

January 16th, 2026

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 22nd January 2026 at 6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

**Committee Membership 2025-26**

Councillor O Hanlon **Chairperson**

Councillor D McAteer **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor P Byrne

Councillor C Enright

Councillor M Hearty

Councillor R Howell

Councillor T Howie

Councillor A King

Councillor C King

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Rice

Councillor D Taylor

# Agenda

## 1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held 11 December 2025

📎 *SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2025 12 11.pdf*

*Page 1*

---

### *For Discussion/Decision*

---

## 4.0 Regional Innovation Hub QUB MoU

*For Decision*

📎 *SPR Report - Regional Innovation Hub QUB MoU.pdf*

*Page 4*

## 5.0 DFI Greenways Offer of Funding

*For Decision*

📎 *SPR Report DfI Funding for 3 Greenways Jan 2026.pdf*

*Page 9*

---

### *Exempt Appendices*

---

### 5.1 Exempt Appendix for DFI Greenways Offer of Funding

*For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 *Restricted Business Case FCM pro forma for minor expenditure 2025\_0 NMDDC 04 Signed Copy.pdf*      *Not included*

---

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

---

## 6.0 DAERA Funding - Air Quality Monitoring Equipment

*For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 *SPR Committee Report Jan 26 - Air quality equipment grant.pdf*

*Not included*

## 7.0 Carlingford Greenway Final Funding Approval

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 **SPR Report January 2026\_Carlingford Lough Greenway\_Final Funding Approval.pdf**

**Not included**

📎 **CLG\_BC\_Update\_January 2026.pdf**

**Not included**

## 8.0 Donard Park Works

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

Report to Follow

## 9.0 Newry Leisure Centre Capital Works

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

Report to Follow

## 10.0 Annalong Community Centre – 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 (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 **SPR- Community Centre Works - 22.01.2026 - vf.pdf**

**Not included**

## 11.0 Kilkeel Town Hall

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 **SPR - Kilkeel Town Hall Disposal.pdf**

**Not included**

## 12.0 Collecting Together: Communities as Curators Project

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

SPR Report - Communities as Curators project.pdf

Not included

## 13.0 Peace Plus staff Recruitment

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

SPR Report - PeacePlus recruitment.pdf

Not included

## 14.0 Lease of the Generator House, Newcastle Harbour

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

SPR 22 JAN 26 Lease of The Generator House Newcastle Harbour.pdf

Not included

DDC152-G-1-10 - Lease Map.pdf

Not included

## 15.0 Renewal of Lease for Car Park at Greenbank, Newry

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

SPR 22 JAN 26 Renewal of Lease for Car Park at Greenbank Industrial Estate Newry.pdf

Not included

Lease Map car park Green bank.pdf

Not included

## 16.0 Surrender of Lease at Main Avenue, Newry

### *For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 **SPR 22 JAN 26 Surrender of Lease at Main Avenue Newry.pdf**

