

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 October 2019 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In Attendance:

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor S Doran	Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor C Mason
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor W Walker

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McBride, Assistant Director, Community Planning and Performance
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy
Mrs L Fitzsimons, Human Resources
Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration
Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager
Ms E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Also in Attendance: Councillor Andrews

SPR/131/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Mulgrew and Sharvin.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Carville's return and advised that this was Mr Hannaway's last Strategy, Policy and Resources meeting as Chief Executive. The Chairman thanked Mr Hannaway for his work in the Council and wished him every happiness and health in his retirement.

SPR/132/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Hannaway declared an interest in Item 18 – Chief Executive Appraisal 2018-19.

SPR/133/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked for an update regarding lands at former landfill site in Newtownhamilton. Mr Hannaway confirmed a meeting was being organised with the DEA Councillors and Re-Gen to get clarity on a number of issues.

The Chairman provided an update on the expression of interest for Derryleckagh Playing Fields.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 12 September 2019, be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

SPR/134/2019 REVIEW ON BUSINESS RATES

The Chairman welcomed Mr Alan Bronte from Land and Property Services to the meeting.

Mr Bronte thanked Council for the opportunity to attend and delivered a presentation on 'The Review of Business Rates' and encouraged Members to respond to the public consultation before the closing date of 11th November 2019. (copy of presentation attached to these minutes)

Following the presentation, Members highlighted the following:

- Concerns raised that already struggling businesses would be put under further financial pressure.
- People who were paying rates were being penalised further by vacant properties and rates evasion.
- Small businesses were at a disadvantage compared to bigger multi-national business's in the rates they pay.
- Rural village properties were not benefitting from same level of trade as bigger towns and cities and rateable value the same.
- Introduce rates for online businesses to generate more rateable income.
- Certain exemptions should be removed for charities eg. Churches as a lot of the funds for building work was raised by local people.
- Residential evaluation needed looked at as rateable value was based on 2005 figures.
- Forms of enhancement should be investigated when dealing with green and environmental issues

The Chairman thanked Mr Bronte for his presentation.

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/135/2019 IRISH LANGUAGE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME 2020/2021 AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THEME 2020/2021

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Irish Language Financial Assistance Scheme 2020/2021 and Minority Communities Financial Assistance Theme 2020/2021 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed to approve the inclusion of both an Irish Language (indicative budget of £50,000) and a Minority Communities Financial Assistance Theme (indicative budget of £12,500) within the Financial Assistance Call 1 for period 2020/2021. The outlined indicative budgets**

reflect the amount agreed in 2019/2020 and it was acknowledged the budgets would be subject to agreement and approval through the rate setting process.

SPR/136/2019 REPORT REGARDING NOTICE OF MOTION – WWII VETERANS

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding notice of motion – World War II Veterans **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed in principle to identify the number of veterans on the basis of the definition of a resident to be any person who resides in the Council district; whole last address before being admitted to hospital or a care home was within the Council district; persons who have been resident in a care home for 2 years or more; or former residents of the Council district who had left to receive treatment or care from a relative.**

SPR/137/2019 REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: UK’S FIRST NATIONAL MEMORIAL EMERGENCY PERSONEL

Read: Report dated 17 October from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council Re: UK’S First National Memorial dedicated to all Emergency Service Personnel who have served or been killed in the course of their duties **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne asked for clarity as to where the memorial would be sited and which sector of Emergency Service Personnel would be honoured. The Chairman confirmed it would be located in London and included 999 emergency response personnel.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Burgess, it was agreed that Council support the creation of national monument to act as a symbol of eternal gratitude for all emergency service personnel who have served or been killed in the course of duties.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/138/2019 SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July-September 2019 **(Copy circulated)**

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

SPR/139/2019: COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MINUTES FROM 29 JANUARY 2019 & 18 JUNE 2019

Read: Minutes from Community Planning Strategic Partnership Board Meetings held on 29th January and 18th June 2019 (copy circulated)

Noted: **It was agreed to note the Community Planning Partnership Board Minutes from 29th January and 18th June 2019.**

SPR/140/2019: CORRESPONDENCE DATED 02.09.19 – RATE SUPPORT GRANT (RSG) OVERPAYMENT

Read: Correspondence dated 2 October 2019 from Ms T Meharg, Permanent Secretary, regarding Rates Support Grant (RSG) Overpayment (copy circulated)

Noted: **It was agreed to note the contents of the letter received from Ms T Meharg, Permanent Secretary regarding Rates Support Grant (RSG) Overpayment.**

SPR/141/2019 BREXIT PREPAREDNESS

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Brexit Planning (**Copy circulated**)

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

SPR/142/2019: SICKNESS ABSENCE

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager, regarding Sickness Absence (**Copy circulated**)

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

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

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

SPR/143/2019 NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCING MODEL FOR THE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES FUNCTION

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive, regarding New Local Government Resourcing Model for the Civil Contingencies Function (**Copy circulated**)

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed that this Council underwrite 1/5th of any liability attached to the matching process and TUPE transfer (where relevant) of the Emergency Planning Officer currently employed by Lisburn Castlereagh Council.

