

October 17th, 2024

## Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, 17th October 2024 at 6:00 pm in Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre.

### **Committee Membership 2024-2025**

Councillor T Howie **Chairperson**

Councillor C King **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor D McAteer

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Rice

Councillor G Sharvin

Councillor D Taylor

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet arising from Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2024

 *SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2024 09 12.pdf*

*Page 1*


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### *For Consideration and/or Decision*

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## 4.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Good Relations

*For Decision*

 *Officer report on Notice of Motion - Good Relations.pdf*

*Page 5*

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### *Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014*

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## 5.0 Sustainability and Environment – Resources Report

*For Decision*

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

 *SPR Committee Report - SE Resources - 17.10.24.pdf*

*Not included*

## 6.0 Contractor Procurement & Appointment

*For Decision*

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

 *Contractor Procurement & Appointment*

*Not included*

## 7.0 Consultant Fees Report

*For Decision*

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


 **Consultant Fees Report**

**Not included**

## 8.0 Mourne Mountain Gateway Project

*For Decision*

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

 **SPR - MMGP 17 10 24 (002) (002).pdf**

**Not included**

## 9.0 AHC Capital Budget Requirement

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

 **SPR - Capital Budget Requirement.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 1 - Capital Budget Requirement.pdf**

**Not included**

## 10.0 Financial Assistance

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

 **SPR - Financial Assistance.pdf**

**Not included**

 **Appendix 1 - Financial Assistance.pdf**

**Not included**

## 11.0 Approval of Tender Award and Funding Applications

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

 **SPR - Approval of Tender Award and funding applications.pdf**

**Not included**

## **12.0 Funding to Sports Club**

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

 **SPR - Funding to Sports Club**

**Not included**

## **13.0 Surplus Asset Report**

*For Decision*

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

 **SPR - Surplus Asset Report.pdf**

**Not included**

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***FOR NOTING Items deemed to be exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014***

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## **14.0 Minutes of Strategic Finance Working Group held 10 October 2024**

*For Information*

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

 **SFWG Minutes - 10.10.24 (003).pdf**

**Not included**

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***For Noting***

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## **15.0 Statutory Reporting: Section 75 Policy Screening Report for Quarterly Period July - September 2024**



# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Cllr Pete Byrne

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Aoife Finnegan

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Catherine Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Mr Colin Moffett

Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston

Cllr Declan Murphy  
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Sinead Murphy  
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Cllr Kate Murphy  
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Cllr Selina Murphy  
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare  
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Mr Andy Patterson  
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Cllr Áine Quinn  
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Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Rice  
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Ms Alison Robb  
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Mr Peter Rooney  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin  
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Donna Starkey  
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Nicola Stranney  
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Sarah Taggart  
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Cllr David Taylor  
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
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Cllr Jill Truesdale  
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Mrs Marie Ward  
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Mr Conor Woods  
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Cllr Helena Young  
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| <b><u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u></b>         |   |  |           |  |   |
|---|---|--|-----------|--|---|
| <b><u>Thursday 18 April 2024</u></b>  |   |  |           |  |   |
| SPR/056/2024  | Notice of Motion – Ethical Procurement                | It was agreed that NMD Council affirms to consider a section under ethical procurement and will review the Council's tender process<br>It was also agreed this item remain on the action sheet until such time as new Policies were forthcoming to Committee   | J Kelly   | Procurement Policy is being updated with new legislation. Report to be brought back to SP & R in due course. | N |
| <b><u>ACTION SHEET – SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u></b> |   |  |           |  |   |
| <b><u>Thursday 30 June 2024</u></b>   |   |  |           |  |   |
| SPR/090/2024  | Financial Assistance Programme                        | Officers will table a report at SPR Committee on the implications across Directorates  | J Kelly   | Report to be tabled at SPR Committee in due course   | N |
| <b><u>ACTION SHEET –STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u></b>          |   |  |           |  |   |
| <b><u>Thursday 15 August 2024</u></b>   |   |  |           |  |   |
| SPR/111/2024  | Newry, Mourne & Down DC Corporate Plan 2024 – 2027    | It was also agreed that the LDP amendment be brought back to the relevant Committee.   | L Jackson | Ongoing  | N |
| <b><u>ACTION SHEET –STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u></b>          |   |  |           |  |   |
| <b><u>Thursday 12 September 2024</u></b>  |   |  |           |  |   |
| SPR/138/2024  | Action sheet arising from SPR meeting held 15.08.2024 | It was agreed to note the action sheet   | J Kelly   | Noted  | Y |
| SPR/139/2024  | Action sheet arising from Special SPR held 27.08.2024 | It was agreed to note the action sheet   | J Kelly   | Noted  | Y |
| SPR/140/2024  | Assessment of Performance                             | The following was agreed:<br>- The assessment performance 2023-24, including the summary document out performance looking back going forward<br>- That the assessment of performance 2023-24 is published by 30 Sept 2024, before full Council ratification, in order to meet the statutory deadline | G Byrne   | Agreed   | Y |
| SPR/141/2024  | Council Remote / Hybrid Meetings                      | The following was agreed:<br>- Statutory meetings (Council, ERT, SPR, AHC, S&E, Audit and Special Council) to have physical attendance in respective chambers, except in exceptional circumstances. Non-statutory meetings to  | J Kelly   | Agreed   | Y |