**Not included**

 **lease map Main Avenue.pdf**

**Not included**

## **17.0 Acquisition of Land at Camlough Lake**

*For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

Report to Follow

## **18.0 Extension of IT Contract**

*For Decision*

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

Report to Follow

---

### ***For Noting***

---

## **19.0 Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2025**

*For Information*

 **Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period October - December 2025.pdf**

**Page 12**

 **Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report for period October - December 2025.pdf**

**Page 15**

# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Ms Joanne Fleming

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Mr Conor Haughey

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Catherine Hughes

Ms Marina Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr Niall Lawlor

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Ms Carol McClean

Jonathan McGilly

Mr Martin McKibbin  
.....  
Mr Colin Moffett  
.....  
Cllr Selina Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Kate Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Declan Murphy  
.....  
Sinead Murphy  
.....  
Cllr Siobhan O'Hare  
.....  
Mr Andy Patterson  
.....  
Cllr Áine Quinn  
.....  
Cllr Henry Reilly  
.....  
Cllr Michael Rice  
.....  
Ms Alison Robb  
.....  
Mr Peter Rooney  
.....  
Cllr Michael Ruane  
.....  
Mr Conor Sage  
.....  
Mrs Amanda Smyth  
.....  
Donna Starkey  
.....  
Sarah Taggart  
.....  
Cllr David Taylor  
.....  
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly  
.....  
Ms Sinead Trainor  
.....  
Cllr Jill Truesdale  
.....  
Mrs Marie Ward  
.....  
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>
<b><u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u></b> <b><u>Thursday 14 August 2025</u></b>					
SPR/135/2025	Business Case – Residual Waste Contract	It was agreed that the requested rates per tonnage be brought back before Members as discussed.	S Murphy	<b>New rates not available until Procurement Process completed</b>	<b>N</b>
<b><u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u></b> <b><u>Thursday 13 November 2025</u></b>					
SPR/190/2025	Lease Arrangements – Delamont Country Park Caravan Park	It was agreed to defer the item to allow officers to bring further information on the proposed lease	C McClean	<b>Report to be brought back to SPR in due course</b>	<b>N</b>
<b><u>ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) –</u></b> <b><u>Thursday 11 December 2025</u></b>					
SPR/202/2025	Action sheet arising from SPR meeting held 13/11/25	It was agreed to note the action sheet	J Kelly	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/203/2025	Officer Report on NOM – Autism Friendly Towns	It was agreed to note that following discussion at the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group on 8 October, Members of the Reference Group were supportive of the Notice of Motion. Members agreed to progress the actions set out in the notice of motion, and consideration be given to the following: - Autism Initiative NI be contacted by the ERT Directorate to determine if there is updated training, guidance or funding for the Autism Friendly Towns Initiative. - The proposal to establish a Disability Forum be referred to the Community Planning Partnership for consideration.	C McClean	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/204/2025	Performance S95	the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessment Report 2025-26 was agreed.	G Byrne	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/205/2025	Car Parking Charges – St Patricks Day	it was agreed to designate St Patricks Day as a new, non-chargeable day for all Council operated pay-and-display off-street car parks, commencing 2026	C Sage	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/206/2025	Proposed Lease, Monaghan Row Newry	It was agreed to renew the lease at Monaghan Row until end of March 2026. It was also agreed that a Report is brought back to February SP&R	C McClean	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>



		Committee detailing options for relocation of staff going forward.			
SPR/207/2025	Capital Project Extension of Struell Cemetery	It was agreed to approve the recommendations contained within the business case as attached at Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.	C Sage	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/208/2025	Fleet Technology Business Case	It was agreed to approve the business case to procure Fleet Safety Technology systems for Council fleet as detailed within the Officer's Report. It was noted that Councillors had raised queries regarding discussions with Trade Unions with the agreement that a Report would be brought back prior to implementation.	C Sage	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/209/2025	Lands at Shrigley	It was agreed to approve the recommendation of the SFWG meeting held on 18 November 2025 to proceed with Option One as set out in the Officer's Report.	J Kelly	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/210/2025	Tyrella Beach Amenity Building	It was agreed to approve the additional spend as detailed within the Officer's Report and to update the Council's Capital Plan to reflect the change.	C Boyd	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/211/2025	Ballynahinch Square	It was agreed to accept the bid as outlined within the Officer's Report and proceed with the sale of the site.	C Boyd	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/212/2025	Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors Equality & Good Relations Reference Group	The revised Terms of Reference of the Councillors Equality & Good Relations Reference Group were agreed.	C McClean	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/213/2025	Prudential Indicators & Treasury Management Update Q2 2025/26	It was agreed to note the quarter 2 25/26 Prudential Indicator and Treasury Management update.	G Byrne	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/214/2025	Planning Update	It was agreed to note the update.	J McGilly	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
		It was also agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Executive to seek clarification on NI Water making unilateral decisions on planning grounds.	J McGilly	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>
SPR/215/2025	Letter from the Dept of Communities (SUB-0772-2025)	It was agreed to note the correspondence	J Kelly	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Y</b>



<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Regional Innovation Hub: QUB MoU
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Mallon Director: Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Amanda Smyth, Assistant Director: Economy, Growth & Tourism

