

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on
Thursday 14 October 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 G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Brown
Councillor P Byrne
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Savage
Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor G Malone
Councillor R Mulgrew

**Officials in Attendance
In Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance
Via Teams:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active Healthy Communities
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporate Services (HR & Safeguarding)
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)
Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy
Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Coordinator
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant

**Also in Attendance:
Via Teams:**

Mrs N Largey, Legal Advisor, Belfast City Council

SPR/156/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran & Gallagher.

The Chief Executive advised Members that a representative from John Walsh's Belfast Legal Services office would be attending the meeting and all future Strategy Policy and Resources committee meetings until further notice to offer legal support if required due to previous conduct at meetings and accusations made about officers.

SPR/157/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

SPR/158/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021 & MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 September 2021 & Monday 27 September 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Savage that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 September 2021, be approved.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Magennis that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 27 September 2021, be approved.

FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

SPR/159/2021: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SAFEGUARDING BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mr G Scott, Safeguarding Co-ordinator regarding, Department of Health Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedures, Functions and Committee) Regulations (NI) 2012 (the Regulations). **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis to approve the following recommendations:

- To approve the proposed Consultation Response to the Department of Health proposed amendments to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedures, Functions and Committee) Regulations (NI) 2012 (the Regulations).
- Members should note responses to this consultation are submitted on-line therefore this typed word document response provided at Appendix 1 is for the purposes of this report however, the actual response will be submitted through the Department of Health's website.
- In the interests of clarity, only questions 8 and 9 are specific to Council and reflect the restructuring of Local Councils relationship with the SBNI.

The Chief Executive expressed her disappointment that she must highlight to members that Item 15 from this evening's agenda, which is an item restricted in accordance with legislation, had appeared across social media and on the front page of a newspaper. Members were advised that this was in contravention to the governance proceedings around committee meetings. The said document was for information for members only and should not have been circulated as it contained highly sensitive and confidential information.

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Sharvin 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/160/2021: PROPOSED LICENCE OF A STRIP OF LAND TO BUTTERCRANE SHOPPING CENTRE

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), proposed licence of a strip of land to Buttercrane Shopping Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members approve to grant a Licence to Buttercrane Shopping Centre of the lands outlined in green on the map attached, for the term of 5 years subject to a yearly Licence fee of £1850 per annum and subject to Buttercrane Shopping Centre paying Council's valuation costs.

SPR/161/2021: RETURN OF REMOTE HEARING REGULATIONS

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting) regarding, Return of Remote Hearing Regulations. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the following recommendation:

That in view of the extension of the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings)

Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, the use of the Chief Executive's delegated powers ratified for Committee and Council meetings in May 2021 is terminated as and from the re-introduction of the regulations on 31st August 2021.

SPR/162/2021: DTNI PROPOSAL – PIONEERING THE POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IN NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding DTNI proposal - Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building in Newry, Mourne and Down **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members consider and approve the report and agree to proceed with DTNI's proposal - Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building in Newry, Mourne and Down with a match funded contribution of £11,000.**

SPR/163/2021: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL – GOVERNANCE & PROGRESSION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Belfast Region City Deal - Governance & Progression of Regional Programmes. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve an NMDDC Contribution of £65,000 towards BRCD Governance & progression of Regional Programmes during 2021/2022 financial period.**

SPR/164/2021: SURPLUS ASSETS UPDATE

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Surplus Assets Update. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that Elected Members**

consider the recommendations of the SFWG and approve the following recommendations:

- **Play Area at Rear of Bleary Bungalows. Council officers to continue to liaise with NIHE and the property owners who have declared an interest in purchasing this asset in order to progress sale.**
- **Play Area at Ashtree Cottages, Rathfriland Road, Newry. Accept the final bid as detailed in the officer's report and move to 'sale agreed.'**
- **5 Ballynoe Road, Downpatrick (former site of Killough Road Community Centre). Move to Open Market sale, following liaison with a local community group over the next 2 weeks.**

SPR/165/2021: ALBERT BASIN

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, it was agreed that Elected Members consider and approve the appointment of our framework consultants (Tetra Tech) to complete an outline business case (OBC) for the Albert Basin City Park, to identify a preferred option, provide design and cost information to support the completion of the OBC.**

SPR/166/2021: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the Belfast Region City Deal – Deal Document (appendix 1) and Governance Framework (Appendix 2).**

To note the progress in the development of the OBCs in line with the agreed phased deal approach.

To note the next steps in the delivery of the deal including the finalisation of the Implementation Plan and Financial Plan; and the process for approving the final deal.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 4 OF PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

SPR/167/2021: DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Director Recruitment. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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 and approve the following recommendations:**

- **Confirm their agreement to the proposals at 2.3 and 2.4 of the report.**
- **Nominate 3 elected members of cross community & gender balance to the Shortlisting and Interview Panel for the recruitment of the new Director: Sustainability and Environmental Management, as set out in the Local Government Staff Commission Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection (Part D).**

SPR/168/2021; COVID 19 EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Covid 19 Employee Appreciation. **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- **That Members confirm their agreement to recognising and acknowledging employees through granting two Appreciation Days over the Christmas period; those being 30 and 31 December 2021.**
- **Where services can remain closed and non-operational on those additional days, staff would not be required to attend work.**
- **In the case of services which need to operate on those dates or where ‘skeleton’ service cover is required, post holders will be permitted to take the 2 additional days prior to the end of this financial year.**

SPR/169/2021: TEMPORARY POSTS

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding, ERT/AHC Funded staff. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Howell, 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 approve moving the current temporary programmes as set out in section 4.1 to permanent programmes of Council, noting that Council will continue to seek external funding for all continuing programmes.**

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/170/2021: CITY DEALS COMPLEMENTARY FUND BIDS

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration & Tourism regarding, City Deals Complementary Fund Bids **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members note that Council have submitted in September 2021 a total of 4 bids to City / Growth Deal Complementary Fund and officers will seek to engage to try and secure more funding with the Shared Island and Peace Plus fund.**

SPR/171/2021: STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET HELD ON - 01 OCTOBER 2021

Read: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 01 October 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne, It was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 01 October 2021.

Councillor Brown joined the meeting at this point - 19.22pm
Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this point - 19.23pm

FOR NOTING

SPR/172/2021: **MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 & 24 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Read: Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting –23 September 2021 and 24 September 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Magennis, It was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 23 September 2021 and 24 September 2021.

SPR/173/2021: **STATUTORY REPORTING – SECTION 75 SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY – SEPTEMBER 2021**

Read: Report dated 14 October 2021 from Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy regarding, Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July - September 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage, It was agreed to note the Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July - September 2021

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 01 November 2021.

Signed: **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**
Chairperson

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