

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair: Councillor T Howie

**In Attendance in
Chamber:**

Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor H Reilly

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor A Mathers
Councillor G Sharvin

**Committee Members in
Attendance via Teams:**

Councillor M Hearty
Councillor M Rice

Councillor A Quinn
Councillor D Taylor

Non-Committee Members

In Attendance: Councillor T Andrews

Non-Committee Members in

Attendance via Teams: Councillor W Clarke

**Officials in Attendance
in Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment
Ms C McClean, Assistant Director of People & Legal
Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration
Ms M Hughes, HR & OD Manager
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

**Also in Attendance
in Chamber:**

Mrs A Reavey, Capaxo Management Consulting

SPR/052/2025:

APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSONS REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Enright, McAteer and O'Hare.

Councillor Howie offered her condolences to Councillor Enright on the recent passing of his brother.

SPR/053/2025:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SPR/054/2025:

**ACTION SHEET OF STRATEGY, POLICY & RESOURCES
MEETING HELD ON 13 AND 24 MARCH 2025**

Read: Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 13 and 24 March 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the action sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 13 and 24 March 2025.**

FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

SPR/055/2025: OFFICER REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION – NEWCASTLE LIFEBOAT STATION

Read: Report from Ms C McClean, Assistant Director of Legal & People, presented by Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Newcastle Lifeboat Station.

Mrs Kelly stated that the Notice of Motion, as raised by Councillor Clarke, had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Equality & Good Relations Reference Group. She advised that the group was unanimous in their support for Council to consider an appropriate planting scheme within Newcastle and that the Museum Section suitably recognise the 200-year anniversary of the lifeboat station.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to note the Notice of Motion had been discussed at the Councillor's Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 26 March 2025 and that members of the Reference Group agreed to recommend an appropriate planting scheme within Newcastle and that the Museum's Section suitably recognise the anniversary.**

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

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information by virtue of 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).**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Howie, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

SPR/056/2025: NCCR FULL BUSINESS CASE (FBC)

Read: Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding NCCR Full Business Case (FBC). **(Copy circulated)**

As there was dissent within the Chamber, Councillor Reilly requested a recorded vote on the item, results of which are appended to these minutes. The results of the vote were as follows:

FOR	7
AGAINST	4
ABSTENTIONS	0

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Byrne, the following was agreed:**

- **To note the minutes of the NCCR Programme Board meeting of 28 March 2025.**
- **To approve the FBC as set out in Appendix 1 for formal submission to Department for Communities, with any significant amendments brought back to Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee.**
- **That Members approve Council's updated allocation in the Capital Plan as set out in section 4 of the Officer's report.**
- **That Members acknowledge the level of risk that remains within the project and the allowance included in the FBC.**

Councillor Bowsie left the meeting – 7.20pm
Councillors Sharvin and Taylor left the meeting – 7.21pm
Councillors Hearty and Rice left the meeting – 7.22pm

SPR/057/2025: LICENCE AT DOWN LEISURE CENTRE

Read: Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Licence of Land at Down Leisure Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to renew the licence with the group noted in this report of the lands shaded pink on the map attached hereto being a strip at Downpatrick Leisure Centre for a further licence period of 3 years at a peppercorn rent fee subject to Departmental consent.**

SPR/058/2025:

RENEWAL OF LICENCE AT CASTLE PARK, NEWCASTLE

Read:

Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Renewal of Licence at Castle Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to grant a Licence to National Westminster Bank permitting them to operate a mobile banking unit at Castle Park each Thursday from 10am until 12pm for a further 2-year period subject to a yearly Licence fee as detailed within the Officer's Report.

SPR/059/2025:

REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND AT NEWTOWNCLOGHOGE

Read:

Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding a Request to Purchase Land at Newtowncloghoge. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to sell the lands hatched green on the map attached to the Officer's Report to the party identified for the market value.

SPR/060/2025:

SURRENDER OF LEASE FOR SUBSTATION AT ALBERT BASIN

Read:

Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding a Surrender of Lease for Substation at Albert Basin. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to the surrender of the Lease of substation as outlined within the Officer's Report, subject to any consents which may be required from the Lands Tribunal.

Councillor Quinn left the meeting – 7.41pm

SPR/061/2025:

SURRENDER OF LEASE AT BOG ROAD, FORKHILL

Read:

Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding a Surrender of Lease at Bog Road, Forkhill. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to the surrender

of the Lease for lands at Bog Road, Forkhill subject to the terms as outlined within the Officer's Report. It was also agreed that officers provide further requested information to Members prior to ratification at the full Council meeting.

SPR/062/2025:

LEASE AT CARRIGENAGH ROAD, KILKEEL

Read:

Report from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding a Lease at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to enter into a Lease with the group noted within the Officer's Report in respect of the lands at Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel as coloured blue on the map attached hereto for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent, subject to Departmental consent.

SPR/063/2025:

FUNDED PROGRAMMES – PROJECT SUPPORT WORKER

Read:

Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Funded Programmes – Project Support Worker. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to appoint a Project Support Officer within the AHC Directorate.

SPR/064/2025:

PAY PROTECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Read:

Report from Mr A Patterson, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, presented by Ms M Hughes, HR & OD Manager, regarding Pay Protection Arrangements. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanlon, it was agreed to proceed with the implementation of the Pay Protection Arrangements for staff as set out within the Officer's Report.

SPR/065/2025:

NLHF CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read:

Report from Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration & Tourism, regarding NLHF Castlewellaan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to apply to National Lottery Heritage Fund in May 2025 for an increase in grant support for the project and to approve the match funding as set out in section 4 of the Officer's Report, if successful.

SPR/066/2025: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACT

Read: Report from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Direct Award Contract. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Mathers, it was agreed to approve the continuation of use of the Direct Award Contract for the organisation named within the Officer's Report for the year ending 31 March 2026.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting – 7.46pm

FOR NOTING

SPR/067/2025: COMMUNICATION FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

Read: Communication dated 27 March 2025 from the Department for Communities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed note the communication.

SPR/068/2025: ANNUAL REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025 ON REQUESTS RELATED TO NAMING COUNCIL FACILITIES, PLANTING TREES AND TO LOCATE ARTWORKS / SCULPTURES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY

Read: Report from Ms C McClean, Assistant Director of Legal and People, regarding Annual Report for 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 on Requests Related to Naming Council Facilities, Planting Trees and to Locate Artworks / Sculptures on Council Property. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed note the report for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 related to naming Council facilities, plant trees and locate artworks / sculptures on Council property.

SPR/069/2025:

**STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 POLICY
SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR
PERIOD JANUARY – MARCH 2025**

Read:

Report from Ms C McClean, Assistant Director of Legal and People, regarding Statutory Reporting – Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for Period January – March 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED:

On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2025.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.47pm

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

**Signed: Councillor Tierna Howie
 Chairperson**

**Signed: Josephine Kelly
 Director of Corporate Services**

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 17/04/25

VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: NCCR Full Business Case (FBC) to accept the officer's recommendations

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
C Bowsie		1		
P Byrne	1			
C Enright				1
O Hanlon	2			
M Hearty	3			
T Howie		2		
C King				
A Mathers	4			
D McAteer				2
S O'Hare				3
A Quinn	5			
H Reilly		3		
M Rice	6			
G Sharvin	7			
D Taylor		4		
TOTALS	7	4	0	3