

At the Council meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022, in relation to SPR/194/2021, Councillor Enright asked that his full motion along with the agreed amendment be included within the minute which reads as follows:

'It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that Elected Members noted the supporting table was based on a Freedom of Information reply from the Department of Finance, supplemented by Fol's from each of the 11 Councils. Council noted that our District was running in a poor last place in terms of revenue despite having the best potential renewable resources in the North of Ireland outside Donegal. Were it not for the £100,000+pa benefit of our old abandoned energy efficiency campaign, Newry Mourne and Down District Council's position would be worse. Council formally adopts indicative revenue targets from renewables as follows; 2022 - £1 million per annum; 2025 - £5 million per annum; 2030 - £10 million per annum It was also agreed to approve that Council continue to follow avenues for increasing revenue from renewables. The Sustainability and Climate Change forum will lead on all proposals and will report progress through the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. Once a funding stream has been agreed, the revenue can then be factored into Councils estimates process. Council officials will seek revenue sources and savings and come back to Strategy Policy and Resources committee meeting in April 2022, with more flesh on the above aspirational targets with a view to long term planning and action for consideration by Strategy Policy and Resources committee.

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 December 2021 at 6.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber: Councillor R Howell
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor W Walker

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor C Enright

Officials in Attendance

In Chamber: Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director, Estates & Capital Projects
Mrs L Fitzsimmons, HR Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

Officials in Attendance

Via Teams: Mr C Mallon, Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Corporate Services
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning & Policy
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director Finance (Acting)
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture & Events
Mrs E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant

Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

Also in Attendance:

Via Teams:

Mr C Campbell, Legal Advisor, Belfast City Council

SPR/191/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brown, Gallagher, Savage and Taylor.

The Chairperson confirmed that Councillor Brown was unable to attend the meeting and Item 4, Notice of Motion - Contactless payment solutions to tackle homelessness had been deferred until the next meeting.

SPR/192/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

SPR/193/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 November 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Magennis that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2021, be approved.**

SPR/194/2021: NOTICE OF MOTION – REVENUE TARGETS FROM RENEWABLES

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting), regarding Notice of Motion, Revenue targets from renewables. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright spoke at length on his notice of motion and advised members he wished to add the following amendment to his motion:

'Council officials will seek revenue sources and savings and come back to Strategy Policy and Resources committee meeting in April 2022, with more flesh on the above aspirational targets with a view to long term planning and action for consideration by Strategy Policy and Resources committee'.

Councillor Tinnelly proposed the motion as amended, stating that it was understandable that officers could not commit to hard and fast figures when Council was not at a stage where that could be assigned, however as a corporate body seemed to be lagging behind in comparison to other local authorities. Councillor Tinnelly queried if the 2022 target of £1 million was realistically achievable or would the 2025 target of £5 million be more realistic?

Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the amended motion.

The Chairperson stated that it was her understanding that officer's would bring back a tangible paper with potential targets and how they could be reached.

Councillor Enright agreed with the Chairperson and in summing up confirmed he had posted to members a summary of rates income for councils across Northern Ireland. Only 14% of energy in Northern Ireland came from renewables which generated £20 million a year in rates spread across the 11 councils, 86% of energy was imported fossil fuel generating rates of approximately only £6 million per year. A zero carbon Northern Ireland would generate £140 million of rates spread over the 11 council in 10 to 15 years' time and this would only increase with the electrification of transport, heat and hot water.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Tinnelly, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí that Elected Members agreed to approve that Council continue to follow avenues for increasing revenue from renewables. The Sustainability and Climate Change forum will lead on all proposals and will report progress through the Active and Healthy Communities Committee. Once a funding stream has been agreed, the revenue can then be factored into Councils estimates process. Council officials will seek revenue sources and savings and come back to Strategy Policy and Resources committee meeting in April 2022, with more flesh on the above aspirational targets with a view to long term planning and action for consideration by Strategy Policy and Resources committee.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/195/2021: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AUDIT AND ASSESSMENT 2020-21

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mrs D Carville Director of Corporate Services, regarding Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment 2020-21. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy to approve the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2020-21 (Appendix 2)

SPR/196/2021: DRAFT NEWRY AND MOURNE DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mrs E Cosgrove, Head of Compliance, regarding draft Newry Mourne and Down District Retention and Disposal Schedule. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne to consider and approve the draft Retention and Disposal Schedule.

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 Magennis, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matter 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 a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/197/2021: **EXTENSION OF LEASE WITH NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (NIFRS) – DOWNSHIRE CIVIC CENTRE, DOWNPATRICK**

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Service (Administration) **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the extension of NIFRS's current lease of office accommodation in Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick for the term of 2 years from 1/8/22 until 31/7/24 with an option of 3rd year following this, on the same terms but subject to review of the current rental by Council's Valuer. Rental valuation to be brought back to committee for approval.

SPR/198/2021: **PROPOSED RENEWAL OF A LICENCE OF ISLANDS AT CASTLE PARK, NEWCASTLE TO NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK FOR A MOBILE BANK UNIT**

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding, proposed renewal of a licence of Islands Castle Park, Newcastle to National Westminster bank for a mobile bank unit **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members agreed to grant a Licence to National Westminster Bank to operate a mobile banking unit at Castle Park each Thursday from 10am until 12pm for a 2-year period from 27th February 2021 subject to a yearly Licence Fee to be determined by

Council's valuer and payment of the cost of the valuation report.

