

October 9th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 15th October 2026** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre**.

Committee Membership 2026-27

Councillor C Bowsie **Chairperson**

Councillor O Hanlon **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Pete Byrne

Councillor Martin Hearty

Councillor Roisin Howell

Councillor Tierna Howie

Councillor Aurla King

Councillor Cathal King

Councillor Aidan Mathers

Councillor Declan McAteer

Councillor Siobhan O'Hare

Councillor Henry Reilly

Councillor Michael Rice

Councillor David Taylor

Councillor Jill Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held 17 September 2026

Attachment: SPR-Action Sheet arising from 2026 09 17.pdf

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Officer Report on Notice of Motion: Supreme Court Ruling

Attachment: Officer report on Notice of Motion - Supreme Court Ruling.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 Licence of Office Space at Crossmaglen Community 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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Licence of Office Space at Crossmaglen CC.pdfV2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Map 1 - crossmaglen community centre.pdf

Not included

6.0 Release of Charge from Part of Land at Mullaghbawn

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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Release of Charge from Part of Land at Mullaghbawn.pdfV2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Map.pdf

Not included

7.0 Licence for Car Park at Barnmeen Community Centre

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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Licence for Car Park at Barnmeen Community Centre.pdfV2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Map for Car Park at Barnmeen CC.pdf

Not included

8.0 Licence for Access at Mill Street Newry

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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Licence for Access at Mill Street Newry.pdfV2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: 2025 Licence Map.pdf

Not included

9.0 Surrender of Lease at Lir Grove Newtownhamilton

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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Surrender of Lease at Lir Grove Newtownhamilton.pdfV2.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Lease Map.pdf

Not included

10.0 Surrender of Part of Lands at Donard Park Newcastle

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.

Attachment: SPR 15 Oct 2026 Surrender of Part at Donard Park

Not included

11.0 Purchase of Saintfield Depot

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.

Attachment: SPR Report - Purchase of Saintfield Depot.pdf

Not included

12.0 Purchase of new Pay & Display Machines

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.

Attachment: SPR Report - Purchase of New Pay and Display Machines.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Business Case Pay and Display Machines Oct 26.pdf

Not included

13.0 Canal Bank 3 Emergency Work

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.

Attachment: SPR Report - Emergency Works Canal Bank 3 Car Park Newry.pdf

Not included

14.0 Standby Generators

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.

Report to follow.

15.0 Lock 6, Newry Canal Restoration Works / Lock 7 Survey

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.

Attachment: Lock 6 Newry Canal Restoration Works and Lock 7.pdf

Not included

Attachment: Appendix 1_Lock 6 Newry Canal_OBC Oct 2026_R2.pdf

Not included

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

16.0 NCCR Theatre Conference update report

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.

Attachment: SPR - NCCR Theatre Conference facility Programme Board update.pdf

Not included

17.0 Planning Report

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.

Report to follow.

For Noting

18.0 NCCR Programme board Minutes

Report to follow.

19.0 BRCD Tourism Project Board Minutes

Report to follow.

20.0 Statutory reporting: Section 75 Policy Screening Report- Quarterly report for period July – September 2026

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Mr Caolain Boyd

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

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

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Ms Aileen Jones

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Cathal King

Ms Elaine Kirk

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

Jonathan McGilly

Mr Colm McGrath

Mr Martin McKibbin

Ms Tracie McLoughlin
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Ms Patricia Murtagh
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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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Ms Maria Rogan
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
.....
Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Conor Smyth
.....
Donna Starkey
.....
Sarah Taggart
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Mr David Telford
.....
Ms Joanna Tierney
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Ms Sinead Trainor
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
.....
Cllr Helena Young
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Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken / progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet? Y/N
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 14 August 2025					
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	New rates not available until Procurement Process completed Update tabled at March 26 meeting.	N
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 20 April 2026					
SPR/058/2026	Castlewellan Forest Park NLHF Project	It was also agreed that a paper be brought to the next SPR Committee outlining the compensation events and the reporting structures for the project.	C Boyd	Ongoing	N
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 14 May 2026					
SPR/071/2026	LDP Revised Timetable	It was also agreed that the Council would write to the Planning Performance Improvement Forum requesting that it consider LDP development across the North and examine what legislative changes could be introduced to improve and shorten the LDP timeline.	J McGilly	Ongoing	N
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 13 August 2026					
SPR/117/2026	FMA / SLA Proposals	The following was agreed: - A one-year extension of the current FMAs and SLAs relating to community centres to facilitate a comprehensive review of contract specifications and service delivery. - The uplift in funding allocation to community groups who currently run community facilities under an FMA or SLA based on all relevant groups fully claiming the uplifted amount. - The incorporation of the Community	A Robb	Ongoing	N

