



August 14th, 2024

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 5th August 2024** at **6:00 pm** in **Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Cllrs Bowsie, Howell, Kearns, Magennis, McAteer and Rice

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 1 July 2024

📄 *Action Sheet Council Meeting 2024 07 01.pdf*

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4.0 Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 July 2024

📄 *Council Minutes 2024 07 01.pdf*

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Correspondence

5.0 Correspondence Report

📄 *Correspondence Report Council 2024 08 05.pdf*

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📄 *Appendix 1 Correspondence from DFI Roads.pdf*

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📄 *Appendix 2 Response from Minister for Infrastructure - Proposed Low Bridge Newry Southern Relief Road.pdf*

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Notices of Motion

6.0 Communication Boards in Parks and Open Spaces

Notice of Motion received from Councillor Truesdale:

That this council recognises the importance of ensuring that our parks and open spaces are inclusive and accessible to those with speech, language, and communication needs and that it recognises the positive role of communication boards in achieving this. That it commits to working with relevant organisations to bring back a report regarding communication boards considering, but not limited to, the following points:

- How communication boards would integrate with the required existing signage;
- Identifying possible locations for the communication boards, such as a specific Tier of park; and
- An indicative budget.

ACTION SHEET – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 1 JULY 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
C/116/2024	<i>Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 03.06.2024</i>	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
		Letter of condolence be sent to family of Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Correspondence sent	Y
C/117/2024	<i>Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 03.06.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
C/118/2024	<i>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 03.06.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
		<i>Enhanced Payments Scheme for flooding</i> It was agreed that Council write back to the Department expressing its frustration at the time being taken to allocate funding.	<i>C Mallon</i>		
C/119/2024	<i>Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10.06.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
C/120/2024	<i>Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 13.06.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
<i>C/121/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17.06.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted.	<i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/122/2024</i>	<i>Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19.06.2024</i>	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted. <i>Appendix 11: Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to enforcement powers regarding bins.</i> It was agreed to defer the correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to enforcement powers regarding bins to the Sustainability and Environment Committee for further consideration.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>S Murphy</i>	Noted	Y
<i>C/123/2024</i>	<i>Correspondence Report</i>	It was agreed to note the Correspondence report. <i>Appendix 6 and 7: Response from Department of Finance and Department for Infrastructure in relation to Notice of Motion C/095/2024, Roads Maintenance.</i> It was agreed that following the election that Council write back to the UK Government to address the issues originally raised in relation to giving commitment to fulfil the demand for all parties and adequately fund public services in Northern Ireland.	<i>Democratic Services</i> <i>Democratic Services</i>	Noted Correspondence sent	Y
<i>C/124/2024</i>	<i>Notice of Motion: Car Parking Strategy</i>	<i>"This Council recognises concerns in relation to car parking across the District.</i>			

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
		<p><i>We call, therefore, for a new parking strategy to be developed by Council for NMD District. This strategy should consider and prioritise;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>The provision of adequate levels of car parking for the District</i> · <i>The introduction of 1-hour free on-street parking in Newry</i> · <i>The retention of existing free car parking spaces in Newry City Centre</i> · <i>Review the introduction of 1-hour free parking at Council parking sites</i> · <i>The identification and evaluation of waste ground and sites currently owned by Council that could be made available for car parking, park and share/ park and ride</i> · <i>Partnership working with government departments to explore the potential for development of bespoke car parking sites, including multi-storey facilities, where viable</i> · <i>The review of Seasonal Passes to ensure an affordable offering for local service users</i> · <i>A robust communication plan and engagement process with the public, including commuters, retailers, and business owners"</i> <p>The Motion was referred to the Strategic Finance Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.</p>	<p><i>J Kelly</i></p>	<p><i>Noted and a report will be brought to SFWG Working Group.</i></p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>END</p>					

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**NMD/C/****Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 July 2024 at 6.00pm in
Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick****In the Chair:** Councillor P Byrne

In attendance in Chamber:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
	Councillor J Brennan	Councillor P Campbell
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor C Enright
	Councillor K Feehan	Councillor D Finn
	Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor R Howell	Councillor T Howie
	Councillor G Kearns	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
	Councillor A Mathers	Councillor D Murphy
	Councillor K Murphy	Councillor A Quinn
	Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor J Truesdale	Councillor H Young

Officials in attendance: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
 Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment
 Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
 Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
 Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/114/2024**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, Galbraith, Gibbons, Jackson, King, Larkin, Lewis, Magennis, McAteer, McEvoy, O'Hare, S Murphy, Reilly, Rice, Taylor, Tinnelly and Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities.

The Chairperson mentioned the sad passing of Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, one of the legendary voices of Gaelic games, whose passion and distinctive commentary brought the spirit of the games to life for countless supporters and requested a letter of condolence be sent to his family.