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-			
<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To consider recommendations in section 3.1 of this report
1.2	<u>Background</u> A key pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) is investment that can accelerate growth in priority sectors such as life and health sciences, digital technologies, and advanced manufacturing. Within this programme, £30m has been dedicated to the creation of Regional Innovation Hubs.  As part of this initiative, NMDDC is progressing the development of a state-of-the-art Innovation Hub in Newry City, to be located within the new Civic & Regional Hub under the Newry City Centre Regeneration (NCCR) programme.
<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<b>Scope</b>  The Hub is being advanced to deliver the following strategic outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prime Strategic Location: Situated on the Dublin–Belfast Economic Corridor, Newry offers unrivalled cross-border connectivity, supporting collaboration with both UK and EU markets.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Regional Gateway for Innovation:</b> The Hub will act as a focal point for investment, talent retention and talent development. By creating opportunities for advanced skills and high-value jobs locally, it will help reduce outward migration to other cities, ensuring economic and knowledge growth within this region of Northern Ireland.</li> <li>• <b>Economic Driver:</b> The Hub will be a catalyst for entrepreneurship, promote the adoption of advanced technologies, and support skills development across the region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inclusive Regional Growth:</b> Expands opportunities for SMEs, start-ups and students, particularly in rural and border communities.</li> <li>• <b>Cross-Border Collaboration:</b> Strengthens partnerships with institutions and businesses in the Republic of Ireland, facilitating shared expertise and joint innovation activity.</li> <li>• <b>Job Creation &amp; Skills Development:</b> Establishes Newry as a centre for high-skilled employment and supports the Programme for Government's commitment to regional balance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected Impact of the Hub</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stimulate regional economic growth and attract increased private sector investment.</li> <li>• Create high-skilled employment opportunities and strengthen cross-border innovation partnerships.</li> <li>• Expand innovation capacity across the BRCD region and support the development of additional satellite innovation hubs and centres within NMDDC.</li> <li>• Improve market access for companies seeking to operate in both the UK and EU, while enhancing their ability to secure funding from BRCD, the UK Government and the Shared Island Fund.</li> <li>• Align with and advance the Council's digital transformation and innovation goals as outlined in corporate and departmental strategies.</li> </ul>
2.2	<p><b>Progress to Date:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formal Partnership Agreement:</b> NMDDC and Queen's University Belfast (QUB) are in the final stages of agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly develop and manage the Hub as part of the BRCD Digital Pillar.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This collaboration will introduce significant academic expertise to the region and create a foundation for securing innovation-focused funding. Through this partnership, the Hub will harness QUB's research capabilities, embedding specialist knowledge in Newry to strengthen cross-border collaboration and drive innovation-led activities.</li> <li>• Key functions in the MOU are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ promote further co-operation and collaboration between Queen's and NMDDC.</li> <li>◦ developing an approved business case for the Regional Innovation Hub project</li> <li>◦ Build a model for delivery of an innovation platform and lab with alignment to one or more Queen's-led innovation centres</li> <li>◦ To disseminate knowledge through joint publications, events, and outreach activities.</li> <li>◦ Establish a financially sustainable approach for implementing the model that is developed.</li> <li>◦ Identify the anticipated benefits of the proposed model and explore how they could be delivered in partnership</li> <li>◦ Collaborate to seek joint funding and capitalise on R&amp;D and skills opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Note:</p> <p>The Newry Civic and Regional Hub is subject to an application for a judicial review of the decision to grant planning approval and a court hearing is scheduled for the 12 March to determine if there is an arguable case for leave to be granted for the Judicial Review.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence development of the Outline Business Case. On completion of an OBC submission to BRCD Digital Advisory Board will be required for further consideration and assessment.</li> <li>• Continue engagement with academic, industry and regional stakeholders to develop tailored support programmes for businesses and innovators using the Hub to unlock future funding models.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	<p>It is recommended:</p> <p>To note the update on the development of a Regional Innovation Hub;</p>

3.2	To approve the establishment of a MOU with Queen's University, to promote further co-operation and collaboration between Queen's and NMDDC.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
	OBC development costs – identified within budgets
<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 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 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><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: N/A</i></p>

<b>6.0</b>	<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>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	n/a
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Background Documents</b>
	Queens and NMDDC MoU

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	DFI Greenways Offer of Funding
<b>Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Conor Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability
<b>Contact Officer (Including Job Title):</b>	Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability

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

<b>For decision</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>For noting only</b>	
---------------------	----------	------------------------	--