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|              |   | <p>continue to be held remotely or in a hybrid manner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speaking rights of those delegates within the chamber be exhausted prior to taking queries from any remote delegates in order to make the meeting more manageable for Chairpersons</li> </ul>   |             |                 |          |
| SPR/142/2024 | Operation and Support of Audio-Visual Solutions | It was agreed to approve the development of a business case supporting the appointment of an IT resource to manage, operate and support the solutions and their users, as well as other audio-visual solutions deployed across Council buildings.  | J Kelly     | <b>Agreed</b>   | <b>Y</b> |
| SPR/143/2024 | STA Approval                                    | It was agreed to approve the STA as outlined within the Officer's Report.  | A Patterson | <b>Agreed</b>   | <b>Y</b> |
| SPR/144/2024 | Tender of Postal Services                       | It was agreed to approve the full business case for the tender of postal services as outlined at Appendix A of the Officer's Report and tender for Council's main collection and sorting mail service using a Postal Services Framework Agreement available to all public sector bodies. It was further agreed that the contract award be for a period of 3 years. | J Kelly     | <b>Agreed</b>   | <b>Y</b> |
| SPR/145/2024 | Insurance Premiums                              | It was agreed to note the additional spend for insurance premiums for 2024/25 and subsequent additional payments / year-end adjustments to date  | S Murphy    | <b>Agreed</b>   | <b>Y</b> |
| SPR/146/2024 | Funding Application                             | It was agreed that Council officers prepare a funding submission to MHCLG and associated business case for projects under the themes set out in Section 2 of the Officer's Report that meet the eligibility criterion and be delivered by March 25.  | C Mallon    | <b>Agreed</b>   | <b>Y</b> |
| SPR/147/2024 | Multiply Funding                                | It was agreed to approve the attached business case for the appointment of a delivery agent to undertake business numeracy initiatives   | C Mallon    | <b>Approved</b> | <b>Y</b> |
| SPR/148/2024 | Public Right of Way                             | It was agreed to approve the decision that 'subsequent to investigation and legal opinion, Council do not assert that the path shown in Appendix 1 as a public right of way' and to notify all landowners and interested parties of this decision  | P Rooney    | <b>Agreed</b>   | <b>Y</b> |
| SPR/149/2024 | Contractor Appointment and Procurement          | It was agreed to commence procurement and appointment of a contractor to complete the  | C Boyd      | <b>Agreed</b>   | <b>Y</b> |

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|              |   | upgrades to infrastructure and services outlined in section 2 of the officer's report  |             |               |   |
| SPR/150/2024 | Contractor Procurement and Appointment                      | It was agreed to award the contract for site investigation works as outlined within the Officer's Report   | A Patterson | <b>Agreed</b> | Y |
| SPR/151/2024 | Acquisition of Land   | It was agreed to approve the purchase of lands from the landowners noted within the Officer's Report at the purchase value quoted, subject to contract and conclusion of legal process.  | P Rooney    | <b>Agreed</b> | Y |
| SPR/152/2024 | Planning Department Update                                  | The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To note the contents of the report and the proposed additional performance improvement actions</li> <li>- To approve the appointment of additional planning officers from a reserve list following the current recruitment exercise</li> <li>- To approve the additional budget allocation as set out in Section 4.1 of the Officer's Report</li> </ul> | J McGilly   | <b>Agreed</b> | Y |
| SPR/153/2024 | Enhanced Flood Scheme Update                                | The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That Members agree to notify DfE of Council's intention to close the scheme to further applications or letters of offer on 7 November 2024</li> <li>- That Members agree the proposed themes to be recommended to DfE for unallocated budget.</li> </ul>  | C Mallon    | <b>Agreed</b> | Y |
| SPR/154/2024 | Report from Minutes of NCCR Programme board held 04/06/2024 | It was agreed to note the report   | C Mallon    | <b>Noted</b>  | Y |
| SPR/155/2024 | Minutes from NCCR Programme Board meeting held 04/06/2024   | It was agreed to note the minutes  | C Mallon    | <b>Noted</b>  | Y |
| SPR/156/2024 | Minutes of Women's Working Group meeting held 22/08/2024    | It was agreed to note the minutes  | J Kelly     | <b>Noted</b>  | Y |
| SPR/157/2024 | NILGA Regional Programme                                    | It was agreed to note the NILGA regional programme for Councillor Development 2024-25  | J Kelly     | <b>Noted</b>  | Y |
| END          |   |  |             |               |   |