The Chairperson thanked Kerri Morrow and officers for organising a fantastic Wildlife in the Park event and commented how it was great to see ideas from the DEA structures within Council being built upon.

The Chairperson spoke of the 40th anniversary of Cuan Mhuire, one of his nominated Chairperson Charities for the year ahead and highlighted the remarkable work undertaken to help families across the District.

Congratulations were extended to all local primary schools who took part in the poster competition for the Right To Food Campaign, with a special mention for each of the following winners:

- Gil McFerran (P4) and Poppy Baggley (P7), St Colmcille's Primary School
- Katherine Napier (P5), Downpatrick Primary School

- Xavier Joseph (P6), Abbey Love (P7) and Eliza Oakes (P7), Our Lady & St Patricks Primary School
- Enya Nelson, Bunscoil Mhuir agus Phádraig

The Chairperson thanked Councillor Galbraith who brought the Right to Food motion to Council and thanked Eurospar for their sponsorship.

Congratulations were extended to the Down Triathlon Club on the recent Beyond the Wall Event with the club and Councillor Gareth Sharvin expressed his thanks to Frank Quinn and his team for their help in sorting the Audleystown Road ahead of the event where over 300 participants took part.

The Chairperson congratulated the Crisis Cafe for its extensive youth pride events and mentioned the upcoming Newry Pride Event that was due to take place would be exciting event being held in the District after a number of years.

The Chairperson acknowledged Paddy Duffy from Newry, who had received an MBE in recognition for his community and voluntary activism over many years.

Congratulations were extended to all the girls from St Joseph's Convent Primary School who were All County Champions in the Cumann na mBunscol 11 aside after defeating Carrick Primary School, Burren in the County Final.

C/115/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/116/2024 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2024

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor D Murphy.**

C/117/2024 COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2024

Read: Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 3 June 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 3 June 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor K Murphy.**

C/118/2024 **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING
OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2024**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin enquired if Council had received any further clarity on when additional funds were to be released by the Department for the Enhanced Payments Scheme for flooding.

Mrs Ward advised there had not yet been any clarity and that officers were still working through processing the current calls and had enquired and would continue to do so.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews that Council write back to the Department expressing its frustration at the time being taken to allocate funding.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 June 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Campbell.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/119/2024 **MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2024**

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Bowsie, seconded by Councillor Kearns.**

C/120/2024 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2024**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2024 (copy circulated).

SPR/099/2024: Peaceplus Project, Theme 1.3 Building Positive Relations

Councillor Bowsie asked for an update on and timescale for the Ulster Scots review that Council was currently undertaking and commented that the Ulster Scots Community network were insisting Council was currently not fulfilling its statutory obligation. He asked for confirmation that there was a will to establish an Ulster Scots Forum after having previously said that it would not be establishing any more task groups.

The Chairperson pointed out by way of information that the agreed proposal was to bring a report to Equality & Good Relations Forum on establishing an Ulster Scots Forum to the next meeting, which could not be held before ratification at full council.

Mrs Kelly confirmed this was something Mr Colin Moffet, Head of Corporate Policy would be taking forward and once ratified by Council would follow due process and a report brought to the next Equality & Good Relations Forum.

Mrs Kelly further advised the Chief Executive and herself had met with the Ulster Scots Agency to hear about the work they were doing and that would be brought forward to a Forum meeting in August.

Councillor Bowsie enquired if a report would be brought before Council by the end of the year to which Mrs Ward stated she could not pre-empt the Equality & Good Relations Forum and that any decisions would come back before the Committee depending on discussions.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

C/121/2024 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2024**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Young.**

C/122/2024 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2024**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2024 (copy circulated).

SE/077/2024: DAERA Consultation – Rethink Our Resources

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews, Mrs Murphy advised the consultation response had only been submitted on 26 June 2024 and as yet no feedback had been received.

SE/071/2024: Irish Open Car Parking Provision

In voicing concerns for parking availability for local shoppers and the business community within Newcastle during the Irish Open Councillor Clarke enquired what discussions had taken place to date.

Mr Mallon advised discussions were ongoing with DP World Tour and it was envisaged finalised proposals for traffic management, car parking and park and ride facilities would be provided later that week.

Mr Mallon advised he had made a proposal to the Tour that once the Transport and Park and Ride Plans were finalised that they would attend discussions with members on any implications of that.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Kearns.**

C/123/2024

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Read: Report dated 1 July 2024 from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council.

Appendix 11: Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to enforcement powers regarding bins.

Councillor Hanlon voiced concern that the request to support the call for introduction of enforcement powers for Councils to deal with instances of bins causing obstruction was generic and would need filtered down e.g. to take into account those who had difficulty bringing bins in.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Harte to defer the correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to enforcement powers regarding bins to the Sustainability and Environment Committee for further consideration.