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose and Background</b>
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u> To seek approval for the recommendations as set out in Section 3.1</p>
1.2	<p><u>Background</u> In September The Department for Infrastructure (DFI) issued a call to Councils, for 50% funding for Greenway Projects to develop safer, cleaner active travel.</p> <p>Projects could potentially receive capital grant funding this financial year (2025/26) and next year (2026/27). This could be for a project where preliminary work and / or design work can commence during this financial year and the associated costs will be capitalised in the Council's accounts.</p> <p>Following an initial application from Council and successful Business Case submitted by Council being approved by DfI and CPD, the Department have now come back and confirmed an offer of 50% funding and work with Council on taking forward the proposed project of Feasibility and Design Work on 3 Greenways as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newry City to Poyntzpass Greenway (Newry Canal Towpath)</li> <li>- Downpatrick to Ardglass Greenway</li> <li>- Ballynahinch Spur Greenway (Between Saintfield and Ballynahinch)</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key issues</b>
2.1	<p>DFI has accepted and approved a Funding Application and Business Case from Council for the 3 Greenways project to deliver feasibility studies and Design work. DfI has provided a Letter of Offer for signing and acceptance for £180,000 funding which is 50% of the overall project costs. The Council is asked to approve 50% Match Funding from the Council's Capital Project budget for this project to proceed.</p>
2.2	<p>A portion of the funding (25% or £90,000) will be required from this year's budget and the remainder Match funding (25% or £90,000 will be required from next year's budget. Due to the uncertain timing around funding announcements from the Department, resources have not been allocated for this match funding in this year's budget.</p>



2.3	Approval is also sought from Council to appoint a Design Consultant via the Belfast City Deal Procurement Framework process. This approach has been approved by DfI and CPD.
2.4	The feasibility studies and design work in the projects will detail what can then be delivered, including onsite works or through further developmental studies and what is the likely cost of doing so.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
3.1	That Council approve capital match funding for this project with a contribution over 2 years including as set out in section 4.1
3.2	That Council accept the DfI Letter of Offer for the 3 projects: Newry to Poyntzpass Greenway (Newry Canal Towpath), Downpatrick to Ardglass Greenway and Ballynahinch Spur Greenway (Saintfield to Ballynahinch).
3.3	That Council approve the Business Case (attached), to appoint consultants from the Belfast City Deal Framework to look at the feasibility & design work for the 3 Greenways.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
4.1	DfI 50% match funding of £180,000 over 2 financial years for these Feasibility and Design phase projects. Council match funding of £180,000 Capital is required including £90,000 in 2025/26 and £90,000 in 2026/27 to avail of DfI grant aid.
<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 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 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><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>
7.1	<p><i>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 and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.</i></p> <p>1) Business Case submitted to DfI for funding the Project for the 3 Greenways – which has been approved by DfI and CPD</p>
8.0	<p><b>Background Documents</b></p>

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	22 January 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period October – December 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Elaine Kirk, Assistant Director Legal and People
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	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:-

<b>For decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>For noting only</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------

<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 October – December 2025, including screening reports, is available on Council’s website <a href="https://www.newrymouredown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality">https://www.newrymouredown.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 October – December 2025.
<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	<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 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 October – December 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 October – December 2025

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
<b>New policies</b>		
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Local Economic Partnership	<p>The LEP is focused on delivery against DfE Sub-regional Economic Plan priority areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased productivity</li> <li>• good jobs,</li> <li>• Achieving regional balance</li> <li>• Decarbonisation</li> </ul> <p>This Plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower the LEP to identify actions to drive sustained economic development.</li> <li>• Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of the district.</li> </ul>	No EQIA considered necessary
Automated charge parking for the Council's four forest and country parks	Council introduced Charged Parking at all four Forest and Country Parks in April 2024. Charged Parking was already in place at Castlewellan and Delamont Park. The new system operated on the basis of manual collection by staff at each site either by paying a daily charge or presenting annual permit which can be obtained via free entry into one park of choice with a 'single-park permit' available to each registered household address within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area or purchasing an annual or multi park permit. The system was reviewed following a six-month period	No EQIA considered necessary

