

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams & Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

In the Chair:	Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)
In Attendance in Chamber	Councillor R Howell Councillor A McMurray Councillor G Sharvin
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor H Gallagher Councillor G Hanna Councillor A Lewis Councillor O Magennis Councillor D Murphy Councillor B Ó Muirí Councillor M Rice Councillor D Taylor Councillor J Trainor
Non-Members:	Councillor J Brennan (via Teams) Councillor W Clarke (via Teams)
Officials in Attendance:	Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding) Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Administration Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Mr P Rooney, Legal Advisor Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Also in Attendance:	Mr G Humphrey, Valuation Services Directorate Land and Property Services

SPR/034/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, and Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism.

The Chairperson offered condolences to the family and friends of former Mournes Councillor Brian Quinn who recently passed away.

The Chairperson also offered condolences on behalf of the Committee to Mrs Kelly, Director of Corporate Services and her family on the sad passing of her mother.

NOTICE OF MOTION

SPR/038/2023:

NOTICE OF MOTION – NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL APPROPRIATELY MARK THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD FRIDAY/BELFAST AGREEMENT

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, Regarding Notice of Motion – Newry Mourne and Down District Council appropriately mark the 25th anniversary of the good Friday/Belfast agreement (**Copy circulated**)

Councillor Taylor stated that he was concerned at the lack of Unionist representation in what had been planned so far, a wider range of diversity and balance was required on reflecting what happened at the time of the Belfast agreement.

Councillor Sharvin concurred with Councillor Taylor's comments, highlighting that it had been raised at the Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting that there was an opportunity to expand the panel and have a more diverse view as to what happened at the time.

Mr Moffett advised Members that he was happy to refer the comments raised to the Museum and Assistant Curator.

Councillor Taylor proposed that officers write to Mr Dermot Nesbitt and Lady Trimble to invite them to give their views in order to have a wider balanced view as to what had passed in 25 years.

Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposal.

Councillor Clarke stated that former Councillor Anne Carr influenced very heavily also at the time and campaigned for a 'yes' vote and further proposed that she be included in the invite.

All members agreed to Councillor Clarke's amendment.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Mc Murray, that Elected Members approve the events taking place in Newry and Mourne Museum and Down County Museum to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement.

Agreed:

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Hanlon that officers write to Mr D Nesbitt, Lady Trimble and Mrs A Carr to invite them to give their views in order to have a wider balanced view as to what had passed in 25 years

SPR/039/2023:

**NOTICE OF MOTION – MEMORIAL GARDEN TO
ACKNOWLEDGE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWCASTLE
FISHING DISASTER AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE LOST
THEIR LIVES THROUGH FISHING**

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, Regarding Notice of Motion – Memorial garden to acknowledge 180th anniversary of Newcastle fishing disaster and all those who have lost their lives through fishing
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Clarke thanked members for supporting the motion as it had been a major disaster for the fishing community at the time and identifying an appropriate site for a memorial garden was a fitting tribute.

Councillor Gallagher spoke in support of the motion stating it would be nice to have a place for remembrance to acknowledge all those who had lost their lives in fishing disasters in the area.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that Elected Members approve to support the motion that Council give consideration to establishing a memorial garden to acknowledge the 180th Anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster.

SPR/040/2023:

NOTICE OF MOTION – REBELLION ANNIVERSARIES

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, Regarding Notice of Motion – Rebellion Anniversaries **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brennan stated he was glad to see the notice of motion was almost unanimously supported highlighting this was an opportunity for youth to get to know their history and everyone to embrace their shared history rather than the dark times of the past.

Councillor McMurray spoke in support of the motion highlighting that 1798 was a significant time in our history, which could be built upon and promoted with tours.

In response to query raised by Councillor Sharvin, Mr Moffett advised that once the notice of motion was agreed, officers would liaise with both the Good Relations Programme and the Museum to look at ways in which the schemes could be incorporated into their programme of activity.

Agreed:

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray, that Elected Members agree to give consideration to an appropriate series of events and initiatives to suitably mark the Rebellion Anniversaries.

Councillor Lewis left the meeting at this point – 18.41

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

SPR/041/2023:

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding Governance Arrangements **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor McMurray stated that he had thought a copy of minutes of the Mourne Gateway Project meeting would have been tabled at tonight's meeting and sought assurances that it would not be automatically passed under delegated authority.

