

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2023 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 R Howell Councillor A Lewis Councillor O Magennis Councillor A McMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor G Sharvin Councillor J Trainor
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor H Gallagher Councillor M Rice Councillor D Taylor
Non-Members:	Councillor T Andrews (Chamber) Councillor D Curran (via Teams) Councillor H McKee (via Teams) Councillor G O'Hare (via Teams)
Officials in Attendance:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Administration Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management Mr P Rooney, Legal Advisor Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/016/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apology received Mr C Mallon.

The Chairperson asked officers to clarify reasons why certain items were held in closed session.

In response, Mrs Kelly advised that when the agenda was being drawn up careful consideration was given to each item, there was legislation which must be adhered to quoting the following:

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.

For that reason, certain items were placed in closed session and at the end of closed session items there was an announcement of what had been agreed along with the proposer and seconder of the actions.

Councillor Byrne proposed that consideration be given to anything of a financial nature being placed in closed session as an appendix with the rest of the report being kept in open session for transparency. This was seconded by Councillor Hanlon.

Mrs Kelly advised that going forward officers would consider the proposal and items would be reviewed to help reduce the number of reports held in closed session.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that consideration be given to anything of a financial nature be placed in closed session as an appendix and the rest of the report be kept in open session for transparency.**

SPR/017/2023: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sharvin declared an interest in Item 9 – Renewal of Microsoft Enterprise Agreement.

SPR/018/2023: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

In response to a query raised by Councillor Lewis, Mrs Ward confirmed that the application process for the King’s Coronation fund would open on 13 March 2023.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Howell to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2023.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

SPR/019/2023: NOTICE OF MOTION – DAISYHILL HOSPITAL

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Notice of Motion – Daisy Hill Hospital **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor O’Hare presented the motion which had been referred from the Council meeting held on 6th January 2023.

Councillor Taylor stated he supported the Motion in principle however on a point of accuracy highlighted that the Elective Framework announcement was not dependent on the purchase of Monaghan Row and did not want the impression if not purchased it would affect the position of having Elected Surgery at Daisy Hill and proposed the following amendment:

“That this Council acknowledges the announcement on the 19th October 2022, by the then Health Minister, Robin Swann that Daisy Hill Hospital would become an Elective Overnight Stay Centre for patients requiring intermediate complexity surgery with an overnight stay. Accepts that this announcement demonstrates the confidence of the Minister, Department of Health and clinicians that Daisy Hill Hospital can provide this regional service and improve access and reduce waiting times for planned elective surgical care for the people of Newry, Mourne, South Armagh and Down. Further accepts that key to building on the plans of overnight elective surgery and protecting the future of the hospital. Commits as a matter of priority, to make public its plan to facilitate the transfer of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Trust, so that Daisy Hill can join the Elective Care Centre model and play an important role in tackling our lengthy waiting lists and improving outcomes for our patients.”

Councillor Byrne seconded the amendment stating it would strengthen the motion as the acquisition of Monaghan Row would protect the future services and enhancement of the hospital. He added that the Elective Overnight surgery was welcomed and showed a confidence in Daisy Hill hospital and would continue to push to try to get Elected Orthopaedic surgery on site as well as other services.

Councillor Hanna and McMurray spoke in support of the amended motion.

Councillor O’Hare thanked Members for their support and accepted the amendment to the motion.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, that Elected Members agree to make public its plan to facilitate the transfer of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, so that Daisy Hill can join the Elective Care Centre model and play an important role in tackling our lengthy waiting lists and improving outcomes for our patients.**

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/020/2023: **REQUEST FOR NAME TO BE ADDED TO CASTLEWELLAN WAR MEMORIAL**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services regarding request for name to be added to Castlewellan War Memorial **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Lewis, that Elected Members approve the request as outlined in the officer’s report subject to consent being obtained from Libraries NI to undertake the inscription work.**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, 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.

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

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed while in closed session.

SPR/021/2023: **BUSINESS CASE FOR PROCUREMENT OF A VALUATION SERVICE**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023, from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services regarding Business case for procurement of a Valuation Service. **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1 to enable to procurement of a Valuation Service from 24 August 2023.

