

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2022 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair:	Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)
In Attendance in Chamber	Councillor G Hanna Councillor A Lewis Councillor A McMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor B O'Muire Councillor G Sharvin
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor R Howell Councillor M Rice Councillor D Taylor
Non Committee Members:	Councillor G Malone
Officials in Attendance In chamber:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Procurement Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Teams:	Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration)

SPR/134/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Trainor.

SPR/135/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SPR/136/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 11 AUGUST 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 August 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Magennis to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2022.**

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/137/2022: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2021-22

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director Finance and Performance regarding Assessment of Performance 2021-22. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne said in-roads needed to be made in the Sustainability Directorate in terms of recycling and street cleansing as currently the Council was below the 2020 target and were nowhere near reaching the 2030 target. He referred to the very successful Everybody Active Campaign which finished in 2020, and said the targeted programme figures were not as good. Councillor Byrne asked that AHC and the Director, Michael Lipsett, liaise to see if the Everybody Active Campaign be returned to the way it was pre-covid.

Councillor Byrne also referenced the free play sessions and said areas of deprivation would suffer if they were not brought back and he asked this issue was looked at for the year ahead.

Councillor Byrne referred to Business Support and said the gap of £176K would need to be filled and various funding streams would need to be explored.

Councillor Byrne referred to the Take it Home Campaign, which, he said was a cross border campaign aimed at tackling litter and fly-tipping. He said a recent meeting of the Louth and Newry Strategic Alliance had highlighted that engagement was less than ideal, however, he said they were looking at ways to improve public engagement.

Councillor Sharvin asked if visitor trackers could be installed at Delamont and Castlewellan. Ms Ward said tracking was carried out in terms of income generated by cars entering the forest parks, however she said she would liaise with Mr Lipsett regarding the installation of footfall indicators in both locations.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that Elected Members approve the Assessment of Performance 2021-22, including the summary document 'Our Performance Looking Back Going Forward'.**

Noted that the Assessment of Performance 2021-22 is published by 30 September 2022, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SPR/138/2022: CONACRE AGREEMENTS IN RESPECT OF CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK, TYRELLA BEACH, DELAMONT COUNTRY PARK AND DERRYBEG BANKS, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Conacre Agreements on respect of Castlewellan Forest park, Tyrella Beach, Delamont Country Park and Derrybeg Banks, Newry **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray referred to 1.1 in the report and asked if the word 'only' contained in the sentence 'only Irish rare breed cattle to be grazed on the lands' could be replaced with 'preferably'. Mr O'Connor said he would 'note' this.

Councillor McMurray said the field would be taken by Castlewellan Show from 1 July – 31 July and the use of heavy machinery had left the field in a poor state of repair and asked if the tenant would be made aware of this. Mr O'Connor said the incumbent tenant would be made aware of all issues before any agreement entered into.

Mr O'Connor said historically the conacre agreements for the lands had been for a 5-year period and they did not take account of the rate of inflation, but were based on bids by prospective tenants.

Councillor Lewis asked the fencing at Tyrella be checked to avoid any cattle escaping. Mr O'Connor said he would 'note' this.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of conservation grazing of the lands at Castlewellan Forest Park and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement for a period of 5 years with the highest bidder.**
- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of conservation grazing of the lands at Tyrella and that Council enter into a Winter Grazing Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for one year with the option to extend for a further year.**
- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Delamont Country Park and that Council enter into a**

Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of five years.

- **That an Expression of Interest is issued in respect of the grazing of the lands at Derrybeg Banks and that Council enter into a Conacre Licence Agreement with the highest bidder for a period of five years**

SPR/139/2022: CAR-PARK AT CHURCH HILL, JONESBOROUGH

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding, Car-Park at Church Hill, Jonesborough.
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Byrne said the access into the carpark was shared with the graveyard and a private residence and he said it was important to clarify who was responsible for maintaining the barrier and the access. Mr O'Connor said he would liaise with DfI and come back to Councillor Byrne.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Magennis that Elected Members agree to the transfer of the carpark from DfI.**

SPR/140/2022: WARRENPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE: PROJECT GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Janine Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Warrenpoint Community Centre: Project Governance Proposal. **(Copy circulated).**

Mr Boyd acknowledged it had been a lengthy process to date, however, he said a paper was being brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee on 22 September and stakeholder engagement would commence following approval of the paper.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí to approve the project governance arrangements for the Warrenpoint Community Centre as detailed in 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 Murphy, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9-17 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 any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/141/2022: **LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION – DISSOLUTION FUNDING AND CONTINUING OPERATIONS 2022/23**

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Marie Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Local Government Staff Commission – Dissolution Funding and Continuing Operations 2022/23. **(Copy circulated).**

SPR/142/2022: **LEASE OF STORAGE UNIT AT GREENBANK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor/Mr K Scullion regarding lease of storage unit at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry. **(Copy circulated).**

SPR/143/2022: **RENEWAL OF LEASE OF HILLTOWN HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor/Mr L Dinsmore, regarding renewal of lease of Hilltown Household Recycling Centre. **(Copy circulated).**

SPR/144/2022: **BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION – 6 HARBOUR CLOSE, KILKEEL – AMENDMENT TO RECTIFICATION MAP PREVIOUSLY APPROVED**

Read: Report dated 15 September 2022 from Mr F O'Connor regarding Boundary Rectification – 6 Harbour Close, Kilkeel – amendment to rectification map previously approved. **(Copy circulated).**

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

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported on the following decisions taken:

SPR/141/2022 - Local Government Staff Commission - Dissolution Funding and Continuing Operations 2022/23

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to approve the**

payment as recommended in the report and also to write to the Department for Communities asking for confirmation as to when these payments would cease.

SPR/142/2022 - Lease of Storage unit at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to approve the lease of the storage unit at Greenbank Industrial Estate for a period of 12 months at the agreed rental cost subject to full lease terms.**

It was further agreed a caveat be added to include this issue be reviewed at SMT level prior to entering into any lease agreement and that Councillors be updated before the Council meeting in October 2022.

SPR/143/2022 - Renewal of Lease of Hilltown Household Recycling Centre

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Hanlon it was agreed to enter into a lease in respect of the HRC at Hilltown on the terms as set out in the report.**

SPR/144/2022 – Boundary Rectification – 6 Harbour Close, Kilkeel – amendment to rectification map previously approved

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to note the content of this report.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.40pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 October 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: **Marie Ward**
Chief Executive