Mr Andrews clarified that the limit of delegated authority extended to issues that arose during the period of Purdah, not to issues that were ongoing.

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

- 1. Council approve that the Annual Meeting of Council will take place at 6pm on Monday 1st June 2023, in Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick, in accordance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 which states that in an election year, the Annual Meeting of Council must take place within 21 days of the election.**
- 2. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to make essential, urgent decisions, as required during period from 3 April 2023 to the first Full Council Meeting (6 June 2023) after the Annual Meeting.**
- 3. Under Standing Order 29.2: "any motion to add to, vary or revoke these Standing Order will, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary Meeting of the Council. The mandatory standing orders may not be added to, varied or revoked by the Council." It is recommended that Council adopt the amendment to the Standing Orders as detailed at 2.3 of this report at the next Council Meeting on 3rd April 2023.**

SPR/042/2023:

DRAFT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2023-24

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director: Finance and Performance regarding Draft Performance Improvement Objectives **(Copy circulated)**

In response to query raised by the Chairperson, Mr Byrne confirmed that there were six measures of success in place with targets reported bi-annually, however there was not currently a measure of outputs or target for businesses in terms of what percentage would be fed back into the economy based on the support the Council had given. He advised

he would investigate the possibility of this occurring in the future.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Elected Members approve the following recommendations:

- The five draft performance improvement objectives 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 1
- The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, as outlined in Appendix 2, including approval to commence the consultation and engagement process on 20 March 2023

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

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

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

SPR/043/2023: **LEASE OF LANDS AT STATION ROAD, CASTLEWELLAN UNDER COUNCIL'S SPORTS AND COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023, from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding Lease of lands at Station Road, Castlewellan under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to enter into a Lease with the group noted in the report in respect of lands at Station Road, Castlewellan as outlined in red on the map attached hereto for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.

Councillor Rice left the meeting during discussions of the above item – 18.57

SPR/044/2023: LEASE OF LANDS AT LISDRUMGULLION, ARMAGH ROAD, NEWRY UNDER COUNCIL'S SPORTS COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding Lease of lands at Lisdrumgullion, Armagh Road, under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy. **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to enter into a Lease with the group noted in the officer's report in respect of that portion of the lands known as Lisdrumgullion Open Space, Armagh Road, Newry as outlined in blue on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

SPR/045/2023: LEASE OF LANDS AT ANNSBOROUGH, CASTLEWELLAN UNDER COUNCIL'S SPORTS AND COMMUNITY LEASING POLICY

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding, lease of lands at Annsborough, Castlewellan under Council's Sports and Community Leasing Policy **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor McMurray, it was agreed to enter into a Lease with the club noted in the report in respect of the lands known as Annsborough Playing Fields, Annsborough, Castlewellan as outlined in orange on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

SPR/046/2023: PROPOSED LICENSING OF FISHING RIGHTS AT DONAGHAGUY LAKE, WARRENPOINT

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding proposed Licensing of fishing rights at Donaghaguy Lake, Warrenpoint **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to grant a Licence to Warrenpoint, Rostrevor and District Angling Club for the fishing rights for Donaghaguy Lake, Warrenpoint for a period of up to three years at a Peppercorn Licence Fee subject to Departmental Consent.**

SPR/047/2023:

PROPOSED LEASE OF LANDS AT DUNDRUM TO NI WATER FOR NEW WASTEWATER PUMPING STATION

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration regarding proposed lease of lands at Dundrum to NI Water for new Wastewater Pumping Station (**Copy circulated**).

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Howell, the following was agreed to facilitate the Installation and Maintenance of the New Waste Water Pumping Station:

- 1. That Elected Members agree to the granting of the Lease with easement to NI Water Limited for a term of 99 years, subject to a one-off premium of £1500 and nominal rent.**
- 2. That Elected Members agree to the granting of a Licence Agreement for works to NI Water Limited.**
- 3. Subject to completion of legal formalities and NI Water Limited being responsible for Council's legal and valuation costs.**

SPR/048/2023:

AMENDMENT TO EASEMENT AT GLEN HILL/WATSONS ROAD, NEWRY

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Amendment to Easement at Glen Hill/Watsons Road, Newry (**Copy circulated**).

