

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2022 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 O Magennis Councillor A McMurray Councillor D Murphy Councillor B O'Muire Councillor M Rice
In Attendance via Teams:	Councillor P Byrne Councillor H Gallagher Councillor M Gibbons Councillor A Lewis Councillor G Sharvin Councillor D Taylor Councillor J Trainor
Non-Committee Members:	Councillor T Andrews Councillor C Enright Councillor H McKee
Officials in Attendance:	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services Mr C Mallon, Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Procurement Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure & Sport Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Administration Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding) Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events Mr P Preen, HR Manager Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration Ms C Hughes, Acting Head of Performance & Improvement Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting) Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Also in Attendance:	Ms S Stevenson, Director of Legacy Conservation

SPR/160/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Mr G Byrne.

SPR/161/2022: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

SPR/162/2022: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Taylor queried why his notice of motion on 'Social Model of Disability' had not been included on the agenda.

Mrs Kelly advised it would be tabled at the next Strategy Policy Resources meeting.

The Chief Executive advised it was normal practice to bring deferred motions to the following months' meeting in order to allow sufficient time for papers to be prepared and the call-in timeline to pass.

SPR/150/2022: Request by Councillor Murphy- Cost of Living Crisis

Councillor Murphy requested more detail be provided on the report being brought to Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

The Chief Executive advised she would revert to Councillor Murphy on the detail of the report.

Councillor McMurray referred to his previous 'Child Poverty' motion and highlighted a number of community groups were holding community winter warm events in Newcastle and requested if Council could support these groups and expediate what they are doing particularly with the lack of an Assembly. The Chief Executive stated she would ensure communications were ongoing with the community groups.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Howell to approve the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2022.**

FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

SPR/163/2022: REVISED PLANNING RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services regarding Revised Planning Retention and Disposal Schedule **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Magennis, that Elected Members approve the revised Planning Retention and Disposal Schedule.**

SPR/164/2022: MID-YEAR ASSESSMENTS OF DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS 2022-23

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Mid-Year Assessments of Directorate Business Plans **(Copy circulated)**

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

- **Mid-Year Assessment of the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2022-23**
- **Mid-Year Assessment of the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2022-23**

SPR/165/2022: MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT – PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-23

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance & Performance, regarding Mid-Year Assessment – Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that Elected Members approve the Mid-Year Assessment and Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23.**

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 Magennis, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

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

SPR/166/2022:

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF MUSEUMS SERVICE

Read:

Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Strategic Review of Museums Service. **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed Elected Members approve the recommendations included in the Strategic Review of Council's Museums Service as set out in this report.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed Elected Members approve that the report would be made public once finalized.

Councillor Gallagher left the meeting at this point – 18.32pm

SPR/167/2022:

NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION – BRCD CONTRACT FOR FUNDING

Read:

Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism regarding, Newry City Centre Regeneration – BRCD Contract for Funding **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the contents of the report, the Contract for funding as per the officer's report and approve the signing of the Contract for Funding between the Department for Communities and Belfast City Council in respect of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Projects

Councillor Sharvin left the meeting at - 18.47pm

SPR/168/2022:

NEWRY CITY PARK PROJECT – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Read:

Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, regarding Newry City Park Project – Outline Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed:

On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve to underwrite any additional financial cost for the Newry City Park Project over and above the funding currently ringfenced for the project.

SPR/169/2022: LEASE OF LANDS AT ST ANNE'S PARK, MAYOBRIDGE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding lease of lands at St Anne's Park, Mayobridge **(Copy circulated)**.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gibbons, it was agreed Elected Members approve to enter into a Lease with the club noted in the report in respect of the lands at St Anne's Park, Mayobridge as outlined in blue on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

Councillor Lewis left the meeting at - 18.53pm

SPR/170/2022: LEASE OF LANDS AT GLEN HILL RECREATION AREA, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding lease of land at Glen Hill Recreation Area, Newry **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members approve to enter into a Lease with the club noted in the report in respect of the lands known as Glen Hill Recreation Area, Newry as outlined in red on the map for a term of 25 years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent.**

SPR/171/2022: RENEWAL OF LEASE OF UNIT 2 THE SQUARE, WARRENPOINT

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Renewal of Lease of Unit 2 The Square, Warrenpoint. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve to proceed with option C: Not to renew the Lease to 26 Extreme and that Council Officers market the Unit either via Council's agents or an Expression of Interest Process.**

SPR/172/2022: COMMERCIAL UNIT AT MARGARET SQUARE, NEWRY

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding Commercial Unit at Margaret Square, Newry. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed Elected Members approve to a 5-year Lease of the subject premises to the successful bidder, at an annual rent as per officer's report plus rates and standard terms and conditions of lease.**

SPR/173/2022: **REQUEST FOR EASEMENT OVER COUNCIL LANDS AT NORTH PROMENADE, NEWCASTLE**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration, regarding request for Easement over Council lands at North Promenade, Newcastle **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed Elected Members approve the grant of a licence for works and easement on Council lands as set-out in the report subject to a valuation and payment by the developer of all ancillary costs including legal and valuation fees.**

SPR/174/2022: **PROVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH TENDER**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr P Preen, HR Manager, regarding Provision of Occupational Health Tender. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members approve the commencement of tender process, for the supply of Occupational Health Services for a two year period, with the option to extend (by mutual agreement) up to a maximum of four years.**

SPR/175/2022: **ARDGLASS ROWING CLUB**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration regarding Ardglass Rowing Club. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Trainor it was agreed Elected Members approve to defer the decision until next month's SPR Committee to allow officers to engage with the group to explain the rationale regarding Council's leasing policies and procedures.**

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/176/2022: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – 2022/23, QUARTER 2

Read: Management Accounts – 2022/23, Quarter 2

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to note the 2022-23 Quarter 2 (period ending 30th September 2022) Management Accounts update.**

SPR/177/2022: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 12 OCTOBER 2022 & 25 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 12 October 2022 & 25 October 2022. **(copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 12 October 2022 & 25 October 2022.**

FOR NOTING

SPR/178/2022: SICKNESS ABSENCE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2022 from Mr P Preen, HR Manager, regarding Sickness Absence **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Trainor raised concerns at the increase in sickness in the previous twelve months enquiring if a more detailed breakdown was available for reasons of absences and whether measures had been put in place to prevent some elements of sickness and make returning to work easier.

The Chief Executive advised that due to the sensitive nature of sickness absence this information could not be shared, however there were procedures in place to manage sickness and Occupational Health support was available for all staff with management reviewing same on an ongoing basis.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed Elected Members note the contents of the report and the following measures in relation to sickness absence:**

- **ASM have provided satisfactory assurance in relation to the Managing Attendance Procedure and the controls in place to manage sickness absence.**
- **Absence data is analysed and reported on a quarterly basis to both the Senior and Corporate**

Management Teams to identify opportunities for targeted interventions.

- **Sickness Absence forms part of the Corporate Risk Register and performance monitored on the Corporate Dashboard.**

SPR/179/2022: MINUTES OF NEWRY CCR PB MEETING – 06 OCTOBER 2022

Read: Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 06 October 2022 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed Elected Members note the Minutes of Newry CCR PB Meeting – 06 October 2022.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.52pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 05 December 2022.

**Signed: Councillor Oonagh Hanlon
Chairperson**

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