SPR/199/2021: REPROFILING OF UNDERSPEND WITHIN COUNCIL'S IRISH LANGUAGE BURSARY SCHEME

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Corporate Planning & Policy, regarding Reprofiting of underspend within Council's Irish Language Bursary Scheme **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to proceed to reprofile the underspend of £90k within the Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2021/22 to implement Projects 1-5 as set out within Section 1.3 of the officer's report.**

SPR/200/2021: CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events, regarding Castlewellan Forest Park. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed that Elected Members approve the staff structure and associated costs for Castlewellan Forest Park as outlined in the officer's report.**

SPR/201/2021: CAMLOUGH LAKE RECREATIONAL HUB – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director of Tourism Culture and Events, regarding Camlough Lake Recreational Hub – Outline Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

1. To approve a budget allocation in Council's Capital Programme as per the preferred option recommended in the Business Case as outlined in Section 4.1 of the officer's report.
2. To approve the procurement and appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team to progress the project.
3. Progress necessary land matters to facilitate delivering Option 1
4. Officers to investigate and seek appropriate external funding for the project.

SPR/202/2021: SURPLUS ASSETS

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Surplus Assets. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members note the content of the report and attached Appendix A – Surplus Asset Overview and approve the following recommendations:

- Refuse Disposal Site at Coreagh Quarry, Glenvale Road. Recommendation to accept retaining the Lagoons and Control Room at this time and make an adjustment from the previously agreed sales price as detailed in the officer's report to reflect the area retained.
- 5 Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick (former site of Killough Road Community Centre). Recommendation to remove asset from the Disposal list to allow AHC to invite EOIs under the Sports and Community Facility Land Leasing Policy.
- Lismore Park Playing Fields, Crossmaglen. Recommendation to remove asset from the Disposal list to allow AHC to invite EOIs under the Sports and Community Facility Land Leasing Policy.
- Lands at Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel. Recommendation to accept offer dated 6th Oct 2021 detailed in the officer's report and proceed to sale agreed.
- The Clock Recreation Area Shrigley. Recommendation to proceed with the D1 process with the boundary unaltered and arrange for further discussions between Sir Hans Sloane Centre and the neighbouring land owner.
- Former Playing Fields at Derryleckagh, Newry.

Recommendation to remove asset from the disposal list and proceed with the application from Newry Rugby Club to progress to Stage 2 of the community asset transfer.

SPR/203/2021: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Terms and Conditions. **(Copy circulated)**

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

On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed that Elected Members

- **note the progress on the workplan as set out in appendix 1 of the officer's report.**
- **That members note that the JTUS issues a letter of dispute to their members on 17 November 2021, and**
- **That members support the continued release of employees supporting the programme of work, the costs of which are detailed at 4.1 of the officer's report.**

All officers left the meeting for the next item - 7.04pm

SPR/204/2021: REDUNDANCY APPROVAL

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager, regarding Redundancy Approval. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the redundancy package for the affected employee on or before 6 April 2022 as detailed in the report.**

Officers re-joined the meeting at this point – 7.12pm

FOR NOTING –

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

SPR/205/2021: NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE – PHASE 1 & PHASE 2 RETENTION & FINAL ACCOUNTS

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Estates and Project Management, regarding Newry Leisure Centre – Phase 1 & Phase 2 Retention & Final Accounts. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members note the release of the retention monies contractually due to the Contractor, as detailed in the officer's report.

SPR/206/2021; TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2021/22

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting), regarding Treasury Management Mid-Year Report – 2021/22. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report.

SPR/207/2021: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET – 25 NOVEMBER 2021

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 25 November 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 25 November 2021.

SPR/208/2021: VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY CALL

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Voluntary Redundancy Call. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report.

FOR NOTING

SPR/209/2021: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL – COMPLIMENTARY FUND

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Belfast Region City Deal – Complimentary Fund. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Byrne welcomed the news of the additional funding from the City Deal which in turn would be used to deliver the park after 18 months of negotiations. He proposed that council write to DfC and the Department of Finance to ask for an update on the timeline and what could be delivered in the first four years. He also asked that the profile be brought to the NCCR programme board to be discussed which would allow the board to converse with the department to ensure work can be carried out on the ground.

Councillor Murphy seconded the proposal, thanking and commending council officials and councillors who had made a positive contribution to the application stating that working collaboratively was a formula that had worked on projects throughout the District. He stated that Sinn Féin would continue to support the full package for the regeneration of Newry city and was confident that, with the support of all parties these important projects would be brought to fruition.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report and that council write to DfC and the Department of Finance to ask for an update on the timeline and what can be delivered in the first four years. It was also agreed that the profile be brought to the NCCR programme board to be discussed which would allow the board to converse with the department to ensure work can be carried out on the ground.**

SPR/210/2021: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL – SIGNING OF THE DEAL DOCUMENT

Read: Report dated 16 December 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism, regarding Belfast Region City Deal – Signing of the deal document. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members note the contents of the report.**

SPR/211/2021: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DFI ROADS

Read: Correspondence dated 10 November 2021 regarding Private lanes and roads within Newry Mourne and Down District Council. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members note the correspondence received.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.28pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 10 January 2022.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
 Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
 Director of Corporate Services