

**NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

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

---

**In the Chair:** Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

**In Attendance in Chamber:** Councillor P Byrne  
Councillor R Howell  
Councillor O Magennis  
Councillor D Murphy  
Councillor B Ó Muirí  
Councillor G Sharvin  
Councillor D Taylor

**In Attendance via Teams:** Councillor M Savage  
Councillor J Tinnelly  
Councillor W Walker

**Also in attendance:** Councillor T Andrews  
Councillor D McAteer  
Councillor G Stokes

**Officials in Attendance  
In Chamber:**

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive  
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director Corporates Services, HR & Safeguarding  
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance  
Via Teams:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active Healthy Communities  
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Tourism & Regeneration  
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting)  
Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

**SPR/135/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Doran, Brown and Gallagher.

**SPR/136/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

**SPR/137/2021: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 12  
AUGUST 2021**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 August 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Howell that the action sheet from the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021, be approved.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **SPR/138/2021: ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE 2020-21**

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

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

- The Assessment of Performance 2020-21, including the summary document 'Our Performance Looking Back Going Forward'
- That the Assessment of Performance 2020-21 is published by 30 September 2021, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline

## **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 Howell, 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/139/2021: EASEMENT OVER COUNCIL LANDS AT ISLANDS PARK, NEWCASTLE**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting), regarding Easement over Council lands at Islands Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed that Elected Members approve the grant of an easement at Islands Pk Newcastle, subject to the applicant discharging the cost of the easement as assessed by Council's retained valuation experts, and any

associated legal and valuation costs.

**SPR/140/2021:      UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF WARRENPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding, Update on the Development of Warrenpoint Community Centre **(Copy circulated)**

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

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

- **That Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the content of the report and the associated appendices.**
- **That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the project moving to the next stage i.e. to appoint a consultant team to advance the design of the preferred option (Option 3) and to secure full planning approval. It is recommended that the consultant is appointed for all stages of the project with the inclusion of break clauses, should planning approval not be secured, or if Council take a decision not to proceed to any of the subsequent stages (detailed design, procurement or construction delivery).**
- **It is recommended that an amount detailed in the officer's report is added to the capital programme for the appointment of a consultancy team to advance to project to secure planning approval, inclusive of any ground investigations, traffic, flood risk assessment, ecology and drainage surveys required to complement the planning application. A further report will be brought to the Committee seeking approval for the next stages of the project, after planning approval is secured.**

**SPR/141/2021:      LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND AND FACILITIES – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding, Leasing of Council land and facilities – Expression of Interest **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that that Elected Members consider the following Expressions of Interest (EOI) received for the leasing of Council land and facilities and agree the approval to lease lands and facilities as per stage 3 of the Councils Sports and Community leasing policy (2016).

1. Moorehill Quarry: Adjacent to Newry recycling Centre, Newry, Appendix 1
3. Generator House: Adjacent to the yacht club, Newcastle. Appendix 3
4. Burren Village Green Field/land: Adjacent Play park and community centre, Burren, Appendix 4
5. Drumaness Cricket Pitch: Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness, Appendix 5 Blue
6. Drumaness Soccer Pitch: Adjacent to Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness, Appendix 5 Red

Item 2 – Derryleckagh Field/Land: Adjacent to Derryleckagh playing fields, Newry, Appendix 2, to be deferred until Council arrange to meet with the Rugby Club and DEA Councillors in relation to the NIE request and bring back to a future Strategy Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

**SPR/142/2021: REVISED RISK POLICY AND STRATEGY**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding, Revised Risk Policy and Strategy  
**(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, 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 Taylor it was agreed that Elected Members approve the Risk Policy and Risk Strategy as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

**SPR/143/2021: DEBT WRITE OFF AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr G Byrne, Assistant Director of Finance (Acting) regarding, Debt Write Off 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021  
**(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Magennis It was agreed that Elected Members approve the bad debt write-off for the year ending 31 March 2021 as detailed in the officer's report.

**SPR/144/2021: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mr M Ward, Chief Executive, regarding Neighbourhood Services. **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, 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 approve the engagement of the SIB advisor on the terms set out within the report.

**SPR/145/2021: REVIEW OF TEMPORARY CONTRACTS**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Review of Temporary Contracts. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, It was agreed that Elected Members approve the following Recommendations:

- That Members support the approach set out within the report which will result in a number of temporary arrangements being confirmed as permanent. These principles will extend and apply as appropriate, to any temporary contracts post the April 2021 data.
- That Members confirm their agreement to designate the 25 posts identified on Appendix 1, as 'Permanent subject to funding' and that going forward, when entering into funded arrangements which include the employment of staff, that an assessment is made as to whether such posts should be regarded as 'Temporary', 'Fixed-Term' or as 'Permanent subject to funding'; on the same basis.

**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/146/2021:            STRATEGIC FINANCE WORKING GROUP ACTION SHEET**  
**– 27 AUGUST 2021**

**Read:** Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet held on 27 August 2021.  
**(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, 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 Murphy, It was agreed to note the Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 27 August 2021.

**FOR NOTING**

**SPR/147/2021:            MINUTES OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME**  
**BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2021 & 24 JUNE 2021**

**Read:** Minutes of Newry City Regeneration Programme Board Meeting –20 May 2021 and 24 June 2021. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Savage requested that the two Newry Councillors who are not on the project board be invited to the Albert Basin Park next steps meeting as guests. The Chairperson noted Councillor Savage's request and asked that he speak with the Director and the Co-Chair's of the programme board directly regarding the matter.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, It was agreed to note the minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Meeting held on 20 May 2021 and 24 June 2021.

**SPR/148/2021:            FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT FOR CIVIL CONTINGENCIES**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, regarding Framework Document for Civil Contingencies Northern Ireland **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

**SPR/149/2021:            SICKNESS ABSENCE**

**Read:** Report dated 16 September 2021 from Mrs L Fitzsimons, HR Manager, regarding Sickness Absence **(Copy circulated)**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 19.34pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

**Signed:**            **Councillor Oonagh Hanlon**  
                         **Chairperson**

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