

April 16th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, 17th April 2025 at 6:00 pm in Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre.

Committee Membership 2024-2025

Councillor T Howie **Chairperson**

Councillor C King **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor C Bowsie

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor C Enright

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor M Hearty

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 13 and 24 March 2025

For Approval

 *SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2025 03 24.pdf*

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Newcastle Lifeboat Station

For Decision

 *Officer report on Notice of Motion - Newcastle Lifeboat Station.pdf*

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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

5.0 NCCR Full Business Case

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 Report NCCR Full Business Case.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 1 Full Business Case.pdf*

Not included



 *Appendix 2 Minutes of Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme Board Mtg - 28.03.2025.pdf*

Not included

6.0 Licence at Down Leisure Centre

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 17 Apr 2025 Licence of Land at Down Leisure Centre.pdf	Not included
 Final Licene Map.pdf	Not included

7.0 Renewal of Licence at Castle Park, Newcastle



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 Apr 17 2025 Renewal of Licence at Castle Park Newcastle.pdf	Not included
 Licence Map Castle Park.pdf	Not included

8.0 Request to Purchase Land at Newtowncloghoge

For Decision

 SPR 17 Apr 2025 Request to Purchase Portion of Land at Newtowncloghoge.pdf	Not included
 NM208-G-1-10 Map.pdf	Not included

9.0 Surrender of Lease for Substation at Albert Basin

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 17 Apr 2025 Surrender of Lease for Sub-Station.pdf	Not included
 Map of Substation.pdf	Not included

10.0 Surrender of Lease at Bog Road, Forkhill

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 17 Apr 2025 Surrender of Lease at Bog Road Forkhill - Copy.pdf	Not included
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11.0 Lease at Carrigenagh Rd Kilkeel

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 17 Apr 2025 Lease of Lands at Carragenagh Road Kilkeel.pdf**

Not included

 **Map of Land at Carrigenagh Road Kilkeel.pdf**

Not included

12.0 Funded Programmes - Project Support Worker

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.

 **Funded Programmes - Project Support Worker.pdf**

Not included

13.0 Pay Protection Arrangements

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 Pay Protection Arrangements.pdf**

Not included

 **Appendix 1 - Business Case.pdf**

Not included

14.0 NLHF Castlewellan Forest Park

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 NLHF Castlewellan Forest Park.pdf**

Not included

15.0 Direct Award Contract

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 Report - DAC paper.pdf**

Not included

 **2025 DAC.pdf**

Not included

For Noting


16.0 Communication from Department for Communities

For Information

 **LG Director to CEOs UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE ROLES
RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILLORS March 2025.pdf**

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17.0 Annual report for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 on requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property

 **Annual report for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 on requests related to
naming Council facilities planting trees and to.pdf**

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18.0 Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2025

 **Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for
period January March 2025.pdf**

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 **Appendix I - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period
January March 2025.pdf**

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

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 Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Marina Hughes

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

Cllr Andrew McMurray

Mr Colin Moffett

Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston

Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Sinead 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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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
.....
Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Mr Conor Woods
.....
Cllr Helena Young
.....

<u>Minute Ref</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Actions taken / progress to date</u>	<u>Remove from Action Sheet? Y/N</u>
<u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u>					
<u>Thursday 18 April 2024</u>					
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 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. Tabled at March SPR Committee	Y
<u>ACTION SHEET –STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u>					
<u>Thursday 13 March 2025</u>					
SPR/028/2025	Action sheet of meeting held 13/02/25	It was agreed to approve the action sheet	J Kelly	Approved	Y
SPR/029/2025	Draft performance improvement objectives 25/26	it was agreed to approve: -The five draft performance improvement objectives 2025-26, as outlined in Appendix 1 -The proposed approach and timetable for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2025-26, as outlined in Appendix 2, including approval to commence the consultation and engagement process on 14 March 2025	G Byrne	Agreed	Y
SPR/030/2025	Procurement Policy	it was agreed to approve the updated Procurement Policy and to note the legislative updates contained within the report	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/031/2025	Land at Daisy Hill, Newry	it was agreed to sell the lands hatched blue on the map attached to the Officer's Report to the party identified within the report for the market value	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/032/2025	License of Lands at Donard Park, Newcastle	the following was agreed: •To grant a licence in respect of the new 3G pitch at Donard Park, Newcastle as outlined in green on the map attached to this report for a licence period of 25 years with the party identified in the Officer's Report subject to the market value licence fee set out in this report. • To grant a licence in respect of the placement of a container at Donard Park, Newcastle for a licence period of 5 years with the party identified in the officer's report at a peppercorn licence fee subject to Departmental consent.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y

