

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 September 2021 at 1.00pm via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)

In the Chair: Councillor O Hanlon (Chamber)

In Attendance in Chamber: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor W Walker

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor R Howell
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor J Tinnelly

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor V Harte
Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor H McKee
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor J Trainor
Councillor G Stokes

Officials in Attendance

In Chamber: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr C Mallon, Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and Events
Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal Administration (Acting)
Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director
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
Mr J McBride, Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mrs C Hanvey, Personal Assistant

Also in Attendance: Mr J Walsh, Belfast City Council
Ms C Hagan, ASM
Mr R Moore, Deloitte
Mr T Morrison, Otium Leisure Consultancy
Ms A Keenan, Otium Leisure Consultancy

SPR/150/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

SPR/151/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

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 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.

FOR NOTING –

SPR/152/2021: REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE – GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF NEWRY CITY CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mrs D Carville, Director Corporate Services regarding report from Audit Committee – Governance Review of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, Elected Members agreed to note the Report and the findings of Appendices 1 and 2.

FOR DECISION

SPR/153/2021: BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL OUTLINE BUSINESS CASES

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive regarding, Belfast Region City Deal Outline Business Case. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Brown proposed that '£10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert Basin Park project. This would ensure delivery of phase 1 of the park in this term and would also greatly assist in drawing down external funding for the park'. His proposal was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

Following advices, it was acknowledged that this could only be an agreement 'in principle' subject to a report being brought back to committee with proper due diligence being carried out.

Councillor Brown agreed to amend his proposal, proposing that '£10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert Basin Park project, acknowledging the advices provided'. This was seconded by Councillor Tinnelly.

The Chairperson put Councillor Brown's proposal to a recorded vote the results of which were as follows: (copy appended to these minutes)

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 10
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was LOST

Councillor Byrne proposed that the wording 'including site selection and finances' be added to the officer's recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Savage.

The Chairperson put Councillor Byrne's proposal to a recorded vote the results of which were as follows: (copy of which is appended to these minutes)

FOR: 10
AGAINST: 2
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was CARRIED

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

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

To consider the contents of the report and approve the inclusion of the adjusted financial estimates for the NCCR and Mourne Mountains Gateway Project within the Belfast Regional City Deal Document.

The Belfast Regional City Deal Document will be tabled through the Council structures at an appropriate meeting in Council in October 2021.

All projects within the Belfast Regional City Deal proposition are at Outline Business Case stage and there remains scope within the development of these projects to consider and take actions deemed appropriate to matters as they arise including site selection and finances.

The Belfast Regional City Deal proposition includes the following infrastructure projects specific to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area:

- **Southern Relief Road**

- Gateway to the Mournes
- Newry City Regeneration Programme (Public Realm, Theatre Conference, Grade A Office Accommodation, Civic and Regional Hub)
- Digital and Innovation Hub

A fund of £132.4m for the Newry, Mourne and Down Region will be supported by Council contributions.

SPR/154/2021: ALBERT BASIN CITY PARK

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities, regarding Albert Basin City Park **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne, 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:**

- **To complete a business case to allow for: the appointment of an economist to complete an outline business case (OBC) for the Albert Basin City Park, to identify a preferred option and appoint a consultant team to provide design and cost information to support the completion of the OBC.**
- **That detailed costs, concept design and timeline be tabled at the Strategy Policy and Resources in October 2021.**
- **Tetrattech be appointed to carry out a mapping exercise on the Albert Basin site and that a site visit to Haulbowline Park in Cork for the Programme Board members be arranged.**
- **That the detailed cost breakdown be sent to the members of the programme board in the strictest confidence.**
- **Note these cost estimates are commercially sensitive and not for further circulation.**

Councillor Walker left the meeting at this point - 14.35pm

FOR NOTING

SPR/155/2021: NEWRY CITY CENTRE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Read: Report dated 27 September 2021 from Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism regarding, Newry City Centre Regeneration Public Consultation. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillors Ó Muirí and Savage welcomed the report stating that the setting up of the working group was a hugely positive move and dispelled the narrative that the views of the public consultation were being ignored. They stated it would give the members of the community the opportunity to work with their elected representatives to have their views recognised through a partnership approach.

Councillor Tinnelly proposed that elected representatives accept the recommendations in 3.1 of the officer's report without recommendation 3.2, the setting up of a working group. This was seconded by Councillor Brown.

The Chief Executive advised that, following the programme board meeting it had been stated by all councillors that they considered the importance of giving due consideration to the consultation process. She stated that following discussions with the Department of Community representative, he had recommended it would be good practice to establish the working group to report back to the programme board.

The Chairperson put Councillor Tinnelly's proposal to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 2
AGAINST: 9
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The proposal was LOST

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage, it was agreed that Elected Members:

- Note the report, the findings of the public consultation, the recommendation contained therein and the presentation included in Appendix 1 and the report in Appendix 2.**
- And note that officers will establish a working group to consider the public consultation report in detail and how the Council should respond to the comments and report back to the Programme Board. The working group will include representatives from the Council's Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Directorate; Community Relations Team (DEA); Planning Team; the Communities and the Department for Infrastructure.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 14.43pm.

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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 27/09/2021 VENUE: Mourne Room Downshire/Hybrid MEETING: SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Cllr Brown's proposal - that £10.6m be taken out of the capital programme allocation for the civic centre and put towards the Albert basin park project.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown	X			
P Byrne		X		
S Doran				<u>X</u>
H Gallagher				X
O Hanlon		X		
R Howell		X		
O Magennis		X		
D Murphy		X		
B Ó Muíri		X		
H Reilly				X
M Savage		X		
G Sharvin		X		
D Taylor		X		
J Tinnelly	X			
W Walker		X		
TOTALS	2	10	0	3

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 27/09/2021 VENUE: Mourne Room Downshire/Hybrid MEETING: SPR Committee

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Cllr Byrne's proposal - that the wording 'including site selection and finances' be added to the officer's recommendation

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
P Brown		X		
P Byrne	X			
S Doran				<u>X</u>
H Gallagher				X
O Hanlon	X			
R Howell	X			
O Magennis	X			
D Murphy	X			
B Ó Muíri	X			
H Reilly				X
M Savage	X			
G Sharvin	X			
D Taylor	X			
J Tinnelly		X		
W Walker	X			
TOTALS	10	2	0	3