Appendix 4: Response from Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to Notice of Motion C/088/2024, Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Irelands Ancient East.

Councillor Andrews enquired if there had been any further discussion with the Irish Tourism Minister regarding the Tourism Strategy etc. Mrs Ward referred to confirmation from the Minister for the Economy to meet with a delegation from Council and that would be included as part of that.

Appendix 6 and 7: Response from Department of Finance and Department for Infrastructure in relation to Notice of Motion C/095/2024, Roads Maintenance.

The Chairperson welcomed the response from the Department of Finance and Department for Infrastructure regarding the motion he brought to Council in May 2024 and the acknowledgement that both Ministers supported a multi-year budget.

He added there were items of correspondence such as the response from the Prime Minister in relation to funding for public services for roads where Council had received a generic response stating an adequate response could not be provided due to constraints of the pre-election period.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Andrews that following the election that Council write back to the UK Government to address the issues originally raised in relation to giving commitment to fulfil the demand for all parties and adequately fund public services in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Truesdale, seconded by Councillor Andrews to note the correspondence report and appendices including the following:

Appendix 1: Response from Department for Communities in relation to Notice of Motion C/096/2024, Right to Food.

Appendix 2: Response from Department of Education, in relation to Notice of Motion C/096/2024, Right to Food.

Appendix 3: Response from Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion C/094/2024 Notice of Motion, Mental Health Service.

Appendix 4: Response from Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to Notice of Motion C/088/2024, Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Irelands Ancient East.

Appendix 5: Response from Prime Minister in relation to Notice of Motion C/095/2024, Roads Maintenance.

Appendix 6: Response from Department of Finance in relation to Notice of Motion C/095/2024, Roads Maintenance.

Appendix 7: Response from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to Notice of Motion C/095/2024, Roads Maintenance.

Appendix 8: Correspondence from Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to Vaping.

Appendix 9: Correspondence from NI Water in relation to Notice of Motion C/104/2024.

Appendix 10: Response from Department for Communities in relation to the Financial Assistance Call SPR/090/2024.

Appendix 11: Correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to enforcement powers regarding bins.

C/124/2024

NOTICE OF MOTION – CAR PARKING STRATEGY

The following motion was received from Councillors Feehan and Mathers:

“This Council recognises concerns in relation to car parking across the District. We call, therefore, for a new parking strategy to be developed by Council for NMD District. This strategy should consider and prioritise;

- *The provision of adequate levels of car parking for the District*
- *The introduction of 1-hour free on-street parking in Newry*
- *The retention of existing free car parking spaces in Newry City Centre*
- *Review the introduction of 1-hour free parking at Council parking sites*
- *The identification and evaluation of waste ground and sites currently owned by Council that could be made available for car parking, park and share/ park and ride*
- *Partnership working with government departments to explore the potential for development of bespoke car parking sites, including multi-storey facilities, where viable*
- *The review of Seasonal Passes to ensure an affordable offering for local service users*
- *A robust communication plan and engagement process with the public, including commuters, retailers, and business owners”*

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Strategic Finance Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 August 2024.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	5 August 2024
Subject:	Correspondence to Council
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

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

For decision	x	For noting only
1.0		Purpose and Background
1.1		To provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0		Key issues
2.1		This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0		Recommendations
		That Council considers and notes the following correspondence:
3.1		Correspondence from DFI Roads Council received correspondence from DFI Roads in relation to a proposed reduction in speed limit on Newry Road, Warrenpoint. Refer to Appendix 1.
3.2		Correspondence from Minister for Infrastructure. Council received correspondence from Minister O’Dowd regarding a meeting related to Proposed Low Bridge – Newry Southern Relief Road. Refer to Appendix 2.
4.0		Resource implications
4.1		Not applicable.
5.0		Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1		<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2		<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i>

	<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> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1: Correspondence from DFI Roads</p> <p>Appendix 2: Response from Minister for Infrastructure.</p>
8.0	Background Documents
	None

Southern Division



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

*Council ??
yes.*

The Chief Executive
Newry Mourne & Down District Council
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ

Network Development
Level 5 Marlborough House
Central Way
CRAIGAVON
BT64 1A

Tel: 0300 200 7892
Email: tnindcraigavon@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk
Our reference:

19 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMIT TO 40mph NEWRY ROAD WARRENPOINT

DfI Roads have been asked to reduce the current 60mph speed limit at the above to 40mph to facilitate proposals for a cycle network.

Please find attached location map.

The Department intends to proceed with the necessary legislation in due course and I would be obliged if you would notify the Council accordingly.

