested a proposer to approve minutes of the previous meeting.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor D Finn, seconded by Councillor H Young, it was agreed to approve the report as circulated in item 3.0 of the agenda as a true and accurate account and these minutes be taken to October Strategic, Policy & Resources Committee for noting.

NCCR/261: NCCR Project Board Reports – Theatre and Conference Reports of Previous Meetings:

- a) NCCR/BRCD Project Board held 17th June 2026
- b) NCCR/BRCD Project Board held 15th July 2026
- c) NCCR/BRCD Project Board held 19th August 2026

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor D Finn, seconded by Councillor H Young, it was agreed to note the report as circulated in Item 4.0 of the agenda.

NCCR/262: Newry City Park Project Board Action Sheets

Reports of Previous meetings:

- a) Newry City Park Project Board held 3rd June 2026
- b) Newry City Park Project Board held 7th July 2026
- c) Newry City Park Project Board held 11th August 2026

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor D Finn, seconded by Councillor H Young, it was agreed to note the report as circulated in Item 5.0 of the agenda.

**NCCR/263: Project Managers Report – Newry City Park
Mr McGeown presented the report**

- Planning - Planning approval was granted on 2nd September. The application has been referred to the Department for their review.
- Participation Stage Documents (PSD) – Letters on Participation stage documents should be issued to suppliers this week.
- Global Cost Plan – CPD have agreed and approved cost plan 8. ICT update the costs monthly.

- FBC – Updated FBC has been shared with DfC in draft format. Formal submission expected later this week.
- Gateway Review – A risk potential assessment was submitted for Gate 3. A full gateway review will take place later this year.
- Programme – It's anticipated to have the contractor procurement commenced in October.
- Budget – Cost summary provided in report. Legal team to review ITT information.
- CE's – List provided in report. Mr McGeown will review these.
- Early Warning's – List of Early Warnings in report. No new early warnings have been issued in this period.
- BREAM – 87% complete which is currently excellent.
- Buy Social – Latest copy by SIB provided in the report.

Cllr Young said that there has been a lot of commentary recently regarding flooding issues. Mr Patterson advised that there had been a recent media enquiry relating to this matter which had referenced a previous Rivers Agency response from earlier in the year, and that the final consultation response had addressed this query, and this had been considered by Planners when making their determination. .

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor H Young, seconded by Councillor D Finn, it was agreed to note the report as circulated in Item 6.0 of the agenda.

**NCCR/264 Project Managers Report – Theatre and Conference
Mr McGeown presented the report**

Before the report was presented Mr Mallon wanted to state that reports of the Contractor walking off the site were not accurate. The Council have been engaging in with the contractor on pre-construction activities and are now moving forward to the next stage of the project.

- Programme – pre-construction concluded. A revised programme has been received and will be presented at the next Programme Board meeting.
- Budget – Project remains within approved budget. Risks allocations are monitored and the X1 adjustment is subject to ongoing review
- Risk Register – This has been adjusted to include compensation events.
- Social Value – 2400 points to be achieved. Currently a total 71.6 points achieved to date which is an increase of 15.1 points in this period.

Mr Mallon advised that reports will be tabled at SPR Committee to report on progress against budget and timeline.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor D Finn, seconded by Councillor H. Young, it was agreed to note the report as circulated in Item 7.0 of the agenda.

NCCR/265

**Grade A Office Development Update
Mrs Smyth presented the report**

- Three public and one online information events have been held with DoF and Invest NI providing an overview on wider support available.
- Further information sessions and drop-in centres have been arranged for October and Mrs Smyth will be able to update members on any applicants that come forward.

Cllr Finn asked if we could put an item on the agenda regarding an update on the Newry Civic Centre going forward.

Mr Mallon provided a verbal update and confirmed that the judicial review will be heard on 5th November and that this is a standing item for future meetings.

NCCR/266 Date of next meeting

Members noted the date for the next meeting of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board will be in 4 weeks.

Meeting ended: 3.35pm

**For Approval by Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board
For Noting at Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee**

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: BRCD/2026

**Minutes of BRCD Tourism Proposition Project Board Meeting
Wednesday 23 September 2026, 3.30pm
Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall**

In Attendance:

Project Board Members:

Cllr L Devlin Cllr D Murphy
Cllr M Ruane Cllr J Tinnelly
Cllr J Truesdale

NMDDC Officials in Attendance:

Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs A Smyth, Assistant Director of Economy, Growth & Tourism
Ms M Boyle, Head of Tourism Product Development and Visitor Experience
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

BRCD/001/2026: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lewis and Byrne.

BRCD/002/2026: APPOINT CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

Mr Mallon requested nominations for Chair and Deputy Chair.

Councillor Devlin proposed Councillor Ruane as Chair, seconded by Councillor D Murphy.

Councillor D Murphy proposed Councillor Devlin for Deputy Chair, which was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

BRCD/003/2026: PROJECT BOARD GOVERNANCE

Read: BRCD Tourism Project – Draft Project Board Governance Arrangements. (Copy circulated)

Mr Mallon advised that the documents are in draft form and welcomed any comments or questions.

Councillor Truesdale queried whether a quorum was defined for the Working Group, to which Mr Mallon confirmed that it was a decision for the Project Board.

Councillor Ruane stated that he believed that this Project Board should not be treated any different to any other Project Board and encouraged everyone’s attendance at the meetings.

Councillor Devlin noted her support for the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Governance documents, noting her understanding that the Project Board had been established to oversee a project that seeks to retain funding in the district.

Councillor Tinnelly queried the times of the meeting, and whether any consideration could be given to evening meetings. He also queried whether the meetings were being minuted and whether any official records be communicated internally.

Mr Mallon confirmed that project board and working group meetings were held during core hours, and that actions of the meeting would be shared with the SPR Committee which is the associated decision-making body for the Project Board.