		Development Strategy public consultation findings into the future re-procurement strategy for the facilities.			
ACTION SHEET – STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING (SPR) – Thursday 17 September 2026					
SPR/141/2026	Action Sheet of SPR Meeting held 13 and 27 Aug 26	It was agreed to note the action sheet	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/142/2026	Downpatrick Church Street Public Realm Scheme	It was agreed to approve the allocation of project risk allowance as detailed in section 2.1, 2.2 and 4.1 of the officer's report	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/143/2026	Kilkeel Lower Square and River Walk EI Scheme	It was agreed to approve the allocation of project risk allowance as detailed in section 2.1, 2.2 and 4.1 of the officer's report.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
SPR/144/2026	Facility Refurbishment Project	It was agreed to approve the final project costs and payment to the contractor as detailed within the officer's report.	A Patterson	Agreed	Y
SPR/145/2026	HR Structure	It was agreed to approve the proposed HR & OD structure and associated additional payroll costs as detailed in the officer's report.	M Hughes	Agreed	Y
SPR/146/2026	Licence Re Hydrometric Units At Victoria Locks, Newry, And Canal Bank 1 Car Park, Mill Street, Newry	It was agreed to grant licences to the Department for Infrastructure – Rivers Agency in respect of Hydrometric Units at Victoria Locks and Canal Bank1 car park for measuring water levels for a term of 10 years subject to a peppercorn licence fee.	E Kirk	Agreed	Y
SPR/147/2026	Public Right of Way Between Ringhaddy Road and Quarterland Road	It was agreed to approve the Heads of Terms as detailed at section 2.2 of the officer's report. It was also agreed that officers will engage with the residents' group and two other landowners that have an interest in the Public Right of Way.	E Kirk	Agreed	Y
SPR/148/2026	Corporate Website Hosting and Web Services Contract	It was agreed to approve the establishment of a formal contract with the current supplier for the provision of website hosting and associated web services for an initial period of three years, with the option for Council to extend for up to two	V Keegan	Agreed	Y

		further periods of one year each, subject to satisfactory performance, continued business need, budget availability and compliance with the terms of the contract.			
SPR/149/2026	SFWG Minutes of meeting held 4 August 26	It was agreed to note the minutes	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/150/2026	Management Accounts Q1 26/27	It was agreed to note the Q1 Management Accounts	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/151/2026	Ministers Memo & Co-Chairs Letter	It was agreed to note the correspondence	A Jones	Agreed	Y
SPR/152/2026	Planning Update Report	It was agreed to note the contents of the report	J McGilly	Agreed	Y
SPR/153/2026	Annual Registration Services Report	It was agreed to note the report	E Kirk	Agreed	Y
SPR/154/2026	Minutes of NCCR meeting of 30 June 26	It was agreed to note the minutes	A Jones	Agreed	Y

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 October 2026
Subject:	Officer report on Notice of Motion – Supreme Court Ruling
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Elaine Kirk, Assistant Director Legal and People
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Decision ▶

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jackson was referred to the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6: <u>C/094/2025: Notice of Motion – Supreme Court Ruling</u> <i>"That this Council welcomes the recent Supreme Court ruling which clarified that under the Equality Act 2010:</i> <i>• a 'woman' is a biological woman or girl (a person born female) • trans women (biological men) should not be permitted to use the women's facilities • if somebody identifies as trans, they do not change sex for the purposes of the Act, even if they have a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC). Furthermore, it accepts the initial assessment by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland that this judgement, in the context of our corresponding equality law, the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 ('SDO'):- "is likely to be deemed by our industrial tribunals and courts to be highly persuasive and, consequently, it is likely to be followed in cases where similar issues arise."</i> <i>Accordingly, Council resolves to urgently review all relevant Council policies and to make it clear that if a space or service is designated as women-only across the District, a person who was born male but identifies as a woman does not have a right to use that space or service."</i> The Notice of Motion was discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 30 September November 2023.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Members were advised the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland has applied for leave to the High Court for an advisory declaration to clarify how the terms 'sex', 'men' and 'women' should be interpreted under Northern Ireland's equality laws and Article 2 of the Windsor Framework.

	Following consideration and discussion it was the consensus of those present that Council await the outcome of the High Court and direction of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.
3.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
3.1	To note the Notice of Motion: Supreme Court Ruling was discussed at the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group on 30 September 2026 and the consensus of those present was to recommend Council await the outcome of the High Court and direction from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to the Supreme Court Ruling.
4.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
4.1	None
5.0	<u>Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations</u>
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations
5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision No If yes, please select one of the following: Choose an item.
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: Choose an item. Rationale:
6.0	<u>Due regard to Rural Needs</u>
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service.

	◀ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ▶
7.0	<u>Appendices</u>
7.1	
8.0	<u>Background Documents</u>
8.1	

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 October 2026
Subject:	Statutory reporting - Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2026
Reporting Officer and Job Title:	Elaine Kirk, Assistant Director Legal and People
Contact Officer and Job Title:	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy Suzanne Rice, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

Purpose of Report:

◀ For Noting ▶

1.0	<u>Purpose and Background</u>
1.1	In line with Council's Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly. The Quarterly Policy Screening Report for the period July – September 2026, including screening reports, is available on Council's website https://www.newrymournedown.org/corporate-policy-and-equality. This information has also been forwarded to our equality consultees.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	As per the Council's approved Equality Scheme: • 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. No policies were subject to equality screening during the reporting period.
3.0	<u>Recommendations</u>
3.1	To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2026.
4.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
4.1	No financial or resources implications are anticipated.
5.0	<u>Due Regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations</u>
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes ◀ It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ▶

5.2	Does the proposal relate to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision ☐ No ☐ If yes, please select one of the following: ☐ Choose an item. ☐
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation The consultation 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 Please select the consultation period: ☐ Choose an item. ☐ Rationale:
6.0	<u>Due regard to Rural Needs</u>
6.1	Does the proposal relate to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service. ☐ No – The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐
7.0	<u>Appendices</u>
7.1	Appendix I: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period July – September 2026
8.0	<u>Background Documents</u>
8.1	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Equality Scheme

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report July – September 2026**

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
New policies		
No policies equality screened during the reporting period		N/A
Reviewed policies		
No policies equality screened during the reporting period		N/A