SPR/033/2025	Renewal of Lease of Lands adjacent to Kilkeel Leisure Centre	it was agreed to grant a further lease in respect of the lands shaded red to the party noted within the report for a period of twenty-five years at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/034/2025	Renewal of license at Council Depot, Kilkeel	it was agreed to enter into a further five-year licence agreement in respect of the Lands as shown outlined in red on the plan attached to the Officer's Report with the party identified at a peppercorn licence fee subject to Departmental Consent.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/035/2025	Lease of building & Lands at Annalong Marine Park	it was agreed to enter into a lease variation with the existing tenant named in the officers report, to extend the term of the existing lease by 20 years, to extend the leased area to include the area outlined in green on the map attached to the Officer's Report at a peppercorn rent subject to Departmental Consent	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/036/2025	Lease of Lands at Kiltybane Newry	it was agreed to enter into a further lease with the party named within the Officers Report for a term of 25 years and to move forward on the basis of <u>option a</u> as outlined in section 2.3 in the Officer's Report.	P Rooney	Agreed	Y
SPR/037/2025	Direct Award Contract	it was agreed to approve the recommendations contained within the Officer's Report.	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/038/2025	AHC Facility Lease	it was agreed to approve the updated lease arrangements as detailed in the Officer's Report.	A Patterson	Agreed	Y
SPR/039/2025	Sale of Land, Newry	it was agreed to accept the current offer and move to sale agreed	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/040/2025	NMDDC LGSC Contributions	it was agreed to approve the payment from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the period April 25 – March 26.	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/041/2025	Clearance Works – Castlewellan Arboretum & Annesley Garden – NLHF Project	it was agreed to approve a compensation event to the contractor to undertake clearance works necessary to enable the contractor to continue with the relevant contract works	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/042/2025	Postal Services Contract	it was agreed to note the extension and Tender of Postal Services for Council's main collection and sorting mail service using a Postal Services Framework Agreement available to public sector bodies	J Kelly	Agreed	Y

SPR/043/2025	Management Accounts	it was agreed to note the quarter three 2024/25 Management Accounts.	G Byrne	Agreed	Y
SPR/044/2025	DAERA Project – Castlewella	it was agreed to accept the recommendations of the Officer's Report	J Kelly	Agreed	Y
SPR/045/2025	Minutes of NCCR Programme board meeting of 6.12.24	It was agreed to note the minutes	J Kelly	Noted	Y
SPR/046/2025	Minutes of Womens Working Group held 16/01/25	It was agreed to note the minutes	J Kelly	Noted	Y
<u>ACTION SHEET –SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u> <u>Monday 24 March 2025</u>					
SPR/049/2025	NCCR Overview	It was agreed that discussion on Item 4 – NCCR Full Business Case be adjourned to a Special Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee meeting to be held 3 April 2025.	C Mallon	Tabled at April SPR Committee	Y
SPR/050/2025	Procurement Strategy for Warrenpoint Wellbeing Hub	It was agreed to proceed with the procurement strategy and change in design team as detailed within the Officer's Report	A Patterson	Agreed	Y
SPR/051/2025	Residual Waste Contract	It was agreed to approve the extension of the Contract for the Treatment of Residual Waste with the current contractor from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026	S Murphy	Agreed	Y

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 April 2025
Subject:	Officer report on Notice of Motion: Newcastle Lifeboat Station
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Carol McClean, Assistant Director Legal & People
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<p>The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Clarke, tabled for consideration at Council Meeting on 3 March 2025, was referred to the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6:</p> <p><u>C/041/2025 Notice of Motion: Newcastle Lifeboat Station</u></p> <p><i>"The Newcastle Lifeboat Station, established in 1825, has been a cornerstone of maritime safety in South Down for two centuries. The station has played a pivotal role in saving countless lives and supporting the wellbeing of sea farers in our community. This year is the 200th anniversary of its formation, it is fitting that we, as a council, formally recognise and celebrate this significant milestone".</i></p> <p>The Notice of Motion was discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 26 March 2025.</p>
	Key issues
2.1	<p>During discussion at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relation Reference Group Members present were supportive of the Notice of Motion and acknowledged important role played by all those that have served at Newcastle Lifeboat Station.</p> <p>It was the consensus of Members present to recommend Council give consideration to approving an appropriate planting scheme within Newcastle and that the Museum's Section suitably recognise the anniversary.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>To note the notice of motion has been considered and discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 26 March 2025 and that members of the Reference Group were supportive of the notice of motion, and it was the consensus of Members present to recommend Council give consideration to approving an appropriate planting scheme within Newcastle and that the Museum's Section suitably recognise the anniversary.</p>

