

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Strategy Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14 August 2019 at 5.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In Attendance: Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Doran
Councillor R Howell
Councillor C Mason
Councillor W Walker

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor H Gallagher
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor J Tinnelly

Also In Attendance: Councillor Andrews, McAteer, & Stokes

Officials in Attendance:

Mrs Marie Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

Mr Michael Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities

Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy

Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance

Mr J McBride, Assistant Director of Waste Management (Acting)

Mrs Louise Fitzsimons, Human Resources

Mrs Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager

Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director

Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

SPR/093/2019: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillors Brown, O'Hanlon, Mulgrew, O'Muirí, Sharvin and Curran.

SPR/094/2019: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

SPR/095/2019: ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 13 June 2019, be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

SPR/096/2019

ACTION SHEET OF THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2019 & 31 JULY 2019

Read: Action Sheet of the Strategic Partnership Working Group Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2019 & 31 July 2019. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Stokes requested that a copy of the contamination report be made available to the Task and Finish Group as soon as possible so they have time to understand the report before the next meeting. Councillor Byrne supported the request and sought clarity on dates for meeting with Consultants.

Mrs Ward said the contamination report was very technical and would require a presentation to be set up. Mrs Ward continued saying all information would be made available to both the Task and Finish Working Group and Councillors, this would ensure adequate opportunity to digest the information before it would be brought back to SP&R for decision. Mrs Ward said she would endeavour to secure a date for a meeting with the consultants as soon as possible.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the Action Sheet of 20 June 2019 & 31 July 2019, be noted, and actions removed as marked.**

It was also agreed that a date for a meeting with the consultants be arranged as soon as possible.

SPR/097/2019

NEW CIVIC CENTRE/PUBLIC REALM/THEATRE AND CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director, regarding City Centre Regeneration Project Civic Hub Abbey Way Site. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director, regarding City Centre Regeneration Project BRCD Public Realm. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director, regarding City Centre Regeneration Project Theatre/Conference RIBA Stage 1. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr A Grimshaw, Project Director, regarding City Centre Regeneration Project Theatre/Conference Sean Hollywood Arts Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Presentation made by Mr Graham Ogle from Hamilton Architects and Mr Adrian Grimshaw, Project Director. **COPY TO FOLLOW**

Following the presentation, discussion took place and the following issues were raised:

- The Albert Basin park should remain a priority for Council.
- The proposed development of the civic centre, public realm, theatre and conference facilities had huge potential for the city of Newry in terms of regenerating the city centre.

- Public consultations had been held and Council would continue to consult widely with the public.
- Planning Department had been involved on all planning matters and the Historic Environment Division where historical buildings were involved.
- Council recognised the importance significance of the Cathedral located on Hill Street and they will liaise with representatives from the Cathedral regarding the cathedral gardens in an effort to seek a conclusion that is satisfactory to both parties.
- Acknowledgement that car parking issues were of concern, however it was the start of the process and proposals would be considered on how best to deal with this.
- The development would realise an investment of almost £30M.
- A public consultation was scheduled for October 2019 at which a lot more information would be available.
- The new civic centre would be 4,200 sq metres and will accommodate 180 staff, whilst allowing for flexible working for staff.

A discussion took place about the proposed site for the Civic Hub and the Chairperson put the matter to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 6
AGAINST: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 4

The proposal was CARRIED

Agreed: Civic Hub – Abbey Way Site
On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and to approve the recommendation that Abbey Way site is selected as the location for the Civic Hub and associated public realm works.

Agreed: BRCD Public Realm
On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was unanimously agreed to note the contents of the report and to approve the proposals for Public Realm are further developed and tested by the Integrated Consultant Team in terms of their feasibility, including consultation through a series of stakeholder engagement sessions during Autumn 2019.

Agreed: RIBA 1 Theatre / Conference
On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the recommendation to proceed with option 2, comprising demolition of the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre and complete new build, which has been recommended by the Integrated Consultant Teams RIBA Stage 1 report as the basis for ongoing design development.