Yours sincerely

DfI Roads
Southern Division

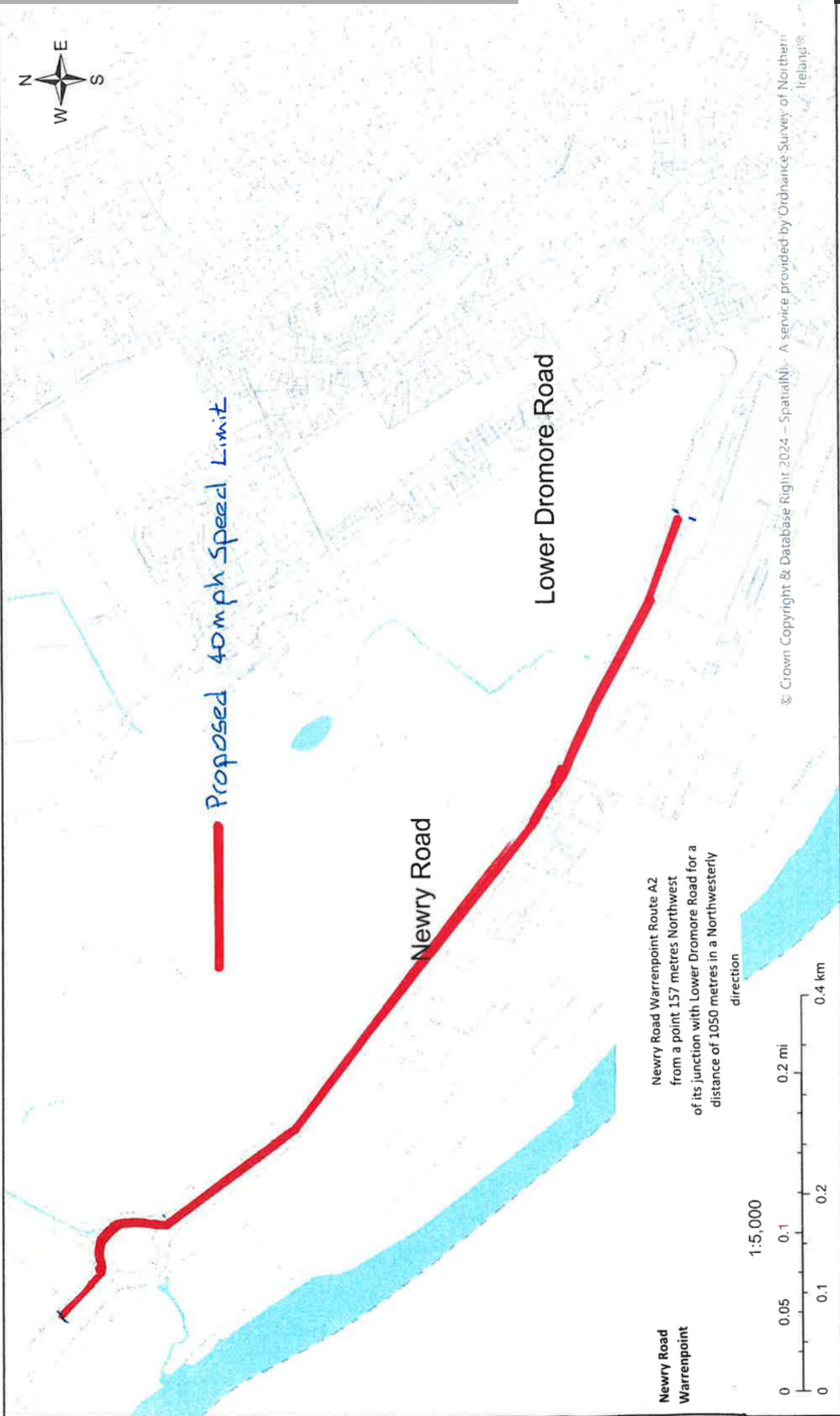
Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir
Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council



Date 23 JUL 2024

Chief Executive
Marie Ward

40mph Speed Limit Newry Road Warrenpoint



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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
JOHN O'DOWD MLA

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry Mourne & Down District Council
15 Trevor Hill
NEWRY
BT34 1DN

Private Office, 3rd Floor,
James House, Gasworks Site,
2 - 4 Cromac Street,
Belfast, BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: C/084/2023 and C/093/2024
Our reference: INV-1268-2024
19th July 2024

Dear Ms Ward

PROPOSED LOW BRIDGE - NEWRY SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD

Thank you for your invitation to DfI Minister John O'Dowd MLA. I apologise for the delay in sending this reply.

Unfortunately, due to diary commitments the Minister is unable to accept at this stage.

Should you wish to meet with an official instead please contact Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk and this will be passed to the relevant official in the Department.

Yours sincerely

DONNA THOMPSON
Acting Private Secretary to the Minister