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Resource implications associated with an appropriate planting scheme and actions undertaken by the Council's Museum Section to recognise the anniversary.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <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><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
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>

	<div>If yes, please complete the following:</div> <div>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed<div></div></div>
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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Commonities

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From: Gerard Murray

Level 8
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BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028 90 829307

E-mail: gerard.murray@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref:
Date: 27 March 2025

Dear Chief Executive

UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILLORS

The Review of the Role and Responsibilities of Councillors concluded on 16 August 2024. The Minister received a copy of the report on 26 September 2024 and asked officials to consider the report carefully, and to provide him with advice on any potential cost and legislative implications of each of the recommendations which were made.

The Minister has now considered this advice and each of the recommendations in the report. The report will be published shortly on the Department's website along with a summary of the Department's response. I am writing to you now to advise that the Minister has, with Executive agreement, decided to increase the Basic Allowance for members by 5% from 1 April 2025. This would bring the maximum basic allowance to £18,329 (this includes the allowance for incidentals and consumables). Associated with this, the Minister has also decided, again with Executive agreement, to amend the legislation to transfer responsibility for setting the amount of the basic allowance actually paid to councillors from councils to DfC. However, as this will require primary legislation, this may take some time to implement.

A Local Government Circular on this issue will follow shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Director of Local Government & Housing Regulation

cc. Council Finance Officers

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 April 2025
Subject:	Annual report for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 on requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property
Reporting Officer:	Carol McClean, Assistant Director Legal and People
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

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

For decision

For noting only

X

1.0	Purpose and Background								
1.1	<p>Requests related to naming Council facilities, planting trees and to locate artworks/sculptures on Council property fall within the scope of the following Council policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy on naming Council facilities• Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property• Policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property <p>Applications are administered as per each policy’s specific agreed guidelines and associated procedure.</p>								
1.2	<p>During the reporting period Council received seven applications; two related to the policy on naming Council facilities, two related to the policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property and three related to the policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property.</p>								
1.3	<p>The following table sets out details related to the applications received and considered during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025:</p> <table><tr><th>Applicant</th><th>Relevant Policy</th><th>Detail of request</th><th>Decision</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Policy on naming Council facilities</td><td>Request to install a granite bench at Sheepland Harbour</td><td>Unable to consider the request based on the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scope of Council’s policy and procedures only applies to requests related to Council property.• The proposed location of the</td></tr></table>	Applicant	Relevant Policy	Detail of request	Decision	1	Policy on naming Council facilities	Request to install a granite bench at Sheepland Harbour	Unable to consider the request based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scope of Council’s policy and procedures only applies to requests related to Council property.• The proposed location of the
Applicant	Relevant Policy	Detail of request	Decision						
1	Policy on naming Council facilities	Request to install a granite bench at Sheepland Harbour	Unable to consider the request based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scope of Council’s policy and procedures only applies to requests related to Council property.• The proposed location of the						

				granite bench was not Council property.
	2	Policy on naming Council facilities	Application for Commemorative Plaque at Shore Road, Rostrevor to mark the Bi-Centenary of Haulbowline Lighthouse and reflect on two historical events that took place in 1941. (one of which was the death of Lieutenant Michael McLoughlin)	<p>Approved subject to the condition that the information panel should not reference the death of Lieutenant McLoughlin.</p> <p>The decision was based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Council's Policy on Naming Council facilities, Council does not accept requests to memorialise a deceased person (or family).
	3	Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property	Request to plant a tree in Castlewellan Park to recognise an 80 th birthday.	Approved
	4	Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property	Request to plant a tree in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor as a living memory to an individual.	Approved
	5	Policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property	Application to place an artwork comprising three old window frames, each with six glass panes from a listed heritage building in Saintfield in the foyer of Saintfield Community Centre.	Approved