Agreed: Theatre / Conference Design Options
On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Doran, it was agreed to note the contents of the report and to approve the investigation of RIBA Stage 1 design Options are reliant on either the partial or total demolition of the existing Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE

SPR/098/2019: DEVELOPMENT TRUST NI PUBLIC SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr J McGilly, Head of Community Planning, regarding Participatory Budgeting: Facilitation of future Community Planning Initiatives. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Council nominate through Party Rep's, 2 No elected members to sit on the steering group for the 2 year term of project.**

SPR/099/2019: RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PCSP)

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Ms M Flynn, Safer Communities and Good Relations Manager, regarding Recruitment & Appointment of Independent Members to the Policing & Community Safety Partnership **(Copy Circulated)**

Councillor Walker proposed that 1 member be taken from SF, SDLP, DUP & UUP, 2 reserves from SF & SDLP party and the Chair a SF Member as they are the largest party, this was seconded by Councillor Lewis. All members agreed.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Howell, it was agreed that the Committee**

- 1. Note the report.**
- 2. Agree to nominate a panel of up to four political Members of the PCSP to participate in the recruitment and selection of new Independent Members of the PCSP.**
- 3. Agree to nominate 1-2 reserve panel Members who, where possible, should also be political Members of the PCSP.**
- 4. Agree the Chair of the panel from the nominated Members.**

CORPORATE PLANNING AND POLICY

SPR/100/2019 REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COUNCILLORS' EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS REFERENCE GROUP FOR PERIOD 2019 - 2023

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive & Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy, regarding Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group for period 2019 - 2023 **(Copy circulated)**

All Members agreed that Councillor Reilly and another Independent should be nominated.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that Council agree to the revised Terms of Reference for the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group with specific reference to membership.

SPR/101/2019: PRESENTATION OF 2020 ANNUAL REPORT/NMD CONNECT

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Ms V Keegan, Head of Communications and Marketing, regarding Presentation of 2020 Annual Reporting/NMD Connect (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Gallagher it was agreed that the Council continues to publish the Annual Report/NMD Connect as one document, with versions in Irish and English published on the website and supported by a limited print run. This strategy has the advantage of ensuring the widest distribution across the district as well as ensuring value for money. The strategy will be supported by a marketing campaign.

CORPORATE SERVICES

SPR/102/2019: ACQUISITION OF LAND AT GREENFIELD STEPS, ARDGLASS

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director Corporate Services (Administration), regarding Acquisition of land at Greenfield Steps, Ardglass (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Gallagher it was agreed that Council proceed based on recommended valuation and complete the necessary legal formalities in relation to this acquisition.

FOR NOTING

SPR/103/2019 SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING REPORT – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2019

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr C Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy regarding Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2019 (**Copy circulated**)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SPR/104/2019 SOCIAL MEDIA FOR DEA'S

Councillor Walker suggested that it would be beneficial for each DEA to have their own social media page to promote DEA events and funding opportunities.

Agreed: It was agreed to bring this item back to the Active and Healthy Committee for further discussion.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SPR/105/2019: NI PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr A McKay, Chief Planner regarding NI Public Services Ombudsman **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Gallagher it was agreed to note the contents of the officer's report and approve the recommendations as set out in 3.1 of the report.

FOR NOTING

SPR/106/2019 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

Read: Report dated 14 August 2019 from Mr K Montgomery, Assistant Director of Finance, regarding Managements Accounts to 30 June 2019 **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Management Accounts to 30 June 2019.

SPR/107/2019 UPDATE ON CHIEF EXECUTIVE HANDOVER ARRANGEMENTS

Members were given a verbal update on the handover arrangements.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the verbal update on the Chief Executive.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 7.34pm

Signed: **Councillor Michael Savage**
 Chairperson

Signed: **Dorinnia Carville**
 Director of Corporate Services