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| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee   |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | 17 October 2024  |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Officer report on Notice of Motion – Good Relations  |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy  |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy<br>Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer |

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

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| <b>For decision</b> | <b>X</b> | <b>For noting only</b> |  |
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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background</b>   |
| 1.1        | <p>The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Truesdale, tabled for consideration at the Council Meeting on 2 September 2024, was referred to the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6:</p> <p><u>Notice of Motion – Good Relations</u></p> <p><i>"That this is Council recognises the vital role of Good Relations programmes in supporting reconciliation in a society recovering from conflict, bringing communities together, creating shared spaces, challenging sectarian, racism and other forms of prejudice, and promoting respect for all cultural identities; strongly condemns the recent violence and targeting of businesses; encourages greater support and investment for sporting and cultural events as a mechanism for uniting local communities; registers its disappointment that an enhanced and fully-funded regional Good Relations Strategy has not been prioritised since the restoration of the NI Assembly; further records its disappointment that the reduction in good relations funding granted in 2023/24 to Councils by The Executive Office has not been reinstated to previous levels; and requests a review from Officers of the progress and future opportunities available to enhance Good Relations programmes in [council area] to be completed within 6 months".</i></p> <p>The Notice of Motion was discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 26 September 2024.</p> |
|            | <b>Key issues</b>   |
| 2.1        | <p>Following Councillor Truesdale's presentation of the Notice of Motion, discussion with members centred upon the ongoing Good Relations work within the Newry, Mourne and Down District.</p> <p>Martina Flynn, Acting Head of Engagement outlined the impact of the reduction of funding received from the Executive Office over the previous two years. She also advised that although there had been a reduction in the financial support for the District Council Good Relations Programme provided by The Executive Office, Council Officers had continued to prioritise work to enable Council meet the targets and activities detailed within the Council's</p>   |



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|            | <p>Good Relation Plan and highlighted some of the work undertaken. It was noted that the Council's St Patrick's day events received a reduced contribution from the Good Relations funding allocation during this timeframe.</p> <p>All those in attendance acknowledged the work being undertaken by Officers and the importance of the financial support from The Executive Office to maintain good relations programmes and initiatives, and it was agreed the Notice of Motion be amended and Council to highlight their concerns regarding the funding cuts by The Executive Office.</p>   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 3.1        | <p>Members of the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group recommended the following for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To amend the notice of motion which was considered and discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 26 September 2024 to read as                     <p><i>"That this is Council recognises the vital role of Good Relations programmes in supporting reconciliation in a society recovering from conflict, bringing communities together, creating shared spaces, challenging sectarian, racism and other forms of prejudice, and promoting respect for all cultural identities; strongly condemns the recent violence and targeting of businesses; encourages greater support and investment for sporting and cultural events as a mechanism for uniting local communities; registers its disappointment that an enhanced and fully-funded regional Good Relations Strategy has not been prioritised since the restoration of the NI Assembly; further records its disappointment that the reduction in good relations funding granted in 2023/24 to Councils by The Executive Office has not been reinstated to previous levels.</i></p> </li> <li>2. That Council respond to the 'Consultation on the Executive Office budget allocation 2024-2025' outlining the concerns raised in the above Notice of Motion.</li> </ol> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>  |
| 4.1        | Further reduction of The Executive Office's financial support to Council could negatively impact future Good Relations activity within the District Council area.   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>  |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input type="checkbox"/></p>  |
| 5.2        | <p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  |

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|     | <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>  |
| 5.3 | <p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p> |
| 6.0 | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>   |
| 6.1 | <p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>  |
| 7.0 | <b>Appendices</b>   |
|     | N/A   |
| 8.0 | <b>Background Documents</b>   |
|     | N/A   |

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee   |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>   | 17 October 2024  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2024 |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy  |
| <b>Contact Officers:</b>  | Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer  |

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

|                     |                          |                        |                                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>For decision</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>For noting only</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background</b>  |
| 1.1        | <p>In line with Council’s Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly.</p> <p>The Quarterly Policy Screening Report for the period July – September 2024, including screening reports, is available on Council’s website <a href="https://www.newrymournedown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality">https://www.newrymournedown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality</a>. This information has also been forwarded to our equality consultees.</p> |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Key issues</b>  |
| 2.1        | <p>As per the Council’s approved Equality Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All policies Council proposes to adopt must be equality screened, prior to implementation, to assess the likely impact of the policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations.</li> <li>• Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council’s website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 3.1        | To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2024.  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>   |
| 4.1        | No financial or resources implications are anticipated.  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>   |
| 5.1        | <i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>   |

|     |  |
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|     | <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>   |
| 5.2 | <p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| 5.3 | <p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>  |
| 6.0 | <p><b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b></p>   |
| 6.1 | <p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>   |
| 7.0 | <p><b>Appendices</b></p>   |
|     | <p>Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2024.</p>   |
| 8.0 | <p><b>Background Documents</b></p>   |



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|  |  |
|  | Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme. |