	6	Policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property	Request to place a 3ft Lighthouse sculpture on Carlingford Lough Greenway.	Approved
	7	Policy on new Artworks/Sculptures on Council property	Application to paint a mural in Newtownhamilton Community Centre	Refused based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment panel determined that it would not be appropriate as the proposed location was a space available for groups and organisations to hire to host activities, events and meetings and therefore should remain as is.
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	No issues have been identified.			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	Members are asked to note Annual report for the 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 period on requests related to naming Council facilities, plant trees and locate artworks/sculptures on Council property.			
4.0	Resource implications			
4.1	No financial or resource implications.			
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)			
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <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><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></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><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</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>Appendices</p>
	<p>N/A</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 April 2025
Subject:	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2025
Reporting Officer:	Carol McClean, Assistant Director Legal and People
Contact Officers:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose and Background
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 January – March 2025, including screening reports, is available on Council’s website https://www.newrymouredown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality. This information has also been forwarded to our equality consultees.</p>
2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>As per the Council’s approved Equality Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Council must publish quarterly reports on equality screening which are available on Council’s website and forwarded to equality scheme consultees.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2025.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)

5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <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><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></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><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></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>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</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>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period January – March 2025.</p>

8.0	Background Documents
	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme.

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report January – March 2025**

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
Carlingford Lough Greenway Scheme (Northern Section)	<p>The purpose of this Scheme is to complete the final 1.7km of Greenway between Victoria Lock and the Border, to help create an overall 20km Active Travel link between Newry and Carlingford. A combination of Gravel Pathway and Metal Piled Decking Boardwalk will be installed alongside the Fathom Line/Road.</p> <p>Its aim is to provide an active travel and recreational pathway along a very scenic and well known part of Carlingford Lough.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary
Church Street & De Courcy Place Public Realm Scheme	<p>The purpose of this Scheme is to provide urban environmental improvements, which will comprise of the installation of new paving and kerbing on the footways. New decorative street lighting, street furniture, tree planting and the under-grounding of overhead services are also proposed as part of the scheme.</p> <p>Its aim is to provide this physical regeneration investment into this historic part of Downpatrick.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary
NMDDC Planning Department Validation Checklist	<p>The validation checklist sets out revised procedures to be implemented to request additional information to make a planning application valid. The Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024 empowers councils to publish a Planning Application Validation Checklist that specifies the level of information/ evidence to be submitted with a planning application to make it a valid application.</p> <p>This will apply to all applications for full planning permission, outline planning permissions and the associated approval of reserved matters. This will</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

	<p>require all the necessary information/evidence that would previously have been submitted at various stages during the processing of planning applications to be submitted at the outset at validation stage. The legislation was made on 01 October 2024 by DfI and comes into operation on 01 April 2025.</p> <p>The purpose of the planning application validation checklist is to set out the necessary information/evidence required to make a planning application valid and ready for processing. The Validation Checklist sets out the information/evidence generally required at the outset when submitting a planning application to improve the quality of the planning applications submitted and ensure applications are complete and capable of being processed.</p> <p>This will enable the front-loaded planning application to be processed in a more efficient and effective manner, improving the processing times of planning applications by receiving fully informed quality planning applications at validation stage.</p> <p>The benefits of a validation checklist are generally set out as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it sets out the scope of information required at the outset to ensure a 'fit for purpose' application submission; • it minimises the potential for all the necessary information not being available to the planning authority to enable it to determine the application; • it minimises the need for further submissions of additional information during the lifetime of an application which avoids unnecessary delay in the determination of applications and reduces costs to councils through a reduction in re-advertisements and re-neighbour notification; • it provides applicants with certainty as to the level of information required and the likely overall investment needed prior to the application submission; and 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• it ensures that the appropriate information is provided with an application to assist interested parties, including consultees, in their consideration of development proposals.	
Decision not to agree to a request by a band to allow them to carry the four province's flags (Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht) at the St Patrick's Day Parade	Rules and Conditions of entry to the Parade is existing guidance. The Council's longstanding Rules and Conditions of Entry for parade participants states that in the interest of maintaining and enhancing good community relations, Council does not permit any Entrant to - (a) carry, wear or display flags, symbols, emblems, banners or any other material, (b) play music or (c) behave in a manner - which may (i) be considered inappropriate at a cross-community event such as the Parade, (ii) give cause for concern or (iii) bring the Parade and the Council's good name into disrepute.	No EQIA considered necessary