SPR/022/2023: **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – BELFAST CITY COUNCIL LEGAL SERVICES DPARTMENT**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services regarding, Service Level Agreement – Belfast City Council Legal Services Department **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to enter into a one year SLA with Belfast City Council Legal Services Department from 1/4/23-31/3/24 on a non-profit/cost recovery basis by virtue of the provisions of section 105 of the Local Government (NI) Act 1972 in relation to the legal services indicated at 1.4.

SPR/023/2023: **SALE OF LANDS AT CLANRYE AVENUE, NEWRY**

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding, Sale of Lands at Clanrye Avenue, Newry **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the sale of the lands outlined in red on the map to the party detailed in the report for the market value subject to the consent of Northern Ireland Housing Executive.**

SPR/024/2023: RENEWAL OF MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Renewal of Microsoft Enterprise Agreement **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members approve to give permission to renew its Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with the Licencing Solutions Partner- appointed through the Technology Products & Associated Services Aggregation (national further competition) operated by ESPO, for a 3 year period.**

SPR/025/2023: CAMLOUGH LAKE RECREATIONAL HUB

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events, regarding Camlough Lake Recreational Hub **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members approve the following:**

- 1. Members agree to progress detailed design work and the submission of a Planning Application for the Camlough Lake Recreational Hub.**
- 2. Members agree to progress procurement of an IST.**
- 3. Members accept an offer of funding from LUF and approve the associated Memorandum of Understanding/Contract for funding.**

It was agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding be circulated to Members as a restricted item prior to the Council meeting.

SPR/026/2023: 2023/24 INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates & Project Management, regarding 2023/24 Insurance Premiums **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members review and approve the payment of the insurance premiums for 2023/24.**

SPR/027/2023: NCCR-MONAGHAN ROW OFFICE SITE

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding NCCR-Monaghan Row Office Site **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed Elected Members approve the following recommendations:**

- **Members agree to the sale of the Monaghan Row site to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at the LPS valuation subject to agreement of terms between both Council and the Southern Trust.**
- **Members agree to the lease back of a portion of Monaghan Row site from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust at LPS valuation subject to agreement of terms.**

SPR/028/2023: COUNCIL CHAMBERS CONFERENCE SOLUTION

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Council Chambers Conference Solution **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve to proceed with option 3 as outlined in the officer's report.**

In relation to a query about the likely relocation costs at the Newry Chamber, Mrs J Kelly agreed to report back to the Council on this query.

FOR NOTING – This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the October 2022 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

SPR/029/2023: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 26 JANUARY 2023

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 26 January 2023.
(Copy circulated)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 26 January 2023.**

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

SPR/030/2023: REDUNDANCY APPROVAL

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services regarding Redundancy Approval **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed Elected Members approve a redundancy as per 4.1 and the contents of the officer's report.**

Councillor Hanna left during discussions of the above item – 19.08

All officers left the meeting for the next item.

SPR/031/2023: NILGOSC RULE 85 REPORT

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding NILGOSC Rule 85 Report **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report and agree not to switch the 85-year rule on; based on the criteria in the table contained within the report, the assessment at 2.3 and resource implications within Section 4 of the report.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/032/2023: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW IRELAND WORKING GROUP

Read: Report dated 16 February 2023 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy, regarding Establishment of a New Ireland Working Group **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ó Muirí stated that it did not make sense that an equality impact assessment would need to be carried out, however stated he was happy to let due process take its course in order that Councillor Reilly could be sufficiently satisfied that the establishment of a New Ireland Working Group would not be in breach of any equality legislation.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report in relation to considering Councillor Reilly's request that Council conduct an EQIA of the decision to establish a New Ireland Working Group.

SPR/033/2023: **MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD 2ND FEBRUARY 2023**

Read: Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2nd February 2023 **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Sharvin stated there had been a lot of rumours circulating on social media that there would be job losses in Downshire Civic Centre as a result of the creation of new offices in Newry and he asked for a clear response from management that this would not occur.

The Chief Executive confirmed there would be no impact on jobs in the Downshire Civic Centre in the development of the Newry Civic Centre. She stated that Council had always taken the decision to have two offices, one in either side of the District.

The Chairperson welcomed the fact that the issue had been raised.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held 2nd February 2023

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.35pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 06 March 2023.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

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