Councillor Ruane noted no objection to the daytime meetings, however requested if they could be tabled in a staggered manner, sometimes earlier or later in the day if possible.

Mr Mallon acknowledged the request and confirmed that this would be accommodated wherever possible, taking account of other workshops, working groups and board meetings.

Councillor Truesdale queried whether the Project Board allowed for deputisations when needed. Mr Mallon advised that the TOR did not allow for deputisation as membership continuity was encouraged.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor L Devlin, seconded by Councillor D Murphy, the Project Board Governance was agreed.

EXEMPT ITEMS

BRCD/004/2026: RISK REGISTER

Read: NMDDC Tourism Project Risk Register (Copy circulated)

Mr Mallon noted that the draft risk register was tabled for consideration and asked for comments or questions and advised that any questions could be raised via correspondence.

Councillor Truesdale queried how many additional posts were included as part of the external consultancy team, to which Mr Mallon confirmed that there were two, an Economist and a Tourism Consultant, employed through AECOM as subconsultants.

Councillor Tinnelly noted that Kilbroney Park had protected status and whether that had been included on the risk register.

Mr Mallon advised that site designations were noted on the risk register under KP-04, which considered impacts to the environmental and built heritage.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor D Murphy, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, it was agreed to note the risk register.

BRCD/005/2026: PROJECT FINANCE

Read: Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding Project Finance. (Copy circulated)

Mrs Smyth outlined the paper, drawing members attention to the budget spend to date, and the engagement undertaken to date,

Mrs Smyth noted a Compensation Event (CE) that had arisen during the public consultations and noted the remaining budget available of the original allocation agreed at SPR meeting.

Following a query from Councillor Devlin regarding details of CE1 during the consultation phase, Mr Mallon advised that following initial consultation at phase 1, it informed the need for comprehensive engagement, which resulted in additional cost.

Councillor Truesdale queried the remaining budget, to which Mr Mallon noted that the consultation to date, was within the existing budget

Following a further query from Councillor Truesdale, Mr Mallon confirmed that drop in sessions would occur at different locations across the District.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, it was agreed to note the CE01, a compensation event associated with Stakeholder Engagement in Phase 1 and 2 of the projects as detailed at section 4.1 of the officer's report.

FOR NOTING

BRCD/006/2026: PROGRAMME

Read: BRCD Tourism Project – Delivery Programme. (Copy circulated)

Mr Mallon advised that a significant amount of background work had been undertaken to inform the project, including a recent meeting between the AECOM team and Council officers to review findings and stakeholder feedback, which was being used to develop the project proposals.

He noted the importance of ensuring that any proposals presented were evidence-based, grounded in the feedback gathered through stakeholder engagement.

He advised that the project team was currently developing proposals for presentation to elected Members at an event in Warrenpoint on 9 October 2026, which would provide an overview of the project to date, including the original ambitions of the project findings from benchmarking visits to similar attractions in Ireland, engagement with local businesses, and consultation undertaken over the previous months. He advised that the presentation would bring together all of the evidence gathered and present a coherent set of proposals ahead of wider public consultation.

Mr Mallon highlighted the complexity of the project and the considerable work involved, noting the importance of presenting well-developed proposals

While progress to date had been substantial, he noted that the programme was extremely ambitious, however the development work would run in parallel with the development of the Economic Case and Outline Business Case (OBC), with the aim of completing both by the end of 2026.

Councillor Devlin queried whether Castlewellan Park was to be included in the OBC, to which Mr Mallon advised that it would be included in the economic case as part of the economic benefit to the overall project.

Councillor Devlin sought clarification on the location of the face-to-face business tourism engagement event, with Ms Smyth confirming that the event had been held at Whistledown Hotel.

Councillor Ruane enquired about attendance levels and the feedback received from participants, to which Ms Smyth advised that the event had been well attended, with approximately 45 representatives from the business community participating.

Mr Mallon advised that engagement with tourism businesses across the district had been positive, with stakeholders recognising the potential economic benefits of the proposed investment and its ability to support the local tourism sector. He noted that the aim was not simply to develop new attractions, but to increase visitor numbers, create economic opportunities and deliver positive outcomes across the district.

Councillor Truesdale noted that the timeframe for delivery by December was particularly challenging and welcomed the update confirming that a substantial amount of preparatory work had already been undertaken to support progress towards that deadline. She further commented on the project risk register, noting that the risks identified and highlighted through the Red, Amber and Green (RAG) status process appeared appropriate and reflected the key areas requiring ongoing monitoring, noting that she considered the risk register to be comprehensive and commended the work completed to date by the project team.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the BRCD Tourism Project Delivery Programme.

BRCD/007/2026: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Read: 21 October 2026 at 3.30pm

Mr Mallon advised that a date would be issued for the next meeting to take place in 4 weeks time.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.01pm
For approval by BRCD Project Board.
For noting at SPR Committee

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 October 2026
Subject:	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2026
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Elaine Kirk, Assistant Director Legal and People
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Noting ▶

1.0	<u>Purpose and Background</u>
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 July – September 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	<u>Key Issues</u>
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. No policies were subject to equality screening during the reporting period.
3.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2026.
4.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	<u>Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations</u>
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes ◀ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ▶

5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ☐ No ☐ If yes, please select one of the following: ☐ Choose an item. ☐
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: ☐ Choose an item. ☐ Rationale:
6.0	<u>Due regard to Rural Needs</u>
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ☐ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐
7.0	<u>Appendices</u>
7.1	Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2026
8.0	<u>Background Documents</u>
8.1	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme

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

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
New policies		
No policies equality screened during the reporting period		N/A
Reviewed policies		
No policies equality screened during the reporting period		N/A