	<p>trial period and it was agreed to continue with the current system and prepare a business case to introduce an automated charging system.</p> <p>While there is no change to payments or the free permit criteria, Council is proposing to introduce an automated charging system. This will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply and install access barriers, ticketing/payment systems, and Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.</li> <li>• Facilitate access for third parties – café and activity provider staff, event staff, contractors, deliveries and on-site homeowners.</li> <li>• Facilitate access for caravan/camping customers</li> <li>• Integrate intercom systems for visitor support via a third party</li> <li>• Carry out necessary civil works, including the installation of power and data infrastructure.</li> <li>• Provide an online platform for permit applications and payments.</li> <li>• Provide a structured maintenance plan, including estimated annual servicing and repairs.</li> <li>• Ensure timely replacement of damaged equipment, including barriers, ticket machines, and ANPR cameras.</li> <li>• Offer technical support, including remote assistance and on-site interventions when required.</li> </ul> <p>The aim of the new proposal is to new efficient payment system for visitors to the parks that do not hold the free permits. This proposal is also more cost effective for Council and similar to public parks in the Republic of Ireland.</p>	
<b>Reviewed policies</b>		
Policy on access to and use of NMDDC Indoor Leisure Facilities for Council	The aim and purpose of the policy is to set out the arrangements and protocol for providing access to and use of the following Newry Mourne and Down District Council Indoor Leisure Facilities:	No EQIA considered necessary

<p>employees, agency workers and Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Councillors)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballymote Sports and Well Being Centre</li> <li>• Downpatrick Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Kilkeel Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Newcastle Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Newcastle Tropicana</li> <li>• Newcastle Rock Pool</li> <li>• Newry Sports Centre</li> <li>• Newry Leisure Centre</li> <li>• St Colman's Sports Complex Newry</li> </ul> <p>This policy supersedes both legacy Newry and Mourne and Down District Councils which gave consideration to the free use of leisure facilities in order to improve the health and wellbeing of employees, to reduce levels of absenteeism and for associated health benefits during certain periods of ill health.</p> <p>The policy applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All employees of Newry Mourne and Down District Council.</li> <li>• Agency workers with 12 weeks' continuous service and who are expected to be retained for at least one month after completion of 12 weeks' continuous service.</li> <li>• Current serving Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Councillors).</li> </ul>	
<p>Policy for the use of play inflatables on/in Council owned properties</p>	<p>The aim of this policy is to build on the Council's civic leadership role and give appropriate consideration and recognition to communities' use of play inflatables as an important aspect of community engagement and capacity building within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. The policy applies to the use of play inflatables by Council staff and by the community and voluntary sector on council property, and the scope of the policy will extend to providing advice, training and equipment in some instances.</p>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>



Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy	<p>The aim of this policy is to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Regularise sports and community facility management and leasing procedures;</li> <li>(b) Complement the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan, Core Ideology, policies and procedures;</li> <li>(c) Empower and improve the capacity of our local communities;</li> <li>(d) Improve sports and community development opportunities for all;</li> <li>(e) Promote economic and community regeneration through sport, community and sustainability projects;</li> <li>(f) Encourage Sporting Clubs and Community organisations to play a greater role in the management of facilities;</li> <li>(g) Support improved Health and Wellbeing outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>The policy states that when an approach is made to Council regarding land/property or facility it is agreed to invite expressions of interest and the Council will notify all organisation users of the land/property or facility within the last 5 years to advise that interest has been notified and that an expression of interest exercise will be undertaken.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary
Supporting Community Events Policy	<p>The Aim of this policy is to build on Councils civic leadership role and give appropriate consideration and recognition to community engagement and capacity building within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.</p> <p>The policy will be implemented in the public interest to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower local communities</li> <li>• Encourage community organisations to play a greater role in the management of events</li> <li>• Promote equality of opportunity, good relations and assist in supporting groups identified under section 75, Northern Ireland Act (1998).</li> </ul>	No EQIA considered necessary

<p>Volunteer Policy</p>	<p>This policy has been developed to encourage and support volunteering within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Council) and to provide guidance to ensure the interests of volunteers, staff and service users are met within our volunteering activities. The aim is to develop and promote best practice in the involvement and support of volunteers in the work of the Council.</p> <p>Specifically, the policy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage development of volunteering in all appropriate areas of the Council.</li> <li>• Recognise and promote the importance of volunteering to the Council.</li> <li>• To provide clear guidance to individuals, groups and corporate organisations considering volunteering opportunities with Council.</li> <li>• Identify standards to which Council staff and volunteers are expected to adhere.</li> </ul>	<p>No EQIA considered necessary</p>
-------------------------	---	-------------------------------------