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to amend the easement in favour of the Company noted in the report to include a right to lay a surface water pipe along the route marked by a blue dashed line in addition to a foul sewer and that the position of the foul sewer is changed from the area shown by a green line to the blue hatched line on the attached map subject to the company paying the additional market value fee if any.

SPR/049/2023:

LANDS AT CHARLOTTE STREET, WARRENPOINT

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Lands at Charlotte Street, Warrenpoint (**Copy circulated**).

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to approve to enter into a Deed of Rectification in respect of lands at 42 Charlotte Street, Warrenpoint subject to agreement of terms and subject also to Departmental Consent.

SPR/050/2023:

LANDS AT LATT VILLAS, MULLAGHGLASS, NEWRY

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Lands at Latt Villas, Mullaghglass, Newry **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:

- **The purchase of the freehold of the lands at Latt Villas as outlined in red on the map from the freeholder noted in the report for the sum noted in the report.**
- **The sale of the lands at Latt Villas as outlined in red on the map to the two neighbouring landowners for the sum noted in the report.**

SPR/051/2023:

REQUEST TO RELEASE A STRIP OF LAND OVER WHICH COUNCIL HOLDS A CHARGE – THOMAS DAVIS NEWRY GAC

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Rooney, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Request to Release a Strip of Land Over Which Council Holds a Charge – Thomas Davis Newry GAC **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to release the Charge over the portion of the lands outlined in red on Map 1 and Map 2 as per officer's report.

SPR/052/2023:

NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE (NLC) – SWIMMING POOL

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport, regarding Newry Leisure Centre (NLC) – Swimming Pool **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed to approve the following recommendations:

- **To order pool tiles for Newry Leisure Centre as per section 2.1.5 of the report.**
- **A future report will be tabled at SPR Committee in June 2023 outlining a programme of works and timescales for pool tile repairs.**

SPR/053/2023:

LEASE OF MONAGHAN ROW FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

Read:

Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Services, regarding Lease of

Monaghan Row from Southern Health and Social Care Trust
(Copy circulated).

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Council enter into a Lease with the Southern Health & Social Care Trust for a term of two years (with an option to extend for a further 6 months if required) subject to the rent noted in the officer's report which has been determined by Land and Property Services and subject also to the payment of Service Charges.**

SPR/054/2023: **RENEWAL OF ADVERTISING SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Corporate Services, Renewal of Advertising Solutions Framework Contract Agreement **(Copy circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to grant approval as at paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of the officer's report.**

SPR/055/2023: **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROVISION OF MEDIA MONITORING SERVICES FOR COUNCIL'S REQUIREMENTS**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Corporate Services, Business Case for the Provision Media Monitoring Services for Council's Requirements **(Copy circulated).**

Mr Cassells agreed to revert back to Councillor Byrne and Trainor before the next full Council meeting regarding queries raised.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to approve the Business Case at Appendix I and give approval as at paragraph 1.6 of the officer's report.**

FOR NOTING – The following items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the October 2022 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

SPR/056/2023: **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2022/23, QUARTER 3**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Management Accounts – 2022/23, Quarter 3. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the 2022-23 Quarter 3 (period ending 31 December 2022) Management Accounts update.**

SPR/057/2023: **UPDATE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY 2023**

Read: Circular dated 8 March 2023 from National Employers for Local Government Services, regarding Update – Local Government Pay 2023. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the Local Government Pay 2023 update.**

SPR/058/2023: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPRAISAL**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services: (HR & Safeguarding), regarding Chief Executive Appraisal. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the 2022 - 2023 Performance Appraisal of the Chief Executive had been completed and that members of the Chief Executive Appraisal Group were unanimous in their assessment of performance.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/059/2023: **UPDATE ON COVID INQUIRY**

Read: Report dated 16 March 2023 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding Update Covid 19 Inquiry **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor McMurray to note the update provided by the Chief Executive.**

Councillor McMurray took the opportunity to thank Councillor Hanlon for the past 2 years as Chair, and for always being very fair and strict keeping the meeting in order with good humour.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.45pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 April 2023.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Cassells
Director of Sustainability and Environment