SPR/144/2019 **PROPOSED LICENCE OF OCEAN BED AT KILLOUGH HARBOUR, KILLOUGH**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, regarding proposed licence of Ocean Bed at Killough Harbour **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to renew the Licence in favour of Killough Oysters Limited of the area outlined in red on the map circulated in the officer's report for a further 15 years subject to Licence fee of £680.00 per annum for the first five years and thereafter such Licence fee as is determined by a rent review in years five and ten of the term.

SPR/145/2019: **RECTIFICATION OF TITLE MAP – CLONALLEN PARK, WARRENPOINT**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, regarding rectification of map – Clonallen Park, Warrenpoint **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the following recommendations were agreed:

- i) Approve in principle the rectification of the folio map;
- ii) Apply a condition that Council's legal costs be paid by the requester in relation to Clonallen Park, Warrenpoint.

SPR/146/2019 **LAND AT ALTNAVEIGH, DORAN'S HILL, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs L Moore, Head of Legal Administration, regarding land at Altnaveigh, Doran's Hill, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, the following recommendations were agreed:

1. Remove the stipulation that the social enterprise activity must be directly connected to the purposes of Thomas Davis Ladies GFC.
2. Council waiving its interest in reacquiring the lands at this time.
3. To ensure so far as possible continued rights for Council in respect of the use and future disposal of the land by Thomas Davis GFC, this relates to land at Altnaveigh, Doran's Hill, Newry.

SPR/147/2019 ALBERT BASIN PARK – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin Park – Appointment of Consultants **(Copy circulated)**

The Chairman asked to put on record thanks to Mr Lipsett and the officers for the work done to get to this point in the project.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí it was agreed to approve the appointment of a team of consultants to develop options for the Albert Basin park site.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman took item's 21, 22 & 23.

SPR/148/2019 NEWRY RAINBOW

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mr G Byrne, Audit Services Manager, regarding Newry Rainbow Community Grant Funding **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Tinnelly, to reverse the decision taken by the ERT Committee on 11 February 2019 to award the Newry Rainbow Committee a further £50,000 save for the £6,500 discussed in the officer's report which will be paid upon receipt of satisfactory vouching documentation.

FOR NOTING

SPR/149/2019

ACTION SHEET FROM EFFICIENCY WORKING GROUP MEETING 25 JUNE 2019

Read: Action Sheet from Efficiency Working Group Meeting held on 25 June 2019. (Copy circulated)

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

Noted: It was agreed to note the action sheet from Efficiency Working Group Meeting held on 25 June 2019.

SPR/150/2019

ALBERT BASIN TASK AND FINISH ACTION SHEET DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 2019 & 8 OCTOBER 2019

Read: Albert Basin Task and Finish Action Sheet dated 11 September 2019 & 8 October 2019

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

Noted: It was agreed to note the action sheets from the Albert Basin Task and finish Working Group held on 11th September and 8th October 2019 noting that the actions contained within will now be reviewed in accordance with the Council's revised Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Working Group – officers will bring forward a draft Terms of Reference for the Stakeholder Forum to the next meeting and to agree that the date of the next meeting of the Task and Finish Working Group will be changed to Tuesday 26th November for the month of November only.

Having previously declared an interest, Mr Hannaway left the meeting at this stage – 8.05pm

All other Council officers aside from Mrs Carville, Mrs Fitzsimons and Miss Taggart vacated the chamber at this stage – 8.05pm

SPR/151/2019

CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPRAISAL

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services: (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Chief Executive Appraisal 2018-2019 (Copy circulated)

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

Agreed: It was agreed to note that where the Chief Executive has reached the third point of their pay scale and has demonstrated exceptional performance (as assessed via an

objective and robust process of appraisal) and agreed by all unanimously that an exceptional performance payment of one increment may be made.

Mr Hannaway and Mrs Ward re-entered the Chamber at this stage – 8.10pm.

SPR/152/2019 SPRC PAY CLAIMS REPORT

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services: (HR & Safeguarding), regarding SPRC Pay Claims Report **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran to submit the proposed response as contained in appendix b of the officer's report to NILGA in relation to the Trade Union Side NJC pay claim 2020/2021.**

SPR/153/2019 VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE

Read: Report dated 17 October 2019 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services: (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Voluntary Severance **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne to release 3 further officers under the RPA Voluntary Severance scheme on the basis of surplus resource and management has confirmed that the work can be completed and service delivery will not be negatively impacted.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 8.30pm

Signed: **Councillor Michael Savage**
Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
Director of Corporate Services

